



Bi bródúil as do theanga

An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile

Earrach 2007
1-09-2007

Teachtaireacht Ón Uachtarán, Deirdre Uí Ghiollaespaign

San Eagrán Seo..

Focail ón Uachtarán 1

Fograí Ginearalta 2

Filíochta ó dhaoine san ardrang 2

Key dates for Sept & October 2007 2

Scoil Gheimhridh 3

Inside the Nuachtlitir office 4-5

The music of Gráda 6

Instructional CDs from Foras na Gaeilge 7

Special liftout page, Irish classes in Great Britain

Tá áthas orm as bheith roghnaithe mar Uachtarán Chumainn Gaeilge na hAstráile i gcóir 2007/8. Comhghairdeas chomh maith le Muiris O Mordha ár Leas-Uachtarán agus an gcoiste nua.

Tá líne fada de uachtaráin cháiliúla a leanúint agam. Le déanaí, Cáit Moody a rinne jab sár mhaith i rith na mblianta mar uachtarán agus bhall choiste.



Tá téarma a trí ar siúl agus tá an aimsir ag éirigh níos teo. Mar sin, tá dóchas orm go méadóidh na h-uimhreacha i gcóir an dhá téarmaí deireanach den bhliana.

Tá an choiste ag déanamh thaighde ar chéilí eile a chur in eagar níos déanaí sa bhliain ; inseoimid an cinneadh daoibh.

Uachtarán, Deirdre Uí Ghiollaespaign agus Leas-Uachtarán, Muiris Ó Mórdha

D'éirigh go maith leis an gcéilí anuraidh.

Agus nuacht briseadh, tá rúnaí nua againn. Karolyne Paron is ainm di.

Nuair a fheiceann tú í, tabhair d'ainm di agus cuir tú féin in iúl di.

Beidh Karolyne ag cur liosta nua de mball le chéile agus beidh áthas uirthi d'aghaidh a chur in éinacht le d'ainm.

Má tá rudaí agat chun plé ag an gcoiste, tar chugam am ar bith, Slán agus beannacht, Deirdre



Rúnaí nua, Karolyne Paron agus Cisteoir Marc Ó Cléirigh

www.gaeilgesanastrail.com

Filíochta ó dhaoine san ardrang ag an Scoil Gheimhridh

Keyrings for Sale

Spot your own keys instantly and impress your friends with our latest merchandise - a stylish stainless steel keyring featuring the Cumann Logo.

Only \$10 and available from any committee member.

Got something for our newsletter ?

We're always looking for material so get scribbling and e-mail it to feedback@gaeilgesanastrail.com and put "Nuachtlitir" in the subject line.

Key Dates for Sept and Oct 2007

Tue 18th Sept	Last class of term 3
Tue 25th Sept	no class
Tue 2nd Oct	no class
Tue 9th Oct	Teacher meeting
Tue 16th Oct	First class of term 4
Tue 6th Nov	no class (Melbourne Cup day)

Information given here about term dates is for students in Victoria only, interstate students should check with their local teacher.

Our new Committee

The committee meets every month and if you wish to have something discussed, please contact the secretary in advance with full details and your phone number.

Karolyneparon@aapt.net.au

All members are entitled to attend these meetings although voting is restricted to committee members

Special liftout in this issue

Many of our members who go overseas on holiday and know all about language classes in Ireland have also asked about classes in England, Scotland, or Wales.

Our liftout has a complete rundown, but contact the local organisers beforehand for directions and to confirm the class start times. And while you're there, don't forget to tell them all about us back here in Oz !

Aimsir Éireann agus Gaeilgeoirí Sydney

Chuala mé an ghaoth
's í go láidir aréir,
Ag bogadh mo fhuinneoige
Agus ag séideadh sna simléir.

Bhí na néallta go donna
Thuas ins an spéir.
Bhí mé múscaile
An oíche go léir.

An ghrian ag éirí

Feicim an ghrian ag éirí aníos
Le mo chroí ag éirí lei
Tá báisteach ag stealladh fós
Ach níl gruaim ar bith i m'anam

Inspioráid na Farráige

Nuair a chloisim na tonnta
Ag teacht isteach ar an trá,
Na faoileáin ag scairteadh
's an lá go breá.

Téann mo smaointe
Ar aistear anall
Go mo bhaile dhúchais
Ar chósta Dhún na nGall.

Tá mo mháthair ag luascadh
Agus ag seinm go binn
Ag amharc ar na tonnta
Agus ag claonadh a cinn.

"Ca bhfuil mo Shíle?"
a deireann sí
"Ah! tá sí san Astráil"
"Ar Scoil Gheimhridh Shidní !"

The Winter School 2007 - An Scoil Gheimhridh

The weather was very wintry all weekend. Cold, wet and windy outside but fine inside among friends. Again we have to congratulate Marcas and his team for another great winter school this year. The winter school was officially opened by the Ambassador of Ireland, Máirtín Ó Fainín. Máirtín and his wife also spent the day with the ard-rang on Saturday.

Bhí an aimsir chéasta i rith an deireadh seachtaine ar fad. Fuar, fliuch agus gaofar lasmuigh ach seascair istigh i measc an chomhluadair. Arís, tréaslaímid Marcas agus a chúntóirí as ucht scoil den chéad scoth a chur ar siúl i mbliana. Ba é Máirtín Ó Fainín, ambasadóir na hÉireann a d'oscail an scoil go h-oifigiúil. D'fhreastail Máirtín agus a bhean chéile, Áine ar an ard rang ar an Satharn.

More and more people are attending each year. About 120 people came this year. From Fr. Micheál at 80 yrs to Gráinne Ní Chonaill about 4 yrs. Both were in the ard-rang and both were an inspiration to the rest of us. Gráinne can even switch to Dutch when her Gaeilge escapes her. I don't think even Fr. Micheál can do that.

Tá an líon daoine ag dul i méid gach bhliain. Thart ar céad is fiche a bhí i láthair i mbliana. Ar na daoine a bhí ann bhí an tAthair Micheál agus é in aois ceithre scór agus Gráinne Ní Chonaill , ceithre bhliana d'aois. Bhíodar araon san ard rang agus ba spreagadh mór dúinn iad a bheith linn. Is féidir le Gráinne aistriú go hOllannais nuair a cailleann sí an focal Gaeilge. Ní dóigh liom gur féidir leis an t-Ath Micheál é sin a dhéanamh !

This year about 20 Scots came to the winter school. They had their own classes but joined us for the common social activities.

I mbliana tháinig fiche Albanaigh go dtí an scoil. Bhí a ranganna féin acu ach tháingamar le chéile le haghaidh imeachtaí soisialta.

Our days were full and busy. Classes, of course during the day and a "sesiún ceoil" at night but there was also a table quiz on Friday night, a couple of talks on Saturday evening, a debate on Sunday afternoon, another very funny play from Bearnáí on Sunday evening and a great concert on Sunday night. All the performers were great but the Scots choir and the harp players were highlights.

Bhíomar thar a bheith gnóthach le ranganna i rith an lae agus le seisiún ceoil san oíche. Chomh maith bhí Tráth na gCeist oíche Dé hAoine, cúpla léacht tráthnóna Dé Sathairn, díospóireacht san iarnóin Dé Domhnaigh , dráma greannmhar eile ó pheann Bhearnaí agus ceolchoirm thar cionn oíche Dé Domhnaigh. Bhí na daoine go léir a ghlac páirt ann iontach maith ach ba iad buaic na hoíche ná an cór Albanaigh agus na cláirseoirí.

On Sunday morning after Mass the Melbourne group were delighted to be able to congratulate Fr. Micheál on his 80 birthday on behalf of the Melbourne Cumann. After breakfast on Monday friends started saying their goodbyes and leaving for home, tired perhaps but no doubt well satisfied.

Tar éis an Aifrinn maidin Domhnaigh bhí sé de phribhléid ag muintir Melbourne, thar ceann an Chumainn, comhghairdeas a dhéanamh leis an t-Athair Micheál a bhain ceithre scór amach le déanaí. Tharla scaradh na gcarad in dhiaidh bricfeasta maidin Dé Luain agus d'imigh gach éinne abhaile traochta ach sásta leo féin. Go dtí an bhliain seo chugainn, beir bua agus beannacht.

Until next year best wishes to all. — Gerry Halliday

A peek inside the Nuachtlitir production office

Students often get to the end of the year and wonder if they are ready to move up to the next level. Here is a lengthy translation exercise into Irish that will help you decide. Do as much as you can, even if it takes a couple of days, and show it to your teacher afterwards for assessment.

Don't be put off if it looks too hard. Even if you can only do a couple of small sections here and there it will still show how much you have learnt during the year.

Think you are ready for the test ? Then let's go, and if you have any time left over then shoot for some bonus points by translating this preface as well. It all helps in the long run.....

Ever wonder how our Cumann newsletter gets produced ? Every three months we just look under a pile of shamrocks and there it is. Seriously though, it takes a few people working as a team and like everything else these days is all done with the help of computers.

Stage 1 is collecting all the contributions. These can be in a variety of forms ranging from emails to word documents to web pages, complete with graphics or anything in between.

First of all they get checked for typos and then standardised to the same font. We use verdana, mainly for clarity, as too many different fonts can end up looking like "ransom note" publishing.



Contributions arrive for the next issue, now they have to be sorted out.

Stage 2 is copying the text into MS-publisher which is where we start to see the page layouts taking shape. We can move things around for best effect and add any further graphics to improve the layout.

We can also put in any special formatting now that we can see the column widths and lengths.

Stage 3 We finalise the layout by checking all the page numbers and adding a table of contents to the front cover.

Publisher also has a nice feature called design checker, which will highlight any errors in the page layouts. For example, sometimes text is obscured behind a picture or has overflowed the space allowed, so that has to be fixed.

The pages soon take shape on computer, look closely and see page 1 for this issue.

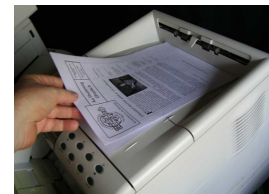


Not everything gets printed in both languages. Any special interest or humorous stories will naturally get first call on the Irish and then maybe English if space permits.

Likewise other material such as an announcement or an explanation of some grammatical point may just need to be given in English. But sometimes it is worth giving the two versions so people can see how the languages compare. In any case the overall intention is to provide worthwhile and challenging reading in Irish for everyone, across all levels of ability.

Stage 4 is the proof reading. This generally requires anywhere from three to five drafts to iron out all the little things and make it look good. Even then the odd error can still slip through.

Sometimes our team will query a particular spelling in which case we resort to our trusty Irish dictionary for a definitive answer. We use colour in various places and if you read the online version you can see everything in colour. Director's cut you might say.



Our first draft makes an appearance

Stage 5 is getting it ready for printing and this process makes use of pdf documents. There are two ways of converting pages from publisher to a pdf document. The first method is called bookfold which means that pages 2 & 7 will come out side by side and on the back of pages 1 & 8, and so on.



The resulting pdf is taken on a CD or memory stick to our local Officeworks for the actual printing. They can do it double sided on A3 pages and these then get folded in half to become the version that's handed out at class.

All wrapped up on a stick and ready to take to Officeworks

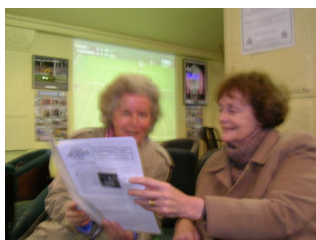


Our trained leprechauns often work through the night to do all the folding and put in any special inserts like the Daonscoil brochures or the AGM notices.

The other method is single page printing straight to an A4 size pdf which is what gets e-mailed out to members and is also put on the website so that readers anywhere in the world can print it off at home.

Our website statistics show that it's being read in places as far away as Japan, the USA and France as well as Britain and Ireland.

Stage 6 is the actual distribution. If you are not at class on the big night then our committee secretary has a list of members and their current postal and email addresses, so it will arrive eventually. If you change your details then please let someone know. The membership form on our website can be used for this purpose. If you still miss out on a copy for some reason or are just curious about the back issues they are all available on our website, right back to issue number one.



Another issue successfully completed, so now on to the next one !

So that's it. Every word you are reading here has been typed in by someone and has gone right though all the stages described above. That's a lot of words over the last 20 issues.

Do you have something for the Nuachtlitir ? Don't delay, type it up right away and show it to your teacher or class organiser and it will soon be on its way to us.

Overseas readers can contact us via the website. Deadlines are two weeks before publication, and the publication dates fall at end of Feb, May, Aug and Nov each year. We look forward to hearing from you !

How did you go with the translation ? The main things your teacher will need to assess are your speed and accuracy. It is taken for granted that some technical terms and trade names are better left as is eg "pdf" and "Officeworks", so do not waste time with these.

But often you will be able to come up with something quite creative (and new !) in Irish for a phrase like "ransom note" or "directors cut" or "memory stick" so treat these as opportunities to stretch out and use a bit of imagination.

Remember that translating anything into Irish is ten times more valuable for you than translating back to English. The ratings below will give you some idea of how you compare —

Fluent. Less than about one hour with no serious mistakes ? There's not much more you can learn from classes so you should probably be teaching. What you should be aiming to do now is work on improving your speed by translating things like the TV or radio news while it is running.

Advanced. Less than about four hours with some mistakes here and there — you qualify for the advanced class but study closely the things you got wrong.

Think carefully about the types of mistakes you made rather than each individual one and see if you can find more material to translate that will let you work on these specific types of error.

Intermediate. If it took a few days work and had lots of mistakes, but you got through to the finish, you still deserve credit for plugging away.

You probably made extensive use of your dictionary so make a note of all the new words you learnt and see if you can write something of your own that uses these new words in various ways. This would make you intermediate standard.

Improvers. Could only do wee bits here and there ? Don't despair. Compare your version with someone else in your class and see what's different.

Did you notice the whole thing is in the present tense apart from one or two sentences ? Can you see where the copula is needed ? Can you see instances of singular and plural nouns ? If so, consider yourself an advanced beginner.

Beginners. Looked at it and just gave up ? Look again and try to find at least five words that you already know and then work on ways of assembling them into simple but useful phrases.

Repeat this process with every interesting piece of writing you can find in English. Our team particularly likes reading the Weekend Australian, but anything at all is fair game, so use whatever appeals to you.

Practice translating to Irish at every opportunity. It also helps to read your work aloud for your teacher and classmates and then try learning it off by heart.

Dhá dhlúthdhioscaí le Gráda, *Endeavour* agus *The Landing Step*

Tá an chéad amhrán as Gaeilge agus chomh tapáí gur dheacair é a thuiscint. Tá an t-amhránaí ag fiafraigh de cathain a mbeidh sé abhaile arís. Is píosa álainn i gcóir damhsa é *Pint of Reference*. Chuir sé stíl na Chieftains in iúl dom ach ní chomh maith leo. Sa *Swallow* seinneann na Ceiltigh snagcheol. Tá glór na feadóige cosúil le glór na cláirnéide mar a sheinn Artie Shaw é. Ba é a phós Ava Gardner sular phós sí Sinatra.

Is é tosu *Anto's Gambit* ceann de na gcaointe is fearr a chuala me riamh. Tosaíonn an fheadóg, leanann an giotár, isteach leis an mbodhrán agus ansin téann said ar aghaidh le chéile. Iontach ! Sa chéad amhrán eile faightear an *Spanish Lady* in Otaki ! Níl sí le fáil fós i mBaile Áth Cliath. Ceapaim go bhfuil an leagan traidisiúnta i bhfad níos fearr.

Tá *Loved a Boy* cosúil le Nature Boy (le George Benson) Tá na ceoltóirí agus an t-amhránaí go hálainn ar fad. Caithfidh tú bheith i do rinneoir sár mhaith, le teacht aniar i gcóir *Snow Leopard*. Tá an rithim fíor ceart sa stíl traidisiúnta. Bhí díombá orm leis an amhrán *Endeavour* mar bhí sé leadránach, mór an trua. Ar an lámh eile, mar tá ceol i gcóir damhsa uait, seo é é.

Thaitin an ceol as *Landing Step* go mór liom. Ba dheacair an píosa ab ansa liom a roghnú. Chuir *Weight of the World* Vincent (le Don McClean) in iúl dom agus é chomh deas leis, go h-áirithe an pianó. In *Seven of Eight* tá tosú breá le cloisint ón bhfheadóg, is féidir gairm na mara agus radharc na sléibhte arda a shamhlú ag éisteacht leis. Ní chloistear ceol i gcóir hornpipe a bhualadh ar urlár go minic ach is sampla bríomhar an ceann seo.



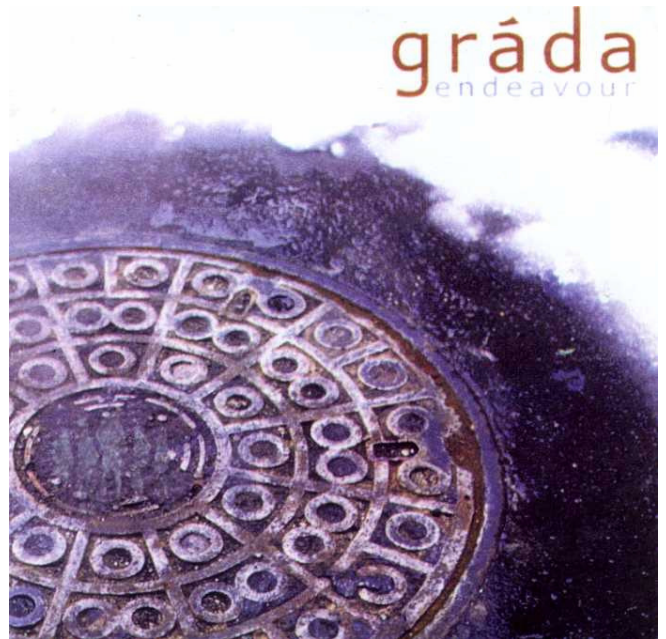
Ar an lámh eile, sa *Dear Mary*, tá rithim i gcóir slipjig le cloisint agus bheadh áthas ort dá mbeifeá ábalta an damhsa a dhéanamh.

Cur síos ar lá breá bog é *All in one Day*. Seinneann an ceoltóir an fheadóg le cic milis. Más maith leat éist le ceol ar do Walkman nuair a mbíonn tú ag spaisteoireacht nó ag marcaíocht nó ag rámháíocht agus araile taitneoidh an píosa seo leat.

Anois, tagaimid go *A l'Envers*, (Inside out as Béarla) an píosa is fearr de na bpíosaí go léir. Ardóidh sé do chroí agus cuirfidh sé do chosa ag damhsa.

Ní rabhas sa Mansion House i mBaile Áth Cliath ach uair amháin, ach is breá is cuimhin liom na mílte rinneoirí, na ceoltóirí agus an sult.

Fáilte, féile agus flea roimh pháiste agus ceoltóir breá. An gá dom focal eile a rá ?



New CD's for Irish language students - starring Liam Ó Maonlaí

Foras na Gaeilge have enlisted the talents of well known singer Liam Ó Maonlaí in the production of a new set of CD's for teaching Irish. There are four discs altogether in the series. Each contains six lessons and each lesson runs for about 10 minutes.

All the lessons came from the scriptwriting team of Steven Byrne and Fionnghuala Concannon. Our teachers have listened to the whole series and rate these lessons very highly indeed. Liam has excellent Irish and his voice is very easy for learners to follow and understand.

Learn Irish CD1

1. Introducing yourself
2. Asking for help
3. Weather
4. Holidays
5. Food
6. Drink

Learn Irish CD2

7. Accommodation
8. Time & numbers
9. Travelling
10. Leisure
11. Sports
12. Family

Everyday Irish CD1

1. Emergencies
2. Personal business
3. Hobbies
4. Working life
5. Current affairs
6. The world

Everyday Irish CD2

7. Occasions
8. Natural world
9. Social life
10. Love and relationships
11. Modern media
12. Style

In Ireland the four CD's were distributed free with the Irish Independent newspaper, and our contacts at Foras na Gaeilge have kindly sent us some spare sets for our own students.

Speak to your teacher if you are interested and have not already received a set.

Learn Irish concentrates mainly on the basics and is laid out in the same way as many beginner's textbooks, while *Everyday Irish* is slightly more advanced and covers topics that could come up in normal conversation.

The two *Learn Irish* CDs have a pdf transcript available which is very useful for students who wish to see the dialog written out, and the two *Everyday Irish* CDs have a series of five accompanying worksheets, also available as pdf documents.



These worksheets each cover a different aspect of grammar and help you to collect useful words for the different subject areas. They can be tackled at home by students or in class while working in pairs. (*tip — print all five worksheets and study them before attempting number one*)

Worksheet 1 covers the past tense and Accommodation, Time and Numbers, Sport and Family.

Worksheet 2 covers the present tense and Weather, Food, Drink and Directions.

Worksheet 3 covers the future tense and Occupations, Modern Media, Home and Emergencies.

Worksheet 4 covers the conditional and World Affairs, Love and Relationships, Natural world & Style.

Worksheet 5 covers the past habitual tense and Travel, Occasions and Current Affairs

Each of these documents, as well as mp3 versions of the actual lessons can be downloaded to your computer from the newspaper's website. You will need broadband to download the mp3 files, but the pdf files can easily be downloaded with a dial-up connection. The page you need is

www.independent.ie/education/features/learn-irish-with-liam-o-maonlai-692551.html

(or just go to the education features page and click on the graphic for the course)

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile Teo

Éarlaimh: Máire Mhic Ghiolla Íosa

IRISH LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Patron: Mary McAleese, President of Ireland



..níos airde a Sheáin, níos airde !

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile, the Irish Language Association of Australia is a non-profit organisation run entirely by volunteer tutors and a voluntary committee of management. Its aim is to promote the Gaelic language as a second language within the Australian community, and to form networks with other cultural, heritage and Gaelic-speaking groups.

Formally established back in 1992, the ILAA offers structured weekly language classes to students of all ages, nationalities, and walks of life, across a range of levels — absolute beginners, basic, intermediate, advanced — as well as the opportunity to practice and converse together in a supportive environment. Members receive a quarterly newsletter; access to the library; and also enjoy weekly singing and informal conversation sessions; as well as participation in occasional social events and residential language schools.

Irish Language Association of Australia Inc., 320 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC, 3000.

Annual Membership Application

or notification of change of address, telephone number, mobile, email.

New Membership Renewal Update

Sloinne
(surname)

Guthán (bh)
(phone)

Céad ainm
(first name)

(ah)

Seoladh
(address)

Fón póca
(mobile)

.....

Ríomhphost
(email)

Membership fee is \$30 per annum and due each January. Class fee is \$3 per week.