



FORWORD

'Iris na Gaeilge' has developed from our previous magazine 'Nuachtlitir na Gaeilge' and we hope it will be a fully Irish language publication in a few years.

Henceforth this magazine, will accept for publication **letters** in Irish or English about the Irish language. Letters must be strictly no more than 100 words in length. Their publication will be according to space available and the descretion of the Editor.

In the meantime, and until we have gathered our readers, our first few pages will be in English. Seven articles in Irish by well-known workers for the Language will follow. The final page will feature general information relating to the Irish language .

A list of contributors is given as follows

CONTENTS

NUAHT	
Profile	K McCourt
Cromford	Colaiste na nGael
Irish Language	
Irish in Schools	
Irish Place Names	
Corca Dhuibhne	Marcus McDonald
Den Haag	G.Desborough
Gaeil an Larphointe	Seirse Ó Broin
Collège Des Irlandais	Barry Tobin
Comhar Chuman Cleire	T Ó'B
Ar mo Sheachran	S Ó G
Also: Stiperstone report, New publications, Quote Unquote	

Duacht

The Irish language is enjoying world-wide interest today . This newsletter, Iris na Gaeilge aims to be the voice of the Gaelic Irish in Britain. It is helping to establish a network that can keep the Language community members here in touch.

- Thanks to Coláiste na nGael , the year 2002 will be one of the most active and varied periods ever for the Irish language in the UK. In Stipperstones, Shropshire, Fran O' Boyle organised his second Irish language weekend on the 8th .March .It was mainly for fluent speakers . Over 20 people attended. He intends to hold a similar event next year. His telephone is 01743 792 993.
- Inis Meán Day at Camden Town. Here, Coláiste na nGael organised a fund-raising occasion to restore Synge's cottage in the Aran Islands. £895 was realised. Many celebrities attended and helped.
- The second annual weekend for learning the Irish language was held 4th to 6th . May at Hope, Derbyshire. Over 50 learners attended..
- A Festival of Irish language films took place at The Tricycle Cinema, Kilburn, London . It drew very large crowds. There is an article overleaf with details.
- Christy Evans again took 37 youngsters from Shenfield High School, Essex, to the Connemara Gaeltacht and to Inis Meán. They speak good Irish now.
- At the Hague, Holland, 6th to 8th Sept. , Coláiste na nGael has organised an International Irish Language Festival.

Enthusiasts from many parts of Europe have booked, as well as 30 from the UK and a few from Ireland. More details overleaf.

- Neil Duncan is organising his second Irish language weekend at Basingstoke, Hants. for 12th to 13th October. Further information at 01256 414501.
- Litchfield, 2nd. November. An activity weekend will include viewing the Litchfield Gospels, which are said to have been written by Irish monks. Information from Christy Evans, or 01480 450412.
- Cromford, Derbyshire. Coláiste na nGael will hold the first ever residential Irish language college in the UK. It will be at Cromford on March 7th, 8th, 9th, March 2003. Cromford is a picturesque village in the Dales. Excellent road and rail transport. The occasion will generate a Gaeltacht atmosphere. Details from Christy Evans, or 01480 450412.
- There will be a Language activity at Milton Keynes on Saturday 14th September, 2-4 pm

Portrait

KEVIN McCOURT

" It has been suggested to me that I have acquired the mountaineering skills of Chris



Bonnington in my conquest of Ireland's hills and peaks " , says Kevin McCourt jokingly . " I have, in fact , managed part of one of the Mourne mountains in Co. Down and , together with my father , climbed Knocknarea in Co. Sligo

. Here, Queen Maebh , Queen of Connaught , is reputed to be buried . One - and - a - bit mountains sadly do not a mountaineer make “.

Kevin’s interest in the Irish language was sparked by family holidays in Ireland twenty -five years ago. His Sligo - born father came to England in 1960 , began a career in teaching , learned French and married a London girl . He had learned Irish at Rosses Point ,and had also , over the years , built up a fine collection of Irish language books .

Kevin first heard Irish spoken naturally on visits to Gweedore ,Co .Donegal . He recalls jotting down “Goide mar atá tú? “ and “ Go raibh maith agat “. However, it was not until the mid - 90’s that he found out about the existence of an Irish language course nearby . This was in Leicester where the family now lives . He began to devote time and resources to the ancient tongue.

When not opening accounts for Alliance and Leicester customers, Kevin supports Wimbledon FC, skippered by Irish international defender Kenny Cunningham. He is also a very keen Dr Who fan. He considers the biography of the Liverpool / Irish actor, Tom Baker, the 4th actor to play the role, as hilarious.

Kevin McCourt attends almost every weekend school organised by Colaiste na nGael for the study of the Language. Those events, in Shropshire , Derbyshire and elsewhere.....give him an opportunity to walk in the hills and to enjoy himself linguistically and socially . One of his ambitions is to be a fluent Irish speaker.

CROMFORD Colaiste na nGael

In March 2003, Colaiste na nGael will launch Britain’s only residential Irish language college. It will be at Cromford, in

the Derbyshire Dales. The college is set in its own grounds and has excellent class-room and conference facilities. Cromford is a pretty village and has a good train service. Buses from Nottingham and Manchester stop in the village.

A residential College allows students to eat and socialise in an entirely Irish-speaking environment.

For more information, contact Christy Evans.....or telephone 01480 450412.

THE IRISH LANGUAGE FILM FESTIVAL 2002

By Christy Evans

Ann Crilly, the director of “Limbo” , spoke in Irish about her film. “Limbo” was set in Donegal and Derry and was a powerful indictment of traditional values. The next film , “ Clare Sa Speir” , was very amusing, whilst “Caca Milis” featured the Hollywood actor Brendan Gleeson. He is clearly a fluent Irish speaker . Let’s work to ensure next year’s festival is even better.

COMMENT

T. G. McGoohan.

An average of 45,000 young people leave Irish secondary schools every year. They have studied the Irish language strenuously for 5 years and are , potentially , fluent speakers of the Language . This should make the revival of Irish easily attainable . Sadly, the Language gains almost nothing from this annual output. All that expensive teaching of Irish is lost without a trace!.

We may well ask why this is so !. Also, it has been happening yearly since 1927 . Yet , it is never discussed !. A heavy silence surrounds the subject . Meanwhile , native speakers of Irish have dropped from about 750,000 in 1902 to under 20,000

today , despite huge official financial support .

All Irish governmentsas well as the very generous taxpayers.....have given stout support to the Language since 1923 . Today, 67% of the population in the Republic want Irish saved . But the education system seems unable to make the expected impact .

This failure requires urgent and searching debate among all enthusiasts. It is the Language's most critical problem . Over 3,150,000 young people passed through Irish secondary schools since 1927. All of them had , at least , an excellent grounding in Irish. What has happened to them ? Where have they gone ?.

VITAL STATISTICS FROM IRELAND

by Christy Evans

45,587 students took the Irish language examination. 52,282 students took the English language examination.
9.1% of the Irish language students gained grade A. 9.3% of the English language students gained grade A.
40.5% of the Irish students gained grade A or B. Only 35% of the English students got grade A or B.
So the Irish still speak Irish better than English!.

STIPERSTONES

Gaeilgeoiri in the English midlands have been busy recently. Fran O'Boyle held another successful language weekend in March in the upland village of Stiperstones, in Shropshire. There was music, talks and scenic walks. Fran is organising another



event in January 2003. Those events in Stiperstones are more suitable for fluent speakers or advanced beginners. For further information please telephone him on 01743 792 993.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

“ Imeachtai Gaelacha 2003 “ is now available. This booklet outlines the many Irish language events taking place across Britain in 2003. Festivals, colleges, plays, trips and parties are all mentioned. For a copy, write to Christy Evans, Shenfield High School, Shenfield, Essex, CM15 8RY.



IRISH PLACE NAMES

by P.W. Joyce, L.L.D.

When our ancestors so shamefully abandoned the Irish language in the 19th and 20th centuries, only one aspect of it remained triumphantly alive and in daily use: Irish place names. We can feel grateful to P.W. Joyce (1827- 1914) a Co . Limerick man, who travelled the entire country, obtained the correct pronunciations from the local people , and then recorded the meanings for us today. “ Irish Place Names” was published in three volumes in 1913. It has remained a firm favourite ever since with the general public.

Many of the names of the townlands (place names) go back to antiquity, some are in Middle Irish., but many of the meanings can be fully understood by an Irish speaker today. They give a fascinating and tantalising glimpse into the lives and the minds of our remote ancestors. They come from a time when the Irish language reigned supreme across the entire island of Ireland.

Some of the place names refer to geographical features: Lettermore, the

large, wet , hillside; Letterbrack, the coloured , or speckled hillside. Dromore means a large slope, or ridge. Mong, looks like a horse's mane. Many common names show an ancient, forgotten ownership: Kiltymooden, Mooden's woods ; Kiltybarden, Barden's woods; Lisgillock , Gillock's fort or homestead.

Frequently, a place name may indicate a trade or manufacturing. Cornavad, relates to whistle - making ; Cornabron, a hand quern; Drumbibe, perhap, a pipemaker's domicile; Mahamagh was where sieves were produced; Derragoan, a grove where a smith worked ; Legonomer was where troughs were made. Potore had a potter , and Aughanaglace had accoutrements . The word " core" appears in the name of very many townlands, such as ,Ballinacur. This denotes a fishing weir. Our ancestors must have liked river fish. Was this of any use in Famine times ?.

Trees are found widely in local names. Aughayowla had an orchard , according to Joyce. Altacullion had holly bushes ; Corahole, hazels ; Altakeeran , rowans . Moher: in the North , this meant a cluster of trees. Funshinagh refers to ash trees; Selton, willows or sallies ; Aughavilla , a large , ancient .(holy ?) tree . Eochill had yews , and Farnaugh alders.

Animals?. Drumgoon had calves; Drumcollip , heifers; Mullinameela , a hornless cow, and Cornabawne, a white cow. Ballyduff was the ford of the oxen. Cornamuckla had piggeries; Ballinalee, calves, and Cornagon, a hound.

The quality of the land is shown clearly sometimes. Prabagh means a mucky soil or place. Garvagh , was rough , untilled land . Boragh was good cow land , but Annaghaderg was red and marshy. Laheen : smooth and rich . Branra , was fallow ; Coragh , moorland ; Rooskey was marshy ; Meen , a mountain meadow ; Towney , a green field and Mough , a

plain.

For those who know or remember some Irish place names, their meaning can bring surprises. A few from Co. Leitrim prove that point. Breandrum means the stinking hill , or slope ; Drumcowra , the fragrant ridge ; Satarasaun , the holm of briars . Prucklish refers to badgers; Dernaheiltymore, the oakwood of the large doe ; Corratowey, an abundance of sorrel ; Leamonois , the leap (path) of the fawn. Sheemore (a hill), was the big fairy .

It is fitting that we have the final words of Patrick Weston Joyce on his achievement. " And now, having finished my task , I claim that the account given in this three - volume work of the place- names of Ireland, rests on surer ground than the history of the place - names of any other country." He died a year later.

A paperback , " A Pocket Guide to Irish Place Names " by P. W. Joyce, was published by Appletree Press. ISBN 0---86281-----127-----9.

Most good bookshops have publications on the subject in stock.

Copies can be borrowed from all public libraries in Ireland.

C. O Beirne.

CORCA DHUIBHN : an sean agus an nua ag faisceadh a cheile.

Marcus MacDomhnaill.



Bhios thiar i gCorca Dhuibhne I gContae Chiarraige aimsir na Nollag . Áit iargualta le radharcanna álainn atá ann . Cé go bhfuil an Ghealtacht seo an-nua aimsireach , le ríomhaire i ngach aon tigh beagnach , tá an traidisúin go laidir fós ,

buíochas le Dia.

Is mór na h-athruithe a thánig ar an gceantar seo ó aimsir “Ryan’s Daughter” daichead bliain ó shin. Ach tá an oiread sin spraoi agus craic ag báint le lá an Dreoilín anois is mar a bhí riamh. Téann dreamanna éagsúla ó thigh go tigh le rince, ceol agus amhráin. Bíonn siad gleasta suas an-mhaith ionas nach n-aithineofa iad.

Idir Lá Nollag agus Oíche Chinn Bhliana, bíonn comórtaisí sean-nós ar siúl ins na tithe tábhairne. D’fheadfa “an seandúine” nó “an chailín álainn” a chlos ó mhuintir na h-áite, agus bíonn an-éileamh orthu.

Thar aon cheantar eile Gaeltachta, tá Corca Dhuibhne tar éis an-mheascán den sean agus an nua a bhaint amach dí féin, agus murach an nua, seans nach mbheadh éinne ina chónaí ann, anois ach lucht saoire samraidh.

Le deireadh a chur leis an alt seo, tugaim daobh “paidir Lae Choille”, (1ú Eanáir) a chuala i gCorca Dhuibhne i mbliana. Go mbaire sibh usaid as.....don bhliain nua.

PAIDIR LAE CHOILLE

Urnaí a muineadh im leanbh dom féin,
dúiseacht le dúracht ag gairm na n-éan,
mo ghlúine a ligint fúm, ag achairt chun Dé,
chun an úr-mhic a bhí go tuirseach ag silleadh as a ngéag.

Á Rí, na n-aingeal, na n-aspal, na bfáidh is na gcliar,
A losa a rugadh id’ leanbh, id’ dhuine is id’ Dhia,
larsma a chuirim ort, a mhic Athar na n-grást atá fiail.
Trócaire do m’anam, is maith dom a ndearnas riamh

For accommodation on the island, phone Ciarán Danny Mike’s 028 39153.

Photo:- O’Drisceoil’s; Irish language centre, Oileán Chléire.



DEN HAAG

by Gary Desborough

In 2002, The Haag was the venue for the First International Festival of the Irish language. The delegates found a refined and very friendly city.

Is cathair álainn, ársa í, Den Haag, le tithe mhóra agus bóithrí fada le crainnte ar gath aon taobh. Is ann atá an rialtas bunaithe agus cónaí ar Clann an Rí. Is cathair staidiúil í. Is beag trácht atá inti, agus tá lár na cathrach beag comh maith.

Is éard atá sa mBinnenhof ná ionad a bhfuil go leor foirgnimh maorga tógtha le h-ais a cheile ann. Tá siad suite cois Loch Hofviejer í gcroí lár Den Haag. Is ann atá Dáil na hIstíre, cúirteanna agus dánlannaí suite..Is ann atá an Riderzall, nó halla na Ridiri, halla maorga na Meánaoise in a ndéantaí daoine a chuir chun báis go poiblí fadó. Taobh leis atá an Mauritshuis. Tá sé go h-iontach ar fad. Is ann atá saothar Reubens, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Mondrian agus Picasso. Is seoidin í an dánlann seo agus is fíor - spreagúil an áit í le dhul ar chúirt chuici.

Buailte leis an “Panorama Mesdag”. An pictiúr is mo ar domhain!. Ní féidir cur síos caoiúla a dhanamh air, cuma cén teanga a n-úsaidfadh duine. Is árd- eaglais mhor í an “Grotekerk”, a bhfuil túr 300 troigh ar áirde ar a barr. Tá an “Westeinde”, séipéal álainn Caitliceach, i ngar dí..

Is áit chúin theagartha í Den Haag ar furast siúl thart uirthi . Tá suas le 300 Eireannaigh agus trí theach tabhairne Eireannach ann. Is fíor mhaith an ionad é le haghaidh féile Gaelach a chuir a siul ann.

GAEIL AN LARPHOINTE

Seirse Ó Broin

I gceartlár Londan anois, an áit a bhfuil an foirgneamh sonrach úd ann ar an chúinne idir Charing Cross Rd. agus New Oxford St , bhí cónaí as dhream mór Eireannach thart timpeall uair amháin , dream comh mór ag an am sin gur thugadh Eire Bheag ar an áit . Inniu ba dheacair rian Eireannach a aimsiú sa cheantar cé go raibh siad ann le trí chéad bliain . Rinneadh cuid mhór athruithe ar chúrsaí agus ainmneacha na sráideanna ar fud na mblianta

Tugadh “An Préachánlann “ ar an limistéar inár. Sheadaigh na Gaeil ó aimsir na banríona Eilíse ach go mórmór idir 1720 agus 187. Báisteadh an t-ainm sin ar an cheantar de bharr ró-plódú na ndaoine i lánaí agus cúirteanna cúnga, i ngáiréid agus in íoslaigh. Shín an dúiche ó Great Russell St, go High St., St. Giles , agus sa treo eile ó Tottenham Court Road go Plumtree St , Bloomsbury . Tógadh an chuid is mó de na tithe i 1672 i ndiaidh an Dóiteán Mhóir sa bhliain 1666 , nuair a loscadh formhór na cathrach , agus thosaigh forbairt mhór nua sna fobhailte taobh amuigh den bhalla .

Cuireadh iallach ar Chaitlicigh cathair Londan. A fhágail i 1722 i ndiaidh na Réabhlóide Seacóibítí nuair a bhí an chéad Seirse ar an Rí- chathaoir . Bhí an cosc céanna ar na hEireannaigh fosta. Thogh na hEireannaigh na h-áiteanna bochta, agus ina measc bhí ceantar Naomh Giles (S Colaiste na nGael. Giles- in- the -Fields) a raibh an eaglais ann flaithiúil do na bochtáin . Bhí iomra ar naomh Giles mar éarlamh na lobhar agus gcláirineach. Tá paróiste eile i Londan darb ainm Naomh Giles Cripplegate agus líon Eireannach sa cheantar sin fosta.

Feictear Cripplegate mar geata na gcláirineach.



Cad chuige gur chruinnigh na Gaeil le chéile? . Is dóigh liom nach raibh siad cleachta le Béarla. Roimh 1800 bhí an Ghaeilge mar gnáththeanga ag leath an phobail in Eirinn, agus níor tharla an meath mór nó gur bunaíodn na scoileanna “ náisiúnta “ . Ba bheag an t-oideachas foirmiúil a fuair an bunáite, agus ní raibh léamh ná scríobh acu ar theacht go Londain. Ar ndóigh bhí siad láidir agus ábalta obair chrua láimhe a dhéanamh

Bhí éileamh ar Eireannaigh agus Breatnaigh nuair a bunaíodh an ghrúdlann Meux i Sráid Bainbridge i 1765 as ucht go raibh siad níos trom-ghuailí ná na Sasanaigh chun na bairilí a lámseáil . Bhí tagairt sa “General Observer “ ar an 15ú Marta 1751 “ our common people now are so much enervated by gindrinking that multitudes of them cannot be employed in trades and occupations which require great strength ,

for which reason vast numbers of Welshmen and Irishmen are made use of in our breweries, whilst others work as chairmen". Ná bí ag smaoinemh gurbh ionann an "chairman" sin agus fear i gceannas cruinnithe. 'Sé an chiall a bhí leis ná fear a d'iompraíodh cathaoir ar chuairí, a bhíodh coitianta i Londain go dtí 1821.

Bhí deis amháin ag muintir Naomh Giles go raibh páirceanna lastuaidh de Great Russell St, a mbíodh faill acu aer glan a fháil agus corr-mhuc a chur chun beathaithe.

AN COLLEGE DES IRLANDAIS

Barry Tobin

I bPáras na Fraince tá go leor rudaí a chuireann Éire i gcuimhne dhuit. Ar na rudaí sin go léir is é an ceann is fearr liomsa ar aon nós ná an 'Collège des Irlandais', (Coláiste na n-Éireannach). Timpeall 450 bliain ó shin is ea a bhun easpaigna hÉireann an coláiste seo le fir óga a ullmhú le bheith ina sagairt.

Sa bhliain 1539 tháinig Anraí VIII go Baile Atha Cliath le ord agus eagar a chur ar na hÉireannaigh. Thug sé ordú dos na tiarnaí dílse go léirsé sin, na Normannaigh.....teacht go Baile Atha Cliath. Nuair a bhí na tiarnaí go léir ann, fuair sé amach nach raibh Béarla ag duine amháin acu. Mar sin, bhí fear teanga ann le Béarla an Rí a aistriú go Gaeilge. Dúirt sé leo gurb é féin anois a bhí i mbun na heaglaise agus nach raibh dlí an Phápa ann níos mó.

Nuair a chuala na heaspaign an méid sin, thosnaigh siad ag pleanáil don am a bhí le teacht. Sin é an fath gur chuir siad an coláiste sin ar bun i bPáras. Ar na daoine a bhí ann go luath bhí Ignáid Loyola, an fear a bhunaigh na hIosánaigh. Bhí sé i bPáras le bheith ina shagart, ach ní raibh áit eile le fáil dó ach i gcoláiste na nGael.

Fear a bhí ag dul go dtí Ollscoil Pháras ag an am sin ab ea John Calvin. Bhí Loyola

agus na hÉireannaigh, agus Calvin, ag dul ar na cúrsaí céanna.

Tháinig Réabhlóid na Fraince sa bliain 1789 agus d'imigh na hÉireannaigh go léir as an áit, ach amháin sagart aoniar calma a sheas an fód i rith na mblianta roimh Waterloo.

Nuair a tháinig an dara cogadh domanda, agus nuair a bhí na Gearmánaigh i bPáras, d'imigh na hÉireannaigh. Arís eile d'fhan sagart amháin ann. Ní raibh bía ná faic le fáil i bPáras. Scrios an sagart na bláthanna sa ghéirdín agus chuir sé prátaí agus glásraí eile ina n-áit.

Ag deireadh an chogaidh níor tháinig na hÉireannaigh ar ais. Bhí na Cumannaigh tar éis an Pholainn a ghabháil agus bhí bac ar an eaglais sa tír sin seal. Mar sin thug na heaspaign in Éirinn a gcoláiste i bPáras ar iasacht don eaglais Phólainn. In a dhiaidh sin tháinig fir óga as an bPólainn go dtí an sean choláiste sa Rue des Irlandais le bheith ina sagairt. I measc na macléinn a bhí ann díreach tar éis an chogaidh, bhí fear óg as Krakow darb ainm Wotyła. D'fhan sé dhá bhliain san áit. Is é féin atá ina Phápa sa Róimh anois!

Nuair a tháinig saoirse ar ais go dtí an Phólainn d'fág na Polainnigh an coláiste Éireannach agus bhí an áit folamh arís. Bhí suim ag rialtas na Fraince san áit, agus rinneadar iarracht ar seilbh a fháil ar an áit. Ach ní raibh na heaspaign in Éireann sásta an áit a thabhairt suas saor in aisce. Sa deireadh bhí Conradh idir na heaspaign agus an rialtas a thug cead dos na heaspaign an áit a úsáid go deo.

Brú Éireannach atá ann anois. Níl ábhar sagairt ar bith fágtha ach Éireannaigh óga, fir agus mná atá ag staidéar, nó ag obair i bPáras. 'Sea, tá séiplíneach ann: an tAthair Piaras Breathnach (Pearse Walsh) as Baile Atha Cliath. Chuir easpaign na hÉireann go dtí an áit i 1998 é chun an fód a sheasamh. Tá sean nós amháin slán go fóill ann pé scéal é.

COMHARCHUMANN CHLEIRE TEO

Tomás O Buachalla.

Oileán Chléire is a beautiful Gaeltacht off the coast of West Cork . The island's co-operative has worked hard to maintain the Irish language. The Co-op. has opened a heritage centre and a successful language college.



Photo : O' Drisceoil's – the centre of Irish language activity on Oileán Chléire, Co Cork

"Is é príomhaidhm an Chomharchumann ná Cléire a fhorbairt mar Ghaeltacht . Chun é seo a bhaint amach, bhí gá sa chéad áit , le seirbhísí bunúsacha , agus ina dhiaidh sin , le deiseanna fostaíochta a chur ar fáil do mhuintir an oileáin. Déantar gnó inmhéanach an Chomharchumann go hiomlán trí mhéan na Gaeilge.

Usáideach an Láthair Oidhreachta ar dtús mar scoil náisiúnta do chailíní , agus níos déanaí d' fhan sé gan úsáid toisc go raibh líon na ndaltaí ag dul i léig . I 1986, rinne an Cairdiníl Tomás O Fiach coimisinú oifigiúil ar an bfróigneamh mar Láthair Oidhreachta agus Coláiste na Gaeilge .

Tagann agus imíonn na fáinleóga agus cuairteoirí eile an tsamhraidh, scoláirí, Gaelgeoirí, ceolteoirí agus lucht na mbad gach bliain. Tagann siad ina sluaite, agus is aoibhinn leo saol an oileáin le linn laethanta fada an t-samhraidh. Gaeltacht is ea Oileán Chléire atá ag athrú de shíor, agus beidh fáilte roimh an chuairoteoir samhradh nó geimhreadh .

For accommodation on the island, phone Ciarán Danny Mike's 028 39153. For ferry times , 028 39135.

AR MO SHEACHRAN FHEIN

Séamus Ó Cionnfaola

Is mó uair a smaoiním anois ar an gcéad lá a dh'fhágas an Rinn , an áit aoibhinn sin , nuair a bhí an saol go léir ar mo sháimhín só agam agus gan mairg ná cíós orm ach gach aon lá mar a bheadh lá fada saoire.

Bhí mé féin agus fir óga an bhaile an uair sin insna Fórsaí Cosanta Aitiúla , agus ba mhó lá aoibhinn a bhí againn agus sinn ag ullmhú ar theacht an tráthnóna chun dul ar phatrol suas Bóthar an tSean-phobail , agus sinn ag féachaint amach ar an bfarraige ó thigh solais Mhion Ard , féachaint an bhfeicimís aon namhaid ag déanadh isteach orainn . Agus dar ndóigh ba thoil le Dia ná feacamíd; mar dá bhfeicimís bheadh thiar orainn ,mar ní raibh inár láimh againn ach seanrifle a chaith na Sasanaigh uathu tar éis an Chogaidh Mhóir in 1918.

Ach dúirt an duine uasal a bhí inár múineadh i gcóireacha cogaidh agus ag drilleáil gach aon oíche san sean Scoil Náisiúnta ;' Féach anois ' , adeireadh sé , ' níl agaibh ach cúig philéar agus seanghunna . Agus nuair a bheidh sé sin caite agaibh thá lón rúnda fairsing ar an mbóthar!' Ach nuair a chuirimis ceist ; 'Cad é an lón san? ' . Dheireadh sé , agus gáire ina aghaidh , ' Clocha'. Ach bhí sé lán de mhagadh agus bhainimís ardshult as a chuid greannúracht .

Bhí post mí-ádhmharach í nDún Garbhán agam agus bhí



mé bréan de. Ní raibh aon leathphingin le fáil as, 'sé sin muna dtabharfadh fear an tí cúpla scilling dhom le grá Dé istoíche Dhé Sathairn . Ach ní minic a tharla sé sin , mar bhí sé comh bocht le Piaras na gCíor !. Mar sin ní raibh mórán dóchais agam a bheith ag brath ar a leithéidí.

Bhí na leids óga go léir imithe leo go Sasana agus go Sasana Nua , iad ag scríobh abhaile agus ag cuir síos ar an ladhar mhór airgid a bhíodar a thuilleamh gach aon tseachtain . Bhí tochas ag teacht im shála a bheith ag teacht ar roinnt den chealamán so. Agus amaite tháinig go Dún Garbhán gníomhaire lá a bhí ag lorg oibreoirí thall chun dul ag sclábhaíocht ar na bóithre iarainn. Chuaigh mé isteach agus líon mé foirm iarratais.

Ní rabhas i bfad ag feitheamh le freagra nuair a tháinig beart cáipéisi tríd an bpost chugham . Ní dúirt mé aon rud le haoinne ,ach nuair a bhuail mé isteach tráthnóna go dtí an tae, bhí m'athair ina shuí ag an mbord agus é ag scríobh . Chuaigh mé chun cainte leis agus d'inis mé mó scéal do.....'sé sin go rabhas chun dul go Sean-Shasana . Bhuel, chuir sé a pheann ar an mbord agus tháinig gach aon sórt dath ina aghaidh. Labhair sé agus imní ina ghuth .

' Féach, a gharsúin', arsa sé , 'ní mhairfeadh aon Chríostaí san tír mí-ádhmharach san , agus ní deas na daoine iad na Sasanaigh chun dul ag plé leo.'

Is fíor go raibh an gráin aige ar an dream san, ach ní raibh sé sin chun siar a bhaint asam féin ,mar bhí fuil na h-óige ag borradh trím fhéithe an uair sin agus mé ar mire chun an domhan mór amuigh ansúd a dh' feiscint . Ní raibh aon ghluaisteáin sa Rinn an uair sin ach fo-cheann , agus bhí orm a bheith i nDún Garbhán don chéad traen ar maidin . Tuigfidh tú go raibh eagla orm ná faighinn an traen sin . Bhí póiní rua ag mo chara , Sámus O Lonáin , agus chuir mé chuige an mbheadh aon seans go dtabharfadh sé go

dtí an stáisiún mé . 'O 'sé ' , arsa sé liom, ' ná habair a thuilleadh... Chífidh mé ar maidin thú '.

B'fíor dho, go bfágaidh Dia is an Mhaighdean Mhuire fós an sláinte aige . Dh'fhág mé slán agus beannacht ag mo mháithair bhocht. Bhí sí sa doras agus na deora ag rioth anuas léi . Ghoill sé sin go mór orm, mar bhí fios agam go rabhas ag briseadh a croí .

Bhí mé in airde ar an drae agus an capaillín ag sodar léi . Bhuail uaigneas mé a bhí mínádúrtha. Níor dhada liom a bheith ag fágaint ach an lá a bheith chomh breá , maidin aoibhinn in mí na Bealtaine , 1945 .

ar leanúint

QUOTE / UNQUOTE

“ Wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it , and right is right ,even if nobody is doing it “.

St. Augustine (354- 430).

“ This man must have been of the Protestant religion; but he was of the aboriginal race, and not only spoke the Irish language, but could pour forth unpremeditated Irish verses”.

Lord Macaulay (1800-1859) on Oliver Goldsmith’s early teacher at Lissoy, Co. Westmeath.

“ Men multiply like mice in a barn, if they have unlimited means of subsistence “.

Richard Cantillon (1680-1734)

Irish banker and economist, born in Co. Kerry. “Essai sur la nature du Commerce en general “.

“Home is not where we come from but where we choose to go “.

Julie Burchill , “ No exit “, 1993.

“Imagine the Lord (God) talking French!. Aside from a few odd words in Hebrew, I took it completely for granted that God had never spoken anything but English!”.

Clarence Sheppard Day (1878- 1955), writer.

“It is an obvious observation that where violence is inflicted on man, it is also inflicted on language”.

Primo Levi (1919- 1987). Auschwitz prisoner. ‘ Communicating ‘.

“The only sort of nationalism worth a damn is cultural nationalism”.

M. Balcon, Film producer. The Ealing Years . Radio 4 , BBC. 8 Jan. 2002.

“I am more afraid of making a fault in my Latin than (I am) of the kings of Spain, France and Scotland”.

Queen Elizabeth I. (1535—1603).

“ One more cow, one more sow , and one more acre under the plough “.

Paddy Hogan, T. D., Minister for Agriculture and land reformer in 1920's.

“The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance “.

John Philpot Curran, (1780—1817). Lord Mayor of Dublin, 1790

”The occupation of Ireland (by Germany) might lead to the end of the War “.

Adolf Hitler, (1889—1945) . 3rd Dec 1941.

“Anything I say, I can contradict”.
Johannes Kepler, (1571-1630). German astronomer.

Restaurants for Irish Speakers

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An Caife Glas Culturlan Mac Adam Ó Fiach, Belfast
‘Dáil Bia’, 46 Kildare Street, Dublin,
‘3D’ 3 Dawson Street. Dublin

If you know of similar Irish speaking restaurants outside the Gaeltacht, please let us know.

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An Cheathrú Rua,
Co. Na Gaillimhe.
Riomhphost: nuacht@foinse.ie
Láithreán: www.foinse.ie

Gaeilge ar an Ghréasan:

A good source of information can be had from
www.fainne.org

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