



*Bí bródúil as do theanga*

# An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile

Samhradh 2010  
1-12-2010

## Beannachtaí na Nollag Daoibh

**S**eo an nuacht-litir deireanach do 2010. Is iontach an bhliain a bhí againn.

Ba chúis ríméid don Chumann an chéad duais a bhuanach sa Chomórtas Domhanda ag Glór na nGael.

Léiríonn seo an obair ar fad atá curtha isteach ag an gCumann. Chuireamar fáilte roimh daltaí agus baill nua agus mar bharr ar an mbliain bhí sraith seimineár againn le Louis de Paor.

I rith na bliana d'fhreastail roinnt daoine ar an Scoil Gheimhridh i Sydney; d'ímigh grúpa eile go

dtí an Ghaeltacht i nGleann Cholmcille, mar a chaith siad coicís ag feabhsú a gcuid Gaeilge.

Táimid faoi chomaoin ag Deirdre Gillespie a d'éagraigh an turas sin. Ina measc bhí Laura agus Muiris a raibh deis acu freastail ar an nGael-tacht de thoradh an duais ó Ghlor na nGael.

Beidh Daonscoil 2011 linn sar i bhfad agus beimid ag dul go ionad nua.

Cuir d'áit in áirithe láithreach! Níl le déanamh agam anois ach buíochas a ghabháil dár mbaill go léir as ucht bhur dta-caíocht agus buíochas



Ca bhfuil do bhád ? (L. 5)



ar leith don choiste.

Tá mé an-bhuíoch daoibh go léir.

Nollaig shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Karolyne

## San Eagrán Seo..

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <i>As Béarla</i>                                   | 2   |
| <i>Aussies invade Donegal</i>                      | 3   |
| <i>Club Leabhar.com</i>                            | 4   |
| <i>Lake Dewar here we come !</i>                   | 5   |
| <i>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Cooking With Kaz</i> | 6,7 |
| <i>Eilís Uí Ruairc</i>                             | 8   |
| <i>Louis de Paor i Melbourne arís</i>              | 9   |
| <i>Localbooks.ie</i>                               | 10  |
| <i>A Necessary Word</i>                            | 12  |
| <i>Deich lá san Indonesia</i>                      | 13  |
| <i>Brooklyn</i>                                    | 13  |
| <i>Cré na Cille DVD</i>                            | 14  |
| <i>Litreacha don Chumann</i>                       | 15  |

### Key Dates for Dec 2010 - Jan 2011

|            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| 7th Dec    | Year-end party               |
| 14th Dec   | Last class of term 4         |
| 21st Dec   | No class                     |
| 9-16th Jan | Daonscoil 2011 at Lake Dewar |
| 1st Feb    | Teacher meeting              |
| 8th Feb    | First class of term 1        |

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

[www.gaeilgesanastrail.com](http://www.gaeilgesanastrail.com)

## A word from our President

**W**elcome to the last newsletter of

2010!

What a year it has been for us. We have celebrated our 1<sup>st</sup> place win in the Global Gaeilge competition, welcomed lots of new students and members and wound up the year with a series of poetry seminars with the visiting academic Louis de Paor.

During the winter months, we had students attend the Scoil Gheimridh in NSW, we also had a large group visit the Gaeltacht in Donegal not to mention our prize-winners Laura and Muiris who both won travel to Ireland and tuition at Oideas Gael, courtesy of Glór na nGael.

So many events to look back on and each one a great success!

Daonscoil 2011 is fast approaching - this year we have a new location for you to enjoy - and spaces are still available so get your place booked soon.

That really only leaves me to say a big "Thank You" to all our members for your continued enthusiasm, a special thanks to our committee and finally to all those others in the Irish community in Australia and overseas for your ongoing support of the Cumann.

Tá mé an-bhuíoch daoibh go léir. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Karolyne

**O**ideas Gael was founded in the year 1984 as an Irish language school for adults. However it's only a small handful of Australians mixed in with the thousands of people who have attended the courses for years now.

Things remained like this until the enthusiastic work carried out by Deirdre Gillespie. She put together a fortnight at Oideas Gael for 15 eager Aussies.

Every single person was more than satisfied with the relaxed fortnight in the beautiful valley. Oideas Gael is sited by the sea at Glencolumbkille in the south of Co. Donegal. A relaxed temperament came over us thanks to the environment, megalithic tombs and ancient standing stones.

Liam the director of Oideas Gael said that we would be working together in order to improve our spoken Irish, and he announced that we would have a 2 hour lunch. The sound of agreement was heard after this, with the realisation that this meant a Public Service Lunch.

Although Painting, Hill Walking and Music courses etc are available from Oideas Gael, you don't need a maths degree to figure out that: 1 fortnight at Oideas Gael = 50 hours of learning = 25 weekly classes

Even so, it was my opinion that our time together in "the Glen" was too short.

Seán Curran  
(Sydney)



## Ionadh ar “Ionradh na hAstrálaigh” i mbliana ?

**B**unaíodh Oideas Gael sa bhliain 1984 mar scoil Ghaeilge fá choinne daoine fásta.

Áfach níl ach dornán beag Astrálaigh i measc na mílte daoine a fhreastail na cúrsaí le blianta anuas.

Bhí an scéal mar a bhí sé go dtí an obair dhíograiseach a rinne Deirdre Gillespie. Chuir sí le chéile coicís ag Oideas Gael ar son 15 Aussies díocasacha.

Bhí achán (gach aon) duine sona sásta leis an choicís réchúiseach sa ghleann álainn. Tá Oideas Gael suite cois na farraige i nGleann Cholm Cille i ndeisceart Dhún na nGall.



Tháinig meon suaimhneasach orainn, a bhuíochas don imshaol, tuamaí meigiliteach agus clocha seasta ársa.

Dúirt Liam, Stiúrthóir Oideas Gael go mbeimis ag obair le chéile chun feabhas a chur ar ár gcuid Gaeilgeoireachta, agus d’fhógair sé go mbeidh sos dhá uair an chloig mar am lóin againn.

Chualathas trup an chomhaontaithe ina dhiaidh, mar ba é “A Public Service Lunch” a bhí i gceist.



Cé go mbíonn cúrsaí Péintéireacht, Siúlóid Sléibhte, Ceol srl ar fáil ó Oideas Gael, níl céim Mhatamaitice de dhíth ort (teastáil uait) an t-áireamh seo a dhéanamh :

Coicís amháin ag Oideas Gael = 50 uair an chloig foghlama = 25 rang seachtainiúil foghlama

Fiú amháin, Is é mó bharúil (thuairim) go raibh ár seal le chéile sa Ghleann ró ghearr.

## Dara sraith de ClubLeabhar.com faoi lán seoil

**A**chara, Tá an dara sraith de ClubLeabhar.com faoi lán seoil anois agus é mar aidhm ag an gclub leabhar seo ar líne daoine in Éirinn agus i dtíortha eile ar fud an domhain a spreagadh chun a bheith ag léamh leabhair Ghaeilge.

Is féidir le daoine aonair ballraíocht a bhaint amach sa chlub seo ach tá sé mar sprioc againn chomh maith na baill a spreagadh le teacht le chéile uair sa mhí in ionaid éagsúla chun leabhar na míosa a phlé. Ní thógann sé ach nóiméad clárú mar bhall den chlub ag [www.clubleabhar.com](http://www.clubleabhar.com) agus níl aon táille bhallraíochta i gceist.

Agus saothair á roghnú againn do ClubLeabhar.com, seachnaímid leabhair atá róchasta agus acadúil agus tugaimid tús áite d'úrscéalta agus do chnuasaigh ghearrscéalta. Beidh seánraí eile (filíocht agus leabhair thaistil, cuir i gcás) i gceist ó am go chéile chomh maith. Beidh meascán ann de leabhair nua-fhoilsithe agus de chlasaicigh atá fós i gcló.

Bronntar duais €60 gach mí ar an léirmheas is fearr a scríobhtar mar gheall ar leabhar na míosa sin, agus cuirtear i gcló é an mhí dár gcionn san iris mhíosúil *Beo!* ([www.beo.ie](http://www.beo.ie)), rud a fhágann go léann na mílte duine é, i ngach cearn den domhan. Chun páirt a ghlacadh sa chomórtas, cuir do léirmheas sa rannóg chuí ar fhóram ClubLeabhar.com. Caithfidh an léirmheas a bheith scríofa i nGaeilge agus níor cheart go mbeadh níos mó ná 600 focal ann.

Leis seo, tá póstaer mar gheall ar ClubLeabhar.com. Bheimis an-bhuíoch díot dá mbeifeá toilteanach an póstaer a chrochadh i suíomh feiceálach éigin, agus é a scaipeadh i measc do chairde.

Má bhíonn aon cheisteanna agat faoi ClubLeabhar.com, is féidir dul i dteagmháil liom ag +353 (01) 484-5220 nó scríobh chugam ag [eolas@clubleabhar.com](mailto:eolas@clubleabhar.com).

Tá maoiniú á chur ar fáil do ClubLeabhar.com ag Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge (Foras na Gaeilge) agus ag an gComhairle Ealaíon.

**T**he second series of ClubLeabhar.com is underway. This online book club aims to encourage people in Ireland and abroad to read Irish language books. Individuals can become members of this club but we also wish to encourage the members to meet once a month in various locations to discuss the book of the month. It only takes a minute to register as a member on the club's website, [www.clubleabhar.com](http://www.clubleabhar.com), and there is no membership fee.

When choosing books for ClubLeabhar.com we avoid books that are too difficult or academic and give priority to novels and short-story collections. Books from other genres (poetry and travel books, for example) will be discussed from time to time. There will be a mix of newly-published books and classics that are still in print.

A prize of €60 is awarded each month to the best review of the book of the month and the winning review is published the following month in the monthly magazine *Beo!* ([www.beo.ie](http://www.beo.ie)), where it is read by thousands of people, in every corner of the globe. To take part in this competition, post your review in the relevant section on the ClubLeabhar.com forum. The review must be written in Irish and should not be more than 600 words in length.

Please find attached a poster for ClubLeabhar.com. We would be very grateful if you could display this poster and share it among your friends. If you have any questions about ClubLeabhar.com, feel free to contact me at +353 (01) 484-5220 or write to me at [eolas@clubleabhar.com](mailto:eolas@clubleabhar.com). ClubLeabhar.com is supported by Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge (Foras na Gaeilge) and the Arts Council.

Le gach dea-mhéin, Helen Hegarty, Riarthóir ClubLeabhar.com



## New Daonscoil venue for 2011

**S**till undecided about attending Daonscoil ? Then check out all the wonderful facilities on offer at Lake Dewar, our new venue for 2011, and of course the whole week is devoted to learning and using Irish. Too much !

### Conference and Meeting Facilities :

Offering a unique alternative to traditional hotel based conference venues, Lake Dewar Lodge is the perfect venue for that retreat with a difference. Lake Dewar Lodge YMCA is well situated for day conferences and retreats that can cater for intimate groups of 10 up to large scale events catering for 200. Our ideal location will inspire your team whilst offering a relaxing and ambient atmosphere.

The main auditorium overlooking Lake Dewar is a unique, architecturally designed open plan building. Configured to suit groups from 10 to 200, this comfortable and modern building offers beautiful lake views.

The site also includes four indoor breakout spaces and an intimate boardroom facility. A range of corporate menus and options are available when you enquire.

### Conference Equipment includes :

- Full audio-visual facilities including an integrated data projector, drop-down screen and sound system.
- Wireless broadband throughout conference centre building
- Whiteboards
- Flipcharts
- Overhead Projector
- Lectern
- Staging
- Guest Office with photocopier and phone
- Fax facilities



## Who said Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> was unlucky ?

**F**riday the 13<sup>th</sup> is often considered to be unlucky. Not so for members and friends of Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July a group of 15 Australians from Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra met in Dublin to embark on an adventure in Co. Donegal.

They were about to attend the Gaeltacht in Glen Cholm Cille for two weeks and never had such a large number from Australia attended a Gaeltacht before.

Radio Newstalk, Highland Radio and several Donegal newspapers which covered our story.

On Saturday we headed up to Oideas Gael, Glen Cholm Cille. Since its foundation in 1984 Oideas Gael has offered language courses and cultural activity holidays to many people from all over the world and Language Director, Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, and Administrators, Siobhán Ní Churraigín and Gearóidín Nic Ghongail offer a

Everyone who comes to Oideas Gael has different interests and motivations but learning Gaelic is their common ground.

There were approximately 75 students in attendance from various parts of the globe including, Germany, France, Italy, Russia. Imagine meeting a Russian, already fluent in Scottish Gaelic, now learning Irish!

The Australian group were spread over the five levels of classes and tuition went for five hours every day. Every evening there was entertainment organised as *Gaeilge*, such as poetry reading, traditional music and set dancing.

Four teenage girls connected with Oideas Gael sang in a quartet and entertained us with beautiful traditional airs which took one's breath away.

There were a range of different experiences in the fortnight at Glen Cholm Cille, among them was a walk around a site of pilgrimage dedicated to Chomcille, an underground visit to a souterrain which was discovered in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century alongside the Church of Ireland church, a visit to Derry to walk around the walls and through the Bogside.

However, the highlight of extra curricular activity was the night we attended a meeting of the



Ambassador Bruce Davis (front right) meets the travelers from Australia.

The adventure began at the Killiney residence of the Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Bruce Davis, where he very kindly entertained the group. Attention also came from RnaG ,RTE

welcoming inclusiveness in community life in the Gleann.

There is something about Gleann Cholm Cille that captures the imagination. It is amazing how such a remote, quiet and peaceful place can feel so cosmopolitan and diverse.

local Historical Society in Ardara.

Dr Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair of the Royal Irish Academy gave a talk on The Irish Folklore Commission and the 1930s Schools' Collection – Ardara contribution.

The IFC was set up 75 years ago to create a record of Ireland's literary and oral heritage – the stories and knowledge that were passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth.

In 1936 five thousand national schools around the country were involved in the scheme and schoolchildren in the higher classes were sent out to collect information from family, friends and neighbours.

In this way every parish in Ireland has its own literary heritage and a written record of what life was like in their parish at that time.

For the greater part it was the children who

wrote the material in both Irish and English and in Ardara alone over 900 handwritten pages were collected.

The entire national collection is held in the Department of Folklore at University College Dublin.

Dr Ní Ghallchobair is a graduate in medieval Irish who specialised in Irish medieval and medical texts. She is also assistant Editor of the Historical Dictionary of Irish and regularly lectures in universities abroad.

This inaugural trip to the Gaeltacht has been hugely successful thanks to the cooperation of a range of people including Anne and John MacCrossan who coordinated the tour in Derry, Carol Kelly who opened her house to us in Crolly, and the Australian Ambassador, Bruce Davis who very graciously took a huge interest in us.

Plans for another trip in 2012 are in the air. For further information you can contact me via the Cumann website.

Deirdre Gillespie

### Reminders

Places are still available for our Daonscoil in Jan 2011, see the flyer included in this issue or contact any committee member for further details.

Membership subscriptions for 2011 are now due.

Use the form on the back page of this issue or print one directly off our website

[www.gaeilgesanastrail.com](http://www.gaeilgesanastrail.com)

## Ag cócaireacht le Kaz

### Arán Prátaí

1kg prátaí masháilte  
1cupán plúir  
2tbspúnóg ime  
Pionsa salainn

### Módh

Leáigh (*melt*) an t-im agus measc isteach 'sna prátaí é leis an salann.

Cuir isteach an plúr go tapaidh.

Fuin an taos (*knead the dough*) agus roinn amach in dhá pháosa é.

Roll amach an taos ar phláta plúraithe.

Gearr gach páosa taos i gceithre bpáosaí.

Frioch na páosaí i saill bagún (*bacon fat*) ar feadh 3 nóiméid gach taobh.



## Eilís Uí Ruairc.

**L**á breá grianmhar a bhí ann nuair a thugamar slán le Eilís Uí Ruairc ar an gCéadaoin 10/11/'10.

Bhí slua mór Gaeilgeoirí ó Sydney agus Wollongong i láthair ag Aifreann na Marbh i Thirroul, NSW. Chomh maith bhí Bearnaí agus Bruce ann ó Canberra. Cé go raibh Micheál fíor-bhrónach thug sé cur síos an-deas ar saol Eilís.

Pósadh an bheirt acu i mBaile Átha Cliath nuair nach raibh Eilís ach naoi mbliana déag d'aois sa bhliain 1964.

Bhí an tiomann deireanach a canadh, *A Mhuire Mháthair*, an-oiriúnach don ócáid agus bhí

deora i mo shúile ag smaoineamh ar an am a chaitheamar ag na Daonscoileanna agus scoileanna Gheimhridh thar na blianta.

Thit cith bog báistí nuair a bhíomar ag an reilig. Chuamar ar ais go teach Keith Conroy le haghaidh sólaistí agus comhrá agus bhí seans againn bualadh le deirfiúracha Eilís ó Éirinn.

Bean deas, cairdiúil, éirimiúil ab í Eilís a raibh grá doimhin aici don teanga. D'fhreastail sí féin agus a fear dílis, Micheál, ar an Daonscoil agus Scoil Gheimhridh gach bhliain ar feadh deich mbliana.

Bhí sí lán sásta cabhair a thabhairt agus ghlac sí páirt i ngach a bhí ar siúl. Braithimid uainn go mór í. Solas na bhFlaitheas di agus go dtuga Dia suaimhneas agus síochán do Mhicheál agus dá clann.

*Scéal brónach eile* : Chaill Ian Kirby (Wollongong) a bhean chéile timpeall mí roimhe sin tar éis tinneas gearr – 5 seachtaine. Bhí sé féin agus Donna ag an tsochraid.

Ar dheis Lámh Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha.

Siún



### Agus teachtaireacht ó Mhicheál

I would like to convey our sincere thanks to all of Eilis's family and friends who have given Eilis support over the past thirteen Months and those that visited her or sent a casserole for her to enjoy. To those also who sent their Condolences or attended the Funeral Service. To those from the Daonscoil agus Scoil Gheimhridh who took her into their Hearts over the past Ten Years.

A big thank you, from The Family of Eilis Mary O'Rourke.



## Louis de Paor i Melbourne Arís

**T**á Louis de Paor, a bhean Shirley de Búrca agus a iníonacha, Anna, Sorcha, Aoife agus Fionnuala, ar ais i Melbourne le cúpla mí anuas agus 'sé seo an chéad seans a bhí ag an nuachtlitir 'fáilte oifigiúil' a chur rompu.

Tá aitheantas forleathan bainte amach ag Louis mar file mar is eol dúinn, ach má cheapann daoine gurb é 'aoibhinn beatha an scoláire' a bhíonn aige tá dul amú orthu. Ní amháin gur duine de mhórfhílí ár linne anois é ach is Stiúrthóir é ar Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh, Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Gaillimh, chomh maith, agus cúramaí dá réir air.

Bhí fáilte ar leith rompu ní amháin ag Gaeilgeoirí na cathrach ach ag na comharsna níos leithne sna bhruachbailtí Brunswick agus Coburg, go mórmhór na buanchairde atá fós acu i Coburg mar is ann a bhí cónaí orthu, é féin agus Shirley agus na páistí [atá anois ina spéirmhána!].

Is ann a chuaigh na daoine óga ar scoil agus cé a déarfadh nár fhágadar a rian ar an mbruachbhaile úd agus ar na daoine mórtimpeall orthu ann.



Is maith is cuimhin linn sa Chumann an t-ardú meanman a thug Louis do lucht na Gaeilge anseo san Astráil fhad is a bhí sé inár dteannta, le léachtaí agus ceardlanna chun eolais níos leithne a thabhairt do mhuintir na hAstráile.

Rug Louis go deas séimh ar guailí an saoil acadúil agus i bhfo-cail údarásacha réidh chuir sé in iúl dóibh gurb ann An Ghaeilge agus b'fiú dóibh éisteacht - agus 'd'éist!

Anois, cúig bliana déag tar éis a n-imeachta [agus ba mhór an oíche imeachta í!] tá Louis de Paor ina shaineolaí agus léachtóir ar litríocht agus cultúr na Gaeilge.

Tá an domhan mór siúlta aige, ó Chorcaigh go Melbourne, ó Gaillimh go Prague agus go South Bend, Indiana, ag scaipeadh 'an soiscéal' agus ag fágáil rian na nua-Ghaeilge ina dhiaidh mar a d'fhág na peregríní rian na sean-Ghaeilge ina ndiaidh fadó.

Criostóir Ó Maonaigh

## Scéalta Saor in Aisce ar Localbooks.ie

**N**í theastaíonn uainn eagla a chur ort, ach b'fhéidir go ndéanfaimis.

Níl aon rud níos láidre ná an guth daonna, go háirithe le scéalta de bhunús dúchasach nó scéalta faoi thaibhsí. Tá siad níos fearr fós má tá tú ag suí cois tine oíche gheimhridh dorcha, ach le scéalta saor in aisce ar an Idirlíon, is féidir leat do thine féin a thógaint agus do láthair agus oíche dhorcha féin a roghnú.

Le teicneolaíocht an lae inniu, féadfaidh tú íoslódáil chuig d'fhón póca agus éisteacht cois tine campála amuigh ar an machaire, ar bord longa ar muir nó ar fheirm iargúlta.

Tá clos-scéalta saor in aisce á chur ag [Localbooks.ie](http://Localbooks.ie) lena shuíomh gréasáin. Tá tionchar áitiúil ag na scéalta seo agus insítear scéalta iontu faoi bhéaloideas agus an am atá caite.

I láthair na huaire tá

3 scéal ar fáil ar an suíomh gréasáin – ceann i mBéarla, ceann i nGaeilge agus ceann dátheangach agus ag réimsiú ó fhinscéalta go scéalta grinn.

Soláthraíonn na scéalta seo léargas ar shaol tuaithe na hÉireann agus iad á insint ag daoine áitiúla atá tar éis fás aníos leis na scéalta seo ina measc.

Insíonn “The road downhill”, á insint ag Seán Fahy, an scéal a bhaineann le beirt deartháireacha i gceantar tuaithe na hÉireann a mbíonn orthu foghlaim conas tabhairt faoi bhainistiú na feirme a fuair siad le hoidhreacht óna n-athair tar éis a cailleadh é.

Insíonn “Micheál Mór”, scéal dátheangach, an scéal grinn maidir le fear tuaithe soineanta in iarthar na tíre á thóraíocht ag bean ón gcathair. Is scéal taibhsí ó Leithinis an Daingin é “An bhean ghorm”, á

insint ag Tomás Mac Gearailt.

Síleann úinéir Localbooks.ie, Tomás Mac Gearailt, go soláthraíonn na scéalta seo slí chun scileanna scéalaíochta a roinnt leis an bpobal níos leithne.

“Tá na scéalta seo tábhachtach i gcaomhnú agus saibhriú bhéaloideas na hÉireann. Beidh éinne le spéis Éireannach acu in ann leas a bhaint as na scéalta seo ar líne saor in aisce agus iad á n-iompar go ceantair tuaithe na hÉireann trí bheith ag éisteacht le scéalaithe a bhfuil taitheí chúí acu.

I soláthar na seirbhíse seo, tá súil againn daoine eile a spreagadh teacht chun cinn lena gcuid scéalta siúd ionas go gcabhrófaí le taifead a chaomhnú d'Éire na tuaithe le haghaidh glúine na todhchaí ar fud an domhain.”

Creideann Tomás Mac Gearailt, atá tar éis ceann de scéalta a

óige a thaifeadh, go ndéanann taifeadh agus roinnt na scéalta seo cultúr na hÉireann níos inrochtana do diaspóra na hÉireann ar fud an domhain.

Tá Localbooks.ie, an siopa leabhar ar líne a seoladh i Meitheamh 2010, le speisialtacht i leabhair áitiúla a sholáthar faoi Éirinn, ag leathnú a réimse faoi láthair ionas go n-áireofaí rleabhair,

clos-scéalta agus sín-tiúis irise.

Tá nach mór 500 táirge ar fáil ar an suíomh le breis táirgí á gcur leis lá i ndiaidh lae. Chomh maith leis sin tá comhpháirtíocht ag Localbooks.ie le Irish Roots Magazine a bhfuil sé mar aidhm aige acmhainní úsáideacha a sholáthar maidir le d'oidhreacht Éireannach a rianú.

Is féidir síntiúis, nó leaganacha r-leabhair, a cheannach díreach ó localbooks.ie.

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## A necessary word - by Eilidh nic Aoidh

I had backed the car into a tow-truck as I nervously manouvered into the queue for the ferry for the first time.

So when the call came for drivers to get into their cars to disembark at Stornaway, I raced down there to get things right.

By the time I had driven off the ferry (safely) and the couple of blocks to the centre of the town, those cups of tea at breakfast time had begun to make themselves felt. So I parked, and there was one of those poles with a whole series of black and white signs pointing in all directions.

All in Gaelic. Well, I was OK with place-names, mostly, but there were lots of signs, and I realised with a sinking feeling that I didn't know the word for 'toilet' and my desperation was getting more pressing by the moment.

Fortunately, in Scotland, ten seconds standing and looking lost attracts immediate help, but how embarrassed was I to

have it pointed out that I was actually standing beside the rear wall of the toilet block!

That was some years ago, but the embarrassment and laughter still haunts me somewhat. When I found a few weeks back that there was a workgroup in Dublin and I was expected there, this time I decided I needed finally to do something about learning the living language, so out came the Teach Yourself Irish book and I crammed for a few weeks before the trip.

But you can only learn so much in a few weeks while packing for a trip.

The first morning of the conference came, I was finally in Ireland, I'd had a sleep, I'd made it. By the morning tea break that day, well I do tend to have several cups of tea to get me started in the morning, so again my need was pressing.

Our hosts were conscripted tertiary Irish Irish-language students, and as I couldn't immediately spot the toilets, I raced up

to the young girl manning the registration desk. But, visions of a previous experience sprang to my mind, and I thought, OK, this is it, this is the moment I make it right, I'm sure I know the words, and the grammar, I can do this.

So, I said haltingly, "Ca'il an leithras, le do hoil?" She stood staring at me for a very long few seconds, while I thought, oh no my accent must be shocking, she didn't understand me... Then she laughed, and said, Most learners start with Conas ta tu. Down the hall to the left... Oh, said I, sorry, I skipped to chapter 3 in my desperation ...

And in case the reader thinks I got away with that, no, not in Ireland. The next day I discovered the manager laughing and telling her charges to beware, she speaks Irish, so don't speak any English to her! And then I was really in trouble, wasn't I, what fun!

**Cúpla  
"quotes" ó  
Uinsionn : is  
féidir linn  
smaoineamh  
orthu**

**Ná lig laige droch  
mhisneach a chur  
ort**

Don't let weakness  
make you discour-  
aged

.....*Mary MacKillop*

**Ní cuimhnighim ar  
an aimpléis go léir,  
ach ar an áilleacht  
go léir atá fágtha**

I don't think of all the  
misery, but of all the  
beauty that still re-  
mains

.....*Anne Frank*

## Deich lá san Indonesia

**C**huaigh mé go dtí Indonesia ar feadh deich lá an mhí seo caite. Chuaigh mé le mo bheirt cháirde, Marc agus Daithe. Shroicheamar Bali ar a trí a chlog agus bhí sé ag stealladh báistí an lá ar fad. Bhíomar ag lorg an óstain ar feadh dhá uair agus ina dhiadh sin chaitheamar an tráthnóna ag an linn snámha.

An dara lá, bhí an ghrian ag scoilteadh na gloch agus chaitheamar an lá ar an trá agus ag siopadóireacht timpeall Kuta, bíonn sé saor go leor. Cheap mé go raibh Kuta gnóthach agus truailithe. Thógamar an bád go dtí oileán Gili agus d'fhanamar seacht oíche ansin. Bhuaileamar le triúr cailíni ó Chorcaigh. Is múinteoirí iad agus bhíodar ar laethanta saoire ar feadh sé seachtaine.

Gach lá chaitheamar an t-am ag siúl, ag snámh agus iascaireacht sa bhfarraige agus ag ól an beoir, bhí a lán craic againn. Nil aon gluasteán ceadaithe ar an oileán – In ionad bhí asal agus cairt. Tá sé an-ciúin agus síochánta.

D'itheamar i mbialann éisc gach oíche ach d'éirigh Marc agus Daithe tinn tar éis an tríú lá. Bhíodar ag rith go dtí an leithris gach cúpla nóiméad. Stop siad ag ithe éisc tar éis sin.

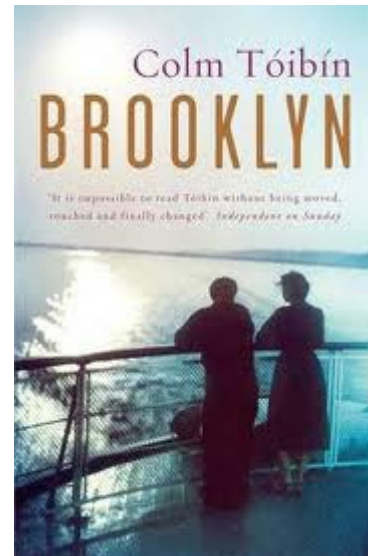
Ar an lá deireanach chuamar ar ais go Kuta. Bhí Marc ag imeacht chun dul go dtí Kuala Lumpur agus tar éis sin chuaigh sé go hÉirinn. Bhí mé agus Daithe ag spaisteoireacht na cathrach agus chuamar ar lón ag an mbialann. Tar éis an lóin bhí mé ag lorg an sparáin i mo mhála ach ní raibh sé ann. Níl raibh aon airgead againn chun íoch as an lón. Duirte mé leis an bhfreastalaí "Tá brón orainn ach níl aon airgead agam, chaill mé mo sparán. Beidh mé ag teacht ar ais le airgead sa tráthnóna agus íocfaidh mé ansin." Thóg sé mo cheamara i gcás nach raibh mé ag teacht ar ais. Bhíomar ag rith timpeall na h-áite ag lorg an sparáin. Ní raibh aon ádh agam. Chuamar go dtí an óstán agus creid é nó ná creid, fuaireamar roinnt airgid in ár málaí agus ritheamar go dtí an bialann arís. Fuair mé mo cheamara agus thógamar an tacsáí i dtreo an aerfort mar bhí eitleáin ag fágáil i gceann dhá uair.

Nuair a shroicheamar an Astráil bhíomar tuirseach agus ochrach mar nach raibh aon airgead againn. Chuamar go dtí an chéad banc agus nuair a fuair mé airgead, d'ordaigh mé dhá bhricfeasta is mó ar an mbiachlár.

Thar gach ní eile – bhí na laethanta saoire go h-iontach agus a lán craic againn.

Eamonn McCormack

## Brooklyn le Colm Tóibín



**M**ar is eol dúinn, tagann go leor filí agus scríobhnoirí as an oileán Éirinn. Ceann dóibh siúd ná Colm Tóibín. Bhuaigh sé an duais Costa Novel i 2009, agus cuireadh é ar an gearrliosta don Dhuais Booker i mbliana.

Casann Tóibín an cinniúint a bhí ag a lán Éireannaigh go scéal álainn trí greann agus tubaiste a mheascadh le chéile. Bunaíodh an scéal seo `sna caogaí agus is scéal é faoin gcaillín Éireannach, Éilís Lacey. Cuireadh brú uirthi imirce a dhéanamh go dtí Meiriceá, an áit ina bhfuil an obair flúirseach. Cosúil le go leor daoine a d'ímigh ann roimh Éilís agus in a diaidh, tá Éilís cráite idir a saol nua agus an t-ionú atá ann, agus a saol in Éirinn lena cuid clann gar di.

Is iad na téamaí sa scéal seo ná dualgas, brón, tinneas cumhach agus sairse pear-santa. Cosúil le leabhair de Tóibín, tá go leor mothúcháin ann nach bhfuil labhartha idir an príomh charachtar agus na cinn eile. Thaitin an leabhar seo go mór liom.

**.....léirmheas leabhair le Bernadette Nic Giolla Phádraig**

## Cré na Cille ar fáil le ceannach ar DVD

**T**á an scannán lán-fhada Gaeilge *Cré na Cille*, leagan d'úrscéal iomráiteach *Mháirtín Uí Chadhain*, ar fáil le ceannach ar



DVD.

Tá an DVD ar fáil le rogha gan fotheidil nó le fotheideal i nGaeilge, Béarla, Francís, Spáinis, Gearmanaís agus Sínis, agus insíonn sé an scéal faoin éad is faoin bhfuath atá ag beirt deirfiúracha dá chéile.

Coimhlint a théann in olcas le haois, agus a leantar de fiú san athshaol.

Stiúrtha ag *Robert Quinn* agus léirithe ag *Ciarán Ó Cofaigh* do *ROSG*, comhlacht léirithe scannáin is teilifíse, insíonn sé an scéal faoin éad is faoin bhfuath atá ag beirt deirfiúracha dá chéile. Coimhlint a théann in olcas le haois, agus a leantar de fiú san athshaol.

Tá liosta de na suíomhanna agus siopaí ina bhfuil sé ar fáil anseo -

[www.ROSG.ie](http://www.ROSG.ie)

Dúirt Ciarán Ó Cofaigh, léiritheoir *Cré na Cille*: 'Aithnítear *Cré na Cille* mar phríomh-úrscéal comhaimseartha na Gaeilge. Leagann an

athchóiriú scannáin béim ar eilimintí grinn an mhórshaothair seo agus tabharfaidh an DVD deis do lucht féachana leathan sult a bhaint as, in Éirinn agus thar lear. Níl aon dabht orainn ach go mbainfidh an lucht féachana taitneamh as an scannán, bíodh Gaeilge acu nó ná bíodh agus tá muid an bhródúil as athchóiriú ar an úrscéal iomráiteach seo a chuir os comhair lucht féachana níos leithne'.

Tá formáid an DVD déanta do *PAL* agus *NTSC*, mar sin tá sé oiriúnach do chuil tír / réigiúin. Bheimis buíoch dá bhféadfá seo a scaipeadh.

Le gach dea-mhéin,

Julianne Ní Chonchobhair

## Litreacha don Chumann

**A** chairde,  
Tá sé i gceist ag Glór na nGael 7,000 "debossed (sunken) wristbands with a one colour infill (buí)" a chur ar fáil. Beidh na bandaí dubh agus beidh an in-scríbhinn déanta i mbuí.

Beidh "Gaeilge" agus (muna bhfuil aon fhadhb faoi chóip cheart) an comhartha "thumbs-up" atá ar facebook ina dhiaidh. Beidh Seachtain na Gaeilge ag déanamh páirt urraíocht ar na bandaí mar sin beidh [www.snag.ie](http://www.snag.ie) ar a gcúl.

Beidh siad dírithe ar an sprioc-mhargadh 12 – 30 bliain d'aois, óir is é an aois-ghrúpa seo is mó a chaitheann na bandaí seo.

Cé nach bhfuil ré an Fháinne imithe go hiomlán fós, ceapaim go mbeadh daoine óga, ach go háirthe sásta na bandaí Gaeilge seo a chaitheamh.

Beidh siad ar chomhchaighdeán le aon bhanda eile amuigh an-sin.

Rachaidh aon bhrabús i dtreo AITHEANTAS agus Gaelscoil Ráth Tó.

Tá súil againn go mbeidh ar ár gcumas iad a dhíol ar €1 an cheann.

Ach ní bheadh sé i

gceist againn an infheistíocht a dhéanamh gan fios bheith againn faoin éileamh a bheadh orthu i measc coistí pobail Gaeilge, eagrais Ghaeilge agus Ghaeltachta, agus scoileanna lánGhaeilge.

Cuideodh sé go mór dá mbeadh spéis agaibh réamh-ordú a chur isteach chugainn.

Bheadh siad iontach mar bhronntanais beaga dóibh siúd atá ag freastal ar ghaelscoileanna, clubanna óige Gaeilge, páistí ó theaghlaigh Gaeilge, cumann Gaelacha agus imeachtaí eile.

Cuir ríomhphost ar ais chugam, le réamh-ordú más féidir nó má tá ceist ar bith eile agat ina thaobh seo.

Le meas, Lorcán

P.S. Tá sampla den chineál rud atá i gceist ceangailte le seo.

Lorcán Mac Gabhann,  
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**I** s é Gaelscéal an nuachtán, seachtainiúil Gaeilge a thagann amach gach Aoine.

Bheadh muid fórbhuíoch daoibh dá bhféadfadh sibh muid a chlárú ar bhur bunachar sonraí chun a bheith ar



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Gaelscéal is an Irish language national newspaper which is in the shops every Friday.

We would appreciate if you would register us on your database for all your up to date news and events. If you require any further information please contact us at 091-897-766 or email [eolas@gaelsceal.ie](mailto:eolas@gaelsceal.ie)

Beannachtaí,

Dearbhaile Flynn

*Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile Teo*

Éarlámh: Máire Mhic Ghiolla Íosa

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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 social events and residential language schools.

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