



Bí bródúil as do theanga

An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile

Geimhreadh 2018
1-06-2018

Nach fuar an aimsir ?

Beidh téarma a 3 linn sar i bhfad agus nach fuar an aimsir? Tá súil agam go bhfuil an Ghaeilge ag dul i bhfeabhas i ngach rang. Chuala mé go bhfuil dalta thar barr sa bhun rang. Cé hé/hí sin?

Tá iarracht déanta ag an gcoiste agus na múinteoirí chun ábhar an chúrsa a dhéanamh níos soiléire ionas go mbainfidh na mic léinn an tairbhe is fearr as na ranganna, go mór mór na tosaitheoirí. Le bheith cruinn faoi, tá an coiste dícheallach ag cur straitéisí i bhfeidhm chun taithí na mballraíochta a fheabhsú. Bí i dteagmháil linn má tá moladh agat.

Ó tharla go bhfuilim thar lear fós, beidh an cruinniú cinn bhliana ar an gcéad oíche ar ais i



dtéarma a 3, 17 Iúil ag 7.30 i.n. Ba mhaith linn go mbeidh ionadaíocht ó gach rang ar an gcoiste 2018/19.

Cabhródh sin go mór le héifeachtúlacht an choiste agus bheadh ionchur ó gach rang. Ní obair leadránach, gruama ná dianshaothair atá i gceist leis an gcoiste.

Tá *Plean Oibre Sealadach* (POS) curtha le chéile ag Garry Mahon ina mbeidh ceithre chuid:

- Teagasc teanga agus cultúr;
- Daonscoil;
- Cumarsáid éifeachtach leis na mbaill agus grúpaí eile;
- Riarachán.

Beidh cóipeanna le fáil níos déanaí. An mhéid atá de dhíth chun dul ar aghaidh ná coiste gníomhach.

Bain sult as an nGeimhreadh! Deirdre

San Eagrán Seo..

<i>Our President's Message</i>	1
<i>Key dates coming up</i>	1
<i>Grammar terms simplified</i>	2
<i>Tionól Gaeilge</i>	3
<i>Siúl Stairiúl in Melbourne</i>	4-5
<i>Bean Suntasach</i>	6
<i>AGM questions answered</i>	7
<i>Liftout — AGM nomination and proxy voting</i>	

Key Dates for May, June, July 2018

20 May	Cumann 25th Anniversary celebrations at the Metropolitan Hotel
8-11 June	Sydney Winter School
26th June	Last class for term 2 and nominations open for committee positions
3rd and 10th July	Term break, no classes
17th July	Start of term 3 - AGM and committee election
24th July	First class of term 3

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

www.gaeilgesanastrail.com

Irish Language classes each Tuesday during school terms 7:30 pm in the Celtic Club's admin. offices

Grammar terms simplified

A reader has asked what is a cleft sentence and why do we need to know about them ?

Cleft simply means split and it means a sentence in which an element is emphasised by being put in a separate clause e.g. It's money that we want. This definition of a cleft sentence is the same in any language and one of the best explanations, together with plenty of examples, can be found at the website dictionary.cambridge.org

Some Irish language textbooks use the term "fronting" to describe the same thing, although the two are not quite synonymous. Its use in Irish is very common and can be found in literature dating back to the late 1800's, and even has a history back to old Irish, but to see how we get there let's first look back at how sentences themselves evolve from simple to complicated.

The ability to compose progressively more complex sentences is a feature of everyone's language learning from childhood onwards and typically it goes through a number of distinct stages. Adults learning a second language often follow a similar path and may even remark that their learning seems to be a series of plateaus. No surprise that sentence construction largely accounts for this.

Simple statement -

Bhris mé an gloine. I broke the glass. Something like this can be said in any tense or even made into a negative or a question but basically the sentence structure is unchanged. There will be a subject, a verb and usually an object. This is where children start connecting words, often quite creatively.

Multiple statements linked by a conjunction -

Bhris mé an gloine agus ghortaigh mé mo lámh. The original sentence has now expanded to include additional information but technically it's still one sentence. Children starting school are often at this stage in spoken language and are able to deliver single-sentence monologues that would put James Joyce to shame.

Indirect speech -

Chuala mé gur bhris tú an gloine. The beginnings of more complex ideas emerge very quickly once schooling starts and a child becomes part of a larger world.

Using a relative clause -

Bhris mé an gloine a cheannaigh mé inné. Relative clauses are linked to what is called the antecedent by relative particles. After a few years of schooling this form becomes quite common.

Of course all of the preceding variations can be used together in different combinations and many learners of Irish stop here, thinking this is the actual end-game in terms of sentence construction. But we still have one more trump card to play -

Using a cleft sentence -

Is é a dúirt mé ná gur ghortaigh mé mo lámh.
What I said was I hurt my hand.

On the surface it resembles indirect speech with a relative clause and a copula phrase thrown in for good measure, but the words *ná gur* (*or ná go in the present tense*) link the two parts in an entirely new way. The full translation is *What it is that I said was that I hurt my hand*, which is why the copula stays in the present tense, because the facts have not changed and what was said remains said.

This can eventually lead to quite complex constructions but the cleft sentence idea simplifies it for the listener. Typically this ability arrives in later primary school for native speakers of any language.

Now try translating these and similar sentences to Irish, you will soon get the hang of cleft sentences -

- ☐ The reason why I've come is to discuss my future with you
- ☐ The thing that I want to say is we are not worried about what happens after Brexit

Notice that the linking words, in this case "is" or "that", could even be omitted in the English or replaced by a punctuation mark such as a hyphen or semicolon without losing any of the meaning. That's why they are sometimes referred to as empty words in this type of construction.

Sadly, in Irish language books this is unlikely to get much coverage. Even the latest edition of the *Caighdeán* only mentions it very briefly right at the end of chapter 8. Probably because the grammatical material involved is based heavily on the copula which already gets plenty of coverage elsewhere.

To summarise, Clefts have often been described as grammatically complex and pragmatically nuanced, which probably accounts for their infrequent appearance in textbooks, but for students looking to go beyond relative clauses and open out further this is definitely what you should be looking at next.

For further reading visit this website -

www.nualeargais.ie/gnag/satz5.htm

Abairt agus Comhréir (Sentences and Syntax)



Tionól Gaeilge in Melbourne

Ar 28 Eánair 2018, in International House (a bhaineann le hOllscoil Melbourne), tháinig chomhthionól le chéile mar chlabhsúr ar dheireadh seachtaine Gaeilge.

Os cionn seasca duine as gach cearn a d'fhreastail ar na ranganna agus eile roimhe sin, agus tháinig triocho éigin duine chun an tionóil, cuid acu níos líofa ná a chéile, ach fonn orthu uile tairbhe a bhaint as na cainteanna.

Ba chuid suntais í an ócáid sa mhéid gur i nGaeilge ar fad a reáchtáladh í. Tugadh bileog do gach duine agus achroimrí Béarla inti ar an ábhar a bhí le plé.

Ba í Siún Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh (arb as Contae an Chláir di ó dhúchas) an cathaoirleach agus d'fháiltigh an Dr Val Noone, scoláire agus staraí, roimh an lucht éisteachta.

Ba é an Dr Robert Lindsey an chéad chainteoir agus é ag cur síos ar scata náisiúnach Éireannach in Sydney ar cuireadh mídhílseacht ina leith i rith an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda: 'Seachtar in Darlinghurst 1917-1918'.

Rinne sé tagairt do staraithe áirithe a shíl nach raibh i seasamh an tseachtair ach eachtra fhánach a ndearna an pobal neamhshuim di. Thaispeáin sé os a choinne sin nach beag an tacaíocht a tugadh dóibh. Tá sé chun leabhar a scríobh faoin scéal.

Ina dhiaidh sin léigh an file agus gearrscéalaí Colin Ryan roinnt dánta dá chuid, cuid acu as a chnuasach Corraí na Nathrach (Coiscéim 2017) agus cuid eile a foilsíodh ar na hhirisí nó nár foilsíodh fós. Labhair an Dr Dymphna Lonergan ó Ollscoil Adelaide faoin scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach atá á déanamh aici i nGaeilge agus cur síos aici ar ghearrscéal dá cuid agus ar roinnt aistriúcháin. (Tá taighde déanta ag Dymphna ar fhocail Ghaeilge i mBéarla na hAstráile agus ar stair na snoiteán arrachtúil a dtugtar Sheela na Gig orthu.)

Thug Marc Ó Conaill (ar Corcaíoch ó dhúchas é) caint dar theideal 'Mo sheanmháthair chríonna - áthas, brón agus bród'. Thug sé léargas suimiúil ar an duine féin agus ar an bpobal ar fáisceadh as í, i saol a bhí bocht go leor ach nach raibh easpa muintearais air.

Ba é an cainteoir deireanach Criostóir Ó Maonaigh. Thug sé cuntas ar thuras a rinne sé chun na Sceilge roinnt blianta ó shin, cuntas an-suimiúil agus é ag caint ar a dheacra atá sé an t-oileán a bhaint amach agus dul suas ann. Chonaiceamar fiántas na háite agus iarsmaí na manach, agus chualamar scéal nó dhó i dtaobh na dturasóirí.

Cuireadh ceisteanna agus rinneadh cíoradh i ndiaidh gach píosa cainte. Ócáid í ar éirigh go seoigh léi, agus ba mhór an rud do na foghlaimoirí a bhí ann an teanga a chloisteáil á labhairt go nádúrtha sa ghnáthshaol.

The preceding story first appeared in the fortnightly newsletter, "An Lúibín".

All the back issues can be found on our website

....continued from page 1, Deirdre writes

Welcome to term 3 and isn't it a cold one ! I hope everyone's Irish is getting better with each class. I do have it on good authority there is a star pupil in the absolute beginners class.

The committee has recently made efforts to raise the bar in terms of education which should benefit everyone especially the newcomers. In fact the committee has been beaver away putting strategies in place to improve the overall experience of being a Cumann member and we hope it shows. If that's not happening please let us know.

I will be overseas until 13th July so the AGM will be on the first night back for term 3, which is Tue 17th July at 7:30 pm. For the 2018 / 19 committee we are aiming to have representation from each class if possible. This should enhance the efficiency of the committee as each class can have direct input.

Committee work is not always dreary, boring or labour intensive. Thanks to the Provisional Work Plan (PWP) created by Garry Mahon we're now focussed on working towards our specific goals. It's a new plan in 4 parts covering

- Tuition of Irish language and Culture,
- Daonscoil,
- Communications with our members and with other groups,
- and lastly Cumann administration.

However to make it work it does need an active committee. Copies of the plan will be circulated for discussion hopefully prior to the AGM but if not, on the night of the AGM itself.

Enjoy winter and be sure to rug up, Deirdre

Siúl Stairiúl in Melbourne



Mar chuid den chomóradh 25 bliain bhí siúl stairiúl taobh amuigh de theach Nicolás Ó Dómhnaill (1865-1920) bunatheoir de Chonradh na Gaeilge in Melbourne. Baill den Chumann ag leanacht cosán na nGaeilgeoirí a bhí ar an bhfód na blianta roimh seo.



Trivia quiz — Can you see another old building in the photo with Irish connections ?

Answer — Directly across the street is the Southern Cross bakery established by the Hennessey Brothers

Next issue — full coverage and photos of our 25th birthday celebration at the Metropolitan Hotel !!

Next issue — our hard working teachers report on how the classes are going so far for 2018



**Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile
Cruinniú Bliantúil & Toghchán an Choiste
le haghaidh na bliana 2018-19**

**Annual General Meeting and
Election of Committee of Management**

**7:30 pm, Tues 17th July, Celtic Club Admin Office
420-424 William Street, West Melbourne 3003**

BUSINESS

Opening remarks, apologies

Minutes of previous AGM

Matters and correspondence arising from previous AGM

President's report and Treasurer's report

Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

Any other business of which prior notice has been given (* see below)

Financial members with enthusiasm, organisational skills, practical abilities, creative concepts and constructive ideas who are willing to put in time, effort and direct action to help administer the day-to-day affairs of the Cumann are invited to nominate for a position on the 2018-19 Committee.

Members who are eligible to vote but unable to attend may use a proxy voting form to appoint someone else to vote on their behalf. Nominations for the positions of Office Bearers and Ordinary Members of the Committee will open on Tues 26th June 2018 and will remain open until the start of the AGM. Nomination forms and proxy voting forms are provided with this notice.

Forms can either be given to the secretary of the Cumann or sent to our new postal address, which is **P.O. Box 594, North Melbourne, Vic 3051**, and must be received prior to the commencement of the AGM. Please allow adequate time for delivery. The nominee, proposer and seconder shown on a nomination form must all be Cumann members on the date shown on the form otherwise the nomination is invalid.

* Members who wish to have other business tabled for discussion must provide full details in writing to the secretary including the wording of any resolutions which are to be voted on.

REMEMBER — You must be a current financial member to nominate, attend and vote

Bean Suntasach

Múinteoir scoile i mBaile an Bhuinneánaigh i dtuaisceart Chiarraí ab ea Nóirín Uí Chatháin. Chuaigh sí ar scor sa bhliain 1993 agus tháinig sí chun na hAstráile don chéad uair i ndeire na bliana sin chun cuairt a thabhairt ar a h-iníon atá pósta i Melbourne.

Bhí sceitimíní uirthi nuair a léigh sí fógra sa nuachtán "Irish Echo" mar gheall ar Scoil Samhraidh na hAstráile eagraithe ag Máirtín Ó Dúbhlaigh i stáisiún caorach i Nanangroe, sa NSW, i mí Eanáir 1994 – an chéad uair a bheadh daoine ó gach aird ar fud na tíre gur suim leo an Ghaeilge bailithe le chéile. 'Sé a bhí i gceist ná dhá chúrsa, seachtain an cheann. Chuaigh sí agus d'fhan sí ar feadh coicíse agus bhain sí barr taitnimh as.

Ar ais i Melbourne thosnaigh sí ag freastal ar na ranganna i gClub na gCeilteach agus lean sí ar aghaidh go dtí an lá atá inniu ann, le linn a saoire bliantúil.

Tá grá ag Nóirín don teanga ó bhí sí óg. Bhí rang don aos óg i Halla an Pharóiste ar feadh cúpla bliain. Chuaigh sí ann – bhí sí meallta ag na scéalta, na drámaí beaga, na dánta, na hamhráin agus na sean-fhocail a bhí mar chroílár na ranganna. Chomh maith leis sin dhein sí gach ábhar trí Ghaeilge sa bhun scoil agus sa mheán scoil. Is minic gur inis Nóirín dúinn mar gheall ar comhairle a thug Ollamh le Gaeilge in Ollscoil Chorcaí do mhúinteoirí Gaeilge in Éirinn: "Chun cumas comhrá a bheith ag na daltaí ní foláir go mbeadh drámaí, agallaimh, dánta, amhráin agus sean-fhocail ar siúl agaibh go rialta". Is mó dán, amhrán agus seanfhocal a thug sí dúinn agus bíonn Agallamh Beirte ar siúl ag Siún agus í féin ag an nDaonscoil gach aon bhliain.

Chuir Nóirín sinn ag canadh. Tá stór amhrán againn anois agus chloisfeá na héin is luaithe á ghabháil gach tráthnóna Máirt. Cuireann sí béim ar chruinneas agus tuiscint na bhfocal – mar a deir sí: "Amhrán, 'sé tá ann ná scéal agus fonn curtha leis. Mar sin caithfidh an scéal a thuiscint, a mhothú agus a léiriú leis an nguth".

Bíonn Aifreann Ghaeilge i Melbourne i dtús Mí na Márta le 30 bliain anuas in onóir do Naomh Pádraig, eagraithe ag Éamon Ó Neachtain, an cór mar chúram ar Nóirín. Is breá linn na hiomann, go mór mór "Pádraig Aspal, Alleluia", aintiún a chum Fr Pat Ahern, a canaimid ag deire an Aifrinn.

Is turas fada é ó Éire go dtí an Astráil, ach ní chuireann sé sin as di. Bíonn sí ag smaoineamh ar ghriain gheal an tSamhraidh ag damhsa anseo, seachas fuacht, gaoth agus báisteach an Gheimhridh sa bhaile.

Tá deire tagtha lena saoire linn i mbliana. Is breá linn í a bheith in ár measc gach aon bhliain. Go raibh turas abhaile compordach aici agus go mbuailfidh le chéile arís.

Faoi bhrat Mhuire go raibh sí agus tar ar ais chugainn an bhliain seo chugainn.

Carúl Uí Cheallaigh

Glossary for beginners

Ar scor	retired
Cuairt a thabhairt	to pay a visit
Eagraithe ag	organised by
I stáisiún caorach	on a sheep station
Ó gach aird	from all points
Ar feadh coicíse	for a fortnight
A saoire bliantúil	her annual holiday
Ó bhí sí óg	since she was young
Halla an Pharóiste	the parish hall
Meallta	beguiled
Mar chroílár	as exact centre (at the heart of)
Ollscoil Chorcaí	University of Cork
Chloisfeá	you would hear
'sé tá ann ná scéal	what it is is a story
Agus fonn curtha leis	with a tune attached
Caithimid	we must
An scéal a thuiscint	understand the story
Aifreann Ghaeilge	Mass in Irish
An cór mar chúram ar	choir under the control of
A canaimid	which we sing
Ag deire an aifrinn	at end of the mass
Turas fada	a bit of a hike
Gaoth agus báisteach	wind and rain
In ár measc	among us
Faoi bhrat Mhuire	under Mary's protection (under the flag of Mary)
Go raibh sí	may she be



Our AGM — All your questions answered

What happens at the AGM ?

First the secretary reads the minutes of the previous AGM followed by annual reports presented by the President and the Treasurer. There is often some discussion or questions on the details of these prior to their formal acceptance. Then all the committee positions are declared vacant and an election is held to choose a new team for the coming twelve months consisting of four office bearers and six ordinary committee members.

Who chairs the AGM and keeps things as per the agenda ?

The outgoing president chairs the meeting and rules on points of order etc. The actual election is supervised by a "returning officer" who is chosen because he/she is not running as a candidate.

Who can stand for election and who can vote ?

Any paid-up member of the Cumann can stand for election and can vote. There is no time limit on how long any committee member may serve so re-election is possible. Proxy voting is allowed if you cannot attend.

What happens if there are not enough nominations for the positions ?

We must always have our four office bearers, so the AGM must be adjourned and the election continued on a later date if we are one or two short. But if there are not enough nominations for the six ordinary committee members then the new President may decide how many is sufficient.

What about proposals to increase the membership fee or suchlike ?

Resolutions to be voted on must have a proposer and seconder and must be given in writing to the secretary beforehand so they can be distributed.

Can we propose a constitutional change from floor of the AGM and then vote right away ?

No, because this process involves a series of steps that must be followed and it typically takes some months to finalise. See the Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) website for details.

So what can an AGM vote actually achieve ?

It demonstrates, as far as possible given the vary-

ing attendance, the prevailing opinion of those present and so the incoming committee can use it as a guide when making any decisions later (eg whether to go ahead with some major initiative), just like we did for the 2018 Daonscoil.

What powers does the committee have ?

The committee makes all decisions about the day-to-day management of our affairs (which is basically money matters) but cannot over-rule our constitution, although they can oversee the progress of constitutional changes.

What about teaching, who controls that ?

The committee recruits the teachers for our weekly classes and for the annual Daonscoil, as per our "Statement of Purpose". The choice of syllabus and books etc is usually left to the teachers themselves, but we always try to keep abreast of developments in Irish Language education and we maintain contact with similar groups interstate for this reason.

How does our structure compare with the interstate groups ?

There seem to be four main styles of organization for Irish Language groups here in Australia. Sydney and Canberra are set up very much like we are, namely as independent voluntary organizations registered with consumer affairs and with their own bank accounts and their own members.

But the groups in other state capitals are mainly divisions of their local Irish Club and are not fully autonomous although this could change in future.

There are also a number of smaller Irish Language classes around which are open to anyone (so there is no formal membership requirement) but which have no legal status whatsoever meaning they could disappear overnight.

Finally there are some totally private groups who prefer not to advertise their activities at all, and we only hear about them when one of their students attends a summer or winter school.

As the longest established group is our own future secure ?

Our future always depends on the willingness of members to play an active part in our organization. So we hope to see you all at the AGM and maybe see some new faces elected to committee.

*Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile Teo**IRISH LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.*

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile, the Irish Language Association of Australia is a not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteer tutors and a voluntary committee of management. The Cumann is non-political and non-sectarian. 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.

Irish Language Association of Australia Inc., P.O. Box 594 North Melbourne VIC, 3051

**This form can be used for membership renewal or to notify a change of details.
New members should use the form available on our website www.gaeilgesanastrail.com**

☐ Renewal ☐ Update

Sloinne
(surname)

Céad ainm
(first name)

Seoladh
(address)

.....

Guthán bh)
(phone)

ah)

Fón
(mobile)

Ríomhphost
(email)

Membership fee is \$40 per annum and due each January. Class donation is \$5 per week.