



Bí bródúil as do theanga

# An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile

Fómhar 2020  
1-03-2020

## Fáilte go 2020 !

**É** amon Ó Neachtain - Uachtarán.

Ghlac mé an post roimh an Nollaig nuair a d'éirigh Deirdre as an bpost sin.

Táimid thar a bheith buíoch do Dheirdre mar gheall ar an sár obair a rinne sí i rith a tréimhse mar Uachtarán. Guímid gach rath uirthi i rith a saol as seo amach.

Ag deireadh mí Eanáir bhí an Daonscoil againn agus toradh fíor mhaith ar an iarracht sin. Bhí breis is trí scór dalta cláraithe ag Gaeltacht Melbourne. Tháinig daoine ó Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Berlin agus Baile an Bhunnánaigh agus áiteanna nach iad. Míle buíochas do na múinteoirí a rinne sár éacht.

Míle buíochas do mhuintir Devlin, as Canberra, as ucht an deontas chun scoláireacht a bhunú in omós do Bhearnaí a fuair bás sa bhliain



2018. Ba chara buan don Chumann é agus togha múinteoir é freisin. Cabhróidh an scoláireacht seo le daoine a theaspáineann díograis chun an teanga a fhoghlaim.

Tá an clár raidió go beo bríomhar fós agus na ranganna ar ais don Athbhliain. Beidh an tAifreann as Gaeilge againn ar an gcéad lá de Mhí na Márta. Tá 34 bliain caite ó bhí

Aifreann i Doncaster don chéad uair. Beidh muid ar ais i nGáirdíní Edinburg i gcomhair Lá Fhéile Pádraig.

Míle buíochas do gach éinne a chabhraigh linn i rith na bliana.

Athbhliain fé mhaise do chác.

Beannacht go fóill - Éamon.

### San Eagrán Seo..

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Key dates</i>	1
<i>Teanga Beo</i>	2-3
<i>Ranganna Thar Sáile</i>	4
<i>Gaeltacht Melbourne photos</i>	5-9
<i>Language and Heritage</i>	10
<i>Cé hí ?</i>	11
<i>Fógraí</i>	11

*Liftout - Winter School 2019 Booking form*

### Key Dates for Mar, Apr, May 2020

1 Mar	Irish Language Mass, St John's, Clifton Hill
15 Mar	St Patrick's Day festival, Edinburgh Gardens (free event)
17 Mar	St Patrick's Day, no classes
22 Mar	Irish National Day, Gaelic Park, Keysborough (entrance fee applies)
24 Mar	Final class of term 1
31 Mar & 7 Apr	Term break, no class
14 Apr	First class of term 2

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

**Irish Language classes each Tuesday during school terms 7:30 pm in the Celtic Club Admin. Offices**

## Teanga Beo agus Oidhreacht cois Farraige

**A**r mo laethanta saoire i mí Iúil i mbliana, chuas go hÉirinn ar feadh trí seachtaine agus d'fhreastail mé ar cúrsa Ghaeilge in Iarthar Chiarraí. Ba é mo thriú turas in Éirinn, ach mo chéad chúrsa Ghaeilge sa Ghaeltacht.

Chuireas tús le mo thaisteal le cúpla lá i bhfeirm mo mhuintire i gContae Ard Mhacha, i mbaile fearainn Tullach Uí Mhalláin in aice le baile beag darbh ainm An Baile Úr. Thug mé agus May, baintreach mo chol seisir, cuairt ar Warrenpoint, i gContae an Dúin, in aice le Loch Cairlinn. Seachtó bliain ó shin, rinne m'athair pictiúr uiscedhatha ansan de teach cois farraige. Chuardaíomar é, ach ní raibh an teach ann níos mó.

Ina dhiadh sin, thiomáineas ó dheas chuig Contae Chiarraí. Bhí an aimsir go hálainn te grianmhar, i rith an lae. D'fhanas oíche amháin i gCill Airne agus bhí dinnéar ana-bhlasta agam ansan. Maidin lá arna mhárach, chuas siar chuig Corca Dhuibhne.

Bhíos cláraithe do chúrsa Ghaeilge (nó Gaelainn, mar a deirtear ansan) i mBaile an Fheirtéaraigh. Bhí an cúrsa á reáchtáil ag Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne. Measaim gur áit iontach é don scoil teanga. Tá an teanga beo ar fad sa ceantar – chuala an Ghaelainn sna siopaí, sna tithe tábhairne agus sa tsráid gach lá. Bhí muintir na háite ana-shásta an Ghaelainn a labhairt leis na daltaí teanga, dá mba mhian leo. Tá go leor lóistín ar fáil – Leaba is bricfeasta, tithe tábhairne agus Airbnb chomh maith. Tá mórán bialanna ansan freisin agus bíonn ceol traidisiúnta sna dtithe tábhairne go minic.

D'fhanas ar feadh deich lá i Leaba is Bricfeasta darbh ainm 'An Spéice', agus bhí sé ana-chompordach. Bhí an teach suite díreach trasna an bhóthair ón scoil teanga, ag Áras Bhréannain Chorca Dhuibhne. Bhí bean an tí, Alice, ana-chabhrach agus labhair sí liom as Gaelainn ag an mbricfeasta.

An deireadh seachtaine roimh an gcúrsa, chuas ar thuras báid timpeall na n-Oileán

Bhlascaoid agus chonaiceamair dhá ghrúpa deilfe agus go leor éan.

Tá deilfeanna Risso níos mó ná deilfeanna coitianta agus tá dath níos éadroime orthu. Ní fhacamair míolta móra, faraor. Ar aon nós, bainim sult i gcónaí as bheith i mbád, amuigh ar an bhfarraige.

Thosaigh an cúrsa maidin Dé Luain agus chríochnaigh sé ar an Sathairn. Bhí cúig rang ar fáil do leibhéal éagsúla. Bhíos féin i rang do iar-thosaitheoirí ó thíortha seachas Éire. Ba as Trá Lí, i gContae Chiarraí ó dhúchas ár múinteoir John Prendergast. Bhí sé tharr barr mar mhúinteoir! Bhí sé ag múineadh Gaeilge i Meiriceá agus i gCeanada ar feadh cúpla bliain roimh an gcúrsa i mBaile an Fheirtéaraigh. I mo rang, bhí fir ann as Sasana, fear agus bean as Ceanada, fir as na Stáit Aontaithe, bean as an Rúis, fear as an Eilvéis, bean as an tSeapáin agus mise, as an Astráil.



Bhí go leor gníomhaíochtaí sa rang a raibh baint acu le comhrá, agus bhí go leor spraoi againn. Mhúin John dúinn cuid den chanúint áitiúil - Gaelainn, mar a deirtear ansan. Is canúint de chuid na Mumhan í. Mar shampla, ansan deirtear:

*Ansan agus anso in áit ansin agus anseo;  
'Canathaobh? N'fheadar.'* In áit *Cén fáth? Níl a fhios agam.*

*'Conas tánn tú? Tháim go diabhal ar fad!'* nó *'Ana-mhaith!!'*

D'fhéachamair ar cartún 'Aonach amárach' agus d'fhoghlaimíomar an t-amhrán san.



Bhíomar á chleachtadh le chéile sa rang. Bhí diospóireacht againn faoin rún: 'Tá an Ghaeltacht níos tábhachtaí inniu ná ariamh.' D'imríomar an cluiche 'Fiche ceist' as Gaeilge agus bhí ana-chraic againn. Scríobhamar agus thógamar páirt i ndrámáí beaga i ngrúpaí de thriúr nó de cheathrar daltaí.

Do bhí gníomhaíochtaí cultúrtha ar fáil i rith an seachtaine, mar shampla, siúlóid seandálaíochta, agus siúlóid ar an trá, chun rud a fhoghlaim i dtaobh na feamainne agus cuid acu a bhlaiseadh. Bhí oíche damhsa seit ann freisin agus bhaineas ana-thaitneamh as, cé nach raibh mé rómhaith chuige.

Oíche Dé hAoine, bhí ceolchoirm ann le ceol, amhránaíocht, damhsa agus scéalta. Chanamar an t-amhrán, Aonach Amárach, a chleachtaíomar sa rang. Sheinneas féin cúpla port ar an fheadóg stáin le cuid de mo chairde: Seán, as Méiriceá, Terry as Ceanada, agus Adam. Is ceoltóir as Melbourne ó dhúchas é, ach tá Adam ina chónaí i mBeirlín, sa Ghearmáin anois. Bhí sé ana-dheas Adam a fheiceáil arís, i nGaeltacht Melbourne!

Tar éis an chúrsa, bhí cúpla lá eile agam i gCorca Dhuibhne. Thiomáineas Slí Cheann Sléibhe, cuid de Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin, agus thugas cuairt ar clocháin choirceogacha ársa agus lios sióg. Bhí an radharc go hálainn ar fad! Chuas ar siúlóid ar an trá chomh maith, le Takako, bean as an tSeapáin a bhí i mo rang.

Thugas cuairt ar Ionad na mBlascaodaí i nDún Chaoin agus ar Mhúsaeum Chorca Dhuibhne i mBaile an Fheirtéaraigh.

Oíche amháin, thug Nóirín Uí Chatháin cuireadh dom chun dinnéir ag an gClub Gailf áitiúil, agus bhí Frances linn chomh maith. Bhaineas ana-thaitneamh as an mbia agus bhí sé ana-dheas Nóirín a fheiceáil ansan i gContae Chiarraí.

Do bhí seachtain iontach agam ansan, 'ar an mBuailtín' – leasainm do Baile an Fheirtéaraigh. Chuireas aithne ar a lán cairde nua, d'fhoghlaimíos beagán de chanúint na háite agus bhí ana-chraic agam! Beidh mise

agus mo chairde nua i dteangmháil ar Facebook agus trí ríomhphost, ag roinnt ár scéalta go mbeimid le chéile arís. Bhí brón orm Corca Dhuibhne a fhágáil ach tá súil agam go rachfaidh mé ar ais. Ceapaim gurb é ceann de na háiteanna is fearr liom ar domhan.

Má tá suim agat i gcúrsaí Gaeilge sa Gaeltacht, mholfaínn go mór Baile an Fheirtéaraigh i nGaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne. Tá go leor cúrsaí ar fáil ansan, ó thosatheoirí go dtí daoine líofa, i rith na bliana. Tá cúrsa comhrá agus amhránaíochat ar fáil freisin, cúrsa litríochta Chorca Dhuibhne agus cúrsa stáire agus béaloideas áitiúil. Tá gach duine ag Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne cairdiúil, cabhrach agus eolach. Mar eolas eile, féach ar a suíomh gréasáin: [www.oidhreacht.ie](http://www.oidhreacht.ie) nó seol ríomhphost ar [eolas@cfcd.ie](mailto:eolas@cfcd.ie).

Sally Warmington

Gabhaim buíochas ó chroí le Seán Ó Séaghdha as a chabhair leis an alt seo.





## Ranganna Thar Sáile

**T**he Skainos Centre in East Belfast hosts a number of community activities one of which is Irish language classes. These have been going for some time and they recently opened their own library of about 2,000 books to assist learners.

The classes began about 7 years ago with twenty or so curious people. Now they have over 270 students and offer a GCSE class (equivalent to school leaving) as one of their options. In Sept 2019, five of their students were able to commence courses in Irish at Queens and Ulster Universities.

Classes at the centre are run at different levels at different times of the week, catering from beginners to advanced and there are also classes for set dancing and tin whistle. See their website [www.cairdeturas.com](http://www.cairdeturas.com) for the current timetable.

If you are visiting Belfast and want to drop in to say *dia dhaoibh*, the centre is very easy to get to at 241 Newtownards Road or call (028) 9045 8560, and while you're there enjoy some home-made soda bread from the on site café.



**N**ow that Gaeltacht Melbourne is over for this year many students will be looking ahead to the Sydney Winter School in June. But if you are planning to travel overseas this year, particularly to the USA or Canada there are numerous "immersion weekends" there to choose from.

Eoin of Bitesize Irish has compiled a list which you can see at his website - [www.bitesize.irish/blog/immersion-weekends-2019/](http://www.bitesize.irish/blog/immersion-weekends-2019/) So far there are about 20 listed and we would love to hear a first-hand account of any of them from one of our members so dig out your frequent flyer points and renew your passport. This could be the year you get to represent Australia as *Gaeilge*.



(above) The Devlin family, Berenice, Marcia and Angela awarded a scholarship in memory of the late Barney Devlin

(left) The Irish ambassador to Australia, his Excellency Breandán Ó Caollaí, performed the official opening on Friday night

(pages 6-9) Over 60 students and teachers attended Gaeltacht Melbourne this year















## Dingle Peninsula Gaeltacht: Living language and heritage by the sea

**O**n my holidays in July this year, I went to Ireland for 3 weeks and I attended an Irish language course in West Kerry. It was my third trip to Ireland but my first course in the Gaeltacht.

I began my trip with a few days with my relatives on the family farm in Country Armagh, in the townland of Tullyvallen near a small town called Newtownhamilton. I visited Warrenpoint in County Down beside Carlingford Lough with May, the widow of my second cousin. In 1950, my father painted a watercolour picture there of a house by the seaside. We looked for it, but the house was not there any more.

After that, I drove south towards County Kerry. The weather was lovely, warm and sunny. I stayed one night in Killarney and had a very tasty dinner there. The next morning I went west towards the Dingle Peninsula.

I was enrolled in an Irish language course or 'Gaelainn' as they say there, in Ballyferriter. The course was organised by Heritage Chorca Dhuibhne. I think it's a wonderful place for language school. The language is really alive in the area – I heard it spoken in the shops, in the pubs and on the street every day. The local people were very happy to speak the language with language students if they wanted.

There was plenty of accommodation available - bed & breakfast, pubs and Airbnb as well. There are many restaurants there as well, and there was often traditional music in the pubs. I stayed for 10 days in a Bed and Breakfast called 'An Spéice' and it was very comfortable. The house was directly opposite the language school at Áras Bhréannain Chorca Dhuibhne. The lady of the house, Alice, was very helpful and she spoke to me in Irish at breakfast.

The weekend before the course, I went on a boat trip around the Blasket Islands and we saw two groups of dolphins and lots of birds. Risso's dolphins are larger and lighter in colour than Common dolphins. We didn't see whales, unfortunately. Anyway, I always enjoy being in a boat out on the sea.

The course started on Monday morning and finished on the Saturday. There were 5 classes available at different levels. I was in the post-beginner class for foreigners. Our teacher John Prendergast was from Tralee in County Kerry. He was an excellent teacher. He had taught Irish in America and Canada for a few years before the course in Ballyferriter. In my class there were men from England, a man and woman from Canada, men from the United States, a woman from Russia, a man from Switzerland, a woman from Japan and me, from Australia.

We had a lot of activities in the class that helped us with conversation and we had a lot of fun. John taught us some of the local dialect of Irish known there as 'the Gaelainn'. It is a version of Munster Irish. For example, they say there:

(see Irish version on page 2)

We watched a cartoon 'Aonach amárach' – There's a Fair tomorrow – and we learnt the song. We practised it together in class. We had a debate on the proposition: 'The Gaeltacht is more important today than in the past.' We played the game '20 questions' in Irish and we had a great time. We wrote and performed little plays in groups of 3 or 4 students.

There were cultural activities throughout the week, for example, an archaeology walk, and a walk on the beach to learn about seaweed and taste some of them. There was a set dancing night as well and I enjoyed it very much, even though I wasn't very good at it.

On the Friday night, there was a concert and we had music, songs and stories. We sang the song 'There's a fair tomorrow' that we had practised in the class. I myself played a couple of tunes on the tin whistle with some of my new friends – Seán from America, Terry from Canada and Adam. Adam is a musician, originally from Melbourne but he lives in Berlin, in Germany now. It was very nice to see Adam again at Gaeltacht Melbourne!



After the course, I had a few more days on the Dingle peninsula. I drove Sleah Head Drive, part of the Wild Atlantic Way and visited ancient beehive huts and a



fairy fort. The scenery was very beautiful! I went for a walk on the beach with Takako, a woman from Japan who was in my class. I visited the Blasket Island Centre in Dunquin and the Museum of Corca Dhuibhne in Ballyferriter. One evening, Nóirín invited me to have dinner with her and Frances at the local golf club. I enjoyed the food very much and it was really good to see Nóirín there in County Kerry.

I had a great week there, "ar an mBuailtín" – The Buailtín is the local nickname for Ballyferriter. I got to know lots of new friends, learnt some of the local dialect and had a great time. My friends and I will keep in touch by Facebook and email, and share our stories until we meet again. I was sorry to leave the Dingle peninsula but I hope to be back. I think it's one of my favourite places in the world.

If you are interested in Irish language courses in the Gaeltacht, I would highly recommend Ballyferriter in the Dingle peninsula Gaeltacht. There are many courses available there, from beginners to fluent speakers. There are courses for conversation and singing available as well, a course on literature of the Dingle peninsula and on local history and folklore. Everyone at Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne is friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. For more information, look at the website [www.oidhreacht.ie](http://www.oidhreacht.ie) or email [eolas@cfcd.ie](mailto:eolas@cfcd.ie).

My sincere thanks to Seán Ó Séaghdha for his help with this article.

**I**s dócha gur chonaic sibh ag na Oscars í ach cé hí agus cén fáth a bhí sí ann in aon chor?



Freagra - Eimear Noone as Kilconnel, contae na Gaillimhe. Bhí sí i gceannas na ceolfhoirne.

### Reminder

Have you renewed your annual Cumann membership yet for 2020?

All memberships expired on 31 December and renewals are processed in Jan / Feb

It's only \$45 for the year and you can pay by cash, cheque or bank transfer. Speak to any committee member if you can't remember whether you have paid yet.

### Winter School 2020

Enclosed with e-mail version of this issue is the booking form for the Sydney Winter School 2020 to be held from 5th to 8th June in Sydney.

Book now to get cheaper airfares and note there is an "early bird" discount of \$20 for attendees.





## 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.gaeilge.org.au](http://www.gaeilge.org.au)**

☐ Renewal      ☐ Update

Sloinne .....  
(surname)

Céad ainm .....  
(first name)

Seoladh .....  
(address)

.....

Guthán (bh) .....  
(phone)

ah) .....

Fón .....  
(mobile)

Ríomhphost .....  
(email)

Membership fee is \$45 per annum and due each January. Class donation is \$5 per week.