



Bí bródúil as do theanga

An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile

Earrach 2014
1-09-2014

Tráth na gCeist ag teacht !

Dia dhaoibh a chairde

Tá súil agam go mbeidh a lán spéis ins an Scoil Samhraidh (Daonscoil) i mí Eanáir seo chugainn. Tá meitheal bunaithe faoi cheannas Eilís Ní Cheallaigh. Cuir do smaointe agus ceisteanna faoin Daonscoil chuici led thoil.

Beidh Tráth na gCeist ar siúl againn ar an deireadh seachtaine céanna a mbeidh Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann ar siúl. Bígí cúramach an dáta sin a mharcáil i bhur gcuid dialanna. Tá fáilte roimh bhur gcairde agus bhur gcuid comhghleacaithe oibre! Is ócáid an tabhachtach í chun tacaíocht a thabhairt dúinn agus airgead a bhailiú le haghaidh na Daonscoile. Is féidir libh duaiseanna mar "spot



prizes", airgead srl. a thabhairt dúinn roimh an lá. Beidh Tráth na gCeist ar siúl ar oíche Dé hAoine ar a 7pm sa Chlub Ceiltigh.

Ag deireadh mhí Iúil bhí mé ag tionlacan Miriam Uí Dhonnabháin ar an giotar ag Ollscoil Melbourne...le linn Mel-

bourne Rare Book Week... bhí Miriam ag canadh amhráin as an mbailiúchán de chuid Nicholas Ó Dónaill. Bhaineamar an sult as!

Fáilte do na baill nua!

Greg

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Key Dates for Sept — Dec 2014

16th Sept	Last class of term 3
19th Sept	Quiz Nite / Daonscoil fundraiser in Celtic Club
7th Oct	First class of term 4
4th Nov	Melbourne Cup holiday, no class
16th Dec	Xmas party and end of term 4

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 Melbourne

Daonscoil na Mumhan, Lúnasa, 2014

D'eagraíodh Daonscoil na Mumhan ón 17 – 22 Lúnasa, 2014 i gColáiste na Rinne, Rinn Ó gCuanach, Co Phort Láirge. Bíonn sé ar siúl ag an am seo den bhliain gach uile bhliain.

'Sé an téama a bhí acu i mbliana ná: *Gael mise agus ní thuigim gur náir dom é.*

Bhí an t-ádh orm go raibh mé in ann bheith i láthair ar an Déardaoin, an lá a raibh Mossie Ó Scanláin ag tabhairt léacht faoi "Na Gaeil san Astráil". Labhair sé mar gheall ar na Gaeil a shrois an Astráil mar dhaoránaigh; na Gaeil a bhain clú is cáil amach; a shaol féin sa tír seo, go mórmhór nuair nach raibh éinne chun Gaeilge a labhairt leis go dtí gur bhain sé Melbourne amach agus chas sé ar Gaeilgeoirí. Thug sé cur síos ar bhunú Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile agus an dul chun cinn atá déanta ag an gCumann.

Bhain an slua mór lucht éisteachta taitneamh as a léacht agus bhí an-spéis acu ina scéal.

Ag freastail ar an Daonscoil, freisin, bhí Nóirín Uí Chatháin (Astrálach oinigh!), Éilis Hurst, Seán Ó Flaithbhín ó Sydney agus Micheál Ó Dollairt ó Melbourne.

An oíche sin bhí Aifreann na Daonscoile ar siúl agus ina dhiaidh sin Ceolchoirm na Daonscoile le ceol, amhrán agus damhsa den scoth. Oíche thar barr a bhí ann.

Siún.



Sa ghrianghraf tá: Nóirín, Éilis, Siún, Seán agus Muiris.



AGM Report for 2014

This year's AGM was held on 24th June and was well attended. To gain admission everyone had to be checked off on a member list and was then given an ID tag and "info pack" containing all the documents that are normally distributed during an AGM. This saved a lot of time during the actual meeting and everyone agreed it worked quite smoothly.

The committee election resulted in -

Greg Burns (President)
Stuart Traill (VP)
Kelley McMenamin (Secretary)
Gerry Halliday (Treasurer)
Eilis Kelly
Robert Lindsey
Helen McKay
Kate Moody
Frank Mulqueen

Thanks were expressed to the four retiring committee members namely Mossie Scanlon, Val Noone, Mary Kelly and Orlagh Doyle.

In addition to the committee, volunteers were sought to make up a new working group to organise the 2015 Daon scoil and implement the recommendations arising from the survey and focus group sessions. There were five volunteers -

Maurice Moore
Vincent O'Gorman
Joan Moloney
Elizabeth Harrington
Eilis Kelly (who will also act as liaison between the committee and the working group)

As usual there was plenty of member input to the discussions and many good ideas were put forward. During the AGM there was a debate and a vote was taken on three resolutions under the general heading of "other business".

Resolution 1 – To have a full discussion on Daonscoil and appoint a working group

Resolution 2 – To permit teachers to expel disruptive students from class

Resolution 3 – To investigate providing online classes for our members in regional Victoria and interstate.

Resolutions 1 and 3 were passed, resolution 2 was not passed.

Since our AGM the Celtic club have themselves had a special meeting on July 30th to discuss their future in the current building, in which we are rent-paying tenants. This is becoming an urgent issue since planning permission for the site redevelopment will expire in October. We await further news

Scéalta ó Rang 4 (Mí-eachtraí m'óige)

Tá an leabhar atá á léamh againn i mbliana an-ghreannmhar ar fad. 'Sé an teideal atá air ná "Amach", scríofa ag Alan Tittley. Táimid buíoch do Val a tháinig trasna air le linn dó bheith in Éirinn. Tá an scéal bunaithe ar roinnt páistí óga i mBaile Átha Cliath agus na rudai dána a bhí déanta acu.

Spreagtha ag an leabhar seo, bhíomar ag comhrá, ag smaoineamh ar ais ar laethanta ár n-óige féin agus na h-eachtraí, idir mhaith agus olc, nuair a bhíomar i dtrioblóid.



Ceann des na caitheamh aimsire ab' fhearr liom le linn m'óige ná a bheith ag drea-padóireacht. Nuair a bhí mé timpeall a h-aon bhliain déag d'aois, agus mé le mo thuismitheoirí agus cúpla deartháir ar ár laethanta saoire, dhreap mé suas ballai fhothraigh Chaisleáin Menlough.

Cheap m'athair go raibh mé ag dul ar aghaidh ró-ard. Níor aontaigh mé leis ar chor ar bith! I mo thuairim bhí mo mhuintir ag cur díobh. B'fhéidir mar ba ghnáth, nár mhaith liom aon áird a thabhairt orthu.

Áfach, ag an am seo, bhí botún déanta agam go deimhin. Bhí mé i dtrioblóid! Níorbh fhéidir liom dul síos. Bhí imní ar gach éinne (agus ormsa freisin).

Go tobann, tháinig ó áit éigin, Manac! Agus é i ngúna fada mhanaigh, síos go talamh. Réitigh sé cabhair a thabhairt. Nuair a bhí sé ag drea-padóireacht go cúramach chugam, bhris an gol orm. Rug sé greim maith orm, agus gan mhoill ina dhiaidh sin bhí mé thíos ar an dtalamh. Gan amhras ba é an Manach mo laoch!

- Aine (Annie)



Fadó, fadó, ar bharr na sráide ina raibh mé im' chónaí, bhí páirc ina raibh muid ag imirt peile. Sin an carrchlós atá anois in aice le stáisiún Met Bentleigh.

Gach tráthnóna, tar éis na scoile, d'imir mise agus mo bheirt dheartháir, Brian agus Donncha, agus Arnold Blades agus John Charleston, agus cúpla buachaill eile, d'imir muid deireadh-go-deireadh, deirtear "end-to-end". B'fhearr linn bheith ag imirt rialacha Austrálacha ach bhí an pháirc ró bheag — b'fhéidir céad méadar le caoga méadar.

Dá bhrí sin ní cluiche ceart a bhí againn, ach "deireadh-go-deireadh".

Bhí fadhb againn. Ó am go ham, chiceáileamar an liathróid as an bpáirc agus ar an ianród. Ag a cúig a chlog um tráthnóna bhíodh a lán traein ag siúl.

Mise an deartháir is sinne agus bhí orm an liathróid a shábháil sula raibh traein ag teacht.

Nuair d'fhill muid abhaile, d'fhiafraigh mo mháthair dinn, "An ndeachaigh sibh ar an ianród?"

D'fhreagair mise agus mo dheartháireacha, "Ní dheachaigh muid." An Chríoch!

Val



Youthful misadventures



Nuair a bhí mé i mo dhéagóir bhí mé an-dána ar fad agus bhí mé an-ceannána. Bhi ceathrar páisti sa teaghlach agus bhí mo thuismitheoirí ag obair. I rith an tsamhraidh rinne me féin agus mo dheirfiúr mhór, Aine Mháire, gach rud sa teach: an níocháin, an chócaireacht agus an ghlantóireacht.

B'fhuath liom na postanna seo, go háirithe an níocháin. Lá amháin bhí cúram an níocháin ar Aine Mháire ach dhiúltaigh sí. Bhi mé ar buille ar fad agus mar dhíoltas chuir mé a fobhríste ar an gcrann taobh amuigh den doras, rud a chuir aiféaltas an-mhór uirthi. An lá ina dhiaidh sin rinne sí an níocháin..-Michelle



Nuair a bhí mé óg fadó fadó sa sráidbhaile bhí asal beag againn. Ba bhreá linn bheith ag marcaíocht air, ach ní raibh sé toilteanach agus bhíomar ciaptha leis. Rinneamar iarracht é a chur ag sodar le maide nó cic a thabhairt dó ach ní raibh aon mhaitheas ann ach bhuail smaoineamh sinn.

Cheanglaíomar cannaí stáin, a bhí leath-oscailte ag a mbun, dá eireaball in aice leis an tóin. Nuair a bhí sé ag sodar scríobadh a cheathrúna ag na cannaí agus le mo dheirfiúr, mo dheartháir agus mé féin ar a dhrom d'ímigh sé ar nós na gaoithe!

Muiris



Thárla na rudai seo i gClár Chlainne Mhuiris. Rughadh mé sa bhliain 1941. Bhi 5 leanai ag mo thuismitheoirí. Bhi a lán páisti ar gach sráid agus ní raibh uaigneas ar bith orainn.

Nuair a bhi mé ag dul ar scoil bhí a lán rudai ar siúl faoin tuath. Leagadh na tithe tuí chun bóithre nua a thógáil; tháinig an leictreachas (ESB) i rith na bliana 1950; tháinig an carr, agus an tarracóir, agus chomh maith le sin, an phictiúrlann.

Ni raibh ach beagán airgid le fáil nuair a bhí mé ag cabhrú le m'athair ar an bhfeirm. Chuaigh mé go dtí an phictiúrlann nuair a bhí mé 14 bliain d'aois. Bhí mé faoi gheasa ag cuid de na scannáin. Bhí draíocht ann. Mar sin, bhí spéis agam a bheith im' shaighdiúir. Shil mé gurb iad na saighdiúirí mo laochra. Ach caithfidh mé a rá, tar éis cúpla bliain ag freastail ar na Dances, tháinig fuath agus éad orainn nuair a chonaiceamar saighdiúirí ag rince sa halla, agus iad in éide ghlasa, snasta. Na rincoirí is fearr. Ghoid siad na cailíní is áille sa halla, agus ní raibh faic le déanamh againn faoi, ach ag gearáin is ag cogarnach le chéile! Is dócha gurb é seo an fáth gur dhiúltaigh mé seirbhís sa Chongó nó Vítneam.

Idir na blianta 1950 agus 1958 thosaigh mé ag damhsa. Is é mo thuairim gurb é ár slí-bheatha an ceann is fearr ar domhan. Ni raibh fadhb ar bith againn. Ach bhi ár airgead gann. Níos déanaí tháinig Rock 'n' Roll agus d'athraigh gach rud. - Seosamh (Joe)

Learning Irish with us – all your questions answered

How much do the classes cost ?

Tuition (as explained in newsletter issue 43) is basically free to Cumann members. It is one of the benefits of membership. But a class can only exist where we have a volunteer teacher and a quorum of interested students. In the past some classes have folded after students themselves lose interest and stop attending. Whenever that happens we have to wait for a new intake of students to get it re-started.

What happens if a teacher is away ?

We try to have a standby teacher on hand for when someone is away and this usually works well.

Do the teachers run the Cumann ?

No. That's the job of our elected committee who meet every month. Teachers, though, generally have a free hand in the choice of books and learning materials for their own class.

Can anyone be a volunteer teacher ?

Our teachers are either native speakers of Irish or people who have learnt Irish and who have some additional qualifications that would be helpful, for example in teaching or training.

Realistically, how far can I get in learning Irish ?

Starting from scratch you can progress with us through a series of stages to approximately level B1 or B2 on the Common European Framework for languages (also known as the CEF, see newsletter 23) But this does require increasing amounts of study time outside class on the part of the student, as shown in the table below. This is something many people fail to appreciate. It is the same for all languages, not just Irish.

How many different classes are there ?

Over the course of a school year it can vary between three and five. This is because many people drop out or only attend infrequently, so on any given night we can't predict who will turn up and just have to work with what we have.

What is this TEG that people sometimes mention ?

Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge, the European Certificate in Irish, is a syllabus for adult learners. It is designed to follow the levels described in the CEF. Some of our teachers use it because it's specially designed for adults. All the material is available as a free download which is a bonus.

Do the classes require you to do homeworks or any kind of external study ?

In the past we have heard that some people dropped out because the classes were "too demanding" while on the other hand others in the same class gave up and said there was a "lack of structure and direction". We suspect that at least one of these claims has to be wrong but we will never be able to please everyone so we encourage those who are up for it to do as much private study as they possibly can while keeping the classes accessible to everyone.

How much time in total do I need to spend on study ?

The short answer is "a lot more than you would think". The CEF research data is pretty clear on this. Assuming an academic year of 40 weeks they reckon that level A1 in any European language can be reached within a year at a rate of 2 ½ hours per week, but to do level A2 inside another year requires doubling your study time to 5 hours per week.

Notice how the required hours per week keep increasing each year after the first year. The alternative is just to draw out your studies and paddle along at a more comfortable speed, although be wary, this could be likened to driving from Melbourne to Brisbane at a speed of 30 km/h. You would get there eventually but by the time you arrived will probably have forgotten why you actually set out. And you will most likely have caused traffic chaos.

How can I spend more time on Irish if the classes only run for two hours ?

Everyone should have a study plan of their own which goes further than our weekly classes. We strongly encourage students to find ways of integrating Irish into their everyday life. Ideally you should be doing something every day and this becomes absolutely essential once you progress beyond the beginner's group. Some students like to work with classmates on homeworks or on other personal projects. Others meet for informal conversation sessions. There are also various free lessons available on the internet.

How will the teachers know if I am doing work outside class ?

It will be immediately obvious and conversely, if you are not doing any, that will also be glaringly obvious. But we never criticise anyone (*it's not that kind of school*) so we just give encouragement and sound advice.

If I strike a problem with something I am doing outside class can my teacher still help ?

All our teachers have been faced with this situation at some stage and the consensus is that the teacher will either (a)



Free wi-fi in Irish pubs around town

provide a quick response directly to the student or (b) make it into a topic that can be used in the next lesson for the entire class. It really depends on the question. The bottom line though is that all queries must be answered in a satisfactory way, no matter how they arise, that's the role of a teacher.

Are there any local opportunities for "intensive" courses ?

We have a week long residential summer school in January known as Daonscoil and there is also a winter school in Sydney which runs over the long weekend in June.

How could a student reach level C1 or C2 ?

It is clear that both these levels require a lengthy period of full-time work and/or study in a Gaeltacht and as such are beyond the scope of our evening classes. But some universities (eg DCU) are now offering online degree courses in Irish which may appeal to our local students.

Does the Cumann itself offer any online lessons ?

Not at present although at this year's Daonscoil there was lot of talk about Skype and Google Hangouts. Our committee would first have to decide if offering lessons this way is feasible and how it would be organised. Any such lessons would be primarily aimed at our members who live too far away from Melbourne to attend our classes and who have no access to a local teacher. Currently there are about 7 or 8 people in this category, and as members they are entitled to the same privileges as us city slickers so it's definitely something that we can look at.

Míle buíochas !!!

As we go to press our application for a grant under the "Emigrant Support Program" has just been approved for 2,000 euro

Most of our readers will be very familiar with the local Irish pubs around town. All have great food, drink, music and craic, not to mention the big screen sports. But here's a few that have an extra attraction many people consider vital these days. Free wi-fi for paying customers. Yes, you can check your email, connect with family and friends on facebook and even send in a contribution for our next newsletter.....

Bridie O'Reilly's
29 Sydney Road
Brunswick

The Snug Public House
68 Sydney Road
Brunswick

Pint on Punt
42 Punt Road
Windsor

Bridie O'Reilly's
462 Chapel Street
South Yarra

P. J. O'Brien's
Level 1, Terminal 3
Melbourne Airport

The Dan O'Connell Hotel
225 Canning Street
Carlton

The Last Jar
616 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne

Details are from the Australian Irish Pub Guide
For a free copy of the guide call 1 300 555 995

*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., 320 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC, 3000.

Use this form for renewal or change of details.

New members must complete the form available on our website www.gaeilgesanastrail.com

Renewal Update

Sloinne
(surname)

Guthán bh)
(phone)

Céad ainm
(first name)

ah)

Seoladh
(address)

Fón
(mobile)

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Ríomhphost
(email)

Membership fee is \$40 per annum and due each January. Class fee is \$4 per week.