

# Líofa

Márta 2015

March 2015

## 10,000 bainte amach!

D'fhógair an tAire Carál Ní Chúilín Dé Sathairn go bhfuil thar 10,000 duine anois cláraithe le Líofa. Is i gCultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, nuair a bhí sí ag seoladh Sheachtain na Gaeilge a d'fhógair sí an dea-scéal.

“Nuair a sheol mise feachtas Líofa ar an chúigiú lá de mhí Mheán Fómhair, dhá mhíle agus a haon déag, is é an sprioc a bhí againn go dtabharfadh míle duine gealltanais go bhfoghlaimeodh siad Gaeilge nó go gcuirfeadh siad lena líofacht sa teanga faoin bhliain 2015.

“Ó shin i leith d'fhás na huimhreacha arís agus arís. Léiríonn seo, ní amháin beogacht phobal na Gaeilge ach an oiread sin daoine – de gach aois agus gach cúlra – ar mhaith leo Gaeilge a fhoghlaim.

**“Inniu, tá mé iontach sásta a fhógairt go bhfuil níos mó ná 10,700 cláraithe le Líofa”.**

## 10,000 reached!

Minister Carál Ní Chúilín announced on Saturday that the Líofa campaign has now reached 10,000 sign-ups. The good news was announced on Saturday in Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, when the Minister launched Seachtain na Gaeilge.

“When I launched the Líofa campaign in September 2011, I could not have envisaged that we would quickly exceed the target of 1,000 people making the pledge to learn or improve their fluency in Irish.

“Since then, the numbers have grown and grown. This reflects not only the vibrancy of the Irish language community but also the numbers of people – of all ages, abilities and backgrounds – who want to learn Irish.

**“Today, I am very pleased to announce that more than 10,000 people have signed up for Líofa”.**



Minister Ní Chúilín with the Seachtain na Gaeilge ambassadors and Líofa Officers in Cultúrlann Mc Adam Ó Fiaich

Minister Ní Chúilín le hAmbasadóirí Sheachtain na Gaeilge agus Oifigigh Líofa i gCultúrlann Mc Adam Ó Fiaich

## Seachtain na Gaeilge faoi lánseol!

Do chéad uair riamh, bhí seoladh oifigiúil Sheachtain na Gaeilge sa tuaisceart. I measc neart aíonna eile, bhí an tAire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta, Carál Ní Chuilín, i láthair ag an lá spraoi teaghlaigh i gCultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich ar 28ú Feabhra chun imeachtaí an lae agus na féile a sheoladh.

Bhí Gaeilge bhinn le cloisteáil thart faoin Chultúrlann, áit a raibh imeachtaí spráúla go leor ag spreagadh ar pháistí agus ar dhaoine fásta a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid agus a cheiliúradh. I measc na n-imeachtaí a bhí ar siúl ag an lá teaghlaigh, bhí dráma puipeád ó Fíbin, ceardlann idirghníomhach, neart siamsaíochta teaghlaigh agus ceol ó Chlann Mhic Ruairí ann. Bhí ambasadóirí Sheachtain na Gaeilge, Tomaí Ó Conghaile agus Clíona Ní Chiosáin, i láthair chun súil a choinneáil ar imeachtaí an lae.

Is féile idirnáisiúnta í Seachtain na Gaeilge a bhíonn ar siúl i mí an Mhárta gach bliain leis an Ghaeilge agus cultúr Gaelach a chur chun cinn agus a cheiliúradh. Bíonn na mílte imeacht ar siúl ar fud na hÉireann agus na cruinne. Thapaigh an tAire Carál Ní Chuilín deis an spotsolas a dhíriú ar imeachtaí na féile agus spreag sí ar dhaoine páirt a ghlacadh iontu:

“Tá an t-iliomad imeachtaí teanga, ceoil, damhsa, litríochta agus cultúir ar siúl le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge in áiteanna éagsúla ar fud fad na tíre agus thar lear. Is deis iontach é do chách sult a bhaint as an Ghaeilge, don chainteoir dúchais, don foghlaimeoir nó don té ag baint triail aisti don chéad uair.”

Mar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaeilge, tá réimse leathan imeachtaí eagraithe ag roinnt mhaith grúpaí ar fud an oileáin seo.

**Féach ar [www.snag.ie](http://www.snag.ie) nó sna meáin áitiúla le fáil amach cén imeachtaí atá ar siúl i do cheantar féin anois.**

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

**Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week) 2015 is underway. For the first time ever, the official launch of Seachtain na Gaeilge took place in the north. Amongst plenty of other guests, the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Carál Ní Chuilín was in attendance at the family fun day in Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich on 28th February to launch the day's events and the festival itself.**

The beautiful sound of the Irish Language could be heard round the Cultúrlann, encouraging children and grown-ups to practise and celebrate using Irish. Amongst the events at the family fun day were a puppet drama from Fíbin, an interactive workshop, plenty of family entertainment and music from Clann Mhic Ruairí. Seachtain na Gaeilge ambassadors, Tomaí Ó Conghaile and Clíona Ní Chiosáin, were there to keep an eye on the day's events.

Seachtain na Gaeilge is an international festival which takes place in March every year to promote and celebrate Irish Language and culture. Thousands of events take place throughout Ireland and all over the world. Minister Carál Ní Chuilín took the opportunity to direct the spotlight on the festival events and encouraged people to participate in them:

“There are loads of language, music, literature and cultural events happening during Seachtain na Gaeilge in various places all over the country and abroad. It is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to enjoy Irish, for the native speaker, for the learner or for people having a go for the first time.”

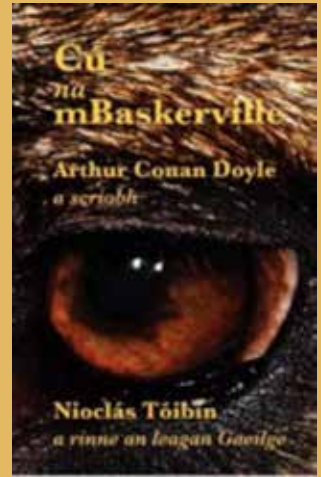
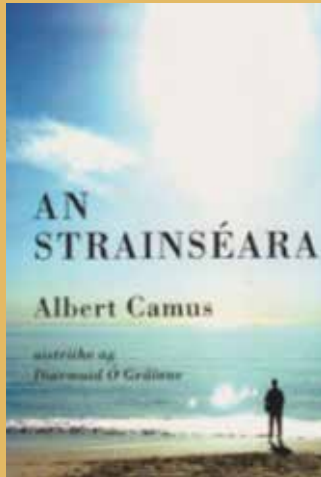
As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, there is a broad range of events organised by a large number of groups throughout the island.

**Check out [www.snag.ie](http://www.snag.ie) or the local media to find out which events are taking place in your area.**



Minister Ní Chuilín launching Seachtain na Gaeilge for the first time in the north of Ireland.

Minister Ní Chuilín ag seoladh Sheachtain na Gaeilge don chéad uair i dtuaisceart na hÉireann



## Club Leabhar Líofa

Is ábhar áthais do Líofa a fhógairt go bhfuil tús curtha le club úr leabhar. Sheol an tAire Carál Ní Chuilín Club Leabhar Líofa ar an 4ú Márta sa Ghailearaí Fhada, Stormont.

D'fhógair an tAire oíche Chéadaoine fosta go bhfuil sprioc nua 20,000 foghlaimoirí do líofa le baint amach faoi 2020. Dúirt an tAire gur "sprioc uailmhianach é agus is maith a thuigim, ó m'éispéireas féin, an díograis agus an dícheall a bhaineann le foghlaim teanga, ach is mór is fiú é.

Tá súil againn go spreagfar cuid dár rannpháirtithe ardleibhéil ar fud an tuaiscirt agus níos faide i gcéin le níos mó Gaeilge a léamh agus na leabhair a phlé le Gaeilgeoirí eile ar bhonn míosúil. Mura dtig leat freastal ar chlub, is féidir páirt a ghlacadh sa chomhrá ar Facebook (Club Leabhar Líofa). Beidh buaicphointí an chomhrá le cluinstitín roimh i bhfad ar Raidió Fáilte fosta (107.1fm nó [www.raidiofailte.com](http://www.raidiofailte.com)). An Buachaill a Chaith Pitseámaí Stríocacha an chéad leabhar a léifidh muid agus is féidir é a íoslódáil ó shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle Curaclaim, Scrúdúcháin agus Measúnachta (CCEA).



## Líofa Book Club

Líofa is happy to announce the beginning of a new book club. Minister Carál Ní Chuilín launched the new Líofa Book Club on the 4th March in the Long Gallery, Stormont.

The Minister also announced on Wednesday night that the new Líofa goal was to have 20,000 learners on board by 2020. The minister said even though 'this is an ambitious target and I do not underestimate the effort and hard work it takes to learn a language, I know from my own learning experience that it is well worth it.

We hope to encourage some of our more advanced participants around the north and further afield to read more in Irish and discuss the books with other Irish speakers on a monthly basis. If you can't make it to a club you can still participate in the conversation on Facebook (Club Leabhar Líofa). The highlights of the conversation will soon be heard on Raidió Fáilte as well (107.1fm or [www.raidiofailte.com](http://www.raidiofailte.com)). The first book we will read will be *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, which can be downloaded from the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) website.

Aistritheoirí Padaí de Bléine agus Darach Ó Scolaí leis an Aire ag Stormont.

Translators Padaí de Bléine agus Darach Ó Scolaí with the Minister at Stormont.

## **Acmhainn Foghlama Ar Líne Saor in Aisce do Rannpháirtithe Líofa. Ar iarr tú do cheannsa?**

Tá gach duine a bhfuil gealltanas Líofa tugtha acu i dteideal acmhainn foghlama ar líne saor in aisce de chuid Gaelchultúr. Cosnaíonn an cúrsa sin £120 lena cheannach. Má tá tú cláraithe le Líofa cheana agus más mian leat d'acmhainn a iarraidh déan teagmháil le Líofa, le do thoil;

Ríomhphost: [liofa@dcalni.eu](mailto:liofa@dcalni.eu) Guthán: 02890515058

## **Free On-Line Learning Resource for Líofa Participants. Have you asked for yours?**

Everyone who has made the Líofa promise is entitled to a free on-line learning resource from Gaelchultúr. This course costs £120 to buy. If you are already registered with Líofa and want to request your resource, please contact Líofa;

E-mail: [liofa@dcalni.eu](mailto:liofa@dcalni.eu) Phone: 02890515058

## **Comhairliúchán Bhille na Gaeilge**

**Tá ráite ag an Aire Cultúir Carál Ní Chuilín gur le gach duine an Ghaeilge agus í ag seoladh comhairliúcháin ar mholtaí faoi choinne Bille Gaeilge i Seomra an tSeanaid ag Stormont ar an 10ú Feabhra.**

Leag an tAire amach buntáistí mholtaí an Bhille agus ar sise: “Níl an Ghaeilge i seilbh aon ghrúpa ar leith nó aon chuid ar leith den phobal; Is cuid dár n-oidhreacht chomhroinnte chultúrtha í agus is le gach duine í. Tá gá le leas cainteoirí Gaeilge a chosaint agus dúshraith dhaingean a bhunú a thugann deis chomhionann do gach duine an teanga a fhoghlaim más mian leo.”

Tá réimse leathan moltaí sa doiciméad comhairliúcháin a chuirfidh ar chumas an phobail na forálacha a d'fhéadfadh a bheith in Acht na Gaeilge a fheiceáil.

D'iarr an tAire ar gach duine an t-am a ghlacadh le hamharc go grinn ar an mhéid a bhíodhas a mholadh. Ar sise: “Níor chóir go mbeadh eagla dá laghad ar dhaoine roimh an Ghaeilge a fheabhsú agus a chosaint ar dhóigh a chuirfidh ar a cumas ionchur fadmharthanach, bríoch a bheith aici i dtreo pobal láidir, aontaithe a chothú. Ní bagairt ar bith í an Ghaeilge ar an Bhéarla ná ní thiocfaidh sí ina áit ach beidh sí ar aonchéim leis mar theanga bheo, bhríomhar. Tathantaím ar gach duine a gcuid tuairimí a chur in iúl agus cur le díospóireacht a bheas, tá súil agam, dearfach, aibí agus cuiditheach.”

## **Irish Language Bill Consultation**

**Culture Minister Carál Ní Chuilín said that the Irish Language belongs to everyone as she launched a consultation on proposals for an Irish Language Bill, in the Senate Chamber at Stormont on 10th February.**

In spelling out the merits of the Bill proposals, the Minister said: “The Irish language is not the preserve of any particular group or of any section of the community; it is part of our shared cultural heritage and it belongs to everyone. There is a necessity to protect the interests of Irish speakers and to put in place a solid foundation which affords everyone an equal opportunity to learn the language, should they wish to do so.”

The consultation document contains a wide range of proposals and will allow the public to see the range of provisions which Acht na Gaeilge might contain.

The Minister asked everyone to take time to study what is being proposed. She said: “There is absolutely nothing for anyone to fear from enhancing and protecting the Irish Language in a way which will enable it to make a lasting and meaningful contribution towards building a strong and united community. It will not in any way threaten or displace the English Language but sit alongside it as a living and vibrant language. I encourage everyone to make their views known and contribute to what I hope and trust will be a positive debate and one which is conducted in a mature and constructive manner.”

**Beidh an comhairliúchán ar siúl go dtí 5 Bealtaine 2015 agus is féidir freagairt dó ar líne, de r-phost nó tríd an phost. Is féidir an doiciméad comhairliúcháin agus tuilleadh mionsonraí a fháil ar shuíomh gréasáin na Roinne ag [www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation).**

**The consultation will run until 5 May 2015 and you can respond to the online, by email or by post. The consultation document and further details can be obtained from the Department's website at [www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation).**





Ailéin Ó Clúmháin, Founder of Facebook page 'Gaeilge Amháin', Derry

Ailéin Ó Clúmháin, Bunaitheoir an Leathanaigh Facebook 'Gaeilge Amháin', Doire

## I gCónagar agus i gCéin

### I gCónagar

Ailéin Ó Clúmháin atá orm agus is as Doire mé i dtuaisceart na hÉireann. Tá suim agam sa Ghaeilge le tamall fada agus nuair a chaill mé mo phost sa bhliain 1997 bhí neart ama shaoir agam. Cuir mé tús le foghlaim na Gaeilge trí bliana ina dhiaidh sin, agus rinne dioplóma agus céim ar Ollscoil Uladh ó shin.

Is maith liom a bheith ag foghlaim teanga mar tá sé dúshlánach. Taobh leis sin bíonn craic agus cairdeas ag baint leis sna ranganna. Más féidir liom b'fhearr liom bheith ag caint le cairde i nGaeilge ag imeachtaí sóisialta.

**Tá sé deacair teanga nua a fhoghlaim, rud atá fíor faoi litriú na Gaeilge. Bhí orm na focail a scríobh i nGaeilge, i mBéarla agus an fuaimniú taobh leo. I dtús na foghlama, chaith mé cuid mhór ama ag scríobh sna ranganna. Taobh amuigh de na ranganna bhí sé deacair seans a fháil bheith ag labhairt agus an fhadhb is mó a bhí agam ná féinmhuinín í a labhairt. Seo fíor go háirithe mar gur daoine fásta a bhí ionainn.**

Tugann an Ghaeilge féinmhuinín dom. Tá saol sóisialta agam trí Ghaeilge le mo chairde, agus tá post páirtaimseartha agam mar chúntóir teanga. Thosaigh mé a obair mar chúntóir teanga Gaeilge sa bhliain 2006. Chuaigh mé i dteagmháil leis an British Council i mBéal Feirste. Is nasc iad idir na cúntóirí teanga agus na scoileanna. Mar chúntóir teanga Gaeilge sna meánscoileanna, agus sna coláistí déanaim amhráin agus scéalta sna ranganna agus cluichí ar nós biongó, cluedo agus fiche ceist. Chomh maith leis sin má tá cuidím le GCSE agus A-Leibhéal má bhíonn sé de dhíth. Tá mé bródúil a rá go bhfuil Dioplóma agus Céim sa Ghaeilge bainte amach agam. Cé nach duine acadúil mé, bhain mé sult as na cúrsaí agus léachtaí i gColáiste Mhig Aoidh, Ollscoil Uladh. Bhí a fhios agam go mbeadh siad dúshlánach ach b'fhiú go mór iad a dhéanamh.

## Home and Away

### Home

I am called Ailéin Ó Clúmháin and I am from Derry in the north of Ireland. I have been interested in Irish for quite a while and when I lost my job in 1997 I had plenty of free time. I started learning Irish three years later and since then I was awarded a diploma and degree from the University Of Ulster.

I like learning a language as it is challenging. As well as that, the classes are an enjoyable, friendly experience. Whenever I can, I prefer to talk Irish to my friends on social occasions.

**It can be difficult to learn a new language, which is certainly true regarding Irish spelling. I had to write down the words in Irish, in English and the pronunciation beside them. When I first started to learn, I spent a lot of time writing in the classes. Outside of the classes it was difficult to find opportunities to speak the language and the biggest problem I had was the self-confidence to speak it. This is especially true of adults.**

Irish has given me self-confidence. I now have a social life through Irish with my friends. I have got a part-time job as a language assistant. I began working as a language assistant in 2006. I got in touch with the British Council in Belfast. They are the go between for schools and language assistants. As an Irish assistant in the schools and colleges I do songs and stories and games like bingo, cluedo and 20 questions. As well as that I help with GCSE and A-Level classes when needed. I am proud to say I have a diploma and a degree in Irish now and that I really enjoys the lectures and courses in Magee College, University of Ulster. I knew it would be challenging but was well worth it.

Bíonn ciorcal comhrá ar siúl oíche Déardaoin sa teach tábhairne áitiúil againn i nDoire. Téann muid go Gaoth Dobhair ag deireadh gach míosa don craic agus don cheol ag an Cabaret Craiceáilte. Tamall de bhlianta ó shin chuir mé tús le leathanach Facebook agus bím ag scríobh agus ag léamh ar “Gaeilge Amháin” go laethúil. Tá thart fá 6000 ball ann ar fud an domhain agus as achan chontae in Éirinn. Tá fáilte roimh chách ar ár leathanach Facebook “Gaeilge Amháin”, go háirithe má tá siad ag iarraidh a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh.

There is a conversation circle every Thursday night in our local pub in Derry. We go to Gaoth Dobhair at the end of every month for the craic and the music at the Cabaret Craiceáilte. A few years ago I started a Facebook page and I read and write on “Gaeilge Amháin” on a daily basis. There are about 6000 members from all over the world and from every county in Ireland. Everyone is welcome on our Facebook page “Gaeilge Amháin”, especially if they want to practise their Irish.

**Ní bhím ag ranganna seachtainiúla Gaeilge ach téim chuig cúrsaí Gaeltachtaí i rith an tsamhraidh ag Oideas Gael. Má bhíonn ceolchoirm, dráma ná léacht ar siúl is maith liom gabháil le cairde. Bíonn siad iontach suimiúil agus foinse eile le cúpla rud nua a fhoghlaim.**

**I don't attend weekly Irish classes but I do go to Gaeltacht courses during the summer at Oideas Gael. If there is a concert, play or lecture on I like to go with my friends. They are very interesting and another source to learn something new.**

Is breá liom na seanfhocail uilig ach go háirithe “Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam”, “Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste” agus an frása “dearg le fearg”. Ach an ceann is fearr liom ná “Is leor beirt”. Tá an teanga féin lán le saibhreas agus le stair. Tá an Ghaeilge ceangailte lenár gcultúr, lenár gceol agus lenár spórt. Thit mé i ngrá léi an chéad lá agus anois tá áit lánach aici i mo chroí ó shin.

I love all the old sayings and proverbs, especially “Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam” (a country without a language is a country without a soul), “Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste” (better broken Irish than clever English) and “dearg le fearg” (red with anger). But “is leor beirt” (two is enough) is my favourite. The language itself is full of richness and history. Irish is linked to our culture, our music and our sport. I fell in love with it from the start and it now has a place next to my heart ever since.

Ní mhaireann na ranganna Gaeilge ach dhá uair a chloig, de ghnáth. Má tá tú dáiríre fá fhoghlaim na Gaeilge caithfidh tú rud beag staidéir a dhéanamh i rith na seachtaine. Éist le Raidió na Gaeltachta agus amharc ar TG4 agus iad a úsáid chomh minic agus is féidir leat. An rud is fearr ná labhairt le cairde as Gaeilge cibé leibhéal atá agaibh agus ciorcal comhrá a bhunú i gcaife, leabharlann nó i dteach tábhairne srl.

The Irish classes usually only last about two hours. If you're serious about learning Irish you have to do a bit of study during the week. Listen to Raidió na Gaeltachta and watch TG4 and make as much use of them as is possible. The best thing is to speak Irish to friends no matter what level you are at and set up a conversation circle in a café, library or pub etc.



Hilary Mhic Suibhne, Glucksman Ireland House,  
New York

Hilary Mhic Suibhne, Áras Glucksman na  
hÉireann, Nua Eabhrac

## I gCéin

Is mise Hilary Mhic Suibhne. Tá mé 54 bliain d’aois. Cé gur rugadh i gCathair Luimnigh tá mé i mo chónaí anois i Nua Eabhrac, Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá.

Is deacair teacht ar aon ní a thug orm suim a chur sa Ghaeilge. Déarfainn gur tháinig nithe le chéile ag amanna cuí mar fhógraí ar bhóthar mo shaoil. Ansin, agus i ngan fhios dom ar dtús b’fhéidir, chas mé chuig an teanga.

Ní raibh Gaeilge againn sa bhaile cé go raibh Gaeilge iontach ag m’athair agus ana-mheas aige ar an teanga; ba as iarthar Luimnigh dó. Ní raibh mórán suime ag mo mham sa teanga, ba ó thraidisiún difriúil i mBaile Átha Cliath theas di. Pósadh measctha, Gaeilgeoir agus Béarlóir. Nuair a bhíos i mo dhéagóir i Luimneach chuaigh mé isteach chuig oifig Chonradh na Gaeilge cúpla uair. Bhíodh imeacht ar ar tugadh “Oíche sa Chistin” ar siúl thíos staighre sa bhfoirgneamh céanna, agus chuaigh mé ansin uair nó dhó ach bhíodh ana-chúthail orm na laethanta sin.

**Shiúl mé amach le fear óg darb ainm Páraic ar an ollscoil (UCD), luaigh sé gurb as an nGaeltacht a mháthair agus, ó ba rud é go raibh a bheirt aintín, deirfiúracha a mháthar, ina gcónaí leo i mBaile Átha Cliath, go raibh an teanga le cloisint eatarthu i gcónaí sa tigh. Is cuimhin liom go soiléir go raibh mé fiosrach fúthu.**

Ar an turas abhaile ó rang oíche i gColáiste na hEalaíne ar Shráid Úi Thómais i lár Bhaile Átha Cliath thugas faoi deara go raibh cúrsa Gaeilge darb ainm ‘Cogar le Máire de Barra’ ar an raidió agus as sin amach agus mé ar an mbóthar d’éistinn leis i gcónaí ag iarraidh mo chuid Ghaeilge féin a fheabhsú. Bhí an cúrsa seo “Cogar” bunaithe ar an nGaeilge labhartha. Níor thuig mé mórán a bhí ar siúl idir mo mháthair chéile agus a deirfiúracha sa sean tigh agus bhí suim agam an scéal sin a athrú, bhíos pósta ar Pháraic ag an am seo agus bhíomar ana-mhór lena thuismitheoirí. Dúirt mé le mo mháthair chéile gan athrú go Béarla níos mó, nós a bhíodh ag mná an tí aon uair a bhíos leo.

## Away

My name is Hilary Mhic Suibhne. I am 54 years old. Although I was born in Limerick City I now live in New York, United States of America. It’s hard to pinpoint how I got interested in Irish. I suppose things came together at appropriate milestones in my life. Then, maybe even before I realised it myself, I became involved with the language.

We did not speak Irish at home although my father was a wonderful Irish speaker and held the language in the highest regard; he was from west Limerick. My mum wasn’t really interested in the language; she came from a different tradition in South Dublin. A mixed marriage, an Irish speaker and an English speaker. When I was a teenager in Limerick I went into the Conradh na Gaeilge office a couple of times. There was an event known as “Oíche sa Chistin” (A night in the Kitchen) on downstairs in the same building and I went there once or twice but I was very shy in those days.

**I went out with a guy called Páraic when I was at University (UCD) and he mentioned that his mother was from the Gaeltacht and as his two aunts, the mother’s sisters, were living with them in Dublin that the language was spoken all the time in the house. I can clearly recall being inquisitive about them.**

On the way home from a night class in the Art College on Thomas Street in central Dublin, I noticed that there was an Irish course called “Cogar le Máire de Barra” on the radio and from then on I would always listen to it and try to improve my own Irish. The “Cogar” course was based on spoken Irish. I couldn’t understand much of the conversation that my mother-in-law and her sisters had in the old house and I wanted to remedy that. By this time I was married to Páraic and we were great friends with his parents. I asked my mother-in-law not to switch to English any more, which the women of the house had been doing any time I was there. The Kitchen language is what I called Irish in those days as the women would usually

Teanga na cistine a thugas ar an nGaeilge na laethanta sin, mar de ghnáth bhíodh na mná sa chistin le chéile ag Gaeilgeoireacht! Ach chloistí Béarla uathu i ngach seomra eile sa tigh.

**Rinneamar an cinneadh teacht go Nua Eabhrac ar feadh dhá bhliain, mar sin cheannaigh mé an cúrsa “Cogar” ó Ghael Linn agus thug mé liom é le plean leanúint ar aghaidh leis an teanga. Ansin, trí thimpiste, bhuaill mé le fear a raibh Gaeilge aige san oifig phoist áitiúil anseo i Nua Eabhrac. Chuala sé mo bhlás agus d’fhiafraigh sé dom a raibh Gaeilge agam! Bhí cara eile aige ó Bhaile Átha Cliath agus thosaíomar, an triúr againn, Ciorcail Chomhrá seachtainiúil. Níorbh fada ansin go raibh mé ag freastal ar deireadh seachtainí leis an ngluaiseacht Daltaí na Gaeilge, a eagraíonn cúrsaí d’fhoghlaimoirí na Gaeilge, agus bhí mo chiorcail chomhrá féin ag leathnú le cairde iontacha agus Gaeilge ar a gcumas acu, daoine le suim tacaíocht nach beag a thabhairt dom, mar shampla Barra Ó Donnabháin (Corcaigh), Seán Tierney (Maigh Eo) agus an Bráthar Cathal Ó Cúinn (Co. an Chláir), faraor tá an triúr acu imithe ar shlí na frinne anois.**

Bím i gcónaí ag foghlaim na Gaeilge, agus fad is a bhím á foghlaim tuigim go mbíonn an carn os mo chomhair le foghlaim ag éirí níos airde is níos airde! Agus is maith sin. Ach bíonn an teanga suimiúil i slite domheasta, is teanga fileata í dar liom, agus bíonn tionchar na teanga ar i bhfad níos mó inár saolta ná mar a thuigtear, fiú ar an tslí ina dtuigimid ár ndomhan agus ár ndearcadh ar an saol. Is suimiúil an tslí ina oibríonn an teanga féin chomh maith, na fuaimeanna agus an rithim, an ghramadach, gan trácht ar stair na Gaeilge agus stair an Bhéarla in Éirinn, iad fite fuaite le chéile agus ar ndó le cúrsaí eacnamaíochta na tíre. Thuas seal, thíos seal. Tá suim sa teanga ag fás le tamall anuas ach ní gá d’éinne le suim sa Ghaeilge a bheith in aghaidh an Bhéarla in aon slí. Is fuath liom “Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste”. Is coincheap é sin nach gcreidim ar chor ar bith ann, tá sé beagáinín diúltach dar liom. Is aoibhinn liomsa Béarla cliste chomh maith. D’éirigh go breá le ana chuid Éireannach bochta timpeall na cruinne buí lena gcumas sa teanga Bhéarla, in éineacht lena dtréithe eile cinnte, bhíodar in ann cumarsáid a dhéanamh ina dtíortha úra agus d’éirigh leo. Is fiú machnamh ar scríbhneoirí iontacha na hÉireann a oibríonn i mBéarla. Is léir go bhfuil saibhreas de shaghas éigin i mBéarla na tíre de bharr na teanga Gaeilge, ach bíonn droichead cúng idir na teangacha agus fanann na sluaite, na Béarlóirí agus na Gaeilgeoirí, ar thaobh amháin nó ar an taobh eile. B’fhearr liomsa droichead fairsing an dátheangachais a fheiscint agus é plódaithe le daoine ag spaisteoireacht anonn is anall gan stró!.

**Tuileadh ó Hilary an mhí seo chugainn**

be in the kitchen talking Irish to each other. But they spoke English in every other room in the house.

**We made the decision to come to New York for two years so I bought the “Cogar” course from Gael Linn and brought it with me as I had planned to keep learning the language. Then, by chance, I met a man in the local post office in New York who had Irish. He heard my accent and asked me did I have Irish! He had another friend from Dublin and the three of us started a weekly Ciorcail Comhrá. It wasn’t long before we were both attending weekend courses with the Daltaí na Gaeilge movement, which organises courses for learners and my own Ciorcail Comhrá was expanding with wonderful friends who spoke Irish, people who wanted to give me all the help I needed, such as Barra Ó Donnabháin (Cork), Seán Tierney (Mayo) and an Bráthar Cathal Ó Cúinn (Clare). It’s sad to think all three have passed away.**

I am still learning Irish and the longer I do the more I realise that I have more and more to learn! And that is a good thing. The language, however, is interesting in some indiscernible ways. I find it a poetical language and it has a greater influence on our lives than is realised, even in the way we comprehend the world and our attitude to life. The workings of the language are also fascinating, the sounds and the rhythm, the grammar, not to mention the history of Irish and the history of English in Ireland and how they are interwoven with each other and, of course, with the country’s economy – all our ups and downs. There has been a recent upsurge in interest in the language and you do not have to be in any way against English to be interested in Irish. I hate the “Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste” (broken Irish is better than clever English) idea and don’t believe in it at all, it’s a little negative even. I also love clever English. Across the globe, many poor Irish people have succeeded with the help of their English language skills, as well as other skills of course. They were able to communicate in new countries and they succeeded. It’s worthwhile to remember the fantastic Irish writers who work in English. It is clear that there is some sort of richness in the English of Ireland as a result of the Irish language, but there is a narrow bridge between the languages and many, both Irish and English speakers, tend to stay on one side or the other. I would prefer to see the wide bridge of bilingualism packed with people walking back and forth with ease.

**More from Hilary next month!**





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AN RÓINN

Cultúir, Ealaíon  
agus Fóillíochta

## Scéim Sparánachtaí Gaeltachta 2015

**Cuireann an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta fáilte roimh iarratais ó rannpháirtithe Líofa le freastal ar chúrsa samhraidh Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht.**

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an **Scéim Sparánachtaí Gaeltachta** níos mó daoine a mhealladh i dtreo na Gaeilge. Tugann sí deis d'iarratasóirí incháilithe, beag beann ar thraidisiún nó ar chúlra, freastal ar chúrsa Gaeilge le linn an tsamhraidh agus blaiseadh a fháil den Ghaeilge i ngach gné de shaol an uile lae.

Beidh **Scéim Sparánachtaí Gaeltachta 2015** oscailte do na rannpháirtithe sin amháin a shásaíonn na critéir seo a leanas:

- Cláraithe le dúshlán Líofa;
- Níl sé/sí ag fáil aon sparánacht eile;
- Tá cónaí air/uirthi i gceann de na sé chontae i dtuaisceart na hÉireann: .i. Ard Mhacha, Fear Manach, Aontroim, Doire, An Dún nó Tír Eoghain;
- Ar ioncam íseal (féach critéir cháilítheachta san fhoirm iarratais).

Má chláraigh tú ar chúrsa cheana féin is féidir go fóill Sparánacht a iarraidh, fad is go sásaíonn tú na critéir cháilítheachta.

Is féidir foirm iarratais a ioslódáil ó rannóg Líofa ar shuíomh idirlín na Roinne Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta: [www.dcalni.gov.uk](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk)

Nó ina áit sin, is féidir foirm a iarraidh ach scairt a chur ar **028 9051 5057**.

Ba chóir cóip chrua agus sínithe den fhoirm a chur ar ais chuig: **RCEF, Brainse na dTeangacha, 7ú hUrlár, Malartán an Chabhsa, 1-7 Sráid Bedford, Béal Feirste, BT2 7EG** faoi 4i.n. ar an 13ú Márta 2015.

**Líofa Foghlaim í. Úsáid í.**

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**Oscailte do dhaoine fásta agus do dhaltai meanscoile**

Baineann téarmaí agus coinníollacha leis seo.



**Líofa**



## Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme 2015

**The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure invites applications from Líofa participants to attend an Irish Language summer course in the Gaeltacht.**

The **Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme** is a measure aimed at broadening the appeal of the Irish language and offers the opportunity, irrespective of tradition and background, for eligible applicants to attend an Irish Language summer course and experience the Irish Language in all aspects of daily life.

Applications to the **Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme 2015** will only be considered from participants who are:

- signed up to the Líofa challenge;
- not in receipt of any other scholarship;
- resident in one of the six counties in the north of Ireland: i.e. Armagh, Fermanagh, Antrim, Derry, Down, or Tyrone;
- on low income (see eligibility criteria in application form).

If you have already registered for a course and meet the eligibility criteria you can still apply for a Bursary.

Applications can be downloaded from the the Líofa section of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure website **[www.dcalni.gov.uk](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk)**.

Alternatively, you can request an application form by telephoning **028 90 515057**.

A signed copy of the application form should be returned to **DCAL, Languages Branch, 7th Floor, Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EG** by 4pm on 13th March 2015. Terms and conditions apply.

**Líofa Learn Irish. Use Irish.**

[www.dcalni.gov.uk](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk)

**Open to adults and  
secondary pupils**

Terms and Conditions Apply



**Líofa**