

Líofa

Aibreán 2015

April 2015

Comhairliúchán ar Bhille Gaeilge

Rachaidh an comhairliúchán poiblí ar Thograí do Bhille Gaeilge ar aghaidh go dtí an 5ú Bealtaine 2015. Creideann an tAire Cultúir Carál Ní Chuilín go daingean go bhfuil gá le hAcht Gaeilge le cearta Gaeilgeoirí agus le nádúr uathúil na Gaeilge a chosaint, taobh le coir sóisialta, comhionannas agus meas a chur chun cinn.

Tá tabhairt isteach reachtaíochta le mionteangacha a chosaint ag teacht le dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta. Tá Gaeilge na hAlban agus an Bhreatainis beirt cosanta ag an dlí in Albain agus sa Bhreatain Bheag agus tá an Ghaeilge cosanta faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla sa deisceart agus is teanga oifigiúil de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh. Tacaíonn an cleachtas i dtíortha eile leis an dearcadh gur dóigh éifeachtach a bheas i reachtaíocht ar nós Acht Gaeilge leis an Ghaeilge a chosaint agus le comhionannas, meas agus stádas cuí a thabhairt di.

Tá sé an-tábhachtach go ndéanfaí comhairliúchán poiblí iomlán fiúntach. Tá luach le gach dearcadh agus barúil agus lena chinntiú go gcaithfear leis an Ghaeilge le cothromaíocht agus le meas. Tá réimse leathan tograí sa doiciméad comhairliúcháin d'Acht Gaeilge. Más suim leat an teanga bí cinnte dó go gcluinfear do ghuth agus do bharúlacha trí freagra a thabhairt ar an chomhairliúchán faoin 5ú Bealtaine 2015.

Is féidir freagra a thabhairt trí r-phost, ar líne nó trí phost. Tá fáilte roimh gach dearcadh, is cuma cén fhormaid nó cén fad é.

R-phost: consultations@dcalni.gov.uk

Ar líne: www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation

Post: Comhairliúchán ar Bhille Gaeilge, RCEF, Leibhéal 7, Malartán an Chabhsa, 1-7 Sráid Bedford, Béal Feirste. BT2 7EG



Irish Language Bill Consultation

The public consultation on proposals for an Irish Language Bill to inform the content of Acht na Gaeilge continues until the 5 May 2015. Culture Minister Carál Ní Chuilín firmly believes that Acht na Gaeilge is needed to protect the rights of Irish language speakers, protect the unique nature of the Irish language as well as promote social justice, equality and respect.

The adoption of legislation to protect minority languages is in line with international best practice. Welsh and Scottish Gaelic languages are both protected by law in Wales and Scotland and Irish is protected under the Official Languages Act in the south and is an official language of the European Union. The practice in other countries supports the view that legislation such as Acht na Gaeilge will be an effective way of protecting the Irish language and according it equality, respect and proper status.

Full and meaningful public consultation is critical and all views and opinions are of value to help ensure that Irish is treated equally and with respect. The consultation document contains a wide range of proposals for Acht na Gaeilge. If you are interested in the Irish language you should ensure that your voice and opinion is heard by responding to the consultation by 5 May 2015.

You can respond to the consultation by email, online or by post. All your views in any format and no matter how brief or lengthy are of value and are welcome!

Email: Consultations@dcalni.gov.uk

Online: www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation

Post: Irish Language Bill Consultation, DCAL, Level 7, Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford Street, Belfast. BT2 7EG

Minister of Culture Carál Ní Chuilín at the Consultation Launch in the Senate Chamber, Stormont

Aire Culture Carál Ní Chuilín ag seoladh an Chomhairliúcháin i Seomra an tSeanaid, Stormont

Taithí Oibre le RCEF

Chuir Líofa fáilte roimh bheirt dhaltaí díograiseacha tréitheacha a bhí ar thaithí oibre. Chaith Naoise Ó Cuilín Mag Aoidh agus Déaglán Moore, daltaí Choláiste Feirste i mBéal Feirste, seachtain ag obair leis an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta. Fuair siad taithí oibre ar an Státseirbhís, ar an dóigh a n-oibríonn an Tionól agus ar earnáil na Gaeilge.

Chaith Naoise agus Déaglán am i réimse de rannóga, rud a thug foramharc dóibh ar an dóigh a n-oibríonn an Roinn agus an Státseirbhís. Chaith siad cúpla lá le hOifig na Cumarsáide, sa Tionól agus in Oifig an Aire sular tháinig siad go Líofa. Tugadh deis dóibh oibriú leis hOifig Líofo agus taithí a fháil ar an obair a dhéanann Oifig Ghaeilge ó lá go lá.

Léirigh siad a ndearcadh ar bhrandaíl agus ar na dathanna nua molta ag Líofa. Phléigh siad fosta an méid atá tarraingteach do dhaoine dá n-aoisghrúpa. Thaitin an taithí oibre go mór le Naoise agus le Déaglán beirt agus shíl siad gurbh fhiú go mór é:

“Fuair muid taithí oibre iontach anseo ag RCEF. Bhí muid ábalta ár gcuid barúlacha a chur i láthair an Aire agus Oifig na Roinne agus beidh an taithí seo ina chuidiú iontach don obair a bhíonn ar siúl againn le grúpaí agus le heagraíochtaí eile.”

Bhí na hOifigigh Líofa an-tógtha lena ndearcadh dearfach, leis an dóigh a raibh siad sásta foghlaim agus leis an díograis atá acu d’earnáil na Gaeilge. Ba mhaith linn an deis seo a thapú le gach rath a ghuí ar Naoise agus ar Dhéaglán amach anseo agus tá muid cinnte dó go mbeidh rath orthu beirt sa saol oibre rompu.

Work Experience with DCAL

Líofo recently hosted two enthusiastic and talented work experience students. Naoise Ó Cuilín Mag Aoidh and Déaglán Moore, students of Coláiste Feirste in Belfast, spent a week working with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and gained some work experience in the Civil Service, the mechanics of the Assembly and the Irish-language sector.

Naoise and Déaglán spent time in a range of branches, allowing them to gain an overview of how the Department and Civil Service work. They spent a few days with Communications, the Assembly and in the Minister’s office before they arrived at Líofa. They were given the opportunity to work with both Líofa Officers and experience the day-to-day work of Irish-language officers.

They provided a view on proposed new Líofa branding and colours and discussed what is appealing to people of their age. Both Noise and Déaglán thoroughly enjoyed their work experience with Líofa and thought that it was worth while:

“We have gained excellent work experience here at DCAL. We were able to express our opinions with the Minister and the Department’s officials and this experience will be a great help for the work we do with other groups and organisations.”

The Líofa Officers were extremely impressed with their positive attitude, willingness to learn and their enthusiasm for the Irish-language sector. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Naoise and Declan all the best for the future, and we’re sure that they will both be successful in their future careers.



Naoise Ó Cuilín Mag Aoidh left and Déaglán Moore right.

Naoise Ó Cuilín Mag Aoidh ar clé agus Déaglán Moore ar deis.



Hilary Mhic Suibhne, Glucksman Ireland House,
New York

Hilary Mhic Suibhne, Áras Glucksman na
hÉireann, Nua Eabhrac

I gCóngar agus i gCéin

I gCéin: Hilary Cuid a 2

Is rud an-Éireannach agus an-diúltach ar fad a bheith ag caint ar na deacrachtaí agus constaicí roimh dhaoine agus iad ag foghlaim na Gaeilge. Thosnaíos á foghlaim ar scoil in Éirinn ach níor thuig mé go dtí go raibh mé níos sine cad i ndáiríre a bhí i gceist leis an teanga. Ní raibh an bhéim ar chumarsáid sa ré sin nuair a bhíos ar scoil. Ní raibh mórán comhrá againn ar chor ar bith agus ba chailín cúthalach mé - mar sin níor labhair mé go rómhínic in aon teanga! Ní fheadar an raibh deacrachtaí nó constaicí romham - seans, dá mbeadh siad ann, go rabhadar ionam féin b'fhéidir?

I ndáiríre sílim nár thosnaíos á foghlaim i gceart go dtí go raibh suim agam gnáthchumarsáid a dhéanamh i nGaeilge i mo shaol féin, le muintir mo chéile ar dtús, agus ansin le mo chairde i Nua Eabhrac. Ní dóigh liom gur bhraitheas aon chonstaicí romham le foghlaim na Gaeilge nuair a dheineas an cinneadh dul léi, ach a mhalairt a déarfainn.

Ach ag an am céanna is brónach an meon diúltach a bhíonn ag daoine áirithe maidir leis an teanga, dímheas uirthi fiú, go háirithe in Éirinn nó ag Éireannaigh sa tír seo. Ní gá do gach duine a bheith i ngrá léi ach, muna bhfuil, tuige nach féidir í a fhágáil linne atá?

Tá neart samplaí ann den tslí a ndeachaigh an Ghaeilge chun sochair dom. Ar an gcéad dul síos thosnaíos a labhairt le mo Mháthair chéile ina teanga féin! Is as an nGaeltacht Lár i dTír Chonaill ó dhúchas í agus bhí sé go breá dom teacht ar rithim agus foghraíocht an tuaiscirt sa tslí nádúrtha seo. Ní labhraím léi ach i nGaeilge le fiche bliain anuas anois déarfainn, agus feicim í i slí níos soiléire agus sinn ag caint trí mheán na Gaeilge, braithim go bhfuil caidreamh mór agam uirthi nó b'fhéidir gaol níos láidre agam léi buí leis an teanga.

Home and Away

Away: Hilary Part 2

It is a very Irish and a very negative thing to talk about the difficulties and barriers for people who are learning Irish. I began learning it at school in Ireland but did not realise until I was older what the language was all about. There was no emphasis on communication at the time I was going to school. We did very little conversation and I was a shy girl – so I didn't speak much in any language! I don't know if I encountered any difficulties or barriers – if there were any, perhaps they were of my own making?

In all seriousness I don't think I started learning properly until I became interested in having normal communication in Irish in my own life, initially with my husband's family and then with my friends in New York. I don't think I felt any barriers to learning Irish when I made the decision to have a real go at it; in fact, the opposite is true.

At the same time the negative attitude, even disrespect of certain people regarding the language saddens me, especially in Ireland or coming from Irish people in this country. Not everybody needs to be in love with it, but if you're not, why not leave us who are alone to enjoy it?

There are many examples of how Irish has benefited me. First of all I began to talk to my mother-in-law in her own language. She is from the Gaeltacht Lár in Donegal and this was a great way for me to become accustomed to the rhythm and pronunciation of northern Irish. I haven't spoken anything but Irish to her now for 20 years, and I feel I understand her more clearly when speaking in Irish, I feel that I have a great relationship with her, or maybe a stronger connection because of the language.

Is léachtóir le Gaeilge mé in Ollscoil Nua Eabhrac le breis agus ocht mbliana anuas anois. Chaitheas seal ag múineadh ranganna oíche do dhaoine fásta sa State University of New York (SUNY) agus seal eile mar oide páirtaimsire i Vassar College Nua Eabhrac. Thosnaíos a dhéanamh obair dheonach mar mhúinteoir le Daltaí na Gaeilge. Ní fada tar éis sin go bhfuair post mar mhúinteoir Gaeilge in ionad cultúrtha anseo i Nua Eabhrac agus as sin chuireas scoil bheag ar bun ag múineadh na Gaeilge do dhaoine fásta i Westchester County. An Scoil Chois Claí a thugas ar an ngrúpa seo mar ní rabhamar lonnaithe aon áit áirithe - bhíomar i mbialann bheag ar dtús, ansin fuair spás ó Chumann Chiarraí i Yonkers, buí le Muiris Bric agus sa deireadh chuireamar fúinn i gColáiste Í, áit a rabhamar deich mbliana, le tacaíocht ón Bhráthair Cathal Ó Cúinn.

Ar mo thuras teanga seo fuair cuiriú ó ionaid timpeall na tíre dul a mhúineadh ag a gceiliúradh teangan, mar shampla in Dallas, Montana, Oregon, Montréal srl. Bíom i gcónaí gnóthach leis an teanga. Ag an bpointe seo bíom ag freastal ar imeachtaí chomh minic agus is féidir liom, deireadh seachtainí na Gaeilge mar shampla, nó bíom ag cur imeachtaí trí mheán na Gaeilge le chéile, mar shampla Comhdháil “An Greann agus an Ghaeilge” in Ollscoil Nua Eabhrac an seimeastar seo chaite. Ach is aoibhinn liom an saol lasmuigh chomh maith agus nuair a thagann an sneachta sa gheimhreadh go tuaisceart Stát Nua Eabhrac bíonn na fánaí ansin do mo ghlaoch agus caithim gach ré deireadh seachtaine (nó níos mó) ag sciáil, agus sa samhradh is í an fharraige a bhíonn ag glaoch orm, agus caithim m’am saor ag seoltóireacht.

“Maireann croí éadrom i bhfad” an frása Gaeilge is fearr liom. Tá an saol gearr, bain sult as. Má bhíonn rud éigin cearr - déan iarracht é a réiteach duit féin. Ná bí ag feitheamh ar éinne do shaol a eagrú, is leatsa é.

Ná bí ag caint faoin nGaeilge nó faoina deacrachtaí, bí ag caint sa Ghaeilge. Cuir le chéile ciorcail chomhrá, mar a dúirt cheana ná bí ag feitheamh ar dhuine eile imeachtaí a eagrú. Ní gá ach beirt chun tús a chur le comhrá. Ní gá ach beirt! Beirt! Tiocfaidh daoine eile chugat gan mhoill agus cuir tús le léitheoireacht ar an leibhéal ceart agus labhair faoin leabhair. Tá i bhfad níos mó áiseanna le fáil anois ná mar a bhí fiú fiche bliain ó shin agus bíonn an-chraic agus greann i ndátheangachas.

I have been a lecturer in University of New York for more than eight years now. I spent a time teaching night classes for adults in the State University of New York (SUNY) and another spell as a part time tutor in Vassar College, NY. I began then to do voluntary work with Daltaí na Gaeilge and it wasn't long then before I got an Irish teaching post in a cultural centre here in New York. From there I founded a small school teaching Irish to adults in Westchester County. I named the group An Scoil Chois Claí (The Hedge School) as we were not based in any one place – we were in a small restaurant initially, then we found a space with Cumann Chiarraí in Yonkers, thanks to Muiris Bric, and finally we settled in Coláiste Í for 10 years with support from Brother Cathal Ó Cuinn.

On my language journey I received invitations from centres around the country to go teach and celebrate the language in Dallas, Montana, Oregon, and Montréal etc. I am always busy. At the minute I attend as many events as possible, such as Irish language weekends or I would organise events through Irish myself. We had a conference in the University last semester Humour and the Irish Language for example. I also love the outdoors life and when the winter snow comes to Upstate New York the slopes call out to me and I spend most weekends and more skiing. In the summer it's the sea that calls to me and I spend my free time sailing.

“A light heart lives long” is my favourite Irish phrase. Life is short. Enjoy it. If something is wrong – fix it yourself. Don't wait for others to organise your life, it's yours.

Don't talk about Irish or its difficulties, talk in Irish. Start a conversation circle and don't wait for others to do so. You only need two to start a conversation. Only two! Two! Other people will join you before long. Start reading at the appropriate level and start talking about the book. There are many more resources available now than there was twenty years ago and there is lots of fun and craic to be had through bilingualism.



New York, Empire State, where Hilary lives.

Nua Eabhrac, Stát na hImpireachta, áit a bhfuil Hilary ina cónaí



Darren Ó Dochartaigh, Líofa Officer at University of Ulster Magee's Freshers' Fair, Derry

Darren Ó Dochartaigh, Oifigeach Líofa ag Aonach na Mac Léinn, Ollscoil Uladh Mag Aoidh, Doire

I gCóngar

Is mise Darren Ó Dochartaigh. Tá mé seacht mbliana fichead agus tá mé i mo chónaí i mBéal Feirste le beagnach deich mbliana, cé gurb as Doire ó cheart mé. Chaith mé seal ag teagasc Gaeilge anseo i mBéal Feirste agus ansin i gCeanada. Tá mé anois ag obair ag an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta. Is mé féin agus fear a bhfuil Dean Ó Sluagháin air a bíos ag amharc i ndiaidh Líofa. Cluinfidh sibh píosa uaidh an mhí seo chugainn.

Sealanna a chaitheamh sa Ghaeltacht an rud is fearr liom faoi fhoghlaim na Gaeilge. Chuaigh mé ann mar mhac léinn ar dtús deich mbliana ó shin go Rann na Feirste le hOllscoil na Banríona agus phill mé gach samhradh, agus geimhreadh nó dhó, ó shin, idir shaoire agus theagasc. Bhí mé cúpla samhradh i gColáiste Riocaird Bairéid ar an Eachléim, Maigh Eo, agus bhí sé iontach suimiúil gabháil i dtaithe ar chanúint eile Gaeilge. Mholfainn go hard do dhaoine tamall a chaitheamh i nGaeltacht nach ionann don chanúint a d'fhoghlaim siad féin. Más duine óg thú, impí ar do scoil nasc a thógáil le coláiste samhraidh agus más tuismitheoir thú, déan gach iarracht do pháiste a chur síos chun na Gaeltachta.

Bainim féin úsáid as mo chuid Gaeilge gach lá trí mo chuid oibre le Líofa. Bíim féin agus Dean ag plé le pobal na Gaeilge go rialta, le hOifigigh Gaeilge agus le scoileanna fosta. Tá for-rochtain ag baint leis an obair s'againne agus is deas liom sin. D'athraigh mé mo shloinne go Gaeilge blianta ó shin fosta, d'iarr mé seicleabhar Gaeilge ar mo bhanc agus cuirim litreacha le seoladh Gaeilge. Tá cuid mhór rudaí beaga is féidir a dhéanamh le do shaol a dhéanamh rud beag níos Gaelaí. Teagascaim braonta beaga Gaeilge do chairde nach Gaeilgeoirí iad fosta.

Chuaigh an Ghaeilge go mór chun sochair dom féin sa dóigh is go bhfuil ciorcal níos leithne agus éagsúla

Home

My name is Darren Ó Dochartaigh. I am twenty seven years old and I have been living in Belfast for ten years, although I am originally from Derry. I taught Irish for a while here in Belfast and then in Canada. I work now for the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure as a Líofa Officer carrying out a range of activities. Dean Sloan (the other Líofa Officer) and myself look after the Líofa campaign. You'll hear from him next month.

My favourite thing about learning Irish is the time spent in the Gaeltacht. I went first of all as a student with Queen's University Belfast ten years ago and have returned every summer since to teach or on holidays. I spent a few summers in Coláiste Riocaird Bairéid in Aughleam, Mayo. It was really interesting getting to grips with the dialect there and I would highly recommend spending some time in a Gaeltacht area that speaks a variety of Irish other than the dialect you have learned. If you are a young person, ask your school to make a connection with a summer college, and if you are a parent, try your best to send your child to the Gaeltacht. There is no better experience.

I use my Irish every day through my work with Líofa. Dean and myself regularly work with the Irish language community, with Irish Language Officers and with schools. Our work involves a lot of outreach which I enjoy. I changed my surname to Irish a few years ago, asked and received cheque book in Irish from my bank and send letters with the address in Irish. There are many little things you can do to make your life a little more Gaelic. There are many little things you can do to introduce Irish into your life.

I have benefited greatly from the Irish language. I now have a much wider and varied social circle. Besides the locals, the amount of foreigners in Belfast learning Irish would surprise you. It has given me a career as well

cairde agam anois. Taobh le daoine áitiúla, is iontach an méid eachtrannach atá anseo i mBéal Feirste ag foghlaim na Gaeilge. Thug sí slí beatha dom fosta agus chuidigh sí liom teangacha eile a fhoghlaim. D'fhág sí go raibh mé ábalta measarthacht de Ghaeilge na hAlban a thógáil nuair a bhí mé i gCeanada. Bhí mé i mo chónaí in aice le Ceap Breatuinn i gCeanada, áit a labhraíonn síol na nGael Gaeilge na hAlban go dtí an lá inniu, agus chaith mé deirí seachtaine go leor ann. Tá obair iontach ag gabháil ar aghaidh ansin ag **Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig** ag cur na Gaeilge s'acu féin chun cinn, agus thiocthadh linne anseo cuid mhór a fhoghlaim uathu. Sin rud eile a mholfainn do lucht labhartha Gaeilge anseo in Éirinn, bheith eolach ar eispéireas na bhfoghlaimoirí Gaelacha eile in Albain, Albain Nua agus in Oileán Mhanainn. Ní neart go cur le chéile. Tá scéim ag gabháil ag Foras na Gaeilge le Gaeilgeoirí anseo a chur chun na hAlban a fhoghlaim na teanga s'acusan. Tá tuilleadh eolais ar fáil **anseo**. Bhí an t-ádh orm ait a fháil dhá shamhradh ó shin agus chomh maith leis an difear, b'iontach liom na cosúlachtaí. Cé go bhfuil cuma éagsúil ar an teanga ar dtús, tá neart i gcoiteann ag na foghlaimoirí agus ag na múinteoirí.

Is minic a chluinim gurbh fhearr do dhuine an Spáinnis nó an tSínis a fhoghlaim in áit na Gaeilge. Cé go bhfuil mise i bhfách le teangacha eile a fhoghlaim (tá comhrá na Fraincise agus chuaigh mé i gcionn na hÍoslainnise le gairid), tá rud eile ann. Ar na daoine a bhí in mo rang A-Leibhéal Fraincise, níl ach dornán againn a bhfuil caighdeán de chineál ar bith Fraincise acu go fóill. Ach orthu siúd a bhí in mo rang Gaeilge, chor a bheith go bhfuil Gaeilge againn uilig ar fad. Cuirim seo síos do rud a dtugann an Béarla exposure air. Tá i bhfad níos mó deiseanna ag daoine an Ghaeilge a chleachtadh anseo ná mar atá de dheiseanna do mhórtéangacha an domhain, agus tá seo an-riachtanach ar fad d'fhoghlaim teanga ar bith. Mar sin, molaim féin go dtosaíonn daoine leis an Ghaeilge ach nach stopann siad ansin!

helping me learn other languages. Having Irish meant that I was able to learn a fair amount of Scottish Gaelic while in Canada. I lived near Cape Breton, where Scottish Gaelic is still spoken by descendants of the Highlanders who emigrated there, and was lucky to spend the weekend there quite often. There is some fantastic work going on there with the **Office of Gaelic Affairs** to promote their language and we could learn a lot from them. Something else I would recommend to those interested in Irish is to draw on the experience of other Gaelic learners in Scotland, Nova Scotia and the Isle of Man. We're stronger together! Foras na Gaeilge has a scheme where they send Irish speakers to the Scottish Gaeltacht to learn their language. More info **here**. I was lucky enough to go two summers ago and as well as the differences, I was really surprised at the similarities. While the language itself feels very different to begin with, the learners and teachers are quite similar.

I often hear that people would be better off learning Spanish or Chinese instead of Irish, and while I am all for learning other languages (I have conversational French and have recently started learning Icelandic), there is something else to consider. Of the people in my A-Level French class there are now only a handful of us who can still speak French. But of those people in my Irish class most of us still speak Irish. This is down to exposure. There are many more opportunities to practice Irish here than there are any of the major foreign global languages, and this exposure is an essential element for successful learning. So while I suggest that people learn Irish, I would recommend they don't stop there



Tá an Ghaeilge thart orainn ar fad

B'fhéidir go bhfaca tú ar Facebook le gairid go ndeachaigh an bheirt Oifigeach Líofa ar shiúlóid trí lár Bhéal Feirste sa tóir ar an Ghaeilge. Is minic a deirtear go bhfuil an Ghaeilge thart orainn ar fad. Déanaimis iarracht sin a chruthú! Tóg pictiúr duit féin taobh le Gaeilge ar bith a fheiceann tú taobh amuigh.

Déan muid a chlibeáil ar Facebook nó ar Twitter nó cur trí r-phost chugainn é.

Irish is all around us

Maybe you saw on Facebook that our Líofa Officers took a walk through Belfast recently looking for Irish. It's often said that Irish is all around us. Let's try proving it. Take a photo of yourself beside any Irish you might see while you're out and about.

Tag us on Facebook or twitter or send us an e-mail.