

# Líofa



Mí Eanáir 2016

January 2016

## Bliain úr, Nuachtlitir úr, Ball úr Foirne

Guíonn foireann Líofa bliain úr mhaith duit agus tá súil againn gur bliain mhaith a bheas ann don turas teanga s'agat.

Ní rún ar bith é go dtéann foghlaim teanga agus foghlaim cultúir lámh ar lámh. Deirtear corruair nach mbíonn máistreacht cheart ag duine ar theanga go dtí do dtuigeann siad na comhthéacsanna cultúrtha a bhfuil, nó a raibh, an teanga sin beo iontu. Mar sin de, agus ó tharla gur nuachtlitir mhíosúil í seo, tá muid ag tabhairt isteach rannóg a bhaineann le traidisiúin an fhéilire in Éirinn. Cuid acu a cheiliútar ar fad agus dornán a d'imigh i laige. Cuirfidh muid tús le 2016 le píosa ar Naomh Bríd. Tá súil againn go mbeidh tú ábalta cuid den fhoclaíocht a úsáid sna ranganna Gaeilge nó le do chairde.

Rinne muid rud beag taighde ar na topaicí is minice caint agus is cosúil go bhfuil dúil bhocht againn san aimsir. Tá sé ar intinn againn foclaíocht a thabhairt daoibh ar an aimsir agus an dóigh a bhfuil sí ag athrú gach mí. Tá súil againn go mbíonn cuid mhór focal agus frásaí úra duit le caitheamh isteach i gcomhráite an uile lae.

## New Year, New Newsletter, New Líofa Officer

The Líofa team wish you a happy new year and hope that 2016 is a good one for your language learning.

It is no secret that language learning and culture learning go hand in hand. It is sometimes said that a language is not truly mastered without a good knowledge of the cultural contexts in which a language exists or existed. Given that this is a monthly Newsletter, the Líofa team are introducing a section to do with Irish Calendar traditions, some of which are still celebrated widely and some a little more obscure. We're starting 2016 with some information on St. Brigid's day; hopefully you'll be able to get some use out of the vocabulary at your Irish class or with friends.

We have also been doing a little research in to the most common topics of conversation in this part of the world and it appears we do an awful lot of talking about the weather. So we've decided every month to include information on how the weather changes throughout the year. Hopefully there will be plenty of new useful vocabulary for you to use in everyday conversations.

The Líofa  
Team,  
Darren Ó  
Dochartaigh  
and Colm  
Mag Uiginn

Foireann  
Líofa,  
Darren Ó  
Dochartaigh  
agus Colm  
Mag Uiginn



## Fáilte a Choilm

Is mise Colm Mag Uiginn thosaigh mé ag obair le Líofa ag tús na bliana seo. Mheall an post seo mé thar phoist áirithe eile mar tugann sé seans dom daoine a spreagadh le Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus cur le líon na ndaoine a mbíonn an Ghaeilge in úsáid acu.

Níor tógadh le Gaeilge mise, cé go raibh Gaeilge ag deartháir liom agus ag seanathair de mo chuid. Ní raibh focal Gaeilge ar bith agam go dtí gur thosaigh mé ar an mheánscoil in Ard Mhacha sa bhliain 2000, agus thóg sé cúpla mí orm a theacht isteach uirthi mar theanga agus mar ábhar. Chonaic mé clár teilifíse, áfach, darb ainm Fiche Lá ag Fás, fá dhaoine óga ag dul ar choláiste Samhraidh i Rann na Feirste. D'aithin mé láithreach an sult a bhain na daoine sin as an chúrsa Gaeltachta agus cé chomh tábhachtach agus a bhí an Ghaeilge ina saol.

Nuair a smaoiním siar ar an óige a bhí agam agus ar na blianta scoile s'agam, ba iad na tréimhsí a chaith mé sa Gaeltacht na tréimhsí ab fhearr dó agus chothaigh na turais sin grá buan do Gaeltacht Thír Chonaill a bheas agam go deo.

I ndiaidh ocht mbliana ar Ollscoil na Banríona bhain mé dochtúireacht amach ar na mallaibh. Ba iad sin na blianta ab fhearr dom riamh agus chothaigh siad mórtas millteanach ionam as a bheith ábalta Gaeilge a labhairt. Bhí an t-ádh dearg orm léachtóirí agus múinteoirí scoile den scoth a bheith agam a thug tacaíocht mhór dom agus a thug léargas iontach dom ar stair agus ar dhoimhneacht na teanga.

Sna blianta ollscoile sin bhí mé sa Gaeltacht go rialta agus chonaic mé an tábhacht a bhaineann léi don Ghaeilge agus d'fhoghlaim na Gaeilge go háirithe. D'aithin mé fosta, áfach, tábhacht na Gaeilge sna ceantair uirbeacha agus thuaithe taobh amuigh den Gaeltacht.

Tá mé ag dúil go mór le bheith i m'Oifigeach Líofa. Léiríonn tuairiscí go bhfuil tacaíocht agus bá leathan ann don Ghaeilge ar fud na tíre seo, fiú ó dhaoine nach bhfuil ábalta an teanga a labhairt, nó nach bhfuil Gaeilge mhaith acu go fóill. Mholfainn d'achan duine iarracht a dhéanamh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus a úsáid, fiú mura bhfuil ach cúpla focal acu.

## Welcome, Colm!

My name is Colm McGuigan and I started working with Líofa at the start of this year. I was attracted to Líofa over other positions because of the opportunity it gives me to encourage people to learn Irish and increase the numbers of people using Irish.

We didn't speak Irish at home when I was growing up even though my older brother speaks Irish and my grandfather did as well. I didn't have a word of Irish until I started school in Armagh in 2000, and it took me a few months to get my head around it as a language and as a subject. One of the best things that happened was that I saw a TV programme called Fiche Lá ag Fás about young people going to a Gaeltacht summer college in Rann na Feirste in Co. Donegal. I saw straight away how much they enjoyed going to the Gaeltacht and how important Irish was to them.

When I think about the years I spent at school, the times I spent in the Gaeltacht were the best periods there and these trips gave me a love for the Donegal Gaeltacht which I will always have.

After 8 years of study at Queen's university I was recently awarded a PhD. They were some of my best years and gave me a great sense of pride in being able to speak Irish. I was very lucky to have excellent lecturers and school teachers who gave me an insight into the depth and history of the Irish language.

Throughout my time at university I was regularly in the Gaeltacht and began to see just how important it was, especially for learners. I also saw, however, the importance of Irish in urban and rural areas outside the Gaeltacht. I regularly see how Irish helps promote community spirit and pride and how Irish Medium Education encourages confidence amongst students.

I'm really looking forward to being a Líofa Officer. All reports and research have shown there's huge support and sympathy for Irish all across Ireland, even amongst people who can't speak Irish well. I would encourage everyone to learn and speak Irish, even if they only have a few words.

## An t-am a chaith mé sa Ghaeltacht

## My Time in the Gaeltacht.

Bheadh sé deacair orm mo chuimhní ar an Ghaeltacht a achoimriú le go rachadh siad go deas néata in aon leathanach amháin, ach déanfaidh mé mo dhícheall.

Caithfidh mé a rá sa chéad dul síos gurbh í an Ghaeltacht an tréimhse is fearr i mo shaol agus go bhfuil brón nach beag orm go bhfuil an ré sin thart. Thosaigh mise a dhul chun na Gaeltachta nuair a bhí mé aon bhliain déag d'aois. Chuaigh mé ann gach samhradh ó shin i leith, go dtí an t-am deireanach ar chaith mé seal mar dhalta ann anuraidh.

Roghnaigh mé dul chun na Gaeltachta fiú amháin nuair a bhí an teaghlach ag dul chun na Spáinne ar a laethanta saoire, rud a roghnaigh mé 4 huair. Tá daoine ann nach dtuigfeadh an fáth a ndéanadh duine a leithéid, ach sin daoine nár chuir samhradh isteach i dTír Chonaill. Níl a shárú ann mar thaithí, mar áit ná mar spórt. Níl aon chraic cosúil leis ar domhan, go háirithe nuair a chuireann lucht na tuaithe agus lucht na cathrach aithne ar a chéile.

Dá fheabhas agus atá na ranganna, tá an t-eispéireas sóisialta fiche míle uair níos fearr. Tá na himeachtaí san oíche dochreidte maith. Beidh tú ag damhsa leat sa teach i ngan fhios duit féin ar mhéid agus a bhíonn tú ag damhsa ag na céilithe san oíche. Déanfaidh tú na cairde is fearr a chasfaí go deo ort, agus tá a fhianaise sin agam; bhuaile mise leis an chara is mó atá agam sa dara bliain i dTír Chonaill. Bhí muid 13 bliana d'aois. Is as Baile Átha Cliath eisean agus Bóthar na bhFál mise, ach tháinig sé go Béal Feirste ar na mallaibh don 18ú breithlá s'agam. Fíorchairde ar fad. Agus ina dhiaidh sin arís is céilí a bhí agam mar shiamsaíocht don bhreithlá agus bhain gach duine an-sult as.

Ní bréag ar bith a rá gurbh í an Ghaeltacht an t-eispéireas is fearr dá raibh agam go dtí seo agus mé lánchinnte nach sárófar go deo é. Chruthaigh mé cairdeas le daoine, d'fhoghlaim mé neart Gaeilge. Chaith mé 3 seachtaine gach samhradh san áit is



Conall Ó Corra on the beach in Donegal

Conall Ó Corra ar an trá i dTír Chonaill

It is difficult for me to summarise my memories of the Gaeltacht so much that I could fit them on to one page, but I'll try my best.

I must say to begin with that the Gaeltacht is the greatest period in my life and I'm very sad now that it is all coming to an end! I went there every summer between from age 11 until last summer, which was the last time I will ever go as a student.

I chose to go to the Gaeltacht even when my family were heading off to Spain on their holidays; not just once, but four times! There are people who wouldn't understand why someone would do such a thing, but those are people who haven't spent a summer in Donegal yet! There is no better experience, place or fun anywhere. There's no craic like it in the world, particularly when the city and the country folk mix and get to know each other.

As great as the classes are, the social experience of the Gaeltacht is miles better. The events in the evenings are unbelievable. You'd be dancing away in the house without realising it because of the amount of céilí dancing you do at the college. You'll make the best friends you'll ever meet, and I can prove it. I met my best friend when I was in second year at the Gaeltacht. We were 13 years old. He is from Dublin and I'm from the Falls Rd, but he made the journey to Belfast recently for my 18th birthday. That's true friends for you. And better yet, I had a céilí on my birthday and everyone loved it.

It's no lie to say that the Gaeltacht is the best fun I've had so far, and I'm sure it'll never be beaten. I made friends and learned lots of Irish. I spent three weeks every summer in the richest place in Ireland. Now, I don't mean rich in money, but in language, culture and heritage. I'll finish with advice from my dad, who also

saibhre in Éirinn. Anois, ní saibhreas airgid atá i gceist agam ach saibhreas teanga, cultúir agus oidhreachta. Críochnóidh mé le comhairle ó m'athair, a chaith a óige sa Ghaeltacht chomh maith. Is é a dúirt sé liom; 'Éist a mhic, is cuma sa tsioc mura dtug tú póg ach do bhean a' tí, déan cinnte nuair a thiocfas tú abhaile go ndeir tú gur phóg tú gach cailín ar an chúrsa, ní bheidh aon duine thart lena mhalairt a rá.'

Conall Ó Corra

Coláiste Feirste, Béal Feirste agus Coláiste Bhun an Inbhir, Dún na nGall

spent his youth in the Gaeltacht; 'listen son, it doesn't matter if the only person you kissed is the Bean a' Tí, when you come home tell your friends you kissed every girl on the course, no one will be there to argue with you!'

Conall Ó Corra,

Coláiste Feirste, Belfast and Coláiste Bhun an Inbhir, Donegal

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## Scéim Sparánachtaí Gaeltacht ar oscailt anois.

Foirm iarratais anseo

<https://www.liofa.eu/ga/news-events/news/liofa-gaeltacht-bursary-scheme-2016>

## Líofa Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme now open For Application click here -

<https://www.liofa.eu/aode/2669>

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## Lá Fhéile Bríde

Bíonn Lá Fhéile Bríde againn ag tús Mhí Feabhra, in amanna tugtar Mí na Féile Bríde nó Mí bhFaoilleach ar an mhí seo.

Eascraíonn an fhéile as féile arsa Ghaelach a bhfuil Imbolg uirthi. Ciallaíonn sin 'sa bholg' agus is tagairt é do bheatha nua sa ráithe le theacht. Is ionann an lá seo agus céad lá an earraigh. Titeann sé ar an chéad lá Feabhra, nó leath bealaigh idir grianstad an gheimhridh agus cónacht an earraigh. Síltear fosta gur Críostú í Naomh Bríd ar bhandia luath págánach.

Is í Naomh Bríd éarlamh nó pátrún na ndaoine seo a leanas: leanaí; bádóirí; gaibhne; grúdairí; eallach; buachaillí nó cailíní déirí; mná glúine; filí; daoine bochta agus scoláirí. Tá baint ar leith aici le Cúige Laighean agus le Contae Lú ach go háirithe, agus tá sí ar bhean d'éarlaimh na hÉireann.

Sa tsean-am, rinneadh ceiliúradh mór ar Lá Fhéile Bríde. Bhí cosc ar obair áirithe an lá sin. Glanadh an teach agus d'ith daoine béile mór an oíche roimhe. Cuireadh bia, de ghnáth arán nó ciste, taobh amuigh den teach le fáilte a chur roimh an naomh, mar shíl daoine go mbeadh a spiorad ag siúl ó theach go teach an oíche sin.

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## St. Bridget's Day

February starts with St. Bridget's day, sometimes February is called Mí na Féile Bríde or Mí na bhFaoilleach.

It comes to us today from an ancient Gaelic festival called Imbolc. Imbolc means 'in the belly' and is a reference to new life in the coming season. This marks the first day of spring. It is held on the first day of February, or about halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It is thought that St. Bridget is a Christianisation of an earlier pagan goddess.

St. Bridget is the patron saint of the following groups of people: children; boatmen; blacksmiths; brewers; cattle; dairymen or dairymaids; midwives; poets; poor people and scholars. She has a very special link with Leinster and Co. Louth in particular, and she is one of the patron saints of Ireland.

In the past St. Bridget's day was treated as a big celebration. Some types of work were banned that day. The house would be cleaned and people ate a big meal the night before. Food, usually bread or a cake, was left outside the house to welcome St. Bridget, as people thought her spirit would be walking from house to house that night.

Is í Cros Bhríde an comhartha is cáiliúla den naomh. Déantar as feagacha iad agus aithnítear iad ón chruth aisteach atá orthu. Coinníodh na crosa seo ar bhallaí tí agus amuigh sna botháin a raibh na hainmhithe iontu agus shíl daoine go gcoinneodh sin an teaghlach agus na hainmhithe slán ó dhochar agus ó thine.

Éiríonn na laethanta rud beag níos faide fán am seo den bhliain, nó bíonn síniú sa lá, agus tosaíonn an fheirmeoireacht mar is ceart i ndiaidh an Gheimhridh. Deirtear go dtéann 'coiscéim coiligh leis an lá'. Is ionann sin agus a rá go gcuirtear an t-achar ama a mbaineann sé an coileach coiscéim a ghlacadh le gach lá. Bíonn sé feanntach fuar fosta, a chiallaíonn go bhfuil sé chomh fuar sin go bhfeannfadh an fuacht thú.



The St. Bridget's Cross is the most recognisable symbol of St. Bridget. They are made from rushes and are easily recognised because of their strange shape. These crosses were kept on the walls of houses and out in stables and people thought that it would keep their family and animals safe from harm and fire.

The days get a little longer at this time of year and farming begins properly again after the winter. It is said that 'a rooster's footstep is added to each day', which means that each day is longer than the last by length of time it takes a rooster to take one step forward. It is also said to be 'feanntach fuar', which means the sort of cold that would take the skin off you.

## **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. De ghnáth, chosnódh 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: 028 90 515 058**

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

Everyone who has signed up to Líofa is entitled to a free on-line learning resource from Gaelchultúr. Usually this course would cost £120 to buy. If you are already registered with Líofa and want to request your resource, please contact us:

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

**Phone: 028 90 515 058**