EAGRÁN 43 AIBREÁN 2017

NUACHTLITIR CHILL CHOMÁIN

The *Táin Bó Fhliodhaise* is a first century mythical saga describing a cattle raid which brought Queen Meadhbh and her army from Ráth Chruacháin in County Roscommon on a journey through Mayo to reach their final destination in Erris. Today's landscape is dotted with ancient sites which are mentioned in the story including Dún Dónaill in Gleann a' Chaisil (above). *Tá réamh-thaighde déanta ag grúpa oibre ar an Táin chun na féidearthachtaí teangeolaíocha, cultúrtha agus turasóireachta a chur chun cinn. Tá tuilleadh faoi seo ar leathanach 8. (grianghraf: Treasa Ní Ghearraigh)*

*** Nuachtlitir Áitiúil**

*** A Community Newsletter**

*** Guth an phobail ar mhaithe leis an bpobal**

*** Published four times a year**

*** Provides a voice for the local community and an update on development issues**

San eagrán seo: In this issue

Foilsithe ag Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo (i gcomhar le fo-choiste Ghlór na nGael)

Coiste Bainistíochta an Chomharchumainn / The Management Committee

Cathaoirleach:	Séamus Ó Murchú
Rúnaí:	Seán Mac Aindriú
Cisteoir:	Máire Cáit Uí Mhurchú
Na baill eile:	Micheál Ó Seighin, Caitlín Uí Sheighin, Micheál Ó Murchú, Micheál de Búrca, Uinsíonn Mac Graith agus Bríd Ní Sheighin.

Ráiteas Misin / Mission Statement

Is comharchumann forbartha pobail é Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo atá cláraithe le Clárlann na gCarachumann. Tá sé mar ráiteas misin aige oibriú go gníomhach ar shon forbairt theangeolaíocha/chultúrtha, bhonneagartha, oideachasúil agus shóisialta paróiste Chill Chomáin agus acmhainní nadúrtha agus daonna an cheantair a fhorbairt ar bhealach chomhtháite. Ag comhoibriú le Coiste Ghlór na nGael, grúpaí forbartha áitiúla agus eagraisí éagsúla stáit tá roinnt tograí curtha i gcrích go dáta.

Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo is a community development co-operative which is registered with the Registry of Friendly Societies. Its mission is to work in a proactive way to promote the linguistic/cultural, infrastructural, educational and social development of the parish of Cill Chomáin and to develop in an integrated way the material and human resources of the area. Working in conjunction with Coiste Ghlór na nGael, local development groups and various state agencies a number of projects have been undertaken to date.

Ionad Eolais / Information Office

Tá oifig na heagraíochta lonnaithe sa Seanscoil i gCeathrú Thaidhg áit a bhfuil na seirbhísí seo a leanas le fáil:-

Eolas agus comhairle do choistí pobail maidir le ról na n-eagras forbartha, conas tograí a fhorbairt agus a bhainistiú, foinsí maoinithe &rl.

Foirmeacha iarratais ar scéimeanna éagsúla mar shampla deiseanna traenála &rl.

Seirbhísí cóipéala, laminating agus facs

Seirbhísí eolais do chuairteoirí - léarscáileanna, bróisiúirí, leabhráin, dlúthdhioscanna, cártaí poist, leabharlann d'ábhar béaloideasa agus liteartha Gaeilge, taispeántas grianghraif &rl.

The organisation's office is located in the Seanscoil, Ceathrú Thaidhg where the following services are available:-

Information and assistance to community groups in relation to the role of development agencies, developing and managing projects, sourcing funding etc.

Application forms on various schemes including training opportunities etc.

Photocopying, laminating and fax services.

Visitor information including maps, brochures, booklets, CD ROMs, postcards, a library of folklore and Irish language material, photographs etc.

Guth an Phobail / Have Your Say

Má tá spéis agat a bheith i do bhall ar an gcomharchumann agus ionchar níos mó a bheith agat ar chúrsaí forbartha na háite déan teagmháil le Treasa le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais. Má tá aon tuairimí agat ar ábhar an nuachtlitir seo nó moltaí le haghaidh an chéad eagrán eile ba bhreá linn cloisteáil uait.

If you would like to become a member of the comharchumann and have a greater input into the overall development of the area please contact Treasa for further information. We welcome your comments on the items covered in this newsletter and/or any ideas you may have for the next issue.

Déan teagmháil le **Treasa Ní Ghearraigh, Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo,**
An tSeanscoil, Ceathrú Thaidhg, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo
Guthán: 097 88082 **Ríomhphoist: dunchaochain1@eircom.net**

Gaeilge Iorrais / Gaeilge Iorrais

Is é Gaeilge Iorrais atá roghnaithe ag Údarás na Gaeltachta mar cheanneagraíocht pleanála teanga do Limistéar Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh agus tá sé beartaithe plean sonrach don Ghaeilge a ullmhú don cheantar seo. Mar chuid den phróiseas comhairliúcháin tá an coiste ag eagrú suirbhé chun tuairimí agus smaointí an phobail i leith na Gaeltachta agus na teanga Gaeilge a mheas. Chomh maith le sin tá, agus beidh an Comhordaitheoir Teanga Dr. Laoise Ní Dhúda ag bualadh le grúpaí éagsúla chun a dtuairimí a fháil.

Gaeilge Iorrais has been selected by Údarás na Gaeltachta as the lead language planning organisation in the North Mayo Gaeltacht region and it is intended to prepare a specific Irish language plan for this area. As part of its consultation process the committee is organizing a community survey to assess the public's opinions and ideas in relation to the future of the Irish language and the Gaeltacht. In addition, the Language Co-ordinator Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda has met, and will be meeting with various groups for their input in the process.

Cruinniú poiblí faoin Oideachas Gaeltachta a d'eagraigh Gaeilge Iorrais in Áras Inis Gluaire, Béal an Mhuirthead ar an 27ú Feabhra, áit a labhair painéal cainteoirí faoin ábhar agus bhí deis ag an bpobal ceisteanna a chur. A public information meeting was organized by Gaeilge Iorrais in Áras Inis Gluaire, Béal an Mhuirthead on 27th February where a panel of speakers discussed the recent 'Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022'.

Ráiteas ó Gaeilge Iorrais / Statement from Gaeilge Iorrais

Tá reachtaíocht úr ag an rialtas don Ghaeltacht agus don Ghaeilge. Anois, caithfidh chuile phobal Gaeltachta plean teanga a réiteach agus a chur i bhfeidhm chun tacú le húsáid na Gaeilge sa gceantar. Mura ndéantar é seo, tá baol ann go gcaillfear aitheantas Gaeltachta. Chun fanacht sa Ghaeltacht agus chun a stádas Gaeltachta a choinneáil, caithfidh gach limistéar Gaeltachta a léiriú go bhfuil iarrachtaí ar siúl acu an Ghaeilge a chothú agus a neartú, de réir Acht na Gaeltachta 2012. Beidh stádas Gaeltachta ag brath ar na critéir sin, seachas ar limistéir thíreolaíochta amháin as seo amach. Mar sin féin tá i bhfad níos mó i gceist leis seo ná pleananna teanga agus staitisticí teanga amháin. Cuireann Acht na Gaeltachta 2012 deiseanna ar fáil do phobail guth agus ról níos larnaí a bheith acu sa phróiseas pleanála teanga.

Tá Gaeilge Iorrais ainmnithe mar cheanneagraíocht pleanála teanga i limistéar Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh, a chiallaíonn go bhfuil muid freagrach as (i) an próiseas a stiúradh sa limistéar seo agus (ii) plean teanga a réiteach don cheantar Gaeltachta seo i bpáirt leis an bpobal agus le páirtithe leasmhara an cheantair. Ceapadh an Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda mar chomhairleoir neamhspleách chun cuidiú leis an obair seo a dhéanamh. Tá dlús á chur faoin obair agus an taighde mar chuid de le gairid. Mar shampla, tá suirbhé Gaeltachta á reáchtáil i measc an phobail faoi láthair, tá feachtas eolais faoi lán seoil agus tá tuilleadh cruinnithe comhairliúcháin le páirtithe leasmhara éagsúla ar na bacáin. Tá rannpháirtíocht an duine agus an phobail lárnach sa phróiseas seo. Is faoin bpobal atá sé cinneadh a dhéanamh i leith thodhchaí na Gaeltachta.

Tá cónaí ar 7,575 duine nó 70% de dhaonra Ghaeltacht Mhaigh Eo sa cheantar fairsing seo, a shíneann ón bhFód Dubh go Béal Deirg, ó Cheathrú Thaidhg go Dumha Thuama agus chuile áit idir eatartu. Is iad aidhmeanna 'Gaeilge Iorrais' ná (i) tabhairt faoin réamhobair pleanála teanga i gceantar Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh (ii) Gaeltacht Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh a chothú agus a fhorbairt ar bhonn rannpháirtíoch (iii) an Ghaeilge a choinneáil beo sa limistéar agus (iv) ár stádas Gaeltachta a choinneáil faoi Acht na Gaeltachta 2012.

Le bunú Gaeilge Iorrais agus don chéad uair i stair na Gaeltachta fairsinge seo, tá rannpháirtíocht leathan agus comhoibriú ar bun idir eagraíochtaí agus paróistí éagsúla an limistéir ar mhaithe le cúrsaí pleanála teanga. Tá tús iontach curtha leis an obair seo anois agus tá súil ag Gaeilge Iorrais go leanfaidh rannpháirtíocht agus tacaíocht an phobail mar chuid lárnach den phróiseas dúshlánach seo. Táimid dearfach, má oibríonn muid le chéile, go mbeidh deathoradh ar ár n-iarrachtaí. Is féidir linn an t-uafás a bhaint amach má sheasann muid le chéile.

Leis sin, tá an córas oideachais luaite go sonrach mar réimse gnímh faoi Acht na Gaeltachta 2012 agus sna sála ar an bPolasaí don Oideachas Gaeltachta 2017-2022 (An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna), is léir anois go bhfuil nasc idir an próiseas pleanála teanga atá á stiúradh againn, feasacht a ardú faoi na hathruithe seo, agus an próiseas chun aitheantas a fháil mar scoil Ghaeltachta. Tá Gaeilge Iorrais ag triail a bheith réamhghníomhach agus an plé a thosú ar an ábhar seo i measc an phobail. Chuige sin, tá cruinniú eolais eagraithe againn. Tá rogha le déanamh ag chuile dhuine anois. Tá uair na cinniúna buailte linn. An gcoinneoidh muid an Ghaeilge agus an Ghaeltacht slán?

Má tá tú óg nó sean, i do thuismitheoir, i do mhúinteoir, mar chainteoir dúchais nó foghlaimeoir, iarann muid ort do mhachnamh féin a dhéanamh faoin ábhar seo. Is féidir ríomhphost a sheoladh chuig gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com chun breis eolais a fháil nó chun spéis a chlárú linn.

The government has a new strategy for the Gaeltacht and the Irish language. Under *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012* every Gaeltacht community must now prepare and implement a plan to support and develop Irish language use in their area. If they don't do this, they will lose their Gaeltacht status. This new legislation signals a departure from the historic emphasis on geographic boundaries and puts the onus on each Gaeltacht community to decide for themselves (i) whether they want to remain in the Gaeltacht (ii) and if so, whether they want to come together to prepare and implement an Irish language development plan for their area. *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012* also presents enormous opportunities for each community to direct, promote and sustain their linguistic and Gaeltacht future on their own terms.

Gaeilge Iorrais is responsible for overseeing this process and for preparing an Irish language plan in Maigh Eo Thuaidh (North Mayo Gaeltacht area), in consultation with local communities and various stakeholders. Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda, an independent language planning specialist, has been appointed to facilitate and co-ordinate the work required. For example, a community Gaeltacht survey, information campaign and a series of workshops will be taking place. It goes without saying that community and individual participation is vital to ensure that the plan comes from the people and is founded on their opinions and aims. At the end of the day, the future of the Irish language and the North Mayo Gaeltacht depends on them.

7,575 people or 70% of the Mayo Gaeltacht population live in this vast area, which spans from Fód Dubh to Béal Deirg, Ceathrú Thaidhg to Dumha Thuama and everywhere in between. The aims of Gaeilge Iorrais are as follows (i) to undertake preparatory language planning work in the North Mayo Gaeltacht (ii) to maintain and develop the North Mayo Gaeltacht as a thriving Gaeltacht area (iii) to keep the Irish language alive in the region and (iv) to maintain Gaeltacht status in accordance with *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*.

This process is directly linked with the recent *Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022 (Department of Education and Skills)* which outlines the new requirements for status as a 'scoil Ghaeltachta' or Gaeltacht school. Schools have had, and continue to have, a huge impact on the Irish language in the Gaeltacht and beyond. Nevertheless, schools in Gaeltacht areas face many unique challenges. Furthermore, a considerable number of Gaeltacht schools do not operate solely through the medium of Irish and/or are located in areas where English language use

is widespread. Currently, approximately 76% of primary schools in Gaeltacht areas self-report that they operate '*as Gaeilge amháin'*.

Until the publication of this new policy last October, following extensive research and public consultation, '*scoil Ghaeltachta*' was determined as any school located within official Gaeltacht boundaries. Now, however, Gaeltacht school status will require that (i) a two-year total-immersion programme is implemented in the infant cycle during which no English will be taught (ii) all subjects are taught through the medium of Irish and (iii) all school business is conducted *as Gaeilge*. According to national and international research, the many advantages of this immersion education model include cognitive advantages and greater academic success, extra employment and economic opportunities as well as further linguistic, social and communicative benefits of fluency in an additional language. Moreover, the Educational Research Institute in Ireland reports that the standard of English and maths in Irish-medium primary schools is well above the national average (further info & research available on www.gaelscoileanna.ie)

This new policy will be rolled out from September 2017. Schools will have a period of up to 5 years to qualify and extra resources and supports will be provided for those schools seeking to maintain/obtain 'Gaeltacht' status. All Gaeltacht schools are required to consult with their local community to discuss these changes and make a decision together regarding their future. This decision regarding Gaeltacht status must be carefully considered and shared with the entire and wider school community.

Gaeilge Iorrais believes in a positive future for the North Mayo Gaeltacht and aims to maintain and develop North Mayo as a thriving Gaeltacht area. Schools and the education system alone cannot secure the future of the Irish language or Gaeltacht status. What do you think? Should we try to maintain our Gaeltacht status? *An gcoinneoidh muid an Ghaeilge agus an Ghaeltacht slán?* Will we secure the Irish language and our Gaeltacht area for future generations? Can we afford to let our Gaeltacht status go? *Tá rogha le déanamh ag gach duine anois*. So it really is decision time for every person living in the North Mayo Gaeltacht, *tá uair na cinniúna buailte linn*. We've reached a point of historic significance regarding our Gaeltacht status and there can be no turning back.

What can you do? Whether you're a (future) parent, a student, a teacher, a cainteoir dúchais, or a concerned member of the community, we ask you to have a think about this and decide what you want. Get in touch with us at gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com (085 250 3321) *chun breis eolais a fháil nó chun spéis a chlárú linn*. Check out our Facebook page for regular updates.

Is féidir leatsa difríocht mhór a dhéanamh ach is féidir linne, le chéile, an t-uafás a bhaint amach má sheasann muid le chéile. Together we have the power to secure a positive future for our Gaeltacht.

Tuilleadh eolais: **Ríomhphost:** gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com **Guthán**: 085 250 3321

Scéalta Eile / Other News

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2017

Is í Seachtain na Gaeilge, a bhí ar siúl ó 1ú go 17ú Márta, ceann de na féilte idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge is mó in Éirinn agus thar lear. Mar chuid den chlár d'eagraigh Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo imeachtaí éagsúla ina measc oíche sheanchais faoi bhéaloideas an cheantair, ranganna damhsa traidisiúnta agus ranganna ceoil, agus taispeántas grianghraif sa Seanscoil dar teidil 'Muintir Dhún Chaocháin'. Ba mhaith leis an gcoiste buíochas a ghlacadh le Conradh na Gaeilge as ucht a chomhoibriú.

Seachtain na Gaeilge, which took place this year from 1st to 17th March, is the biggest international Irish-language festival in Ireland and abroad. To coincide with this Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo organized various activities including a night of conversation and storytelling based on local folklore, traditional dancing and music classes

and a photographic exhibition in the Seanscoil entitled 'Muintir Dhún Chaocháin'. The committee would like to thank Conradh na Gaeilge for its co-operation.

Ionad Taighde agus Staidéir Bhéal Deirg

Eagraíodh ciorcal comhrá in Ionad Taighde agus Staidéir Bhéal Deirg chuile oíche Dé Máirt. Ranganna neamhfhoirmiúla a bhí i gceist leis an bhéim ar an nGaeilge labhartha agus na focail choitianta a úsáidtear sa ghnáthchaint. Tá breis eolais le fáil ó Mháire Uí Ghiollabhearraigh ag 087 7502668.

Conversational Irish classes were held in Béal Deirg Research and Study Centre every Tuesday. Classes were informal with an emphasis on spoken Irish and common phrases used in everyday conversation. For further information, please contact Máire Uí Ghiollabhearraigh on 087 7502668.

Grúpa Scoláirí Meiriceánacha / American Students Visit

Thug grúpa scoláirí ó Ollscoil Boston, in éineacht lena stiúrthóir acadúil Rita Ní Dhonnchadha, cuairt ar pharóiste Chill Chomáin i mí Márta. Tá na scolairí, atá ag déanamh staidéir ar Chúrsaí Oidhreachta, ag caitheamh téarma in Ollscoil na hÉireann Gaillimh mar pháirt dár dtaithí staidéir thar lear. Rinne Uinsíonn Mac Graith siúlóid treoraithe leo, áit a bhfuair said léargas ar chultúr agus ar oidhreacht an cheantair.

A group of students from Boston College, accompanied by their academic director Rita Donoghue, visited the parish in March. The students, who are studying Heritage Studies, are spending a term at NUI Galway as part of their study abroad experience. Their visit included a guided walk with Uinsíonn Mac Graith where they gained an insight into the rich cultural heritage of the area.

An Táin Bó Fhliodhaise

Scéal ársa atá sa Táin Bó Fhliodhaise a dhéanann cur síos ar an tslí a lean arm Mheadhbh, ó Ráth Chruacháin i gCondae Ros Comáin isteach go hIorras ar ruaig chreiche eallaigh. Tá an tírdhreach breactha le sean-láithreáin atá luaite go sonrach sa scéal. Tá réamh-thaighde déanta ag grúpa oibre ar an Táin chun na féidearthachtaí teangeolaíocha, cultúrtha agus turasóireachta a chur chun cinn.

The Táin Bó Fhliodhaise is a first century mythical saga describing a cattle raid which brought Queen Meadhbh and her army from Ráth Chruacháin in County Roscommon on a journey through Mayo to reach their final destination in Erris. Today's landscape is dotted with ancient sites which are mentioned in the story. A working group has carried out preliminary research on the Táin with a view to highlighting its potential as a linguistic, cultural and tourism product in the context of the great Irish cattle raid sagas. Photographed are some members of the committee (from left to right) Jim Henry, Diana Taylor, P.J. Lynn, Caitlín Uí Sheighin, Jim Gilvarry, Treasa Ní Ghearraigh and Niall King (photo: Uinsíonn Mac Graith). A 3-day walking festival to highlight and celebrate the Táin will be organized from 19th to 21st May 2017 (tuilleadh eolais ó Jim 087 2144483, Treasa 097 88082 / 087 1251642 & Pat 087 6410498)

Oíche Speisialta

Eagraíodh oíche speisialta do Ghearóid Ó Brosnacháin, Iar-Chathaoirleach Chomhlachas na gComharchumann Gaeltachta, in Óstán Bhaile Chláir na Gaillimhe ar an 23ú Márta. Glacadh buíochas leis as ucht an méid atá déanta aige thar na blianta i leith obair na gcomharchumann. Bhí an tAire Sean Kyne, Iar-Aire Éamon Ó Cúiv agus Príomh-fheidhmeannach Údarás na Gaeltachta Steve Ó Cualáin i measc na haoi-chainteoirí. Is í Cathy Ní Ghoill atá anois ainmnithe mar Chathaoirleach ar an gComhlachas.