



Bí bródúil as do theanga

An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaelge na
hAstráile

Geimhreadh 2006

1-06-2006

“Ní neart go cur le chéile” mar a deirtear

Tá súil agam go bhfuil ag éirí go maith libh go léir ins na ranganna agus nach bhfuil an dara téarma seo ró-fhada daoibh! Fáilte roimh na baill nua atá tar éis teacht chugainn le déanaí.

I hope everyone is getting on well in class and not finding the second term too long. Welcome to the new members who have joined us recently.

Beidh rudaí éagsúla ag tairlú sna míosa seo chugainn. Beidh mé féin agus Stuart Traill ag freastal ar chúrsa Gaelge ag Oideas Gael i nDún na nGall i mí Lughnasa. Ár mbuíochoas ó chroí do Ghlor na nGael (go h-áirithe Daragh Ó Tuama), Oideas Gael : www.Oideas-Gael.com agus Gael Saoire : www.gaelSaoire.com a bhronn an duais seo ar an gCumann. Tá an Cumann buíoch freisin do Gael Linn de bharr acmhainn le haghaidh leanaí a sheol siad chugainn mar chuid den duais.

Various things will be happening in the coming months. The recipients of the Glór na nGael prize, Stuart Traill and myself will be going to Ireland in August to attend language classes at Oideas Gael in Donegal. Our sincere thanks to GnG (and especially Daragh O Tuama), Oideas Gael, Gael Saoire for sponsoring this prize. The Cumann is also thankful to Gael Linn for providing teaching resources, valued 100 euro. We got some good resources for teaching children.

Tá eolas faoin gComórtas Domhanda 2007 le fáil ar www.glornangael.ie. Moltar go mór do ghrúpaí san Astráil páirt a ghlacadh ann – níl sé ró dhéanach.

Information regarding Comórtas Domhanda 2007 can be found at www.glornangael.ie and applications from Irish groups in Australia are strongly encouraged.

Beidh beirt eile ag freastal ar chúrsaí i gCiarraí (tuilleadh eolais istigh).

Two of our members will also be attending Irish courses in Kerry in August (read about this inside)

Cuirimid ár mbeannachtaí le haghaidh taistil slán go h-Éirinn i rith na bliana go Carol Kelly, Gavan Duffy, Una de Neeffe, Michael Dollard, Eileen Savedra, Dorothy White agus Maire Jhoomun – agus éinne eile a bheidh ag taisteal.

Safe travels to all our other members who will be in Ireland this year.

Cáit Ní Mhúdaigh, Uachtarán



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Dátaí dod' dhialann (for your diary)

Ná déan dearmad ar an **Scoil Gheimhridh** i Sydney 9 – 12 Meitheamh. Beidh fáilte roimh gach aon duine idir thosaitheoirí agus cainteoirí dúchais. Guímid rath ar Mharcas, an t-Athair Micheál agus na daoine go léir atá ag reachtáil na scoile. A thuilleadh eolais le fáil ar www.gaeilgesanastrail.com.

Don't forget the Winter School on in Sydney from 9-12 June. All welcome from beginners to native speakers. Our best wishes to Mark White, Fr Micheál and the rest of the organizers for a successful school. More information available on our website.

Our **AGM** will be held on June 20th. We are always looking for new committee members so why not consider becoming more involved in the Association.

We welcome the involvement of other members also in our various upcoming activities, eg céili, children's workshop and the Daonscoil (Summer school) so please feel free to offer assistance where possible. "Ní neart go cur le chéile" mar a deireann an seanfhocal!

Tionólfar an Cruinniú Ginearálta Bliantúil de Chumann Gaeilge na hAstráile ag Club na gCeilteach Dé Máirt 20ú Mheithimh, 2006 ag 7.30 i.n. – sin an oíche deireannach den téarma. Ní bheidh na gnáth ranganna ar siúl an oíche sin. Toghfar Oifigigh agus Baill an Choiste.

Má's mian leat duine nó tú féin a ainmniú le h-aghaidh post, nó mír a chur ar an gclár téigh i dteagmháil le Eibhlín Savedra, rúnaí :

savedra@iprimus.com.au

Tá vótáil ag an gCruinniú teoranta do na baill a bhfuil an síntiús íochta acu.

Dátaí

Scoil Gheimhridh	9-12 Meitheamh
Rang deireanach	13 Meitheamh
AGM	20 Meitheamh

3ú téarma:

Teachers' meeting	4 Iúil
Ranganna ag tosnú	11 Iúil

Daonscoil 7 - 14 Eanáir, 2007

(Details to follow later)

As we reported in the last edition of "An Fhuinneog Ghaelach" Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile was awarded 3rd place in the **Comórtas Domhanda/ Global Competition**. There were 18 entries so we are very proud of our achievement. All entrants received 100 euro worth of resources from Gael Linn. Our prize is two return airfares to Ireland and a week-long course in Irish at Gleann Cholm Cille in Donegal – sponsored by Glór na nGael, Oideas Gael and Gael Saoire. The lucky and deserving recipients of this fabulous prize are Cáit Ní Mhúdaigh and Stuart Traill.

San eagrán deireanach den *Fhuinneog Ghaelach* luaigheamar gur bhuaigh an Cumann an 3ú áit sa Chomórtas Domhanda. Ghlac 18 iarrthóirí páirt ann agus dá bhrí sin táimid an –bhródúil as an éacht seo. Fuair gach iarrthóir acmhainn ar luach 100 euro ó Gael Linn.

Chomh maith, an duais atá i gceist don gCumann ná dhá thicéad fhillte go h-Éirinn agus cúrsa seachtaine ag Gleann Cholm Cille bronnta ag Glór na nGael, Oideas Gael agus Gael Saoire. Comhghárdeas do Cháit Ní Mhúdaigh agus Stuart Traill a bheidh ag imeacht go h-Éirinn sar i bhfad.

At the instigation of Nóirín Uí Chatháin, our very valued friend in Kerry, Máire Ní Shíthigh from **Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne** located in Baile an Fheirtéaraigh (Ballyferriter), An Daingean, Co Kerry has awarded **two scholarships** to members of Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile. The scholarship covers the cost of a week-long course in Irish in July or August this year.

Ar chomhairle Nóirín Uí Chatháin, ár gcara dhílis ó Chiarraí, bhronn Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne dhá scoláireacht ar an gCumann. Beidh deis ag beirt dár mbaill freastal ar chúrsa seachtaine Ghaeilge i mBaile an Fheirtéaraigh i mí Iúil nó Lughnasa.

Tá Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile fíor bhuíoch do Glór na nGael, Oideas Gael, Gael Saoire, Gael Linn agus Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne as ucht a bhflaithiúlacht agus an t-aitheantas atá tugtha acu d'obair an Chumainn chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn san Astráil agus ár mbuíochas, ar ndóigh, do Nóirín.

And last but not least, on the local front our good friend Vincent O'Gorman has kindly offered to take a weekly conversation class. He can be contacted on 03 9523 9214

Gaeilge na hArdteiste le fáil ar RnaG

Students of Irish often wonder how they can measure their progress. Many have questions like "how much have I done this year?" or "when will I be ready for the advanced class?"

One useful way is to look at how the school system in Ireland assesses students. There is lot of information available now on the internet (our own website has all the relevant links already listed for you) where students can look at syllabuses and attempt old exam papers.

RTE have this year broadcast a series of five half-hour programs designed to help with Gaeilge na hArdteiste and all are now available for purchase on CD or as mp3 downloads from the RTE website. The radio programs contain examples of typical oral exams in each dialect and the site also has a set of pdf documents giving sample answers to the poetry and prose written questions

Clár 1 Réamhrá ginearálta; téarmaíocht an phróis agus na filíochta; an dán "Gealt?" le hÁine Ní Ghlinn; moltaí don Bhéaltríail Ghaeilge; Béaltríail Shamplach i gcanúint Chúige Chonnacht.

General introduction; useful terminology in answering questions on the prescribed prose and poetry; discussion on the poem "Gealt?" by Áine Ní Ghlinn; suggestions in preparing for the oral examination; a mock oral in the Connacht dialect.

Clár 2 Moltaí i dtaobh na Cluas-tuisceana; an dán "Níl aon Ní" le Cathal Ó Searcaigh; próis ainmnithe - "An Bhean Óg" le Máire Mhac an tSaoi; Béaltríail Shamplach i gcanúint Chúige Uladh.

Useful suggestions in answering the aural section of the examination; discussion on the poem "Níl aon Ní" by Cathal Ó Searcaigh; discussion on the prose

selection "An Bhean Óg" by Máire Mhac an tSaoi; a mock oral in the Ulster dialect.

Clár 3 Moltaí i dtaobh Stair na Gaeilge; an dán "Faoiseamh a Gheobhadsa" le Máirtín Ó Direáin; an gearrscannán "Clare sa Spéir"; Béaltríail Shamplach i gcanúint Chúige Mumhan.

Useful suggestions for the "History of the Irish Language" section of the paper; discussion on the poem "Faoiseamh a Gheobhadsa" by Máirtín Ó Direáin; a question and answer session on the short film "Clare sa Spéir"; a mock oral in the Munster dialect.

Clár 4 Pléitear an leagan amach atá ar pháipéar a haon - ceapadóireacht agus léamhthuiscint; déantar cur síos ar an dán "Jack" le Máire Mhac an tSaoi; Pléitear na sleachta próis "An Cearrbhach Mac Cába" agus "Fiche Bliain ag Fás".

The layout of Paper 1 is discussed. Suggestions are given in regard to the comprehension section of the paper; the poem "Jack" by Máire Mhac an tSaoi is discussed; the prose selections "An Cearrbhach Mac Cába" and "Fiche Bliain ag Fás" are scrutinised.

Clár 5 Plé ar an dán "Mo Ghile Mear" le Seán Clárach Mac Domhnaill; moltaí i dtaobh an tsleachta próis "Lig Sinn i gCathú" le Breandán Ó hEithir; beagán cainte faoi go bhfuil ceisteanna agus freagraí samplacha scrúdaithe le fáil ar an leathanach lín seo.

The poem "Mo Ghile Mear" by Seán Clárach Mac Domhnaill is discussed; suggestions and illustrations are given in regard to answering question on the prose selection "Lig Sinn i gCathú" by Breandán Ó hEithir; we refer to the sample examination questions and answers also available on the web page.



Láithriú:

Peadar Ó Cúláin

Comhairleoir Oideachais:

Séamus Ó Máirtín

Léiritheoir Sraithe:

Seán Ó hÉanaigh

Teagmháil:

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta,

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www.rte.ie/rnaG/gaeilgenahardteiste.html

Cuntas ar an dán sin, Art Uí Laoire

Fr Micheál Ó Súilleabháin learned the poem "Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire" at school over 60 years ago.

Until the 12th March this year he thought he had studied the whole poem. On that day he discovered there were many more verses. Here he gives us an account of a performance of the poem in Sydney recently under the direction of Méabh Uí Chonnaill.

Bhí an puball plódaithe nuair a chuir Méabh Uí Chonnaill agus a scata Gaeilgeoirí Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoire ar siúl ar an dara lá déag de mhí na Márta i mbliana. Ní raibh an puball chomh mhór sin ach bheadh sé lán go doras dá mbeadh aon dhoras aige. Bfhéidir go raibh deichniúr is daichead i láthair. Tionóladh an siamsa i Randwick i ngairdín tí ar le Ollscoil NSW é. Mar scáth i gcoinne na gréine thóg an grúpa an puball ann Dé Domhnaigh roimhe sin. Bhí an imeacht faoi choimirce na hOllscoile.

Nuair a bhí mé ar scoil breis is seasca bhliain ó inniu d'fhoghlaim mé an dán, Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoire. Rinne Méabh agus a buíon an dán uile. Cheap mé go raibh eolas maith agam air. Ach ní raibh fiú amháin is leath an dháin againn ins an leabhar sin 'Filidheacht na nGaedheal'. Nuair a léamar bhí bean Airt, Eibhlín, a chum an dán, ag caoineadh. Sin an mhéid a bhí againn fadó.



Ach fuair mé amach ó Mhéabh go raibh a deirfiúr agus a hathair ag caint freisin. Sa dán a fhoghlaiomar bhíomar san áit inar mharaíodh Art, ach leanann an dán. Ina dhiaidh sin bhí an tórramh. Agus de bhrí go raibh Eibhlín sa leaba nuair a tháinig deirfiúr Airt bhí briatharachath eatarthu. Agus chum Eibhlín véarsaí eile nuair a bhí an corp réidh i gcóir an adhlactha. Ach ní raibh an t-adhlacadh sin ach sealadach.

De bharr constaicí dlí níor cuireadh Art i reilig a shinsear ar dtús. Chum sí véarsaí eile i gcóir an dara adhlactha dhá mhí ina dhiaidh sin. Is dán fada é.

Bhí ionadh orm faoi an t-slí a rinne Méabh agus a scata an dán. Cheap mé go mbeidís ag labhairt an dháin agus go mbeidh véarsa i mBéarla i ndiaidh gach véarsa as Gaeilge. Bhí mé an-mhór ar strae.

Bhí an dán go léir as Gaeilge acu. Ghlac triúr mná páirt Eibhlín agus ceathrar páirt na deirfiúr agus roinneadar na véarsaí a dhúirt an bheirt sin eatarthu. Tá cúig Roinn sa dán agus ní raibh ach cuntas achomair gearr as an dhá theanga, Gaeilge agus Béarla, roimh gach Roinn. Mná cróga, a bhfuil grá mór ar an nGaeilge orthu, a rinne é.

Seo iad ainmneacha na ndaoine a ghlac páirt:

Eibhlín (bhí clócaí dearga a rinne Gabrielle orthu) *Méabh, Máire agus Connie*; Deirfiúr Airt (bhí clócaí gorma orthu) *Éilis, Gabrielle, Anna, Máighréad*; Art Ó Laoire (*Seán* agus hata galánta air); Athair Airt (*Nolan*); agus an bheirt a léigh na cuntais gearra – *Siobhán agus mé féin*.

Sin aon duine déag ar fad agus níor rugadh ach ceathrar díobh sin in Éirinn. Chan Máighréad freisin 'A Dhroimeann Donn Dílis'.

Is mór an trua nach bhfuil sí sa phictiúr seo a thóg Greagóir, fear Éilis. Tá Gabrielle clúdaithe, taobh thiar de Connie.



Cruinniú Bliantúil 2006

Toghchán an Choiste le haghaidh na bliana 2006

Annual General Meeting and
Election of Committee of Management 2006/07
7.30pm Dé Máirt 20ú Lá Meitheamh
Tuesday 20 June (last day of second school term)
First Floor (Front Room)

BUSINESS

Opening remarks, Apologies
Minutes of previous AGM,
Matters and correspondence arising
from previous AGM
Receive Annual Report(s)
President, Vice-President
Receive Financial Statement and
Treasurer's Report

BUSINESS

Annual Election 2006
Office Bearers and Committee Members
General Business
Other Business
of which prior notice has been given
General Discussion
Refreshments

Financial members with enthusiasm, organisational skills, practical abilities, creative concepts and constructive ideas who are willing to put in time, effort and direct action to help administer the day to day affairs of the Cumann are requested to nominate for a position on the 2006/07 Committee of Management. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary, savedra@iprimus.com.au

All current financial members are eligible to nominate, attend, and vote at the AGM. Membership may be renewed immediately prior to the AGM if you have not done so already. Financial members eligible to vote but unable to attend may obtain a postal vote from the Secretary. Nominations for the positions of Office Bearers and Ordinary Members of the Committee will open on Tues 6 June 2006 and will close prior to the AGM on Tues 20 June 2006.

Nominations may be lodged with the Secretary either in person or by mail not later than Tuesday 20 June 2006 and may be accompanied by renewal of membership, subscription and fees.

Your questions answered by *The Grammar Doctor*

Dear grammar doctor, writes a student, please explain when to use the copula instead of tá.

GD replies, this is something that is really fundamental to the Irish language and yet is still shrouded in mystery for many people. The problem arises because in English the one verb "to be" covers a range of meanings, but in Irish they are separate and require a different form of words.

To start with some basics, the copula itself is not strictly a verb, but it behaves like one and historically the verb tá meant "to stand", although this narrow meaning has now become the more generalised verb "to be". Think of phrases in English like "I stand corrected" or "standing in stark contrast to" which still make sense to our ears even though there is no real standing involved any more. In both cases you could easily imagine the verb "to be" used there instead. Many European languages have undergone a similar historical development where meanings diverge and mutate over time.

Back to the present day and here's how it works in Irish

We use tá (which can be in any tense like the present, past or future etc) when saying that something is either

- in a place
- in a state or condition
- in the act of doing something

The first of these usages is easily recognisable. *Bhí me sa bhaile aréir*. Sometimes the place part is understood rather than stated outright and an example would be *Bhí timpiste ann* (lit. there was an accident in it = there was an accident). The state or condition idea can be recognised because there is an adjective involved, which describes the ac-

tual state or condition. *Tá mé fuar*. This may even be a verbal adjective like "the door is closed", but the idea is the same. *In Irish tá an doras dúnta*. The third usage is a construction something like this, which should be quite familiar to most students. *Beidh mé ag rith sa rás amárach*.

The copula, on the other hand covers the situation where we are equating (ie "coupling") one noun or perhaps noun phrase with another. These come in two flavours depending on whether we are talking specific or general. Text-books sometimes use the terms "certainty" or "uncertainty" here or maybe "definite versus indefinite" but it all refers to the same thing. And the reason we need to make a distinction between the two is because it affects the word order in the Irish.

General

In a phrase like "my dog is a clever wee thing" you can clearly see the two noun phrases in English and how they are linked. This is an example of the general usage and the giveaway in English is the "a" before the word "clever". In Irish we would have - *Is rud beag cliste é mo mhadra*.

Specific

But the phrase "my dog is the smartest one in the street" while also being a candidate for the copula because of the linking of the two noun phrases is now an example of the specific. The giveaway here is "the" before the word "smartest". In Irish we would have, *Is é mo mhadra an ceann is cliste sa tsráid*. Compare this with the previous example and see how the word order changed when we went from general to specific. This is because you can never ever place the article adjacent to the copula itself in Irish, and rearranging the word order gets around this limitation for us.

Sounds easy but watch out for a couple of traps. First of all there are numerous other ways of making something specific. Eg for "the smartest in the street" we could substitute "my best friend" or "the first puppy from that litter" or indeed anything that is a noun phrase and yet still identifies the object in question as one out of potentially many.

The second trap is to be found when adjectives are used inside the noun phrases, and many people wrongly think this brings you back to case two of the tá constructions listed above.

The solution is to imagine it without the adjective and see if it still qualifies as a copula construction. Eg Cathy Kelly is a famous writer. Let's take out the adjective and see if we still have a noun left. We do, so we can say, *Is scríbhneoir í Cathy Kelly* and *Is scríbhneoir cáiliúil í Cathy Kelly*.

But to say "Maureen Dowd is famous" is not a copula construction at all. Can you see why? Now have a go at this longer one "Maureen Dowd is a well-known American commentator. People say she is a flame-haired flame-thrower"

This is just a very quick rundown and there are of course some linguistic situations where the usages can and do overlap. Don't worry about these exceptions for now just get the concepts described here under your belt with lots of practice, and then you will pick up the exceptions with time.

It also helps to look through lots of printed Irish and see how many examples you can spot and then work out the reasoning behind each.

Next issue - what's the genitive case all about?

First ever Irish language drama shot in Co. Down for broadcast on TG4



Cuirfear tús le craoladh an dráma Adharca Fada ar TG4 Dé Luain an 16ú Eanáir ag 10.00 istoíche ar TG4 le hathcraoladh Déardaoin an 19 Eanáir ag an am céanna. Tá an dráma sé chuid seo, a léirigh an comhlacht Magma Films, ar an gcéad shraith drámaíochta Gaeilge a léiríodh i dTuaisceart Éireann riamh.

Léiríodh an dráma le maoiniú ón gCiste Craoltóireachta Gaeilge agus rinneadh an scannánaíocht i gCaisleán Uidhilín, Co. an Dúin le linn an tsamhraidh seo caite.

Sa tsraith seo insítear scéal thriúir thréidlia a thagann le chéile le cleachtas tréidliachta a bhunú agus tús a chur le saol úr dóibh féin faoin tuath. Déanann siad neart dúshlán a shárú ar an mbealach agus iad ag saothrú le gnó rathúil a bhaint amach.

Le linn na sraithe seo cruthaíodh neart fostaíochta do lucht léirithe teilifíse ó thuaidh.

Lena chois sin, thapaigh cumainn amharclannaíochta an Tuaiscirt an deis le bheith páirteach sa tsraith le tromlach na bpríomhaisteoirí ag teacht ó Bhéal Feirste. I measc na n-aisteoirí bhí Nollaig Mac Aoidh, Seán Mac Seáin, Colm Mac Aindrea, Pilib Mac Cathmhaoil, Nuala Ó Néill, Frances Quinn, Deirdre Nic Con Uisce, Niall Ó Cíosóg, agus Seán McNamee ar Tuaisceartaigh iad ar fad.

Scríobh foireann scríbhneoirí ón Tuaisceart an tsraith le Anne McCabe mar phríomh-scríbhneoir na sraithe. Rinne Anne McCabe, Deirdre Friel agus Fiona Keane an tsraith a stiúradh le Clodagh Ní Shaoire agus Ralph Christians mar éiritheoirí sraithe.

Vets on set:

*Seán Ó Meallaigh,
Nollaig Mac Aoidh &
Colm Mac Aindrea*



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Agus nuacht as Canberra..

Our interstate colleagues in Canberra have taken the time to transcribe some of the dialog in the very popular DVD "Turas Teanga". Check our website at www.gaeilgesanastrail.com and you'll find the following documents—

- Complete guide to all 14 episodes of 'An Grá faoi Ghlas'
- Dialog for episodes 3, 4, 5, & 6 followed by questions for you to discuss in class

Talk to your teacher if you'd like to incorporate this into your study plan for this year, and remember the double DVD and book set is available from RTE in Ireland, or via www.rte.ie



ah, tuigim anois é sin, fadhb ar bith

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile, the Irish Language Association of Australia is a non-profit organisation run entirely by volunteer tutors and a voluntary committee of management. 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 occasional social events and residential language schools.

Irish Language Association of Australia Inc., 320 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC, 3000.

Annual Membership Application

or notification of change of address, telephone number, mobile, email.

New Membership

Renewal

Update

Sloinne
(surname)

Guthán (bh)
(phone)

Céad ainm
(first name)

(ah)

Seoladh
(address)

Fón póca
(mobile)

.....

Ríomhphost
(email)

Membership fee is \$30 per annum and due each January. Class fee is \$3 per week.