



Faill erriu dys Gaelg Vio - Welcome to living Manx

Gaelg son Dellal – Business use of Manx Gaelic

It's great to be able to continue to report some fantastic support from businesses for the language. As ever **Manx Telecom** continue to lead the way with their long-term and innovative commitment to the language.

Their text messaging service has allowed us to use the language in ways we could only have imagined a few years ago, whilst they also provide first-class

publicity for some of our festivals. This support continues with the release of the new **Telephone Directory** which, each year, sees an increase in

Gaelic usage and which enables us to publicise the language in both a modern and contemporary fashion.

Manx Telecom Commercial Manager, Andrew Honour, confirmed that the Company would continue to do all it could to keep the Manx Language in the spotlight:



"We take great pride in supporting the Manx Heritage Foundation," Andrew comments. "Many of our staff are Manx born and raised and it is vitally important that we do all we can to keep local traditions alive throughout the island, whether it be through the phone book, through public events, in our shops or via verbal communication."

Another **Gura mie eu** goes out to **Tesco**



for their fantastic new signage which gives a

prominent position to Manx at the entrance to their Douglas store. Fantastic!



Thanks should also go out to **Shoprite** for incorporating Manx Gaelic phrases into their in-store radio service. Yindyssagh!

Also Ccngratulations to all at **Manx Radio** and the **Post Office** who are progressing very well with their Manx classes: jeant dy mie!

Manx Gaelic Learners' Association

Given the increase in numbers of adult learners of Manx and the growing increase in interest in the language we've decided to develop an association which specifically deals with the interests and needs of those who are learning the language.

Hopefully, this group will dovetail well with the work already carried out by groups such as **Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh** and **Caarjyn ny Gaelgey** but will provide a means by which learners can meet and develop their own learning strategies.

We'll be having an open evening on the **27th March at St Johns' Mill from 7.30**. We are very much targeting the keen learners and hope soon to have up and running a series of activities that will improve the learning experience. If you're interested in finding out more, attending the evening or contributing in anyway then please get in touch. Thanks to **Laurence Skelly** of **Manx Inspirations**, who is supporting us with some Manx Gaelic themed gifts for the evening: another example of local businesses supporting the language.

In conjunction with a **Learners' Association** we are developing a **Manx Gaelic Internet Chat Service**. Thanks to Ean Radcliffe for working on this on behalf of the language community. To use the service you need to download Ventrillo Software at www.ventrillo.com Once you have started the software you connect to the server at:

manx.darkstarvoice.com Port: 3793 and Password: gaelg.

For any more information contact Ean at ean_radcliffe@hotmail.com

We hope to have a regular **Cooish on Sundays at 7.00pm**. Other times to follow

For those who have been learning the language for a little while I will be shortly launching an **on-line book group**.

Subscribers will receive regular short passages from the stories of **Ned Beg Hom Ruy**. An English translation will be made available together with advice on the grammar and a sound file to help pronunciation. Again let me know if you're interested in finding out more.

Also on the learners' front we will be holding our **Summer School at Eary Cushlin** from the 26th to the 30th July.



More details to follow but please let me know if you're interested in attending.

SOAS and other matters

I was very lucky to be invited to the **School of Oriental and African Studies** for their conference on endangered languages last week. It's very rewarding to see that the work towards



safeguarding the future of Manx Gaelic is of such interest to linguistics from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The key message that I was able to get across, and which I feel is at the heart of the change of fortunes for the language here, has been our method of developing consensus in the Island for language maintenance.

The representatives from the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages** whom we met a little while ago in Belfast also considered this approach to be one, which not only was a breath of fresh air, but could be a model followed by other minority language groups.



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Gary Wilson from the **University of Northern British Columbia**, was one of



the keynote speakers at the Conference and he followed up his appearance in London with a fascinating lecture at the Centre for Manx Studies on the Island

yesterday (Wednesday 3rd). Gary (whose family come from Mannin) provided us with an overview of the economic and social foundations for the linguistic revitalization in the Isle of Man.

Continuing on the International appeal of Manx Gaelic **Tadhg Ohifearnain**, from the University of Limerick, will be visiting the Island again this March. I was very lucky to visit Tadhg (a well know academic supporter of our work) last November in Ireland where I not only delivered some seminars, but also had the opportunity to meet those involved with the teaching of Irish to adults at the University of Limerick.

We will be holding a **Forum ny Gaelgey** on **Tuesday 30th March** for those involved with the language movement. This will provide an opportunity not only to meet Tadhg and help him with his research, but also perhaps help us work towards developing a strategy for linguistic development on the Island in a financial climate that is unlikely to be as certain as it was. I will be sending out more information soon about this; however, if you are involved in the Manx Language Community and would like to meet Tadhg then try and keep that evening free.

Co-haglym Celtiagh Eddyrashoonagh International Celtic Congress

This year the Congress will be held on the Island. More details to follow but it starts on the 5th April is based in Doolish and places can be booked via Brian Stowell at: **bstowell@mcb.net**