There has been great success in advancing the cause of Manx in the last twenty years, but we cannot afford to rest on our laurels and we shouldn’t take what we have now for granted: we must continue to fight for these things and to explain to people why Manx matters.

Though money is scarce at the moment, the Manx language community must think about the future and the next step. There is talk of establishing a Manx Gaelic cultural centre in Douglas, with a bilingual café, a little shop, exhibition room etc. This centre could be a tourist attraction and be rented to other groups to raise money. Bunscoill graduates could have the opportunity to work in the café so that the centre would bring together different ages and speaking ability levels. Other language communities could use the centre too and hold lessons there, so that there would be a multicultural space in the heart of the capital. Projects of this kind have been highly successful in Ireland.

All that is still a few years away, but here is something closer: it is hoped to set up a new Manx magazine shortly, and writers for it are sought. We want pieces in Manx on any topic between 500 and 5000 words. Short stories would also be
welcome. Contact myself or Adrian Cain or James O’Meara. Apart from that, it is hoped that work will soon begin on a new dictionary for learners.

In other news, a Manx table has been established at the language café at Jabberwocky in Duke Street, every Friday between 6 and 7pm. French, Spanish and other languages are offered already, and it is good that Manx is now to be heard there too. Everyone is welcome, whatever your level of Manx.