

Va mee loayrt rish peiagh ny ghaa er y gherrit shoh mychione cowraghyn raaidey ayns Gaelg, as cre oddagh y ve jeant dy gheddyn ny smoo currit seose. Ga dy vel reiltee ny baljyn as ny skeeraghyn er chur cowraghyn failt daa-ghlareagh seose as ymmodee cowraghyn ennym straid, cha nel cowraghyn ny raaidyn ta ginsh diu c'raad ta shiu goll ny cre ny danjeyryn ta rhymbiu er y raad agh ayns Baarle, as cha vel Gaelg erbee peintit er ny raaidyn. Ga dy vel dy chooilley pheigh ta goll dys y Thalloo Vretnagh gaase cliaghtit rish fakin 'ARAF - SLOW' dy chooilley voayl cha vaik shiu 'MOAL' er raad Manninagh erbee. Gys tammylt er-dy-henney s'beg y scansh v'aym jeh'n chooish shoh son dy row mee coontey eh dy ve *tokenism* as dy row reddyn share dy streeu er nyn son, lheid as gynsaghey Gaelg na ny smoo dy leih as cur magh ny shlee dy lioaryn Gaelgagh. Agh nish ta mee caghlaa my smooinght.

Ta sleih dy liooar ayns Mannin nish ta Gaelg oc cha mie ny bunnys cha mie as y Vaarle as ta jannoo ymmyd jee myr glare cho-loayrtyssagh dy dooghysagh marish sleih Gaelgagh elley. Da'n sleih shen, ta'n ghlare ny smoo na gamman ny cooish 'eiraght' as er jeet dy ve ny aynr jeh'n vea oc dagh laa. Cre'n-fa shegin da'n sleih shoh gimman mygeayrt Mannin as ad smooinghtyn as loayrt glare ghooie Vannin, abbyr loayrt mychione goll dys Doolish, Rhumsaa ny Purt ny Hinshey agh tra yeeaghys ad seose er ny cowraghyn cha naik ad agh *Douglas, Ramsey* as *Peel*?

Gyn dooyt veagh paart dy leih gaccan mychione shoh. Yiarragh ad dy licklee dy jinnagh ny cowraghyn noa costal rour; agh cha beagh yn cost wheesh shen dy beagh ny cowraghyn noa currit seose ny veggan as ny veggan tra veagh ny shenn chowraghyn ceaut as aarloo dy ve goit sheese ansherbee. Son çhyndaa ny cowraghyn dys y Ghaelg, cha beagh feme rish sheshaght noa dy leih son dy vel Coonceil ny Gaelgey ayn hannah. Foddee dy niarragh ad neesht dy beagh ny cowraghyn daa-ghlareagh cur sleih fud-y-cheilley as dy beagh ad danjeyragh. Ny-yeih, ta cowraghyn myr shoh er ve ayns y Thalloo Vretnagh as ayns çheeraghyn elley son ymmodee bleeantyn as cha nel feanish erbee ayn dy vel smoashyn taghyrt kyndagh roo. Veagh fakin ny cowraghyn shoh er fud yn Ellan cur cooney dauesyn ta gynsagh y Ghaelg as cur er sleih elley cur tastey da'n ghlare as gynsaghey bleieyn jee.

I was speaking to a few people recently about road signs in Manx, and what could be done to have more installed. Though the local authorities have put up bilingual welcome signs and many street-name signs, the road-signs which give directions, instructions and warnings are in English only. Though everyone who visits Wales quickly gets used to seeing 'ARAF - SLOW' everywhere you will not see 'MOAL' on any Manx road. Until recently I did not think this was a big deal, as I thought it would be *tokenism* and that there were more important things to concentrate on, such as teaching Manx to greater numbers of people and publishing more Manx books. But now I am beginning to change my opinion.

There are a fair number of people in the Isle of Man now whose Manx is roughly as good as their English and who use it as a natural conversational language without a second thought with other Manx speakers. To those people, the language is more than a hobby or a 'heritage' issue as has become part of their everyday life. Why should these people have to drive around the Isle of Man, speaking and thinking in the native language of the Island, perhaps talking about going to *Doolish*, *Rhumsaa* or *Purt ny Hinshey*, but when they look up at the signs all they see is Douglas, Ramsey and Peel?

No doubt there would be some objections to this proposal. Some would say that the new signs would cost too much, but the cost would not be great if the new signs were installed gradually as the old ones wore out and needed to be replaced anyway. As for translating the signs, no new body would be needed as Coonceil ny Gaelgey (the Manx language council) exists already. Perhaps concerns would be raised that bilingual signs could be confusing and dangerous. However, these signs have been universal in Wales and in other countries for decades and there is no evidence that they cause accidents. Seeing these signs throughout the island would help learners, and raise awareness and knowledge of the language more generally.