

Hie mee er turrys er y gherrit shoh gys 'eco-valley' ayns Nerin. Va mee marish y çheshaght Misneach ('daanys', 'dunnallys') ta streeu son cairyssyn glare Yernish. T'adsyn kiarit dy chur er bun balley noa Gaelgagh boayl ennagh ayns Nerin, as v'ad jeeaghyn gys mooinjer eco-valley Chloch Shiurdáin ayns countee Thiobraid Árann son coyrle as greinnaghey. Ga dy re er yn çhymmyltaght, as cha nee er y ghlare, smoo ta pobble Chloch Shiurdáin cur trimmid, va earroo beg jeh cummaltee yn valley abyl dy loayrt Yernish, jeeaghyn dooin yn balley as soilshaghey ny trubbylyn, practickagh as sheshoil, haink nyn raad ayns cur er bun co-phobble noa.

Ta'n eco-valley troggit er 67 acyr as dy halloo feer faggys da mean balley beg Chloch Shiurdáin. Ta ny smoo na jeih as daeed dy hieyn as dy vuildalyn-obree sparalagh dy vree ayn hannah da mysh keead cummaltagh. Ta 50 acyr dy halloo messoil ayn, raad ta ny cummaltee geirinnys, chammah as lossreeyn as biljyn ta cur raad da caghlaays-bea. Ta'n balley goll er çhiow lesh pooar ny greiney as coirrey ta lostey spollagyn fuygh. Ta eco-oastys ayn son goaldee, raad ghow shinyn aaght.

Foddee dy re yn lessoon smoo lhisagh Misneach y ynsagh, cordail rish cummaltee yn eco-valley, cre cha ymmyrçhagh as t'eh dy ve shicky ec yn toshiaght cre ta shiu laccal y chooilleeney as dy vel cordailys ayn mygeayrt shen. Cha bee co-phobble noa speeideilagh my vees ny holtaghyn echey tuittym magh as coayl credjue ayns yn obbyr. Va shen dy mooar ayns nyn aigney ec meeiteil Misneach er yn oie dy loayrt mysh yn nah chesmad ayns cur er bun co-phobble noa radical, Gaelgagh. Choud shoh cha vel eh baghtal c'raad vees yn 'Gaelphobal', ny cre cha faggys as vees y kiangley eddyr eh as ny hardjyn Gaelgagh dooghyssagh (yn Ghaeltacht) ta foast er-mayrn. Chamoo t'eh baghtal quoid dy leih aegey veagh arryltagh gleashagh gys ayns elley jeh'n çheer son cummal ry cheilley ayns co-phobble noa, as ad faagail obbyr, caarjyn as lught-thie nyn yei.

Ny-yeih ta treishteil as daanys ayns shilley oltaghyn Misneach, as ad lajer ayns nyn grejue 'dy re yn noid smoo t'ec y Ghaelg system erbee ta soiaaghey beg jeh sleih er graih argid'. My haink eh lesh mooinjer Chloch Shiurdáin, quoi oddys gra nagh bee baljyn noa Gaelgagh currit er bun ayns Nerin – as quoi ec ta fys, foddee ayns Mannin neesht? Ta vondeish ainyn dy vel yn ellan cha beg nagh vel eh gys wheesh shen dy vadyr c'raad ta peiagh cummal.

I went on a trip recently to an 'eco-village' in Ireland. I was with the group Misneach ('courage') who campaign for Irish language rights. They are hoping to establish a new Irish-speaking community somewhere in Ireland, and they were looking to residents of the eco-village in Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary, for inspiration and advice. Although the Cloughjordan initiative is centred on the environment, rather than language, a few of the residents were Irish speakers and were able to show us round the village and explain the challenges, practical and social, they faced in establishing a new community.

The eco-village is built on 67 acres of land adjoining the small town of Cloughjordan. There are already more than 50 low-energy houses and work spaces for approximately 100 residents. 50 acres of fertile land are set aside for farming and allotments, as well as plants and trees which promote biodiversity. The village is heated by solar energy as well as a renewable wood chip burner. There is an eco-hostel for visitors, where we stayed.

Perhaps the biggest lesson that Misneach should learn, according to the eco-village residents, is how crucial it is to be sure from the start what you want to achieve and that there is consensus around that. A new community will not be successful if its members fall out and lose faith in the project. That was much on our minds at a meeting in the evening to discuss the next step in establishing a new radical, Gaelic-speaking community. So far it is unclear where the 'Gaelphobal' will be located, nor what kind of relationship it will have with the surviving native Irish-speaking areas (the Gaeltacht). Neither is it clear how many young people would be willing to live together in a new community, leaving jobs, friends and family behind.

Nevertheless, there is a hope and boldness in the vision of the Misneach members, who are strong in their belief that 'the biggest enemy of Irish is any system that neglects people for the sake of money'. If the people of the Cloughjordan eco-village have succeeded, who can say that new Gaelic-speaking community cannot be established in Ireland —and who knows, perhaps in the Isle of Man too? We have the advantage that the island is so small that it is less important where someone lives.