Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile teo

Melbourne

Summer 2003-04

Samhradh 2003-04

Nollaig Shuaimhneach

An Fhuinneog Ghaelach wishes all Cumann na Gaeilge members, families, friends and readers much happiness in 2004 and beyond. *Nollaig Shona.*

Unkind Kutz

Inside this issue you will find Melbourne Matters (P5) and read the Rev Micheal O'Sullivan's letter from *Daonscoil na Mumhain* (pp3,4).
However, instead of delving into *uru's* or aspirations, as promised last issue, the editors of *An Fhuinneog Ghaelach* have concentrated on downloading some facts and figures onto a lift-out that may be used by Cumann Members in our **ongoing** and **unrelenting** campaign aimed at getting the slashed Celtic Languages restored to SBS airwaves.

Celtic Nations/Celtic Club

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile is indeed grateful to the Committees of the *Celtic Club* and the *Celtic Nations* for their efforts and activities on behalf of the axed Celtic Language programs (more p2).

TÁIN Magazine blarney bulletin.com

Our thanks also goes to **TÁIN** bi-monthly magazine and the on-line *blarney bulletin.com* for drawing their readers' attention to SBS "adjustments".
Buíochas daoibh go léir

Tugann Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile teo cuireadh duit/
Cumann Gaeilge na hAstraile invites you to our

Daonscoil

04–11 Eanáir/January 2004

Lady Northcote Camp, Bacchus Marsh

Language tuition: Beginners, Adv beginners, Intermediate, Advanced

accommodation, meals,, music, dance, poetry recitals,

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St John's School E.Melb
E: saoirse181@hotmail.com
www.gaeilgesanastrail.com

Amhránaíocht/
Singing
Tues 7.00pm
school terms
St John's Sch E Melb
E: saoirse181@hotmail.com
www.gaeilgesanastrail.com

Cómhrá/Conversation
Thurs 7.30pm wkly
Irish Welfare Bureau
440A High St Northcote

TÁIN Magazine/Bi-mthly
***T**he **A**ustralian **I**rish Network*
E: info@tain.net.au
Web: www.tain.net.au

Irish History Circle/mthly
3rd Mon ea/mth 7.45pm
2nd Flr Celtic Club
E: OcnnrDn@aol.com

Celtic Club
Cnr Queen & Latrobe Sts, City.
www.celticclub.com.au

BLARNEY Bulletin
monthly **V**oice of the **O**nline **A**ustralian **C**eltic **C**ommunity
www.blarneybulletin.com

Glór na nGael Voice of the Irish
3ZZZ 92.3FM
Sat 11.00am,
Sun 6.00pm.
as Gaeilge 6pm
Ist Sun ea mth

Axed x SBS
Irish
Wed 10.00pm
Scots
Thur10.00pm
Welsh
Sat10.00pm

Contemporary Celts

Inter-links

A number of *Cumann* Members attended a meeting held at the Celtic Club, (12 Aug) to protest the axing of the Irish, Scottish and Welsh Language programs by SBS Radio. Approx forty five people attended the meeting chaired by Mr Brian Shanahan, President of *Celtic Nations Inc*—organisers of the meeting• and also President of the *Celtic Club*–which provided the venue (free-of-charge). Mr Bill Schrank, Secretary of *Celtic Nations* was the Chronicler.
[*Celtic Nations* is an incorporated body initially formed to lobby for the inclusion of a Celtic presence in 2001 Federation Centenary Events.]

Diminishing Frequencies

The *Celtic Nations Committee* convened the meeting to gauge community reaction to SBS' "reschedulings" *allegedly* based on the• 2001 census figures relating to frequency of languages spoken in households (ref. lift-out figs); the fact that many Celts are bi-lingual; plus technical stuff about radio frequencies, economic jargon, newer/needier arrivals and wider audiences. The meeting was also called because, as Brian Shanahan said, "… there is strength and wisdom in numbers; our Government (Federal) is not recognizing the special needs of the wider Celtic Communities... and it's up to each one of us to heighten their awareness".

Professional Presenters of the axed radio programs spoke of their personal efforts to maintain the Celtic languages programs. The current 3ZZZ *Glór na nGael*, honorary co-ordinator, and ex SBS presenter, ***Mr Eugene Ó'Rourke*** also spoke as did speakers from other interested voluntary groups, including *Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile* members who sent many (unanswered) letters to SBS during 2003.

Mr Doug McLaughlin, Honorary *Cathaoirleach*/Chair *Scots Victoria*, summed it up when he quoted from SBS' Charter about their programs being "based on language not nationality and guided by the size of that community". He also elaborated on current multicultural policies; pluralism, the perceived lack of SBS community consultation; the exclusion of larger groups, and political agendas.

Wired-up

After a brief discussion, strategies were sought from the floor. The outcome was a resolution to launch a concentrated letter-writing campaign to our Fed. Gov. Reps. with the aim of getting the language programs rescheduled. To this end, an independent, Steering Committee was formed under the umbrella of, but separate from Celtic Nations Inc. (Report next ed.) (FB)

CRUINNIÚ NA gCEILTEACH

Bhí roinnt daoine ón gCumann i láthair ag cruinniú sa Cheltic Club ar an 12ú Lúnasa, chun cuir in aghaidh an chinnidh aontaobhach a tógadh ag Raidió SBS, cinneadh a bhain cláir na dteangacha Ceilteacha go léir ón sceideal. Tuairim is leathchéad daoine ar fad a bhí ann.

Tionóladh an cruinniú ag *Cumann na Náisiún Ceilteacha (*CNC) agus chuir an Celtic Club seomra le fáil saor in aisce i gcomhair na hoíche. Brian Shanahan, Uachtarán, CNC, a bhí ina chathaoirleach agus Bill Schrank, Rúnaí, CNC, ina scríobhaí.
[Is comhlacht corpraithe é an CNC, a bunaíodh ar dtús chun chás na gCeilteach a chur ós comhair coiste na Féile Chéad Bliain Comhlathas na hAstráile sa bhliain 2001].

Briseadh na dTonn (aeir)

Tionóladh an cruinniú chun meastachán a dhéanamh ar chonas mar a chuaigh an scéala don phobal go raibh deireadh leis na dteangacha Ceilteacha ar SBS. Labhair cuid de iarléiritheoirí na gclár SBS ar na hiarrachtaí a thugadar gan toradh ar bith chun na gclár a choimeád ar an aer agus labhair roinnt daoine eile, ó Raidió 3ZZZ agus ó Chumann Gaeilge na hAstráile, i gcoinne an bheart mharfach a bhí déanta ag SBS.

Dúirt Doug MacLachlan, Cathaoirleach Oinigh, Cumann na nAlbanach Victoria, nach raibh SBS ag feidhmiú de réir a Chairt féin mar go raibh sé de dhualgas ar an stáisiún aire a thabhairt de réir na teanga atá á labhairt ag grúpa áirithe agus ní amháin de réir a náisiúntachta.

Labhair Brian Shanahan tar éis sin chun na píontaí go léir a achoimriú agus dúirt sé go raibh na fírinne sa tseanfhocal sin, 'Ní neart go chur le chéile', agus go gcaitheadar (na Ceiltigh) seasamh le chéile agus a míshástacht a chur in iúl don Rialtas.

Réidh chun Troda

Sé an toradh ba thabhachtaí a bhí ar an oíche ná gur bunaíodh coiste speisialta faoi scáth an CNC, chun feachtais ghearáin a stiúriú agus an bhrú a chur ar na poiliteoirí trí neart litreacha a sheoladh chucu. (*Teangaire*/C.Ō.M).

Cúlra• Clár SBS

Cuireadh deireadh le Clár na Gaeilge ar Raidió SBS i mí an Mheithimh i mbliana. Tháinig an clár i dtír i 1981 tar éis do phobal na Gaeilge feachtas a chur ar siúl chun clár a fháil dóibh féin. Uair a chloig sa mhí a bhí acu ar dtús. Ach de bharr dian-iarrachtaí an phobail Éireannaigh agus leathnú na séirbhíse raidió sna nochtóidí, tugadh uair a chloig in aghaidh na seachtaine do Chlár na Gaeilge ar an ngréasán náisúnta. Craoladh an clár ó Sydney agus ó Mhelbourne.
I measc na ndaoine a chuir an clár i láthair thar na blianta bhí Eibhlín Ní Bheaglaoigh, Muiris Ó Scanláin, Louis de Paor, Pádraig Seoighe agus Colin Ryan. Cuireadh na céadta aoi faoi agallamh ar an gclár: Máiréad Mí Mhaoileoin, Roddy Doyle, Paul Brady, Séamus Heaney, Liam Ó Maonlaí agus eile. Ba nasc rí-thábhachtach an clár do phobal na Gaeilge sa tír seo agus in Éirinn agus airíonn muid uainn go mór é. (PK)

SBS –Background

The Irish Language program on SBS Radio was axed in June this year. The Program began in 1981 after the Irish community launched a campaign in order to secure some airtime for the Irish language. At first the program went to air one hour a month.

However, due to the further efforts of the Irish community in Australia and the broadening of the services offered by SBS in the nineties, the program was eventually given one hour a week on the national grid. It was broadcast from both Sydney and Melbourne.

Amongst the more recent people who presented the program were Eileen Begley, Mossie Scanlan, Louis de Paor, Pádraig Seoighe, Colin Ryan and Paula Kehoe. Hundreds of guests were interviewed on the program over the years: Mairéad Ní Mhaoileoin (Altan?), Roddy Doyle, Paul Brady, Séamus Heaney, Shane Howard, Liam Ó Maonlaí and many more.

The Program was a crucial link between the Irish language community in Australia and in Ireland, and it is sadly missed. (PK)

Daonscoil na Mumhan
An tAthair Micheál

Dé Domhnaigh, 24 Lunasa 2003:

Le linn don Athair Micheál a bheith ag freastal ar Daonscoil na Mumhan scríobh sé cúntas ar a raibh ar siúl aige.
Táimid buíoch dó as ucht cead a thabhairt dúinn é a fhoilsiú anseo.
(PTO for interpretation)

A Chara,

Thosaigh Daonscoil na Mumhan Dé Satharn, 16ú Lúnasa, i gColáiste na Rinne, i Rinn ó gCuanach, Co. Phort Láirge. Thiomáin Nollaig Ó Donnabháin mé ann ó Cathair Chorcaí. Sul ar chláraíomar i gcóir na Daonscoile d'fhéachamar ar an dara leath de'n chluiche ath-uair idir Loch Garmáin agus Corcaigh. Bhí an t-iomáiniocht go hiontach idir an dhá fhoireann ach bhí an bua ag Corcaigh, 3-17 v 2-07 agus beidh siad ag imirt i gcoinne Cill Coinnigh i gcluiche ceannais sínsearach na hÉireann ar an 14ú Meán Fómhair, ach, mo léan, beidh mé ar ais san Astráil an uair sin.

Tá seasca scoláirí ar an nDaonscoil agus beidh trioca eile ag teacht isteach i gcóir na léachtaí. Tá an chuid is mó díobh in a gcónaí ins an Coláiste é féin. Tá an t-ádh liom nach bhfuil mé ann mar is coláiste i gcóir páistí atá ann agus níl na leapacha mór a dhóthain dom. (Chuala mé go raibh na leapacha níos fearr anois ná mar a bhídís.). Tá mé san Teach Liath. Tá mé i seomra a seacht. Tá an teach leath míle ó'n gcoláiste le slí an bhóthair ach is féidir liom an aicearra treasna na bpáirceanna a shiúil i gceithre nóiméad. Tá mo ghaeilge ag éirí níos líofa mar tá orm é a úsáid de shíor. Níl an Béarla inghlactha sa coláiste. Bhuail mé le Nóirín a thagann go dtí an Daonscoil i Melbourne. Tá sí lán de spraoi mar ba ghnáth agus bearta aici i gcóir na h-amhránaíochta.

'Sé an téama atá ag an Daonscoil ná: Éire agus Bunreacht na hEorpa Cá bhfuil ár dtriall? Thug an tAthair Micheál Mag Reill SJ léacht ana suimiúil dúinn ar an gcéad oíche. Ní maith leis in aon cor an iarracht atá déanta amach chun bunreacht nua d'fháil d'Éirinn. Ní bheidh aon neamhspleáchas ag Éirinn. Beidh sí mar stát i Stáit Aontaithe na hEorpa. Ag an uair atá ann faoi láthair féin tá barr ar cúirteanna na hEorpa ar chúirteanna Éireann. Fuair gach duine cóip de Bunreacht na hEorpa. Níl ann ach dréacht.

Bíonn an bricfeasta ar a 9.00 agus bíonn an tAifreann roimhe sin ar 8.30. Bíonn suas le seasca ar an Aifreann gach lá agus canann siad iomainn agus roinnt eile den Aifreann. Bíonn leite agus friochadh againn i gcóir an bhricfeasta. De réir an chláir-ama bíonn rang againn ar 9.30 agus ceann eile ar 10.00. Ní thosaíonn siad ar an am cheart in aon chor. Bíonn rogha againn don chéad rang - Rang Gaeilge nó Amhráin agus don dara rang Filíocht nó Rang Gaeilge. Bíonn léacht againn ar 11.00. Deardaoin beidh léach againn ar Chóras Eorpach - Cás na nIascairí agus Dé hAoine Cearta Teanga agus Cultur san Eoraip Nua. Go dtí sin is ar an bunreacht nua atá siad go léir. Dúradar nach mbeidh téama acu an bhliain seo chugainn.

Beidh Aifreann na Daonscoile agus Bord Quiz againn tráthnóna an Chéadaoin agus Ceolchoirm in onóir do Niocolás Toibín ar an Deardaoin. Bíonn céilí againn leis na rinncí céilí gach tráthnóna ar 9.30. Bíonn Airneán againn gach oíche sa chistin ó 11 go dtí 12 le chupán tae. Glaodhlann bean a' tighe ar dhaoine chun amhrán nó rud eile a chasadh.

Dé Mairt ar an Airneán thug Andrias ana chuntas dúinn ar *Lugha Lámh Airgid* a bhí in Éirinn 1800 bliain roimh *Chríost*. Bhain sé úsáid as a riomhaire beag agus Power Pack(?) atá ag Microsoft. Sampla dá stíl: Thaispeáin sé pictúir dúinn de *Balor, rí na Fomóraigh*. Bhí súil aige i lár a éadain. D'fhéach sé síos orainn, "Tá sé ag féachaint anois ar Bhreandán", dúirt sé. Brúgh sé cnaipe ar an riomhaire. Las an súil. D'fhéach sé arís. "Tá Breandán i láthair fós" adúirt sé "níl laser *Balor* ag obair go ceart".

Deardaoin go hiontach. Ceolchoirm í 'in onóir do *Niochás Toibín*', fear ó'n áit seo a d'éag le déanaí. Amhránaí a b'ea é. Tháinig na daoine áitiúla isteach. Chonacamar video ar dtús agus chan sé roinnt amhráin dúinn ar an video. Ansin chas na daoine ó'n Rinn amhráin. Ceann díbh a b'ea iníon dó. Chan Áine Ní Foghlua agus Cáit Mulqueen (?) freisin. Sa deireadh bhí na daoine a tháinig isteach agus daoine an choláiste ag canadh le chéile. Tá ana chuid amhráin ar eolas acu agus iad go léir as Gaeilge.

Tá mé ag baint ana sult as an seachtain. Tá na daoine fíor chairdiúil agus is iontach bheith in áit ina bhfuil gach duine ag labhairt Gaeilge

Slán agus beannacht
An tAthair Micheál
(PTO for interpretation)

Munster Summer School

Rev Micheal O' Sullivan

Rev Micheál Ó Súilleabháin attended Daonscoil na Mumhan and wrote about it. We are grateful for his permission to publish it here.

Sunday 24 August 2003

Dear Friends

Daonscoil na Mumhan began on Saturday, August 16th in Ring College , Co Waterford. Nollag Ó Donnabháin drove me there and prior to registration we watched the second half of the replayed hurling game between Cork and Wexford. The hurling was wonderful and Cork won: 3.17 v 2.07 and they will now play Kilkenny in the All-Ireland senior hurling final on the 14th September, but alas, I will be back in Australia by then.

There are 60 scholars at the Daonscoil and another 30 will come in for the lectures. Most are living in the College itself. I am fortunate not to be there as the College generally caters for children and the beds are small. I am in Room 7 in the Grey House, which is half a mile from the College, but by taking the shortcut, is only a four minute walk through the fields.

I am becoming more fluent in Irish as I have to speak it constantly. English is not acceptable in the College. I met Noirin, who comes to the Daonscoil in Melbourne. She is full of fun and as usual has plans for the singing.

The theme of the Daonscoil is : *Ireland and the European Constitution. Where are we heading?* Fr Micheál Mac Greil SJ delivered a very interesting lecture on the opening night. He doesn't approve of the effort that has been made to get a new constitution for Ireland. Ireland will not have independence and will be a state within the United States of Europe. At present European courts have supremacy over Irish courts. Each person received a draft copy of the *Constitution of Europe.*

Breakfast is at 9am, with Mass beforehand at 8.30. Up to 60 attend Mass each day and they sing the hymns and parts of the Mass. We have porridge and a fry for breakfast. According to the timetable we have class at 9.30 and another at 10am. They don't begin on time at all! We have a choice – Irish class or Singing for the first one and Poetry or Irish class for the second. At 11am we have a lecture. On Thursday the lecture will be on the *European System – the Fishermen's Case* and on Friday on *Language and Cultural Rights in the New Europe.* So far all the lectures are based on the new Constitution. Next year they won't have a theme. The Mass of the Daonscoil and the Quiz will be held on Wednesday evening and a concert in honour of Nioclás Tóibín on Thursday.

At 9.30 each evening we have a céili and from 11-12 midnight a social evening in the kitchen with a cup of tea. The "woman/man of the house" calls on people to sing or do a party piece. On Tuesday Andrias gave us an account, by using a computer and Microsoft Power Pack, of *Lugh Lámh Airgid* who was in Ireland 1800 years before Christ. The concert, attended by the local people was in honour of Nioclás Tóibín, a local singer, recently deceased. We watched a video in which he sang some songs. Among the Ring people who sang was his daughter, also Áine Foley and Cáit Mulqueen. In the end everyone sang. They have many songs and all in Irish.

I am enjoying the week very much. The people are friendly and it's wonderful to be in a place where everyone is speaking Irish. (*Intrp*.JM)

Céili an Chumainn

Nach mór an spraoi a bhí le fáil ar an 18ú Deireadh Fomhair nuair a bhí Céili an Chumainn i gClub na gCeilteach. 'Sé Muiris Ó Mórdha a d'eagraigh é – leis féin, beagnach. Cuireadh fáilte is fiche roimh an ceithre scór a tháinig. Bhí an seomra gafa gléasta le brat na hÉireann agus balúin ildathach ar foluain ós ár gcionn. Chuir an maisiúchán – cuid de díreach ó Éirinn – go mór leis an timpeallacht.

B'iad Muiris agus Eilín (ár rúnaí) fé ndear an sár obair seo. Ní raibh teora le misneach Mhuiris agus ár nUachtarán, Cáit agus iad ag riaradh gach rud a bhí fén a gcúram, ar nós fáiltiú roimh gach éinne agus ag cur daoine in aithne dá chéile. Bhí crannchur ann agus duaiseanna go leor le fáil. Buíochas do na comhlachtaí a bhronn na duaiseanna. Bhí oíche chaidrimh thar barr ann – daoine ag comhrá, ag canadh agus ag rince. Comh maith le sin bhí rogha gach bia agus togha gach dí le fáil. (ArdRang)

End of Year
Cumann Luncheon
Homestead Inn
170 Queen's Pde, Clifton Hill
December 07
12noon

Beannachtaí Úsáideacha

Gach dea-ghuí i gcóir na Nollag
agus na hAthbhliana
Best wishes for Christmas and NYr
Nollaig faoi shéan
agus faoi mhaise duit
A happy and prosperous Christmas
Grá, sonas agus síocháin
Love, joy and peace
Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit

Freagra:Answer
Gurab amhlaidh duit
The same to you

Melbourne Matters

Cumann Céili

The Annual Cumann Céili • almost single-handedly organised by *Muiris O Mórdha*• was held Saturday, October 18, 2003. What a buzz, and what a welcoming sight greeted the eighty or so guests on their arrival at the Function Room, 1stfl, Celtic Club.

It was *Muiris* and *Eileen* (our Secretary) who were responsible for the festoons of green white and gold balloons floating across the ceiling and hovering over the round tables which were covered in crisp white linen. Green white and gold bunting (direct from Ireland per Eileen's brother) as well as the flag of the Irish Republic added to the ambience. Well done *Muiris* and *Eileen*.

Along with our President, *Cáit* at reception, *Muiris* set the pace for the night. His enthusiasm was infectious as he hosted the occasion as well as introduced people to each other. The Céilí was indeed a unique opportunity for Cumann members, their partners, family and friends to meet, many for the first time

Our *Uachtarán, Cáit,* delivered a warm speech of welcome, several door prizes were drawn and there was a raffle. The Prizes were generously donated by the sponsors listed below*.

Over the course of the evening people were constantly on the move as they mingled, socialised, talked, sang, and danced the night away. Dancers were also fortified by a range of finger food served at the tables by the catering staff while the *baristas* were kept busy serving refreshments. It was *Muiris* who was addling our brains with his cryptic riddles! (FB)

***Sponsors**

Emerald Travel; Kelly's Hotel, Cranbourne; ***Homestead Hotel; Clifton Hill Hotel; The Quiet Man; Moonee Valley Racing Club, Celtic Club, TÁIN Magazine.***

Deineann an Cumann comhbhrón le Val Noone agus Cáit Wynne mar chaill an bheirt acu a máithreacha le gairid.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha dílis.

Special General Meeting

of all
Financial Members
2003-2004
will be held
8.00pm Tuesday
02 December 2003
St John's Primary School,
East Melbourne

Dátaí don Dialann

Diary Dates
Dec-Jan- Feb

01-16 Dec
Christmas Card Campaign
Tues 02nd, **8.00PM**
Special General Meeting
St John's School
Sunday 07th, 12.00noon
End of Year Cumann Luncheon
Homestead Inn
170 Queen's Pde, Clifton Hill
Tuesday 16th, 8.00pm
Rang Deireanach 2003
Friday 19th
Irish History Circle
Annual Dinner, Celtic Club
Nell 9419 6882; Dan 5978 6326
Mon 05 Jan – Sun 11 Jan 2004
Residential Summer School
Lady Northcote Recreation Camp
Rowsley Victoria . See adv pp1,4
Tues 03 Feb, 8.00pm
Céad Rang 2004

Comhgháirdeas do Marc Ó Conaill agus Ingrid (Adelaide) ar a n-iníon nua, Gráinne

Teachtaire ón Uactharán

Tá bliain sásúil eile thart agus tá súil agam gur bhain sibh go léir tairbhe as. Tá dea-obair déanta ag an gCumann i rith na bliana agus tá buíochas tuillte ag gach ball agus gach duine a thug tacaíocht dúinn.

Tá suíomh idirlíne oifigiúil againn anois agus moladh fé leith do *Stuart Traill*. Taispeánann gach teachtaire san leabhar aoi gur mór an meas atá ar obair Stuart.

Bhain a lán daoine taitneamh as Céili an Chumainn i mí Deireadh Fomhair. Rinne *Muiris Ó Mórdha* agus *Eilín Savedra* sár obair.

Tá an Nollaig in ár mullach cheana féin agus beidh ár gCóisir ar an 7ú lá de Nollag. Déan iarracht a bheith ann chun siamsa agus craic a bheith agat le lucht an Chumainn. Seans maith é chun Gaeilge a labhairt in ócaid soisialta.

Ní neart go chur le chéile, mar is eol do gach cumann. Mar sin ní mór do gach ball an síntiús a íoch i dtús na bliana. Bíodh sin mar dea-rúin na hAthbhliana agat!

Tá an Daonscoil 2004 faoi láimh againn anois agus tá súil agam go dtógfaidh sibh an seans seo chun cultúr agus draíocht ár dteanga dúchais a shú.

Nollaig shona do gach duine.
Cáit

We had a busy year this year and I hope it was a good one for you all. The Cumann has achieved a lot and I would like to thank all our members and supporters for assisting with this. We now have an official website and special thanks must go to Stuart Traill. A visit to the guest book is testimony to all his hard work. The Cumann also held a Céili in October which was enjoyed by all who were there. Special thanks to Maurice Moore and Eileen Savedra for all their work in organizing it.

Christmas will be on us before long. A reminder that our annual break-up will be held on the 7th December, at the Homestead Inn, Clifton Hill. Please make an effort to come along and enjoy a meal and craic with other Cumann members. This is another opportunity to use Irish in a social setting. Any organization is only as strong as its members and I would like to remind people that membership subscriptions fall due in January. If you have forgotten or never got around to it, please set a New Year's resolution to be financial!

We now have to organize the Daonscoil 2004 and I hope you avail of the opportunity to take some time out and immerse yourself in the language.

Happy Christmas everyone. Kate

www.gaeilgesanastrail.com

Beannachtaí na Nollag ar na bhFáilteoirí

Blessed be the Hospitable

Many *Éireannaigh* still put a lighted candle, nowadays an electric candle in the front windows of their homes on Christmas Eve.

This is thought to stem from the custom of lighting the way of a stranger lost in the darkness of night. It goes back to antiquity when Celtic obligations of hospitality were stronger and not taken advantage of, or abused. Putting a light in one's window on Christmas Eve later came to imply that one would welcome the Holy Family also. No light became an indicator that one had inherited the heartlessness of the Innkeeper of Bethlehem who, circa 2003 years ago, refused refuge to the Holy Family and callously turned them out into *an dorchadas*...(FB)

Oíche Chiúin

Transcribed from Enya CD

Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Cách 'na suan, dís araon,
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis
Naoín beag gnaoigheal
ceananntais caomh.
Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.
Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.

Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Aoirí ar dtús chuala 'n scéal;
Allelúia aingeal ag glaoch.
Cantain suairc i ngar is i gcéin-
Críost ár Slánaitheoir Féin
Críost ár Slánaitheoir Féin

Silent Night

(Interpretation)

Silent night, night of God's son,
Everyone's asleep, except for the couple
The most faithful couple, watching with hope
The lovely little baby, gentle and mild
Christ, who's calmly asleep.
Christ, who's calmly asleep.

Silent night, night of God's son,
Shepherds were first to hear
The angels calling out Alleluia.
Chanting harmoniously near and afar•
Christ is our very own saviour
Christ is our very own saviour.

Athbhliain fe mhaise duit ***Happy New Year***

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