



Conradh na Gaeilge Aotearoa
The Gaelic League Aotearoa

Nuachtlitir 2: Imbolc

Conradh na Gaeilge Aotearoa

Beannachtaí na Féile Bríde oraibh go léir agus fáilte romhaibh chuig nuachtlitir 2 d'ár gcraobh nua de Chonradh na Gaeilge sa Nua-Shéalainn. Tá súil agam go raibh Nollaig shuaimhneach agus Athbhliain thaitneamhach agaibh go léir. Is é Lá Fhéile Bríde tús traidisiúnta an earraigh in Éirinn, bunaithe ar an seanfhéile, Imbolc, nuair a thagann deireadh le laethanta dorcha an Gheimhridh, agus tosaíonn an aimsir ag feabhsú, agus cuirtear tús le hobair an earraigh. Is dócha nach bhfuil an bhaint chéanna ag an lá ar an taobh seo den domhan agus beidh laethanta breátha an tsamhraidh fós linn ar feadh tamaill!

Ó thaobh nuachta de, tá trácht thíos ar **sheoladh na craobhe** in Wellington ag deireadh mhí na Samhna agus cúpla imeacht eile. Tá cúpla féirin le tabhairt amach againn agus **comórtas beag** chomh maith. Tá alt iontach scríofa ag ár gcomhghleacaí gníomhach, Loretta Egan, agus í ag filleadh ar Éirinn. Chabhraigh Loretta go mór le seoladh na craobhe agus leis an gCultúr Club in Wellington agus Christchurch. Mothóimid go mór uainn í!

Cuirfidh an tOmicron moill ar chruinnithe beo faraor ar feadh cúpla mí, ach tá ár **gcruinnithe ar líne** ag tosú arís ar an 9ú lá de mhí Feabhra. Tá na sonraí teagmhála thíos agus fáilte roimh chách i gcónaí.

Beidh **Ardfheis Chonradh na Gaeilge** ar siúl i nGaillimh ag deireadh mhí Feabhra, agus beidh Loretta Egan i láthair ann mar ionadaí díograiseach dúinn. Is mór an onóir di cuireadh a fháil chun freastal air agus beidh gradam an Uachtaráin le bronnadh ar Uachtarán na hÉireann féin, Michael D Ó hUiginn ag dinnéar na hArdfheise. Go n-éirí go geal leat ann, a Loretta!

Chuir dúnmharú Aisling Murphy i dTualach Mór uafás agus brón orainn go léir sa phobal Éireannach, Gaelach agus Nua-Shéalannach anseo, agus ba mhaith linn ár gcomhbhrón a dhéanamh lena teaghlach agus a cairde. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Bíodh ráithe mhaith agaibh go léir, fanaigí slán agus beirigí bua- agus ná déanaigí dearmad teagmháil a dhéanamh linn má tá aon cheist, aon scéal nó aon eolas agaibh!

Leagan Béarla

Welcome to Newsletter number 2 of our new Conradh na Gaeilge Branch in Aotearoa. I hope everyone had a peaceful and enjoyable holiday period. St Brigit's Day is the traditional start of Spring in Ireland, based on the old Imbloc festival, when the dark days of Winter started to lengthen, the weather improved and the work of Spring began. Somewhat different on this side of the world and hopefully we'll have a few more summery days ahead!

In terms of news, we've an report of our official launch at the Embassy in Wellington in November and a few other events. We also have a giveaway and a small competition. We have a lovely account

of leaving New Zealand from our wonderful member Loretta Egan, who will be sorely missed here. She helped hugely with starting CnaG Aotearoa and with the Cultúr Club in Wellington and Christchurch.

Omicron will put a delay on in-person events but we restart our online Zooms on the 9th of February. Registration details are below and everyone is welcome.

The AGM of Conradh na Gaeilge will be held at the end of February in Galway, and we will be represented by our intrepid globetrotter, Loretta Egan. It's a great honour to be able to be present. It is planned to grant an award to the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, at the formal dinner. Have a great time there, Loretta!

The wider Irish and Kiwi community was horrified by the recent murder of Aisling Murphy in Tullamore and we offer our condolences to her family and friends.

Have a safe season, and don't forget to get in contact if you've any news or stories.

Kia kaha.

Diarmaid

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Comórtas agus Féirín

We have some 2022 calendars from our friends Muintearas in Conamara if anyone would like something for the wall at work. With heritage photos and seanfhocail/proverbs it's a nice way of seeing a bit of Irish every day...just send an email through to claim

Also...a competition with a snazzy new book as prize...but this one is in Gaeilge amháin!

Competition

Tá cóip amháin den leabhar nua "Gaeilge Ghriandóite" foilsithe aige Val Noone. Díríonn sé ar stair agus úsáid na Gaeilge san Astráil agus conas a chuir an tírdhreach nua isteach uirthi. Tá léirmheas air ar fáil [anseo](#)

Chun an leabhar a fháil, cuir teachtaireacht chugam anseo leis an scór deireanach sa chluiche idir Éire agus na hAll Blacks ag deireadh na bliana seo caite, agus tarraingeoimid an buaiteoir i gceann seachtaine!

Nuacht

Seoladh na Craoibhe

Seoladh an Chraobh go hoifigiúil in Wellington ag deireadh mhí na Samhna. Bhí slua breá bríomhar i láthair, idir Éireannaigh, muintir na hAmbasáide, feisirí parlaiminte agus pobal ealaíne na príomhchathrach. D'ólamar, d'itheamar agus chanamar agus bhí sé thar barr an deis a aimsiú

bualadh le daoine roimh an Nollaig. Chuir an teachtaireacht a fuairamar ó Úachtarán na hÉireann féin, Michael D Ó hUiginn, ionadh agus gliondar croí orainn- beidh deis aige freastal ar ár gcruinnithe Zoom i mbliana, gan dabht. Buíochas ó chroí leis an Ambasadóir, Peadar Ó Riain, le Treena Daly agus Eimear O’Connell a chuir gach rud in ord agus in eagar, le Treena arís a thug óráid speagúil dúinn agus le Cathy O’Shea as an gceol agus na hamhráin.



The Branch of CnaG in Aotearoa was launched officially in Wellington at the end of November. We had a good lively group, with Irish people, the Embassy, MPs and the artistic community of Wellington all represented. We ate, drank and sang and it was wonderful to meet up with people before Christmas. We were delighted to receive the message from the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, who will have a chance to attend our Zoom meetings this year. A huge thanks to the Ambassador, Peter Ryan, to Treena Daly and Eimear O’Connell who sorted the logistics, to Treena again for her fabulous speech and to Cathy O’Shea for the songs and music.

CnaG Aotearoa ar Raidió an Gaeltachta...

Bhí deis agam labhairt le Pádraig Ó Sé, craoltóir le RnaG i mBaile na nGall, ar a chlár, “Eachtraigh Dom”, le déanaí. Tá sé fós le cloisteáil [anseo](#).

Molaim RnaG i gcónaí ó thaobh shaibhreas na teanga a chuireann siad ar fáil ar fud na cruinne saor in aisce. Is seoid i gceart í!

I had a chance to speak with Pádraig Ó Sé on his RnaG programme Eachtraigh Dom recently. It can still be heard [here](#).

I always highly recommend RnaG for their fantastic service and wonderful Irish they make available fully free across the world.

...Agus san Indo!

Alt beag fúinn san Irish Independent. Bíonn an iris Ghaeilge “Seachtain” sa nuachtán gach Céadaoin.



An article in the Irish Independent. The magazine "Seachtain" is in the newspaper every Wednesday.

'Tautititito whenua: Recipricol Songs of the Land'

Bhí deis ag grúpa againn ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar son na hAmbasáide agus na Craoibhe ag an ócáid seo roimh an Nollaig. Ba chomhthogra é ag an bhFéile Chúirt i nGaillimh agus an Word Christchurch Festival agus bhí ceathrar scríbhneoirí i láthair chun labhairt faoin gceangal idir tírdhreach, cultúr, féiniúlacht agus comhshaol. Labhair Hana O'Regan agus Charisma Rangipunga beo anseo in Christchurch sa leabharlann nua, Tūranga agus bhí Máire Ní Dhufaigh agus Micheál Ó Conghaile in ann zoomáil isteach ó Éirinn. Bhaineamar go léir taitneamh thar cionn as an ócáid, go háirithe an t-aistriúchán sean-nóis ar apakura O'Regan agus Rangipunga. Bhí go leor ábhar machnaimh ann agus tá súil agam go mbeidh deis againn go luath leanúint ar aghaidh leis an gcomhrá. Tá sé ar intinn againn sraith bheag cainte ar líne a eagrú faoin ábhar "teangacha agus arthú aeráide" ag tosú i mí Márta...sonraí ag teacht go luath!



A group of us had an opportunity to represent the Embassy and the new branch of Conradh na Gaeilge Aotearoa and attend the rescheduled Word Christchurch Festival event 'Tautititito whenua: Recipicol Songs of the Land'. This was a joint project with the Cúirt Festival in Galway and supported by the Embassy, Cultúr Ireland and CreativeNZ, and brought together four writers from Conamara and Aotearoa to discuss the relationship between landscape, placenames, culture and identity. Hana O'Regan and Charisma Rangipunga were present in person in Christchurch, and Máire Uí Dhufaigh and Micheál Ó Conghaile were able to join us via Zoom from Ireland



We enjoyed the evening and particularly the Irish sean-nós translation of O'Regan and Rangipunga's apakura. There was much food for thought in the speeches and we hope to have the chance to continue the discussion. We hope to hold a few virtual events in the near future under the topic "languages and climate change" (in March) so keep an eye out for the details!

The earlier Cúirt Festival online event from April is available on Youtube [here](#), with the same speakers but without the more recent translations of the pieces to Gaeilge and Te Reo.

Diarmaid Coffey

30/01/2022

Cruinnithe Zoom

Beidh ár gcruinnithe Zoom ag tosnú arís go luath. D'éirigh go maith linn an bhliain seo caite. Beidh cruinniú eolais againn ar an 9ú lá de mhí Feabhra agus an sin beidh siad ar siúl (beagnach) gach Céadaoin ó 7.30-9.30 as sin amach. Beidh rang Gaeilge againn ar feadh uair an chloig agus ciorcal comhrá i ndiaidh sin. Tá fáilte roimh chách! Is féidir clárú leis an nasc thíos agus an nasc céanna a úsáid gach seachtain

We're planning to get our Conradh na Gaeilge Aotearoa Zoom meetings going again very shortly. They went pretty well last year and are relatively pandemic proof. In-person meetings might have to wait until the omicron wave is past! Last year we had 7.30-8.30 rang/class for beginners, and 8.30-9.30 ciorcal comhrá and it's very informal, people are free to come to as little or as much, and as often or infrequently as they like. This year, if there's enough demand we might split the first hour into beginners and more advanced levels.

The first one is on the 9th of Feb at 7.30 and will be an opportunity to drop in, ask questions, chun triail a bhaint as do chuid Gaeilge and plan the year, and then they'll be running weekly (with the occasional exception) on Wednesdays 7.30-9.30 from the 23rd.

Registration link is here and once registered it's the same link each week...everyone welcome!

Cláraigh/register

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Feb 9, 2022 07:30 PM Auckland, Wellington

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUuc-CsrDopEtIh0CZuvSxGRmBLsqrbITXC>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Ní mhaireann aon ní ach seal

Le Loretta Egan

Sea, tá cuid mhaith den fhirinne ag baint leis an ráiteas sinn, tagann gach rud maith chun chríche. 'Sé sin a tharla domsa ar aon chuma nuair á tháinig mo thréimse rathúla i 'dTír an Scamail Fhada Bháin' chun deireadh roimh an Nollaig.

Chomh luath is a bhíos ar bord an eitleáin ag taisteal ó Wellington go Auckland, tháinig taom uaignis orm agus nílim ag déanamh áibhéile ach go rabhas beagnach croí briste is mé thuas san speir agus sinn ag eitilt thar Khandallah an mhaidin gheal, ghrianmhar úd. Se sinn le rá, bhi eolas cruinn agam gur cheap na garpháistí go rabhas dá dtréighint. Tá a fhios agat conas a bhíonn siad. Is páistí iad, faoi dheireadh thiar thall, leis an soineantacht a bhaineann leis an óige. Nuair a n-imíonn tú níl ar a gcumas a thuiscint go cruinn go bhfillfidh tú ar ais. An abairt dheireanach uatha na, 'Beimid ar an 'deck' is tú ar dul thart i d'eitleán, Omi'.



An 'Deck' in Khandallah, Wellington.

Mar sin bhí sórt físe a sheinm i m'aigne is mé ag féachaint síos... síos.... síos... ar na tithe beaga i bhfad uaim mar spotáí ar an tírdreach. Bhíos in ann an bheirt a fheiscint go cruinn i m'aigne, na lámha deise in airde acu, iad ag seasamh ar an 'deck' chun an slán deireanach a ghabháil le 'Omi' mar a luaitear dom mar ainm pheata. Omi a bhi i láthair lá I ndiaidh lae chun iad a sheoladh ar scoil ar maidin agus a' feitheamh leo arís um thráthnóna le bia blasta. Agus nár chuir sé gliondar croí orm go rabhas in ann é sin a dhéanamh dóibh agus cabhrú le na tuiste freisin, an bheirt acu siúd ag obair, gan stad gan staonadh, i gcroílár na paindéime

Bhi lagar spioraid agus lagmhisneach orm freisin an Samhradh breá, brothallach a fhágáil taobh thiar dom, leis an eolas go raibh an Geimhreadh fliuch, dorch, gruama ag feitheamh liom in Éirinn.

Nach ait iad na mothúcháin!

Ach ní raibh aon dul agam as.

Bhi mo phort seinnte agam sa Nua-Shéalainn.

Chuir an chlann fáilte Uí Cheallaigh romham ag an aerphort i mBlá Cliath, am a bhíos chun buaileadh le Leyla don chéad uair. Leyla, gariníon eile nach raibh tagtha ar an saol, fiú amháin, is me ag bailiú liom go dtí an Nua-Shéalainn. Chuir sé sin in aigne dom chomh fada is a bhíos imithe! Rith sí chugham i halla an aerphoirt, chun í feinigh a chur in aithne do 'Omi'. Thairis sin, chun an fhírinne a rá, ba leathanach glan é céard a tharla thar Nollag.

Bhi m'inchinne i mbrus tar éis an chianaistir ghairbh dhochreidthe dhá lá ó Wellington go Dubai. Lá in áit oíche- bíonn an circadian rhythm bun os cionn alright! Mhóthaíos mar Oisín i ndiaidh na Féinne, agus gach rud mar ba cheart dó a bheith ach difiriúil mar sin féin.

Ach ní féidir liom an milleán a chur ar an Nua-Shéalainn. Mothaím mar sin i gcónaí nuair a bhím ar ais os rud é go rabhas ar imirce ar fud an domhain ó fhágas an ollscoil agus ní inniu na inné é sin! Bíom aige baile ach mar stróinséir i mo thír dhúchais ag an am céanna. Láithreach i gcorp ach le macalla de thréimhse atá thart, má thuigeann tú mé. Ach buíochas le Dia, 'tagann an ghrian i ndiaidh na fearthainne' mar a deir an seanfhocal agus táim ag socrú síos anois. Agus tá an pobal go ginearálta ag mothú sona freisin mar inné dúirt an Taoiseach Micheál Martin nach bhfuil na coisc i bhfeidhm a thuille. Cé go bhfuil mórán duine ag obair ó bhaile go fóill tá beocht sa cathair arís.



Comóradh Ulysses in Hodges & Figgis.

Cuireadh fáilte mor roimh an bhfógra sin ó thaobh cultúir de mar tá an domhan uilig, mé féin san áireamh, ag súil go mór le comóradh céad bliain Ulysses a cheiliúradh ar an 2ú lá de Mhí Feabhra. Mar sin, inné chuas féinig ar sórt oilithreachta tostaí. Shiúlas i gcoiscéim Leopold Bloom ó Shráid Westmoreland go dtí an teach tabhairne íocónach Davy Byrnes. Thugas grianghraif ar mo threo den léarscáil den chuid sin den chathair a léirigh Joyce i gCaibidil a hocht de Ulysses (Lestrygonians), 'Food for thought and a Moral Pub', agus is léir ó na grianghraif sin an sprioc a bhí agam. Ba bhia do m'anam an oilithreach sin, sórt ómóis phearsanta don bhfear a scríobh Soliloquy Molly Bloom, a bhi a aithris agam ag mórán eachtraí cultúrtha faoi bhrat Ambasáid na hÉireann sa Nua-Shéalainn. Nár thaisteal mé ar thurais bhóithre leis an Ambasadóir Peadar Ó Riain, fear a cothaíonn cultúr ar dtíre seo go tréann. Nach rabhamar i Whanganui, Palmerston North agus Christchurch ag forbairt agus ag

malairt cultúrtha. Buaic pointe domsa ná Lá Fhéile Pádraigh sa pharlaimint agus mise ar an stáitse i ról Molly Bloom le 400 duine i láthair. Sea, bhí an t-ómós pearsanta, an ‘homage’ do Joyce, inné, in ord gan dabht. Bhuel, ‘sin e mo scéal’ agus mar a deireadh Pats Keane an Seanchaí ar an Muiríodh fadó, fadó is mise im ‘lá breá’ ann, ‘Sin e mo scéal agus má tá bréag ann ní mise a chum na a cheap e!’ Agus'sé smaoineamh an lae dom féinigh ná...

“Is fear breathnú romhat ná dhá bhreathnú i d' dhiaidh.”



Plaic Ulysses i mBÁC; Loretta i mbun a ceirde in Whanganui

There is a measure in all things

There's a lot of truth in that statement as I well know. My amazing time in the 'Land of the Long White Cloud' came to an end just before Christmas.

As soon as I boarded the plane bound for Auckland, I was overcome by loneliness and I'm not exaggerating that I was momentarily heartbroken as we flew over Khandallah on that bright, sunny morning. That is to say, I knew full well that the grandchildren felt I had deserted them. You know how they are! They are only children after all, with the innocence of youth. When you leave, they can't fully process that you will ever return.

Their parting words to me were, 'we will be on the 'deck' when you fly over, Omi.' I played the video clip in my mind as I peered down... down... down on the houses like specks on the landscape. I could see them clearly in my imagination, the two of them standing on the 'deck' their right hands aloft, waving a last goodbye to their 'Omi', their pet name for me. 'Omi', a constant in their lives during the past two years, seeing them off to school in the morning and waiting for them in the evening with yummy food. And wasn't I glad to be able to do it and to help the parents out too, both working nonstop on the frontline, during the pandemic.

I was also fed up to at the thought of leaving the beautiful Summer behind, knowing full well what was in store, a dreary, gloomy Irish Winter

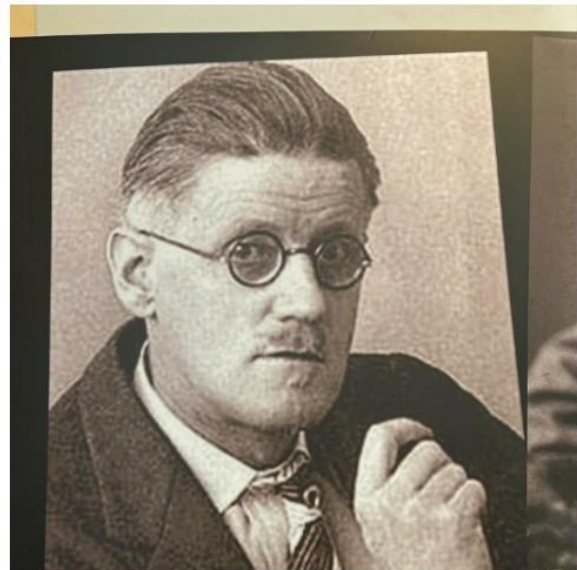


Beocht Bháile Átha Cliath

Strange, all these feelings!

But I'd no choice in the matter. I'd sung my swan song in New Zealand.

The family gave me a great welcome at Dublin Airport, where I was to meet Leyla for the first time. Leyla, another grandchild who wasn't even born when I left for New Zealand, ran towards me, eager to introduce herself. It put into perspective how long I'd been away on what was to be my 3 month holiday! What happened over Christmas is a blank page. My mind was in bits after the gruelling two day journey from Wellington to Dubai and onwards. Day turned into night –the circadian rhythm was upside down alright! I felt like Oisín I ndiaidh na Feinne, and although everything was familiar it was different at the same time.



Ón mbarr deiseal/Clockwise from top left: Teach tábhairne Davy Byrne's; An Joyseach féin; Coláiste na Tríonóide; Laistigh de Davy Byrne's

However, I can't blame New Zealand for these feelings of dislocation. I always feel that way when I return from abroad, having lived a peripatetic existence around the World since I left Uni. I feel at home but am a stranger at the same time, in my own country. Present in body but with echoes of olden days, ringing in my ears. However, nothing lasts forever and as the seanfhocal goes, 'After the rain comes the sunshine.' I feel more settled now and the public at large is happier too as Micheal Martin our Taoiseach just announced that the country is out of lockdown. His words were very welcome also from a cultural standpoint. The world at large, including myself, look forward with bated breath to celebrating the Centenary of Ulysses on February 2nd. So, yesterday, I went on a sort of silent pilgrimage and walked in the footsteps of Leopold Bloom from Westmorland Street to Davy Byrne's iconic pub in Duke St. I took photos on my way of the various milestones, the map that Joyce depicted of that part of Dublin around College Green and Grafton St and outlined by him in Chapter 8 of Ulysses (Lestrygonians). A picture paints a thousand words, as the saying goes, and I use them to adorn this article. That pilgrimage was food for my soul, alright, a sort of personal 'homage' to the man who penned Molly Bloom's soliloquy which I recited at so many cultural events organised by the Irish Embassy in New Zealand. I fondly remember all the road trips with Ambassador Peter Ryan, a man who strongly promotes Irish culture. We went to Wanghanui, Palmerston North and Christchurch promoting and exchanging culture. The highlight for me, however, was St Patrick's Day in Parliament, reciting Molly Bloom's soliloquy for 400 invited guests. Yes, that personal 'homage' to James Joyce was in order, yesterday.



"I love flowers I'd love to have the whole place swimming in roses..."

Molly Bloom's Soliloquy.

Well, that's my story and as Pats Keane the Seanchaí in Muiríoch, West Kerry would say to us 'lá breás' in the Gaeltacht years ago.

'Sin e mo scéal agus má tá bréag ann ní mise a chum ná a cheap é'

I'll end with the seanfhocal, 'Is fearr breathnú romhat ná dhá breathnú I d'dhiaidh.'

Lá Fhéile Bríde shona daoibh go léir!

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