



# An Caomhnóir

Nuachtlitrí Fhondúireacht an Bhlascaoid 2009

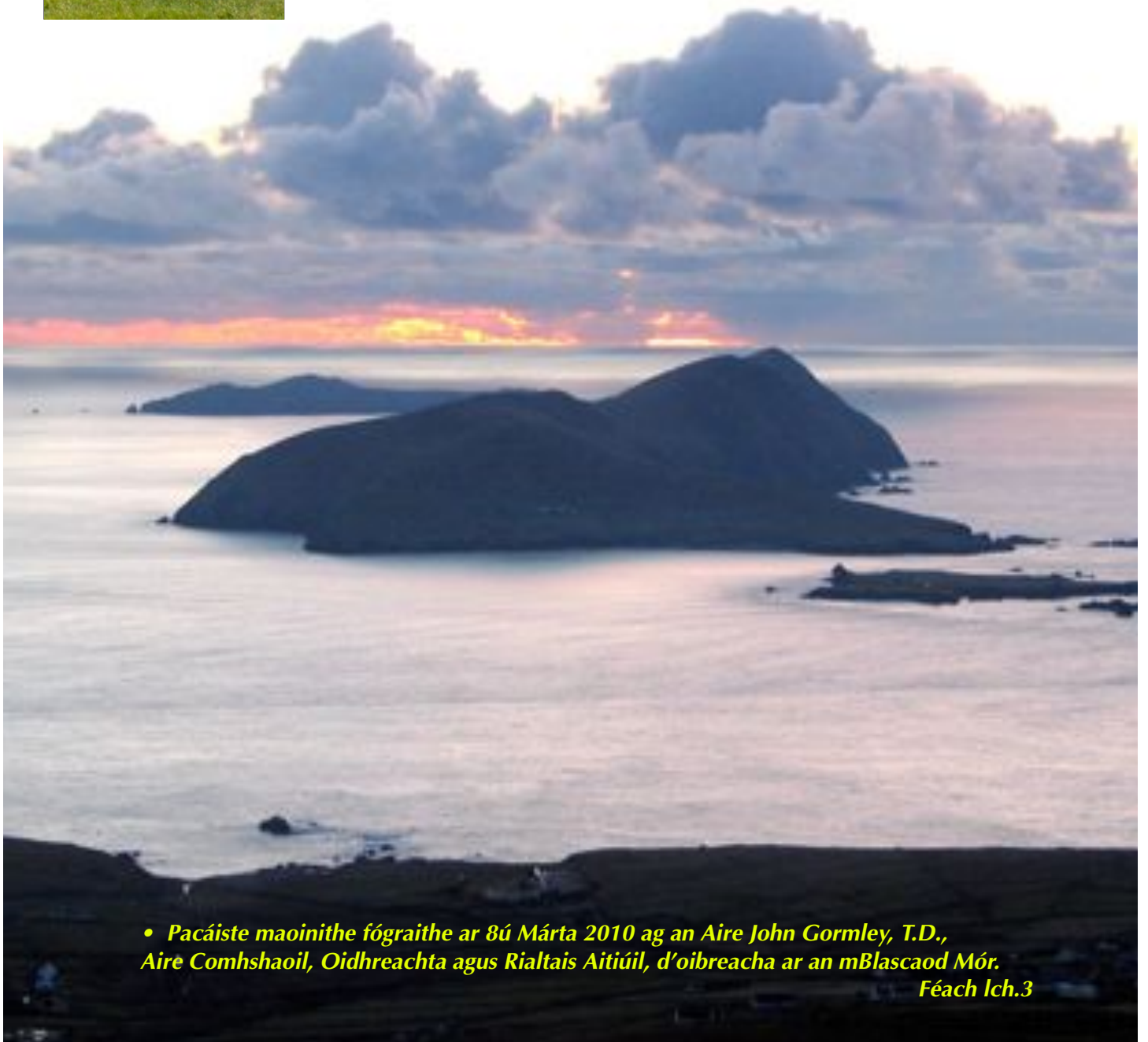
Uimh. 30

€5.00

*“I was quite pleased and had no trouble sleeping that night. It was an extraordinary day for the son of a Blasket fisherman.”*

*– An Dr. Maidhc Ó Cearna*

*Féach lgh. 6-8.*



*• Pacáiste maoinithe fógraithe ar 8ú Márta 2010 ag an Aire John Gormley, T.D., Aire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Aitiúil, d’oibreacha ar an mBlascaod Mór.*

*Féach lch.3*

## Fógra Tábhachtach • Important Notice

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Ar eagla go bhfuil dearmad déanta ag daoine maidir le táille bliantúil ballraíochta a dhíol, seo thíos a leanas na baill atá díolta suas chun dáta:

*As some may have forgotten to update their yearly membership, below are listed members who have paid up to date:*

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Aingeal Ó Buachalla	Eoghan Mac Aogáin	Mícheál Ó Cinnéide
Áine Bn. Uí Réagáin	Fiontán Breathnach	Mícheál Ó Scanaill
Áine Ní Chearbhaill	Gearóid Ó Laoghaire	Muiris Mac Conghail
An tAthair Eoghan Ó Cadhla	Íde Ic Gearailt	Mrs. Trudy Enright
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An tSiúr Attracta Ní Dhúgáin	Hans De Bleder	Nóirín Uí Chatháin
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Bríd Bn. Uí Almhain	Jimí Ó Sé	Pádraic Ó Catháin
Breeda O'Sullivan	John Mannion	Neasa Ní Chinnéide
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Caitlín Ní Chaomhánaigh	Máire & Ciarán Ó Murchú	Nóirín Uí Bheoláin
Carol Cronin	Lís & Donncha Ó	Pádraig Ó Mathúna
Carmel Guiheen Kenny	Céileachair	Peadar T. Mac Ruairí
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Colm Ó Catháin	Máire Ní Chonchubhair	Seán Ó Braonáin
Cróine Magan	Máire Uí Chruaio	Seán Ó Coileáin
Cristín Uí Cheallaigh	Máire Úna Ní Bheaglaioch	Séamus Ó Bambaire
Breandán Ó Murchú	Máire Mhic Giolla Bhríde	Séamus Ware
Dáithí Kinbar	Máiread Ní Loinsigh	Seán Ó hAllmhuráin
Edna Uí Chinnéide	Máiread Ní Chaomhánaigh	Seán Ó Laoithe
Eibhlín Ní Gearailt	Máire Ní Bhroin Uí	Seán Ua Cearnaigh
Dr. John Quill	Thuama	Seosamh Ó Súilleabháin
Dr. Jim McAdam	Máirín Uí Shé	Siobhán Ní Fhathaigh
Éilís Uí Dhroighneáin	Marcus Mac Domhnaill	Siobhán Uí Bhriain
Eithne Frost	Mary Fitzgerald	Tomás Ó Sé
Fionnbarra Ó Brolacháin	Martin Nolan	Uilliam Ó Lorcáin
Frances Uí Chinnéide	Mícheál Ó Conaill	Una Murphy
Frank Allen	Mícheál Ó hÓsáin	

Tá foirm iarratais ar bhallaíocht agus clúdach faoi iamh san eagrán seo. Is féidir an clúdach céanna a úsáid le €5 a íoc as an eagrán seo, más ghá.

*An application for membership with envelope is included in this edition.*

*The same envelope may be used to forward €5, should that apply.*

**Is eagraíocht dheonach charathanachta í Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid a bhíonn ag brath an an bpobal.**

*Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid is a non-profit charitable organisation which depends on public support.*

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### Focal ón gCathaoirleach

Dé bhur mbeathasa in Earrach na Bliana 2010. Taréis ár geur is cúiteamh ó 1985 i leith is iontach an scéal é go



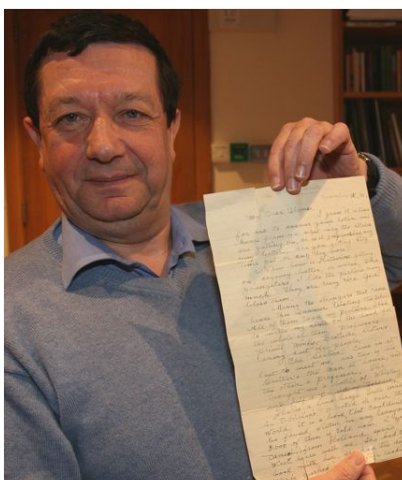
bhfuil cuid do ghabháiltais an Bhlascaoid i seilbh an stáit fé dheireadh thiar thall. Ach ní féidir linn a bheith leithleasach in aon tslí, tá go leor le déanamh go fóill. Tá cuid don talamh le ceannach fós, tá obair chaomhnaithe le déanamh ar na fhoirgintí gan trácht ar na céanna nua atá le tógaint. Is é ár ndóchas ná go raghfhar i mbun cuid don obair seo gan ró-mhoill. Ar ndóigh tá sé tábhachtach an móiminteam a chóiméad ag imeacht i dtreo is nach mbeadh na forbairtí seo ró dhéanach.

Beimid ag súil go dtiocfaidh coiste bainistíochta an Oileáin le chéile i rith na bliana seo freisin. Creidimid go bhfuil rannpháirtíocht na bpáirtneirí go léir thar a bheith tábhachtach agus sláintiúil do fhorbairt an Bhlascaoid agus do chonair i dtreo ár bhfíse go dtugtar Stádas Oidhreachta Domhanda UNESCO dó.

Tréaslaím ó chroí le gach éinne a bhí páirteach in eagrú Cheiliúradh Synge i mbliana. Uair amháin eile tagraím do Edna Uí Chinnéide, bail ó Dhia uirthi. Ár mhuíochas di as an obair leanúnach ar an gCaomhnóir. Dia leat go deo, a Edna.

– Pádraig Firtéar

## Blasket Centre acquires rare letters



THE Blasket Centre in Dún Chaoin has acquired two letters written by famed Blasket writer Tomás Ó Criomhthain to his son, also Tomás, who emigrated from the island to Springfield, Massachusetts.

The letters, which are written in English, were donated to the centre and to the Irish people by relatives of Tomás Ó Criomhthain in America and will go on display in the centre this year.

"They were written in November of 1931 and January of 1932. It was commonplace for Irish speakers to write in English in those days even though they didn't speak much English. They were taught to read and write in English at school at a time when speaking Irish at school was discouraged and often punished," said Micheál de Mórdha, Director of the Centre.

"One of the letters refers to a visit to Tomás on the island by Pádraig Ó Siochrú – or An Seabhach – who was one of the people who had encouraged him to write *An tOileanach*. He brought a present of tobacco and a bottle of whiskey to Tomás, according to the letter. Tomás tells his son that 3,000 copies of *An tOileanach* have been sold and that he also had a visit from a young Dutch woman who wanted to translate the book," he added.

– Ted Creedon

## The Great Blasket Island – UNESCO Word Heritage Site

Boris Weintraub

Retired Senior Writer, *National Geographic Magazine*, Washington DC

I first took the short boat trip to the Great Blasket Island on a bright summer morning, sailing on a fishing boat converted to a ferry. For several hours, I clambered around the ruins of stone buildings that once had housed the island's residents, followed a trail to the top of the ridge where their sheep had browsed, climbed down to the beach where, I knew from reading the island literature, they had played spirited games.

By mid-afternoon, when it was time to return to the Dingle Peninsula mainland, a startling change had come about: heavy fog had settled in, and the mainland had vanished from view. For the first time, I realized in full just how isolated the islanders were as they lived their lives, how precarious their existence and how subject to the whims of the weather, and nature in general.

Under the circumstances, that people lived at all on this tiny speck of land in the Atlantic seems remarkable. That they lived happily, uncomplainingly accepting their isolation from the world around them and celebrating their way of life in evocative tales, songs, and poetry is truly astonishing—and worth honoring with the designation of a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Blasket Island Heritage Center on the mainland does a brilliant job of explicating the islanders' way of life, and the Blasket Island literature—*The Islandman*, *Peig*, *Twenty Years A-Growing* and many other volumes—spells it out even further, from the point of view of the islanders themselves. But nothing quite carries the emotional weight of a visit to the island itself. It is there that one can appreciate the importance of community, the interdependence upon each other for

sustenance and survival, the ability to thrive under the most adverse conditions. In its way, the culture of the Blasket Islanders is as heroic as the tales of Homer, as epic as the journeys of Marco Polo, as uplifting and instructive as a medieval cathedral—and as worthy of recognition. Few people and few cultures have earned the respect, the awe, due this hardy and unforgotten band of islanders.

13 November 2008



Boris Weintraub, a longtime American newspaper reporter and editor and a retired senior writer for *National Geographic Magazine*, first became interested in Ireland and Irish culture as a fan of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem during the folk music revival of the late 1950s. He has been coming to Ireland, and especially to the Dingle Peninsula, since 1975 and wrote an article about the peninsula in *National Geographic Traveler Magazine*.

**Cuireann Fondúireacht an Bhalscaoid fáilte roimh fhógraíocht an Aire John Gormley ar phacáiste maoinithe chun tacú le hoibreacha oidhreacht faoi chúram Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí, an Blascaod Mór ina measc.**

Mr John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, on 8th March announced a funding package amounting to €11.5m to support built heritage projects in 2010.

One of the main elements of the programme is €4.3m for the Office of Public Works to support works on heritage properties in State care, one of which is the Great Blasket Island.

# Bailíonn Brobh Beart

– Cúlamarharc gonta ar scéal na Fondúireachta

## 21 Lúnasa 1985

Litir ó Harvard na Stáit Aontaithe, go bhfuil an tOileán ar díol agus gur dual dúinn iarracht a dhéanamh, togra áitiúil a



Breandán Feiritéar ag caint ag seoladh Chairde an Bhlascaoid in Óstán Dhún an Óir, 22/11/87.

bhunú sara mbeidh sé ró-dhéanach.

## An chéad Domhnach eile

Cúigear le chéile i ngort ar na Gorta Dubha, ag féachaint siar amach ar an mBlascaod, ag cur is ag cúiteamh, fear amháin go raibh spéis aige san oileán, léarscáileanna, logainmneacha óige. Cad a



M'Leachlainn Ó Catháin agus Pádraig Ó Muircheartaigh.

bhí uainn? Smaoineamh ar an gcúram. Daoine eile a fháil – dlíodóir, PR, cathaoirleach. Teacht le chéile arís.

## Leath mo dhá shúil

Ag an gcéad chruinniú foirmeálta in Óstán na Sceilige – éadach bán ar an mbord, páipéar agus peann, ullamh dos na baill. Aidhmeanna fadthéarmacha á bplé agus rún go nglaofaí cruinniú oscailte i nDún Chaoin, leis na príomhaidhmeanna a chur os comhair an phobail:

Páirc Náisiúnta don Oileán athchóiriú ar thithe na scríbhneoirí céanna a fheabhsú lár-ionad mínithe a thógaint i nDún Chaoin.

14/12/85



Martin Riordan, Bainisteoir an Chontae agus Áisitheoir Fóram an Bhlascaoid Mhóir, 19/08/01.

Cruinniú poiblí i Scoil Dhún Chaoin.

Bhí dhá scór duine i láthair, iad an-fhábharach, cuid acu ag tabhairt síntúisí airgid cheana féin. “Cairde an Bhlascaoid” i gceist agus breis daoine sásta teacht ar choiste.

1986

Cruinniú i mBialann Uí Fhiannachta sa Daingean. Anois bhí “Bunreacht na Fondúireachta” á plé, ullamh ag M'Leachlainn Ó Catháin, aturna. Glacadh



Micheál Ó Dubhshláine ag clárú Cairde an Bhlascaoid in Óstán Dhún an Óir, 22/11/87.

go raghfaí chun cinn leis an gclárú. Bhí suim ag Údarás na Gaeltachta sa scéal faoin am seo.

## Meabhrán na Fondúireachta sínithe

Coiste Pátrúin bunaithe – easpaig, lucht ollscoile, scríbhneoirí clúiteacha, lucht polaitíochta, lucht gnó.

1988

Bailíodh £200,000 in Éirinn agus thar lear.

Sea! Tá blianta imithe, barrathuisle anseo agus ansíúd ach táimid fós ag feidhmiú, ag caint, ag eagrú, ag comhoibriú le Ranna Stáit agus sé an dea-scéal atá ann do 2010 go dtosnófar ar obair ar an Oileán anois



Máirín Ní Laoithe (Uí Shé) le Seán Pheats Tom Ó Cearna agus Seánín Mhicil Ó Súilleabháin, 1987.



Áine Uí Laoithe agus Lís Ní Dhálaigh (Uí Chéileachair) i mbun oibre ag taispeántas ceardaíochta mar chuid de sheoladh Chairde an Bhlascaoid, 22/11/87.

Deineadh comóradh ar John Millington Synge agus a cheangal leis an mBlascaod ag an 14ú Ceiliúradh, a tionóladh in Ionad an Bhascaoid ó oíche Dé hAoine, 9ú Deireadh Fómhair go dtí Dé Domhnaigh, an 12ú Deireadh Fómhair 2009.

Mar is gnáthach ag na héigsí seo, bhí raon breá cainteoirí is lucht ealaín a thug ábhar machnaimh is misnigh dúinn. Thug an Ceiliúradh léargas nua ar shaol Synge (a mhair ón mbliain 1871 go dtí 1909), ar an dtionchar a bhí ag muintir an Bhlascaoid ar an scríbhneoir agus ar an



Fiach Mac Conghail

síol a spreagann sruth na samhlaíochta.

D'oscail **Fiach Mac Conghail** as Amharclann na Mainistreach, (mac le Muiris a thug ana chabhair is spreagadh dúinn ins na laethanta luatha den bhFondúireacht) an ceiliúradh ar oíche Dé hAoine. Bhí ceol ar an bhfidil againn ó **Mharc Mac Riocaird**, is omós do JM Synge, a d'fhoghlaim an fidil le linn a óige agus a sheinn do mhuintir an Oileáin. Ina dhiaidh san, bhí ceoldráma taibhsiúil ar "*Synge i gCiarraí Thiar*" curtha le chéile ag **Breandán Feiritéar**, sean-chara is ball den bhFondúireacht. Ár mbuíochas leis na haisteoirí, go mórmhór Bosco Ó Conchúir, Colm Ó Bric, Micheál de Mórdha, Áine Ní Dhubháin agus Frances Uí Chinnéide, a thug siar sinn go dtí Tigh an Rí, áit ar fhan Synge le linn a thurais ar an Oileán sna blianta 1903 agus 1904. Mhothaim draíocht an Oileáin arís le linn an dráma, mothúcháin a chuaigh i bhfeidhm go smior ar Synge é féin.

Thus an tOllamh **Nicholas Greene** (ó Choláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Atha Cliath) sár-chaint dúinn ar an téama "*Synge, Playwright and Traveller*". Tá leabhar scríofa ag an Ollamh Greene ar an ábhar seo agus thug sé mion chur síos

## Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid – J.M. Synge

9 – 11 Deireadh Fómhair 2009

ar conas mar a bhailigh Synge scéalta béaloidis is eachtraí as Inis Meáin (áit ar thug sé cheithre thuras idir 1899 agus 1901), Corca Dhuibhne agus Cill Mantáin is gur dhein sé iad a shníomh is a mhúnlú ins na drámaí clúiteacha, ina measc *Riders to the Sea* agus an *Playboy of the Western World*. Lean an scríbhneoir **Eilís Ní Dhuibhne** leis an dtéama "*Synge agus an Bealoideas*" agus chríochnaigh an mhaidin le léacht an spreagúil ón **Dr Síle de Cléir** ar "*Synge agus Eitneagrafaíocht na Gaeltachta*"

Tá an tOllamh **Robert Kanigel** as Ollscoil MIT i mBoston ag teacht go Corca Dhuibhne le roinnt blianta anuas agus maraon le Synge féin is alán eile, tá sé ag tomadh go doimhin i scéal an Bhlascaoid. Thug an tOllamh Kanigel léacht san iarnóin ar "*Visitors to the Baskets and their Influence*". Fuair eamar léargas breá eile ar an dtionchar a bhí ag na cuairteoirí ar mhuintir an Oileáin ina gcuid smaointe is litríochta agus an tionchar a bhí ag pobal neamhspleách, deisbhéalach an Bhlascaoid ar na cuairteoirí is na healaíontóirí seo.



Marie Mullen

Oíche Dé Sathairn, tá sé de nós anois ag an gCeiliúradh go mbeadh ceol nó dráma san Amharclann againn. I mbliana, bhí seod eile ar an gclár, nuair a chuaigh an bhan-aisteoir is fearr in Éirinn an lae inniu, **Marie Mullen**, ar stáitse chun sleachta a léamh as dhrámaí Synge. Tá gach dráma a d'fhoilsigh Synge curtha ar stáitse ag Amharclann an Druid sa

Ghaillimh agus bhí páirt lárnach ag Marie féin ina bhfurmhór. Ba léir gur thug Marie friotal is luas na cainnte léi fé mar a bhí in aigne ag Synge céad bliain ó shoin. Is é a dúirt Robert Kanigel faoin gcur i lathair ó Mharie: "*This is one of the most wonderful things I have ever seen.*"

Ar maidin Dé Domhnaigh, labhair an **Dr. Tadhg Ó Dubhshláine** ó Ollscoil Mhá Nuat ar "*Synging the Baskets*". Fé mar is dual do Thadhg, thug sé léacht breá, doimhin agus léirigh sé dearcadh na Laethanta Breátha, ó aimsir Synge i leith, ar mhuintir an Bhlascaoid.

Bhí seimineár againn ansan ar ar téama "*Drámaíocht Gaelainne na Linne Seo*". I measc na gcainteoirí, bhí **Seán Ó Morónaigh**, fear go bhfuil dua is dúthracht curtha aige leis an gComhlachas Náisiunta Drámaíochta, **Aodh Ó Domhnaill**, a scríobhann go leor drámaí d'Aisteoirí Bulfin i mBaile Átha Cliath agus **Áine Moynihan**, a thug cur síos bríomhar, misniúil, dóchasach ar an Amharclann nua don aos óg, **Annóg**, atá lonnaithe i Lab na Mainistreach, mar a mbíodh scoil na mBráthar sa Daingean.

Bhí Áine brodtúil go raibh léiriú don dráma iontach ó pheann Synge ar bhás an iascaire, *Chun na Farraige Síos*, ar stáitse sa Lab ar an oíche sul ar oscail an Ceiliúradh.

Chuir **Micheál de Mórdha**, (Bainisteoir an Ionaid ó d'oscail sé sa bhliain 1993), clabhsúr go snasta leis an gCeiliúradh. Ghaibh sé buíochas leis na baill eile ar an gCoiste idir an Ionad, an Fondúireacht agus Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, a chuir an clár le chéile, le Dáithí, Doncha agus foireann uile an Ionaid, leis na haistitheoirí oilte, Dairena ní Chinneide agus Matt Mac Cárthaigh; le Seoirse agus Peigí sa tSiopa Leabhar; le Christy agus foireann na bialainne, leo siúd a thug urraíocht don gCeiliúradh agus, thar éinne eile, leis an bpobal dílis ó chian is ó chongar a dheineann freastal ar an gCeiliúradh, ar oidhreacht shaibhir an Bhlascaoid, gach bliain. Dhearbhaigh sé go raibh sé mar rún againn na léachtanna ón gCeiliúradh seo a chur i gcló amach anseo, fé mar atá déanta cheana agus mar fhocal scoir, ghuígh sé, "Slán abhaile is go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís!".

– Micheál Ó Cinnéide.

## An Dr Micheál Ó Cearna

**Citation for Mícheál Ó Cearna on the occasion of the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Literature (DLittCelt) *honoris causa*.**

*An duine gurb aoihbhinn leis a thír dhúchais, tá sé fós óg; an duine gurb ionann aige gach tír agus a thír dhúchais, tá sé aibí cheana féin; ach an duine a mhothaíonn ina eachtrannach ar fud an domhain uile, tá an duine sin foirfe.*

Manach agus é ar deoraíocht sa Fhrainc a scríobh an méid sin sa 13ú haois. Ceithre chéad bliain ina dhiaidh sin dhein Seathrún Céitinn athghabháil ar an dteagasc san ina dhán cáiliúil deoraíochta 'Mo bheannacht leat, a scríbhinn'; ina impí fóirithinte dá mhuintir a bhí á mbascadh agus á mbrú sa bhaile ar oileán na hÉireann, ina dhán 'Óm sgeol ar Ard-Mháigh Fáil ní chodlaím oíche'; agus ina mhórshaothar staire ina dhiaidh sin, Foras Feasa ar Éirinn, a chuir sé i dtoll a chéile chun go mbeadh cuimhne i mball éigin orainn agus go mbeadh ár dtuairisc inár ndiaidh.

Agus ceithre chéad bliain eile i ndiaidh an Chéitinnigh b'é an dalta céanna ag Mícheál Ó Cearna é. Agus é ina fhear óg i mBaile Áth Cliath sa bhliain 1947 scríobh sé chuig an Taoiseach, Éamon de Valera, ag impí go práinneach air teacht i gcabhair ar phobal a bhaile dúchais féin, an Blascaod Mór, sara mbáfaí ar fad iad; é cráite go maith agus a chúis aige:

*A Thaoisigh,*

*Táim a' scríobh cugat thar cheann mhuintir Oileán na mBlascaod, an tOileán san go bhfuil a chlú agus a cháil i n-airde ar fuaid an domhain, ar shon a bhfuil déanta aige do aithbheochaint na Gaedhilge. Tuigtear do mhuintir an Oileáin so 9mo bhaile dúthchais féin) ná fuilid ag fáil cothram na Féinne ón Rialtas. Coightheas ó shoin do fuair mo dhearbhráthair féin, Seán Ó Cearna, bás ar an Oileán in aois a cheithre bliana fiche do. Fuair sé bás agus níor bhféidir leo an dochtúir, ná an sagart a thabhairt tchuige, cé go raibh sé seachtain breoite agus mara mbeadh an bád-shábhála caithfá échir i roilig an Oileáin gan an sagart.*

*Más fáiscithe as tragéide phearsanta a chlainne féin an tuiscint san ag Mícheál Ó Cearna ar chora cruaidh an tsaoil, fós níorbh í a chailliúint phearsanta féin ach anchás mhuintir an Oileáin i gcoitinne ba chás leis:*

*Ní thuigeann éinne cás mhuintir an Oileáin sin chomh maith is a thuigim-se, duine a rugadh agus a tóadh ann. Is mó aiste tá scríobtha agam le blianta go dtí páipéir nuadhachta i dtaobh an scéil, ach tá na blianta ag imtheacht agus gan faic dá dhéanamh foirior. Má's dóigh leis an Rialtas gur fiú féachaint isteach i gcás mhuintir an Oileáin, ba cheart duine éigin a chur cúcha cun cainnte leo. Duine go mbeidh eolas ar a chúram aige agus fós duine a thuigfidh cad ba cheart a dhéanamh do mhuintir an Oileáin gaodhalach so.*

Agus sé bliana ina dhiaidh sin, ar a shon go raibh

National University of Ireland, Maynooth

An tUasal  
Mícheál Ó Cearna  
Keystone Woods  
936 Grayson Drive  
Springfield, MA 01119  
USA



A Mhichíl a chara,

Every year the National University of Ireland, Maynooth awards honorary degrees to a small number of individuals who have distinguished themselves in various walks of life. Previous recipients of the award have included President John F Kennedy, Sir Alexander Fleming, His Highness the Aga Khan and Nelson Mandela. In recognition of your outstanding contributions over many years to preserving the memory and heritage of the Basket Islanders, I would like to invite you to accept the Degree of Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa*.

I should be obliged, if at your earliest convenience, you would let me know if it is your wish to accept the University's award of honorary degree of DLitt.

If you accept, the degree will be conferred on you by the National University of Ireland, Maynooth at Ionad an Bhlascaoid on 21 September.

Yours Sincerely,  
Professor John G. Hughes  
President.

an dé imithe as saol an Bhlascaoid Mhóir i gcoitinne, agus , fiú dá mbeadh cabhair la fáil, é ródhéanach an saol a chur ar a bhonnaibh faoi mar a bhíodh, pé scéal é, ar a shon san is uile b'amlaidh gur ghéaraigh ar iarrachtaí Mhichíl agus a chomhghleacaithe spiorad agus anam na hoidhreachta dúchais sin acu a thabhairt slán. Go deimhin, níorbh áibhéil a rá gurbh as taití leithéidí Mhichíl Uí Chearna a fáisceadh an tuiscint cháiliúil sin ar an saol a léirigh John Donne, tráth dá raibh, nuair a dúirt:

*No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.*

Rugadh Mícheál Ó Cearna ar an mBlascaod Mór ar an 22ú Meán Fomhair , 1920. Beidh sé naoi mbliana is ceithre scór amárach. Cailleadh a mháthair Nellie nuair ná raibh sé ach trí bliana déag agus blianta beaga ina dhiaidh sin bhog sé amach ón Oileán go Cathair Saibhín. Tamall gearra ina dhiaidh sin, sa bhliain 1937, scaoil sé faoi Bhaile Átha Cliath, mar a gcaith sé deich mbliana ag obair mar thabhairneoir.

Mar thoradh ar impí Mhichíl ar an dTaoiseach Éamonn de Valera, teacht i gcabhair ar mhuintir an Oileáin tar éis bháis a dhearthár Seán go tubaisteach, bunaíodh coimisiún idir ranna Rialtais i gcomhairle le muintir an Oileáin agus socrúodh gurb é a b'fhearr a dhéanamh ná an pobal ar fad a aistriú amach go Dún Chaoin. Rud a deineadh faoi stiúir Choimisiún na Talún sa bhliain 1953. Bhí Mícheál tar éis scaoileadh faoi go Springfield Mass., faoin dtráth san, mar a raibh mórán dá chine féin lonnaithe. Shocraigh síos agus phós Maureen Ward ó Ros Comáin i 1950, dhá bhliain tar éis landáil thall dó, agus saolaíodh ceathrar clainne dóibh, Kathleen, Maureen, Noreen agus Michael Patrick, Mike Óg. Bhain sé saorántacht Mheiriceánach amach sa bhliain 1954. Sa bhliain 1975 chuaigh sé ar a phinsean mar bhainisteoir ó chomhlacht mhór siopadóireachta. Sa bhliain 1978 d'éirigh sé as uachtarántacht an John Boyle O'Reilly Club, tar éis sé bliana déag a chaitheamh ar an stiúir ar cheann de na heagraíochtaí i gcroílár shaol na nÉireannach sna Stáit Aontaithe. I 1995 d'éirigh sé as chúram mar oifigeach slándála agus mar oifigeach caidrimh phoiblí.

I gcaitheamh na tréimhse san ar fad níor imigh stad ná staonadh ar a iarrachtaí ar son a phobail agus a áit dúchais, an Blascaod Mór. Cailleann sagart balbh beatha, a deir an seanfhocal, ach go fiú na sagairt san a sheas go díongmhálta le pobal an Oileáin ní bhfuairadar ach an chluas bhodhar. Fós féin, d'fhan Mícheál Ó Cearna agus a leithéidí inti go bhfuairadar éisteacht ó



An Dr Tadhg Ó Dubhshláine, An Dr Maidhc Ó Carna agus an tOllamh John G. Hughes, Uachtarán Choláiste na hOllscoile, Maigh Nuad

Uachtaráin, ó Thaoisigh, ó Airí Rialtais ar an dtaobh so, agus ó bhaill Sheanaid Mheiriceá, ar nós Congressman Richie Neal, ar an dtaobh eile, go dtí gur deonafódh stádas mar Pháirc Náisiúnta Staire don mBlascaod Mór – gníomh a d'éalaigh íobairt, éacht agus seasamh ar ár son go léir, mar faoi mar a deir an file:

Tá gá againn le Gort na Trá Báine  
Áit éigin a bhfágaimid díth sláinte inár ndiaidh.

Seo í Páirc Náisiúnta an Bhlascaoid Mhóir a leigheasann créachtaí na staire dúinn go léir; an t-ionad oilithreachta a thugann bheith istigh do shliocht ár sleachta ina ndúchas agus ina n-oidhreacht féin. Ag Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid 2003, ar ócáid chomórtha leathchhead bliain ó tréigeadh an tOileáin, bhí an méid seo le rá ag Congressman Richie Neal:

*Wherever they went, the islanders brought with them a strong sense of kinship and community....and a high degree of personal toughness, born, I'm quite sure, of the constant struggle against the elements on the island. Together, these admirable qualities define the unique Blasket character....And while the Blaskets may never again be populated, the legacy of the Blaskets in terms of these former islanders themselves and their many descendents is a bountiful gift to Ireland, to America and to the world. For that gift, we will be forever grateful.*

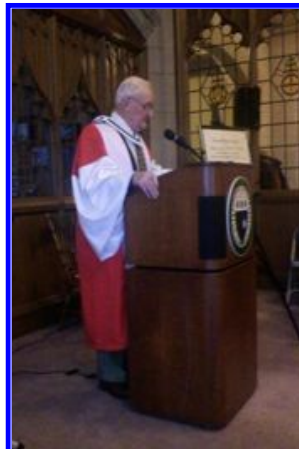
Pearsantú ar spiorad san an Oileáin ina steillebheathaigh is ea Mícheál Ó Cearna. Tá ceangal stairiúil ag Coláiste Mhá Nuad leis an mBlascaod agus le hiarthar

Duibhneach le fada an lá. Dhádríon de scéal na hÉireann ó aimsir an Chéiteannaigh is ea sinn: *pro Deo et pro patria*: dochum glóire Dé agus onóra na hÉireann. Maireann an spiorad ó ghlúin go glúin agus 'sé is déanta dúinne féachaint chuige go mbeidh a dtaithí san a chuaigh romhainn ina ábhar misnigh is dóchais

dóibh san a thiocfaidh inár ndiaidh, faoi mar a bhí taithí agus tuairisc na mBlascaodach ina réalt eolais do na glúnta ina ndiaidh ar mhuir mhór na beatha. Ár mbuíochas do Mícheál Ó Cearna agus a chomhghleacaithe gur cuid dár n-oidhreacht bheo ar fad anois é saol an Bhlascaoid, beo buan anso san Ionad Oidhreachta, i slí nár chás dúinn maíomh faoi mar a mhaígh file mór Chiarraí, Aogán Ó Rathaille, nuair a dúirt:

Mhóthaíos i m'aigne is fós im chroí  
An marbh ba mharbh gur beo do bhí.

A Mhichíl Uasail Uí Chearna, mar aitheantas ar do chuid iarrachtaí i gcaitheamh do shaoil ar son do mhuintir féin ar an mBlascaod Mór, pobal seiftiúil, éirimiúil, cruthaitheach, a bhain clú agus cáil amach ar fud an domhain, is mór an onóir ag Ollscoil na hÉireann MáNuad, an Chéim Dochtúir Litríochta, honoris causa, a bhronnadh ort, mar ionadaí na nOileánach, iad san a mhaireann fós inár measc, agus iad san, beannacht Dé leo, ná beidh a leithéidí arís ann; agus is mór ag cuideachta na hOllscoile bheith istigh a thabhairt duit mar chéimí onórach de chuid Ollscoil na hÉireann, i gcomhluadar tofa de dhaoine dearscnacha a bhfuil barr feabhais bainte amach acu i mórán réimhsí díriúla de chuid an tsaoil.



### Dr. Carney Honored by Elms College

On January 21, 2009, the Irish Cultural Center at the Elms College in Chicopee, MA, USA held a reception honoring Michael J. Carney, a native of The Great Blasket Island, on his receipt of an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. The degree itself was presented to Dr. Carney on September 21, 2009 at a ceremony at the The Blasket Island Center in Dunquin, West Kerry.

The gala event was attended by about one hundred family members and friends including the two other living Blasket Islanders in the United States, Carney's sister Maureen Carney Oski and Mairéad Shea.

The speaking program included U.S. Congressman Richard E. Neal of Springfield, MA, Sister Kathleen

Keating, former president of Elms College, Michael Lonergan, the Irish General Counsel in Boston, MA and Mícheál de Mórdha, the Director of the Blasket Island Center. All praised Carney for his lifelong devotion to advancing Irish culture, the Gaelic language and the memory of life on The Great Blasket Island. The program also included a photographic review of Dr. Carney's remarkable life presented by his son-in-law, Jerry Hayes.

In his remarks, Carney said he humbly accepted the Doctorate from NUI and that he was a poor substitute for the likes of the Island's most famous writers, Thomas O'Crohan, Peig Sayers and Maurice O'Sullivan. Carney presented his official academic regalia, including his gown, hood and bonnet, to Mícheál de Mórdha for permanent display at The Blasket Island Center.

Carney, who will turn 90 years of age in September, 2010, said he is looking forward to visiting West Kerry around the time of his birthday to inspect the progress in the creation of The Great Blasket Island National Historical Park. Carney has been a fierce advocate for the Park and he looks forward to it coming to fruition in his lifetime.

**Uachtarán na hÉireann, a Soilse Máire Mhic Giolla Íosa ar cuairt ar Ollscoil Elms College, sna Stáit Aontaithe, ar an 5ú Meitheamh 2009.**



*Maidhc Ó Cearna ag cur síos ar an ócáid agus comh bródúil is bhí sé fhéin is a chlann, as an gcuireadh a fháil.*

I received a note from Elms College, stating that President McAleese was to visit on 5th June, and inviting the four living Basket Islanders resident in Springfield to meet her. They were Maidhc, his brother Mártan (since departed), sister Maureen Oski and Maighréad O'Shea. My own family, daughter Maureen and husband Jerry Hayes, also our son Mike, with my wife Maureen Ward, were included in the invitation.

So many thoughts came to me preparing for this special occasion – what will I wear? What will I say? This is a special opportunity to promote the island. I will tell her that both piers on the island and the mainland need to be upgraded, the island houses, especially those of famous writers, need renovation and in due course the island should be designated a World Heritage Site.

On the day, the President arrived and first she and her husband viewed the Basket pictures in the next room, while we waited in line, a little bit nervous, to greet her. I spoke to her in Gaelic. She has the Northern Gaelic but I did understand her pretty well, and I spoke of my priorities for the island. She promised it would be done in due time as soon as the government has the finances in place.

I was quite pleased and had no trouble sleeping that night. It was an extraordinary day for the son of a Basket fisherman.



## Cuairt Mhaidhc ar Scoil Dhún Chaoin

*Le Sinéad Ní Dhúgáin, Baile na Rátha, Dún Chaoin  
(Aois 12, Rang 6).*

Lá amháin i dtreo deireadh Mheán Fómhair, chualamar cnag ar an ndoras, agus cé a shiúl isteach ach ... An Doctúir Michéal Ó Cearna. Ba mhór an onóir a bhí inti gur thug duine de mhuintir an oileáin cuairt orainn. Bhíos thíos sa bhFundúireacht an oíche roimh ré nuair a bhronn Ollscoil na hÉireann, Maigh Nuad céim onórach dochtúra air. Chuala an oráid iontach a thug sé ar a shaol. Nuair a bhí sé óg, d'ímigh a mháthair ar shlí na fírinne. Nuair a bhí sé óg go maith d'fhág sé an tOileán agus a dhaoine muinteartha is thug sé a aghaidh ar ard chathair Bhleá Cliath. Ach do lean sé leis an oideachas, mar thug sé dá dteastódh uaidh a bheith go maith as sa tsaol go gcaithfeadh oideachas a bheith air. Is i mBleá Cliath a bhuail sé lena bhean a saolaíodh i gContae Rós Comáin, an contae céanna inar saolaíodh céad Uachtarán na hÉireann, Dúglas de hÍde.



Tar éis cúpla bliain ansan bheartaigh sé dul go Londain. Ar deireadh bhain sé Spingfield Mheiriceá amach. Tá sé fós ag maireachtaint lena a bhean agus a chlann ann. Déanann sé iarracht teacht go hÉirinn chomh minic agus is feidir leis, mar is breá leis fillleadh ar a áit dhúchais. Faid a bhí sé ar scoil thug sé tamall ag caint linn agus ansan chuir sé roinnt ceisteanna deacra orainn. Éinne a d'fhreagair i gceart é fuaireadar cúpla Euro de bharr a gcuid saothair, mise san áireamh!! Bhí lá breithe mór aige i rith mí Meán Fómhair. Tá sé deich mbliana is ceithre scór. Go maire sé an céad!!!

## ... Agus ar Scoil Naomh Eirc

Thug Maidhc Ó Cearna turas orainn anseo i Scoil Naomh Eirc, Baile an Mhóraigh i Mí Deireadh Fómhair 2009, fé mar a dhéanann sé gach uair a thagann sé ó Mheiriceá. Is breá leis na leanaí a chuairt, mar labhrann sé leo mar gheall ar a shaol nuair a bhí sé óg san oileán agus comhairlíonn sé iad:- Aire a thabhairt dos na leabhra agus buíochas a ghabháil le Dia.

'Sé seo **Seán Ó Laoithe** ó Bhaile an Lochaigh, gar mhac do Niamh Criomhthain. Síin-sín-ghar mhac do Thomás Ó Criomhthain agus gaol le Maidhc. Is breá le Seán bheith ag léamh agus ag cumadóireacht chomh maith.



— Máire Uí Laoithe.



## Mól an Óige

*Pádraig Ó Catháin  
Sín-sin-seanmhac an Rí*

Recently I watched a man weaving a straw mat. It was one of those heritage days when Ancient Crafts are re-enacted and people can relive the past for a few nostalgic hours. I stood there among a small group of people, but my mind was transported back to a difficult time and place, watching my father weave a similar mat. Paddy “Bofar” Ó Catháin, like many of the Blasket islanders, could turn his hand to many crafts, weaving a straw mat was one such skill.

The straw mat protected the donkey’s back from the wooden straddle, on which the creels or panniers were hung. The donkey and creels was the islanders main source of transport.

It was around the time I started in primary school as I watched him plait and weave the golden straw, he enquired how I was getting on at school, I remember replying that my teacher could be cross at times. I, in turn, asked him about his school days but he was silent for a long time. I repeated my question and waited. His mood changed and he seemed uncomfortable with my questions. Looking back on the incident I could see I had touched a “raw nerve”. I was intruding. Eventually he relented and declared in a sombre voice “I did not get on well with my teacher”, his authority was not to be questioned. He lived in a house in Barr an Bhaile beside “an Dáil”, the island visiting house, and not far from Maidhc Mhicí “Bofar”. His daughters Mary, Ellie and Lizzie were close friends of my aunts Lís and Peig. They constantly played together and were regular visitors in each others houses.

As often happens in Ireland a wet summer is followed by lovely autumn weather, known as an “Indian Summer”. When this happened one particular year the fine September weather lifted the pall of gloom over the island and every family was



busy with the unfinished work. The crops that stood forlorn during the wet season were now being harvested, the turf was taken home, fishing resumed, houses were being painted – there was a great buzz of work about the place.

The teacher got caught up in this fever of work. He had some turf at the end of the island, but no means of transport. Maidhc Mhicí had a fine donkey, a recent purchase from Ventry. He was much bigger and stronger than the small island donkeys. With new creels and straddle he stood out and was Bofars pride and joy, and the topic of much discussion in “An Dáil”. “He will be hard to feed”, or “he will ate all ‘round him”, “he will not survive the island conditions”. Bofar was enjoying the attention his donkey was receiving. The teacher decided to borrow the “Bofars” prize donkey, to bring home his turf.

One Friday morning he dispatched my aunt Lís home to inform Maidhc Bofar that he needed the donkey and creels next day. This did not fit in with Bofars plans, as he was bringing home his own turf. He replied that he would accomodate the teacher the following weekend. But that wasn’t acceptable. He lined up the Ó Catháin children – Kate, Nellie, Lís, Peig, Paddy and Muiris. “Bofars out,” he roared and sent them all home.

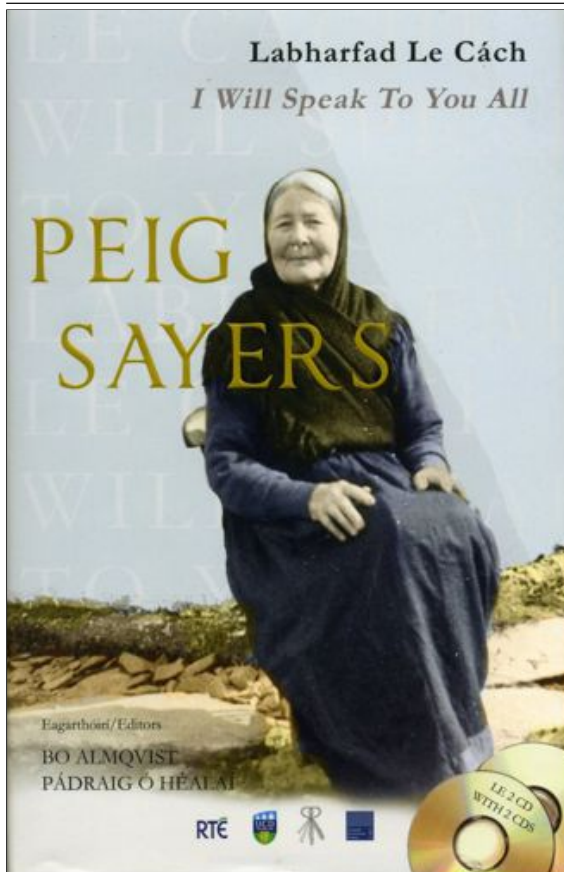
When the children arrived home, there was a quick change of plan – the teacher could have the loan of the donkey next day and word was sent to school of the new arrangement, but to no avail.

Maidhc Mhicí was embarrassed. So to break the empasse, he took home the teachers turf and dropped a few fish to the house from time to time.

The amazing aspect of the standoff was the friendship between the girls continued throughout, as if nothing happened. Eventually after several weeks, it was announced that the “Bofars” could return to school.



Kate Bhofair, Caitlín Landers, Lís, Peaidí, Séamus agus Micheál Bhofair Ó Catháin, c.1927-28.



Máirín Nic Eoin

(with permission of the *Irish Times*)

The most striking image to emerge from this latest publication relating to renowned storyteller Peig Sayers is the picture that she herself conjures up of her reaction, as a frail old woman, to the unexpected arrival of a radio crew at her home in Baile an Bhiocáire, Dún Chaoin. It is November 1947, Peig is seventy-four years old and she is painwracked after a seven-month period in Dingle hospital. Darkness is falling and, instead of lighting the oil lamp, she is thinking of taking to her bed. She hears noise outside but thinks at first that it is the sound of an aeroplane overhead. Her son Mícheál (Maidhc) goes to investigate, refuting Peig's suggestion that the light, gadgetry and sound that are now approaching the house are emanating from 'an cóiste balbh', the legendary death coach of oral tradition. When the light and sound arrive at her doorstep, Peig jumps to attention and, despite her many ailments, welcomes into her house – 'de réir mar ba cheart dom a dhéanamh' (just as was proper) – three strapping young men who are carrying equipment the likes of which she has never seen before. The

men have come for a purpose and, when Peig realises that the boxes and contraptions they are carrying are radio recording equipment, she immediately declares her intention to submit to the challenge of this new technology: 'déanfaimid ár ndícheall chuig pé ní a dh'féadfaimid a chur air, a chur air' (we will do our best to put anything we can on it).

The visit dramatised thus by Peig, and published here under the title 'Triúr strapairí ag teacht istoíche' (The night visit of the three boys), refers to the first recording of Peig Sayers in her own home by a Radio Éireann team. The men were traditional musician and folklore collector Séamus Ennis, broadcaster Seán Mac Réamoinn and technician Joe de Lacy, who were

joined later by local man Seosamh Ó Dálaigh (Joe Daly), whom Peig knew well in his role as full-time collector with the Irish Folklore Commission. The material recorded on that occasion includes the above-mentioned account of their arrival and thirteen other items, including two long traditional tales, a verse drama, two supernatural legends, a prayer, songs, reminiscences of life on the Great Blasket Island and a formal address entitled 'Óráid Pheig' (Peig's Oration). Despite her expression of surprise, this visit was not Peig's first experience of a radio recording session. Several months earlier, on 12 August 1947, she was visited in St Elizabeth's Hospital in Dingle by a BBC Third Programme radio team headed by producer and scriptwriter W. R. Rodgers. With the co-operation of Radio Éireann and the Irish Folklore Commission (who nominated Joe Daly as local facilitator), Rodgers recorded nine short items from Peig, including two traditional tales, three stories about her father, one English verse recalled from her schooldays, a prayer in Irish and two items of commentary, in one of which she explains, in English, why she doesn't have any English-language tales. Peig

made her international broadcasting debut when Rodgers used some of this material in the programme *The Irish Storyteller: A Picture of a Vanishing Gaelic World*, broadcast on 13 June 1948. Peig was recorded again by Radio Éireann in 1953, when Seán Mac Réamoinn visited Dún Chaoin to make a programme about the final desertion of the Great Blasket Island. The material recorded in this instance is concerned mainly with Peig's insights into island life. The style and tone of voice is familiar and conversational, and the items more akin to a personal radio interview than a traditional oral performance.

The objectives of this book and accompanying compact discs, expertly edited and introduced by folklore scholars Bo Almqvist and Pádraig Ó Héalaí, are to make Peig Sayers' radio recordings available to the general public, to further understanding of Sayers as a traditional storyteller and to foreground the importance of the early radio recordings in the context of Irish folklore collection in general. The book succeeds admirably on all these counts. The sound quality of the recordings is excellent, providing a fine acoustic record of Peig's storytelling style and, together with the introduction, transcriptions, translations and annotations, illustrating her exceptional competence and versatility as an oral performer. The editors note how the self-representations in the recordings lend support to the authenticity of the autobiographical accounts *Peig* (1936) and *Machtanamh Seana-mhná* (1939), an authenticity which has been questioned by certain critics on the grounds of their collaborative genesis (both accounts having been written down by her son Maidhc). While this is a valid point, the highly mediated nature of these radio recordings – and Peig's sense of what is possible and appropriate in a particular communicative context – has to be taken into account here also. One of the main strengths of this book is that it foregrounds and discusses such issues.

The context of the BBC recording was unsatisfactory in many ways – Peig was ill in hospital, Rodgers spoke no Irish and he and his team were working to a tight recording schedule. Nevertheless, Peig was well prepared – her carers in St Elizabeth's Hospital were excited about the visit and even lifted her strict smoking ban in recognition of the special occasion. Though Joe Daly more than

likely suggested items from her repertoire which were suitable in length and subject matter for a radio audience, on the recordings we hear Peig responding immediately – like any media professional – to Rodgers’ requests. The Radio Éireann 1947 recording occurred over a two-day period and the circumstances again were not ideal as Séamus Ennis had car trouble and Joe Daly could not stay with the crew as one of his children was ill. Daly’s field notes provide important details of how the recording session was orchestrated, however. They inform us about Maidhc’s reluctance to allow his mother be recorded, how Peig consulted with Daly as to what would be appropriate material for radio and how a drop of whiskey was provided to produce an atmosphere of conviviality. Peig’s easy relationship with the Irish-speaking crew is palpable in her verbal response to the arrival of the ‘three boyos’, which illustrates beautifully her ability to turn life into story. The importance of the medium is acknowledged in the final item recorded by them, ‘Óráid Pheig’, where her vision of her own cultural role is delivered as a dramatic deathbed statement and a special blessing is bestowed on ‘lucht an chraobhscaoileacháin’ (the broadcasters) who have enabled her to disseminate her

message nationwide.

The audio recordings accompanying this book represent an important chapter in an archival project which spanned several decades, involved at least fourteen collectors (including English, Norwegian, Swedish, French, Swiss and Austrian as well as Irish scholars) and saw folklore recording techniques move from phonetic and vernacular transcription to the use of Ediphone cylinders, gramophone recording machines and the now obsolete tape-recorder. They present the human voice behind the 5,000 pages of oral material recorded from Peig Sayers and preserved in the national folklore archive at the UCD Delargy Centre, c.3,200 pages of which were recorded by Joe Daly. Despite the critical recognition awarded her in recent years in important publications such as Breandán Feiritéar’s television documentary *Slán an Scéalaí: Scéal Pheig Sayers* (RTÉ/ TG4, 1998), the volume edited by the late Raidió na Gaeltachta broadcaster Máire Ní Chéilleachair *Peig Sayers Scéalaí 1873-1958* (Coiscéim, 1999), and the radio documentary ‘Peig: Reflections on an Old Woman’, part of Cathal Póirtéir’s *Blasket Island Reflections* series (RTÉ, 2003), Peig Sayers’ national reputation still suffers from the taint of the

classroom textbook. Though she is widely acknowledged as one of Ireland’s most accomplished storytellers ever, we still await with anticipation the publication of an edition of the approximately 375 tales recorded from her. Work on that edition is underway and the publication of the first two volumes is expected before too long. *Labharfad le Cách/ I Will Speak To You All* reminds us once again of the huge importance of this area of research. The book is not only a significant contribution in its own right to Irish folklore studies, but points to ways in which a publication project based on the Peig Sayers archive could and should become an ambitious multi-media enterprise where the oral artistry at the heart of this remarkable woman’s life and life’s work is given due acknowledgment.

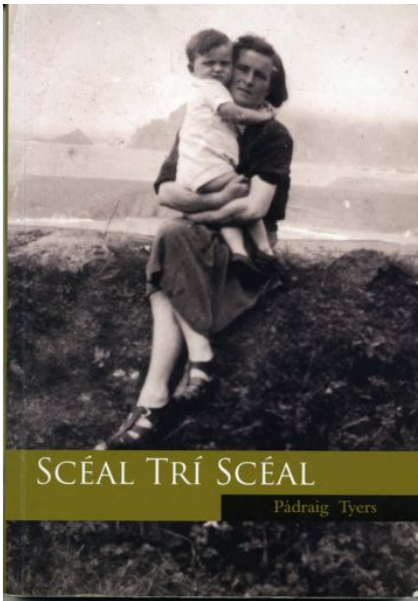
*Labharfad le Cách/ I Will Speak To You All:*  
Peig Sayers

By Bo Almqvist and Pádraig Ó Héalaí (eds)  
New Island. 312pp. €29.00.

Máirín Nic Eoin is Head of the Irish Department in St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra. Her latest book *Ar an gCoigríoch: Díolaim Litríochta ar Scéal na hImirce*, compiled with Aisling Ní Dhonnchadha, was published by Cló Iar-Chonnachta in 2008.



Cé Dhún Chaoin faoi mar bhí suas go dtí na 1950aí nuair a deindeadh athchóiriú air timpeall 1950 (Pictiúr: Frances Uí Chinnéide).



Mairéad Ní Chinnéide-Uí Dhomhnaill

Lúnasa na bliaina 1948 a thug Pádraig Tyers a chéad turas ar Corca Dhuibhne. Bhí scoláireacht coicise i mBothán Dubh na Gráige bronnta air ag Roinn na Gaeilge, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh. Cuireann Pádraig síos sa leabhar seo *Scéal Trí Scéal* ar an saol i gCorca Dhuibhne le trí scór bliain anuas agus ar an mhuintir go raibh aithne aige orthu, muintir an Oileán Tiar ina measc. Ní raibh ach laethanta beaga caite aige ar an nGráig nuair a thug sé a aghaidh ar Dhún Chaoin chun turas a thabhairt ar Pheig Sayers. Tá cur síos aige ar a gcéad uair dó bualadh le Peig agus a mac Maidhc Ó Gaoithín i mBaile Bhíocaire, ar an aithne a chuir sé orthu agus ar an gcairdeas a snaimeadh eadarthu ón lá san amach. Ansin deireann sé;

Agus mé ag fillleadh ar an mBothán Dubh an tráthnóna sin bhí a fhios agam nach mbeinn sásta gan turas a thabhairt ar an mBlascaod a luaithe agus ab fhéidir.

Do dhein, agus seo mar a bhí aige:

Trí nó ceithre lá ina dhiaidh sin chuas isteach ann le beirt eile ó Chorcaigh, an tAthair Tomás Mac an Phríora agus Máirtín Ó Siail. Ba iad Séamus Mhéiní Ó Duinnlé, Uilic Ó Móráin agus fear eile nach cuimhin liom a ainm an criú a bhí againn. Punt an duine an costas. Ba é an chéad uair riamh ag aon duine den triúr againn i naomhóg, agus pé ní ag mo chomhphaisnéirí é bhíos-sa inníoch go maith ag dul isteach inni agus í chomh guagach le corc ar an uisce. Mhaolaigh ar an inní, áfach, nuair a thosnaigh an criú ag

caint is ag comhrá is gan aon mhaire sa saol orthu. Bhí an fharrage ina báinté. D'fhagamar caladh Dhún Chaoin, an criú ag comhtharrac ar a socracht, na maidí caola ag tumadh le chéile san uisce agus ag teacht aníos ar comhbhuille agus an sáile ag síleadh díobh agus ag glioscarnach faoi sholas na gréine.

Bhí neamh ar thalamh ag Pádraig déarfá agus é ag eachtraí dúinn ar an dturas isteach agus an tamall a chaith sé san oileán an lá úd. Baineadh barra thuisle as áfach nuair tuigeadh dó go raibh an naomhóg pollta agus iad ag fáil faoi réir chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar an mntír ar aghaidh sa lá, agus... sin scéal eile. Tá sin, agus tuilleadh, faoi thurasanna eile agus laethanta bréatha eile a chaith sé san oileán agus i gcuideachta muintir an Oileáin sa leabhar seo *Scéal Trí Scéal*. Taimid faoi chomaoin ag Pádraig as a chuimhní agus a chuid eolais a roinnt agus ní don chéad uair. Bhailigh sé na logainmneacha an Bhlascaod Mór ó Sheán agus ó Mhuiris Mhaidhc Léan Ó Guithín (Iar-Bhlascaodaigh) agus chuir sé léarscáil den Oileán ar fáil i gcomhar le Feargal Mac Amhlaoibh sa bhliain 1991.



Tá dhá eagrán de *Cheamara Chorca Dhuibhne*, foilsithe aige, dhá cnuasach de sheanghrianghráfanna a thugann léargas ar shaol an Oileáin agus na dúithí mórthimpeall.

Anuas ar sin tá leabhair eile ag baint le Corca Dhuibhne agus lena muintir scríofa nó curtha in eagar ag Pádraig – *Ar Seachrán* le Tomás Ó Cinnéide, *Abair Leat* a chuireann síos ar na bailitheoirí béaloideasa sa cheantar, *Leoithne Aniar*, agus *Malairt Beatha*.

Tá tigh ag Pádraig ar an nGráig agus tá cuid mhaith dá shaol caite ann in éineacht lena bhean Beití agus a gceathrar clainne.

Chuir an comhlacht foilsitheoireachta Coiscéim *Scéal Trí Scéal* i láthair an phobail ag ócáid i mBrú na Gráige ar 2 Lúnasa 2009. Bhí slua mór de mhuintir, cairde agus comharsain i láthair ag an ócáid. Ba í Máire Ní Mhaoileoin a sheoil an leabhar. Seo cuid dá raibh le rá aici:

“Is ea, tá sé ina scéal trí scéal agam...”

“Lastigh de chlúdach an leabhair seo tá cuimhní cinn, eachtraí, scéalta, griangrafanna, litreacha pearsanta, leibhéala, gach ré sea, seanchas, cuileachta, creideamh agus thar aon ní eile meas agus buan charadas a thaitheoidh le óg agus aosta. Go deimhin fhéin, is leabhar é *Scéal Trí Scéal* go bhfuil rud éigin ann do gach éinne.

“Ceiliúradh isea é ar dhaoine atá imithe, daoine go raibh ana thionchar acu ar bhéaloideas agus litriocht scríte na dúchaí seo. Is léir gur thuig Pádraig go raibh saibhreas teangan agus chultúir acu agus gurbh fhiú é a bhuanú. Chuige seo dhein sé taifeadadh ar na cainteoirí ab fhearr dar leis a bhí i gCorca Dhuibhne ag an am. Orthu seo áiríonn sé Tomás Ó Cinnéide, Seán Charlie Ó Conchúir, An Bhab Feirtéar, Peig Sayers, Maidhc Griffin, Imleá, Seán Ó Criomhthain na Muirí, Cáit Mhaoilchiaráin - ‘Cáit 20 Bliain ag Fás’, agus Bríd Murphy Granville, Bhaile an Chaladh. Is ó Bhríd a fuair sé teideal an leabhair mar nuair a bhíodh sí ag aithris scéil rithfeadh morán smaointe isteach ina ceann agus leanfadh sí na smaointe seo siar go heireaball sa tslí is go mbeadh an scéal bunúsach curtha dá a riocht. Deirtear sa leabhar gur thuig sí féin é sin mar go ndeireadh sí: “Is ea, tá sé ina scéal trí scéal agam.” Is ar an múnla sin atá an leabhar seo curtha le chéile agus fágann san go bhfuil de bhua ag an leabhar gur féidir leat breith air, é a oscailt ag aon chaibideal agus do chuid fhéin a dhéanamh de. Tá idir throm agus éadrom, greann agus duairceas, áthas agus brón, an t-imreasc agus an tuaigneas ann agus é go léir scríte i dteanga an phobail. An rud is mó atá taréis dul i bhfeidhm orm féin sa leabhar seo ná an ghnáth chaint shuibhir, nadúrtha agus na nathanna cainte gonta a bhí ag cainteoirí dúchasacha an cheantair seo a thargíonn pictiúirí agus íomhanna daite im’ shamhlaíocht don saol ina mhairidear.”

*Scéal Trí Scéal* ag Pádraig Tyers  
lgh. 258  
Coiscéim €10



PADRAIG TYERS

Ó scríobhadh an t-alt seo, tháinig an scéal brónach faoi bhás Pádraig Tyers ar 19 Feabhra tar éis breoiteacht fhada.

Ina aitheasc sochraide dúirt Seán Ó Coileáin, iar-Ollamh le Ghaeilge, Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, faoi:

"I bparóiste Thuar an Fhíona i gceantar Shliabh gCua sna Déisibh a d'fhás Pádraig Tyers suas. Ceantar ab ea é go raibh iarsmaí na Gaeilge go láidir fós ann. As a óige bhí scéalta á gclois aige ar an mbean sí, ar an mbadhb, ar *Petticoat Loose*, ar an leipreachán ar an bpúca agus ar phearsana iontacha eile an bhéaloidis. I measc na múinteoirí Gaeilge a bhí aige bhí an file cáiliúil Pádraig Ó Míléadha [a chum an t-amhrán *Sliabh Geal gCua na Féile*], cé ná raibh fhios ag na daltaí aige san am san cáil na filíochta a bheith air. Níorbh ionadh don mbuachaill óg dúil a chur sa teanga agus gach ar bhain léi, i gan fhios do féin, geall leis. Is ag méadú a bhí ar an dúil sin i rith a shaoil riamh ina dhiaidh san, agus níor stad nó gur bhain sé amach Corca Dhuibhne thiar; b'ín í an cheanncheathrú feasta aige, cé gur i gCorcaigh, i lár slí, a chaitheadh sé formhór mór a shaoil.

"I gCnoc Mellerí a fuair sé a chuid meánscolaíochta, áit go dtabharfadh sé cheithre bliana ag múineadh ann ar ball agus go mbeadh leanúntas aige air i gcónaí. I ndeireadh a théarma mar mhac léinn ann, ghnóthaigh sé scoláireacht go dtí Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh agus thosnaigh ar a chúrsa léinn ann fómhar na bliana 1943. Níor lú a shuim sna cluichí ná sa léann agus, murab ionann agus an gobadán, tháinig an dá thráigh go feillebhinn leis. Gaeilge agus Laidean, agus an Ghréigis mar anlann leo, a bhí aige chun na céime B.A.

"The academic year 1946-7 proved to be an *annus mirabilis*, for while studying for the M.A. degree in Irish, he was on the winning Sigerson and Fitzgibbon teams, defeating UCG in the final of the hurling competition by a score of 6-5 to nil; not

only did Galway fail to score, but failed to register even a wide during the entire course of the match. For Pádraig it was a bitter victory: he had learned of his father's death earlier that day. But life would renew itself: in late February he had met a B.Comm. student, Betty Irwin, while training in the old Quarry. She was a member of the winning Ashbourne Cup team that same year, and was destined to become his wife.

"Pádraig would gain further honours at county level, winning the football championship with Lees in 1955 and being chosen as goalkeeper on the Cork team from 1953 to 1956. His inter-county career would end in the disappointment of being defeated by Galway, led by the 'terrible twins', Purcell and Stockwell, in the 1956 all-Ireland final.

"On graduating from UCC, Pádraig spent nine years teaching and a further eight years with Gael Linn, being involved with Louis Marcus in producing films on the skills of Gaelic football and hurling, the latter demonstrated by Christy Ring, with whom he formed a close friendship. He returned to UCC as a member of staff in 1964, where he would continue in the dual role of director of audio-visual services and Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge Labhartha until his retirement in 1988.

"Bhí aithne curtha aige ar thithe agus ar mhnaí na Gaeltachta le linn a thréimhse le Gael Linn; daingníodh agus buanaíodh an caidreamh san anois. A bhuíochas ar Pádraig gur thug glúin scoláirí a n-aghaidh siar ar Chorca Dhuibhne, cuid mhór díobh ná beadh an áit feicthe go deo acu mara mbeadh é bheith ina fhear cinn bóthair acu. Bhí gean agus buíochas thoir agus thiar air dá bharr. Ba nós leis féin mí a thabhairt thiar gach samhradh ag cur oiliúna ar mhúinteoirí agus ar abhair múinteoirí.

"His work in Corca Dhuibhne attracted the attention of the late Dr. Tim Mahony of Toyota Ireland, himself a language enthusiast, resulting in a substantial bequest to the College, the largest it had received up to that time, intended primarily for the development of Modern Irish at UCC.

"Pádraig would always have seen himself above all else as a teacher of Irish – and indeed the courses he developed still provide the basis of instruction in the language laboratory there – but he also produced a substantial body of published work, covering various aspects of Gaeltacht life, literature, folkloristics, biography and autobiography. [His literary works] as author or editor include: *Ar Seachrán* (translated as *The Wild Rover*), *Leoithne Aniar* (translated as *Basket Memories*), *An tAthair Tadhg*, *Abair Leat: Joe Daly*, *Learscaíl an Bhlascaoid Mhóir*,

*Malairt Beatha*, *Ceamara Chorca Dhuibhne 1 agus 2*, *Sliabh gCua m'Óige agus Scéal Trí Sceal*."

Bhronn Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh céim Dochtúrachta air i 2006 agus bronnadh Gradam an Phiarsaigh air sa bhliain 2008.

Deinimid comhbhrón lena bhean Beití, lena iníon Nuala, lena chlannmhac Colm, Brian agus Liam, agus leis an gclann go léir.

## SEAN Ó CINNEIDE

I ndeireadh Mí Lúnasa 2009 isea a scaip an scéala i nDúthaigh Dhuibhneach go raibh an tIar-Ollamh agus an fear seanchais agus léinn Seán Ó Cinnéide taréis bháis. Is ar na Cluainte i mBaile an Fheirtéaraigh a rugadh Seán. Fuair sé a bhunscolaíochta i mbunscoil an Bhuailtín sna fichidí agus ba i Meánscoil na mBráithre a dhein sé an Ard Teist. Ina dhiaidh sin chuaigh sé go Ollscoil na Gaillimhe áit ar bhain sé Céim Baitsiléara agus Máistreacht amach san Eolaíocht chomh maith leis an Ard Teastas san Oideachas. Taréis tamaill bhig a chaitheamh ag múineadh i gColáiste Éanna sa Ghaillimh d'ardaigh sé a sheolta agus thug aghaidh ar Shasana. Go Cambridge fé threoir Cockroft agus Walton ag plé le taighde núicléach a chuaigh sé. D'éirigh thar barr leis san obair seo agus dá bharr bhain sé amach Céim D.Sc.. Sna seascaidí tháinig sé ar ais go hÉirinn taréis do Ollscoil na Gaillimhe post mar ollamh le Ceimic Nea-Orgánach a thairiscint dó. Is mó scoláire ollscoile a mba chóir a bheith buíoch do Sheán as a dhíograis agus as a thacaíocht faid a bhíodar féna chúram san Ollscoil. Sheas sé go láidir leis an nGaeilge agus le cur chun cinn an teagaisc trí Ghaeilge. Bhí a chuid léachtanna i gcónaí taitneamhach agus rian an ullmhúcháin go smior ortha. Bhí sé íseal usual le cách ag léiriú spéis thar na bearta san obair a bhí idir lámha aige. Comaoin mhór a chuir sé ar scoláirí chéad bhliana na Ceimice ná foilsíú an leabhair *Ceimic Bunúsach*. Bhí an-spéis go deo ag Seán i gcúrsaí béaloideas. Ba mhó comhrá a bhí aige liom féin le linn mo thréimhse ollscolaíochta fé lámhscríbhinní mo shean uncail Pádraig Firtéar. Ar ndóigh bhíodh a ghuth le clos go rialta ar RTE Raidió na Gaeltachta, ní amháin ag plé le cúrsaí eolaíochta, ach ag argóint agus ag díospóireacht fé chúrsaí béaloideas agus logainmneacha. Taca láidir do fhealsúnacht Fhondúireacht an Bhlascaoid ab ea Seán i gcónaí.

Deinimid comhbhrón ó chroí lena bhean Máire, lena chlann mhac agus iníon, lena dhriféaracha agus lena mhuintir uile. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

— Pádraig Firtéar



## MÁRTAN J. Ó CEARNA

Ar an mBlascaod Mór i gCo. Chiarraí a saolaíodh Mártan Ó Cearna, an seú leanbh i gclann Nellie Ní Dhálaigh Uí Chearna agus a céile Seán Ó Cearna. D'éag a mháthair i 1934 agus d'fhág sí clann óg ina diaidh. B'í (Kate) Céit an cailín ba shine a ghlac cúram na clainne uirthi féin agus rún díoghbhála aici gan iad a scaradh óna chéile.

Chuaigh sé ar scoil ar an oileán (féach thíos leathanach ón scoil ag cur síos ar an seachtar a cuireadh fé scrúdú Teagasc Críostaí ar an 12/06/'39. Mártan ina measc). Ba ghnáthach gur lean na daltaí ag freastal ar an scoil go raibh 14 nó 15 bliana slán acu agus 'na dhiaidh sin chaitheadar an t-am ag iascach, ag marú coiníní nó éanlaithe nó ag gabháil do

mhóin. B'shin a shaol nó go bhfuair sé an glaoch agus an costas chun dul go dtí na Stáit Aontaithe, áit a raibh clann agus cairde roimhe. B'shin 1951 agus bhí sé 25 bliain d'aois.

Shocraigh sé síos i Hungry Hill agus fuair sé post san H&P Bakery. D'aistrigh sé go dtí Springfield Light Company, arís go Chicopee agus ar deireadh chaith sé 30 bliain leis an Burke Beverage Company i Springfield.

Phós sé bean álainn, maisiúil, Eleanor D'Anjou Kearney ar an 16ú Bealtaine 1953 agus thug Dia 56 bliain dóibh. Thánadar le chéile go dtí Ciarraí Thiar cúpla babhta agus bhíodar i láthair nuair a d'oscail Ionad an Bhlascaoid. Chaitheadar saol sona le chéile agus fuairadar an gradam "Irish Couple of 2009" ag Paráid Naomh Pádraig i Holyoke.

Fágann sé cúigear clainne agus a gclann siúd – Martin E., Ellen, Karen, Lynn agus Brian, naoiniúr garchlann, a dheartháir An Dochtúir Mícheál Ó Cearna agus a bhean Máirín, a dheirfiúr Máirín Oski agus beirt deirfiúracha céile, Joan agus Kathleen Kearney chomh maith le gaolta agus cairde anseo in Éirinn.

Déanamíid cóbhrón ó chroí leo ina mbris agus solas na bhflaitheas d'anam uasal Mhártaín. Cuireadh é sa Gate of Heaven Cemetery ar an 14ú Samhain 2009. An manna a bhí ag Mártan ná, "Tóg bog é." Tá sé anois lena mháthair Nellie sna Flaithis.

–Eidne Uí Chinnéide



## PETER J. CALLERY

A great sense of sadness swept through the town of Dingle last July the 31st 2009 with the untimely death of Mr. Peter Callery, solicitor, businessman, local community activist, loving husband and father, a great family man. Peter hailed from Elphin, Co. Roscommon and moved to Dingle in 1962 to set up his legal practice on Green St. The practice grew and flourished over the years. As a solicitor Peter always gave generously the best legal advice and his time to the local community throughout the Dingle Peninsula. Peter was a self made man, a high achiever, a hard working man ("a blueshirt", as he so often enjoyed describing himself). I recall having so many enjoyable conversations in his office late into the evenings about business, local issues, politics etc. He was a great character, larger than life, very witty, with a keen intellect and a sharp mind-set and would not suffer fools gladly. I worked with Peter on so many events, local festivals, fund raising, but my greatest memories was when we both got involved in the Dingle Chamber of Commerce of 1990 and we campaigned to stop a private Marina Development which was to receive E.U. funding. He asked me if I could contact my friend Mr. Pat Cox M.E.P. to arrange a meeting with the E.U. Commissioner for Regional Affairs, Mr. Bruce Mellon in Strasbourg. This I did, and Mr. Cox delivered the meeting with Bruce at very short notice and we were on our way. The meeting was very worthwhile and as we left the E.U. HQ we were confronted by a large media presence from Ireland with Eoin Roynane RTÉ Correspondent giving us a tough interview. We adjourned for the evening to a fine restaurant with Mr. Pat Cox and the evening matured beautifully with the help of a few glasses of Marquis de Riscal, Peter's all time favourite red wine. Peter was a great storyteller and his rich collection of stories from his many years in courtroom settings made it a memorable evening.

Peter loved the great outdoors, horse

SCRÚDÚSAD AR TEAGASC CRÍOSTAÍDE									
Ainm na Scoile: <i>Blascaod Mór</i>		Dáta an Scrúdúige: <i>4/79</i>							
Dáireoge: <i>an fipcéaraig</i>		Dáireog-Oide: <i>Máire Nic Zespaile</i>							
RANG	Ainm agus Slonnie	AOIS	Ainm na t-urraimí "na Leac-Dialann	Sapóit uimh	Déantá	Coisarc Ceilomáire	Moon-Áirid	Stair an Dtoilá	Marc Seineardáca
<i>I</i>	<i>Uam Ó Ceirna</i>	<i>9-0 91</i>							
<i>II</i>	<i>Máire Ní Ceirna Máirean Ó Ceirna</i>	<i>10-9 97 13-5 95</i>							
<i>III</i>	<i>Eiblis Ní Ceirna Tomás Ó Ceirna</i>	<i>14-7 93 13-9 92</i>							
<i>IV</i>	<i>Eiblis Ní Ceirna Pádraig Ó Ceirna</i>	<i>15-1 93 15-4 79</i>							

riding, skiing, gardening etc. but what he liked more than anything was taking his boat from Dingle Pier to An Blascaod Mór, the island the he, along with his brother Jim and others, purchased so many years ago. Peters involvement in the Great Blasket Island was misunderstood for a long period. His genuine, deep, interest in the long term welfare of the island, in protecting its rich cultural heritage and promoting it as a great addition to the existing tourist attractions along the Dingle Peninsula was not totally understood locally. This, I believe was because of his lack of command of the Irish language. Following a bitter 10-year battle, he succeeded in bringing down the 1989 Blasket Island Act, introduced by the then Taoiseach, Mr. Charles Haughey, owner of the neighbouring Inisvicillane island but not included in the Blasket Island Act. Peter was never afraid of a good fight and never shied away from standing against what he believed was wrong. He moved his case to the Supreme Court, took on the state on behalf of the land owners and won, (the Supreme Court found that the act had ethnic and racial overtones). The state finally bought out most of his property.

Peter was a private man and never went out of his way to court publicity, he always enjoyed a rich family life and with his wife

Elizabeth, daughters Susan and Charlotte and grandchildren, which meant he never had a dull moment during his 77 years of happy living.

Dingle meant a lot to Peter. He joined the Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis committee to launch a campaign to restore its name 3 years ago. I recall having a chat with his brother Jim only a few weeks ago Jim pointed out to me that Peter was not only his only brother but he was his best friend. What more can I say? Finally, the last time I met Peter was at Lord Bakers, my restaurant. He called me aside as he was leaving and told me he was entering hospital for heart surgery in a few days time and to pray for him. Sadly, that was the last chat with a man of great integrity, a true gentleman, "a blueshirt". I miss his charming company everyday of the week. I can't imagine how much Elizabeth, Susan, Charlotte and the grandchildren miss this great family man taken away in mid summer at short notice. We miss you Peter. Slán leat.

— John Moriarty, Restaurateur

Baineadh stad as pobal Chorca Dhuibhne nuair a fuair Peter Callery bás obann ag deireadh mhí Iúil seo caite.

Fé mar atá léirithe ag John Moriarty sa mhéid atá scríofa anseo aige faoi, bhí scéal an Bhlascaoid le breis is daichead bliain anuas fite-fuaite le saol Peter. Bhí sé lárnach san iarracht a rinne Taylor Collings, fear siúlach scéalach ó Mheiriceá, na gabháltais ar an Oileán Tiar a cheannach idir 1970 is 1972. Ina dhiaidh sin, tháinig na gabháltais sin i seilbh Peter agus a dheartháir James.

Ní haon rún é go raibh conspóid ann ins na blianta tosaigh maidir le todhchaí an Bhlascaoid ach, le himeacht ama, thánathas ar chomh-thuisctint maidir leis an scéal. Tríd go léir, d'éirigh linn an deachaidreamh is dual do chomharsain i bpobal beag a choimeád slán. Ag deireadh an lae, tá na bun-chéimeanna maidir le caomhnú an Bhlascaoid bainte amach agus b'shin an chloch ba mhó ar an bpaidrín againn go léir. Is cinnte go bhfuil follús fágtha i saol an Daingin is i gcúrsaí an Bhlascaoid ó cailleadh Peter gan choinne.

Cuirimid ar gcomhbhrón in iul dá bhean chéile, Elizabeth, dá iníonacha Susan agus Charlotte, dá dheartháir James, agus dá dheirféaracha. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

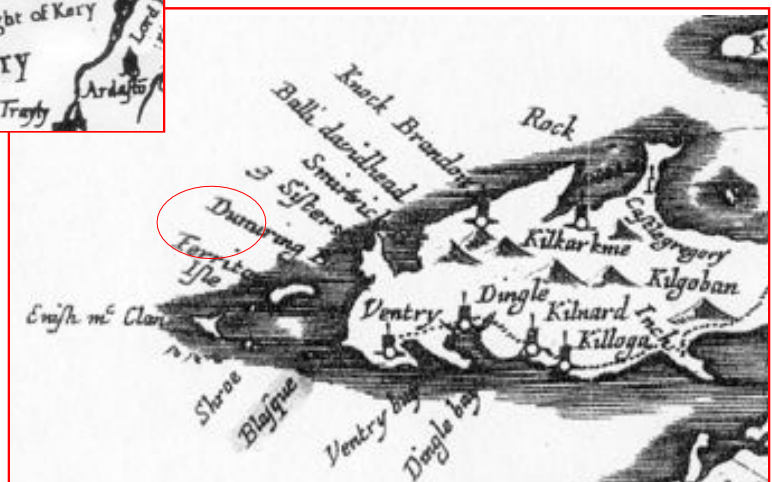
— Mícheál Ó Cinnéide

## Dhá léarscáil go bhfuil na Blascaodaí luaite iontu



Gerald Mercator: Ireland, from Angliae, Scotiae et Hiberniae, Nova descripto, Duisburg 1564 (Blaskey cite and isles).

From a General Map of Ireland, in Hiberniae, London 1685 (Ferritar Isla).



## CASTAR NA DAOINE AR A chéile ...



Niamh Ní Chriomhthain- Uí Laoithe, Máirín Ní Dhuinnshléibhe-Uí Bheóláin,

*Niamh Ní Chriomhthain-Uí Laoithe*

Bhí áthas an domhain orm nuair fuair cuireadh chun bheith i láthair ag teacht le chéile do mhuintir an Bhlascoid agus a gcaird ó chéin agus ó chongar ag Ionad an Bhlascoid lá breá gréine i 2009.

Tamall roimhe sin chuaireas aithne ar Ned Fitzgerald ó Thrá Lí. Fear ciúin séimh lághach go raibh suim ar leith aige ins an mBlascaod agus a mhuintir. Thugadh sé turas go rialta ar Mhuiris Ó Guithín (Beannacht Dé leis), ar Nell Bn. Uí Shé ar an gCoimín, agus ar Pheidí “an Oileáin” Ó Catháin a chónaíonn i mBaile an Fhírtéaraigh – “Peaidí Mháig a Rí”, mar thugadh daoine air. Bhíos a’ rádh leis – uair amháin a bhí sé ar cuaird agam féin anseo – nár bhuailéas riamh le Peaidí go pearsanta, col ceathar dom’ athair, Seán Ó Criomhthain, isea Peaidí agus bhí ionadh air. Ní fada na dhiaidh sin go dtug sé cuaird eile agus d’fhiafraigh sé díom an mbeadh suim agam i dteacht le chéile san Ionad chun bualadh le muinntir an Oileáin agus go mór mhór Peaidí. Bhí an-áthas orm san a chlos. Orthu san i láthair bhí Máirín Ní Chearna-Oski a bhí ar saoire ó Springfield (deirfiúr don Dr. Mícheál Ó Cearna), Nell Bn. Uí Shé, a chónaíonn ar

an gCoimín, Máirín Ní Dhuinnshléibhe-Uí Bheóláin, Peaidí Ó Catháin, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Niamh Ní Chriomhthain-Uí Laoithe, Cáit Ní Chriomhthain-Uí Chonaill, Eibhlín Ní Chearna-Uí Shíthigh, Máirín Ní Chearna-Uí Mhuircheartaigh, Susan Ní Chearna agus a hathair Páidín, Ned Fitzgerald agus a bhean chéile (Trá Lí), Edna Uí Chinnéide, Fondúireacht an Bhlascoid, Mícheál de Mórdha agus a mhac Dáithí agus foireann an Ionaid. I láthair leis bhí iníon le Máirín Ní Chearna, Maureen Oski ó Springfield.

I gceann des na pictiúirí (féach cúl leathanach) tá Ned Fitzgerald, Máirín Ní Dhuinnshléibhe, Nell Bn. Uí Shé Guithín (suite), Peaidí Ó Catháin, Máirín Ní Chearna, Niamh Ní Laoithe ag féachaint ar naomhóg bheag a dhein Tomás Ó Dála ón mBlascaod, beannacht Dé leis, do Ned Fitzgerald agus bhronn Ned é sin ar an Ionad.

Míle buíochas do gach éinne a chabhraigh chun an lá a eagrú agus sólaistí a thabhairt dúinn. Deineadh clár do Raidió na Gaeltachta san Ionad an lá céanna dos na hiarOileánaigh ag comhrá. Súil go gcloisfar é lá éigin.

An rud is annamh is íontach.

*A Letter from Yvonne Drury*

Edna a chara,

You may remember that this time last year you very kindly wrote to me saying you wish to print my piece on The Basket in your magazine. I was delighted to receive a copy and honoured that you had found my story beautiful. Unfortunately, I have not been able to return to The Basket this year but as I continue to think of that lovely place, I have written a poem which I thought you might like to read and maybe feel it good enough to share with your readers this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

– Yvonne Drury

*“Leanbh ó Shasna  
leanbh ó Londain  
leanbh ó Shasna  
tháinig sé chughamsa”*

*B’shin na céad línte d’amhrán a cuireadh i gcló tamall de bhlianta ó shoin do “Raidió Scoile”, nuair a bhí sé i gceist na hamhráin a chur amach ar an aer. Rith sé liom nuair a dhein Yvonne teagmháil liom an dara bliain as a chéile. Ní foláir nó gur chuaigh an Blascaod i bhfeidhm go mór uirthi anuraidh, a rá gur scríobh sí an dán seo thíos i mbliana:*

**Song of the Basket**

Borne on the wind  
The thin, reedy sound  
Bent all the grasses  
Low to the ground.  
It whistled down chimneys  
And plucked at the strings,  
It rattled and shook  
All household things.  
Strings, quivered and stilled  
Were tentatively played.  
Thus with sea-soaked hands  
The first music was made.  
And just as the wind  
Blows quiet at first  
The music then grew  
Until it burst  
Out of the houses,  
Filling the air  
It made them all dance,  
Forget their despair  
At the end of a long day  
Battling the sea.  
So a gift from the wind  
Set their music free.

– Yvonne Drury



# Gradam Ard d'Fhear Uasal

Insealbhaíodh Uachtarán an Oireachtais 2010, Mícheál de Mórdha, ag searmanas speisialta i gceannáras Fhoras na Gaeilge ar 9 Feabhra. Tá a shaol oibre caite ag Mícheál leis an nGaeilge. Ó 1993 ar aghaidh, tá sé ina Stiúrthóir ar Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir i nDún Chaoin.

Roimhe sin, chaith sé 17 mbliana mar Chlár-Reachtair le RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, d'oibrigh sé mar iriseoir leis an nuachtán Gaeilge, *Inniu*, agus chaith sé bliain mar riarthóir le Gael Linn.

Tá spéis ar leith aige sna teangacha Ceilteacha agus bíonn sé i gcónaí ag iarraidh nasc níos láidre a chothú lenár gcomharsana Ceilteacha. Ní strainséir ar bith é Mícheál do chomórtais an Oireachtais ach an oiread - bhuaigh sé féin duais sna Comórtais Liteartha cúpla uair.

“Is mór an onóir dom a bheith ceaptha san oifig seo,” a dúirt Mícheál, agus é ag glacadh le Slabhra an Uachtaráin. Tugann sé cúis bhróid dom ionadaíocht a dhéanamh don Oireachtas sa bhliain atá romhainn. Is é Oireachtas na Samhna an fhéile is tábhachtaí i gcultúr Gaelach na hÉireann,” a dúirt sé.

“Guím gach rath ar Mícheál de Mórdha ina bhliain mar Uachtarán,” a dúirt Liam Ó Maoladh, Stiúrthóir Oireachtas na Gaeilge. “Táimse fíorbhródúil as a bhfuil bainte amach ag Oireachtas na Gaeilge go dtí seo. Tá imeachtaí an Oireachtais, agus Oireachtas na Samhna go háirithe, lámach i bhforbairt na n-ealaíon ársa sa tír seo.”

“Tá féilire lán go béal d'imeachtaí á sholáthar ag Oireachtas na Gaeilge arís i mbliana - beidh Léacht an Oireachtais ar siúl i mí Aibreáin, beidh Na Gradaim Chumarsáide ar siúl i dteach Farnleigh i mBaile Átha Cliath i mí na Bealtaine, beidh na Comórtais Liteartha ar siúl i mí Mheán Fómhair, agus beidh an buaicphointe i bhféilire an Oireachtais, Oireachtas na Samhna, ar siúl ag deireadh mí Dheireadh Fómhair i gCill Airne”. Ón lá a thána go blianta na tuisceana is mó críostaí go gcuireas aithne orthu, daoine áirithe a thaitníonn liom agus cuid eile gur cuma liom ann nó as iad.



## Oireachtas na Gaeilge



Liam Ó Maoladh, Stiúrthóir Oireachtas na Gaeilge; Mícheál de Mórdha agus Caitlín Ní Chochláin, Cathaoirleach Choiste Náisiúnta an Oireachtais ag Inshealbhú an Uachtaráin i bhForas na Gaeilge, BÁC, 9 Feabhra 2010.

Is cuimhin liom aithne a chur ar Mícheál de Mórdha agus ní inniu ná inné é sin – fear stuama, tuisceanach, cara a dhéanfadh áis do dhuine in am an ghátair. Is dócha nach bhfuil duine sa dúthaigh seo go m'bfhearr liom tamall ina chuideachta ná Mícheál. Is mó áit atá rian coise na beirte againn i bhfochair a chéile. ‘Sé Mícheál a chuir crot ar script *A Thigh Ná Tit Orm* sara n-imigh sé go dtí an foilsitheoir. Dheineamar cláracha raidio cois a chéile. Thaistealaíomar Meiriceá i dteannta a chéile. Ní raibh Oireachtas le deich mbliana fichead ná gur fhreastalaíomar air, gan trácht ar thuras bliantúil ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh. Ní raibh focal cruaidh riamh eadrainn.

Ag féachaint ar Mhaidhc mar dhuine agus mar oibrí is mór an seó a bhfuil déanta aige as son Ghaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne agus na Gaolunne, gan trácht ar an obair atá idir lámha aige in Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir ar son ár n-oidhreacht



ar an míntír agus oidhreacht an Bhlascaoid.

Anois tá sé tagtha go dtí mo chluasa go mbeidh sé mar Uachtarán ar Oireachtas na Gaeilge 2010, gradam atá tuillte go maith aige. Is mise a bheidh mórálach, ag seasamh le hais leis ag bronnadh an ghradam i mBleá Cliath. Go méadaí Dia chuige féin agus Angela a thuilleadh gradaim.

– Maidhc D. Ó Sé

## Tom Biuso visiting Dunquin 1984



*In 1984, when I was staying in Dunquin, prevented by the weather from getting to the Blaskets, I stayed in the bungalow*

*home of Seán and Julia Landers, two mainlanders who had close family relations among the Blasket Islanders. Julia's sister had married an Islander and I knew Julia's nieces and nephews in Springfield.*

Seán Landers practiced a kind of reduced and redundant cattle-raising on their farm at the foot of Mount Eagle, using their old house, the broad, stone, two-storey house out back as his barn, and I suspected, his refuge from Julia during long winter afternoons. He would start a turf fire in the kitchen fireplace of the old house/cattle shed, and with perhaps a sip of whiskey, he would listen to the January rain through the open door and commune with the calves, who poked their pink noses through the slats of a stall. One day, shopping, and we'd returned home, I offered to accompany him to his station in the barn. He told me I was welcome.

It was while I was sitting in the kitchen of the modern bungalow they'd built in the nineteen-fifties, and Seán was changing from his town clothes into things more suited to the barn, that I noticed the green satin-finish rayon barn jacket that he laid out on a kitchen chair near the range. From a distance, it looked to be a hooded car coat, a little worn maybe, but not unlike the blue sateen jacket, better kept, that he'd worn to town that morning. I thought little about the barn-coat, until he started to put it on, and I noticed that it had brass buttons all up and down the front. There was a military cast to the jacket.

Seán was zipping the front vent of the coat, when I couldn't contain my curiosity any longer. I got up from my chair and crossed the room to get a better look at his shiny brass buttons. "Here, Seán," I said, let us get a look at these will you?"

The buttons were embossed with the

standing figure of an Indian, breech-clouted, holding in one hand a bow, and in the other, a clutch of arrows. Around the rim of the buttons ran the words, "Massachusetts Turnpike Authority." Was the Indian Massasoit, or was he Squanto? And what in the world was he doing here, on a small holding in the shadow of Mount Eagle in Dunquin, County Kerry? Tending cattle in Atlantic storms, sipping whiskey, and languishing in the smell of a turf fire? Just up the hill from the house was a stone formation that was supposed to have served as one of the beds of Diarmuid and Grania, the lovers who had to flee to the corners of Ireland to escape the wrath of Finn Mac Cool. Seán was a little embarrassed at the attention his coat drew from me. "Where did you get the coat, Seán?" I asked. Julia came into the kitchen from somewhere in the back. "From Springfield – in America," she said, "It was in one of them jumble sales or whadda they call 'em," she paused, "Rummage – is that it? One of them rummage sales it was in. My sister took me there." We all laughed.

For the moment, Finn Mac Cool and the Fianna are less improbable. I picture Seán leaning through the stanchions of his barn, petting the noses of the patient cows and assessing the farmer's toll in brimming buckets of milk. I picture Seán lugging water, pitching silage and



Julia and Seán Landers  
in their home in Dún Chaoin.

Pict: Robert Brummett

mucking out the byres while his brass buttons, the Massachusetts Indian rampant, glimmer in the dull winter light.

Long before George Thompson heard the story of gold in the streets of Springfield and long before I discovered the brass Massachusetts Indian in West Kerry, for reasons unclear, when Blasket Islanders joined the masses of Irish emigrating away from poverty, disease, famine and landlessness, they chose to emigrate to Western Massachusetts. Their fluency in Irish set them apart from other emigrants, and must have isolated the first few who went. Ships left earliest from Dingle harbour, but later it became more likely that Islanders would take the train to Cork, and then go via Queenstown, or later Cobh to Springfield Mass.

### Seanphocail

Bíonn deallramh cailliúnach go minic

Déanann leanbh ciallmhar gasta athair  
subhach subháilceach 's déanann  
leanbh baoth big chiallmhar máthair  
dúbhach dólásach.

An cnoc is airde sé is fuaire, cé gur do is  
gaire an ghrian.

Céileacan fada is greadadh na ród a  
dhéanann seanduine don duine óg.

Comhairle an tseanduine – buige le buige  
go dtrealltar do dhuine, is mara  
ngearrfaidh sé chugat, gearr chuige.

Giollacht an daill ar an dall, an díog a  
gheobhaidh siad.

Sroiseann each mall muileann.

Mol gort agus ná mol geabhair.

Ní scorn do dhuine bheith bocht, ach is  
scorn do dhuine bheith spríunlathie.

Níl blas, meas ná dath agam air mar  
fhear, ars' an cailín.

Tosach loinge clár, tosach átha clocha,  
tosach flatha fáilte is tosach sláinte  
codladh.

Feirmeoir a bhí ag tógaint buachaill  
aimsire uair, nuair a chuir sé ceist air  
cad í an tsaoire a theastódh uaidh,  
d'fhreagair an buachaill "Nollaig in  
aghaidh an ráithe, Domhnach sa  
tarna lá, 'gus lá saoire eatarthu".

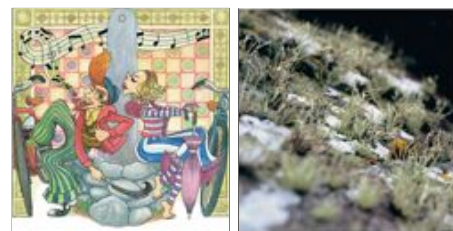
## Imeachtaí san Ionad le Linn na Bliana 2009

Seo leanas liosta dos na himeachtaí a reachtáladh in Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir i rith na bliana 2009. Mura gcuirtear a mhalairt in iúl is iad foireann Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí/Ionad an Bhlascaoid a d'eagraigh na himeachtaí atá luaite.

07/02/2009 Lá imeachtaí d'fhoghlaimoírí fásta Gaelainne

02/04/2009 Cruinniú Poiblí arna eagrú ag Údarás na Gaeltachta

25/04/2009 Seimineár ar chúrsaí poiblíochta in earnáil na n-ealaín, arna eagrú ag *Ealaín na Gaeltachta*

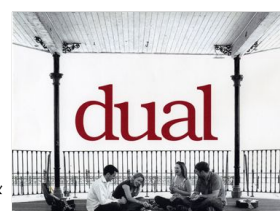


01/05/2009 Oscailt taispeántais ealaíne, 'Crot', le **Domhnal Ó Bric & Bríd Ní Luasaigh**, taispeántas a mhair ar feadh an tsamhraidh.

02/05/2009 Oíche litríochta arna eagrú ag *Féile na Bealtaine*

30/05/2009 Cruinniú Cinnbhliana Fhondúireacht an Bhlascaoid, arna eagrú ag *Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid*

06/06/2009 Ceolchoirm le **Dual** (Muireann Nic Amhloibh, Julie Fowles, Eamon Doorley & Ross Martin)



19/06/2009 Cruinniú Cinnbhliana Chomharchumainn Dhún Chaoin, arna eagrú ag *Comharchumann Dhún Chaoin*

03/07/2009 Seimineár de chuid Tionól Gaeltachta Chonradh na Gaeilge, arna eagrú ag *Conradh na Gaeilge*

06/07/2009 Cúrsa Gaeltachta Chumann Múinteoirí Éireann, arna eagrú ag craobh áitiúil an Chumainn

07/07/2009, 14/07/2009, 21/07/2009, 28/07/2009, 04/08/2009, 11/08/2009, 18/08/2009, 25/08/2009- Sraith ceolchoirmeacha i gcomhar le Féile na Bealtaine

30/08/2009 Seachtain Oidhreachta

04/09/2009 Oscailt Taispeántais ealaíne le Diane Lavery

21/09/2009 Bronnadh Céime Oinigh ó Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad, ar Mhaidhc Sheáin Team Ó Cearna thar cheann muintir an oileáin go léir, beo agus marbh.



09-11/10/09 Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid – **John Millington Synge** – arna eagrú ag Ionad an Bhlascaoid, Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne & Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid.

14/10/2009 Fáiltiú Chomhdhála an Centre for Anaesthesia, University College, London, arna eagrú ag *Christy Mac Gearailt*

02-06/11/09 Comhdháil Foghlama Ceoil le **Pobail Camphill** na hÉireann

22/11/2009 Aonach Ceardaíochta Dhún Chaoin, arna eagrú ag Sue Redican & Betty Ryan



*Cuirtear áiseanna an Ionaid ar fáil saor in aisce do eagrais áitiúla pobail a eagraíonn imeachtaí cultúrtha nó oideachais.*



**A Soilse, Mannete Ramaili,**  
Ambasadóir Ríocht Lesotho go hÉirinn  
ag labhairt ag Siompósiam Poilítíochta  
de chuid Fhéile na Bealtaine san Ionad.



**Tomás Bán**

An tOileánach, an tionad agus an tOileán faoi bhrat sneachta an geimhreadh seo.

Pictiúr tógtha ag Micheál de Mórdha, maraon le pictiúr an chluadaigh tosaigh.



**Bean Gheal**  
Bean Mhaidhc Uí Chearna,  
Maureen Ward gur ó Ros Comáin ó  
dhúchas di, ag éisteacht go  
gealgháireach le hÓráid Mhaidhc.



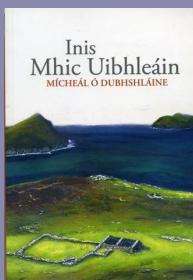
**Ár gCeol Sibh**

Na deiriúracha Grainbhéil, Aoife agus Deirdre,  
i mbun cheoil ag Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid san Ionad.

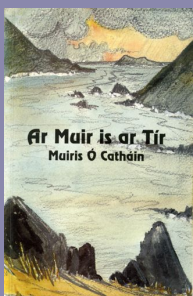


**Castar na Daoine ar a Chéile**

Ned Fitzgerald (ar chlé) le muintir an Bhlascaoid (féach Ich 16).



The late Micheál Ó Dubhshláine presents a fascinating and detailed portrait of life, history, folklore, music and archaeology of Inis Mhic Uibhleáin in the English version of the same Irish language book. Both versions published by Brandon



Athfhoilsiú ar leagan 1991 den leabhar céanna. Bunaithe ar chomhráite a bhí ag Risteard Breatnach leis an mBlascaodach Muiris Ó Catháin. Foilsithe ag An Sagart.



Radharc as an dráma **Chun na Farraige Síos** a chuireadh i láthair ag AnnÓg Ar Aghaidh sa Lab, An Daingean, mar chuid de Cheiliúradh an Bhlascaoid. Na haisteoirí ó chlé: Peigí Mistéal, Caitlín Firtéar, Frances Uí Chinnéide, Sharon Ní Chíobháin, Róisín Ní Chéileachair agus Malachai Mac Amhlaobh.

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