

# An Caoinóir

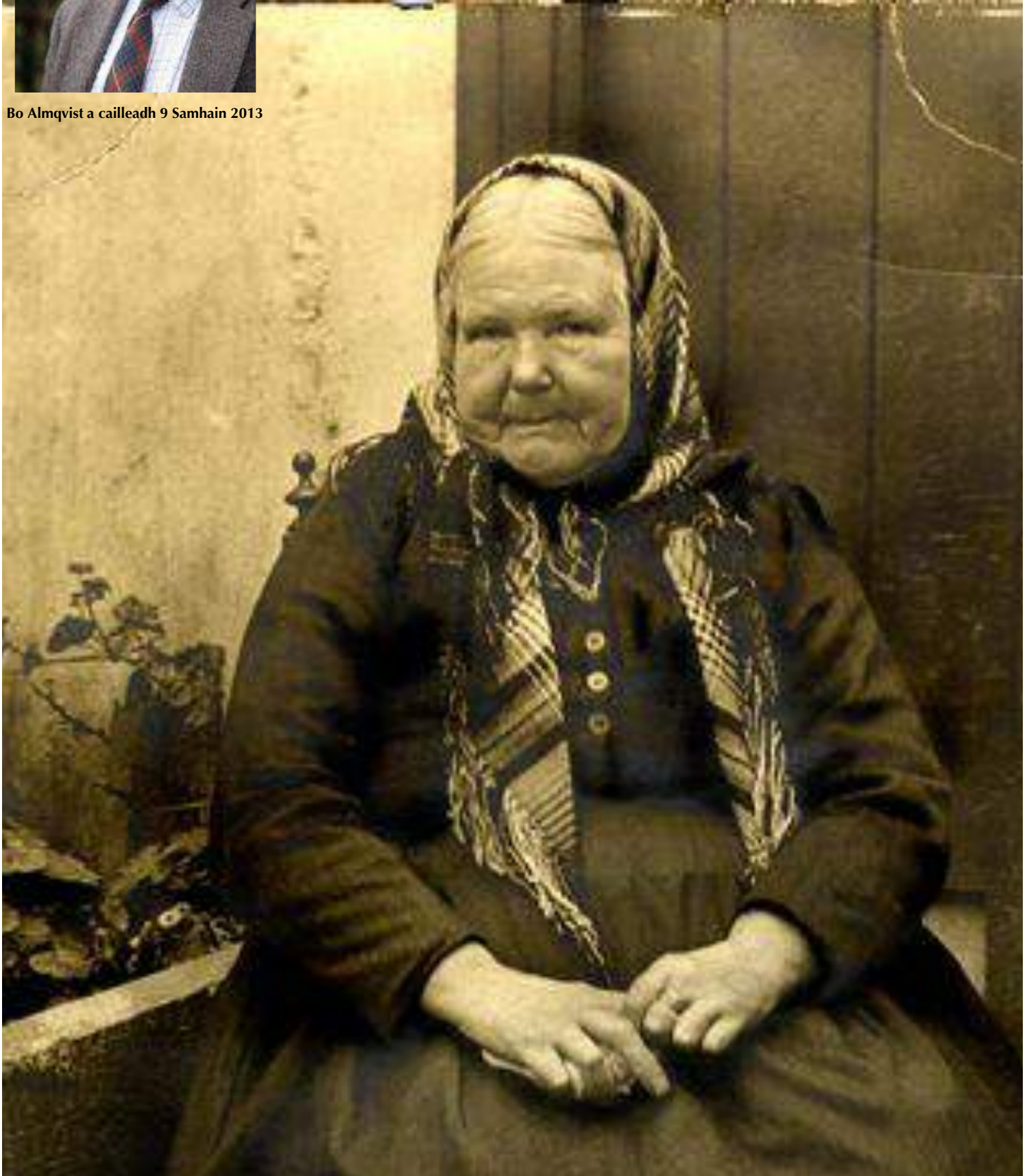
Nuachtlitr Fhondúireacht an Bhlascaoid 2014

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Bo Almquist a cailleadh 9 Samhain 2013





## Focal ón gCathaoirleach

Ó 1985, bliain a bunaithe, tá an Fhondúireacht ag treabhadh léi ag iarraidh ár n-aidhmeanna a thabhairt chun críche go foirfe.

Táimid thar a bheith sásta go bhfuil slabhra sábhála curtha suas i mbliana chun cuidiú le sábháilteacht ag dul ó chaladh an Oileáin suas go dtí an Baile, buíochas ar leith don Roinn Ealaíon Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta a

mhaoinigh an togra seo. Is iontach go bhfuil na treoraithe san Oileán i gcaitheamh an tsamhraidh gan trácht ar an “app” atá curtha ar fáil ag foireann an Ionaid. Ar ndóigh ’sé an sprioc atá againn go léir ná stádas Oidhreachta Domhanda a bhaint amach.

Uair amháin eile tréasláimid ó chroí le Coiste an Cheiliúrtha – comhfhiontar idir sinn féin agus Ionad an Bhlascaoid. Bhí ard-deireadh seachtaine againn i mbliana ag cíoradh “Saibhreas agus Dán na Teanga” agus níl amhras ná gur bhain an slua mór a fhreastail air idir thairbhe agus thaitheamh as. Cheana féin táthar ag prapáil do cheiliúradh 2014. An t-údar Pádraig Ua Maoileoin a bheidh faoi chaibidil.

Ba dheas linn an deis a thógaint freisin chun buíochas a ghabháil leis an Dr. Michéal Ó Cearna agus a chlann agus a gcairde as a bhflaithiúlacht leanúnach ag cur Sparánacht an Bhlascaoid ar fáil dár n-ógánaigh. Ar ndóigh is mór againn go léir an saothar breá dá chuid. Buíochas dóibh siúd go léir a chabhraíonn leis an gCeiliúradh nó leis an gCaomhnóir in aon tslí. Buíochas ó chroí freisin le Michéal de Mórdha, Bainisteoir an Ionaid agus lena fhoireann as ucht a ndúthracht agus a gcomhoibriú.

“Go mbeirimid go léir beo ag an am seo arís”.

# PORTRÁID PICTIÚR



Gearóid Cheaist Ó Catháin le Michéal agus Dáithí de Mórdha ag seoladh *Portráid Oileáin / Island Portrait* – taispeántas arna chur le chéile ag Ionad an Bhlascaoid agus Ciarán Walsh ó [www.curator.ie](http://www.curator.ie), rogha de na pictiúir ar fad atá i gCartlann an Ionaid. Cuireadh an taispeántas seo le chéile mar cheiliúradh ar fhiche bliain a bheith caite ó bhunú an Ionaid in 1993. Foilsíodh an taispeántas i bhfoirm leabhair ag The Collins Press, Corcaigh.

## An Caomhnóir © 2014

Foilsithe ag Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid le tacaíocht Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí.

### Oifig Chláraithe

Comharchumann Forbartha Chorca Dhuibhne, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.

### In eagar ag

Bernie Firtéar agus Máire Uí Ainín.  
Clóchur 7 Dearadh: Inné, Dún Chaoin.  
Clóidóirí: Kingdom Printers, Trá Lí.

### Pictiúir

Buíochas le hIonad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir as pictiúir a bhaineann le Céiliúradh an Bhlascaoid, *The Gathering/An Tóstal*, agus an clúdach tosaigh.

Pictiúir eile: Marian O’Flaherty, Siobhán Dempsey, Derbhla Hutch agus Julian Simmonds.

### An Clúdach

Féach: De Mórdha, Mícheál, *Scéal agus Dán Oileáin*, Coiscéim, BÁC, 2012 (rannóg pictiúir in éis leathanach 607, faoin fotheideal ‘Grianghrafanna Ón Oilean / Mná:3’); agus in De Mórdha, Dáithí agus Mícheál, *An Bhlascaoid Mór - Portráid Pictiúir*, The Collins Press, Corcaigh, 2013, lch. 16.

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### Coiste Fhondúireacht an Bhlascaoid

Pádraig Firtéar (Cathaoirleach)  
Lorcán Ó Cinnéide (Rúnaí)  
Gearóid Ó Brosnacháin (Cisteoir)  
Mícheál Ó Cinnéide, Bernie Firtéar,  
Máire Uí Ainín, Edna Uí Chinnéide,  
Gearóid Ó Cinnéide, Máirín Ní Bhroin  
Frances Uí Chinnéide  
Máirín Ní Laoithe-Uí Shé

### Coiste Chéiliúradh an Bhlascaoid

Máirín Ní Laoithe-Uí Shé (Cathaoirleach)  
Máire Uí Ainín (Rúnaí)  
Frances Uí Chinnéide (Cisteoir)  
Máirín Ní Bhroin, Boscó Ó Conchúir,  
Bernie Firtéar, Mícheál de Mórdha,  
Máire Uí Shíthigh (Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne).

## Sparántacht an Bhlascaoid – Blasket Bursary



Dr Mike Carney with Bursary Award winners Niamh de hÓra, Cathal Ó Lúing and Clíodhna Ní Dhúgáin.

### *Marian O'Flaherty*

A generational gap was bridged in Ionad an Bhlascaoid in Dún Chaoin as one of the last remaining Blasket Islanders Dr Mícheál Ó Céarna (93) bestowed Sparántacht an Bhlascaoid (the Blasket Island Bursary) on three Corca Dhuibhne college freshmen.

Dr. Mike, as he is known, travelled all the way from his



Máirín Carney-Hayes and Elna Uí Chinnéide at presentation of Bursaries.

home in Springfield, Massachusetts to attend the event where he was joined by his daughter Máirín Cearney-Hayes and Etna Uí Chinnéide in bestowing the bursary on Niamh de hÓra of Baile an Fheirteáraigh, Cathal Ó Lúing of Ceann Trá and Clíodhna Ní Dhúgáin from Dún Chaoin. Niamh received €1,000 while Cathal and Clíodhna €500 received apiece to assist them in their third level studies.

Sparántacht an Bhlascaoid was initiated by Dr. Mike in memory of his late wife Maureen (nee Ward), who passed away in 2010. The aim of the bursary is to assist and encourage students from the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht, who are entering first year classes in Irish third level institutions, in conducting further studies in Irish culture and language.

“The standard was so high it was decided that three awards should be made – only a few points separated many of the applicants,” Mícheál de Mórdha of Ionad an Bhlascaoid told The Kerryman.

The award of the bursaries also marked the launch of Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid 2013 which was officially opened by Aire Stáit an Roinn Ealaíon Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta Donnacha Mac Fhionnlaíoch in the Ionad.

After celebrating the award of the Sparántacht there was no rest to be had for Dr. Mike as he, along with members of his family, faced the road for Dublin to meet President Michael D Higgins and to launch his memoirs in the capital.

## Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid 2013 – Saibhreas agus Dán na Teanga

Lorcán Ó Cinnéide

Deireadh seachtaine éachtach, spreagúil a bhí in Ionad an Bhlascaoid ar an deireadh-seachtaine deireanach de Mheán Fómhair, nuair a tionóladh Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid na bliana 2013 faoin téama “Saibhreas agus Dán na Teanga”. Ó thús go deireadh, spreag na cainteanna ar fad díospóireacht agus ábhar machnaimh don lucht tinribh líonmhar, faoi staid na Gaolainne agus a todhchaí – agus comhairle phraiticiúil maidir le conas úsáid na teanga a chothú sna blianta atá romhainn.

Sárobair déanta arís i mbliana ag an gcoiste eagraithe agus an-mholadh tuillte acu aron as caighdeán agus eagrú an Cheiliúrtha seo. Tá Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid, foireann an Ionaid agus Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne rannpháirteach sa choiste seo.

Tar éis aithisc oscailte deisbhéalaigh ón Aire Stáit sa Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta, **Donncha Mac Fhionnlaoidh, TD**, a dhírigh ar straitéis an stáit i leith na Gaeilge, thug **Dáithí de Mordha** sárléargas dúinn ar shaibhreas teanga ár sinsear lena chur i láthair fuaime agus físiúil a thug guthanna scoth-chainteoirí dúchasacha – a lán acu go raibh aithne ag cuid den lucht féachana orthu – cruinn díreach i láthair, le tráchtairacht a bhí ullmhaithe le díogras agus cumas. Lean fáiltiú breá, ina raibh deis ag seanchairde an Cheiliúrtha mar aon le cuairteoirí nua teacht le chéile. B’shin a chuir deireadh le hoíche na hoscailte.

Maidin Dé Sathairn bhí éagsúlacht



An Dr John Walsh



Aire Stáit sa Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta, **Donncha Mac Fhionnlaoidh, TD**, ag Oscailt Ceiliúrthadh 2013, le Mícheál de Mórdha, Pádraig Firtear, An Dr. Mairlhc Ó Cearna agus Edna Uí Chinnéide.



An Dr Traolach Ó Riordáin

téamaí, idir chaint an **Dochtúir John Walsh** ó Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, faoi nuachaintoirí na Gaeilge in Éirinn agus thar lear. Léargas stairiúil a bhí ag an **Dochtúir Traolach Ó Riordáin** ó Ollscoil Montana ar fhorbairtí teanga sa naoú haois déag i Montana.

Is é an gníomhaire agus tráchtair teanga **Donncha Ó hÉallaithe** is mó a chuir an Ceiliúradh ina bheathaigh lena chaint faoin teideal “Arbh fhiú an braon allais?” in ar dhein sé anailís ghéar ar staid na teanga le tríocha bliain agus anois, agus cáineadh láidir ar an reachtaíocht nua, polasaithe agus cur chuige an rialtais faoin nGaeilge. Caint láidir, dháiríre agus ghreannmhar a bhí ann a chuir alán daoine ag cuimhneamh, mar is dual do Dhonncha!

Bhí an Dochtúir Oinigh **Maidhc Ó Cearna** i láthair as Gaeltacht Springfield,

Mass. chun trí sparántacht a bhronnadh as Sparánacht an Bhlascaoid, scéim a bhunaigh sé agus atá anois ina tríú bliain. A iníon Maureen Hayes agus Edna Bean Uí Chinnéide a bhronn na seiceanna agus labhair an bheirt ag an ócáid.



Donncha Ó hÉallaithe

Seoladh freisin leabhar Ceiliúrthadh na bliana 2010, *Cúrsaí Creidimh ar an mBlascaod* curtha in eagar ag Mícheál de Mórdha, le linn na deireadh seachtaine, cuid de shraith leabhar a dheineann taifead tábhachtach ar imeachtaí gach Ceiliúrtha ó bunaíodh é agus atá luachmhar le himeachtaí gach Ceiliúrtha a chaomhnú agus a scaipeadh.

Toisc ainnise na haimsire, ní raibh ar chumas Mhichíl de Mórdha a thuras siúil mórthimpeall Dhún Chaoin a dhéanamh

ach dhein sé a chúram go héifeachtach san Ionad ag cur i láthair scothchainteoirí an pharóiste in iarnóin an tSathairn. An trathnóna sin thug an craoltóir clúiteach Micheál Ó Sé cur i láthair a bhí thar barr ar fad dírithe ar imirt cártaí sa traidisiún agus sa chaint – ócáid ar baineadh an-taitneamh ar fad as. Ina dhiaidh sin, bhailigh an slua isteach i mbialann an Ionaid chun tabhairt faoi chártaí, scrabble as Gaeilge agus beiriste a imirt! An-oíche chuileachta!

Fianaise ar chaighdeán na n-imeachtaí agus an tsuim a bhí san ábhar gur tháinig slua mór maidin Dé Domhnaigh chun trí chaint a chlos, ó **Aoife Ní Sheaghda**, **Aoife Ní Chonchúir** agus **Orlaith Ruiséal** ar an ábhar “Mol an Óige”. Dhein an triúr sárbheart a chúitigh an lucht féachana go saibhir as a ndúthracht. Dhírigh Aoife Ní Sheadhgha ar an bpróiseas pleanáil teanga, Aoife Ní Chonchúir ar a taitní pearsanta agus ar a cuid oibre ag plé le daltaí meánscoile i bPobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne, agus Orlaith Ruiséal ar an gclár *Tús Maith* faoi scáth Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne. Cainteanna dearfacha, cumasacha agus praiticiúla a bhí sa seisiún, a thug nóta dóchais agus muiníne dúinn ar fad.

Chríochnaigh **Pádraig Feirtéar**, Cathaoirleach Fhondúireacht an Bhlascaoid an Céiliúradh ag am lóin Dé Domhnaigh, trí bhuíochas a ghabháil le lucht eagraithe, cainteoirí, cathaoirligh agus lucht tinrimh an Cheiliúrtha shármhaith seo.

D’fhéadfaí a rá gur bhaint indíreach a bhí ag téama na bliana seo, a raibh comhthéacs níos leithne leis, le



**Ceiliúradh na mBan**

Áine Jim Pheig Ní Mhuircheartaigh, Bríd Ní Mhóráin, Máire Breatnach, Deirdre Brúgha agus Aingeal Uí Bhuachalla



**Ag an bhFóram**

Aoife Ní Sheaghda ag an bpóidiam le hAoife Ní Chonchúir, Orlaigh Ruiséal agus Breandán Mac Gearailt (Cathaoirleach).



Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid, ná mar is gnách – ach is cinnte go raibh oidhreacht agus spiorad an Bhlascaoid go láidir mar chúlra le gach ar tharla ann. Chuir an deireadh seachtaine go mór leis an díospóireacht maidir le hoidhreacht agus todhchaí na Gaeilge agus ócáid fíorluachmhar agus taitneamhach a bhí ann. Ba phribhléid a bheith ann. Thug sé clann an Bhlascaoid, faoi mar a thugaimíd orthu, le chéile in athuir agus táimíd ag súil go mór le caradas a athnuachan arís agus plé á dhéanamh againn arís i 2014 ar an údar agus garmhach An tOileánach, Pádraig Ua Maoileoin.

## Oldest living islander honoured on home turf

By Marian O'Flaherty

(this article was originally published in The Kerryman on May 29, 2013)

RAPTUROUS applause greeted Dr Mícheál Ó Ceárna in Ionad an Bhlascaoid on Friday as a packed auditorium rose to their feet in honour of Blasket Island native's achievements.

It was a worthy homecoming for the man who, during his life, championed the cause of the Irish language and the culture of his people at home and in his adopted home in the US.

At 92 years of age Dr. Mike had elected to make the journey home to launch his memoirs - walking in the great literary footsteps of his Blasket Island forefathers.

Speaking before his Irish and American families, his Blasket Island and West Kerry brethren and a host of dignitaries including Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Jimmy Deenihan, Dr. Mike was visibly emotional as he addressed the crowd who hung on his every word.

It proved a fitting climax to a very poignant and joyous occasion which saw Minister Deenihan officially open the 'Blasket Island & West Kerry Welcome Home Week', touted as one of the most eagerly anticipated events of The Gathering. The Minister's speech was extremely well received with Gorta Dubh native and former President of The Kerryman's Association of New York, Muiris Bric, commenting to The Kerryman afterwards on the heartfelt nature of Minister Deenihan's words. "He gets it," said Muiris, "he [the Minister] understands how important



Mike Carney with his son Michael approaches the Island (above) and "ar a thód dúchais" (below).

Picts: Jullian Simmonds

this whole thing really is."

The crowd then de-camped to the audio-visual room at Ionad an Bhlascaoid where co-author Gerald Hayes introduced his father-in-law's memoirs, 'From The Great Blasket to America - The Last Memoir by an Islander'.

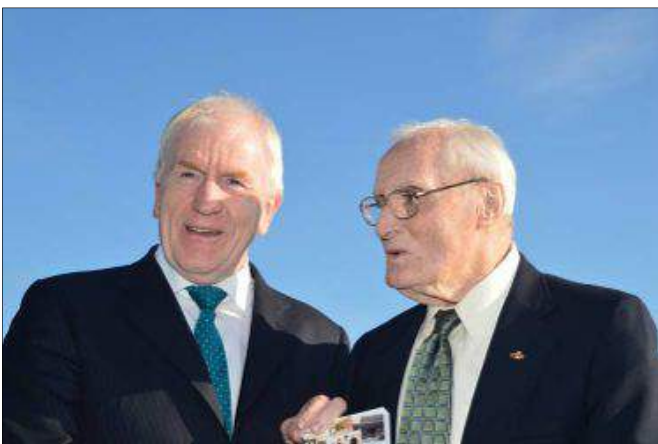
"This is probably the last contribution to the Blasket Island library," said Mr Hayes who jokingly described himself as Dr. Mike's "administrator". He described the book as a "love-story" referring to Dr Mike's love of the Blaskets, his Irish heritage and culture, America, his family and the love of his life, his late wife Maureen Ward.

Dr Mike is the son of Seán Tom Ó Cearna and Neilí Ní Dhálaigh, who sadly passed away in 1933 leaving nine children behind on the Great Blasket. At the age of 16 Dr Mike moved to

Cahersiveen before making his way to Dublin where he lived for 11 years, working in Davy Byrne's pub. It was also in Dublin that he met his wife-to-be Maureen Ward, a native of Roscommon.

In 1947 tragedy struck as Dr Mike received word from home that his brother Seán had passed away at the age of 24 on the island. This was "the last straw" for Dr. Mike who wrote a letter to Eamon de Valera, which was to start the ball rolling for the island's eventual evacuation on November 17, 1953.

Dr Mike set his sights the USA, leaving Southampton on the Queen Mary. He carved out a life in Springfield, Massachusetts where his beloved Maureen joined him and they married and raised a family. He became a US citizen in 1954 but went on to become a bastion of cultúr and dúchas coaching



Minister Jimmy Deenihan TD and Mike at the Gathering

GAA teams, teaching Irish in Springfield for 10 years, eventually becoming the President of the John Boyle O'Reilly. During his lifetime he also remained resolute in his quest to preserve the heritage of the Blasket Island in order to establish a worthy legacy which could be passed down to subsequent generations. In 2009 he was awarded an honorary doctoral degree in Celtic literature from NUI Maynooth for his contribution to Irish culture.

“He was and is a genuine Irish force of nature,” said Mr Hayes who spent countless hours collaborating with Dr Mike in compiling his memoirs. “When I asked him ‘why write these memoirs’ he simply quoted Tomás Ó Criocháin, ‘so I can live while I’m dead’.”

Mr Hayes also acknowledged the contributions of the many people who were instrumental in making the book a reality, including Mícheál and Dáithí de Mórdha, Mícheál Ó Cinnéide, Maureen Hayes, Seán Cahillane and publishers Collins Press to mention but a few.

A video interview with Dr Mike was then screened to the captivate audience, revealing the motivation for his life’s work. “If you lose your heritage you



Seán Mac Síthigh captures the Gathering for TG4.

might as well lose yourself,” he said, adding that “the island never left my system.” At the video’s conclusion Dr. Mike rose to his feet to acknowledge the audience and he received a lengthy standing ovation. It proved a poignant tribute and as hands clapped, tears were shed in abundance.

Bringing the evening’s events to a

close, Mícheál O Cinnéide spoke of the importance of the work undertaken by men such as Dr Mike in preserving the heritage of the Blaskets. 2013 is a significant year as it marks 60 years since the evacuation of the Great Blasket Island and it also marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of Ionad an Bhlascaoid.

## Opus Eile : *Suantraí na hInise* – Ceol nua-chumtha



Colm Ó Foghlú

AGUS 60 BLIAIN ann ó tharla aslonnú na nBlascaoid, is mar chomóradh ar an ócáid a chum Colm Ó Foghlú “Suantraí na hInise” – taibhléiriú nuálach idir cheol is caint a spreagadh as oidhreacht shabhair chultúrtha an oileáin.

Is in Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir a deindeadh an chéad taibhiú a chur i láthair ag an gcomhlucht léirithe, Opus Eile ar 17 Samhain na bliana seo.

Miúin is ea “Suantraí na hInise” ar an gcomhaibhíon ndiaidh thréigean an oileáin agus a fuascailt a oifráileadh, le míreanna cartlainne agus scór nua-chumtha ceoil. Agus 60 bliain glan curtha dinn ó aslonnaíodh na Blascaoidí táthar ag tnúth go dtigann an saothar seo oidhreacht shuntasach Mhuintir na mBlascaoid chun cinn in athuair.

Do chum Colm an soathar seo go speisialta do na ceoltóirí clúiteacha Niamh Ní Charra (consairtín), Noreen O’Donoghue (cruit) agus The Dublin String Ensemble a sheinn go gleoite ar an oíche nó gur sheas an slua agus thug na gártha molla dóibh.

- Le blaiseach a fháil ar an saothar seo téir go dtí: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzc91Nx79kw>



Niamh Ní Charra (consairtín) agus Noreen O’Donoghue (cruit)

## Poill agus Pluaiseanna

© Loreán Ó Cuinneagáin 2013

Dhá bhliain ó shin, 2011, d'aimsigh mé Scairt Phiaraís (Caomhnóir uimh. 32) ar an mBlascaod Mór, rud nár tharla gan dianchuardú a bheith déanta agam sna blianta roimhe sin. Agus ag déanamh na gcuardach sin, tháinig mé ar phoill agus ar phluaiseanna eile ar an Oileán: déanaim cur síos ar trí cinn de na poill sin san alt seo.

### Pluais an Dá Dhoras

Ar bhealach, is ar nós pháiste a bhíos nuair a tháinig mé ar an gcéad ceann de na poill. Ní chuimhin liom riamh bheith i bpluais roimhe sin agus níor thuig mé an difríocht a bhí idir poll, linnreog, pluais agus scairt. Dar liom, ní raibh iontu go léir ach oscailt de chineál éigin isteach sa talamh.

Pé scéal é, agus mé ag lorg, ar nós thuata, Scairt Phiaraís, tharla tráthnóna amháin go raibh mé ar an taobh thuaidh den Oileáin, idir an Dún agus an Mullach Ramhar. Chonaic mé caiseal thíos uaim agus d'fhág mé an gnáthchosán chun dul chuige. Is áit fhéareach atá ann go fóill agus measaim go nglaohtar Na Gairdíní ar an áit sin.

Agus mé thíos, shiúil mé thall agus abhus agus nuair a bhí mé ag breathnú, ní chun farraige, ach ar ais i dtreo an tsléibhe, thug mé faoi deara paiste dorchadais i measc na gcarraigeacha agus na raithní.



Suas beagán liom chun breathnú ar an bpaiste seo. Poll a bhí ann agus le saghas léimte bhig, chuaigh mé síos agus isteach. Bhí sé dorcha agus tais laistigh agus é clúdaithe le cairpéad álainn bogach.

Sheas mé suas go díreach agus shiúil mé isteach sa phluais. Ar mo chorrighob ansin agus síos agus isteach

níos faide arís, ag caitheamh sracfhéachana i gcónaí ar bhéal na pluaise agus ar mo shlí éalaithe.



Go gairid, ag cúl na pluaise, chonaic mé tollán cúng ingearach, é ag dul síos díreach isteach sa talamh ar nós phíobáin. Bhí carraigeacha caite ar a chéile agus an spás fágtha eatarthu a chruthaigh an tollán seo.

Mhúch mé an trlseán agus chonaic mé rian de sholas ag bun an tolláin. Ach do bhí sé ró-chúng agus ró-achrannach chun dul síos ann, dá mba mhian liom a bheith cinnte go dtiocfainn aníos slán sábháilte. Mar sin d'fhág mé ann é.

An bhliain dár gcionn, chuaigh mé isteach sa phluais arís, chun iarracht a dhéanamh dul go bhun an tolláin. Ach tagann ciall le haois agus don tarna huair, d'fhág mé ann é. Amach liom agus suas taobh an tsléibhe nó gur aimsigh mé poll eile, an tarna doras isteach sa phluais chéanna; cheap mé go mbeadh an oscailt seo ann nuair a chonaic mé solas an lae ag bun an tolláin ingearach.

Agus cinnte, agus mé ag breathnú isteach sa tarna poll, do ghearr ga geal gréine tríd an dorchadas nó gur stop sé ar charraig a bhí ag bun an tolláin, thart ar tríocha troigh thíos fúm. Dhéin mé lag-iarracht dul síos go dtí an leac sin ach go gairid, le mo chorp lúbtha agus casta agus mise sínte ar mo dhroim, thosaigh mé ag samhlú go raibh na carraigeacha ollmhóra ag brú isteach orm.



Rith an smaoinemh liom go mbeinn

greamaithe ann, gan a fhios ag éinne eile cá raibh an poll seo. Mar sin, d'éist mé le ciall don tríú huair agus stop mé le taiscéaladh pholl an dá dhoras.

### Poll Chuas an Bháid

Dár leis an gCriomhthanach, “Is é seo an poll is iontaí ins an Oileán Mór”. (*Dinnseanchas na mBlascaodaí*)

Tá an poll seo suite i gCuas an Bháid agus gan amhras, is airde agus is fairsinge é ná aon pholl eile ina raibh mé ar an mBlascaod. Thug mé faoi deara uair go raibh “doras” san áit seo ach níor smaoinigh mé riamh go raibh pluais mhór ann go dtí gur tháinig mé ar thrácht an Chriomhthanaigh sa *Dinnseanchas*.

Leis an eolas sin agus le tábla na taoide, sa bhliain 2011, chuaigh mé síos leath-chosán tanaí chaol atá ar an taobh thuaidh de Chuas an Bháid. Nuair a bhí mé istigh sa chuas, shiúil mé trasna agus isteach sa phluais ard, iontach seo. Saghas gairbhéil ar an urlár agus clocha agus carraigeacha ann chomh maith.



Agus áirse nádúrtha mar dhíon air, cruthaithe is dócha tré chuimilt sruth thaoideach na farraige thar na céadta bliain. Agus colún nó dhó fágtha ag an bhfarraige chéanna tar éis di an talamh ina dtimpeall a scuabadh amach, na colúin sin ag cabhrú leis an dfón a choimeád in airde.

Cé go ndeachaigh mise isteach trí oscailt atá ar chúl an chuais, tá ar a laghad dhá dhoras eile isteach sa phluais seo, ceann díobh ar thaobh na farraige den chuas féin.

D'fhéadfá bád a thabhairt isteach tríd an doras seo nuair a bheadh an taoide leat.

Deirtear sna blianta roimh theacht na naomhóige gur sa chuas seo a coimeádadh na báid saighne; más ea, ní fheadair cén úsáid a bhí acu don phluais ag an am? Pé scéal é, don duine nach bhfuil i bhfabhar na dreapadóireachta, bheadh sé níos éascaf an phluais a bhaint amach i mbád, in ionad dul síos taobh an





chuais féin.

Mar a dúirt mé cheana, tá clocha agus carraigeacha ar urlár na pluaise.

Tá an dromchla orthu mín agus sleamhain, tar éis na blianta go léir faoi chuimilt na dtionta gainmheacha agus faoi bhrú chasadh na taoide. Tá saghas línte orthu agus iontu agus tríothu agus clocha beaga meascáithe idir eatarthu, ar nós gairbhéil.



Gan amhras, líonann an phluais le huisce na farraige gach lá; ní bheadh sé sábháilte fanacht ann ró-fhada. Mar sin, níor chaith mé ach fiche nóiméad sa phluais an chéad uair, ar fhaitíos go gcasfeadh an taoide, go líonfadh an cuas le huisce agus go mbeinn gafa istigh sa phluais.

D'fhág mé Poll Chuas an Bháid le sceitimíní orm agus fiú ansin bhí fadhb agam dul suas – bhí na carraigeacha ar thaobh an chuais tais agus sleamhain ón mbáisteach. Ach faoi bhrú m'eagla féin agus faoi bhrú na taoide ag druidim isteach go gasta, bhain mé amach an talamh os chionn an chuais go slán sábháilte.

### Mo Dhá Pholl Féin

Sin dhá cheann de na na poill ina

raibh mé ar an Oileán, ceann gan ainm, ceann le hainm. Ach tá dhá pholl eile, le chéile agus gan ainm, ar a tháinig mé trí thimpiste roinnt blianta ó shin.

Cad a thug mé chucu? Nílím cinnte. Níor chuala mé agus ní fhaca mé trácht riamh ina leith, ní i leabhair ná ar léarscáil ná ó aon fhoinsé eile. Tá siad gar do dheireadh Dhíog Bharra an Dá Ghleann, siar ón mBeannaigh, ar an taobh theas den Oileán. Os a gcomhair, tá dhá charraig ina seasaimh ar nós stacán agus leac ag leathluí trasna orthu. Measaim gurb é an struchtúr seo a mheall trasna sa chéad áit mé, mar shamhlaigh mé gur thuama págánach nó marc meigiliteach a bhí ann.

Pé scéal é, trasna liom go dtí na stocáin agus nuair a bhí mé suas taobh thiar díobh, chonaic mé go raibh dhá pholl faoi mo chosa sa raithneach.



Síos go hingearach liom sa cheann is mó díobh, agus an uair seo, an chéad uair, is ag brath go hiomlán ar mo láidreacht féin a bhí mé chun dul isteach (agus chun éalú amach arís); nuair a théim ann anois, crochaim crios dreapadóireachta thar charraig lasmuigh, mar chabhair éalaithe dom más gá é.

Is saghas simléar carraigeach atá sa linnreog seo agus téann tú síos go



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díreach, ag chomhbhraith ar mhatáin na lámh ar aon dul le matáin na gcos.

Nuair a bhíonn tú leath slí fhíos, is féidir sos a ghlacadh agus tú fós i do sheasamh, ach bí cúramach: ní buan iad na rudaí atá faoi do lámha agus do chosa. Síos níos faide anois go dtí an t-urlár féin: tá sé seo claonta fút, é clúdaithe le grabhróga de chreafóg bhog, ghlan, thirim. Isteach níos doimhne agus thar mhionoscailt atá ar thaobh na láimhe deise. Ar do chorrághíob leat anois agus siar leat go cúl agus deireadh an phoill.

Cas timpeall arís agus téigh ar ais beagán go dtí an oscailt bheag sin. Féach isteach - 'sea, dá mbeadh tréanfhoth ort agus ardmhisneach, d'fhéadfá dul síos tríocha troigh eile go bun na hoscailte cúinge sin ach tá mé ag rá leat nach mise a bheidh á dhéanamh!

Ar bhealach, is i bpíobán lúbtha atá tú anois, é dúnta ag a bhun, é oscailte go spéir ag a bharr. Tá na fallaí cuartha go hiomlán timpeall ort, cruthaithe ó na carraigeacha a thit ar a chéile blianta ó shin (nó fiú le déanaí – bíonn inní orm go bhfuil siad fós ag gluaiseacht ar a chéile). Tá dromchla na gcarraigeacha sin mín, sleamhain, le cruth éagsúil ag gach ceann acu agus le dathanna saghas liath agus gorm agus donn ag rith tríothu.



I ndáiríre nuair a bhím istigh sa pholl, ní fheicim ach beagán – tá sé ró-dhorcha, na fallaí ró-chóngarach dom agus an iomad faitís orm chun rudaí a thabhairt faoi deara go cruinn. Feicim níos mó agus mé sa bhaile i mBaile Átha Cliath, ó na pictiúir atá tógtha faoi splancsholais an cheamara. Agus uaireanta is aisteach na rudaí a fheicim sna pictiúir chéanna, nár laige Dia an tsamhlaíocht!

Agus buíochas le Dia nár fhacas aon rud ait agus mé istigh sa pholl, do bheinn scanraithe go h-íomlán, in éineacht 's a bheith inmíocht!

Cheap mé uair gur shuíomh págánach a bhí thart timpeall na háite seo, de bharr an dá stocán, agus fiú shamhlaigh mé gurbh fhéidir gur cuireadh corpáin nó a



luaithreach sna poill seo sa seansaol! Más ea, an bhfuil a spioraid fós ann, a n-anamacha ar dhualgas agus mise ag cur isteach orthu b'fhéidir? Ó a thiarcais!

Tá mé beo fós, a léitheoir agus sin deireadh le mo chuntas gairid de chuid de na poill atá ar an Oileán. Tá breis agus scór díobh ann, cuid acu luaite i leabhair nó breacaithe ar léarscáil agus a n-ainmneacha fós againn, agus cuid eile díobh go bhfuil a suíomh agus a n-ainmneacha tógtha leo siúd atá imithe ar slí na firinne.

## Tobar na Molt



*Boscó Ó Conchúir*

Is i gCiarraí Thuaidh, in aice le hArd Fhearta, atá **Tobar na Molt**. Áiríotar é mar cheann de na toibreacha is cáiliúla i gCiarraí. Ar lá Pheadair is Phóil, 29 Meitheamh, tagann oilithrigh chuige ó chian is ó chóngar. Thagadh siad ann ó Chorca Dhuibhne agus, fiú, ón mBlascaod Mór.

Tá cur síos ag Peig Sayers, ina leabhar *Machtnamh Scana-Mhná*, ar thuras a thug sí, in éineacht le grúpa ón Oileán, ar an tobar. Ar an traicín, a chuardar ón Daingean go Trá Lí agus ar choiste fada a chuardar ó Thrá Lí go dtí

an tobar. Coiste dhá chapall dob ea é le naonúr suite ar gach taobh.

Tá leaganacha éagsúla ann ag insint conas mar a fuair an tobar a ainm. Tá a leagan féin ag Peig, leagan a bhí cloiste aici óna sinsear. I gcur síos Pheig, cíonn págánach uasal trí mholtachán gléigeala draíochta ag dul síos tríd an talamh i lár goirt, oíche.

Briseann tobar fíoruisce as an talamh ar an láthair. Scranaíonn an eachtra sin é agus iarrann sé baiste Críostaí do féin is dá mhuintir. Ba ag an tobar a baisteadh iad. Áiríotar leis gurbh ag an tobar seo a dhein Naomh Erc baisteadh ar Bhréanainn.

## Siúlach Scéalach



Ag Oireachtas Samhna na Gaeilge i gCill Áirne, Tomás Ó Lúing, Treoraí in Ionad an Bhlascaoid, a bhain an dara duais amach de bhonn cré-umha agus €200 sa phríomh-chomórtas scéalaíochta, agus Malachai Mac Amhlaoibh, iar-Treoraí san Ionad, a bhain an chéad duais amach de Chorn Bhab Feiritéir agus €300 sa chomórtas cáilithe scéalaíochta.

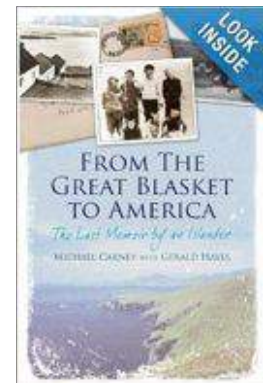


## Imeachtaí san Ionad le Linn na Bliana 2013

*Is iad foireann Ionad an Bhlascaoid a d'eagraigh na hócáidí, mura gcuirtear a mhalairt in iúl.*

*Cuirtear áiseanna an Ionaid ar fáil saor in aisce d'eagrais áitiúla pobail a eagraíonn imeachtaí cultúrtha nó oideachais. Más suim leat ócáid a reachtáil san Ionad i 2014, tá fáilte romhat dul i dteagmháil linn ag [blascaod@opw.ie](mailto:blascaod@opw.ie).*

- 09/02/2013: Seoladh Dlúthdhiosca: *Ag Dul Siar ar Fad* le Labhrás Mac Síthigh, arna eagrú ag Comharchumann Dhún Chaoin.
- 11/02/2013: Imeachtaí Lá 'le Gobnait, arna eagrú ag Comharchumann Dhún Chaoin.
- 14/02/2013: Dreoilín Shráid Eoin: Ceol, Pobal agus Féiniúlacht: Léacht leis an Dr. Aoife Grainbhéal ar stair, traidisiúin agus ceol Dhreoilíní an Daingin le béim ar leith ar Dhreoilín Shráid Eoin. Arna eagrú ag Scoil Cheoil an Earraigh.
- 05/04/2013: Seoladh taispeántais 'An Riordánach: Nótaí Ciúnais' le Seán Ó Flaithearta (lean an taispeántas ar feadh 6 seachtaine).
- 03/05/2013: Léamh litríochta le Paul Durcan, arna eagrú ag Féile na Beallaine.
- 06/05/2013: Siompóisiam Polaitíochta 'Meabhairshláinte na Polaitíochta', arna eagrú ag Féile na Beallaine.
- 24/05/2013: Seoladh leabhair *From the Great Blasket to America* le Maidhc Sheáin Tom Ó Ceárna, leis an Collins Press.
- 23-29/05/13: Seachtain Fáilte abhaile An Bhlascaoid agus Chiarraí Thiar.
- 10-21/06/13: Cúrsa Gaeltachta Choláiste Phádraig, Durlas Éile, arna eagrú ag Laoise Ní Cheallaigh.
- 14/06/2013: Seoladh taispeántais 'Fairscin Inise' agus an leabhar *An Blascaod Mór: Portráid Pictiúr*.
- 01-05/07/2013: Cúrsa Gaeltachta Chumann Bunmhúinteoirí Éireann, arna eagrú ag an gceabhbh áitiúil.
- 17/07/2013: Ceolchoirm 'Feet First' le Ceolfhoireann Aireagail na hÉireann.
- 31/07/2013: Seoladh Leabhair *Áille na hÁille* le Pádraig de Paor, arna eagrú ag An Sagart.
- 12/08/2013: Cúrsa Chomhar na Múinteoirí Gacilge, arna eagrú ag Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne.
- 15/08/2013: Ceolchoirm ar mhaithe leis an bparóiste eaglasta, arna eagrú ag na Paróistigh
- 23/08/2013: Seoladh taispeántais 'MacMonagle: 100 Bliain den nGrianghrafadóireacht'.
- 28/08/2013: Léacht 'Ar Thóir na Scairte' le Lorcán Ó Cuinneagáin.
- 25/09/2013: Tionól Dochtúirí Leighis ó Londain.
- 26/09/2013: 'Bailiúchán na Scol i nDún Chaoin agus sa Bhlascaod', arna eagrú ag Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne.
- 27-29/10/2013: Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid 2013 – Saibhreas & Dán na Teangan, arna eagrú ag Ionad an Bhlascaoid, Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid agus Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne.
- 17-18/10/2013: Comórtais Scéalaíochta agus Amhránaíochta d'óige an cheantair, arna eagrú ag Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne.
- 4-8/11/2013: Ceardlanna ceoil agus ceolchoirm le Pobail Camphill na hÉireann, arna eagrú ag Pobal Camphill an Daingin.
- 17/11/2013: Léiriú *Suantraí na hInise*, i gcuimhne 60 bliain ó tréigeadh an oileán, le Colm Ó Foghlú, Niamh Ní Charra, Noreen O'Donoghue agus an Dublin String Ensemble
- 13/12/2013: An chéad taibhiú in Éirinn den scannán *Aluna*, arna eagrú ag Ionad An Bhlascaoid, Comharchumann Dhún Chaoin agus Felicity Hayes-McCoy.



Tommy O'Connor ag Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid



Niamh Ní Charra ag casadh "Suantraí na hInise".

## Turas roimh Bhás

Colm Ó Catháin



Kathleen Bean Uí Chatháin (Granny Sligo) ar a turas go dtí an Oileán, 1978.

Nowadays hundreds, if not thousands, of people visit the Great Blasket Island each year. They are ferried out by motor boats from Dunquin and Dingle to visit the ruins of a once vibrant and unique community. There is a certain irony in all of this if one recalls that the last remaining inhabitants left the island in 1953 because there weren't enough people there to sustain the community and not enough able bodies to man the naomhóga.

Although I am immensely proud of my Blasket heritage, I have only visited the island on one occasion, in September 1978. I had, of course, many opportunities to go there before then. But a fear of travelling in naomhóga kept me on dry land. This was an unusual fear bearing in mind my island ancestors, the Ó Catháins, the Ó Súilleabháins, the Dunleavys agus muintir Dhálaigh na hInise, all made their living from the same naomhóga. In the end it was by chance that my only visit to the island came about.

An extended school holiday in Skerries allowed myself, my wife Pauline, our two young boys, together with my mother, "Granny Sligo", to make an unscheduled trip to Kerry. The weather was glorious and West Kerry was looking at its best in the autumn sunshine. Although based in Baile na nGall, we paid several visits to old friends - living and dead - from Dún Chaoin to Cuas an Bhodaigh. On one of our trips to Dún Chaoin, we spotted two men on a boat alongside the pier. The scene was idyllic, a blue sky, a tranquil sea, and the island which seemed very close. Without thinking, I ran down and asked the men if they were going to the island and would they bring us out. They agreed. However, when they saw "Granny Sligo" they began to have second thoughts for Granny was a bit, a good bit, overweight. Thinking she had no Irish, they proceeded to discuss among themselves the difficulties of getting her on the boat. "Tá sí seo ró-ramhar don mbád seo," agus mar sin de. Little did they realise that Granny was a keen Gaeilgeoir with fluent Irish, fine tuned from her many visits to the Aran Islands. In fact, it was on one of those visits that she met her future husband, Paddy 'Buffer' Ó Catháin, from the Great Blasket Island. He was serving as a Gárda on the islands

at the time. Ach thug Granny "an chluas bhodhar" do na fir agus dá gcuid cnáimhseála. It was a strategy she often used throughout her life, especially when dealing with difficult and self-opinionated Inspectors during her 45 years teaching in South Sligo. The boatmen relented and Granny was somehow "loaded" by means of a rotating "Fosberry Flop" type of movement into the boat. Everyone seemed very concerned except for herself.

As we approached Caladh an Oileáin memories came flooding back to her of the honeymoon she had spent there 45 years before. This was her first visit to the island since then. She recalled the 'fáilte' that they received from the friendly islanders. They were greeted with open arms, receiving a warm welcome and great hospitality in every house on the island. They stayed with my grandfather, 'Buffer Kane', and his wife Máire Mháire Eoin ag barr an bhaile. Buffer was a brother of Peats Mhicí - Rí an Oileáin - while his sister Máire was married to Tomás Ó Criomhthain. Buffer's wife Máire was herself related to the file Duinnshlé. My father was a close friend and contemporary of Muiris Ó Súilleabhain. It could be said the Buffers were well connected to "the Blasket Literati"! Sadly the literary Muse who visited so many of the Blasket homes by-passed Buffer's house.

Forty five years later the island was a very different place. "Imíonn na daoine ach fanann na cnoic," a deirtear. Sa chás seo d'fhéadfá a rá go raibh na daoine imithe le fada an lá agus nach raibh fanta ach fothraigh na dtithe. Yes, it was only the ruins that were left of those hospitable homes of yesteryear.

Granny took us on a nostalgic tour of the village. Despite the passing of time, she could still name most of the houses. She pointed out Peig Sayers' home and that of Tomás Ó Criomhthain. She also pointed out the house of Muiris Ó Súilleabháin, Tig an Rí, and many others. She paused for some time outside the home of Seán Cheaist Ó Catháin, the Island's musician. She recalled spending a number of emotional nights there listening to Seán playing tunes on his fiddle including the haunting "Port na bPúcaí", a tune that could well be a fitting lament for the decline of the island. The music had stopped a long time ago. Granny made us pause for a silent prayer at Bóithrin na Marbh, along which the Islanders carried their dead to Caladh an Oileáin, for their final journey to the old graveyard in Dunquin. My uncle, Seamus Buffer Kane, "deire an áil", who died of meningitis aged 21 in 1936, was the last of our family to be carried down that pathway.

It was then that I spotted a few hardy Black Faced sheep, grazing happily on a steep slope over the village. I was immediately reminded of the two lambs my grandfather gave to my brother and myself in the summer of 1952. Although living out his final years in Muiríoch, Buffer still had his sheep on the island which he tended to regularly. Having no such lambs in my native Sligo, we were always begging him for a lamb each. Buffer was more than willing to give them but the logistics of getting them from the Great Blasket Island to Curry, County Sligo, seemed insurmountable. But, we shouldn't have underestimated Muintir an Oileáin. Despite inclement weather and choppy seas, the lambs were rounded up and brought out to Dunquin by the O'Sullivan brothers on their way to mass. We were thrilled, and with great care and attention, the lambs were brought back to Sligo in the Ford Anglia! People said that they wouldn't survive in their new environment. But they did and produced many lambs over the years, "Is é Dia a rathaíos," mar

a dúirt an Bairéadach faoin gcaoirín ghlas fadó.

We then noticed that Buffer's old home had been "done up" and was open as a "café". After Granny's Educational Tour, we all needed some refreshments. When we entered the house, we were greeted by two English girls who were working there for the summer. As they served mugs of hot tea and freshly baked scones, another group of people wandered in. We found out later that they were highly qualified Gaelgeoirí with a special interest in Irish literature. They had come on a pilgrimage to the Island to absorb the unique environment that produced the Blasket writers. They bombarded the girls with questions. Where was Tomás' house? Where was Peig's house? Where did Muiris Ó Suilleabháin live? It went on and on. The poor English girls did their best with their limited knowledge of the Island. However, they did struggle when asked "and who lived in this house?" "Oh we're not really sure, we think it was a family called O'Kane, Ó Catháins, or Buffers, we don't really know". Then one of the scholars pointed to the loft and asked if anyone had slept up there. "Granny Sligo" couldn't hold back any longer. There were times when even she couldn't turn the "cluas bhodhar". "I slept up there on my honeymoon 45 years ago" she said with a mixture of pride and emotion in her voice. The "scholars" looked at her in awe and amazement. They then proceeded to ask her all manner of questions about the Island and its people in the 1930s. Notebooks were filled with her answers. Granny Sligo must have felt like Peig for the day!



Muintir Uí Chatháin – Pauline, Killian, Cormac agus Granny Sligo taobh amuigh de Thig Buffer, 1978.

While waiting for the boat to return, I took our boys, Killian and Cormac, over to the Trá Bhán and told them about the games the youths of the Island played there "fadó". To honour their memory, we played a little mock game of hurling, improvising with bits of drift wood for the hurls and an old stuffed stocking for a ball. At the time we didn't know that Killian would grow up to play for Munster and Ireland at rugby. I'm not sure what the young Blasket islanders would have made of rugby, but from Tomas Ó Criomhthain's vivid description of their "Cluichí Báire" ar an Trá Bhán, they would have been well able for all types of tackling and scrimmaging!!

Soon the boat had us back in Dunquin and we returned to Skerries. Granny went back to Sligo where she died a few weeks later aged 78. Her friends who had known about her trip

to the Island were convinced it was a case of "Turas roimh Bhás". N'fheadar, ach mar a dúirt Shakespeare fadó, "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of".

Níor thugas cuairt ar an mBlascaoid Mór ó shin agus ní dóigh liom go dtabharfad choíche. Bheinn ro-bhrónach. Ach, beidh cuimhne go deo agam ar ár dturas deireanach go dtí an tOileán agus "Granny Sligo" mar threoraí againn.

## WE HAD A FIDDLE THAT WAS PLAYED WITH TENDERNESS

Extract from poem by James O'Hara  
(Santa Fé, New Mexico, and originally from Killarney)

We had a fiddle  
that was played with tenderness  
especially in the summer months  
and an abundance of songs

The fine beauty of the island  
The dark woman's smooth hair

I was King of the Island

and we were flickering brightly before the end  
before linguists and scholars  
lies and inventions

Bitter was the wind  
the tresses of the sea were white

We had only the one book in us  
with winter closing in  
we laboured as we might  
we could not win back our life

Note:  
Thank you to Pádraig Ua Maoileoin 1913-2002



## ‘BEAN ÍSEAL UASAL’ a saolaíodh ar an mBlascaod Mór Neil Ghobnait Ní Ghuithín-Uí Shé 1924-2013

*Micheál de Mórdha*

Bean shéimh, shocair, lách, fháilteach, mhuinteartha, ‘bean íseal uasal’ agus máthair ghrámhar chlainne be ea Neil Ghobnait Uí Shé, a d’imigh uainn ar shlí na ffrinne ar an 7 Meitheamh seo d’imigh tharainn. N’fheadar a raibh a leithéid eile riamh ann le huaisleacht agus le cineáltas. Má bhí, ní casadh ormsa ariamh í.



An tOileán sna 1920daí

Istigh ar an mBlascaod Mór a saolaíodh Neil Ní Ghuithín agus baisteadh ar an mBuaitín í ar an 3 Aibreán 1924. Saoithe i measc na n-oileánach ba ea a tuismitheoirí – ‘Peats Shéamuis’ ó Guithín, a hathair agus Gobnait Ní Chinneide, a máthair. Ó na Gorta Dubha a chuaigh Gobnait Ní Chinneide ’on Bhlascaod agus do bhí a hainm in airde ó thaobh a cumais mar scéalaí agus mar sheanchaí oilte líofa. Deir cuid de na saineolaithe go raibh Gobnait ‘maide ar mhaide’ le Peig Sayers féin, ina cumas mar sheanchaí.

“Isteach ós na Gorta Dubha a chuaigh ár máthair agus phós sí Peats Shéamuis Ó Guithín agus bhí seachtar clainne ann. Chuaigh Máire go Sasana (Mrs Mary Baines ina dhiaidh sin) agus cailleadh triúr acu agus chuaigh Micheál go Scotland, deartháir eile dúinn, agus chuaigh Seán go Meiriceá.... Tá seachtar clainne agam féin...”

a dúirt Neil liom in agallamh a dheineas léi sa bhliain 1993 – an bhliain chéanna a d’oscail Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir.

De dheasca choraí crua an tsaoil b’éigean do Neil a fód dúchais a fhágaint luath go maith ina saol.

“Chaitheas-sa an t-oileán a fhágaint ansin, ní rabhas ach naoi mbliana déag, mar bhí deartháir dom breoite sa tigh agus dúirt an dochtúir ná féadainn-se fanacht istigh nó go gcaithfeadh sé sin dul ’on ospidéal, is ní theastaigh uaidh dul ’on ospidéal

ansan agus dúirt-sa go n-imeoinn féinig.

Sin é an uair a thána ansin go dtí deirfiúr ‘Fiche Bliain ag Fás’ [(i.e. Muiris Ó Súilleabháin)], a bhí pósta ag Cíobhánach ar an gCarraig (in aice na Muirí). Thugas trí bliana ina dteannta san ansin is phósas m’fhear céile féinig...”

Phós sí Micheál Ó Sé, ón gCoimín, i bParóiste na Cille, 1 Lúnasa, 1946.

Ar an gCoimín, in éineacht lena fear céile ionúin a chuaigh Neil i mbun a neide agus is ansin a chaith sí an chuid eile dá saol. Tháinig a hathair, ‘Peats Shéamuis’ Ó Guithín chun cónaithe léi nuair ná raibh aon duine eile dá theaghlach fágtha ar an oileán. Cailleadh a chéile, Gobnait, ar an oileán:

“...ní raibh sí ach...ceithre bliana déag is daichead [54] nuair a cailleadh í agus ní raibh éinne [den gclann] san Oileán ach m’athair agus d’aistrigh sé amach in éineacht liomsa. Bhí sé naocha dó bliain nuair a cailleadh é...”

Cé ná raibh an méid sin le breithniú ar an gcuntanós, do luigh an saol go trom ar Neil Ghobnait ón uair a cailleadh a fear céile i dtús na nóchaidí den gcéad seo caite. Cailleadh beirt mhac agus cliamhain léi ina dhiaidh sin, rud a ghoill go mór uirthi, mar a dhéanfadh ar aon mháthair. D’fhulaing sí a briseadh is a loscadh croí le dínit, is le foighne, is do chuir sí a toil le toil Dé, díreach mar a rinne a muintir roimpi. Sna blianta deireanacha seo, is í ag druidim isteach san aois, do bhí an tslainte ag teip uirthi ach níor chaill sí riamh a meon mhuinteartha, cineálta, uasal, gealgháireach....

Níor chaill sí, go dtí lá a báis a grá dona hoileán dúchais is dá mhuintir. Ba mhaith an earra í chun ainmneacha a chur ar phictiúir de mhuintir an oileáin agus chun cuntais a thabhairt mar gheall orthu. Thug sí an-tacaíocht agus an-ghean í gcónaí do Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir agus tá foireann an Ionaid faoi chomaoin aici as an eolas a bhronn sí go fial cuirteiseach orthu agus as an fháilte chroíúil a chuir sí rompu agus iad ag lorg eolais uirthi.

Ár gcomhbhrón lena clann is le clann a clainne as seod an-lonrach ina saol a bheith cailte acu.

Trócaire sa chré uirthi féin is a mhuintir ar fad.

‘Níl sí imithe uainn, ach imithe romhainn’



Neil Ghobnait Guithín-Uí Shé ina tigh féin.

## Seamus Heaney 1939 – 2013

Lorcán Ó Cinnéide

Ag aifreann sochraide Seamus Heaney ar an dara lá de Mheán Fómhair 2013, bhí sé suaithinseach gur aon dán amháin de na céadta a scríobh an file clúiteach i gcaitheamh a shaoil a léadh ag an searmanas brónach in eaglais Dhomhnach Broc i mBaile Átha Cliath: “The Given Note”, dán faoi scéal “Port na bPucaí”, an port cáiliúil sin as Inis Mhic Uibhleáin a chum Seamus le linn ceann dá chuairteanna ar Chorca Dhuibhne idir 1968 agus 1972.

Is mar seo a leanas a chuir Seamus síos ar a cheangal le hIarthar Dhuibhneach:

*In the late nineteen sixties, my wife Marie and I used to spend our holidays in Ballydavid. Caoimhín Ó Cinnéide made us so welcome the first time we stayed in his chalets that we kept on coming back – for lobster in a black pot in Muiríoch, black porter in Begleys by the pier and the brightness everywhere above the mountains and the islands.*

Ba thréimhse órga a bhí ann don chomhlúadar a bhí timpeall na háite le linn an ama sin. Ba chuimhin le Seamus bualadh le Seán Ó Riada agus buíon chuairteoirí agus muintir na háite ann – fé mar a dúirt sé féin, “to talk fast and dance fast and be generally refreshed by the beat of summer life in Corca Dhuibhne”. Tá cuimhne fós ag cuid ar oíche áirithe – cóisir a d’eagraigh Caoimhín in onóir an fhile óig i dTigh an Phoirt ar an bhFeothanaigh, tigh ceann tuí a bhí trasna ó thigh tábhairne Mhic Gearailt ar an gCúinne. “Ball Night” lán de cheol, amhráin agus rince seite ag a n-aithris Seamus a dhán nuachumtha “In Gallarus Oratory” don chéad uair, dán a scríobh Seamus amach ina láimh néata féin mar bhronntanas do Chaoimhín ina dhiaidh sin. Dán eile a foilsíodh ón treimhse sin ná “The Peninsula”, a bhí sa dara leabhar dá chuid, “Door into the Dark”. Dhein sé clár teilifíse don BBC sa dúthaigh le linn 1969, a craoladh i 1970.

Ní haon iontas mar sin nár ghá iarraidh an dara babhta ar Seamus Heaney bheith ina phátrún ar

Fhondúireacht an Bhlascaoid nuair a bunaíodh é i 1985-6. Is cuimhin liom tráthnóna breá a chaitheas féin agus Mícheál Ó Cinnéide i dteannta leis féin agus Marie ag cur scéal an Bhlascaoid trí chéile an t-am sin. Thug Séamus a bheannacht agus a thacaíocht don fheachtas mar ba ghnách leis – le fonn, fáilte agus le tuiscint.

Casadh Seamus agus Marie linn, Cinnéidigh éagsúla, ó am go chéile le linn ár saoil ina dhiaidh sin, i mBaile Átha Cliath, i mBostún, Londain nó i gCorca Dhuibhne. Ba mhór linn a gcomhlúadar agus a gearadas agus idir chomhrá agus dhánta, bhraithis i gcónaí go raibh feabhas ar an lá tar éis tamall ina dteannta.

Bhí Seamus Heaney ar an bhfile is tábhachtaí sa Bhéarla lenár linn, a fuair aitheantas mórthimpeall na cruinne. I measc na ngradam a fuair sé ceapadh é ina Ollamh le Filíocht in Oxford agus Harvard, agus gan amhras mar bhuaiteoir duais Nobel na Litríochta i 1995. File, scoláire, drámadóir, aistritheoir agus scríbhneoir próis agus saothair léannta ar chaighdeán domhanda a bhí ann. Náisiúnaí smaointeach a bhí ann a chreid go mór i dtábhacht an teanga dhúchais dúinn mar phobal. Ó Chontáe Dhoire ó dhúchas, thug sé formhór a shaoil fásta i mBaile Átha Cliath agus i gCill Mhantáin.

In ainneoin na ngradam agus an ómóis ard a thuill sé, ba dhuine lách, croíúil, cleachtúil, cneasta a bhí i Seamus, a roinn a chuid buanna iontacha go fial le pobail i gcian agus i gcóngar go huair a bháis.

Déanaimid comhbhrón lena bhaintreach Marie, lena chlann, Michael, Christopher agus Catherine-Ann agus lena mhuintir. Táimid mar Fhondúireacht bródúil go raibh Seamus sa champa againn. Mar chairde, táimid faoi bhuaire lena imeacht uainn.



### The Given Note

On the most westerly Blasket  
In a dry-stone hut  
He got this air out of the night.

Strange noises were heard  
By others who followed, bits of a tune  
Coming in on loud weather

Though nothing like melody.  
He blamed their fingers and ear  
As unpractised, their fiddling easy

For he had gone alone into the island  
And brought back the whole thing.  
The house throbbed like his full violin.

So whether he calls it spirit music  
Or not, I don't care. He took it  
Out of wind off mid-Atlantic.

Still he maintains, from nowhere.  
It comes off the bow gravely,  
Rephrases itself into the air.



Sochraid Seamus Heaney ag Eaglais an Chroí Ró-Naofa, Domhnach Broc, Baile Átha Cliath.

## Bo Almqvist

Professor Emeritus of Irish Folklore at University College Dublin, Bo Gunnar Almqvist was born in Alster, a rural area in Varmland, western Sweden. His father, Oskar, a police superintendent, died when he was 14. His mother, Hulda, was steeped in tradition and bequeathed her store of proverbs to Bo, who had a saying for every occasion.

He enrolled at Uppsala University in 1950, where he studied Nordic languages and folklore – Old Norse and Icelandic being his speciality. He also took Irish lessons from visiting folklore scholar Kevin Danaher, later to be a colleague at UCD.

Uppsala's professor of folklore at the time, Dag Stromback, became his mentor and lifelong friend, the two men sharing a fascination with far-flung outposts of the Nordic world as well as the languages, literature and folk culture of Scotland and Ireland.

After graduation, he spent a year at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik, taking the prestigious B.Phil. degree in Icelandic language and literature. He had to return home for mandatory military service, much of which he spent as a library attendant at the military archive in Stockholm.

On discharge he returned to Iceland, where he first worked on a farm before becoming a lecturer in Swedish at the University of Iceland. He returned to Uppsala in the early 1960s, where he completed his doctorate, a study of magical satire in the Old Icelandic tradition, and was appointed lecturer and then acting professor of folklore.

He visited Ireland for the first time in 1953. In the summer of 1957 and again from 1966 to 1972 he collected folklore at Dún Chaoin, in the Kerry Gaeltacht, primarily from Mícheál Ó Gaoithín, son of the legendary Peig Sayers, and later from the “Queen of Learning”, storyteller Cáit “Bab” Feiritéar.

In 1972, after the retirement of Séamus Ó Duilearga, he was appointed professor of Irish folklore at UCD. He established Irish and comparative folklore as an academic subject in UCD and was director of the archive of folklore, now the National Folklore Collection.

Among the innovative courses Prof Almqvist instituted was a module on



“The Folktale and Medieval Literature”, offered to students taking the elite “Pure English” degree. His students on this course included poet Mairéad Byrne and writer Éilís Ní Dhuibhne. The following decade, in 1982, he and Éilís were married. They had two sons, Ragnar and Olaf.

For some 20 years he edited the journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society, *Béaloidéas*, in collaboration with Dr Pádraig Ó Héalaí. Prof Almqvist wrote more than 90 articles and numerous books on Irish and international folklore. He edited, sometimes alone and often in collaboration, several volumes of essays, the most recent being *Atlantic Currents/Sruthanna an Aigéin Thiar*, a collection of essays honouring Séamas Ó

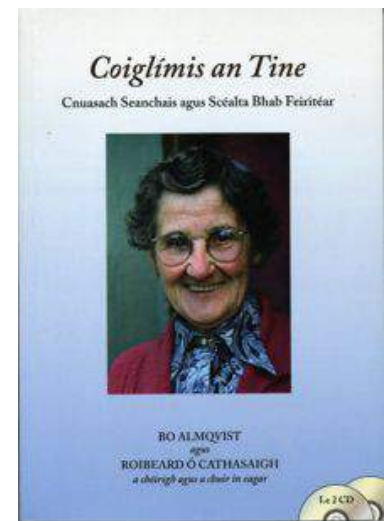
Catháin.

Never losing his west Swedish accent, he was fluent in Irish, English and Icelandic, as well as other languages which he considered “more ordinary”, such as German, French and Latin.

Dag Stromback said Almqvist wore his learning like a feather and his contribution to learning in Ireland was reminiscent of the great German Celtic scholar Kuno Meyer.

Following his retirement in 1995, he continued lecturing, writing and publishing as well as visiting places he loved such as Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Shetland, Orkney, Scotland, Sweden: the remote and beautiful territories of the north.

He is survived by his wife, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, his daughter Marja, sons Ragnar and Olaf, and his sister Vera.



Screen-grab from the film “The Village” of Bo Almqvist interviewing Mícheál Ó Gaoithín at home in Baile Bhiocáre, Dún Chaoin.



## Fear Charracháin

– i ndil chuimhne ar Mhicí Dainín Ó Sé, fear suilt.

(Aer – ‘An Cailín Deas Rua’ nó a mhacasamhail)

A Fhir Charracháin, is cás linn gur éalaigh tú uainn,  
Go Cathair na nGrást, mar a bhfuil agat Oireachtas buan,  
Is táimid-ne fágtha tinn cráite, is lán go barra de bhuairt,  
Is tú luite i gCill Chuáin thuas, a fhir mánla, is díth linn  
do shuan.

*Curfá*

A Mhicí Dainín, d’imís leat uainn-ne go brách,  
Chomh fada leis na Flaithis, taoi suite ansin ar stól ard,  
Is tá agat ann cuideachta, Up Kerry is Up Carrachán,  
Is timpeall ort tá an mathshlua, gan cíos oraibh, cathú  
ná cás.

Is a fhir na n-amhrán, is trua go bhfuil tost ort sa Chill;  
Mar is mó san scol breá a chuiris go rábach de d’ chroí  
Ag mórán comhthlán is ag ócáidí breá’ lán de spraoi,  
Is a raibh ann i láthair faoi gheasa agat is faoi dhraíocht.  
*Curfá*

Is a fhir an bhosca ceoil, ba mhaith mar a sheinnfeá an ríl,  
An port seite is an cor, le do mhéara do chuiris-se díot  
Le binneas, le rithim, le preab, le neart is le spraoí,  
Is le crú an chnaipe bháin is tú ag tál orainn Waltz Tennessee.  
*Curfá*

Is a fhir na leabhar mbreá, ba mhaith tú chun na scéalta  
a scríobh,  
Ón chéad lá riamh do chuiris do pheann i mbun gnímh,  
Do bhís gach aon tráth ag cardáil na línte, is á sníomh,  
Rud a dheinis gan cháim, mar gur thugais dúinn sár-litriocht.  
*Curfá*

Is a fhir na filíochta, do thugais dúinn véarsaí agus dáin,  
Ag cur síos ar do aistir, ón chéad lá a d’fhágais Carrachán,  
Do thráchtas ar uaigneas, ar bhuaireamh is ar a gcruachás,  
Is fós ar an áthas, ar an mbreáthacht is gan dabht a’ rangás.  
*Curfá*

Is a rí na cuideachtan, do bhí trácht ort ins gach ball den dtír  
Is ort aithne fairsing ón nDaingean go Donncha Dí,  
Ó Thorai i lár mara go dtí na Déisibh geal’ úd thíos  
Is as sin abhaile go dtí goirt ghlasa Bhaile Ghainín.  
*Curfá*

Is a fhir sin na n-aistear, do chuaís ar bhord an bháid bháin,  
Sall leat go Sasana, chun go mbeadh agat saol níos fearr,  
As sin go hUncle Sam leat, mar ar casadh ort do mhór- ghrá,  
Gur thugais Cáit leat abhaile, is go thógabhair anseo bhúr n-ál.  
*Curfá*



Is a fhir leoraí an bhainne, ba bhuíoch duit iad lucht na  
gcaipín’,  
A tharraing chugat an bainne is a thugais leat uathu arís,  
Ar bhóithre, is trí bhailte, is ar na céadta cúrsaí,  
Ó bhfada é d’aistear, ag gabháil duit ó thuaidh trí Thrá Lí.  
*Curfá*

Is a fhir an Oireachtas, is ortsa a bhí cliú agus cáil,  
I measc an lucht freastail, a thagann ann os gach aon aird,  
Is tú sáite ‘na measc ann, is an chraic agat á thiomáint,  
Fear i measc na bhfear ann, is ná fágaimis uainn iad na mná!  
*Curfá*

Is dá mbeinn anseo go maidin, ní bheadh deireadh agam le  
rá,  
Mar ba tú cara na gcarad, is gan do leithéid ann le fáil,  
Seo slán leat, a ghaiscígh, is tarraing anseo chugam an  
cháirt,  
Is beannacht Dé le do anam, go mbeimid arís leat i bpáirt.

*Curfá*

A Mhicí Dainín, d’imís leat uainn-ne go brách,  
Chomh fada leis na Flaithis, taoi suite ansin ar stól ard,  
Is tá agat ann cuideachta, Up Kerry is Up Carrachán,  
Is timpeall ort tá an mathshlua, gan cíos oraibh, cathú ná  
cás.

– Mícheál de Mórdha, Deireadh Fómhair 2013

### Treasure Island: The Legacy of Ireland's Great Blasket

Seo píosa an-thábhachtach faoin Ionad a bhí sa Huffington Post i mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Tá an Huffington Post ar cheann de na meáin chumarsáide is mó agus is forleithne sna Stáit Aontaithe:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/meg-pier/daithi-de-mordha-archivis\\_b\\_4142757.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=email\\_share](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/meg-pier/daithi-de-mordha-archivis_b_4142757.html?utm_hp_ref=email_share)

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**An Caomhnóir is dispatched to members of Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid, the cost of which is covered by their membership**

**As some may have forgotten to update their yearly membership, below are listed members who have paid up to 8 November 2013:**

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 Almqvist, Bo, 6 Gort na Mara, Seanchill, Baile Átha Cliath 18.  
 Begley-Ó Sé, Máire, Liosnagroj, Caislean an Ghriaghre, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Breen, Áine, "Alden", Williamstown, Waterford.  
 Brugha Stuart, Deirdre, "Drumahill", Bóthar Chill Mochuda Uacht.Dún Droma, BAC 14.  
 Brugha, Máire & Traolach, Bun na Fána, Baile na Rátha, Dún Chaoin, Trá Lí.  
 Connolly, Martin, O.P.W, Trim, Co. Meath.  
 Corduibh, M.C. & Caitlín, Baile an Éanaigh, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Davies, Mary, Winton, Castlefarm, Monkstown, Co. Cork.  
 De Belder, Hans, Koningin Astridland, 492, 1950 - Kraainem, Belgium,  
 de Priondargást, Proinsias, "Avondonn", Bóthar na Creatalaí, Cloch an Mhaoir, Luimneach.  
 Enright, Mrs T. 54 Skircoat Moor Rd, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 0HA,  
 Fahy, Siobhán, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Firtéar, Muiris & Bernie, Fán, Ceann Trá, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Flower, Ann, 66 Harrisons Lane, Ringmer, Sussex BN8 5LL, U.K.  
 Flower, Mrs Jane, No 1 The Martlets, Ringmer, Nr Lewes, E.Sussex,  
 Foley, Gerlie, 50 Grange Wood, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.  
 Frost, Fithne, 34 Páirc Grosvenor, Ráth Maonais, Baile Átha Cliath 6.  
 Gaelachas Teoranta, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí.  
 Gael-Taca, 22 Port Uí Shúilleabháin, Corcaigh.,  
 Foley, Gerlie, 50 Grange Wood, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.  
 Guiheen Kenny, Carmel, "Suaimhneas", Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway.  
 Hamilton, Pádraig, 14 Ros Harley, Carraig an Déin, Bóthar an Tóchair, Corcaigh.  
 Hayes, Maureen & Gerry, 109 Jamestown Drive, Springfield, Mass. 01108, USA.  
 Keane-Ó Catháin, Pádraig, Ballincar, Rosses Point Road, Sligo.  
 Kerwick, Moss, Rockhill, Bruree, Co. Limerick.  
 Kimber, Dailí, 39 Faiche an Chrágáin, Port Láirge, Co. Phort Láirge.  
 Kissane, Fíleán.  
 Leabharlann Chiarraí, Tobar Múí Doire, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Long, Bryan G., Upper Main Street, An Daingean, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Mac Amhlaigh, Liam, 178 Caisleán Reabóige, Baile Átha Cliath 14.,  
 Mac Amhlaibh, Feargal & Áine, Baile na Rátha, Dún Chaoin, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Mac Aogáin, Foghan, 18 Bt. Chárthaigh, An Chabrach, Baile Átha Cliath 7.  
 Mac Cárthaigh, Maitias & Nóra Maria Ní Mhurchú, An Cheathrú, Dún Chaoin, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Mac Domhnaill, Marcas & Eibhlín Ní Laoithe, Baile na hAbha, Dún Chaoin, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Mac Donncha, Pádraic & Máiread, Rath Cairn, Áthbuí, Co. na Mí.  
 Mac Gearailt, Gearóid, Baile an Phrior, Cill Sioláin, Cluain Meala, Co. Thiobraid Árann.  
 Mac Gearailt, Séamus, Cillín, Oakpark, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Magan, Cróine, 14 Ascal Carlisle, Domhnach Broc, Baile Átha Cliath 4.  
 Mannion, John, Lakeside Park, Loughrea, Co. Galway.  
 Matson, Leslie, Newtown Villa, Port Láirge, Co. Phort Láirge.  
 McAdam, Jim & Geraldine, 16B Dirnan Road, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, BT80 9XL.  
 Mhic Ghabhann, Áine Bn, 51, Bóthar Bhartáin, Rath Fhearnáin, Baile Átha Cliath 14.  
 Muckross House, Trustees of, c/o Denis Reidy, Muckcross House, Killarney, Co. Kerry.  
 Murphy, Una, Beau Soleil 1,26 Ch.Des Jargilieres, 01210 Ferney-Voltaire, Ain, France,  
 Ní Bheaglaoidh, Máire Úna, 7 Aonach Mhargadh na Feirme, Baile Átha

Cliath 7.

Ní Bhroin, Máirín, Cloichear, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Ní Chaomhánaigh, Caitlín, 2 Garrán an Ghoirt Áird, Cathair Sailí, Trá Lí.  
 Ní Chatháin, Proinsias, 69 Bóthar Larchfield, Baile na nGabhar, Baile Átha Cliath 14.  
 Ní Chinnéide, Dairena, 19 Cúirt Phiarais, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Ní Chinnéide, Maí, "Dún-an-Óir", Roscré, Co. Thiobraid Árann.  
 Ní Chinnéide, Neasa.  
 Ní Chinnéide, Lelia, 7 Whitechurch View, Rathfearnán, Baile Átha Cliath 16.  
 Ní Chinnéide-Uí Ghearrailt, Sighle, "Dúinín", 7 Páirc na Coille, Baile Átha Cliath 14.  
 Ní Chonchubhair, Máire, 64 Belgard Downs, Bóthar Bhaile an Róistigh, Corcaigh.  
 Ní Dheaghaidh, Christina.  
 Ní Dhubhda, Máiread.  
 Ní Dhubhda, Rose.  
 Ní Mhaonaigh, Tracey, Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad, Má Nuad, Co. Chill Dara.  
 Ní Mheadhra, Dáiríne, 134 Pearson Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6R 1G5.  
 Ní Mhoilleigh, Colette, 47 Ascal Rath Gearr, Baile Átha Cliath 7.  
 Ní Mhuirheartaigh, Maureen, Bally Caneen, Na Gleannta, An Daingean.  
 Nic an Oirchinnig, Úna, 23 Sráid Seasnáin, Luimneach.  
 Nic Uídhir, Joan & Deaglán Ó Maoileoin.  
 Ó Braonáin, An tAib P. 13246 Semora Pl. Cerritos, CA 90703-8631.  
 Ó Braonáin, Anraí, 10 Ardán Waltham, An Charraig Dhubh, Co. Átha Cliath.  
 Ó Braonáin, Seán, 92 Br. San Labhráis, Cluain Tarbh, Baile Átha Cliath 3.  
 Ó Broin, Antoine, Killrane, Co. Wexford.  
 Ó Brocháin, Fionnbarra, 2 Plásóg an tSrutháin, Ascaill Chnoc Mhuirfean, An Charraig Dhubh, Co. Átha Cliath.  
 Ó Brosnacháin, Conchúir, Ionad Leighis an Daingin, Daingean Uí Chúis, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Ó Cadhla, Foghan, Tig na Sagart, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Ó Catháin, Colm, "Fionntrá", 78 Rush Road, Skerries, Co. Dublin.  
 Ó Catháin, Gearóid, 6 Plásóg Dheileaford, Cnoc Lín, Rathfearnáin, Baile Átha Cliath 16.  
 Ó Catháin, Leachlainn, Fisc Thuaidh, Gleann Maghair, Corcaigh.  
 Ó Cathasaigh, Roibeard, Coláiste Mhuire Gan Smál, Cuarbhóthar Theas, Luimneach.  
 Ó Ceárna, An Dr. Micheál, 133 Appleblossom Lane, East Longmeadow, MASS 01028, USA.  
 Ó Céilleachair, Dónal, 8 Tivoli Road, Londain N8 8RE, Sasana.  
 Ó Céilleachair, Lís & Donncha, Baile na Rátha, Dún Chaoin, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Ó Céilleachair, Seán, 26 Céide Bhréanainn, An Chúlóg, Baile Átha Cliath 5.  
 Ó Cinnéide, Gearóid, Baile an Mhúraigh, Baile na nGall, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Ó Cinnéide, Lorcán, Baile an Mhúraigh, Baile na nGall, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.  
 Ó Cinnéide, Micheál, "Ghantry", Ballysampion, Killinick, Co. Loch Gorman.  
 Ó Cíobháin, Siomon & Máire.  
 Ó Cléirigh, Muiris, Cnoc Garbh, Lr. Killeens Rd. Blarney, Co. Cork.  
 Ó Coileáin, Seán, Scoil na Gaeilge, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh.  
 Ó Coileáin, Tadgh.  
 Ó Conaill, Micheál A. Gort an tSamhraidh, Fochail, Co. Chorcaí.  
 Ó Conaire, Breandán, 265 Ascaill Chrann Teile, Martello, Port Mearnóg, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath.  
 Ó Conchubhair, Dónal, 20 Meadowvale Close, Ráthín, Co. Luimnigh.





## The Blaskets Gathering with a Difference

There's a treacherous stretch of the Atlantic that flows between the mainland and the Great Blasket island. Lives have been lost and journeys ended but it's a place where magic happens too.

Sixty years after the evacuation of the Blasket Islands – and the week of the Blaskets and West Kerry Gathering – two surfers, great-great-grandsons of

Pádraig Ó Catháin, the King of the Blaskets, are chasing waves in this most famous of Irish waters – and chasing them in turn is a US documentary crew, itself infused with the DNA of the island.

The two surfers, **Dennis “DK” Kane** (25) and **Andrew Jacob** (33), are cousins who met for the first time at the Kerry Gathering event. Kane runs a surf board company in California. Jacob is a commercial fisherman who lives and surfs in New England.

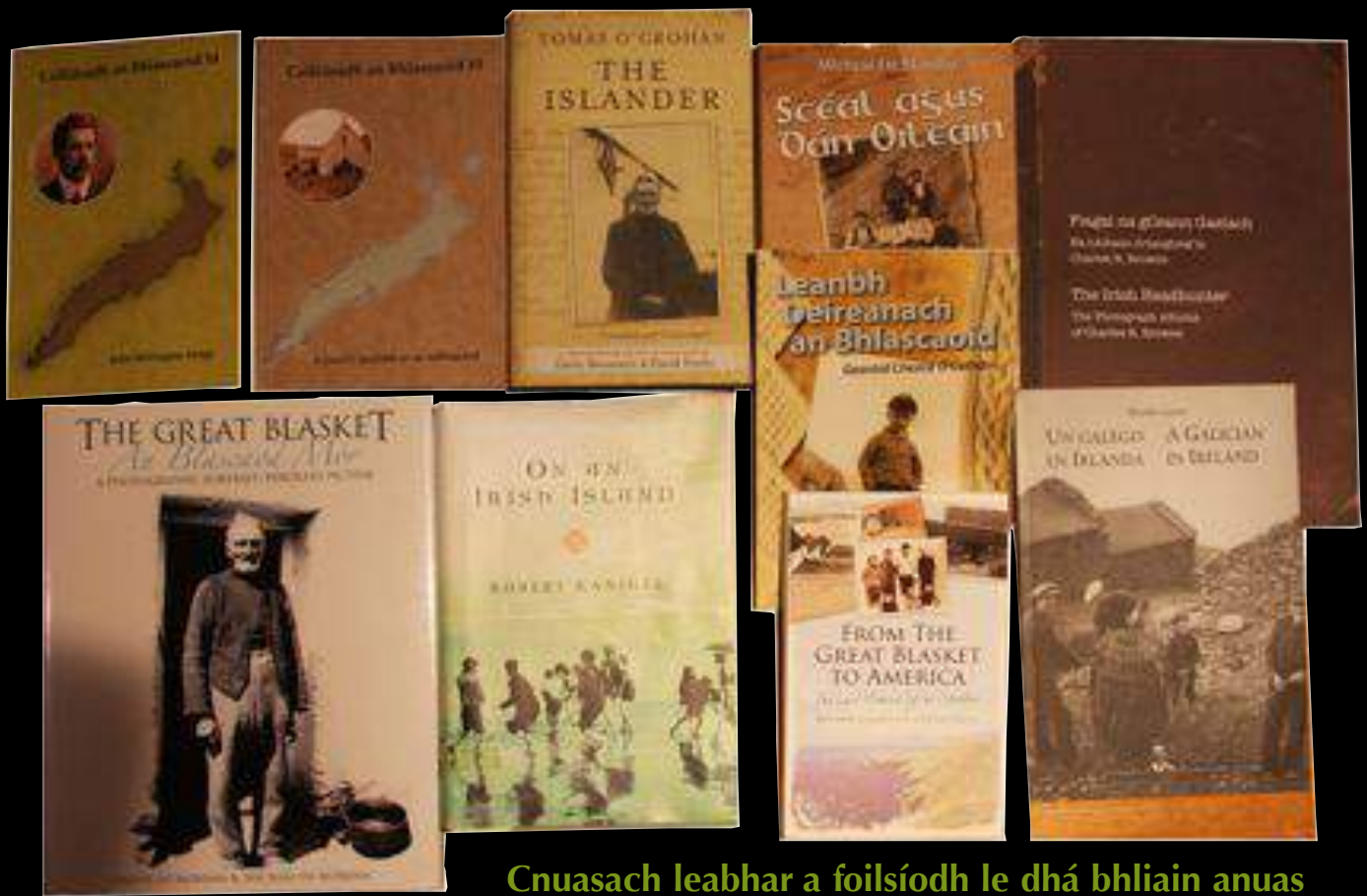
Their grandfathers were brothers but they had been separated by their lives on either side of America. Brought together for the documentary, they met for the first time in Dingle. It was an awkward introduction, all caught on camera but the boys hit it off and the spark that the producers were depending on took hold.

Getting to the Blaskets was the goal. They had both tried and failed in the past. They took turns when they got there: the first to land, the first to enter the king's house, the first to catch a wave, the first to cliff dive into the Atlantic. “It was like a Blasket baptism,” explains Andy, laughing. “The sun came out when we arrived. A group of donkeys came down to meet us. Seals splashed in the surf. We felt like we'd come home.”

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| <p>Ó Conchubhair, Gráinne, C/O 144 Gracepark Meadows, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.</p> <p>Ó Conchúir, Boscó, Cill Chúile, Baile na nGall, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Ó Cuinneagáin, Lorcán, 187 The Spinnaker, Cé Árainn, Baile Átha Cliath 7.</p> <p>Ó Dónaill, Caitlín &amp; Seán.</p> <p>Ó Fiannachta, Mgr. Pádraig, An Sagart, An Díseart, An Daingean, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Ó Floinn, Liam, “Suaimhneas”, 40 Meadowsprings, Radhairc an Chláir, Cathair Luimnigh.</p> <p>Ó Greacháin, Dónal, Tiaracht, 24 Ferndale, Ennis Road, Limerick.</p> <p>Ó hAllmhuráin, An tAth Raphael, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 20 Batchelors Walk, Baile Átha Cliath 1.</p> <p>Ó hAllmhuráin, Seán, 4 Ascaill Bhríde, An tSr. Nua, Luimneach.</p> <p>Ó Héalaí, Pádraig, Aille, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe.</p> <p>Ó hOsáin, Mícheál.</p> <p>Ó Keffe, Fr. John OFM, Padri Penitenzieri Lateranensi, Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano, 4 00120, Citta Del Vaticano, Italy.</p> <p>Ó Laoghair, Gearóid, Clogherbrien, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Ó Laoithe, Seán, Coarliss, Rathluirc, Co. Chorcaí.</p> <p>Ó Muircheartaigh, Tomás, Brí, Inis Corthaidh, Co. Loch Gorman.</p> <p>Ó Muirthile, Dónal.</p> <p>Ó Murchú, + Liam, Bishops House, Killarney, Co. Kerry.</p> <p>Ó Murchú, An tAth Pádraig, 96-3 Ma Reuk Dong, Kwangju, KOREA 502-157.</p> <p>Ó Murchú, Breandán, 18 Janeville, Bóthar na Carraige Duibhe, Corcaigh.</p> <p>Ó Murchú, Ciarán &amp; Máire, “Tearmann”, Baile na hAbha, Dún Chaoin, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Ó Riain, Breandán, 16 The Orchards, Montenotte, Corcaigh, (Na Gorta Dubha, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh).</p> | <p>Ó Scanaill, Mícheál, Sliabh Riabhach, Baile Bhúirne, Máigh Chromtha, Co. Chorcaí.</p> <p>Ó Sé, Tomás, 5 Carraig Mhór, Baile Átha an Rí, Co. na Gaillí.</p> <p>Ó Siochrú, An tAth Pádraig, Maistir-Gaoithe, Cill Áirne, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Ó Siochrú, Pádraig, Baile Mhíic A'Daill, Daingean Uí Chúis, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Ó Súilleabháin, Seosamb, 5 An tÁrd, Baile an Faspáig, Corcaigh.</p> <p>O'Sullivan, Breeda, Dundullerick, Leamlara, Co. Cork.</p> <p>O'Connor, Ciarán, 5 Woodcliff Heights, Howth, Dublin 13.</p> <p>O'Shea, Patrick, Shelton, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.</p> <p>Ruiséal, Pól, Ionad na Gaeilge Labhartha, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh.</p> <p>Ua Cearnaigh, Seán, Ard Aoibhinn, Gort na Silíní, Inis Córthaidh, Co. Loch Gorman.</p> <p>Uí Aímhíngín, Nuala, 24 Páirc Moyola, Caisleán Nua, Gaillimh.</p> <p>Uí Ainín, Máire, Cloichear, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Uí Almhain, Bríd Bn.</p> <p>Uí Chatháin, Nóirín, “Seoid”, Br. na hAille, Baile an Bhuinneánaigh, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Uí Chinnéide, Edna, Baile an Mhúraigh, Baile na nGall, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Uí Chinnéide, Frances, Baile Bhíocáire, Dún Chaoin, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Uí Cholmáin, Maedhbh, 4 Ascal na hUamba, Baile an Bhóthair, Co. Átha Cliath.</p> <p>Uí Chonaill, Mícheál &amp; Cáit, An Roinn, Cill Orgland, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Uí Chruaílaí, Máire, Maghlinn, Baile an Chollaigh, Lámh le Corcaigh.</p> <p>Uí Mhaoilleoin, Máire, 50 Faiche an Choláiste, Inis, Co. an Chláir.</p> <p>Uí Mhurchú, Máire, 14 Carraigín Dhónaill, Caherslee, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.</p> <p>Uí Réagáin, Áine, 53 Fstát Uí Mhúscraí, Baile an Chollaigh, Co. Chorcaí.</p> <p>Ware, Séamus, 13 Beithe Geala, Dún Droma, Baile Átha Cliath 4.</p> |
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**Tá foirm iarratais ar bhallaíocht agus clúdach faoi iamh san eagrán seo.**  
**Is eagraíocht dheonach charthanachta í Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid a bhíonn ag brath an an bpobal.**

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**Cnuasach leabhar a foilsíodh le dhá bhliain anuas**



Máire Uí Shíthigh, Tomás Ó Cíobháin agus Pádraig Ó Mathúna ag Celiúradh an Bhlascoid.



Máirín Ní Duinnshléibhe-Uí Bheoláin a sheol *Pórtráid Oileáin* leis na húdair, Mícheál agus Dáithí de Mórdha, i dteannta Brenda Ní Shúilleabháin (Cathaoirleach na hócáide), Liam Ó hÓgáin agus Tríona Ní Shúilleabháin.



Aire Stáit na Gaeltachta, Donncha Mac Fhionnalach, TD, i mbun staidéir ar leabhar Mhaidhc Carney ag an gCeiliúradh.

Ar dheis: Seán Ó Braonáin, Gearóid Ó Cinnéide

