

NUACHTLITIR CHILL CHOMÁIN

Athbhliain faoi sheán agus faoi mhaise agaibh. Ins an eagrán seo den Nuachtlitir caitheann muid súil siar ar na tograí a bhí idir lámhe againn i 2010.

Ar an 22ú Nollaig sheol an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais agus Gaeltachta Pádraig Ó Ciaráin an 'Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030', a leagann amach fis nó ráiteas misin an rialtais i leith thodhchaí na Gaeilge thar an tréimhse sin. Tá cóip den straitéis le fáil ó oifig Chomhar Dún Chaocháin Teo nó is féidir é a íoslódáil ó shuíomh idirlíne na Roinne G.P.C & G ag www.pobail.ie Is fiú é a léamh.

We wish you all a happy and healthy new year. In this issue of the Newsletter we glance back on the projects which were undertaken in 2010.

On the 22nd of December last the Minister of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs Pat Carey launched 'The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030', which outlines the government's vision or mission statement for the future of the Irish language over that period.

A copy of the Strategy is available from Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo or can be downloaded from the Department of C.E & G Affairs website at www.pobail.ie

* Nuachtlitir Áitiúil

* A Community Newsletter

* Guth an phobail ar mhaithe leis an bpobal

* Provides a voice for the local community and an update on development issues

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Foilsithe ag Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo (i gcomhar le fo-choiste Ghlor na nGael)

Coiste Bainistíochta an Chomharchumainn / The Management Committee

Cathaoirleach: Micheál de Búrca
Rúnaí: Seán Mac Aindriú
Cisteoir: Máire Cáit Uí Mhurchú
Na baill eile: Micheál Ó Seighin, Caitlín Uí Sheighin, Micheál Ó Murchú, Séamus Ó Murchú, Uinsíonn Mac Graith agus Seán Ó Dochartaigh.

Ráiteas Misin / Mission Statement

Is comharchumann forbartha pobail é Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo atá cláraithe le Clárann na gCarachumann. Tá sé mar ráiteas misin aige oibriú go gníomhach ar shon forbairt theangeolaíoch/chultúrtha, bhonneagartha, oideachasúil agus shóisialta paróiste Chill Chomáin agus acmhainní nádúrtha agus daonna an cheantair a fhorbairt ar bhealach chomhtháite. Ag comhoibriú le Coiste Ghlór na nGael, grúpaí forbartha áitiúla agus eagraisí éagsúla stáit tá roinnt tograí curtha i gcrích go dáta.

Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo is a community development co-operative which is registered with the Registry of Friendly Societies. Its mission is to work in a proactive way to promote the linguistic/cultural, infrastructural, educational and social development of the parish of Cill Chomáin and to develop in an integrated way the material and human resources of the area. Working in conjunction with Coiste Ghlór na nGael, local development groups and various state agencies a number of projects have been undertaken to date.

Ionad Eolais / Information Office

Tá oifig na heagraíochta lonnaithe sa Seanscoil i gCeathrú Thaidhg áit a bhfuil na seirbhísí seo a leanas le fáil:-

Eolas agus comhairle do choistí pobail maidir le ról na n-eagras forbartha, conas tograí a fhorbairt agus a bhainistiú, foinsí maoinithe &rl.

Foirmeacha iarratais ar scéimeanna éagsúla mar shampla deiseanna traenála &rl.

Seirbhísí cóipéala, laminating agus facs

Seirbhísí eolais do chuartheoirí - léarscáileanna, bróisiúirí, leabhráin, dlúthdhioscanna, cártaí poist, leabharlann d'ábhar béaloideas agus liteartha Gaeilge, taispeántas grianghraif &rl.

The organisation's office is located in the Seanscoil, Ceathrú Thaidhg where the following services are available:-

Information and assistance to community groups in relation to the role of development agencies, developing and managing projects, sourcing funding etc.

Application forms on various schemes including training opportunities etc.

Photocopying, laminating and fax services.

Visitor information including maps, brochures, booklets, CD ROMs, postcards, a library of folklore and Irish language material, photographs etc.

Guth an Phobail / Have Your Say

Má tá spéis agat a bheith i do bhall ar an gcomharchumann agus ionchar níos mó a bheith agat ar chúrsaí forbartha na háite déan teagmháil le Treasa le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais. Má tá aon tuairimí agat ar ábhar an nuachtlitir seo nó moltaí le haghaidh an chéad eagrán eile ba bhreá linn cloisteáil uait.

If you would like to become a member of the comharchumann and have a greater input into the overall development of the area please contact Treasa for further information. We welcome your comments on the items covered in this newsletter and/or any ideas you may have for the next issue.

Déan teagmháil le Treasa Ní Ghearraigh, Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo,
An tSeanscoil, Ceathrú Thaidhg, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo
Guthán: 097 88082 **Ríomhphoist: dunchaochain1@eircom.net**

Ag cruinniú cinnbhliana Chomhar Dún Chaocháin Teo sa Seanscoil ar an 22ú Samhain rinne an bainisteoir Treasa Ní Ghearraigh cur i láthair ar obair na bliana 2010.

Tá caomhnú agus cur chun cinn na Gaeilge ar cheann de na príomhspríocanna atá ag an gcomharchumann. Léiríonn 'An Staidéar Cuimsitheach Teangeolaíoch ar Úsáid na Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí' go bhfuil dúthshlán roimh pobail agus eagraisí stáit atá ag feidhmiú sna ceantacha Gaeltachta an Ghaeilge a choinneáil beo mar theanga pobail i bhfianaise a phráinní is atá an staid reatha teanga. Eagraítear cúrsaí Gaeilge agus seirbhísí aistriúcháin in Ionad Seirbhísí Teanga na Seanscoile, áit a bhfuil acmhainní tacaíochta foghlama ar nós leabhair, téipeanna, fiseáin agus bogábhar ríomhaireachta le fáil ag scolairí, grúpaí áitiúla foghlama agus grúpaí a thugann cuairt ar an gceantar le Gaeilge a fhoghlaim nó le taighde a dhéanamh. Faoi láthair tá dhá chúrsa de Theastas Eorpach na Gaeilge faoi lánshéol i. cúrsa B1 (meán leibhéal) oíche Dé Máirt agus cúrsa A1 (bun leibhéal) oíche Deardaoin.

I measc na spriocghrúpaí a dhéanann an comharchumann freastal orthu tá páistí réamhscoile. Is seirbhísí réamhscoile trí Ghaeilge iad Naíonra Dhún Chaocháin, atá lonnaithe sa Seanscoil, agus Naíonra Ghleann na Muaidhe atá lonnaithe in ionad tacaíochta teaghlaigh i nGleann na Muaidhe. Faigheann na tograí cúraim leanaí seo airgeadú foirne ón gClár Infheistíochta Náisiúnta Cúraim Leanáí 2006-2010, atá faoi chúram na Roinne Sláinte agus Leanáí agus atá maoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann faoin bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2007-2013. Cuireann Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte agus Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo deontas reachtála ar fáil do na naíonraí.

I mí Iúil eagraíodh campaí samhraidh i gCeathrú Thaidhg agus i mBarr na Trá i gcomhar le Coiste Campaí Samhraidh Iorrais, faoi Scéim na gCampaí Samhraidh d'Aos Óg na Gaeltachta. Is í an Ghaeilge an teanga feidhme sna campaí, a chuireann imeachtaí siamsaíochta, oideachaisiúil agus cultúrtha ar fáil do pháistí bunscoile an cheantair.



Leis na hathraithe atá tagtha ar chúrsaí eacnamaíochta agus ar shaol an phobail tá gá le scileanna nua a fhoghlaim nó barr feabhas a chur ar na scileanna atá ag daoine cheana féin sa gcaoi is go mbeidh deis níos fearr acu fostaíocht a aimsiú nó a ngnó féin a bhunú. Eagraíodh roinnt cúrsaí oiliúna i rith na bliana ina measc Traenáil Inseirbhíse Réamhscoile i gcomhar le Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo agus Coiste Cúraim Leanáí Chondae Mhaigh Eo; Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge i gcomhar le hIonad na dTeangacha, Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad atá páirt-mhaoinithe ag Údarás na Gaeltachta; taispeántais chócaireachta; cúrsa ceardaíochta agus ceardlann chaoladóireachta.



Le cuidiú airgeadú ó Choiste Gairmoideachais Chondae Mhaigh Eo, eagraíodh cúrsa oiliúna ar an téama 'Oidhreacht agus Timpeallacht Chill Chomáin' a rinne staidéar ar acmhainní nádúrtha an pharóiste agus an módh gur féidir iad a fhorbairt ar bhealach comhtháthach, inbhuaineach i dtreo pobal bríomhar muiníneach a chur chun cinn. Reachtaíleadh sraith léachtaí inar pléadh logainmneacha áitiúla, béaloideas, seandálaíocht, geolaíocht, an tírdhreach nádúrtha agus eicthurasóireacht. Eagraíodh turas páirce chuig cuid de na hiarsmaí seandálaíochta atá lonnaithe sa pharóiste.

Tá Siúlóidí Ceathrú Thaidhg (Lúb na Trá, Lúb Chlann Lir agus Lúb an Chlaí Dhuibh) ag mealladh cuairteoirí isteach sa gceantar. Ag tosnú amach agus ag críochnú ó lárionad na Seanscoile, tá gach siúlóid treormharcáilte le dath difrúil ag brath ar a dianacht. Déanann clár eolais agus bróisiúr dá-theangach ildaite cur síos ar sonraí na mbealaí agus ar phointí suimiúla. Agus é ag déanamh léargais ar shiúlóid Chlann Lir san Irish Independent, ba léir go ndeachaigh áilleacht an cheantair go mór i bhfeidhm ar an iriseoir Christopher Sommerville nuair a scríobh sé *“What unrolled over the next couple of hours was one of the most breathtakingly wild and beautiful coastal walks I’ve ever encountered”*. Eagraíodh siúlóidí teoraithe i rith na bliana agus ar Lá Domhanda Chroí i gcomhar le Foras Chroí na hÉireann.

Is feachtas féin-chabhrach Na Comhludair Bheo i dtreo bhonneagartha eacnamaíochta agus cultúrtha na háite a neartú. Sé aidhm na gluaiseachta ná próifil an cheantair mar tháirge nó mar cheann scríbe turasóireachta a ardú i measc tíortha Eorpacha mar An Fhrainc agus an Ghearmáin agus líon na dturasóirí a mhéadú. Tá suíomh cuimsitheach idirlíne ina ghné thabhachtach den bhfeachtas margaíochta atá le feiceáil ag www.gaeltacht.info áit a bhfuil rogha pacáistí saoire le fáil chun freastal ar ghrúpaí éagsúla.

Tionóladh Féile Lúnasa, mórfhéile tuaithe ag comóradh oidhreachta, cultúir agus traidisiúin spóirt Chill Chomáin, in ionaid éagsúla ar fud an pharóiste i mí Lúnasa. I measc na n-imeachtaí a bhí ar an gclár bhí cluichí peile Gaelacha, taispeántas grianghrafadóireachta dar teidil ‘Ar Bharr na dTonn’, siúlóid oidhreachta, rothaíocht urraithe, seisiúin cheoil agus taispeántas cócaireachta. Ba iad Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Chill Chomáin, Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo agus Coiste Ghlór na nGael Ceathrú Thaidhg eagraithe na féile.

Chríochnaigh Diana Taylor, atá ar an Scéim Fostaíochta Pobail, an suirbhé ar iarsmaí seandálaíochta an pharóiste, áit ar aimsigh sí go leor láithreáin spéisiúla, tuamaí meigiliteacha san áireamh.

Thug dhá ghrúpa scoláirí Meiriceánacha ó Scoil Thraenála Idirnáisiúna Bhaile Átha Cliath, in éineacht lena stiúirthóir acadúil Aeveen Kerrisk, cuairt ar an bparóiste i mí Feabhra agus i mí Meán Fómhair. Chas na scolairí, atá ina bhfochéimí ó ollscoileanna éagsúla sna Stáit Aontaithe, le daoine atá páirteach i bhforbairt pobail agus i gcúrsaí timpeallachta sa pharóiste.



Tá plean oibre timpeallachta an chomharchumainn dá chur i bhfeidhm faoi Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe Chill Chomáin, atá dá reachtáil ag Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Chill Chomáin faoi scáth Údarás na Gaeltachta. I measc na hoibreacha a cuireadh i gcrích i 2010 bailíodh bruscair ar thránna, ag na teampaill agus i mbaile Cheathrú Thaidhg mar chuid de bhfeachtas Glantachán Earraigh An Taisce, rinneadh forbairt ar áit pháirceála carranna taobh le céibh na Rinne Rua agus rinneadh obair chothabhála ar shiúlóidí Ceathrú Thaidhg. Le cuidiú airgeadú a ceadáíodh faoi Scéim na mBóithre Pobail rinneadh athchóiriú ar Bhóthar Chúl a’ Chnoic (€1460), Bóthar a’ Tower (Ceathrú na gCloch €460), Bóthar a’ Chorraigh (Port a’ Chlóidh €1500), Bóthar na Scraithe (Cill a’ Ghallagáin €1450), Bóthar na bPortach (Ros Dumhach €1450) agus Bóthar na bPortach (Poll a’ tSómais €1500).

Bíonn margadh ag Margadh Feirmeoirí Iorrais i gCearnóg Chartúir i mBéal an Mhuirthead chuile Shatharn ó mhí Aibreáin ar aghaidh. Níos mó ná riamh tá daoine ag léiriú spéise i gcúrsaí bia – an caighdeán, an fhoinse, an méid míle a thaisteal sé, an chaoi ar táirgíodh é &rl. Tugann an margadh feirmeoirí deis do dhaoine áitiúla dul i mbun táirgíochta agus seans do chaiteoirí bia úr, séasúrach agus caighdeánach a bhlaiseadh. Tá réimse leathan bia ó cheantar Iorrais le fáil sa mhargadh - glasraí, uibheacha cearca agus lachan, ábhar bácála, iasc, luibheanna agus plandaí beaga, táirgí feamainne agus miasa réamhullmhaithe san áireamh. Bhronn an Cigire Tomás Ó Fearghail ón Roinn Talmhaíochta, Iascaireachta agus Bia caighdeán dea-chleachtais Bord Bia 2010-2011 ar an margadh i mí Iúil. Is comhartha aitheantais é seo ar chaighdeán an bhia atá le fáil ann.



I mí Lúnasa chuir Uinsíonn Mac Graith tús le suirbhé ar shean-teampall Pholl a' tSomáis chun na huaigheanna uilig a mharcáil ar phlean agus stair an teampaill a bhreacadh síos. Tá sé beartaithe an t-eolas a fhoilsiú i bhfoirm leabhair, cosúil leis an leabhar a foilsíodh ar Theampall Chill Ghallagáin i 2009.

I mí Meán Fómhair d'fhoilsigh Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo, i gcomhar leis an sagart áitiúil an tAthair Eamon Ó Ruadhagháin, treoirleabhar dar teidil 'Glaeim Oraibh Mo Chairde – I Call You Friends'. Treoirleabhair dhá-theangach atá ann, a bhéas mar áis tagartha do fhreastalaithe altóra a dhéanann, agus a dhéanfaidh, freastal ar an Aifreann i bparóiste Chill Chomáin. Clúdaítear ábhar a bhaineann le saol na heaglaise – stair na Críostaíochta sa pharóiste, ról agus dualgaisí an fhreastalaí altóra, paidreacha Gaeilge, beannachtaí, an tAifreann, féilte na bliana, mion-theagasc Críostaí, téarmaíocht &rl. 'Sé Foras na Gaeilge a rinne airgeadú ar an tionscnamh faoin scéim *An Ghaeilge sa Phobal – Ón mBeagán go dtí an Mórán*.

Is comórtas náisiúnta é Glór na nGael a bhfuil sé mar phríomhaidhm aige teanga agus cultúr na Gaeilge a fhorbairt agus a chaomhnú. Nuair a fógraíodh torthaí an chomórtais i 2010 bhí Coiste Ghlor na nGael Ceathrú Thaidhg - Dún Chaocháin i measc na mbuaiteoirí. D'éirigh leis an gcoiste dá dhuais a bhaint amach – Duais na Comhairle Oidhreachta agus Duais Chumann na Sagart. Bronnadh na duaiseanna ag ócáid speisialta i Halla na Cathrach Béal Feirste i mí Márta.

Bhí An Bord SNIP go mór i mbéal an phobail i rith na bliana, tagairt do na gearrthacha siar atá beartaithe ag an Rialtas a chur i bhfeidhm le haghaidh na blianta atá amach romhainn. Tá impleachtaí trom-chúiseacha i dTuairisc Mhic Charthaigh ar chuile rannóg rialtais, ach de réir mar a bhaineann sé le pobal na Gaeltachta is iad na gearrthacha siar agus an ath-struchtúir atá molta faoin Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais agus Gaeltachta is mó a ghortóidh cursaí Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta. Thacaigh an coiste le feachtas Guth na Gaeltachta chun na scéimeanna Gaeltachta a choinneáil, agus cuireadh achainí chuig ionadaithe tofa ar an ábhar.

Ba mhaith le Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo buíochas a ghlacadh leis na heagraisí seo a leanas a chuidigh leis i 2010 agus tá súil againn leanacht leis an gcomhoibriú i 2011 :- An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais agus Gaeltachta, Comhairle Chondae Mhaigh Eo, Údarás na Gaeltachta, FÁS, Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Mhaigh Eo, Foras Chroí na hÉireann, An Roinn Sláinte agus Leanaí, Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chondae Mhaigh Eo, Fáilte Ireland, An Taisce, Foras na Gaeilge, Glór na nGael, Óige na Gaeltachta Teo agus Coiste Gairmoideachais Chondae Mhaigh Eo.

At the Annual General Meeting of Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo in the Seanscoil on 22nd November last the Manager Treasa Ní Ghearraigh gave a progress report for 2010.

The promotion and preservation of the Irish language is one of the main objectives of the comharchumann (coop). The study 'Staidéar Cuimsitheach Teangeolaíoch ar Úsáid na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht – A Comprehensive Linguistic Study on the use of Irish in the Gaeltacht' illustrates the challenge facing communities and state agencies operating in Gaeltacht areas to preserve the Irish language, in light of the evidence of its decline as a community language. Irish language courses and Irish translation services are organised in Ionad Seirbhíse Teanga na Seanscoile (Language Centre) where a special-purpose training room houses a library of learning resource materials including books, tapes, videos and computer software. Two European Certificate in Irish courses are currently underway with Level B1 (intermediate) held on Tuesday nights and Level A1 (for beginners) on Thursday nights.

Among the target groups catered for by the comharchumann are pre-school children. Naíonra Dhún Chaocháin in Ceathrú Thaidhg and Naíonra Ghleann na Muaidhe in Glenamoy are both community run Irish pre-school services which provide for the needs of children and their parents in these areas. These childcare projects currently receive funding from the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2007 - 2013 through

The National Childcare Investment Programme 2006-2010. The Health Services Executive and Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo also provide funding for the naíonraí.

In July Irish Summer Camps, which offer recreational, educational and cultural activities for local primary school children, were organised in Ceathrú Thaidhg and Barr na Trá in conjunction with Coiste Campaí Samhraidh Iorrais, and with the assistance of funding received from Scéim na gCampaí Samhraidh d'Aos Óg na Gaeltachta.

Lifelong learning and the acquisition of new skills is an ongoing process. A number of training courses were organised during the year including Pre-School Inservice Training in conjunction with Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo and Mayo County Childcare Committee; Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge in conjunction with The Languages Centre, University College Maynooth and part-funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta; cookery demonstrations; a craft and textile course and a basketmaking workshop.

*With the assistance of funding received from Mayo VEC, a training course entitled **Cill Chomáin Parish - Local Heritage and Environment** was organised. Examining the natural resources of the parish and their potential to sustain the local community, the course included talks on local placenames, folklore, archaeology, geology, flora, fauna and ecotourism. A field trip to explore some of the archaeological remains in the parish gave local people an opportunity to see at firsthand the richness of our natural heritage and landscape.*

The Ceathrú Thaidhg loop walks (Lúb na Trá, Lúb Chlann Lir and Lúb an Chlaí Dhuibh) continue to attract visitors to the area. Starting and finishing at the Seanscoil community centre, each loop is waymarked and colour-coded according to its level of difficulty. A bi-lingual information board and brochure provide details on trail directions and points of interest en route. In a feature in the Irish Independent writer and journalist Christopher Sommerville described the Clann Lir walk as ‘... one of the most breathtakingly wild and beautiful coastal walks I’ve ever encountered’. Guided walks were organised during the year and on World Heart Day in conjunction with The Irish Heart Foundation.

Na Comhluadair Bheo is a self-help initiative towards the economic and cultural revitalisation of the area. Its aim is to raise the profile of the area as a tourism product or destination particularly among European countries such as France and Germany. To help achieve this aim a website has been designed which can be viewed at www.gaeltacht.eu where a choice of holiday packages is available to cater for visiting groups.

Féile Lúnasa, a community festival celebrating the heritage, culture and sporting tradition of Cill Chomáin, was held in various venues throughout the parish in August. The packed programme of activity included a football tournament, a photographic exhibition entitled ‘Ar Bharr na dTonn – Riding the Waves’, a heritage walk, sponsored cycle, music sessions and a cookery demonstration. The event was organised by Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Chill Chomáin, Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo and Coiste Ghlór na nGael Ceathrú Thaidhg.

An archaeological survey of the parish was completed by Diana Taylor, a participant on the community employment scheme. The survey unearthed a number of previously undocumented sites including possible megalithic tombs.

Two groups of American students from the School for International Training Dublin, accompanied by academic director Aeveen Kerrisk, visited the parish in February and again in September as part of their academic studies in Ireland. The students, who are undergraduates from a variety of universities in the US, met with various individuals who are involved in community and environmental development within the parish.

The Cill Chomáin Rural Social Scheme is managed by Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Chill Chomáin under the auspices of Údarás na Gaeltachta and includes an environmental enhancement workplan submitted by Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo. Some of the works carried out in 2010 include refuse collection at local beaches, graveyards and in Ceathrú Thaidhg village as part of An Taisce’s National Spring Clean initiative, the development of car parking facilities adjacent to the pier at Rinn Rua and maintenance work on the Ceathrú Thaidhg walks. With the assistance of funding received under Scéim na mBóithre Pobail bog roads were repaired at Bóthar Chúl a’ Chnoic (€1460) and Bóthar a’ Tower (Ceathrú na gCloch €460), Bóthar a’ Chorraigh (Port a’ Chlóidh €1500), Bóthar na Scraithe (Cill a’ Ghallagáin €1450), Bóthar na bPortach (Ros Dumhach €1450) and Bóthar na bPortach (Poll a’ tSómais €1500).

Margadh Feirmeoirí Iorrais (Erris Farmers Market) is held in Carter Square, Béal an Mhuirthead, every Saturday from April onwards. A growing awareness among consumers in relation to food quality, origin, distance travelled and seasonality has been the basis for this venture. The farmers market provides a forum for local producers to develop new food initiatives and offers consumers the opportunity to savour fresh, seasonal produce from the Erris area including vegetables, free range hen and duck eggs, home baking, fish, herbs & small plants, seaweed products and prepared dishes. In July Inspector Tom Farrell from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food awarded the Bord Bia Quality Practice Standard for 2010 – 2011 to Margadh Feirmeoirí Iorrais in recognition of the quality and authenticity of the produce on offer.

In August Uinsíonn Mac Graith commenced a survey of the old graveyard at Poll a' tSómais to plot the graves on a plan and record its history. It is intended to compile this information in a book similar to the Teampall Chill Ghallaigín book which was published in 2009.

In September Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo, in co-operation with Fr. Eddie Rogan, published a bi-lingual manual for Altar Servers entitled 'Glaoim Oraibh Mo Chairde – I Call You Friends'. The aim of the manual is to provide guidelines and reference material for existing and future altar servers within the parish. Various topics are covered including the history of Christianity in the parish, the role and responsibilities of the altar server, Irish prayers, blessings, the parts of the Mass, the festivals in the liturgical year, ecclesiastical terms etc. This project was funded by Foras na Gaeilge under the scheme 'An Ghaeilge sa Phobal – Ón mBeagán go dtí an Mórán'.

Glór na nGael Teo is a national organisation which focuses on the development and preservation of the Irish language and culture. In 2010 Coiste Ghlor na nGael Ceathrú Thaidhg - Dún Chaocháin, was the recipient of two awards in the annual Glór na nGael competition i.e Duais na Comhairle Oidhreachta and Duais Chumann na Sagart. The awards were presented at a special function in City Hall in Belfast in March.

An Bord SNIP was the main topic of conversation during the year, a reference to the many cutbacks which are proposed by the government in the years ahead. Although The Mc Carthy report has serious implications for every government department, it is the cutbacks and re-structuring that are recommended in the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs which will have the greatest impact on the Irish language and on Gaeltacht communities. The committee supported Guth na Gaeltachta's campaign to retain Gaeltacht schemes and made representations to public representatives on the matter.

Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo would like to thank the following agencies for their assistance in 2010 and looks forward to their continued co-operation in 2011:- The Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mayo County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta, FÁS, Mayo Sports Partnership, The Irish Heart Foundation, The Department of Health and Children, Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo, The Health Services Executive, County Mayo Childcare Committee, Fáilte Ireland, An Taisce, Foras na Gaeilge, Glór na nGael, Óige na Gaeltachta Teo and Mayo Vocational Education Committee.

Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge / 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language

Níl aon dabht faoi ach gur am cinniúnach atá ann don teanga Gaeilge agus don Ghaeltacht. Ar an 22ú Nollaig sheol an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais agus Gaeltachta Pádraig Ó Ciaráin an 'Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030', a leagann amach fis nó ráiteas misin an rialtais i leith thodhchaí na Gaeilge thar an tréimhse sin. Is iad seo a leanas cuid de na spriocanna atá luaite sa straitéis:-

- * Beidh sainmhíniú nua ar an nGaeltacht agus Aire agus Roinn faoi leith ann don Ghaeilge.
- * Go dtiocfadh méadú 25% ar líon na gcainteoirí laethúla Gaeilge faoi 2030 agus go mbeidh athbhreithniú déanta ar an sprioc seo chuile seacht mbliana. Is cainteoirí laethúla taobh amuigh den chóras oideachais atá i gceist leis an sprioc seo.
- * Go ndéanfaí athbhreithniú ar an gcóras oideachais agus go mbeadh measúnú bliantúil ar an nGaeilge i scoileanna na tíre.
- * Go mbeidh cúntóirí teanga i chuile scoil lán-Ghaeilge.
- * Faoi reachtaíocht nua athrófar Údarás na Gaeltachta go hÚdarás na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge.

* Fágfar feidhmeanna fiontraíochta faoi chúram Údarás na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge.

Sa cháipéis luaitear Coiste Rialtais ar an nGaeilge agus ar an nGaeltacht, a dhéanfaidh maoirseacht ar dhul chun cinn na straitéise agus a gheobhaidh tacaíocht ó Ghrúpa Oifigeach Sinsearach ó na Ranna Rialtais. Níl na sonraí i dtaobh fheidhmiú na straitéise nó cé as a dtiocfaidh na hacmhainní chun na spriocanna a chur i bhfeidhm soiléir áfach.

There is no doubt but that we are at a crossroads in relation to the future of the Irish language and the Gaeltacht. On the 22nd of December last the Minister of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs Pat Carey launched 'The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030', which outlines the government's vision or mission statement for the future of the Irish language over that period. The following are some of the stated objectives included in the strategy:-

- * *The Gaeltacht will be re-defined. Irish will be given additional status with the setting up of its own Department and the appointment of a Minister.*
- * *The number of daily Irish speakers, outside of the education system, will increase by 25% by 2030. This objective will be reviewed every seven years.*
- * *The education system will be reviewed, and an annual assessment of Irish will be carried out in schools.*
- * *Language assistants will be available in every Irish-language school.*
- * *Under new legislation Údarás na Gaeltachta will be changed to Údarás na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge.*
- * *Údarás na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge will retain the enterprise functions of Údarás na Gaeltachta.*

The document mentions that a Government Committee on Irish and the Gaeltacht will oversee progress with the support of a Senior Official Group from Government Departments. It does not provide details as to how the various objectives will be implemented, or where the resources needed to implement the strategy will come from however. A copy of the Strategy is available from Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo or can be downloaded from the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs's website at www.pobail.ie

Scéalta Eile / Other News

Bainistiú Dramhaíola / Waste Management

Ba chóir dúinn uilig iarracht a dhéanamh bruscair a laghdú, a athúsáid agus a athchúrsáil le haghaidh na bliana 2011. Is féidir tús a chur leis an iarracht tré do chrann Nollag agus na cártaí Nollag a athchúrsáil. Tá socruithe déanta ag Comhairle Chondae Mhaigh Eo chun na crainn Nollag a bhailiú ag Carr-Chlós na hOifige Chathartha, Sráid an tSéipéil, Béal an Mhuirthead idir 9.00 r.n. agus 5.00 i.n. ó Dé Luain an 7ú Eanáir go dtí Dé hAoine an 14ú Eanáir. Is féidir cannaí alúminium agus buidéal ghloine a thabhairt chuig na bancanna cuí atá lonnaithe ag Ceathrú Thaidhg, Ros Dumhach, Gleann na Muaidhe, Barr na Trá agus Inbhear. Tá na seirbhísí seo saor in aisce.

Perhaps one resolution we can all aspire to for 2011 is to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste. Why not start by recycling your Christmas trees and cards. Mayo County Council has made arrangements for the collection of used Christmas trees at the Civic Office Car-Park, Church Road, Belmullet between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. from Monday 7th January to Friday 14th January. Aluminium cans and glass bottles can be deposited in the appropriate banks which are located at Ceathrú Thaidhg, Ros Dumhach, Gleann na Muaidhe, Barr na Trá and Inbhear. These services are free of charge.