



***Nuachtlitir Cultúrtha agus Teanga an  
CLG san Eoraip***

***European GAA Language and  
Cultural Newsletter*** **Content**

**Imleabhar I Eagrán 1**

**Lá Féile Bríde, 1 Feabhra 2012**

Welcome to the Language and Cultural Newsletter of the GAA in continental Europe. Go raibh míle maith agaibh/many thanks to all who contributed to this first edition.

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter by writing an article or simply by informing us of any cultural events your club might be involved in, please contact Caoimhe at: [irishculturalofficer.europe@gaa.ie](mailto:irishculturalofficer.europe@gaa.ie)

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**RÉAMHRÁ** Tá ana áthas orm an chéad eagrán seo de nuachtlitir chultúrtha an CLG san Eoraip a chur os bhur gcomhair. Is deis iontach é seo, ní hamháin chun teanga agus cultúr na nÉireannach atá lonnaithe ar Mhór-Roinn na hEorpa a chomóradh, ach chun aitheantas a thabhairt d'ilteangachas agus d'ilchultúrthacht lucht CLG san Eoraip leis. Tá saibhreas ar leith idir theangacha agus chultúir againn i measc ár n-imreoirí peile agus iománaíochta/camógaíochta san Eoraip nach bhfuil ag lucht CLG in áit ar bith eile ar domhan agus ba dheas an rud é cuid den saibhreas sin a chur os comhair an phobail san fhoilseachán seo.

Roghnaíodh an lá seo an 1d Feabhra, Lá Fhéile Bhríde, leis an bhfoilseachán seo a sheoladh. Go traidisiúnta, ba é an 1d Feabhra céad lá an earraigh agus tús bhliain nua na feirmeoireachta. Naomh Críostaí a bhí i mBrid, éarlamh na hÉireann in éineacht le Naomh Pádraig, agus ba í pátrún na mbeithíoch agus na déiríochta í. Go fiú roimh aimsir na gCríostaithe, áfach, féile thábhachtach i bhféilire na gCeilteach a bhí sa lá seo ar a dtugtaí *Imbolc*, lá féile an bhandé Brigit, bandia Ceilteach na torthúlachta.

Is oiriúnach an lá seo, dá bhrí sin, i ngeall ar an nasc stairiúil idir Éirinn agus Mór-Roinn na hEorpa trínár gcultúr coiteann Ceilteach. Sa mhullach air sin, tús bliana nua a bhí ann dár muintir agus tús bliana nua dúinne é leis ó thaobh an spóirt de. Go raibh 2012 ina bliain ráthúil thaitheamhach dúinn uile.



**INTRODUCTION** I am delighted to launch the first issue of the European GAA's cultural newsletter. This as a great opportunity not only to celebrate the language and culture of the Irish who are settled on the European continent but also to recognise the multilingualism and cultural diversity amongst all GAA players in Europe. As European football and hurling/camogie players, we are lucky to have a cultural and linguistic richness at our feet, a gift that GAA players in many other places across the world do not. This newsletter is an attempt to explore and share some of that diversity.

The 1<sup>st</sup> February, St Brigid's day in Ireland, was chosen as the day to launch this newsletter. Traditionally in Ireland, the 1<sup>st</sup> February is celebrated as the first day of spring and the beginning of the agricultural year. Bridget was a Christian saint, the patron saint of cattle and dairy work, and is one of the patron saints of Ireland along with St Patrick. However, before Christianity arrived in Ireland, the 1<sup>st</sup> of February was already an important festival in the Celtic calendar called *Imbolc*, the feast of the goddess Brigit, Celtic goddess of fertility.

Therefore, as nod to the historical links between Ireland and the Europe continent through our common Celtic culture and as we ourselves prepare for the 2012 season, what better time to launch a newsletter than when all the promise of a new GAA season beckons?

Caoimhe Ní Shúilleabháin  
Oifigeach Cultúrtha agus Teanga  
Coiste Chontae na hEorpa

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A traditional St. Brigid's Day blessing:  
"Más fearr sibh inniu, go mba seacht fearr a bhéas sibh bliain ó inniu"  
"If you are better today, may you be seven times better this day next year"



## The Cultural and Linguistic Impact of the Irish and the GAA in Saint Gallen, Switzerland

Brian Clerkin

(Please see [www.europegaa.eu](http://www.europegaa.eu) for the full text of Brian's article)

### Background

I have been living in Saint Gallen Switzerland since November 2007. Saint Gallen is one of the highest cities in Switzerland and is situated in



the north east of the country in a valley around 2,300 ft above sea level. I am a teacher in an International School called the *Institut auf dem Rosenberg* which is an elite boarding school attracting students and teachers from all over the world. The school has had Irish teachers working in it for over 20 years.

From my first days in Saint Gallen I had heard of Saint Gall (or Gallus) and of the Saint Gallen Library and Cathedral. I knew that Saint Gall had come from Ireland and very little else, but often

met the odd Swiss person who never failed to inform me that Saint Gall was an Irish monk.

### Club beginnings

On September 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 the new Irish teachers and I went to train with the Zurich hurlers on All-Ireland Hurling Sunday. We went to Paddy Reilly's Irish pub in Zurich after the training to watch the game and something strange happened. I am not sure whether it was Tipperary ending Kilkenny's five in a row, the passion on display that day or the few pints but we left Zurich that night on the train discussing the real possibility of setting up a GAA club in Saint Gallen. Thus my apartment became the parish hall on Monday at 8 pm. It was far from Hayes' Hotel, let me tell you, but it did plant the seeds of what would become Switzerland's second GAA club and an affirmation of Irish culture, sport and representation in Saint Gallen.



Saint Gallen Team with new jerseys Nov 2010



Our new club now needed a name and after researching further we came across various legends about Saint Gall and the bear. There are many different versions of the bear story but one of the most well known is that Saint Gall needed shelter and offered a bear some food and in return the bear helped him build some shelter. This shelter became what is now known as the Abbey of Saint Gall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it is believed to be one of the most important centres of Irish influence on the continent. Thus we decided on the name Saint Gallen Bears GAA club, a name that evoked the long and important historical link the Irish have with Switzerland.

As I mentioned, Saint Gallen is believed to be one of the most important centres of Irish influence on the continent, a fact which quite surprised me. I had been to the Abbey Library and I had seen a manuscript from the 9<sup>th</sup> century there but never thought anymore about it. After a lot of research and digging I found out that the religion, culture, language and traditions of Ireland were introduced to Saint Gallen in the year 612 by the Irish Saint and companion of Columbanus, Saint Gall or Gallus.

#### **What is the impact of this link with Ireland?**

Saint Gall is now recognized as the patron Saint of Switzerland so the impact of the Irish has

been felt in North East Switzerland for the past 1400 years and hopefully it will continue well into the future. Saint Gall died c.645-650 but the Abbey and Library that were named in his honour contain relics and texts within a fantastic scriptorium which is of huge value to intellectual and Christian religious history. This year is the 1400<sup>th</sup> jubilee of Gall or Gallus and the city has some very special events planned



**Saint Gall and the bear**

commemorating Saint Gall's arrival to what became known as the city of St Gallen. The festivities begin April 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 until 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012 with Saint Gall's day itself falling on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The Saint Gallen Bears GAA club has approached the Saint Gallen Jubilee Committee organisers with the goal of having an exhibition game versus Zurich in Saint



Gallen or a regional tournament sometime during the year to coincide with the festival events.

The links between Saint Gallen and Ireland still remain. Recently, a bear statue was erected outside St Gall's church in Carnalea Parish in Bangor county Down (where St Gall is believed to have studied) to mark the 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



**The Cathedral of Saint Gallen**



**Sculpture of St Gall's bear in Bangor, County Down**

The Abbey Library of Saint Gallen is not only a focal point of Irish language culture and written word but other languages and areas. The Library is the chief seat of learning of Ancient German and houses, preserves and maintains valuable examples of culture,

tradition, religious teachings, language and music. The music school of Saint Gallen was a source of wonder and delight in Europe and strong Irish influence figured in the form of the Irish monk Tuathal who was renowned for his musical talents. Another famous Irish name connected with the Library and the Abbey was Moengal who eventually became Abbot. The Saint Gallen Abbey Library is also an extremely important repository of historical Irish language texts. There are ancient Irish scripts dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century housed there including some rare examples of Ogham manuscripts. There are many examples of *gluaiseanna* in the manuscripts housed in the library – notes written in Irish by the monks in the margins of the Latin manuscripts. Nowadays, there is an active Irish speaking club within the city run by



two proud Irish ladies from opposite ends of the country. One is from Longford and the other from Cork; you can only imagine the arguments pertaining to the advantages of Munster Irish over Leinster Irish. I wonder should I throw my Ulster Irish in there and confuse the whole thing altogether. Also, a good proportion of the Irish teachers have significant levels of Irish and use the cúpla focal to confuse and befuddle the Russian, German and Italian students in our classes. The Irish speaking club within the city is a valuable source of culture that we hope to encourage alongside the GAA club.

Today in Saint Gallen we are actively promoting Gaelic football and hurling and Irish culture to the local community and we have quite an international membership. It shows that the whole GAA experience can be much more than just Irish and that it gives a sense of community and belonging that you just don't see everywhere and in all sports. It's a very special thing at home but it is extra special here in a foreign land.

In conclusion, Saint Gall left an abiding mark on the country in which he settled. His memory has long been revered in the locality of his labours and he has become known and honoured as the Apostle of Switzerland. 1400 years into the future who knows where Saint Gallen, the beautiful Library and Abbey, the Irish language,

the GAA or the Irish in Saint Gallen will stand but one thing is for sure if we follow the example of someone like Saint Gall we might not be so badly off. Will there still be a few Irish teachers teaching in a Saint Gallen boarding school, will there be a few people meeting up to speak Irish or play Gaelic football in 2112 for the 1500th jubilee?

In Saint Gallen we like to think that we are creating a valuable link between the significant and successful past of the Irish here and an optimistic hopeful outlook for the future. As one of my colleagues once said, and I agree wholeheartedly, "We are all ambassadors of Ireland when we are abroad". We keep this in mind as we strive towards making a difference in Saint Gallen and promoting Irish culture, language and sport. It is our duty as proud Irish people.

Our Website [www.stgallengaa.com](http://www.stgallengaa.com) has lots of information about who are and what we are doing. Also Facebook Group Search: Saint Gallen Bears.





***Tangi An Ostiz has been involved with Gaelic football in Brest since the founding of the club 12 years ago and***

***has been teaching Gaelic football in schools in Brittany for the last 10 years. The development of the sport in the Breton region is unique in Europe as Gaelic football has now been officially recognised by the Breton schools' authorities. This year Tangi will travel to Ireland with his students from a Diwan school (the Breton equivalent of a Gaelscoil) for a cultural and sporting exchange.***

Pratiquant le football gaélique depuis la création du Gaelic Football Bro-Leon à Brest, il y a une douzaine d'année, je suis aussi entraîneur depuis 6 ans.

En parallèle, comme je suis également professeur d'Education Physique et Sportive, au collège Diwan du Relecq-Kerhuon près de Brest, je fais découvrir le football gaélique à mes élèves depuis 10 ans. Depuis quelques années, le Gaelic Football Bro-Leon accueille d'ailleurs régulièrement d'anciens élèves, ayant découvert le football gaélique lors de mes cours.

Diwan est une association, qui existe depuis 1977 et propose une éducation en langue bretonne, de la maternelle jusqu'au baccalauréat, similaire à celle proposée par Gaelscoileanna Teo en Irlande.

Le football gaélique connaissant depuis 10 ans un intérêt croissant en Bretagne, avec une reconnaissance depuis 4 ans par les services académiques, qui encouragent sa pratique en collège et lycée, il possède aussi une dimension culturelle et des valeurs, qui donnent encore

plus de sens à sa pratique au sein des écoles Diwan.

Cette année, du 1er au 9 juin, j'organise un séjour en Irlande avec 15 élèves de 13/14 ans, avec lesquels je pratique le football gaélique dans le cadre de l'Association Sportive du collège. L'objectif de ce séjour est de découvrir le berceau des sports gaéliques, de visiter Croke Park et son musée, mais aussi d'engager un échange avec un collège gaélique, basé sur la découverte réciproque des sports bretons et irlandais, de nos langues...

L'ambition de ce séjour, au delà de l'enrichissement culturel des élèves qui vont y participer, c'est de servir de modèle pour que d'autres écoles et collèges Diwan engagent à leur tour des échanges culturels et sportifs avec des établissements scolaires irlandais et permettre ainsi d'échanger nos expériences pédagogiques d'enseignement par immersion. Il s'agit donc de faire des sports gaéliques un vecteur très fort de rapprochement entre Diwan et Gaelscoileanna Teo, et au delà entre nos deux pays celtes.

C'est par là une nouvelle voie d'échanges avec nos cousins irlandais qui s'ouvre et si pour l'heure, nous n'avons pas encore trouvé le collège avec lequel se fera cet échange, les billets sont réservés, les élèves extrêmement motivés et je n'ai plus aucun doute sur la réussite de ce projet.

Tangi An Ostiz

Entraîneur du Gaelic Football Bro-Leon



**La version Bretonne:**

C'hoarier mell-droad Gouezelek on abaoe krouidigezh ar Gaelic Football Bro-Leon e Brest, daouzek vloaz'zo, gourdoner on ivez abaoe 6 vloaz.

Kelenner war an Deskadurezh Korf ha Sport on ivez e Skolaj Diwan Penn-Ar-Bed er Releg Kerhuon, nepell Brest. Reiñ a ran da zizoleiñ ar vell-droad gouezelek d'am skolajidi abaoe 10 vloaz. Setu ma welomp o tont er c'hleub skolajidi gozh o deus bet tro da gaout un tañvañ deus ar sport er skolaj.

Diwan a zo ur gevredigezh krouet e 1977. Kinnig a ra un hentenn deskadurezh e brezhoneg dre soubidigezh adalek ar skol-vamm betek al lise un tamm evel Gaelscoileanna Teo e Bro-Iwerzhon.

Muioc'h-mui a dud a zo dedennet gant ar vell-droad gouezelek abaoe 10 vloaz ken eo deuet da vezañ anavezet gant an ensellerezh akademiezh en e raktres ha broudet ar skolajoù hag al liseoù da ginnig an obererezh-se. Poellekoc'h c'hoazh e teu da vezañ er skolioù Diwan talvoudegezh ar sport-se abalamour d'al liammoù sevenadurel etre hon div vro.

Er bloaz mañ, etre ar 1añ hag an 9 a viz even, e aozin undroidad e Bro-Iwerzhon gant 15 skolajiad, 13/14 vloaz. Tro o devez da c'hoari mell-droad gouezelek gant Kevredigezh Sport ar skolaj. Ar pal a zo dizoleiñ bro ar vell-droad gouezelek, gweladenniñ Croke Park, e virdi, met ivez krouiñ un eskemm gant ur skol ouezelek, diazezet war dizoloadenn sportoù Breizh hag Iwerzhon, hor yezhoù...

Ur pal all d'ar veaj-se, ouzhpenn ar binvidigezh sevenadurel a zegaso d'ar skolajidi, a zo bezañ un test da reiñ c'hoant d'ar skolioù Diwan all da grouiñ eskemmoù gant skolajoù Iwerzhon ha reiñ 'mod-se an tu da eskemm war ar skiant-prenet pedagogel dre soubidigezh a zo en div vro. 'Pezh a dalvez ober deus ar sportoù gouezelek un doare kreñv da dostaat Diwan

deus Gaelscoileanna Teo, ha da heul, hor div vro geltiek.

Un doare nevez da grouiñ un eskemm gant hor c'hendirvi Iwerzhonad eo ha zoken ma n'eus ket bet kavet c'hoazh ur skolaj evit ober an eskemm, miret eo bet ar bilhiji, youlek ar skolajidi, hag a dra-sur e teuio brav ar raktres-se.

Tangi An Ostiz

Gourdoner ar Gaelic Football Bro-Leon



**L'auteur de l'article en plein vol**



*Ireland and Brittany share a common Celtic culture and there are many significant cultural and linguistic links between the two regions. These traditions are being maintained not only through the development and promotion of Gaelic Games in Brittany but also through other cultural events the GAA clubs in the region are involved in. Below are some of the activities planned by the Bro-Leon club in the year ahead. The « Ar Redadeg », a relay race through Brittany in support of the Breton language, has its equivalent in “An Rith” in Ireland ([www.rith.ie](http://www.rith.ie))*

### **Des événements culturels auxquels participe le club de Bro-Leon:**

*Au sein du club Bro-Leon il y a pas mal de choses qui se font autour de la langue et de la culture bretonnes.*

- 28 janvier : initiation au football gaélique pour les élèves en cours d'irlandais à l'université de Brest
- 21 mars : découverte en breton du football gaélique pour les écoles bilingues de Landerneau
- 12 mai : participation à l'organisation du départ d'Ar Redadeg 2012 à Brest, course-relais de 1 500 km en soutien à la langue bretonne (<http://ar-redadeg.org/>)
- 1-9 juin : un échange linguistique et sportif avec un école gaélique (*Gaelscoil*) en Irlande

**Ar Redadeg 2011 avec un ancien joueur de l'équipe de Bro-Leon, Mael Thepaut**





## SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE SA BHUISÉIL

Is fada ann an ceangal idir an Bheilg agus Éire ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. Is sa Bheilg a cuireadh an chéad leabhar Gaeilge sa chló Rómhánach i gcló in 1639; ón gcoláiste Proinsiasach in Louvain a cuireadh Mícheál Ó Cléirigh, duine de na “Ceithre Máisirí” go hÉirinn in 1626 chun lámhscríbhinní faoi na naoimh a bhailiú, tionscadal a raibh an saothar mórthábhachtach Annála Ríoghachta Éireann mar thoradh air, agus i 1905 tháinig Pádraig Mac Piarais chun na Beilge chun an córas oideachais dátheangach sa tír sin a scrúdú.

Is ann don cheangal sin idir an Bheilg agus Éire fós, agus tá pobal mór Éireannach ina gcónaí anseo anois, neart Gaeilgeoirí ina measc. Is iontach an rud é a mhínic a chostar Gaeilgeoirí ort sa Bhruiséil.

Tá imeachtaí á n-eagrú sa Bheilg do Sheachtain na Gaeilge ó 2008 i leith agus tá sé ag dul ó neart go neart ó shin. Seo thíos roinnt de na hócáidí a bheidh ar siúl i mbliana. Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil nó chun clárú d’ócáid ar bith, cuir ríomhphost chuig Mícheál Ó Conchuir : [micheal.oconchuir@cor.europa.eu](mailto:micheal.oconchuir@cor.europa.eu)

### CLÁR

3 Márta:

#### **Amhráin, rince agus ceol do leanaí**

*Ionad:* Halla an Pharóiste, Paróiste Naomh Antaine, Kraainem

4 Márta:

#### **Siúlóid staire**

*Ionad :* Bois de la Cambre

6 Márta:

#### **Oscailt Oifigúil**

#### **Oíche Cheoil agus Chraice**

*Ionad:* Buanionadaíocht na hÉireann

Sráid Froissart

9 Márta:

#### **Máistrí Sláinte an Chladaigh**

Léacht le Seán Ó Riain

*Ionad:* Teach Quaker, Cearnóg Ambiorix 50



10 Márta:

**Lón le Gaeilge**

*Ionad:* Delish, Rue d'Arenberg 36

13 Márta:

**Tráth na gCeist**

*Ionad:* The Meeting Point, Rue du Taciturne 39

15 Márta:

**Aifreann le Gaeilge**

*Ionad:* Eaglais Pharóiste Naomh Antaine,  
Kraainem

23 Márta :

**Ceolchoirm le Liam Ó Maonlaí**

*Ionad:* Institiúid Leuven d'Éirinn san Eoraip

Dátá fós le socrú d'**Oíche Scannán as Gaeilge**, á  
heagrú ag Ambasáid na hÉireann, Chaussée  
d'Etterbeek 180

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Chomh maith le himeachtaí Sheachtain na Gaeilge beidh lá mór ceiliúrtha á eagrú ag CLG na Beilge/Belgium GAA in éineacht le club sacair FC Irlande i bPáirc Cinquantenaire ar an **Domhnach an 11 Márta**. Beidh cluichí peile eagraithe do leanaí agus do dhaoine fásta agus cluichí iomána agus camógaíochta chomh maith. Beidh neart imeachtaí eile eagraithe do na leanaí agus rogha gach bia agus togha gach dí ann do gach éinne. Coinnigh súil ar leathanach Facebook Belgium GAA nó cuardaigh "St. Patrick's Day Festivities 2012" ar Facebook chun níos mó eolais a fháil nó cuir ríomhphost chuig:

[secretary.belgium.europe@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.belgium.europe@gaa.ie)





*Estonian Siret Surva discovered Gaelic football after being invited by two Australians to Gaelic football training while living in Pamplona, Spain. After returning to*

*Estonia she founded Tallinna Tulised Ilvesed GAA in 2009. The club is made up of all non-Irish players.*

Our Gaelic football club was founded in January 2009. Our club name is Tallinna Tulised Ilvesed GAA (Fire Lynx). It is also interesting that the surname of the president of Estonia is also Ilves (lynx). Every year great people have found their way to our club. We are growing slowly but most of the ones who come stay and currently we have 25 members.

Besides Gaelic we all love other sports as well. During winter time most of us take part in the Tartu ski marathon which is for cross country skiing and only in the classical style. This marathon is the most famous and oldest ski marathon in Estonia. Most of us ski 63 km and newcomers usually 31 km. This is a big event for all the skiers all over in Estonia. Last year more than 4700 skiers skied in minus 20 degrees!

In summer time we spend a weekend on a bicycle tour in Estonia. Usually we have great weather, cycle 60-70 km per day and at the end of the day enjoy the bright summer nights with great company.

As we all also love running, in early September we participate in the Tallinn marathon. Everyone can run a distance that brings a smile to their faces. Last year most of us ran 10 km but there were runners for 21 km and even for the marathon. Beside Gaelic football many of us play badminton, soccer, basketball, do triathlons etc. So we just love, love love sports :)

In Estonia we celebrate our independence day on the 24th of February when we all go to raise

the national flag at Pikk Hermann tower at sunrise, usually around 7 am.

At the end of every Gaelic season we do an army physical fitness test which is called a NATO test. This is 2 minutes of sit ups, pushups and 2 miles of running. This way everyone can see whether their physical condition has improved or not over the season.

*Below is a short glossary of football terms in Estonian. Useful for when Estonia host their first tournament...*

### **Estonian English glossary**

Gaeli jalgpall	-	gaelic football
jah	-	yes
ei	-	no
ettevaatust!	-	watch out!
pall	-	ball
pall on mängust väljas	-	the ball is out
värav	-	goal
punkt	-	point
jookse!	-	run!
püüa pall	-	catch the ball
viga	-	foul
kohtunik	-	referee
ma olen siin!	-	I am here!
mängija	-	player
võitsime!	-	We won!
õnnitlen	-	congratulations
ma armastan jalgpalli	-	I love football
soovin edu!	-	Good luck
terviseks!	-	cheers!

*Members of Tallinna Tulised Ilvesed GAA have also translated the Ladies Football rules into Estonian.*

*See:*

<http://ladiesgaelic.ie/overseas/playing-rules/estonian/>

