



THE LIVING TRADITION

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COMHALTAS – CORONAVIRUS

Communication No. 36

This is Communication No. 36. I am conscious in these very strange times of how the news varies as compared to ‘normal times’. The loss of colleagues or friends is more pronounced. Achievements, against all the odds, are most gratifying. Above all, the need and importance of friendship, loyalty, hope and camaraderie are foremost in our thoughts and actions. These were some of my thoughts as I compiled this Communication. Now is the time for co-operation and positive action as we set out on AN RÓD SEO ROMHAINN. **Is fearr féachaint amháin os do chomhair ná dhá fhéachaint siar. Looking ahead once is better than looking back twice!**

- **FLEADHFEST NA h-ATHNUACHANA....** FLEADHFEST signals RENEWAL. It is a clarion call across the whole island of Ireland and to our Irish Diaspora spread throughout the world. FLEADHFEST is a beacon of hope in choppy seas. It keeps the music alive, the feet tapping and the songs flowing. The melodious sounds waft from county to county, province to province and to friends in far away places. **Bí linn ar an ród seo romhainn.** Join us on the road of celebration. As our PRO Pádraig Ó Flannagáin puts it so well in the upcoming issue of TREOIR – drawing on ‘Knocknagow’ by the famous Tipperary patriot Charles J. Kickham – ‘FLEADHFEST is the answer to Quare Times’.
- **TG4 ABÚ....** Is mór an chabhair agus an misneach a thugann TG4 dúinn agus tá siad chun tosaigh arís le FLEADHFEST. Beidh an ceol agus na scéalta acu ó na cúigí agus ó FLEADHFEST NA hÉIREANN i Sligeach. Tá Samhradh an Cheoil in ann dúinn go léir sa bhaile agus thar lear. Bain taitneamh as. TG4 will have the stories and the music from the Provinces and from FLEADHFEST NA hÉIREANN in Sligo next August.
- **A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS....** The memoir of Joe Mullarkey (Britain and Mayo), which we reference in the upcoming issue of TREOIR, is a timely reminder of our much-beloved Irish Diaspora and their challenges and achievements in the countries of their adoption. Their loyalty, tenacity and creativity won abundant kudos for their homeland as they seized the opportunities that came their way. **Sábháil an fómhar fad is a bhíonn an ghrian thuas.** Save the harvest while the sun is up.

- **THE RAMBLING HOUSE....** In the next issue of TREOIR also, that much-acclaimed storyteller Vincent Pierce introduces us to the magic and wonders of the Rambling House. A reminder once again of the university of the fireside. The lift of the music, the excitement of the dance and the evocation of the song are the stuff of joy, dreams and hope. *Den fháilte an fhéile*. Generosity makes the welcome.
- **IRISHNESS IS A MANTLE OF EQUALITY....** As we travel down bothrín na smaointe, it is interesting to note that, like our music, aspirations and sentiments are timeless. In fact, very often time embellishes them and gives us even a greater awareness of their substance and potential. *Is maith an scéalaí an aimsir*. Time will tell! We have learned that with our distinctive Irish Language and culture we can walk tall among the nations of the earth. An equal among equals. Labhair Gaeilge linn. Use the ‘cúpla focal’ at every opportunity. You will be surprised at how much of the native language you really have. *Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam*. A country without a language is a country without a soul.
- **AN tOIDEACHAS SA CHOMHALTAS....** In recent times, there have been giant steps on the education front. Here from Majella Bartley is a taste of what is to come:

We in Comhaltas are currently finalizing our stage one ‘Initial Access for Provider’ application for QQI accreditation. This application when approved will deem CCÉ a QQI provider. As part of this process, our governance and structures have been developed to align with QQI procedures. At the top of the pyramid we have established an Executive Committee, which is an oversight committee. All other boards and committees report to the Executive Committee and the executive reports solely to the Coiste Oideachais; Other boards/committees are as follows;

- PLC Board which works directly with the PLC in Performance and Education
- SCT/TTCT Board who develop and oversee the running of the SCT exams and the TTCT including the TTCT Preparatory course.
- Quality Committee to make sure we are compliant with all procedures and regulations defined by QQI. The external examiner also reports to this committee
- Programme committee to continue to develop current and new courses and programmes
- Examination/Results committee who oversee the overall examination process and make sure results are verified.

We are also currently developing our IT structures, our key elements are;

1. Comhaltas Education Website to act as an entry pathway to all educational programmes
2. Educational Management System with front and back-end functionality
3. e-learning platform for delivery of educational modules

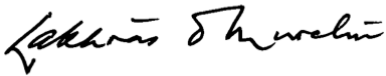
Developing these IT structures is essential to the success for our educational programme.

- **COMHGHÁIRDEAS....** Tá Éamonn Ó hArgáin tofa mar Uachtarán nua An Chomhaltais. Traoslaímíd leis an sár-Ghael seo ó Chiarraí atá ag saothrú an chultúir Ghaelaigh le fada an lá. Éamonn has a long association with Comhaltas and up to recently held a senior position with Foras na Gaeilge.

We also salute Birmingham-based Vince Jordan who has completed a second distinguished term as Uachtarán.

- **STOP PRESS....** We have just heard the great news that the North American Convention – a wonderful cultural event – will go ahead in 2022. San Francisco will be the hospitable and enthusiastic host. Watch this space!
- **SLÁN AGUS BUÍOCHAS....** Bhuel, sin é go fóillín. Mar a deirim, go raibh ceol, aoibhneas agus dóchas agaibh. Gabhaimíd buíochas libh as ucht bhúr dtacaíochta. Bail ó Dhia ar an obair.

Le mór-mheas,



Labhrás Ó Murchú
Ardstiúrthóir CCÉ