

Beealeraght

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Va mee ayns yn Ellan Skianagh y çhiaghtin shoh chaie marish paart dy chumraagyn as shin goaill ayn ayns quiz çhellveeish ayns Gaelg Albinagh ayns y studio t'ayns shen. Va sheshaghtyn ayn streeu noi ry hoi veih caghlaaghyn boayl ayns Nalbin. Cha noddym ginsh diu rour mychione y chlaare ny quoi hooar y varriaght, son bee eh currit magh traa ennagh 'syn arragh. Ny-yeih foddym ginsh diu red beg mychione yn ammyr çhellveeish Gaelgagh.

V'eh jannoo foays da my chree dy akin cre cha fondagh as profeshoonagh as ta'n sleih ta jannoo ny claaareyn shoh, as ta'n çhellveeish cur caaghyn obbyr as prowal obbyr da sleih aegey as Gaelg oc, chammah as feallagh bailloo aght-beaghee y gheddyn ayns media 'sy chadjyns. Erskyn ooilley t'eh lhiggey da'n sleih aegey cur my-ner dy vel bioys as vondeish ayns y Ghaelg as dy neeagh daue ee y loayrt as ve moyrnagh assjee tra ta'n ghlare fo baggyrt trome ayns ny hardjyn raad boallagh ee ve lajer.

Va BBC Alba currit er bun ayns 2008 er satellite, as voish nurree t'eh er ve ry gheddyn ayns Nalbin trooid Freeview. Foddee Manninee geddyn eh trooid satellite ny er yn iPlayer, as cha nel eh doillee dy eaishtagh rish my ta Gaelg Vanninagh ayd. Ta focklyn Baarle ec bun y jalloo ayns y chooid smoo dy chlaareyn. T'eh roie dagh laa eddyr mysh queig er y chlag 'syn astyr as mean-oie. Ta queig millioonyn jeig dy phuntyn er ny vaarail er dagh blein, as ga nagh vel shen wheesh shen ayns co-soylagh rish ammyryn Baarlagh, ny eer ammyryn ayns myn-ghlaraghyn elley lheid as S4C 'sy Thalloo Vretnagh, t'eh çheet lhieu dy yannoo claaareyn aghtal as fondagh mychione caghlaaghyn cooish, as shimmei peiagh nagh vel Gaelg erbee oc jeeaghyn orroo neesht.

Foddee dy lhisagh ammyr çhellveeish y ve ayn son Mannin? Cha nee er ammyr Gaelgagh er-lheh ta mee çheet—ga dy dreishtin dy beagh Gaelg dy liooar ayn—agh ammyr veagh dellal rish cooishyn Manninagh, son ta shin toilçhin lane smoo dy hastey ve currit dooin na ta shin geddyn voish ny sheshaghtyn creealey çheu elley jeh'n cheayn, ta cur shin marish 'sheear hwoaie'.

I was in Skye last week with some friends taking part in a Scottish Gaelic TV quiz in the studio there. There were teams competing from across Scotland. I cannot tell you too much about the programme or who won: for it will be broadcast some time in the spring. However I can tell you a bit about the Gaelic television channel.

It was encouraging to see how skilled and professional the people are who make these programmes, and the television gives opportunities for careers and work experience to young Gaelic speakers, as well as those interested in working in the media in general. Above all it lets young people see that Gaelic is vibrant and useful and that it is worth their while speaking it and being proud of it at a time when the language is severely endangered in its traditional heartlands.

BBC Alba was established in 2008 on satellite, and since last year it has been available in Scotland via Freeview. Manx people can receive it by satellite or on the iPlayer, and it is not difficult to listen to if you have Manx. Most programmes have subtitles in English. It broadcasts every day between about 5pm and midnight. £15m are spent on it each year, and though that is not very much in comparison with English channels, or even channels in other minority languages such as S4C in Wales,

they manage to make high-quality programmes on a wide range topics, and many non-Gaelic speakers watch them too.

Maybe there should be a TV channel for the Isle of Man? I don't mean a Gaelic channel—though I would hope there would be Manx Gaelic content on it—but a channel devoted to Manx affairs: we deserve much more attention than we receive from the broadcasters across who lump us in with 'north west'.