

Ta plan fo raad dy hroggal thie-shillee noa ayns Ratharsair (Raasay), unnane jeh ny hellanyn sloo ayns Nalbin. Cha vel agh hoght feed cummaltagh 'syn ellan, as yinnagh yn thie-shillee obbyr da unnane-jeig jeu. Ta'n sector bee as jough er-lheh scanshoil da tarmaynys Nalbin, as sheeagh ushtey-bea ny lomarcan £5 millioonyn da tarmaynys yn Reeriaght Unnaneysst. Ta shen ny smoo na ny jeidjyssyn yiarn, staillin as co-earrooderyn. Ta mysh jeih thousaneyn dy leih gobbragh ayns ny thieyn-shillee er fud ny çheerey, ymmodee jeu ayns ardjyn raad ta'n tarmaynys lhag, as ta daeed thousane dy leih elley ayns Bretin Vooar lhie er jeidjys yn ushtey-bea son yn agh-beaghee oc.

Ta hoght boteilyn jeig as feed currit ersooyl dys çheernyn elley dagh tullagh. Ta feed millioon dy vullagyn nyn lhie gappaghey ayns thieyn-stoyr fud Nalbin; shegin daue gappaghey son three bleeaney ec y chooid sloo, as ta ymmodee jeu nyn lhie son ghaa-yeig, queig-jeig ny feed dy vleeantyn ny ny sodjey. Myr sodjey ta'n ushtey-bea ny lhie ayns y vullag share ta'n blass smooinit dy ve as smoo yn price yiow eh.

Ga dy vel thieyn-shillee ry gheddyn ayns ymmodee aynryn dy Nalbin, she ayns ellan Ìle (Islay) ayns y sheear-ass ta'n earroo smoo 'syn un voayl, hoght ooilley cooidjagh ayns ellan lesh three thousane cummaltagh. Va'n thie-shillee shinney currit er bun 'sy hoghtoo lhing jeig as cha nel yn fer saa agh jeih bleeaney dy eash. She yn ushtey-bea undin tarmaynys yn ellan, as gys kuse dy vleeantyn er-dy-henney va ny deiney va gobbragh 'sy thie-shillee mastey'n sleih s'jerree va jannoo ymmyd jeh'n Ghaelg myr glare chadjin ayns Ìle, 'nacht myr va'n Ghaelg Vanninagh tannaghtyn dy ve usit ec yn eeastagh erreish da feallagh elley cur seose ee.

Ga dy vel yn ghlare ghooie ec earroo nagh nee beggan jeh'n sleih shinney 'syn ellan foast, s'coan my chluinnys shiu ee ayns co-loayrtys dagh laa 'sy traid. She yn çheeloghe aeg, nagh vel glare erbee oc agh y Vaarle, ny sleih ass buill elley, ta gobbragh ayns ny thieyn-shillee 'sy laa t'ayn jiu son y chooid smoo. Ny-yeih, er jurnaa gys Ìle marish sheshaght dy ynseydee yn Ghaelg Albinagh nurree, haink eh lhien geddyn turrys ayns Gaelg mygeayrt yn thie-shillee s'jerree ta foast fo smaght shenn ghooiney as Gaelg yn ellan echey, ta ny s'niessey da Gaelg Nerin (as Vannin) na ny sorçhyn ta goll er loayrt ny sodjey my-hwoaie. V'eh yindyssagh clashtyn y ghlare shen as ny focklyn er-lheh son obbyr y thie-shillee; son she coraa v'ayn vees dy gerrid ny host son dy bragh.

There are plans to build a new distillery in Raasay, one of the smallest islands in Scotland. There are only 160 inhabitants, and the distillery would provide employment for 11 of them. The food and drink sector is especially important to the Scottish economy, and whisky alone is worth £5 million to the UK economy. That is more than the iron, steel and computer industries. About 10,000 people are employed in distilleries across the country, many in economically deprived areas, and 40,000 jobs throughout Britain depend on the whisky industry.

38 bottles are exported per second. 20 million casks lie maturing in warehouses across Scotland; they must mature for at least three years, and many are kept for twelve, fifteen or twenty years or more. The longer the whisky remains in the barrel the better the taste is considered to be and the higher the price.

Though distilleries are found in many parts of Scotland, the highest concentration is found in the isle of Islay in the south-west, with eight in total in an island with three thousand inhabitants. The oldest distillery was established in the eighteenth century while the youngest is only ten years old. Whisky is the backbone of the island's economy, and until a few years ago the men who worked in the distilleries were among the last section of society to use Gaelic as the usual language in Islay, just as the fishing industry was one of the last domains where Manx held out when most had given it up.

Although a fair number of the older islanders still have Gaelic, you are unlikely to hear it in everyday conversation on the street. The younger generations, who generally have no language but English, as well as incomers, now form the bulk of the distillery workforce. Nevertheless on a trip to Islay with a group of Gaelic students last year, we were fortunate enough to have a tour in Gaelic of the last distillery with a local Gaelic-speaking manager. Islay Gaelic is closer to Irish (and Manx) than the more northerly dialects are. It was wonderful to hear that dialect and the specialized terminology for the work of the distillery; for it was a voice which will soon fall silent forever.