

Cha row monney taggloo mychione y Ghaelg ayns yn Reihys Cadjin v'ayn er y gherrit shoh, choud as ta mee fakin. Ta ram caghlaaghyn er jeet er y Chiare as Feed, agh cre'n eiyrtys vees oc er y ghlare ashoonagh ain? Ta daa oltey va lajer son y Ghaelg er vaagail yn Thie, Phil Gawne (Skylley Chreest Rushen), yn shenn ghreinneyder ec Undinys Eiraght Vannin as nane jeusyn hug er bun Mooinjer Veggey, as Peddyr Karran (Skylley Connaghyn), hug er bun Caarjyn ny Gaelgey, as va caggey son y Ghaelg 'sy Chiare as Feed voish ny 1980yn.

Choud's ta fys aym (kiartee-jee mee my ta mee aggairagh), cha vel peiagh erbee jeh'n Chiare as Feed noa ta abyl loayrt y Ghaelg, ny ta goaill taitnys er-lheh ayns y ghlare. Cha row Gaelg erbee ry akin er ny manifestoynt oc, er-lhimmey jeh slogan ayns Gaelg er ynnyd-eggey unnane jeu. Ren un pheiaagh jannoo ymmyd jeh'n ennym 'Ellan Vannin' as jannoo imraa er keeshyn 'sleetchy', agh shen ooilley'n Ghaelg honnick mee! Cha ren peiagh erbee jannoo imraa er y Ghaelg myr cooish er-lheh, ny speeideilys y Vunscoil as reddyn elley ta er chosney moylley er feiy ny cruinney harrish ny bleantyn chaie. Cha dug yn jees hie er reih ayns Glione Faba as Purt ny Hinshey, ny'n fer nagh row reiht, imraa erbee er y Vunscoil ayns ny screeunyn oc ga dy vel ee ayns yn rheynn-reih oc hene. Cha row imraa jeant jeh glare erbee agh Sheenish, ta Howard Quayle (Middle) laccal y ve ynsit da paitçhyn Manninagh. Cha ren peiagh erbee cooinaghtyn er y ghlare ashoonagh, ny gra dy lhisagh ynsagh Gaelgagh y ve mooadit.

Ren candidate ny ghaa loayrt mychione 'eiraght' as 'cultoor', agh son y chooid smoo she er ny trammyn-cabbyl as y lheid v'ad çheet. S'mie t'eh dy vel cooid vooar jeh ny holtaghyn noa noi'n sorçh dy philistinaghys va'n shenn reiltys gearree jannoo er Shooylaghan Ghoolish, agh bee ad dunnal dy huittym magh noi'n philistinaghys ta gra dy vel eh ymmyrçhagh dy yiarey argid da'n Ghaelg son nagh vel ee femoil? Shegin dooin ve er nyn dwoaie as çhionney orroo dy niartaghey ny t'ain hannah, ny s'leaie na baggyrt er, as ta mee treishteil dy bee ny smoo dy Ghaelg ry akin as ny smoo dy haggloo mychione y ghlare, as mychione cultoor ooilley cooidjagh, ayns 2021.

T'eh feeu goaill tastey neesht nagh row agh shey ayns y Chiare as Feed va reiht ayns 2011 va ruggit çheu-mooie jeh Mannin, agh nish ta three-jeig jeu—ta shen ny smoo na'n derrey lieh—va ruggit ayns y Reeriaght Unnaneyssit. Nee shoh yn chield cheayrt nagh vel yn chooid smoo jeh'n Chiare as Feed er ve Manninee? Vel shoh meanal dy bee ny sloo dy hrimmid currit er Manninaghys ayns y Chiare as Feed noa? Ny bee ad ny share? Ta fys ain ayns seihll y Ghaelg dy vel joarreeyn ny cheayrtyn er ve ny s'caarjoil da'n Ghaelg na ny Manninee hene. Shegin dooin ooilley cur ny politickeyryn ain ayns cooinaghtyn cre cha scanshoil as ta'n Ghaelg da Mannin ayns 'brandal' shin hene, fakin dy vel feme ain dy hassoo magh ayns y theihll ny smoo na va rieu as shin feddyn boayl noa dooin hene 'sy theihll lurg Brexit.

The Manx language had a very low profile in the recent General Election, as far as I can see. Many changes have come to the House of Keys, but what effect will they have on our national language? Two members who were strong champions of the language have left the House, Phil Gawne (Rushen), who was the Manx Heritage Foundation's language development officer before being elected, and a founder of the Manx-medium preschool provider Moonjer Veggey, and Peter Karran (Onchan), who founded Caarjyn ny Gaelgey, and fought for the language in the Keys from the 1980s onwards.

As far as I know (I would stand corrected), there is no-one in the new Keys who is able to speak Manx, or takes a particular interest in the language. There was no Manx on their manifestos, apart from a slogan in Manx on the website of one of them. Someone used the name 'Ellan Vannin' and mentioned 'sleetchy' taxation, but that is all the Manx I saw! No-one mentioned Manx as an issue, or the success of the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh Manx-medium school and other initiatives, which have won praise around the world in recent years. The two members elected in Glenfaba and Peel, as well as the unsuccessful candidate, made no mention of the Bunscoill in their literature although it is located in their constituency. Indeed, the only language mentioned by anyone was Chinese, which Howard Quayle (Middle) wants taught to Manx schoolchildren. No-one remembered the national language, or said that Manx in education should be increased.

A few candidates talked about 'heritage' and 'culture' but mostly they meant the horse trams and the like. It is good to see that most of the new members seem to be opposed to philistinism of the kind the last government planned to inflict on Douglas Promenade, but will they be as resolute in resisting the kind of philistinism that wants to cut funding to Manx because it's a 'nice-to-have'? We must be on our guard and press them to build on what has been achieved, rather than threaten it, and I hope that in 2021 more Manx will be visible and that the language, and Manx culture in general, will be a more prominent election topic.

It's worth noting as well the demographic shift in the Keys: only six of those elected in 2011 were born outside the island, but now there are thirteen—more than half—who were born in the UK. Is this the first time the Keys has had a majority of non-Manx-born members? Does this mean there will be less emphasis on Manxness in the new Keys? Or will they be better? We know in the Manx language movement that 'comeovers' have sometimes been better advocates of the language than native Manx people. We must all remind our politicians how important Manx is to the island, not least in 'branding' ourselves, considering that we need to stand out more than ever as we find a new place in the world in the wake of Brexit.