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Scoil Merriman / An Bhladhm Bheo - Mná Chill Dara le Bríd

Tháinig Scoil Gheimhridh Merriman chuig contae Chill Dara den chéad uair riamh an deireadh seachtaine seo caite. Deireadh seachtaine taitneamhach, spreagúil a bhí ann i Nás na Ríogh. Is in Óstán Lawlor's a bhí formhór na n-imeachtaí ar siúl. Oidhreacht Bhríde an téama tráthúil a pléadh ag an Scoil i mbliana ag teacht leis an gcomóradh ar 1,500 bliain ó bhásaigh Bríd. Ba é an saineolaí teanga, Dónall Ó Riagáin, ball de bhord Chill Dara le Gaeilge, a d'oscail an Scoil go hoifigiúil. Cíoradh ábhair a bhaineann le saol Bhríde trí chainteanna, seimineár, turas agus taibhléirithe a cuireadh i láthair ó bhéal, i bhfoirm ceoil agus le scannán nua ar Bhríd.

Seoladh an gearrscannán, *An Bhladhm Bheo: Mná Chill Dara le Bríd*, á chur i láthair ag Cill Dara le Gaeilge, mar chuid d'imeachtaí an deiridh seachtaine. Léiriú d'ard-chaighdeán sa scannán, a thugann ardán do mhná Chill Dara scéal Bhríde a insint. Bhí Treasa Uí Riagáin, baill de bhord Chill Dara le Gaeilge i measc na rannpháirtithe. Tá an scannán ar fáil ar líne anois ag: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeKFa1kB1dM.

Seo mar a labhair Caoimhe Ní Shúilleabháin, Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, Cill Dara le Gaeilge agus bainisteoir tionscadail don scannán:
Cé nach scannán faoi scéal Bhríd féin é seo, is scannán é a dhéanann í a chomóradh trí chomóradh a dhéanamh ar ghné ar leith den oidhreacht a d'fhág sí – is é sin mná láidre ilghnéitheacha a bhfuil grá acu don teanga. Tá éagsúlacht aoiseanna, cúlraí, dearcthaí agus ábhair chainte ag gach bean atá sa ghearrscannán ach iad nasctha le chéile ag an nGaeilge agus ag oidhreacht Naomh Bríd. Chuir Niamh Heery ó Swansong Films cruth ealaíonta álainn ar an mbunsmaoineamh a bhí againn agus táimid ana shásta an scannán Gaeilge seo ar ardchaighdeán a chur os comhair an phobail mar chuid den chomóradh "Bríd 1500".

Agus é ag caint ar theacht Chumann Merriman chuig Nás na Ríogh, dúirt Dáithí De Faoite, Cathaoirleach, Cill Dara le Gaeilge:
Ba mhór ag Cill Dara le Gaeilge fáilte a chur roimh scoil Merriman go Nás na Ríogh ag an deireadh seachtaine. B'iontach slua breá Gaeilgeoirí a fheiceáil sa bhaile chun mór-cheiliúradh a dhéanamh ar shaol Naomh Bhríd. Chuir sé bród orainn uilig an

mionscannán “An Bhladhm Bheo - Mná Chill Dara le Bríd” a sheoladh ag an scoil. Léiriú d'ard-chaighdeán atá ann, agus ba dheas gur thug Scoil Merriman ardán dúinn an scannáin a sheoladh agus scéal Naomh Bhríde a insint. Tá súil agam go meallfaimid an scoil ar ais chuig Contae Chill Dara arís. Bheadh céad míle fáilte rompu!

Seo mar a labhair Máire Ní Neachtain, Leas-Chathaoirleach arChumann Merriman:
D’éirigh thar barr le Scoil Merriman ar a gcéad chuairt ar Chill Dara. In Óstán Lawlor’s a tionóladh farasbarr na n-imeachtaí, áit ar cuireadh fáilte chroíúil agus ar tugadh togha na haire do rannpháirtithe na Scoile. Bhí muintir Chill Dara an-lárnach sa gclár: Dónall Ó Riagáin a d’oscail, labhair Daithí de Faoite ag seimineár, sheol Caoimhe Ní Shúilleabháin an gearrscannán “An Bhladhm Bheo: Mná Chill Dara le Bríd**”,** léigh Máire Sinclair, Mae Leonard agus Ciarán Ó Maitiú as a saothar idir fhilíocht agus prós, agus chuir ceoltóirí an cheantair faoi stiuír Pat Farrelly go mór le Club Merriman ar an dá oíche. Tugadh cuairt ar Sholas Bhríde agus ar Ardeaglaise Chill Dara chomh maith. Tús breá le ceiliúradh 1,500 Bhríde sa teanga a labhair Bríd féin!

Maoiníodh an gearrscannán faoin scéim Bríd 1500. Is clár imeachtaí é Bríd 1500 chun ceiliúradh agus comóradh a dhéanamh ar Naomh Bríd, a beatha agus a hoidhreacht, ar bhealach leathan, saibhir. Tá tuilleadh eolais ar fáil anseo: https://brigid1500.ie/

Tá clú agus cáil ar chontae Chill Dara mar an contae leis an méadú is mó ar líon na gcainteoirí Gaeilge sa tír. Tá naoi nGaelscoil agus dhá Ghaelcholáiste chomh maith le naíonraí, grúpaí pobail, eagraíochtaí agus coláistí samhraidh gníomhach sa chontae anois. De réir dhaonáireamh náisiúnta 2022, tá Gaeilge ag 95,484 duine i gcontae Chill Dara.

Tugtar maoiniú do *Chill Dara le Gaeilge* tríd an *Scéim Tacaíochta Gaeilge* atá ag A*n Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spórt agus Meán*.

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Scoil Merriman / An Bhladhm Bheo - Mná Chill Dara le Bríd

Merriman Winter School arrived in County Kildare for the first time ever last weekend. It was an enjoyable and exciting weekend in Naas. Most events took place in the Lawlor's Hotel. Brigid's legacy is the topical theme discussed by the School this year in line with the commemoration of the 1,500 years since Brigid's death. The school was officially opened by the Irish language expert Dónall Ó Riagáin, a member of the board of Cill Dara le Gaeilge. Topics relating to the life of Brigid were explored through talks, seminars, tours and performances presented orally, in the form of music and by a new film on Brigid.

The short film, *An Bhladhm Bheo: Mná Chill Dara le Bríd*, was launched, presented by Cill Dara le Gaeilge, as part of the weekend's events. A high quality film which gives Kildare women a platform to tell the story of Brigid. Among the participants was Treasa Uí Riagáin, a board member of the Cill Dara le Gaeilge. The film is now available online at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeKFa1kB1dM.

Caoimhe Ní Shúilleabháin, Executive Officer, Cill Dara le Gaeilge and project manager for the film said:
Although this is not a film about Brigid's own story, it is a film that commemorates the particular aspect of her legacy – that is strong and diverse women who love the language. Every woman who is in the short film has a variety of ages, backgrounds, attitudes and topics linked to each other by the Irish language and St. Brigid's heritage. Niamh Heery of Swansong Films put our original idea into a beautiful artistic shape and we are delighted to showcase this high quality Irish film as part of the "Bríd 1500" commemoration.

Speaking about Cumann Merriman's arrival to Naas, Dáithí De Faoite, Chairman, Cill Dara le Gaeilge said:
Cill Dara le Gaeilge welcomed Merriman's school to Naas at the weekend. It was wonderful to see a great crowd of Irish speakers at home to celebrate the life of St Brigid. We were proud to launch the short film "An Bhladhm Bheo - Mná Chill Dara le Bríd" at the school. It is a high standard presentation, and it was fitting that Scoil Merriman gave us a platform to launch the film and tell the story of St Brigid. I hope that we will attract the school back to County Kildare again. They would be welcome!

Máire Ní Neachtain, Vice-Chair of Cumann Merriman, said:
Scoil Merriman was very successful on their first visit to Kildare. Most of the events took place in the Lawlor's Hotel, where the school's participants were warmly welcomed and noted. Kildare people were very central to the programme: Dónall Ó Riagáin opened, Daithí de Faoite spoke at a seminar, Caoimhe Ní Shúilleabháin launched the short film "An bladhm Bheo: Mná Chill Dara le Bríd", Máire Sinclair, Mae Leonard and Ciarán Ó Maitiú, read from their work between poetry and prose, and the local musicians made a great contribution to Club Merriman each night. There was also a visit to St Brigid's Light and the Cathedral of Kildare. A fine beginning with the 1,500 Brigid's celebrations in the language that Brigid herself spoke!

The short film was funded under the 1500 Bríd scheme. Bríd 1500 is a programme of events to celebrate and commemorate St Brigid's life and heritage, in a broad and rich way. Further information is available here: https://brigid1500.ie/

Kildare is renowned as the county with the largest increase in the number of Irish speakers in the country. Nine Gaelscoil and two Gaelcholáistí as well as naíonraí, community groups, organisations and summer colleges are now active in the county. According to the 2022 national census, 95,484 people in county Kildare have Irish.

Cill Dara le Gaeilge is funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Irish Language Support Scheme.

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