



GAEILGE IORRAIS

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Dea-scéala do Ghaeltacht Iorrais: Buaicphointí na Gaeilge le linn 2020

Tá ceiliúradh á dhéanamh ag Gaeilge Iorrais ar dhá bhliain d'fheidhmiú a phlean teanga. Reáchtáil Gaeilge Iorrais raon leathan imeachtaí trí mheán na Gaeilge le linn 2020 agus mar sprioc acu borradh a chur faoi úsáid na Gaeilge i nGaeltacht Iorrais chun todhchaí dhearfach a chinntiú don Ghaeilge sa Ghaeltacht seo. Bliain faoi leith ab ea an bhliain 2020 ar go leor bealaí ach tá Gaeilge Iorrais thar a bheith sásta leis an dul chun cinn agus leis an leibhéal rannpháirtíochta lena linn, in ainneoin na ndúshlán go léir agus na srianta sláinte. I measc na mbuaicphointí ó 2020 a léiríonn an dul chun cinn go dtí seo tá;

Imeachtaí don Óige (Iasmuigh den chóras oideachais). Gné nua i 2020

- Tá mar sprioc ag Gaeilge Iorrais borradh a chur faoi úsáid na Gaeilge i measc aos óg an cheantair de réir a chéile agus deiseanna sóisialaithe trí Ghaeilge ar ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil dóibh.
- Fógraíodh 10 spás saor in aisce ar champaí seachtaine UISCE do dhéagóirí na Gaeltachta seo i gcomhar le Coláiste UISCE. Bronnadh **7 scoláireacht** iomlán ar an aos óg áitiúil chun freastal ar na campaí samhraidh seo.
- Reáchtáladh campa lae i nGaeilge do pháistí na mbunscoileanna Gaeltachta in UISCE i mí Lúnasa. D'fhreastail **23 páiste** as **4 scoil** Ghaeltachta ar an ócáid.
- Cuireadh an chéad champa samhraidh i nGaeilge ar bun do pháistí na mbunscoileanna Gaeltachta amháin in Áras Inis Gluaire i mí Lúnasa. D'fhreastail **23 páiste as 5 scoil** Ghaeltachta ar an gcampa seachtaine seo.
- San iomlán, mar sin, d'fhreastail **breis agus 50 páiste áitiúil** ar champaí samhraidh nua de chuid Gaeilge Iorrais i gcomhar le Coláiste UISCE agus Áras Inis Gluaire.
- D'éirigh linn club UISCE a chur ar bun d'óige an cheantair i dtús an fhómhair. D'fhreastail **35 páiste ó 6 bhunscoil Ghaeltachta** ar an gcéad lá. Thosaigh

muid amach le 18 páiste bunscoile in UISCE bliain roimhe sin (2019), a léiríonn **fás c.50%** ar ár gcuid gníomhaíochtaí sa réimse seo.

- D'fhreastail **23 déagóir ón 3 iarbhunscoil** Ghaeltachta (meascán de scoláirí scéime agus déagóirí le Gaeilge) ar an gclub freisin.
- San iomlán bhí **58 duine óg áitiúil** páirteach i gclub UISCE i 2020 agus beagnach 20 duine eile ar liosta feithimh. (.i. uimhreacha teoranta de bharr srianta sláinte agus polasaí docht Covid-19).
- Tá an-tóir ar an gclub lán-Ghaeilge seo agus muid ag súil le tógáil air i 2021.
- Faoi mar a luaigh tuismitheoir amháin linn; 'My girls had the best time and would be delighted if the club proceeds not just for the water sports and the club, but the language and culture. Our house has been a buzz with the use of Irish language.'

Imeachtaí do Theaghlaigh

- Clár eile 'Imeachtaí trí Ghaeilge do Theaghlaigh' seolta agus dírithe go sonrath ar theaghlaigh sna scoileanna Gaeltachta. **21 imeacht úr** beartaithe (Feabhra – Bealtaine 2020) faoi scáth Teaghlaigh Ghlór na nGael.
- Reáchtáladh **8/21 imeacht** ar an gclár in áiteanna éagsúla fud fad an limistéir (Feabhra – Márta 2020) agus ghlac 25 páiste maraon le 15 tuiste páirt sna himeachtaí seo (.i. **40 duine san iomlán**). Eagraíodh imeachtaí spráíúla trí Ghaeilge (m.sh. ceardlanna i gcruthú puipéad, ceardlanna i ndeileadh adhmaid) chun spreagadh agus tacaíocht a thabhairt d'úsáid na Gaeilge ag leibhéal an teaghlaigh. Bhí orainn go leor de na himeachtaí ar an gclár seo a chur ar ceal de bharr srianta sláinte faraor.
- Chláraigh 76 teaghlach linn i 2019 agus 44 teaghlach nua eile i 2020 a léiríonn **fás 58% le linn 2020** agus a fhágann go raibh tuairim is **120 teaghlach** páirteach in ár gcuid imeachtaí teaghlaigh agus óige le dhá bhliain anuas.
- Reáchtáil Gaeilge Iorrais roinnt imeachtaí eile do theaghlaigh i gcaitheamh an tsamhraidh i gcomhar leis na hoifigigh pleanála teanga eile agus Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta. Thug **43 duine (as 20 teaghlach éagsúil)** faoi Mharatón na dTeaghlach sa Ghaeltacht seo (dúshlán aclaíochta agus deis chumarsáide i nGaeilge). Fógraíodh #TóraíochtTaisce don Teaghlach freisin, a thug deis agus spreagadh do theaghlaigh dul amach faoin aer le bileog tóraíochta i nGaeilge. Ghlac roinnt daoine áitiúla páirt ann. Tá an deis seo ar fáil fós.
- Tugann imeachtaí den chineál seo deis do theaghlaigh an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus a chleachtadh i gcomhthéacsanna eile. Faoi mar a luaigh tuismitheoir amháin linn; 'tá sé deas an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus a chloisteáil lasmuigh den scoil.'

Scoileanna Gaeltachta

- Leanúint leis an gcomhoibriú agus tacú leis na seacht mbunscoil Ghaeltachta agus na trí iarbhunscoil Ghaeltachta sa LPT (Gaelcholáiste Chomáin san áireamh). Tríd an obair seo, féachtar leis an gceangal atá idir an scoil Ghaeltachta agus an próiseas pleanála teanga go háitiúil a láidriú.

- Cuireadh tús le clár úrnua ‘amhránaíocht ar an sean-nós’ sa seacht mbunscoil Ghaeltachta, a bhuíochas le maoiniú ó Ealaín na Gaeltachta. Bhí **breis agus 200 páiste** ón seacht mbunscoil Ghaeltachta rannpháirteach sa chlár úrnua seo a thosaigh i mí Feabhra 2020 faoi stiúir an amhránaí Síle Uí Mhongáin.
- Chuir Gaeilge Iorrais clár nua aclaíochta, sláinte agus folláine trí Ghaeilge ‘Maratón na bPáistí’ ar fáil do scoileanna an limistéir seo. Ghlac **100 páiste as 5 bhunscoil Ghaeltachta** páirt sa chlár 8 seachtaine seo. Bronnadh t-léine agus bonn ar gach páiste a chríochnaigh an dúshlán.
- Comhordú agus comhairliúchán leanúnach ar iarratas ar Chlár na gCluichí Gaelacha a leathnú go scoileanna i nGaeltacht Mhaigh Eo i gcomhar le coiste áitiúil.
- Ag an dara leibhéal, tacú le himeachtaí nua i nGaeilge a chur ar siúl do scoláirí (m.sh. íoga, aireachas, scileanna sorcais i nGaeilge, traenáil do choiste Gaeilge na scoláirí, Seó Bóthair).

Feachtais agus poiblíocht

- Preasráiteas cuimsitheach Gaeilge/Béarla eisithe againn ar a laghad uair sa mhí (m.sh. 11 preasráiteas foilsithe agus i gcló againn ar na meáin éagsúla ó mhí Feabhra go mí na Samhna 2020) agus le fáil ar ár suíomh www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie
- Leanúint leis an mír rialta raidió mar chuid de chlár Tommy Marren ar stáisiún MidWest Radio uair sa mhí (an stáisiún raidió áitiúil is mó éisteachta sa tír). Maireann gach mí thart ar 10 nóiméad.
- Ceithre agallamh fhada déanta ar RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta i gcaitheamh na bliana agus c.45 nóiméad i gceist leis na míreanna sin.
- Straitéis faoi leith curtha le chéile agus i bhfeidhm ar na meáin shóisialta le linn na tréimhse dianghlasála. I measc an ábhair nua a d’fhoilsigh Gaeilge Iorrais tá;
 - Feachtas ‘Tá Gaeilge Agam’ chun feasacht a ardú maidir le ról an duine aonair in úsáid teanga agus i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge go háitiúil. Bhí rochtain ag an bhfeachtas seo ar c.11,000 duine ar ár leathanach Facebook;
 - Feachtas #seoíanGhaeltacht chun Gaeltachtaí na tíre a chur i lár an aonaigh ar na meáin shóisialta. Bhí an feachtas seo ainmnithe ar ghearrliosta do ghradam chumarsáide an Oireachtais 2020;
 - Feachtas físeáin ‘úsáid í agus mairfidh sí’ chun daoine a mheabhrú maidir le ról Ghaeilge Iorrais agus tábhacht na Gaeilge don Ghaeltacht seo. Bhí rochtain ag an bhfeachtas seo ar c.10,000 duine san iomlán ar ár leathanach Facebook.
 - Lena chois sin, ghlac muid páirt i Lá Mhaigh Eo (fíorúil) 2020 agus reáchtáil muid feachtas poiblíochta mar chuid lárnach de chomórtas reatha na Gaeltachta 2020. Sheol muid feachtas #CeannaighSaGhaeltacht chun tacú le gnólachtaí na Gaeltachta i mí na Nollag. Tá samplaí de na físeáin seo le feiceáil ar ár suíomh i gcónaí <http://www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie/index.php/feachtais-campaigns>

- Is cinnte go bhfuil luach leis an obair seo, faoi mar scríobh duine áitiúil amháin fúinn; ‘tá sár obair ar siúl agat sna meáin shóisialta leis an Ghaeltacht a chur chun cinn agus daoine a spreagadh Gaeilge a labhairt i ngan fhios dóibh féin.’
- Is féidir muid a leanúint ar Facebook, Instagram agus Twitter (@Gaeilge Iorrais) agus muid ag cur lenár lucht leanúna i gcónaí (m.sh. tá c.1,250 leantóir againn ar Facebook go dáta).

Canúintí Áitiúla na Gaeilge / Ranganna Gaeilge

- Cuireadh mórliosta acmhainní ar chanúintí áitiúla na Gaeilge i dtoll a chéile faoi scáth Ghaeilge Iorrais .i. na hacmhainní éagsúla atá le fáil go dtí seo i nó faoi chanúintí Iorrais.
- Cuireadh mír nua le suíomh Ghaeilge Iorrais chun an ábhar seo a roinnt go poiblí <http://www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie/index.php/canuinti-local-dialects>. Bhreathnaigh os cionn 360 duine ar an liosta seo an chéad tseachtain ar foilsíodh é (agus 750 duine go dáta).
- Tríd an obair seo ar na canúintí, tugtar deis don phobal leaganacha áitiúla na Gaeilge a chur i mbéal an phobail agus tugtar aitheantas don dream a labhraíonn na canúintí sainiúla Gaeilge seo go fóill. Tá tábhacht faoi leith le deiseanna foghlama agus saibhrithe teanga a chur ar fáil sa Ghaeltacht seo.
- Tacaíocht áitiúil ar fáil go leanúnach ó Ghaeilge Iorrais chun dhá rang Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge (bliain 2) a chur ar bun arís do mhuintir an limistéir seo i gcomhar le hOllscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh. Tá c.25 duine áitiúil ag tabhairt faoin gcáilíocht tríú leibhéil seo a bhaint amach.
- D’fhreastail c.20 duine ar theacht le chéile sóisialta (‘Pop Up sa Ghaeltacht’) do rannpháirtithe na ranganna Gaeilge agus lucht spéise (Nollaig 2019).

An Pobal: deiseanna úsáide Gaeilge i gcomhthéacsanna sóisialta/aclaíochta

- Ní Dhúda (an t-oifigeach pleanála teanga áitiúil) páirteach sa choiste aclaíochta atá freagrach as comórtais agus imeachtaí nua a cheapadh (.i. Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta, rás 5km na Gaeltachta, Rith Cuimhneacháin agus mar sin de).
- Grúpa aclaíochta agus sóisialta nua trí Ghaeilge curtha ar bun i gcomhar le Erris Park Run mar chuid de chomórtas reatha na Gaeltachta 2020. **89 duine áitiúil** rannpháirteach san imeacht ardchaighdeán seo (an tríú grúpa is mó sa chomórtas).
- Tugann samplaí den aiseolas blaiseadh de thábhacht na n-imeachtaí seo; ‘tá an comórtas seo go hiontach ar fad. Spreagann sé gach duine dul amach ag rith nó ag siúl, tugann sé seans do daoine sa ghrúpa an Gaeilge a úsáid ach níl brú ar aon duine ach an oiread.’ ‘Is breá liom an chaoi ar thainig an pobal le chéile don chomórtas seo.’
- Zúmlanna éagsúla uile-Ghaeltachta fógraithe agus duine áitiúil amháin páirteach sa cheardlann i scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach le linn na tréimhse dianghlása.
- Thug Gaeilge Iorrais tacaíocht do CLG Chill Chomáin le beirt traenálaí ón gcub a chur ar chúrsa cóitseála i nGaeilge le Gaeil Óga BÁC. Comhghairdeas le CLG Chill

Chomáin a bhain bonn airgid Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonnacha amach (duais mhór na Gaeilge ó Ghlór na nGael), an chéad chlub CLG leis an éacht seo a dhéanamh i nGaeltacht Iorrais.

Tá borradh mór faoi chúrsaí Gaeilge sa limistéar seo anois, sna sála ar an dul chun cinn suntasach a rinneadh le dhá bhliain anuas. Tá an ré úr seo don Ghaeilge le tabhairt faoi deara ar an talamh i nGaeltacht Iorrais freisin:

Ba mhaith liom comhghairdeas a ghabháil libh as an sár-obair atá ar siúl agaibh ansin i nGaeilge Iorrais. Is iontach an deis atá sibh ag tabhairt don phobal an Ghaeilge a chleachtadh agus a chur chun cinn.

Léiríonn na forbairtí seo go bhfuil feidhmiú an phlean teanga faoi lán seoil i dtuaisceart Mhaigh Eo. Tá d'aidhm ag Gaeilge Iorrais tógáil ar obair na bliana seo caite, deiseanna eile úsáide Gaeilge a chruthú, nósanna nua labhartha Gaeilge a bhunú agus a bhuanú sna blianta atá amach romhainn, le tacaíocht agus rannpháirtíocht an phobail.

I measc na n-imeachtaí atá ar na bacáin ag Gaeilge Iorrais do 2021 tá;

- Leanúint le club UISCE, córas cinnireachta na n-óg a nascadh leis agus é a leathnú amach do theaghlaigh eile an limistéir de réir a chéile.
- Breis imeachtaí trí Ghaeilge a shocrú do theaghlaigh.
- Clár spóirt i nGaeilge a thosú i scoileanna Gaeltachta an limistéir, i gcomhar leis an gCumann Lúthchleas Gael agus Roinn na Gaeltachta.
- Scéim 'Gaelchara' (scéim meantóireachta) a oscailt arís chun foghlaimeoirí Gaeilge agus cainteoirí dúchais a chur ag obair ar an nGaeilge lena chéile.
- Breis acmhainní a chur ar fáil i gcanúintí Iorrais ar líne.
- Imeachtaí sóisialta cosúil le Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta, an Ghaeltacht faoi Bhláth (sraith cainteanna ar líne maidir le garraíodóireacht agus an dúlra).
- Nuachtlitir a eisiúint chun cur leis an gcumarsáid rialta leis an bpobal áitiúil.

Ba mhaith le Gaeilge Iorrais buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le chuile dhuine a ghlac páirt agus a thug tacaíocht dúinn go dtí seo agus muid ag súil le níos mó rannpháirtíochta fós i 2021. Bí i dteagmháil linn ag gaeilgeiorrais@gmail.com nó (097) 29023 más mian leat níos mó eolais a fháil faoin obair seo, chun spéis a chlárú linn nó chun moltaí ábhartha a roinnt linn. Ba mhór againn cloisteáil uait. Coinnigh súil ar ár leathanach Facebook @Gaeilge Iorrais agus ar www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie don nuacht is déanaí. Cuirfear breis eolais ar fáil go luath maidir lenár nuachtlitir nua.

Good news for the Irish language in the North Mayo Erris Gaeltacht

Gaeilge Iorrais is celebrating their second year of Irish language plan implementation in the North Mayo (Erris) Gaeltacht. Gaeilge Iorrais organised a wide variety of activities through the medium of Irish during 2020 with the aim of increasing Irish language use and to ensure a positive future for the Irish language in our Gaeltacht area. 2020 was a very difficult year for all, but we adapted and continued our work in keeping with public health measures and restrictions. We are pleased with our progress and levels of participation this year.

Highlights from 2020 which showcase our progress so far include;

Irish language activities for young people (outside the education system)

- Gaeilge Iorrais aim to create opportunities and incentives for local young people to practice and use their Irish in an enjoyable social setting and to increase Irish language use among these young people over time.
- 10 free spaces were advertised for local teenagers to attend week long Irish language and activities camp in Coláiste UISCE. 7 full scholarships were awarded to local young people in partnership with UISCE.
- An Irish language day camp was organised in UISCE for Gaeltacht scheme primary school children in August. 23 students from 4 different Gaeltacht schools attended this event.
- Gaeilge Iorrais introduced the first ever Irish medium summer camp specifically for Gaeltacht scheme students which was held in Áras Inis Gluaire in August. 23 children from 5 Gaeltacht schools attended this camp.
- In total over 50 local children attended new Irish language summer camps which were initiated by Gaeilge Iorrais, in association with UISCE and Áras Inis Gluaire.
- Gaeilge Iorrais in partnership with Coláiste UISCE launched an all-Irish watersports club for young people living in the North Mayo Gaeltacht area in the autumn. 35 local children from 6 different Gaeltacht schools attended the first day (which represents 50% growth in attendance of young people at our activities since 2019).
- 23 teenagers from all 3 post primary schools (a mixture of scheme students and those with Irish) also attended club UISCE.

- In total, 58 young people took part in club UISCE in 2020 and there were 20 others on our waiting list. Our numbers were limited due to public health measures and strict Covid-19 policy.
- This club has been hugely successful, in great demand to date and we hope to continue as soon as public health restrictions permit.
- As one parent remarked: 'My girls had the best time and would be delighted if the club proceeds not just for the water sports and the club, but the language and our culture. Our house has been a buzz with the use of Irish language.'

Activities for Families

- Another programme of Irish medium events was developed for families of local Gaeltacht schools. 21 new events were planned (February – May 2020) under the umbrella of Teaghlaigh Ghlór na nGael.
- 8/21 events took place in various locations throughout our Gaeltacht area (during February and early March) and 25 children along with 15 parents took part in these activities (.i. 40 in total). Fun events were organised through Irish (e.g., puppet making workshops, woodturning workshops) to encourage and support Irish language use in the household. Many of the events on our programme were cancelled due to the pandemic.
- 76 families registered with us in 2019 and a further 44 more did so in 2020 which represents 58% growth and resulted in approximately 120 families taking part in our activities over the past 2 years.
- Gaeilge Iorrais also organised other activities for families over the summer months in partnership with language planning officers and Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta. 43 people (from 20 different households) took part in Maratón na dTeaghlach (fitness challenge and Irish language WhatsApp group). #TóraíochtTaisce for households was also advertised among local families and offered an opportunity for families to undertake an Irish language treasure hunt outdoors.
- These types of activities give families the opportunity to practice and use Irish in other settings. As one parent remarked: 'it's nice to hear and use Irish outside school.'

Gaeltacht scheme schools

- Ongoing support and collaboration with the seven primary schools and three secondary schools (including Gaelcholáiste Chomáin) participating in the Gaeltacht school recognition scheme in Erris.
- A sean-nós singing program was established in the seven Gaeltacht scheme primary schools in our area on foot of funding from Ealaín na Gaeltachta. Over 200 primary school students from these seven Gaeltacht schools have taken part in the program to date which started in February 2020 under the guidance of renowned local sean-nós singer Síle Uí Mhongáin. As part of this program the students are learning traditional Irish language songs from Mayo, as well as songs from other Gaeltacht areas, in the sean-nós style.
- Gaeilge Iorrais introduced a new Irish language fitness, health and wellbeing programme 'Maratón na bPáistí' in Gaeltacht schools. 100 primary school children from five Gaeltacht schools in our area completed this 8-week walking/running programme and each accumulated a total distance of 42km. T-shirts and medals were awarded to all participants in December.
- Consultation ongoing on application to extend *Clár na gCluichí Gaelacha* to Gaeltacht schools in Mayo, in co-operation with local committee.
- At second level, Gaeilge Iorrais supported the introduction of new Irish language activities for students, such as yoga, circus skills and mindfulness in Gaeilge.

Campaigns and publicity

- A comprehensive press release was issued each month (Gaeilge/English). 11 press releases were published on various platforms in 2020 and are still available for perusal on our website (www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie).
- We continued with the popular Irish language slot on 'The Tommy Marren Show' (Midwest Radio) which began in August 2019 and continues once a month.
- Four long interviews were undertaken on *RTE Raidió na Gaeltachta* amounting to c.45 minutes air time.
- A new strategy was devised for social media during the pandemic. Examples of new material which Gaeilge Iorrais published include;
 - 'Tá Gaeilge agam' video campaign which aimed to promote Irish language use locally and raise awareness about each individual's role in Irish language use. This campaign reached approx. 11,000 people on our Facebook page.

- #SeoíanGhaeltacht campaign which sought to showcase *Gaeltachtaí na hÉireann* on social media. This campaign was nominated for an Oireachtas communications award.
- ‘Úsáid í agus mairfidh sí’ video campaign (an animated interpretation of our information booklet) to remind the community about Gaeilge Iorrais role and the importance of the Irish language for our Gaeltacht area. This campaign reached approx. 10,000 people on our Facebook page.
- We took part in virtual Mayo Day celebrations and undertook a photographic campaign as part of Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta 2020. We launched #CeannaighSaGhaeltacht to support Gaeltacht businesses during the festive season. Examples of all these videos can be viewed on our website <http://www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie/index.php/feachtais-campaings>
- There is no doubt that this type of work has particular value, as one local person attested; ‘you’re doing great work on social media to promote our Gaeltacht and to encourage people to speak Irish without even realising it.’
- All are welcome to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (@Gaeilge Iorrais) as we hope to expand our audience and reach over time (e.g., we currently have 1,250 followers on Facebook).

Local dialects of Irish / Irish language classes

- A list of resources relating to local dialects of Irish in our Erris Gaeltacht was compiled and published by Gaeilge Iorrais with the assistance of local researchers. A new section has been added to our website to share this information with the public <http://www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie/index.php/canuinti-local-dialects>. Over 360 people viewed this document during the first week it was made available (750 in total to date). The creation of Irish language learning and enrichment opportunities such as these are of vital importance in our Gaeltacht area.
- Gaeilge Iorrais continues to provide local liaison for two Irish Diploma classes accredited by the National University of Ireland, Galway. 25 local people are attending these third level courses which are continuing online at the moment.
- Approximately 20 local people from a variety of Irish language classes attended an informal social gathering (‘Pop Up sa Ghaeltacht’) in Dec 2019.

The community: opportunities to use Irish in social and recreational contexts

- Our local language planning officer (Laoise Ní Dhúda) is involved in the steering group which is responsible for all-Gaeltacht events such as Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta, Rith Cuimhneacháin and Maratón na dTeaghlach.
- A new Irish language fitness and WhatsApp group was set up in partnership with Erris Park Run as part of Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta. 89 local people took part in this community fitness challenge (the third largest group overall).
- Some of the feedback offered by participants gives an insight into the social, linguistic and health benefits of initiatives such as this. 'your events kept me sane over the summer...' 'this competition is great. It encourages people to go out for a walk or a run. The group gives all an opportunity to use their Irish but there is no pressure with this either.' 'I love how the community has come together for this competition.'
- Zoom workshops were advertised throughout all Gaeltacht areas during the first lockdown and one local person attended the creative writing course trí Ghaeilge.
- Gaeilge Iorrais supported CLG Chill Chomáin (one of the local GAA clubs) to send two coaches from their club on an Irish language online coaching course with na Gaeil Óga in Dublin. Huge congratulations to CLG Chill Chomáin for obtaining the Irish language silver medal (Seosamh Mac Donnacha award), the first GAA club in the North Mayo Gaeltacht to achieve this recognition and prestigious award.

There is little doubt that there is a resurgence of interest and opportunities to use the Irish language in our Gaeltacht area, on foot of significant progress over the past two years. This new era for the Irish language has been remarked on locally also:

I would like to congratulate Gaeilge Iorrais on the great work that you're doing. You're providing ample opportunities for the local community to practice and further the use of the Irish language here.

These developments signal that the implementation of the Irish language plan is well underway in the North Mayo Gaeltacht. Gaeilge Iorrais is looking forward to building on these successes and aims to create more opportunities to use the Irish language locally in 2021, with the support and participation of the community.

Some of the activities which are planned for 2021 include;

- Continue with club UISCE, incorporate youth leadership as part of activities and extend to other local families.
- Further social and recreational events such as *Comórtas Reatha na Gaeltachta* and *an Ghaeltacht faoi bhláth* (series of online talks in Gaeilge about gardening and nature).
- 'Gaelchara' will be relaunched, this mentoring scheme pairs Irish language learners and native Irish speakers and aims to give Irish-language learners living in the North Mayo Gaeltacht an opportunity to practice and speak Irish as a living, every-day language.
- Further Irish language events for families.
- A new Irish language sports programme for Gaeltacht schools in the area, in conjunction with an Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and Roinn na Gaeltachta.
- More online resources in local dialects of Irish.
- Online newsletter to foster more regular communication with local community.

Gaeilge Iorrais would like to thank everyone that has taken part in our activities and supported this work to date. We are looking forward to even more participation in 2021.

Any further suggestions and/or recommendations from the North Mayo Gaeltacht community are most welcome. If you would like to hear more about this process or get involved, call us on 097-29023, email us at gaeilgeiorrais@gmail.com, check out our website www.gaeilgeiorrais.ie or follow our Facebook page @Gaeilge Iorrais. Further information to follow shortly regarding our new monthly newsletter.

(CRÍOCH/END)