

Irish enthusiasts and Gaeltacht people

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2008-07/msg01076.html>

- *From:* Craoibhin66@xxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Fri, 25 Jul 2008 03:55:43 -0700 (PDT)
-

On Jul 25, 10:17 am, knoxwill...@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Jul 24, 12:31 pm, Andrew Woode <andrew_wo...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 24 Jul, 19:30, Andrew Woode <andrew_wo...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 23 Jul, 19:09, knoxwill...@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Andrew Woode? im not really impressed?

wtf? impressed with what? u havent the faintest clue what's going on.

you have no welsh and no irish.

If you had bothered to read my post you would have noticed I made no claim to any Irish (and therefore made no comment on the quality of yours).

As for my Welsh, it is appallingly out of practice, and was always a largely self-taught fifth or sixth foreign language. But I

Irish enthusiasts and Gaeltacht people

suppose I
will have to prove it's not entirely non-existent.

Pan yr oeddwn i yn dysgu Cymraeg, roedd llawer o Gymry
Cymraeg yn help
mawr i mi; roedden nhw yn amyneddgar iawn ac yn barod i
fy nherbyn i

– mae'n ddrwg gen i – 'nerbyn'

yn y gymuned Gymraeg leol (er fy mod i yn Sais!). A pan ga
i y cyfle i
fynychu digwyddiadau Cymraeg rwan, dw i'n ffindio yr un
peth. Yr
agwedd hwn yw yr unig ffordd i warantu dyfodol yr iaith,
nid casineb
tuag at bawb sy ddim yn cytuno efo chi. Mae gormod o
ragfarn yn erbyn
y Cymry a'r Gymraeg – dim pwynt ei hybu.

When I was learning Welsh, lots of native speakers were a
great help
to me, extremely patient and ready to accept me in the local
Welsh-
speaking community (despite me being English!). And when
I have the
chance to attend Welsh-speaking events nowadays, I find
the same
thing. This attitude is the only way to guarantee the future of
the
language, not hatred towards anyone who disagrees with
you. There's
enough prejudice against the Welsh and their language
already – no
point encouraging it.

Chwarae teg i chi am ddysgu'r Gymraeg "er" mai Sais ydych chi.

Or in a more northern localised version you're most likely to hear
where you live::

Chwara teg i chdi am ddysgu'r Gymraeg "er" mai Sais dych chi.

Irish enthusiasts and Gaeltacht people

I'm putting in "despite" because basically it is common courtesy to learn the local language. This isn't a favour. It's good, but you're not a "hero". I'm not being negative – it's just that you're being courteous and respectful, and that shouldn't be seen as exceptional.

In your case, being courteous and respectful *is* very exceptional.

And if your Welsh is as bad as your Irish, it is not worth much as courtest or respect. You even insist on translation "fair play" in the common macaronic expression "fair play duit" as "cothrom na féinne". "Cothrom na féinne duit" does not make the slightest sense in Gaeltacht Irish, expect perhaps as a mock parody on typical non-native attempts at actually translating slangy Gaeltacht Irish anglicisms.

In the early days of my membership on the Irish-language mailing list, a native speaker told us a joke about an Irish-language enthusiast who also enthusiastically smoked the Old Holborn brand of pipe tobacco. He insisted on translating it as "An Sean-Pholl Dóite", "the Burned Old Hole". As I am lousy at telling jokes in any language, I refrain from attempting a retelling, but the punchline of the joke was "An bhfuair tú do sheanpholl dóite?" which can be translated as "did you get your burned old hole" or "did you have your old hole burned". The idea was, that the man had been lying in the sun on his stomach (a sunny day on the Irish west coast? well, miracles happen) and that there had been no Old Holborn at the village shop for some time, so the question could be interpreted either as "did you eventually get some Old Holborn to smoke?" or "did you burn your arse[hole] in the sun?"