

Le Chéile Learnings & Insights

Le Chéile has been a great success. The Irish language is alive and thriving alongside traditional music, singing and dance in Craobh Chualann.

Important factors that we believe contributed to the success of the initiative in Craobh Chualann include:

- High proportion of members (both adults and children) who had a good knowledge of Irish to begin with, with many of our younger members attending Gaelscoileanna.
- Support from teachers in the branch (almost all of whom were already able to speak Irish) to integrate Irish into their classes and/or music sessions.
- Fully supportive Committee.
- Active enthusiastic Le Chéile sub-committee to drive the initiative forward.
- Recruiting enthusiastic Ambassadors who actively promoted the language each week.
- 100% support received from Comhaltas and Foras na Gaeilge.

Additional developments this year include:

- a. Free Irish Traditional singing classes for members.
- b. New Irish Language imagery for the interior of the Cultúrlann on Friday evenings.



The committee of Craobh Chualann believe that this initiative will thrive and be maintained into the future and that the Irish Language will always be central to Friday evenings at Craobh Chualann.

FÁILTE CHUIG
LE CHÉILE

OUR APPROACH TO
INTEGRATING IRISH TO
THE CULTURE OF
CRAOBH CHUALANN

Craobh Chualann, Cúltúrlann na hÉireann, 32 Belgrave Square, Monkstown, Co Dublin.



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COMHALTAS



Urraithe ag

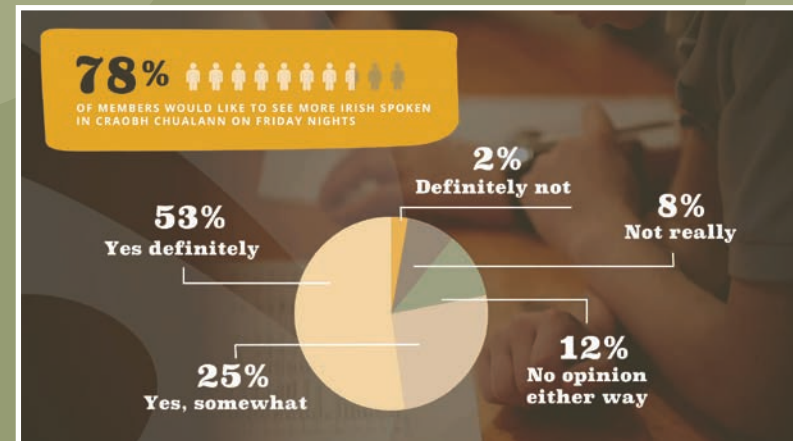
Foras na Gaeilge

Fáilte

Welcome

The Le Chéile Irish Language initiative is based on a number of observations, principles, strategies and a sequence of initiatives that has the purpose of placing the Irish Language at the centre of all activities at Craobh Chualann. All commentary below is made solely in the context of our vision and experiences with our Branch of Comhaltas, Craobh Chualann.

- 1 It was observed that while many facets of Irish culture, including music, singing and dancing, were thriving, the Irish language was being spoken by only a small minority.
- 2 Many of our young members are attending local Gaelscoileanna and Gael Choláistí but that this was not reflected in the amount of Gaelige being spoken.
- 3 A survey was conducted in order to determine whether members were interested in the spoken language and in fostering its use as a spoken language.
- 4 Following very encouraging findings, an Irish language programme was planned and initiated, to make Gaelige a commonly spoken language in the branch.
- 5 This programme was intended to be inclusive of all members who had an interest in learning and speaking Irish regardless of level, age or background.



Need other people to speak Irish first. Can be daunting to start; if other members started speaking it would be easier.

If others spoke to me I would speak back

More young people speaking Irish would encourage me to do it

Just need to promote a positive attitude to Irish

Craobh Chualann

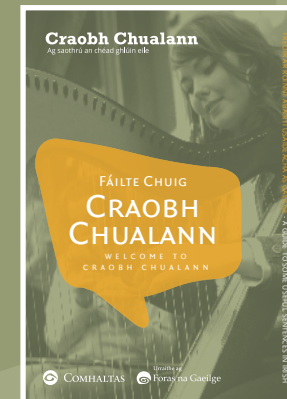
Ag saothrú an chéad ghlúin eile

Lé Chéile Activities

With funding from Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann and Foras Na Gaeilge and financial and teaching input from Craobh Chualann the following initiatives were undertaken.

- 1 Le Chéile, new book of beginners Irish was prepared and published.
- 2 A book catering for more advanced Irish speakers, Focal ar Fhocal, by Pádraig Ó Maolchiaráin, a previous member, and published by CCÉ was incorporated into the programme.
- 3 Free Irish speaking classes at various levels were started for members.
- 4 Teachers were encouraged to use Gaelige as well as English in instrumental, singing and dancing classes.
- 5 An Cultúrlann, home to Craobh Chualann on Friday evenings, was decorated internally with pop-ups as Gaelige.
- 6 Members of all ages volunteered to be ambassadors for the language and to initiate conversations through Irish.
- 7 Colourful T-shirts and badges with Irish Language proverbs and sayings were utilised to encourage and support people in the branch to try speaking Gaelige.
- 8 Nationally known Irish presenters, musicians, singers and dancers were invited to Craobh Chualann for nights of music, song, dance and fun as Gaelige with full participation by members.

The Le Chéile initiative is designed to be inclusive for all members regardless of age, background or nationality. The initiative is not creating a club of exclusive use of the Irish language and the use of English and all other languages is also welcomed.



Liam O'Connor & Sibéal Davitt



Brian Ó Dochartaigh



Liam Ó Maonlaí

Craobh Chualann

Ag saothrú an chéad ghlúin eile

RANGANNA COMHRÁ

TIME	LEVEL
6.15-6.55pm	Comhrá Level 1
7.00-7.40pm	Comhrá Level 2
7.45-9.00pm	Comhrá Level 3
8.20-9.00pm	Comhrá for Fleadh entrants
8.30-9.10pm	Teoiric ceoil (music theory) trí Ghaeilge
9.15-9.40pm	Comhrá neamhfhoirmeálta sa bheár

Conas atá tú?
How are you?

(Tá mé) go maith!
(I'm) well!

Gloine uisce/fiona le do thoil
A glass of water/ wine please

Go raibh maith agat
Thank you

Tá sé ag éirí déanach
It's getting late

Ní thuigim
I don't understand

COMHALTAS

Urraithie ag Foras na Gaeilge

Craobh Chualann

Ag saothrú an chéad ghlúin eile

Á Chur Le Chéile

A short film, 'Á Chur Le Chéile' was commissioned by Craobh Chualann in order to document an experiential account of the Le Chéile initiative and key lessons learned during its first year. It is intended to make this film available to all other branches of CCÉ and to other clubs and organisations, nationally and internationally who are interested in fostering the Irish Language in their own branch.



Le Chéile Results

A follow up survey was completed by members to determine how successful Le Chéile was in making Gaelige central to the life of Craobh Chualann. The findings are extremely encouraging: over 85% of members believe that Gaelige is being spoken more widely in Craobh Chualann and are also keen for the initiative to continue; 95% of members feel that Irish is now actively welcomed in the branch.

