

Tim Hambly 2-5 Translation

James: OK now we will move to the next part of this conversation where I will ask you to read aloud 'Yowann Chi an Hordh' please.

Tim: All of the...

James: All of the story.

Tim: All of the story. Right I will start.

(Tim reads aloud the story)

James: Very good, well done.

Tim: Thank you, it's rather long.

James: Well that's the point, the thing is to listen to different voices of people and see the ways of speaking really. That is very good, difficult to read aloud isn't it.

Tim: Well, hard because the words on the page are rather mixed up in some places in that book but, yeah, I hope that the recording is OK.

James: Oh yeah it will be without doubt yeah. Well thank you for that and we will move to the third part of this conversation where I will ask open questions and we can do free conversation or something. The first question I ask every time is why did you learn Cornish?

Tim: There are a few reasons um my grandfather was Cornish so I'm a quarter Cornish which I'm pleased about and i would want to support Cornwall by, by learning her language, um languages are interesting to me also and Cornish is, I can speak French and Spanish and Cornish is different, somewhat different those two languages um what else, it's a chance, room to meet other people who loves Cornwall and Cornish um I like going to the Cornish weekends um yeah there are lots of reasons for learning the language. I think there is lots of support, support in Cornwall for, for the language now, that is, that is important for the future in Cornwall, I think there are lots of regions in Great Britain that are similar, one to another but Cornwall is different in amongst places, in good ways from the other regions in Great Britain and the language is something very interesting in recognition of Cornwall.

James: Yeah, very good. You mentioned the Cornish weekend, did you go to the weekend this year?

Tim: I did.

James: How was it?

Tim: Very good, the best for ten years perhaps, there were lots of people there, um lots of interesting things to do, there was room to meet with people who are fluent in Cornish but who I didn't know so it's good to get to know new people through the Cornish tongue.

James: And did you drink too much?

Tim: I didn't, well i had to go home in the two evenings unfortunately so I didn't drink any beer at all but usually at the weekends I drink enough beer.

James: So, you, you studied with Wella.

Tim: I did.

James: And now you are a teacher yourself.

Tim: I am.

James: So, how many people are in the class?

Tim: Um well now there are, how many students, there are seven at three levels, first, second and third so um it's not too bad. Two years ago there were ten people in the first grade but this is the biggest number in our class.

James: Is it easy to teach Cornish or...?

Tim: Um well I'm not, I'm not a teacher in my job, I'm an amateur, but I have taught, I have taught for twelve years now so I have learnt how to teach perhaps. I know, it isn't easy for me no, it isn't easy but...yes there were some um some people who were successful in third and fourth grade so that is good enough.

James: Yeah wonderful, wonderful.

Tim: There are three bards I believe who studied, who studied with us.

James: Very good.

Tim: There are three teachers lemmyn um Mike Millard, Anne Davy and me so it isn't all me teaching, there are three of us.

James: Yeah, very hard also with different levels.

Tim: It is.

James: What to do with all the people there.

Tim: Well um in the last two years there was one teacher to one level through all the year but this year we have tried to mix the students and teachers but I think that wasn't successful, it's easier with one teacher doing one level because it's difficult to know what was done by the last teacher, so next year I think we will, we will return to the first idea with one teacher with one group of students. But at the end of the lesson, at the end of the lesson we spend um perhaps half an hour together doing a game of some sort together so all the students can meet together.

James: Very good. is there a 'Yeth an Werin' here or something like that?

Tim: There isn't um there isn't, there isn't enough people in Launceston I believe. Some people who are fluent enough for an evening of teaching Cornish, we try to teach about the weather and simple things in the classes but um an evening in the pub, perhaps three hours teaching would be somewhat, somewhat hard for lots of people here.

James: Too long a time perhaps.

Tim: Perhaps it is.

James: Splendid, that's good. Um what do you do, how do you use Cornish everyday?

Tim: Well, in, I like writing a diary and things that I do everyday, um I do this in Cornish but there isn't anything else I do everyday in Cornish. I try to think in Cornish perhaps but um there's

nobody else in my house so I can't converse um everyday in Cornish unfortunately but every week I go to the Cornish class, I teach, I use the language there but it isn't something done everyday.

James: What about using the internet or something, sending e-mail, do you do that?

Tim: Um time to time I do, there is e-mails about the Cornish Language Fellowship. Because I am secretary I receive e-mails in Cornish perhaps some work every week, the secretary's work is done mostly in Cornish.

James: Yeah, yeah so perhaps using the telephone also?

Tim: Well, no that isn't often, perhaps once a month perhaps, it isn't very often.

James: OK. Earlier you mentioned something about going to Finland. You went to Finland? Why was that, why was that?

Tim: Well there are friends there, I know a Finnish family, is that the word?

James: I don't know.

Tim: So I have visited Finland four times I believe now, twice in winter and twice in summer.

James: Can you speak the language?

Tim: Well some words, it's very, very hard and very different from English or Cornish but I try to say things in Finnish but they know how to speak English very well but Cornish is interesting to them as well.

James: True?

Tim: Yeah, they don't know how to say anything in Cornish unfortunately but that is interesting to them.

James: How was the weather when you were there?

Tim: Well, in the winter very cold, it was very cold, twenty degrees below zero degrees, minus, minus twenty.

James: Yeah very cold.

Tim: In the night, minus eight in the day. It was very warm in the summer, twenty eight degrees in the day so in Finland it's very warm and very cold, very hot and very cold.

James: Yeah very good. Um what will be your ideas about the language in the future, what will be, what will be your dreams, what would be your dreams about the language of the future, in the future?

Tim: Well I hope that the language will be taught in lots of schools in Cornwall in schools, in primary school and perhaps after that in secondary schools. I hope that happens before long. We know that the young people are Cornish supporters of the language mostly. Support of the language in in students in school is, is strong enough I believe um and also I hope that we see the language used more in road signs and things like that, I believe that that will happen before long. After that I hope that families will use the language, this would be very good, this would be more than when there are students in school, children in school learning. The second language such as Cornish is something very good, it isn't something bad, there are people who believe that

it is bad but a second language for young children is a gift, this is something, this is something very, very good I believe and after learning English and Cornish it would be easy enough to learn French or German or Spanish. I believe such as in Scotland and Wales, people in Cornwall can, could be, become better with languages. Mostly English speakers aren't good with languages but perhaps in Cornwall the children would be better than children in Devon or other areas of England.

James: And also children...well seem to study languages easily really such as well, what's 'sponge' in Cornish?

Tim: Yeah I know what you're saying it's easier for young children to learn languages, that is true.

James: Um when you were a student can you remember other people studying?

Tim: Um...

James: Was there other people studying Cornish when you were a student?

Tim: Um there was, there was um well we aren't still in our classes in Launceston but yeah there was, I was the one person who did the third and fourth grade in Wella's class but there were other people such as Mo Fuller, Mike Millard, they were there with Wella.

James: So you all chatted together?

Tim: Well in those classes?

James: Yeah in those classes in those days.

Tim: Yeah we try to converse in Cornish this is true yeah.

James: What were the obstacles to learning?

Tim: Um no time, well mostly students are working with, to get money for living so it's necessary, every week there's not a lot of time for studying, for studying Cornish. Um also, mostly the students here in Launceston, they meet together once a week because they, because they live out of Launceston, there are two, three students who live in Launceston but the others live at Polyphant or near to, near to, between Wadebridge and Bodmin, there is one living there it isn't hard, it isn't easy to meet together between lessons, between classes. So there are lots of obstacles.

James: When you were a student what books did you use?

Tim: Um I used 'Holyewgh an Lergh' (Follow the Path) as I believe and firstly 'Kernewek Mar Pleg' (Cornish Please), an old book, I used this and I used Wella's big book 'The Grammar of Modern Cornish', this was very good when I was in the fourth grade, and the two books by, the two books by John Page 'Cornish for the First Grade' and 'Cornish beyond the First Grade, these were very interesting and there were other books.

James: There were lots in those days really.

Tim: Yeah and 'An Gannas' (The Herald) also, I used that.

James: Yeah, very good. Um when you were a student did you go to a 'Yeth an Werin' was there 'Yeth an Werins' there?

Tim: I didn't. I believe they were somewhat far from Launceston, I know there was a 'Yeth an

Werin' I believe in Liskeard, but that was an evening when there was something else happening for me so, I think it was tennis, I played tennis, so it wasn't possible to go to Liskeard often and another 'Yeth an Werin' is at, well there's another 'Yeth an Werin' near to George Ansell, that is too far from Launceston, more than fifty miles each, to go and return. So I didn't go to 'Yeth an Werins' unfortunately.

James: You said something about playing tennis, are you good?

Tim: well, at fellowship (friendly?) level as one says, but I played for Launceston fellowship tennis in a competition, a small competition in East Cornwall, but I enjoy this, I like to play tennis.

James: And it keeps your body in good shape as well.

Tim: Well yes good enough.

James: OK, well that is the end of these questions, do you want to say something else, do you want to chat more about something else?

Tim: Well, I would want to say perhaps I hope that this year is a very good one for Cornish this is, I hope that, at the end of two thousand and eight we see the Cornish language in schools and more of the language in public life and all the arguments about, the horrible arguments about the language I hope they, I hope they will finish this year because, the time when I was learning Cornish, more than twenty years, in all the time there were arguments, disputes about...

James: A quarrel.

Tim: Yeah a quarrel.

James: Quarrel is 'quarrel' isn't it?

Tim: A quarrel about spelling of the language, I, I know it is important and interesting but there are some people who, I believe they, they have put Cornish in a worse state because they can't be agreed, they don't want to be agreed, they want to support their ideas, other people's ideas aren't important to them so I believe we have to work together as, as a united group, is that a good word, only one group. This is important because...go to a full group (?) speakers will grow and this would be very good for Cornwall, Cornwall herself.

James: What is the way to do that then in your opinion?

Tim: Well there is need to make a decision about the spelling because I will follow this decision, I would want, I don't want to argue anymore about spelling, as Ken George says there isn't a spelling system which is perfect so let us choose one way and be agreed with it and continue with it. This is perhaps, this is something to be done this year and in ten years, perhaps in two thousand and eighteen the argument about the spelling would be forgotten as I hope, because everyone will take the decision and work together after this.

James: Well I hope this as well.

Tim: Very good.

James: Yeah very good. OK well that is the end of the conversation, I would like to thank you.

Tim: Very good, I was pleased with this, long enough for me.

James: OK that is the end of the conversation.