i-contact

Boeing First To Implement Orbix+Airfix©®™



Manned-flight boffins at Boeing are set to be the first company in the world to send model airplanes into space! Building on their previous work, which Boeing describe as 'just like building huge Airfix models anyway', Boeing are set to launch glue and plastic into the stratosphere, after being inspired by a late night showing of "The Right Stuff" at their Seattle base.

"It's a completely stupid idea, but with Orbix we can do it", commented a Boeing executive desperate to get quoted in one of our new testimonial ads.

Work on the project is already underway. Orbix takes centre stage - from making sure they never run out of the little packs of adhesive to finding the little plastic pilot in the kit. Future project releases are to co-ordinate the distribution of Humbrol enamel paint pots. "it takes 3,578,940 pots of Humbrol eggshell white model paint to cover a 747", claimed a paint expert yesterday, "and that's before all the extra stuff, like those funny windows on the Air India planes". "With Orbix we will also be easily able to paint summer, winter and desert liveries on the fighter planes of WWII, if we wanted to."

Orbix comes in handy in all sorts of ways. "sometimes we put the wings on and they're a bit wonky, or they're wobbling a bit", a Boeing engineer told **i-contact**. "We find that jamming the CD into the joint often solves the problem very simply - without having to use expensive aeronautical parts like the Government are always telling us to do. In fact we also used Orbix to build the fuel tank as well, but we had some problems with leaks that technical support were unable to iron out. Now we nick the tank off a Citroen 2CV."

"We did have some initial problems with the design, because some Boeing staff only wanted to make the planes with loads of bombs on the wings. Meanwhile others favoured realistic models of classic battleships and cars, although the parts can be very fiddly and hard for little fingers to stick together", yet another unnamed Boeing source told **i-contact**.

Reaction in IONA has been mixed. Unsurprisingly, Colin Newman is excited by the idea, telling **i-contact** that "the sending of models into space is just the kind of breakthrough CORBA is looking for". Meanwhile Chris Horn told **i-contact** "these people are insane. I'm never flying again".

Yes, **i-contact** is back, and this time we really are on time, just like Product Development. Long gone are the days when youngsters would look into their grand-parents eyes and ask "what was **i-contact** grandad?" before popping a Werthers Original into their mouths and going trainspotting with pops.

Now **i-contact** is a monthly internal newsletter that really is **just that**. Monthly. Hooray. The brighter sparks amongst you will already have realised that the scanner is back in full effect, leaving its mark pretty much everywhere on this issue and allowing me to cut back on the old word count. Double Hooray. And lastly here's the customary list of new staff, triple hooray. Make them welcome.

Majella Nolan Sales

Donal ArundelEngineeringJulien ArsacEngineering

Paul Donnelly Sales

Aileen Mannion

Doug ReedEngineeringFran MeggsEngineeringBoris FennemaEngineeringNicola Harford - Customer Engineering

Edward Fitzpatrick Engineering
Deirdre O'Rourke Sales
Maria Mahar Sales

Gary Tully Engineering
Avril Crowley Sales

Aisling Mackey

Rory Cawley Engineering

and of course:

Alan Conway VP Hot Drinks

i-contact Now 25% Bigger

As announced on our front cover, this weeks **i-contact** features a 25% size improvement on previous versions. Although we can't necessarily back up this assertion with any facts or figures we hope to fool a few of you into believing it just because we say it's true. It works for the customers....

i-contact is now the leading internal newsletter in IONA Technologies, being used in mission-critical 24/7 applications such as keeping drafts out from under doors and soaking up spilled coffee.

Continuing our in depth look at the senior management of IONA Technologies, its...

Cliché Man

Mick Prokopis

Hi. This newsletter is like a bird. One in the bush is worth at least two in the hand. No hang on, I mean half a loaf is better...er.... Anyway, we're in a unique position - there's light at the end of the tunnel, and it ain't no train. We're in for a penny, in for a pound, until the fat lady sings Goodnight Vienna. A weeks a long time in object technology - when you see the ripples look for the pebble. How many beans make five? How long is a piece of string? You're asking all the wrong questions that your body can't cash.



"I didn't get where I am today by letting punks go ahead and make my day"

Whiskey Winner Dave Clake

i-contact is pleased to announce our first ever competition winner, Mr. Dave Clarke. Despite sending in what can only be described as a piece of technical humour Dave scooped the award with his marvellous wit and detailed understanding of the Orbix product.



Unfortunately we were unable to find a recent photograph of David, but have instead printed this Holy Communion photo taken in 1978 when Dave was 7 years old. Isn't he sweet?

The 'Chips' Are Down As Irish Industry Giant Rounds On IONA Technologies

IONA are facing a new competitor - from an unlikely source. Potato snack suppliers Tayto have now officially moved into the object market space, offering cut price deals to applications developers. The pack illustrated opposite clearly offers a copy of Orbix for only 20p, and to make matters worse the company are also offering free cheese into the bargain. In response, Sean Baker announced that IONA would counter the move by gradually implementing the cheese service over the next year. "We should see Emmental on Solaris by Q1 97, to be followed by Stilton, Camembert and of course Gubben. All these cheeses will be ported to our major platforms in order to fend off the Tayto menace."

Meanwhile IONA may take legal action against Tayto for Trademark infringement. A spokesperson for the IONA legal team has stated that "Tayto are clearly capitalising on our corporate identity through the use of the Orbix arrows, in order to sell more crisps to distributed application programmers. We want it made clear that we do not endorse their products". When pressed for comment, Tayto's press secretary said that "There is no brand confusion in the minds of our customers. None of them have ever complained that they mistook a packet of deep fried wafers of delicious homegrown potatoes for an Object Request Broker. Anyway IONA nicked the Orbix logo off Sun, everyone knows that".

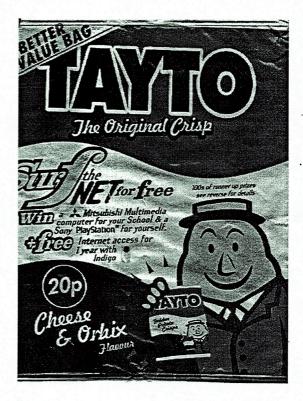


Image consultant John DeVeer who advised Aer Lingus during their recent change of livery disagrees: "Tayto are deliberately trying to sell their product as a Universal Filler which can be used to bridge the gap between lunch and dinner. This allows legacy style dinners to be transparently replaced by new fangled Sushi suppers and other forms of hi-tech heterogeneous snack food".

Yes, It's IONA v Tayto in The Distributed Objects And Cheese Wars

We examine the competing claims of the leading vendors......

Tayto

Variety Of Flavours Including Smoky Bacon.

Available in packet form

Fun For All The Family

Potato Chips

er....

IONA

All Flavours Of Unix plus Microsoft Windows, MVS, VMS, and Embedded Systems

Available for download in little bundles of information called "packets" using file transfer protocol.

Fun For Only Certain Members Of The Family

Silicon Chips

that's it

STREAMLINED EXPENSE PAYMENTS ANNOUNCED

In a hastily called press conference expense Godfather/soon to be mother Orla Murphy announced a series of steps to speed up the whole process of paying and claiming expenses. "Well now", said Orla, with one hand supporting her back, "the whole process just has to be streamlined. This new process should make things easier for everyone."

The new proposals will make *all* expenses payable to a single Swiss bank account. "Well now", continued Ms. Murphy, "some people go away once or twice every month, and until now this meant up to two payments a month for these people - especially those 'just out of college' ones who are always hard up. This way should work much smoother for us all, as only one payment has to be made each month, reducing the complexity from hundreds of payments to just one".

The new steps should also eradicate over-claiming on expenses. "Well now", Murphy elaborates, "to claim expenses you simply have to attempt to withdraw the correct amount - over-claiming could possibly result in the employee being **detained be the Swiss police**, so this should no longer cause any problems."

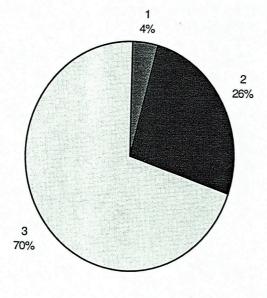
When asked about the choice of Switzerland the reaction was somewhat edgy. "Well now, for this we took the concerns of the long-term travellers into account - since you must make the withdrawals in person we tried to find somewhere equi-distant. True most people in this category are in the States but there are some in Hong Kong & lets not forget about Australia. The choice boiled down to either Switzerland or somewhere in the middle of the Pacific ocean, we have considered chartering a tanker to dispense expenses there and if the Swiss account proves to be unpopular this is still an option."

Finally one naive reporter inquired about the vicious circle of claiming expenses for trips taken to claim expenses. "Come on now ... do you really think we're going to pay for people to go on a holiday to Switzerland..."

Are CD's Overpriced? - An i-contact Investigation

Consumer watchdogs such as Lynne Foulds-Wood and Roger Cook are placing IONA Technologies under investigation for alleged "blatant profiteering at the expense of the US military industrial complex". Foulds-Wood has pointed out that the \$5000 price tag on a copy of Orbix hardly relects the manufacturing cost of a CD - a paltry \$0.79. Meanwhile busybody Roger Cook is planning a Cook report special on the release of Orbix 2.1 on HP/UX immediately after Christmas. "It's a clear-cut case of making parents buy the product twice over", he said.

i-contact decided to find out exactly where the money goes....



- Product development, marketing, administration, manufacturing, distribution, management, office rental, equipment costs, tradeshows, wage bills etc
- Sales commission, sales bonus, sales super target special bonus, sales support, sales meetings, sales admin, sales legal, sales electronic notepads and trilbies, strategic sales, etc
- 3. Annrai O'Toole eating in restaurants frequented by Lady Di, buying fancy bottles of booze, smoking cigars, insulting the competition, staying in the best hotels in order to impress the ladies customers, etc.

Shagless in Seattle

The IONA consultants in Boeing just don't get it, despite their best efforts - a fact which has prompted them to apply to Dublin for an allowance to partake of the facilities provided by a (slightly) different Professional Services organisation. While the Seans debate the merits of the suggestion, each consultant deals with their dilemma differently:

The inscrutable Captain Condon throws himself with even greater zeal into work, schmoozing and wheeler-dealing with the best and the worst of Boeing types, from the early hours of the morning to the witching hour, or at least, the hour when the denizens of the Capitol Hill neighbourhood he inhabits engage in very PC witch-like behaviour involving (organic) vegetable sacrifice (with fake blood made from soy milk and natural colourings) and broomstick flight experiments. Does Mr Condon partake in any of these activities? No siree, he's busy scheduling meetings with himself to "firm up back end requirements" and "verbalize caveats" about which jungle CD's he's going to bring on the morning's commute, and which particular ensemble he will don to keep the Boeing engineers and Starbucks staff entertained.



These Men Are Shagless

Celibate Father Brian devotes himself to the reciting of melodious Irish, struggling with the bishops back in Ireland about the theological implications of the Immaculate Relocation and developing serious alcohol-dependency at the many local taverns, public houses, and gutters.

Ken "pocket Christy Moore"
Knox, being of the non-single
type, is of course exempt from
the distress that excessive
sexual frustration can cause,
however this does not mean that
the author will exempt him from
this account.

Ken has flowered, nay blossomed, over here into the Quintessential Irish Family Man. In other words, he's got fat and his wife cooks him dinner. Workwise, he has founded the school of Hard Knox, a Boeing centre of excellence. Graduates of this revolutionary new training methodology have facts about Orbix beaten in to them with a bodhran stick, and the finer points scratched on their foreheads with a guitar plectrum. In parallel with this sterling work, Ken has, of course, developed the Code Generator, by which reams of tedious code may be output at the touch of a button. Suggestions that many songs recorded by Ken's hero, Christy Moore, could have been composed in such a fashion will meet with stern consternation.

Where does this leave **Andy Fleet** (contractor), the parenthetical one? The lack of sexual outlet has hit him hard. Being the resourceful type, he has devised a number of schemes to remedy the situation. A sporty **3.8 litre Ford Mustang**, he felt, must generate some sexual frisson when encountered by a likely victim. Believing that English accents are "sexy", he has developed an affected English brogue (he's actually from Ballymun). Realising his sense of style may not be compatible with the prey, he advertised recently for a fashion consultant (he appointed **Linda Shigeta**, a Boeing Engineer; the only other candidate - **Andrew Condon** - he politely declined on the grounds of being allergic to PVC). The fashion consultancy (mercifully not remunerated at Boeing rates) is bearing fruit: he's obtained a first class haircut, and will soon be refitted with a pair of killer spectacles. Linda also feels Andy should, well, ditch the squeaky runners and wear more red. He is resisting, but is being gradually worn down.

So have these schemes worked? Is there a queue of lusty ladies outside the one-bedroom Kirkland "lair" of Don Juan de Fleet? **Em, no**. It is early days, though. Alright, there have been a number of incidents - experiments with the serving classes which have back-fired (incidentally, el Condon is not averse to catching the eye of the odd serving wench - and being Condon, the odder the better). Andy did obtain the telephone number of a potential target while on an alcoholic foray to Portland with Father Brian a while back. Given that she only had twelve brain cells to rub together, it was remarkable she was able to remember it.

My Life of Poverty

"Times are Tough" says IONA CEO

In an unprecedented outpouring of tortured emotion, IONA's bossman Chris Horn has revealed the life of poverty that has him on the brink of ruin. "It worked for Fergie and Di," Chris said in an exclusive interview with **i-contact**, "so I thought I'd try spilling my soul to the press as well".

In the remarkable mail which recently fell into the hands of **i-contact**, after having been sent to staff-all a while ago, Horn bemoaned his fate - **living in a proletarian housing estate**, miles away from the forests, mansions and luxurious beaches of his peers.

i-contact later visited Horn in his squalid accommodation ("Sorry about the mess, but the bailiffs are around so often now we don't reckon it's worthwhile cleaning up") and obtained this **exclusive** interview.

"I mean, it's not easy being CEO, you know. I've got to pay all the wages out of my own pocket, and that leaves me down even before we invest in hardware and stuff. People don't realise but every time they get a new computer, that represents hours of work for me in my second job in the boot-blacking factory."

When questioned about revenues from the sales of products such as 'Orbix', Horn merely shrugged and mumbled something about 'Annrai". Questioned further, he revealed all. "I don't know where it all goes. Every time we get an order in, I think 'that's another few thousand quid', but before we know it Annrai's gone and pissed it up against the wall again. It's the same every month. He comes crawling in begging for a few quid to pay off some outrageous bill in the Grey Door. Last time he even knocked my can of beans of the Primus stove when he came in. That was before the Primus got repossessed, of course."

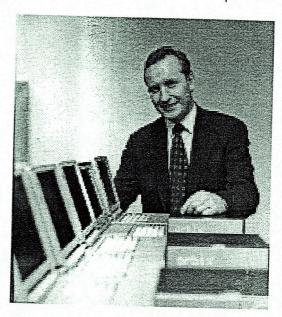
"I don't see why I deserve all this," Horn says. "I mean, I worked as hard as anyone else to get this company where it is today, and they've all got forests and mansions. Even Colin Newman has a few shrubs and a kennel." At this stage the doorbell rang. "Oh no," said Horn, visibly terrified. "It's the Solaris delivery men. Can you lend us a few grand? Just till the 20th?" At this point i-contact made its excuses and left.

That tragic mail in full:

The month seems to have gone fast, but believe or not tomorrow is once again the last friday of the month.

Usual celebrations at usual time. I believe that John Petrie is inviting everyone from the Boston office to his mansion in the forest (thanks John!) - so have a good one guys in Boston; I suspect the folks in Perth will be on the beach; and meanwhile sorry guys in Dublin I don't own a mansion and I live in a housing estate not a forest, and the beach down the road is covered in stones - so we'll have to do with Pembroke St...

Chris



"Look at all these lap-tops I bought with Chris' money"

Chris Horn - Still Crazy After All These Years

An I-contact Birthday Exclusive

There he is. Looks surprised doesn't he? He will be when he reads this. As we now all know, Chris Horn, famous gaffer of IONA Technologies, turns 40 today. That's nothing to be ashamed of. There's nothing wrong with losing a little hair here and there, having a spot more difficulty reading a book, or regarding a mug of cocoa as the high point of the day. Chris might also be worrying that as the years move on he begins to lose touch with the latest news in the world of object technology. There is a chance that some young upstart may emerge from the ranks and try to knock him off his perch as the unquestioned object expert of IONA Technologies.

With this in mind IONA marketing boffins have teamed up with Chris in order to launch an impressive publicity campaign aimed at convincing competitors, journalists and customers that all is well with the elderly IONA CEO. The first element of the plan includes the famous "Idi Amin Swim", wherin Chris easily outswims fit looking young men to prove his physical strength. Grainy video footage is then distributed around the world. Plans to implement the equally famous "Mao Tse Tung Swim" have been put on hold until the company can resource 1000 Chinese 18 year olds. But that's enough about that, there are ladies present.

The ground-breaking plan already has Chris looking the picture of health, due to modern photographic techniques such as Vaseline, dry ice and soft lighting. Even in person he appears youthful and sprightly, thanks to the latest in holographic technology. But enough of my waffling....

Happy Birthday Chris



Salesman Swaine In Spamming Scandal

Hang on lads, I've had a great idea.... That's probably how 'lounge-style' marketing loose-cannon Ben Walsh announced his intention to spam OrbixAwards mail to the 'postmaster' address of every Institute Of Higher Education known to man. Michael Kelly thought it was a great idea. Unfortunately for Sales hot-shot Geoff Swaine, they decided to put his name at the end of the mail - and just look at the response the poor fellow got. Rarely has an IONA mail-shot been quite so 'successful' in generating feedback - i-contact are proud to present the highlights from a mailbag stuffed full of the rantings of your typical University System Administrator:

This is a kind of mail I DO NOT WANT IN MY MAILBOX!!! Keep me out of your lists!

...is a typical outburst. Here's another:

To whom it may concern:

I've just received the following UNSOLICITED ADVERTISEMENT from IONA Technologies. Not only do these people send such things to people who haven't asked for it, but THEY HAVE THE UNMITIGATED GALL TO SEND IT TO THE POSTMASTER MAILBOX!!! Could someone PLEASE explain to whoever is responsible for this to STOP breaking the rules like this?

Another good one:

Direct unsolicited mailing, no matter how important, is an abuse of email. The usefulness of email
is very fragile considering the amount of solicited information there is already, let alone if every
Tom, Dick, and Harry clogged our mailboxes with unsolicited mail. Please take me off of your
mailing list immediately and please be more considerate and forward thinking in the future.

From the sublime....

Well, unsolicited e-mail is a very unpleasant thing. At least you should have look for our ph server
to find the responsible of the Computers Department. I have others thing to do than doing YOUR

....to the ridiculous:

 I *am* the computer science department, and I do *NOT* wish to receive this kind of un-requested advertisement junk, no matter how interesting the products being advertised.

Conspiracy theory. "Spam in disguise" indeed:

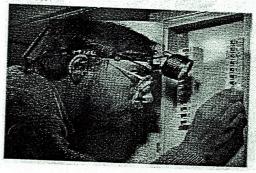
Please remove me from your mailing list. This is not the proper way to contact our CSIS professors.
 Postmaster is used for administration of our e-mail system, not for spam in disguise. Thank you.

Another unable to decide whether this really is a Spam or not...

 We will not forward your possible spam mail. The computer science department can be reached as postmaster@cs.colorado.edu. Please try your call again.

Right: A University System Administrator yesterday. Is it Arthur Green perchance?

Tungsten Halogen Helmet/Head Torch



He's Our Wonderwall

Outrageous "Java Man" Justin Mason Has Big Plans For The OrbixWeb Product

Justin Mason, the infamous bad-boy of CORBA-based intranet development, yesterday announced his intention to become "the biggest thing since Bjarne Stroustrup" in the world of software development. Now working on the 'Wonderwall', a project so top-secret that even Justin himself isn't sure what's going on, Mason has brought his 'work-hard playhard' antics to the OrbixWeb group and has his eyes firmly set on the MTV Internet awards later this year. The eccentric developer has a track record of hard living, including:

- Drinking up to four pints a night.
- Eating hot and spicy food.
- Smoking cigarettes, sometimes strong brands such as Marlboro.
- Combining all the above in a lethal cocktail of pints, fags and curry.
- He sometimes goes clubbing as well, but not very often as he has sensitive eardrums.

OrbixWeb team leader Paddy Benson yesterday told i-contact, "it's a nightmare. His work is fine, but he sits at his desk drinking and swearing all day. Why, only today he was supping on a Coke and muttering "damn" to himself when his code wouldn't compile properly. He's just a yob." Colm Caffrey, another OrbixWeb developer, sympathises with Benson: "He's a foul-mouthed disgrace. What really upsets me is the way all the kids look up to him as a technology role model. Every young developer these days is learning "Wonderwall", and all the girls are after him. Possibly. He reminds me of that Liam Gallagher out of Oasis".....





Liam Gallagher

Justin Mason

Co-incidentally, Justin's arrival in the world of object technology mirrors Liam's expulsion from top pop combo "Oasis" famous for their song "Wonderwall" which eerily predates Justin's work at IONA. Could they be one and the same man? New evidence, including Justin's proposed "Jungle Remix" of Wonderwall suggests they may be. Speaking recently about the jungle mix, Chris Horn told i-contact, "it's a half-way house between darkcore, hardbag and intelligent drum'n'bass. It certainly sticks two fingers up to the Web

We tried to contact Justin himself, but were met with a stream of obscenities. Then he started dribbling beer all over his keyboard and trying to look hard. Oh dear.

Fair Deals - The Sales Soap

(We join the intrepid seals team as **Target Gallery** rallies the troops for the all important sales meeting)

Target has an important announcement: "John Petrie has taken over as US Seals Manager". The entire team barks and claps until Target throws them fish. John stands up and announces that he should now be addressed as "Positive Petrie" and then begins to ask the where the forecasts, sales statuses, electronic organisers, trilbies and big deals are "I need them urgently!" he exclaims and then asks who is chairing the meeting. For some reason John is now wearing white high heeled sandals...

Target continues. She is concerned that seals are having problems with **VisiblyChronic** and wants to know numbers now!!

But first, the sealsperson of the month goes to AWhippyBoy, but she is nowhere to be seen. Better luck next month. One hit Deamer is sitting with a look of disgust on his face, he sits up red-faced and rages that the seals person of the month must go to him and launches into a 15 minute speech concerning a large financial customer (which shall remain nameless). "I OWN that award," he roars. "I'm gonna MURDER anyone who gets between me and that award. I'm gonna KILL THEM ALL!". In his excitment and outrage a pencil falls from the meeting room table and stubs his toe. One hit looks confused and then sits up in excitment and ays "I know! I'll send a mail to sales and marketing all".

Paul Loads of Runtimes feels good about his target. He knows this guy that has this first cousin at, ahem, aleading telecommunications company, that can get him a Purchase Req number. "Orla is considering that option as we speak" Loads says. I also have 200K coming from a customer for our Pen Windows port I said could be done by end of next week"

Fio Walshy is a bit concerned about her targets - she is a bit short. Suddenly a gentle breeze pulls in a PO from the window - 200K from the government. "I'm on target!" Fio exclaims.

Jason Millertime is concerned about his Toronto visit ahead. "It's a great opportunity, but I don't speak a lick of French" Jason says. Jason is reminded that they speak English. "Really? I've spoken to them 5 times and not understood a word they said."

Crystal Whitley calmly announces that she is doing fine and will probably go over target, proving once again the power of the smaller female sales staff. Someone asks how "Company X" is doing. Crystal starts foaming at the mouth and starts barking like a rabid dog. She keeps talking about high Noone approaching or something like that.

Mark Lacking feels pretty good about his target. "I've over 400 companies under my name in the database and I'm sure there will be more to follow" Mark exudes, before suddenly giving his notice and walking out database in hand.

Two Non-Seals have important announcements: Eric "Juan Valdez" Rohe comes into the meeting room stating that long distance calls have to stop. "I don't care if Boeing is a big customer. Five minutes and you're off. We need to cut back on costs so Annrai can go to a few more dinners." Eric jolts out to make sure the lights in the bathroom have been shut off. Flip Fernades comes in with a small announcement. "I have a new title here at IONA. I am now all powerful, all knowing and report directly to Zeus."

Paid For Advertisement



"Since Buying A Celtic Candlestick I've Never Been At A Loss In Those Romantic Moments"

John O'Toole, satisfied candlestick customer

Yes, The Celtic Candlestick, available from Celtic Candlesticks Ltd., is the ideal Christmas present -as recommended by John O'Toole and at least one other satisfied customer. It's fat, it's round, it costs you twenty pound, and is pictured below in all its magnificent "Celtic style" glory.

Designed by **Oisin Kelly** - unquestionably the greatest sculptor since **Rodin**, the candlestick is ideal for just about any candle-holding activity, as long as the candle is one of those fat, squat ones. It **stores easily under the bed**, and you don't have to waste money on expensive cleaning products and gym membership. And best of all, it won't take up an entire room of you house. It cooks in less time than a conventional oven and is your fast, easy route to a **firmer flatter stomach**.

It also comes with a free video, presented by **Colin Newman**, entitled "getting the most out of your candlestick". We'll also throw in a book of **chinese recipes**, a tube of **DD7**, a bottle of **Durashine** and the **MiracleThaw**© meat tray. What the hell, we're crazy. To order your candlestick send mail to **cnewman@iona.com>**. Seriously they are quite good although God knows I wouldn't buy one.....

Here it is, pictured right. It's a squat little man holding up a big candle with a flame coming out the top (candle and flame not included).

MARVEL at his strength. Be
AMAZED at the high quality artwork.
BURN your fingers testing 'how hot'
the flame is and HURT your toe when
you drop it on your foot. It's all here
in this once-in-a-lifetime offer of
guaranteed perfect happiness
evermore, with your own personal
CELTIC CANDLESTICK!

