

The Celtic Congress
Cornwall



An Guntelles Keltek
Kernow

NOWODHOW AN GUNTELLES KELTEK KERNOW

Miver hwegh

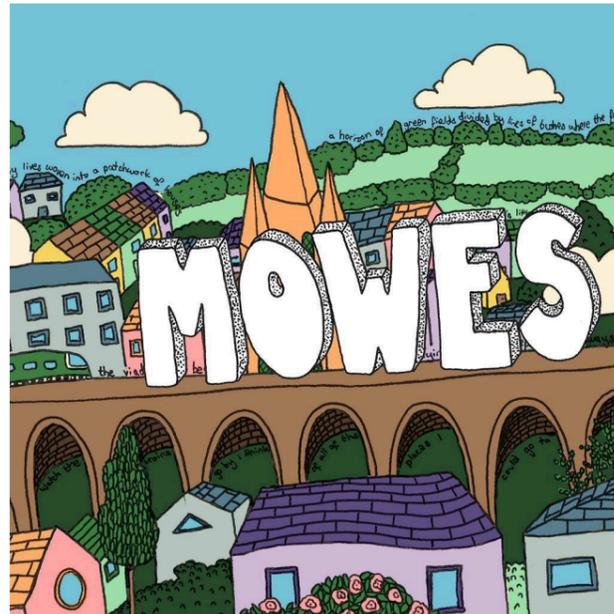
Mis Kevardhu / Dec 2021



Cornish language film at Babel Film Festival

At the International Celtic Congress in July one of the Kernow entertainment contributions was from the duo Teylu, Molly Biscoe and Harriet Seed. They had written songs, which after being translated and sung in Kernewek, were included in the short Cornish language film 'Mowes'. We are pleased to share the news that 'Mowes' was included in the recent Babel Film Festival and congratulate its producer Bryher Flanders for her success.

A most enjoyable short film 'Mowes' is a coming-of-age story set in Truro about a 16-year-old girl who discovers that there's more to where she grew up than she thought. Once again thanks and congratulations to Bryher and Teylu.



History & Heritage that includes Celtic themes

The History Heritage & Culture foundation degree course at Truro College has been studying the historic comparisons and differences between the Celtic nations and England as part of their module 'The English Crown and their Celtic neighbours'. This will involve producing posters sharing elements of their research for an exhibition at Newquay Museum. The Truro College displays always create great interest from not just local people, but also those visiting Cornwall during the summer.

Having the History Heritage & Culture and associated Archaeology Degree courses available at Truro College provide opportunities to teach young people about Cornish heritage. Many of these students will have careers within the archaeology, heritage and tourism industries as well as possibly journalism, media and wider environmental activities. Cascading knowledge from these courses to others living in Cornwall, and beyond, about Cornish history and culture can only be an overall positive result for Cornish heritage.

Students now have a reduced membership of just £2.00 per annum. The membership form is on the inside back of this newsletter.



21ú Nollag, 2021

A Cháirde Cheilteacha,

Beatha agus Sláinte agus Beannachtaí na Nollag ar gach ball den Comhdháil Cheilteach.

What an interesting year this has been, with its many challenges and uncertainties. It does not seem like a whole year has passed since I sent Christmas Greetings to the Branches – but as they say Tempus Fugit and none of us are getting any younger.

We heralded a different type of conference for 2021 hosted by the Cymru Branch which went on the digital platform, and what an event this was! The success of the Congress of 2021 was the fruit of forward thinking and a huge effort of co-operation and action by all the branches. There were many connections made with the Celtic Diaspora around the world and at least many more Celts know of our existence and how to keep in touch.

While we lament the decline of the numbers in our Branches, those of us who are still active in our own branches can do our best to join groups of Celts on Facebook or whatever medium we can and see what they are doing that might interest us and let them know what is going on with us.

2022 is only around the corner and it is the turn of the EIRE branch to host the Congress, which is planned for 12th-16th June in The Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford. The theme we have chosen for this year is broad and topical "Na Ceiltigh agus An Nádúr" (The Celts and Nature). Check out the Website soon for details and booking form. We are planning for a 'live' conference and really look forward to seeing our friends from the Celtic Nations.

At this stage I spare a thought for those Celts, faithful friends who came to the Conferences over the years who are no longer with us, no doubt they are looking down and egging us on in our efforts.

Le sin níl fágtha le déanamh ach Nollaig Shona a ghúí oraibh go léir.

May your Christmas be full of joy, peace and happiness, free of worry and of the dreaded COVID 19 and variants. See you in Wexford.



NEDELEG LAOEN NADELIK LOWEN
NOLLAIG FÉ SHÉAN AGUS FÉ MHAISE DHUIT
NOLICK GHENNAL NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL
NADOLIG LLAWEN CYFARCHION Y TYMOR

Le gach dea ghúí agus beannachtaí um Nollag,

Áine Ní Fhiannusa
Uachtarán Idirnáisiúnta
An Comhdháil Cheilteach

♦ Celebrating and promoting Celtic cultures and languages today ♦ **Á comharrachadh agus ag adhartachadh cultar is canaínean Ceilteach an là an diugh** ♦ **Lidañ ha brudañ ar sevenadurioù hag ar yezhoù keltiek** ♦ **Yn dathlu ac yn hybu diwylliannau ac ieithoedd Celtaidd heddiw** ♦ **Cultúir Cheilteacha agus teangacha Ceilteacha á gceiliúradh agus á gcur chun cinn sa lá atá inniu ann** ♦ Solempnyha hag avonsya gonesegeth ha tavosow Keltiek hedhyw ♦ **Jannoo ardeailley jeh as cur er nyn doshiaght cultooryn as chengaghyn Celtiagh nish** ♦ Celebrating and promoting Celtic cultures and languages today ♦

Our Celtic nations have some wonderful scenery, interesting buildings and monuments here is a small selection. Can you guess which nation they're from?



At least two images from each nation – Answers page nine

Students argue local Cornish issues at Historical Association 'Great Debate'

As part of the annual 'Great Debate' students aged 16-19 put forward their arguments on a selected topic, the winner progressing to a final at Windsor Castle. This year's Cornwall heat held at Callywith College was well supported by a number of schools and colleges. The theme was 'Which changes of the last 70 years have affected your local area the most?' A whole range of cases were put forward relating various technologies, the changes we are seeing in mining new minerals, and Cornish tourism. There were some hard hitting arguments relating to Cornwall's current housing crisis and the destruction of communities through second house ownership and mass tourism. The latter is obviously a hot topic amongst young people and feelings regarding this were evident in the passion with which the cases were delivered.

This year's runners up were Elizabeth Berg and Mair Atwell both with well researched and presented cases. The winner of the Cornwall heat was Kit Renshaw from Penzance with some very passionate and eloquent arguments. Kit answered difficult follow up questions knowledgeably and clearly. He will be attending the finals held at Windsor Castle next year and is undoubtedly a worthy representative for Cornwall.



Judges Len Sheppard [L] Dr Harry Bennett [R] Elizabeth Berg 1st R/U Kit Renshaw (Winner) Mair Atwell 2nd R/U

Red Lion, Newquay Trad Sessions Resumed



Informal Celtic Trad Sessions at the Urban Kelt Celtic Coffee Lounge

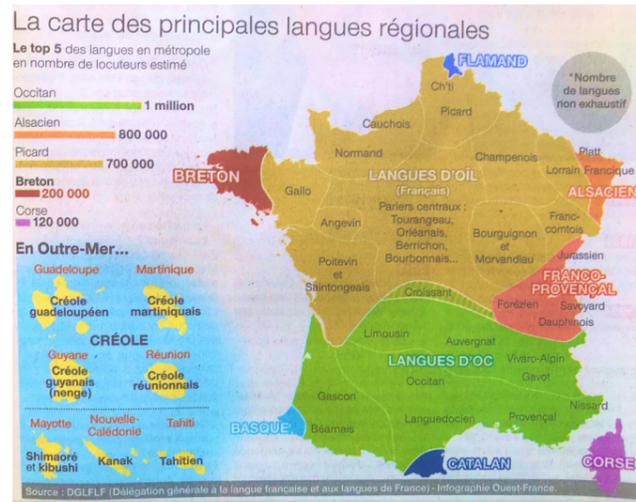


A taste of international Celtic news

Breton Celtic & regional French languages on firmer ground

In April 2021 Paul Molac secured cross-party support for a legislative proposal aimed at the protection of the heritage and promotion of France's regional languages. Following the French Constitutional Council ruling against the 'Molac Law' there now seems to have been some positive movement on the Celtic Breton and other minority languages in France with a message from the Prime Minister's office. This includes the sentence ; "the regional languages and cultures belonging to the heritage of France, their teaching is given priority in the regions where they are in use" and that "this teaching may be provided throughout schooling".

Molac tweeted 'The circular on regional languages promised by the Prime Minister has just been published. It secures immersive teaching in the public and associations. I am delighted and will be attentive to the means allocated by the rectorates in order to extend the teaching offer.' Then, 'I welcome this clarification from the Government. Nevertheless, I maintain that teaching by immersion can only be definitively secure following a constitutional revision.'



The Cultural Institute of Brittany has just inaugurated its new equipment comprising 6,000 works, including 1,000 in Breton, in Vannes (Morbihan). Gulf media libraries will be able to access this.

Save Gaelic to save our communities by Angus Peter Campbell

It is now 18 months since an important academic book, *The Gaelic Crisis in the Vernacular Community*, was published. A lot of dust has gathered since then.

The book's main conclusion is that, without urgent action, Gaidhlig as a community language could vanish within 10 years. One of the solutions offered is that an islands-based trust be established to progress community-rooted policies and practices that would give the language a fighting chance of survival and growth.

Unfortunately, like a family squabble at a wedding, some Gaels felt this meant they were being marginalised and diminished, and the excellent growth in Gaelic-medium education and development in places like Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness was being devalued. And once an auntie is convinced her excellent drizzle cake has been overlooked, she's no' dancing.

Perhaps more importantly, the government-appointed quango tasked with overseeing the development of Gaelic, Bard na Gaidhlig, agree with her. The Bard dismissed plans for an islands-based trust, saying things can be progressed from within the existing structures. Hmmm.

That itself lets the Scottish Government off the hook if the official organisation it appointed to implement policies is happy enough with how things are, why should the administration in Edinburgh stir that particular midges' nest? The last thing a wedding ceilidh needs is an officious hotel manager saying they have to disperse and dance in some far-flung Hebridean isle.

A full version of this can be found via Celtic Interest section on www.cornwallheritage.com Homepage

Irish Language Act

However, movement relating to the Irish language in Northern Ireland is not moving in the right direction. The DUP is still not playing ball and the British government who had promised to enact the Irish language Act via legislation at Westminster, if it hadn't been passed by Stormont by October, continues to drag its feet.

The situation is that Sinn Féin supports restoration of Irish as the spoken language of the majority of people in Ireland. The Irish language Act (Acht na Gaeilge) would give Irish equal status with English.

The party is seeking legislation which would allow for:

- The use of Irish in courts, in the Assembly and for use by state bodies including the police
- The appointment of an Irish language commissioner
- The establishment of designated Gaelteacht areas in the North
- The right for education through Irish
- Bilingual signage on public buildings and road signage

There is increased unrest and protests not just in Ireland, but throughout the Irish Diaspora. There is no doubt Celtic nations must support each other where it comes to preservation and use of Celtic cultural heritage

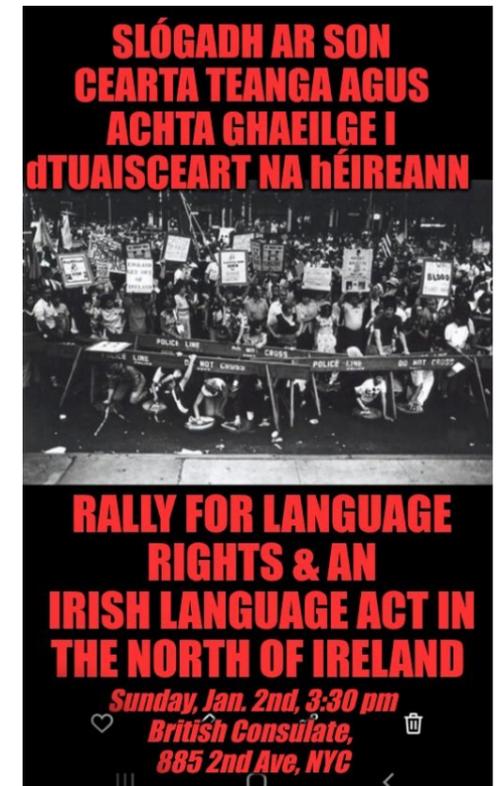
Laair Vane described in 1891 'Folklore of the Isle of Man' by A. W. Moore

'It would seem that these entertainments were usually held at a public-house [...] the whole party sat down to supper [...] During the supper the Laair Vane, or white mare, was brought in. This was a horse's head made of wood, and so contrived that the person who had charge of it, being concealed under a white sheet, was able to snap the mouth. He went round the table snapping the horse's mouth at the guests who finally chased him from the room, after much rough play.'

Positive attitude on Cymru National Eisteddfod

The pandemic has had a detrimental effect on this major cultural festival. Originally Rhondda Cynon Taf was to have hosted the event in 2022, but this has been postponed to 2024. Borough cabinet member for culture Councilor Rhys Lewis said this past week that five cultural events celebrating heritage, language and culture would be held during the first half of 2022.

"The Cabinet report also discussed the aim to create a lasting legacy in Rhondda Cynon Taf, focusing on several key themes. It aims to create a community legacy by encouraging more Welsh and bilingual events locally, a cultural legacy by promoting the Rhondda Cynon Taf's story on a national platform, and a linguistic legacy with more people choosing to learn Welsh. There is also an inclusivity legacy to strive for, with people of all backgrounds – and whether they speak Welsh or not – feeling more confident about the Welsh language and culture, which belongs to everyone."



Strong feelings leading to protests in New York amongst Irish community



St Piran's Cornish National Day 2022

Only a couple of months left before the first of the annual round of Celtic national days are celebrated. Cymru on 1st March and Kernow on 5th March. Here in Kernow plans are already underway to hold celebrations both in the physical world and online. The successful five-day virtual festival of Cornish culture organised by the Newquay St Piran's Group in 2021 will be continued as a one-day event following the three days of events in and around Newquay.

In 2020 Celtic Congress Cornwall were pleased to have supported various St Piran's events as part of the Newquay festival and will do so again in March next year. In 2021 Celtic Congress Cornwall sponsored the Urban Kelt evening video music sessions helping support the sharing of contemporary Cornish Celtic themed music around the world as part of this festival. We are hoping to not only participate in physical events as part of the 2022 St Piran's celebrations but once again support online content, which creating an ongoing legacy and reaching people in other Celtic nations.

With the pandemic ongoing and seeming little light at the end of what's becoming a very long tunnel it may be that once again we rely on technology to share news, events and celebrations via the internet. We will be sharing what we will be contributing to our February news magazine as well as through out social media and website posts.

Cornish Wassel in January

The tradition of Wassel goes back many centuries, probably beyond time immemorial. Held especially wherever there are large areas of apple orchards it's a celebration to awaken the apple trees, bless them and scare away evil spirits. By carrying this wassel the aim is to encourage a good harvest the following autumn. In Cornwall the tradition was even mentioned in the 14th century miracle plays of the Ordinalia.

Throughout apple producing farming communities, people would take jugs of cider and pour the cider onto the roots of the apple trees. As they did this, they bashed pots and pans loudly and shouted. In Cornwall, the cry in the Cornish language is 'Difunewgh' meaning 'Awaken' and this would be shouted throughout the ceremony. Singing would take place and the song would often vary from village to village.

In January 2021 due to the pandemic, it was not possible to hold physical events, but through technology people throughout Cornwall and even worldwide shared their videos of themselves participating in their own personal wassels. These were combined and shared online with singing a new wassel song by 'Tir ha Tavas', supported by the 'Kernow Bedroom Choir' and Exeter University's Arts and Culture department.

This year as the situation once again is somewhat difficult and unknown regarding the pandemic there is a planned wassel at Tremough on 18th January from 5.15pm with bookings online. Wassel links at www.cornishheritage.com/cornwalls-heritage/#wassel



Answers to Celtic pictorial quiz

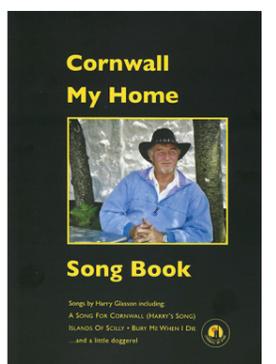
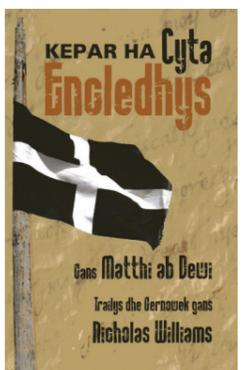
1. Breizh - Kerelcun menhir, southeast of La Feuillée.
2. Eire - Boyne Valley
3. Mannin - Adamnan's Church (Lonan Old Church) Isle of Man
4. Mannin - Silverburn River near to Rushen Abbey
5. Breizh - Chapelle Saint-Laurent de Lannourec in Goulien (Finistère)
6. Alba - Glencoe Lochan, also called the valley of tears.
7. Alba - Dunrobin Castle
8. Kernow - Boscawen-Ûn, Bronze Age stone circle, Penwith
9. Eire - Dublin Castle
10. Kernow - Looe
11. Cymru - The Chapel of Our Lady and St Non
12. Mannin - Peel Cathedral Tower
13. Cymru - Chirk Castle
14. Eire - Bunratty Castle, Co Clare, Ireland



A couple of Cornish books recently published from Matthi Ab Dewi and Harry Glasson. Matthi who spoke for Celtic Congress Cornwall at the International Celtic Congress held in Kemper in 2018 is author of *Kepar ha Cyta Encledhys* (Like a Buried City). This, Matthi's first novel, is available in Cornish or English. It tells the story of a family who save the records kept by a relation and a whole new Cornish world which opens up when they start researching those records. Available from www.spyrys.org along with many other Cornish language books.

Harry Glasson, who has penned a number of Cornish songs which have become classics has now put these into a book. The 'Cornwall My Home Song Book' is the definitive songbook of Harry Glasson songs, including *Cornwall My Home*, *A Song for Cornwall*, *Islands of Scilly* and many more. This book offers the readers a lovely insight to the stories behind each song. Chord tabs are included for you to play along if you wish and notation for those that can read music. As well as songs, Harry has also included some of his Cornish dialect poetry which is full of humour and sentiment.

Confusingly for many, this pair are holding each other's book





An **Guntelles Keltek Kernow** is non-political and non-sectarian, membership is open to everyone who shares those aims

- Supporting Cornwall's own language and Cornish cultural heritage
- Maintaining ties of friendship with the people of the other Celtic nations
- Enjoying the gifts of Celtic genius in creative arts
- Celtic Congress Cornwall taking you to the friendly heart of the Celtic nations of Europe creates links with Celtic community and interest groups
- Encouraging young people to join in and learn about Celtic culture, including language, music, dance and the heritage of the Celtic nations.
- Working with other Celtic organisations that share the aims and goals of the International Celtic Congress.

The **International Celtic Congress** is an educational and cultural organisation working to promote the mutual ideals, cultures and languages of the Celtic people of Europe. It holds an event every year rotating around the six nations making up Celtic Congress. This includes a conference together with Celtic music and dance.

Spyrys A Gernow

Specialists in Cornish Language Books on a number of subjects, Birthday Cards ♦ Flags ♦ Cloth Badges ♦ and Other Items



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Charity: Registration No' 1125469 Treasurer: Jerry Rogers: jerry_rogers1@outlook.com

Membership of Celtic Congress Cornwall gives each member affiliation to the International Celtic Congress.

There will be a newsletter and be able to attend events organised Celtic Congress Cornwall as well as the International Celtic Congress events.

Annual subscription:	Subscription	£ _____
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**Join us and help support our goals of promoting
Celtic themes and maintaining interest and
knowledge of Celtic historic and cultural heritage**

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