



GORSEDH KERNOW - The Celtic Spirit of Cornwall

LYTHER BARDHEK - BARDIC NEWSLETTER

Mis Me bys dhe vis Gortheren 2017 / May to July 2017

Gwarnyans / Proclamation

Thank you to all of you, 70 in all, who came to the Proclamation on Saturday 22nd April, we were blessed with a dry and occasionally sunny few hours in Launceston. The current Mayor Cllr Brian Hogan was dressed in his full official regalia and looked resplendent in among us in the procession. On behalf of the townspeople he reiterated the invitation to hold our Esedhvos Festival and bardic ceremony in Launceston later in the year and he gratefully accepted a framed poem in Cornish for display in the Town Hall.

As part of the ceremony, a special presentation was made to Marion Coombe, *Cum Morek*. Please see separate paragraph below.

Bardh Meur's thought provoking speech was warmly welcomed and has already been shared by many on social media who want to help promote the work of Gorsedh Kernow.

The full speech can be read on the Gorsedh Kernow website, the link is

<http://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/wp/?p=525>

There is also be a gallery of photographs taken on the day, the link is

<http://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/galleries.html>

KKB Gorsedh Kernow / Gorsedh Kernow AGM

The AGM was held soon after the Proclamation ceremony in Launceston Town Hall. We are very grateful to the Town Hall staff and the volunteers who looked after us and made us feel welcome. Members on email will have received copies of annual reports from Council members with responsibility for certain areas of work along with notes from the 2016 AGM and bards were asked to make their own printed copies if they wanted one. AGM business was dealt with quickly and efficiently, and reports were accepted in turn, but Bardh Meur was disappointed to report that no-one had come forward to help with the role as Secretary to the Gorsedh Council. Other Council members had stepped in temporarily to help where they could but the question of continuity was becoming an issue and members were concerned that important work would not get done, thereby inhibiting the effectiveness of Gorsedh Kernow.

Bardh Meur also made reference to the apparent hold on proposed boundary changes but pointed out that this did not mean the issue had gone away, but the general mood seemed to be that most issues were "on hold" until after local and national elections.

Skrifenyades Amyttyansow/Admissions Secretary

After serving 25 years as Admissions Secretary and member of the Gorsedh Kernow Council Marion Coombe, *Cum Morek*, has stepped down from this important role and from the Gorsedh Kernow Council. Bardh Meur Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn*, expressed on behalf of the College of Bards his immense gratitude to Marion, praising her meticulous work and loyal service to Gorsedh Kernow over the years.

"She will have been the first point of contact for prospective new bards as the signatory of that most exciting of letters," said Merv, "and her attention to detail and kind manner will have smoothed the path for many an anxious initiate wondering if they had sent back all the correct forms and responses."

The duties of the Admissions Secretary will be carried out from now on by Maureen Fuller, *Steren Mor*, and any future enquiries should be addressed to her on admissions@gorsedhkernow.org.uk

Proposals for new bards are invited as usual and citations forms and guidelines can be obtained from *Steren Mor*. Please note that there will now be **particular emphasis on Cornish culture**, and not just culture in Cornwall and citations should especially **focus on work of this type in future**. The closing date for proposals is 31st December in each year.

Solempnita AWEN / AWEN ceremony

Sunday 18th June 11am Gorsedh Kernow AWEN ceremony, Carn Glouce / Ballowall Barrow, St Just in Penwith, West Cornwall, TR19 7NP.

In a spectacular cliff-edge position, this unique Bronze Age tomb had a long and complex history as a sacred site. The barrow was excavated (and radically altered) in 1878 by Cornish antiquarian William Borlase. The site is managed by the National Trust.

Awen ceremonies are usually held in unpopulated venues, so there are no toilet or changing facilities at this site. Please also consider how sure footed you are, as the ground all around is rough and stony. Parking is very limited (space for about 20 cars at various points on the roadside) so if you are fit you could park at the NT Cape Cornwall car park and walk along the coastpath (stony and steep up out of the valley) to Carn Glouce, about a 10 minute walk. You could also park in St Just and walk down from there, this is about a 15 minute walk. If you decide to come and need to park nearby please do so with care, probably best to park end on rather than side on which will take up too much space. However, you will need to leave room for vehicles to go past you so please don't park right on the road, and also keep a lookout for walkers on the road. You'll see the potential problems when you arrive!

Directions - From the centre of St Just take Cape Cornwall Street, then take the left hand turning signed to Carn Glouce (Ballowall Barrow). Please be aware that the site is very remote and exposed with no shelter in extreme weather conditions. You are welcome to explore the inside of the barrow, but please be aware there is loose stone and the barrow has steep sides. Dogs on leads are welcome.

More info via the link http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/ballowall-barrow/?utm_source=Google%20Business&utm_campaign=Local%20Listings&utm_medium=Google%20Business%20Profiles&utm_content=ballowall%20barrow

In nearby St Just in Penwith there are lots of shops, cafes and pubs which hopefully will be open at this time of year.

Ragbren Eseleth / Membership Subscription

Membership subscriptions are due on 1st June and should be sent please to Jerry Rogers, Gorsedh Kernow Treasurer. His email is jerry_rogers1@outlook.com (Please note there is an underscore between "jerry" and "rogers1")

The current subscription is £20 per year although if you wish to pay a little more your generosity would be most welcome. Prompt payment is especially welcome! Thank you.

If you prefer, you could always create a Standing Order which pays your subscription direct to Gorsedh Kernow on 1st June each year without you having to be reminded. You can cancel this arrangement at any time. Please contact the Treasurer for more details.

Gool Esedhvos ha solempnita Gorsedh Kernow dhe Lannstevan / Gorsedh Kernow Esedhvos Festival and ceremony at Launceston

The Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture will run from Wednesday 30th August until Sunday 3rd September 2017, with the main bardic ceremony on Saturday 2nd September. We are pleased to confirm some outline details of the Festival.

The **booking form** for the Friday conference, the Saturday ceremony, bardic tea and Gala Concert **WILL BE SENT TO YOU WITH THE JUNE EXTRA NEWSLETTER**.

Kynsa Towlen Esedhvos / Initial Esedhvos programme – details to be confirmed in due course

Wednesday 30th August onwards

Grand Bard's chair on display @ St Mary Magdalene Church, Launceston

Thursday 31st August

Daytime Book Festival @ Launceston Town Hall

Evening Presentation and Display of Gorsedh Kernow Adults Awards & Competitions and Young People's Awards @ Launceston Town Hall

Friday 1st September

Daytime Conference "Cornish Culture and Tourism – Friends or Foes?" @ Launceston Town Hall. Tickets £5 to include pasty lunch

Evening Cornish Troyl/Ceilidh with Carmen Hunt & ScootsKernow @ Launceston Town Hall

Saturday 2nd September

Morning Cornish stalls open @ Launceston Castle

Procession of Bards from Central Methodist Church, Launceston via The Square to Launceston Castle for Gorsedh Kernow Bardic ceremony @ Launceston Castle or @ St Mary Magdalene Church if wet

Early evening Gala Concert @ Central Methodist Church, Launceston.

Later evening Cornish singalong @ The Bell Inn

Sunday 3rd September

Morning Myttin Lowender Cornish taster session

Later morning History Walk around Launceston

Afternoon Evensong in Cornish @ St Mary Magdalene Church, Launceston

For more info about Launceston please visit the website www.launcestonthen.co.uk

Keslowena! / Congratulations!

We extend our heartiest congratulations to bard William Arthur Morris, *Haldreyn*, who has been awarded an MSc. degree for research into Cornish coastal beach sand. William was made a bard in 1966 at St Ives and immediately volunteered to help with stewarding at ceremonies and last year was his 50th year of service in this role.

Kovheans / In Memoriam

We are sorry to pass on the news, received after the previous newsletter had gone to print, of the passing of Joyce Davidson, *Cares Gonesygeth Geltek*, who passed away peacefully on Sunday 22nd January at a nursing home in Newport, Gwent, where she had only been for two weeks although she had been ill in hospital for a while. Joyce was made a bard in 1999 at Hayle.

We are also sorry to pass on the sad news of the passing of several other fellow bards;

John Trevorrow Harry, *Kessenyans*, who died on Wednesday 15th February after a long illness. John was made a bard in 2002 at Pensilva and he was a pianist and organist, Cornish poet and raconteur extraordinaire. He was President of the St Just and Pendeen Old Cornwall Society. John was taken ill after the Christmas carol service at Pol de Leon church where he was church organist. After treatment at Treliske he was transferred to Ponsandane Nursing Home, while awaiting a care package to be arranged for him, but sadly he never recovered from his illness. His funeral was held on Tuesday 7th March at Pol de Leon church, Paul and a memorial service was held at St Just Parish Church on Tuesday 14th March where a collection was made in order to purchase a lasting memorial to John, in the form of a chain of office for the President of the Association.

Bryan Earl, *Whythrer Defnyth Tardha*, died on Monday 27th February. His funeral was held at Pendeen Church on Friday March 24th and was followed by a private cremation. Bryan was conscripted as a "Bevin Boy" during World War 2 and was employed to do coal mining in Kent. He liked the mining world so much on demob he enrolled at the Camborne School of Mines. He specialised in explosives and spent much of his working life with ICI Nobel Division becoming a widely acknowledged expert in his field. He was the President of the Trevithick Society. Bryan was made a bard at St Just in 1998 and was living at Sennen, near Penzance.

Arthur Bate Venning, *Dyller Dunheved*, who has died aged 97. Arthur was Editor of the weekly Cornish & Devon Post based in his hometown of Launceston from 1960 until his retirement in 1984. He also served as regional Chairman of the Editors' Guild and President of the South West Federation of the Newspaper Society. Arthur was made a bard in 1969 at Liskeard. In 2000 he was made honoured Burgess of Launceston, an award

made in recognition of significant service made by an individual to the community over a considerable period of time.

Russell Webber, *Map Penryn*, who died on Monday, 20th March. Russell was barded in 2000 at Falmouth. His funeral and a celebration of his life was held at St Erth Methodist Church on Friday 28th April and was followed by cremation at Treswithian.

Stella Maris Treharne Turk, MBE, *Covathor Morrep*, who passed away on Monday 3rd April. Stella was barded at Launceston Castle in 1972 for her studies on Cornish Natural History, especially marine life. Stella was born on the Isles of Scilly in 1925 and married her husband Frank, *Ancar Skyansek*, in 1947. She was awarded the Sir Edward Nicol Silver Medal by the Royal Polytechnic Society for her essay on marine life of Feock. Stella's funeral was held at Treswithian Downs Crematorium, Camborne on Wednesday 26th April.

Dydhyou a vri / Important dates

Monday 1st May *Kala Me* celebrations throughout Cornwall.

Sunday 7th May 3pm Helston Parish Church Service in Cornish for St Michael Protector of Cornwall.

Friday 19th – Sunday 21st May Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival, Moonta, Wallaroo and Kadina, South Australia.

Monday 5th June 1.30pm Truro Cathedral Eucharist in Cornish for the Feast of St Petroc.

Thursday 8th – Saturday 10th June Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge showground.

Sunday 18th June 11am Gorsedh Kernow AWEN ceremony, Carn Glouce / Ballowall Barrow, St Just in Penwith, West Cornwall, TR19 7NP. (see details above)

Friday 23rd June – Sunday 2nd July "Speak Cornish Week" organised by Golden Tree.

Tuesday 27th June 7pm An Gof Commemoration, St Keverne.

Saturday 15th July 11am Lafrowda Festival Exhibition & Cornish music with harpist Esme Francis, *Ylyades*.

Tuesday 25th July 7pm Film "A Bygone Era" by John Potter, *Den Pen Kernow*, at Paul Church Hall.

Nessa Lyther Newodhow Bardhek / Next Bardic Newsletter

As previously mentioned there will be an extra newsletter in June with all the details of arrangements for September which will include a booking form but news and information to be included in the next main quarterly newsletter for August, September & October 2017, should be sent please to Delia Brotherton, *Myrghwyn Melynor*, Communications Officer by email to communications@gorsedhkernow.org.uk by the 15th of July 2017.

If you have an email address and wish to receive the newsletter electronically please tell the Membership Secretary, David Holman on membership@gorsedhkernow.org.uk Although everyone receives the quarterly newsletter there are often "short notice" events that members who receive paper copy will not hear about.

You can also catch up with the latest news about Gorsedh Kernow on our website www.gorsedhkernow.org.uk

or you can  Find us on
Facebook

or follow us on 

If you use Facebook or Twitter it would be great if you would please "LIKE" the Gorsedh Kernow Facebook page and "FOLLOW" the GK Twitter page. *Meur ras* – many thanks.

Tereba nessa / Until next time..... Myrghwyn Melynor / Delia Brotherton.