



# An Guntelles Keltiek - Kernow

## The Celtic Congress - Cornwall

Internationally affiliated by Henry Jenner in 1904

Registered Charity No- 1125469

Telephone: 01209 842394  
E-mail: [denise@spyrys.org](mailto:denise@spyrys.org)  
Villa  
Road

Gordon  
Sunnyvale

Portreath  
Redruth  
TR16 4NE

5 May 2016

Dear Members and Friends

We are now into May and the sun has come out at last! I have at last sat down at the Computer to put together a newsletter to report on the recent International Congress and what our branch has planned for this month.

### **International Celtic Congress - Douglas**

Although there were not many members of the Cornish Branch at the Congress in Douglas this year, it was well worth the cost. Perhaps reduced numbers were partly due to the fact that Congress in Ireland was only eight months ago and the cost these days. There were about 50 delegates this year although we did have people join us for the lectures and evening entertainment. The theme was well discussed from the speaker from Ireland who started the week off with the history of the Celts to our speaker who brought it up to date by speaking about the teaching Cornish activities in her school in Falmouth albeit one of very few schools in Cornwall who have Cornish language and history as part of their teaching. During a break in the proceedings, due to there being no Bretons this year, four young Manx people came in and discussed their experience of how other people of their age felt about the language especially as they went on to secondary school – at that time they thought it a waste of time but things have changed since then as there are more people learning and there is Manx in more schools around the island.

There were interesting days out. A trip to Cregneesh to look around the village (a quick trip around as it was raining) and a photograph of all the delegates as there was one taken 100 years ago in the same spot. We then went to the church for a service where we found that the Vicar had moved from Aberystwyth so he knew all about Celtic languages!

On the Monday we went out to Laxey on the electric train (a private hire!), some had the opportunity of visiting their workshop first and see what went on behind the scenes. It was a damp day but we all had a good time. Some of us went up to Snaefell on the other electric train – it was worth it but unfortunately there was low cloud at the top so we had a drink and came back down to sunshine! It was a bit chilly on the open carriage though, so – to warm us up Roy Kennaugh, their branch secretary had organised a game of Cammag on the beach in Douglas (it was raining then!). See the picture. Those of us who took part (Q Celts against P Celts) had a great time. We were pleased to take

Salt and Sky (Lizzie and Emma) as entertainers, with us, they had a great time and Kathy Vinnecombe as speaker. She had a lot to tell the children in Falmouth when she returned.

Our Branch Motion - "This Congress calls on the UK Government to provide long term, stable funding for the teaching of the Cornish language, particularly in schools as a right." was adopted and will be sent to the relevant bodies by the new International Secretary.



Cammag Teams



Salt and Sky

**The International Celtic Congress 2017** will be in Perth from 17 – 22 July and will be held at The Mercure Hotel. The theme will be The Music Traditions of our Celtic Nations. There are no costs for the week available yet. I have basic information which I will attach.

#### **News from the Cornish Branch.**

The next event is the visit to **Hayle Heritage Museum on Saturday 7 May**, led by Linda Smitheram, followed by a look at Lelant Church and churchyard and then off to the Badger Inn for a meal, all organised by Maggie Taylor. I know some people have booked but there is still space for others.

Following that we have a Fund-Raising afternoon in **Leedstown Village Hall on Saturday 21 May**, from 1.30pm – 4pm. There will be a lot of stalls there, refreshments and a raffle – prizes needed for this please. We need to raise funds to send our speakers and entertainers to the annual Congress.

The next Open Meeting will be on Friday 8 July at The Lowenac. There was a meeting on Friday 13 April to discuss the Isle of Man Congress and next year, but there were not enough people present for the meeting to be quorate so we could not make any decisions. We have to think about the branch goes forward and have sufficient members to be able to hold our International Celtic Congress in 2019 - not that long away. There is always the opportunity to have a meal before the meeting, the hotel start serving meals at 6pm, but they need to know numbers in advance.

We have received a letter from Lowender Peran asking if we would like to have a display/stall on the Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately Ray and I would not be available in the morning as our chapel has a special service on that morning for the bi-centenary but we can take over in the afternoon – if we decide to do this. We can just take the display boards and membership information. This will be discussed at the next Open Committee meeting in July.

I look forward to seeing members and friends at Hayle and Lelant and at the Village Hall in Leedstown. Any help you can offer on the day will be gratefully received, or contact Ann Trevenen Jenkin.

Oll an gwella

*Denise Chubb*

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Secretary