

An Guntelles Keltek – Kernow

The Celtic Congress – Cornwall

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Dear Members and friends

I apologise for not sending out a newsletter for a while. We have been busy with the organisation of the International Congress and then away dealing with family affairs and not had time to sit down and so we have not had time to write a newsletter.

The committee and members of the branch were very pleased at the success of the Congress and we have had e-mails from other branches with the same comments. All the talks were interesting; it was good to hear what is going on in the other countries about how they go about collecting their various archival material: from music to songs to old documents. The trips out to Wheal Martyn where we had three guided tours (all different according to reports afterwards) and to Kresen Kernow where we were able to see the layout of the building and the various rooms and storage facilities ahead of the delivery of all the archival material. We thank our branch member, Kyle Odgers, for organising the coach and driving it as part of his holiday. The evening troyls, the singing by Oll an Gwella and Halwyn a Gan choirs and the International Concert were enjoyed by all. We were pleased that David Thomas spoke about the Archive Centre and that The Woodcarts, a young band, came to perform on behalf of Cornwall. They were very good and we were pleased that they were able to come and take part as some were still in education and had to get up early the following morning. The Hotel Bristol was a good venue, the management and staff were so helpful and the meals very good, thanks were given to the head chef for the selections of food on the menus.

At the Annual General Meeting, the current President, Ania Ni Fhennusa from Ireland, said that every branch must now look to the future. We have to look at 'doing things differently in the future'. The world has changed and branch members are less. She asked that each branch secretary contacts her more often so that information can be sent out and others know what is going on around the branches. We do not have younger people coming along to join us and we have to look seriously at how we encourage them to join us and what we can do to bring our organisation up into the 21st century. We can do the whole Conference a different way – the long weekend we had this time did seem to be a good idea with lots of delegates. We will be discussing this at our next meeting on Saturday 29th June.

Going back to our Annual General Meeting in February Maggie Taylor said that she had completed the three years as Chair and wanted to step down. She was persuaded to continue until the end of

the International Congress. Ray Chubb, as Vice Chairman, said that he would take over but only for the year as he is busy and it would be good to have another member stand as Chair. We do not have a lot to do at present but someone with new ideas would be good.

The next International Celtic Congress will be held in Aberystwyth from 20th – 25th July. The theme is ‘How to be successfully Celtic in a modern Business World’. The venue is not known available at present or the cost, but their branch would like to know how many people would like to attend so that they have an idea of possible venues. Please let me know so that I can complete the form we were given at the Congress. We will discuss possible speakers at our next meeting so suggestions are needed!

It would be good to see many members at our next meeting to discuss the future of the branch. The next agenda and the minutes of the meeting in February will be sent separately.

Gans Gorhemmynadow an gwella

Denise Chubb
Secretary.