

# Mis Kevardhu / December 2025 Ancient 'Men Gurta' meets young on St Breock Downs, Kernow The largest single standing stone in Kernow

# **Editors Introduction:**

In this the first of our irregular newsletters we wish all our members from across the Celtic nations every best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I say irregular as publication depends much on what is taking place in the Celtic world, contribution from members and available time to put it together. Our small Cornish committee has worked hard to re-establish itself through rebranding following a gradual decline. Sadly this year sees the very long established International Celtic Congress fold as there are now too few and no younger people to continue its work of interaction between the Celtic nations.

Celtic Nation Kernow, following its re-branding from Celtic Congress Cornwall, is picking up the baton with a sub-re-branding of Celtic Nations International. We hope to carryout much of the aims and goals and activities of the former International Celtic Congress, but of course that will depend much on the support from peoples and organisations throughout the other Celtic nations.

We have been working hard on encouraging contributors and have a couple of young film makers in Kernow working on future projects. There are several writers, journalists and other publications who have agreed we can share their work within our website and newsletters. We have some young musicians in Kernow, like Finley Bray, who are interested in contributing to filming and sharing through online portals. Thomas, an actor in North Cymru is ready to carryout some filming to provide informational videos about his nation. But to be successful we need to encourage far more people to provide a variety of input. Can you help?

Social events including illustrated talks, music and dance are being planned here in Kernow and some of these where practicable will be shared online live and recorded. If there are events taking place throughout any of the Celtic nations which can be filmed and provided for video or reels we would love to have them to share. Everything provided will be fully acknowledged.

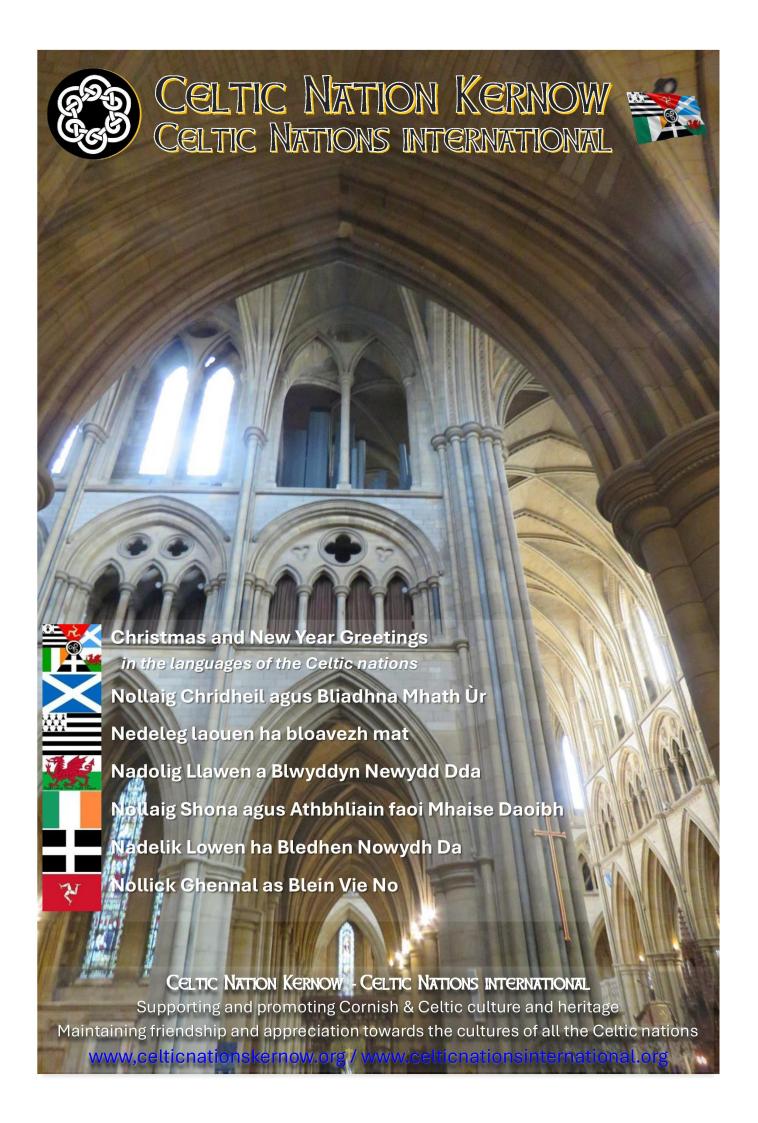
If there are any language teachers in any of the Celtic languages willing to carryout Zoom lessons or just introductions we would be pleased to help facilitate that through our Zoom application at no cost to get the ball rolling.

Kernow started this re-branding project with just 31 members we now have well over 300 and growing fast. You our members have joined through the website at events held in Kernow this past year, online perhaps after seeing social media, and through personal introductions. Our social media numbers are growing across a number of platforms. We have broadened social media from just the Celtic Nation Kernow Facebook page to include one for Celtic Nations International. In the past month we have also added Instagram and Threads under the Celtic Nations International name. Contributions to add to these would be most welcome for us to publicise events and activities of every size throughout all the Celtic nations.

There is much more to add to the website relating to Celtic national culture, history and environmental topics. The basic backbone of the website is in place we just need to add more content with the help of member contributors. Once again have you the skills and knowledge or research abilities to provide content? We look to publicise works of Celtic writers, film producers and those small groups who operate Celtic cultural centres, language cafes, dance and music groups. Please don't hide away, share what you do to a wider audience. From the Western Isles we have added a couple of groups which we will continue to publicise. Thanks to Magaidh in Stornoway for sharing these with us.

To conclude this editors introduction I ask for your support and please if you are able to contribute or share information this would be most welcome and appreciated.

Contact Email: celticnationkernow@gmail.com



# Out and about in Kernow during 2025

This year we've spent time publicising Celtic Nation Kernow as well as planning events and activities for 2026. The team has attended the following Cornish heritage exhibitions.

**Truro College** was the location of our first recruitment drive in 2025 with a lot of young people attending. This provided the opportunity to talk about Cornish heritage in particular and how there were many prospects of employment in this growing sector.

**Cornwall Heritage Trust** Arwenek in September was a great success at the historic Enys Gardens near Penryn. With many Cornish heritage groups attending the CNK team spoke to dozens of people about our aims and goals in promoting and sharing Cornish and Celtic culture.

In October the team attended the **Konsel Kernow Heritage EXPO** at Pendennis Castle. Again it was a lovely venue and to have been a two-day event. Day one was aimed at young people with a view to illustrating the Cornish heritage sector as a career opportunity. We signed up a good number of people from across the whole demographic spectrum. Sadly we had a visit from Amy who stormed in causing day two of the EXPO to be cancelled.

Most recently the CNK team were pleased to support **Lowender** at the revitalised Redruth Buttermarket. This event was to encourage interest in people submitting Kernow's intangible cultural heritage to the UK listings. More information relating to this can be found on our website.

The CNK team is now planning its attendance activities for 2026, so for Cornish people we could be attending a heritage event near you next year. You don't need to wait there is an online form which takes about 25 seconds to complete and as a mostly tick box format really easy to complete.

# **Celtic Nation Kernow - Membership webpage**

Celtic Congress Cornwall began its re-branding to Celtic Nation Kernow in 2024. This marked the tenth anniversary of Kernow's people being acknowledged by the Westminster government as a national ethnic minority. This placed us on a legal par with the peoples of the other UK's Celtic nations of Alba, Cymru and Northern Ireland. We needed to find a way to encourage people to join us on our revitalised new journey.

It was decided that much more needed to be made of 21st century technology, which contained costs for both members and the group. Signing up needed to be quick and easy and it was felt the filling in of membership forms, payment of relatively small annual membership donations was a hindrance.

Our FREE membership scheme and signing up through our online membership portal has been a great success. Not only when we are out and about in Kernow and for Cornish people, but also worldwide. To date our membership has increased by over ten fold to well over 300 members and includes peoples from across all the Celtic nations. We have members from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA amongst many other places. These are often people who are part of the wider diasporas of the Celtic nations. There are also members from countries with no familial relationship or connection to Celtic nations but who are interested in and support sharing Celtic history, culture and environmental topics.

Thanks to everyone who has joined us and also those who completed the supplementary optional membership page, my Celtic interests, which provides some additional background.





Our stands at heritage events throughout Kernow have been very successful. They have enabled us to talk to people and find people willing to contribute to website and newsletter content as well as forthcoming film projects. It has made many people aware of who the Celtic nations are and inform them about their languages. The online quizzes were quite popular at events and also helped inform people about flags, names and culture of all the Celtic nations. We will be adding more shortly.

Try out our quizzes on the website at:



The Baner Sen Peren flies even prouder over Lys Kernow

# Our most popular social media post of 2025.

Whilst we are encouraged by several thousand people who follow our annual St Piran's Day post we were astounded by the number for our post entitled 'Kernow on the road towards a devolution deal'. This totalled nearly 17,000 with a good number of new followers and people signing up as members of Celtic Nation Kernow. This helps illustrate the strength of feeling for Kernow to have greater control over a whole raft of our public services and departments.

With the Labour Westminster government confirming there will be no Devonwall deal, Kernow will likely to be granted a totally bespoke devolution arrangement with no amalgamation with neighbouring authorities. The idea of an English elected mayoral system is also consigned to the political waste tip. With Kernow's unique position it seems the Government is minded to make an exceptional case with further exploration in designating Konsel Kernow as a Single Foundation Strategic Authority.

Further consultations to continue to hammer out the details of the Kernow bespoke deal. This at least is a very positive move and hopefully with all Kernow's politicians working together a satisfactory agreement will be reached. This is not a national deal which many in Kernow would like to see, acknowledgement of Kernow as the UK's fifth nation, but a large step towards that goal.

Further improvements for the Cornish language, Kernewek, which will now have the same European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages Part 3 status as the other Celtic languages of the UK - Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Irish. This will enable it to grow through implementation of certain actions to encourage the use of these languages in various areas of public life, such as education, media, and cultural activities. However, certain additional protections in statute will still be needed moving forward.

As far as education is concerned this will hopefully lead to a quick implementation of a 'Curriculum Kernewek'. This will help ensure the language is enshrined within the education system, hopefully to age 16 and increase its use throughout day to day life. Kernow should have greater control in sharing its own history and intangible cultural heritage, strengthening the bonds of young people to their Kernow homeland.

# **Editorial**

# **Our Celtic Nation Kernow Website**

To be frank this is a bit thin on the ground at the moment, but as mentioned in the introduction this has the basis for an extensive range of topics from across the Celtic Nations.

We have added a page for a young Cornish musician Finley Bray and provided links to his YouTube Channel 'Finley Bray Music' Celtic Nation Kernow will be following the musical career of Finley and adding content into the future. Links from our website page at:

# www.celticnationkernow.org/heritage-of-the-celtic-nations/cornwall-heritage/cornish-music/

We have been joined by Magaidh Smith from Stornoway in the Western Isles. Magaidh is keen to promote Scottish Gaelic, local traditions and local dialect. She has sent us posters and links to two of her organisations. You can find them through the Alba Heritage pages at

# www.celticnationkernow.org/heritage-of-the-celtic-nations/scotland-alba-heritage/

These are Dòrlach a Scottish micro-charity seeking to encourage the building of intercultural solidarity across minoritised peoples worldwide and a return to indigenous practice in Gaelic Scotland. Also An Taigh Cèilidh a Cultural Centre & Community Café which provides a vibrant and welcoming social space for the Gaelic community and those interested in Gaelic culture. Members wanting to share more small groups like this is most welcome.



**Intangible Cultural Heritage (ITC)** A UNESCO worldwide heritage project to list the intangible heritage of nations.

This is a theme we have added to the website with information and links for some of the Celtic nations. Whereas Breizh, Mannin and Eire are outside the United Kingdom's remit as far as listing, the others will fall under the UK banner. Eire are well underway with their listings and have good links. Alba has begun its listing and a conference recently took place in Perth.

The listings for Kernow has begun and this is being headed by Cornish Celtic cultural group Lowender. We have placed information and links on the website relating to support this. There is some concern from certain groups and people that Kernow will be listed under England, as Kernow is not a recognised nation by UNESCO. This is an important issue and those who feel strongly, quite understandable given they will be listed under an English listing and flag, may place their intangible heritage theme/topic separately on the Konsel Kernow website listing. Celtic Nation Kernow will be providing the necessary links on its ITC webpage.

We must remember that it is our individual national cultural heritage, which includes our languages, which make us unique Celtic nations and peoples. A line on a map is just that, often an arbitrary line drawn by politicians with maybe a vested interest.

The Editor would be most pleased to hear from people or Celtic organisations who wish to contribute an article or a poster with a link to their Celtic organisations website or social media. **Email: celticnationkernow@gmail.com** 

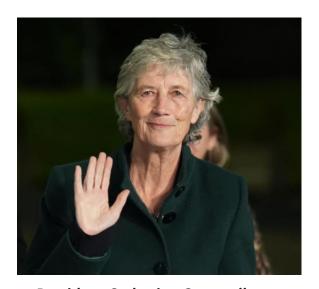
# A new Irish President

In October Ireland welcomed Catherine Connolly as its 10th president. Celtic Nation Kernow / Celtic Nations International wish her well for her seven-year term.

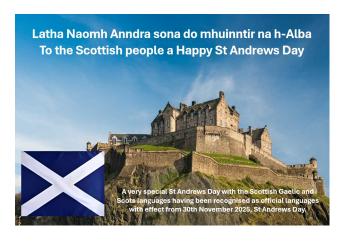
We also wish Michael D Higgins the outgoing president a long and happy retirement after fourteen years in the role. Elected in 2011 with by a landslide he was reelected in 2018 with another massive majority.

Ireland has been fortunate in its presidents and Michael D Higgins has done Ireland proud speaking up for those less fortunate people at home and abroad. He often went beyond his presidential remit and sometimes been controversial but largely appreciated for it and was well respected abroad.

May President Catherine Connolly continue in the same vein continuing that tradition of popular and respected Irish presidents at home and on the world stage.



**President Catherine Connonlly** 





**Retiring President Michael D Higgins** 

# Official Scottish languages

A very special St Andrews Day with the Scottish Gaelic and Scots languages having been recognised as official languages with effect from 30th November 2025, St Andrews Day.

The Scottish Languages Bill was introduced on St Andrew's Day in 2023 and passed by the Scottish Parliament in June 2025 receiving Royal Assent on 1st August 2025.

With regards Scottish Gaelic the 2021 census showed 130,161 people in Scotland had some Gaelic skills up by 43,105 from 2011, whilst Scots saw an increase of 515,215 to 2,444.659. The highest proportion of Gaelic speakers was the council area of Na h-Eileanan Siar (Western Isles) with 57.2% having some Gaelic skills.

There are some very proactive groups in the Western Isles and hopefully with new financial support many other areas can learn from their work.

# Alba - Intangible Cultural Heritage conference in Perth

The third celebration of Scotland's Intangible Cultural Heritage took place with a conference at Perth on 14th November. This annual conference is organised and funded by a partnership which includes Creative Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS), and TRACS (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland) under the banner 'ICH in Scotland Partnership'.

This event was widely attended by peoples from throughout the Anglo-Celtic Isles and was a great success. A wide range of speakers and experts in many crafts and arts along with musicians and singing in Scottish and Manx Gaelic.

It seems clear that Scotland is ahead of the curve in working to protect, preserve and encourage interest in its intangible cultural heritage. They have a fantastic website and hopefully within the near future all the Celtic nations will have websites sharing a whole range of their nations unique skills, art, music dance, activity traditions and languages, including dialect as well as literature and oral traditions.

Thanks to Magaidh Smith from The Western Isles who attended this conference for bringing it to our attention.



Today and to most people Bagpipes are synonymous with Scotland.

However this they are not the only Celtic nation to have a historical association with bagpipes which are played elsewhere within the Anglo-Celtic Isles including in Kernow

With the Northern lights so much in focus this year we thought to share a lovely photo taken by Welsh photographer Mathew Browne who has been named the only winner from the UK in the coveted Northern Lights Photographer of the Year awards. Link: www.mathewbrowne.co.uk



If there are any budding photographers out there perhaps we could share some images from throughout the Celtic nations. Those interested should send their contribution in and perhaps we could arrange an online display and maybe a prize of some sort. It would I'm sure be lovely to see interesting and beautiful images from Celtic lands.

Email: celticnationkernow@gmail.com - Contributors will be fully attributed.

# **Irish Portal Tombs - Arderrawinny**

I have travelled the south of Ireland many times in my old campervan but not for some years now. I was interested to read about the number of portal tombs found throughout Ireland. With so many interesting castles, houses and ancient sites such as Newgrange perhaps the less assuming portal tombs are overlooked.

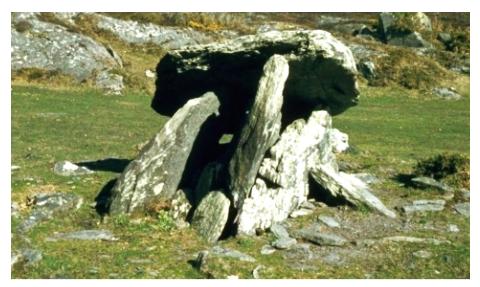
The Neolithic started in Ireland in or around 4,000BC. This was the age that ushered in agriculture – people growing their own crops and domesticating and herding animals. One of the oldest of these is likely to be one named Arderrawinny along with nearby and similar Ahaglaslin. In the past these structures were often called dolmen, these days archaeologists prefer the term Portal Tomb as it reflects the structure more accurately.

A definition is given by Irish National Monuments as 'a single, short chamber formed by two tall portal-stones, two sidestones and a backstone. Sometimes a stone between the portals closes the entry. The chamber is covered by a roofstone, often of enormous size, which slopes down from the front towards the rear. Cremation was the preferred burial rite and these date to the Neolithic from 3800 to 3200 BC.'

Portal Tomb, Arderrawinny is on private land and has all the attributes making it instantly recognisable as a Portal Tomb – two tall upright stones mark the entrance (portal) supporting the large front roofstone. The structure leans heavily and although the same as it was some fifty years ago one could question how long before it collapses. The land surrounding it seems to have been 'improved'.

Kernow's well-known archaeologist William Copeland Borlase visited Ireland in the 1890's with his interest being its ancient structures. He wrote a three-volume series entitled 'The Dolmens of Ireland'. This Cornishmans work is highly regarded and considered a valuable research asset.

Both Arderawinny and Ahaglaslin are unusual in their location and orientation by not facing the sun or the sea given their close proximity. Neolithic peoples were masters of building and taking advantage of sunrises and sunsets. It is assumed by most archaeologists that this was an important part of their beliefs.



When I next visit the south coast of Ireland I'm sure to look up one or two of these ancient monuments. That they are so similar to those found in Kernow helps illustrate that these ancient late Stone Age peoples did travel by sea in what must have been very perilous boats. How many did we'll never know but included transfer of knowledge besides that of agricultural practices

# Celtic festivals, events and interaction in Redruth, a Cornish town

Redruth is a Cornish town which enjoys participating and supporting Cornish heritage. Besides the St Piran Day celebrations for Cornwall's national saint they hold an annual Murdoch Day Festival commemorating the Scottish inventor William Murdoch who lived in the town. There is also the Lowender Celtic Festival which has made Redruth its home. This festival is one of music, dance, song and much more from all the Celtic nations with hundreds of performers and others visiting Kernow. Another cultural centre has been opened recently in the former Passmore Edwards Library. The Ladder is an organisation offering 'performance spaces, workspaces and studios supporting artists and makers in the creative industries.' A chance for a Celtic leaning group to use it for cultural purposes.

As well as festivals there are pubs like the Oxford that hold Celtic trad sessions and of course Redruth is the home to Kresen Kernow, the archive record office for Kernow. This was visited by an International Celtic Congress group when it was last held in Kernow in 2019.

More recently The Redruth and District Twinning Association held a fundraising ceilidh in the crypt at St Andrews Church in Redruth. This was to prepare for a visit in 2026 of a group from the

twinned district of Plumergat et Meriadec in Breizh.



The Celtic Congress Kresen Kernow visit in 2019



Twinning was originated by the people of Meriadec following a visit by junior footballers from the Redruth area in 1988. A delegation of both communities met to discuss the viability of twinning in 1992. The subsequently twinned officially began with the signing of the charter in Redruth on Murdoch Day in 1993. A reciprocal signing of the charter took place in Plumergat in October 1994.

Since then many exchange visits have taken place strengthening the already close links with Kernow and Breizh. This has allowed each other to broaden their horizons by learning about each others unique culture, heritage, language and forming long lasting friendships. Redruth Twinning Association has achieved many things such as finding work placements for students wishing to experience life in Kernow, extending their knowledge of our language and culture. This made possible through the support of local businesses.

Inter Celtic town arrangements such as this are good for cultural, social and economic reasons and greater numbers should be encouraged. Perhaps a number of hubs each including six towns or districts, one from each of the Celtic nations, could be established. That would create a wonderful number of ongoing Celtic interactions each year.

# Mannin - The Isle of Man

Many people are unaware of the status of Mannin or as anglicised the Isle of Man. It is part of the wider Anglo-Celtic group of islands a term gradually being used to a greater degree for the British Isles. This is a term we will use in our narrative as the Celtic nations actually form the largest landmass of these isles.

Mannin is an internally self-governing dependency of the British Crown; its people are British citizens. King Charles III as Lord of Mann is Head of State with his personal representative on the Island the Lieutenant Governor.

Although part of the Anglo-Celtic isles it is not part of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom is responsible for defence and international relations for which Mannin makes an annual contribution to the United Kingdom and for other common services provided on its behalf, such as consular services.

Its parliament, the Tynwald, has two branches - the Legislative Council and the House of Keys. The latter, has a history dating from the first millennium of the common era. This continuity surpasses any other parliamentary assembly in the world.

Its Celtic language is of the Gaelic branch descended from Old Irish and great efforts have been made during recent times to its preservation. The culture department of the islands administration is Culture Vannin. It recognises the importance of Manx Gaelic as part of the islands unique culture with continued support for the language as the cornerstone of the organisations work.

In 2009 UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) declared the Manx language extinct following the death of who they believed was the last Manx speaker in 1974. Later they received a letter written in perfect Manx urging them to reconsider their decision from primary school children. This led to UNESCO reclassifying the language as endangered. Today there are some 2,200 people who can speak or have some knowledge of the language and it is growing. Besides schools throughout the island there is a Manx language primary school where all subjects are taught in the language. It has more than 60 bilingual pupils attending.

This is a similar position to Kernewek the Cornish language in Kernow where a resurgence is taking place. More younger people are now engaging with their own Celtic languages across all the Celtic nations While these will always be secondary to English the Celtic nations are using their individual languages in public signage and increasingly within businesses.



A beautiful and interesting island



# Cymru regaining its Celtic language place names

Two place names in Cymru have caused some controversy amongst English speaking people. This is firstly the alternative English name in Cymraeg of the 'Snowdonia National Park' as 'Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri' and 'Mount Snowden' to 'Yr Wyddfa'. The other change relates to another national park to the south of Cymru the Brecon Beacons with it now renamed 'Bannau Brycheiniog' from 2023.

In November 2022 the national park authority announced would refer to the mountain by its Cymraeg name Yr Wyddfa, not Snowdon, which is 3,560 feet high. This has now generally been accepted with several YouTube videos explaining how to pronounce Yr Wyddfa. Within the national park the many lakes and other features have their respective names in Cymraeg.

Bannau Brycheiniog gets its name from the Cymraeg word bannau for peaks linked to the name of the early medieval Cymru kingdom of Brycheiniog which covered this area. In the 16th century the English traveller, antiquarian and writer John Leland named the area 'Banne Brekeniauc'. It seems the language rot really set in during the 18th century when the anglicised name began to be used. Bannau Brycheiniog has the highest peaks in South Cymru and have been given their Cymraeg names for many years. The highest mountain, Pen y Fan at 2,907 feet with its twin summit Corn Du at 2,864 feet and Craig Gwaun Taf at 2,710 feet are found here.



Yr Wyddfn [L] and Bronn Wenneli [R]



# Kernow highest peak needs renaming

With the imminent granting of additional powers to Konsel Kernow at Lys Kernow is it not time to begin to change the official names of some of Kernow's place names to Kernewek? Perhaps they should start with Cornwall's highest peak, not exactly a mountain but the nearest to one Kernow has at 1378 feet.

From a personal point of view the newsletter's editor has a serious issue with the naming of Kernow's highest peak. So much so he refuses to use the anglicised name orally or in written word. This of course is Bronn Wenneli with its Kernewek translation as 'breast shaped hill of swallows' rather than the odious and abhorrent English name. First named as Brunwenely circa 1200 the spelling has changed over the years, more recently to standard written form Kernewek. This was fortunately accepted by Google Maps when the editor of this newsletter advised them some time ago and which can now be searched for as Bronn Wenneli.

An amusing aside relating to the name is the recently formed band Newquay band 'Bronn Wenneli' which fuses rock, punk and metal. Lets hope that nobody translates their band name into English for posters. It would be rather amusing to see 'Brest shaped hill of swallows' will be performing at ...... Perhaps they should have thought about that first eh?

# SPYRYS A GERNOW

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

Books in Unified, Unified Revised, Kernowek Standard, some now part of the history of the revival. See our website: www.spyrys.org

### Contact:

Ray & Denise Chubb Gordon Villa, Sunnyvale Road, Portreath, Redruth, Kernow/Cornwall, U.K. TR16 4NE. Telephone: 01209 842394 - E-mail: shoppa@spyrys.org

Cornish Serviettes available £2.50 for a pack of 12



Celtic Nation Kernow is working on a scheme to promote smaller independent Celtic businesses who in turn promote Celtic culture and heritage from across all the Celtic nations. We will be offering **FREE** advertising on our website and direction from our newsletters and social media.

We ask they offer our membership some exclusive benefits of doing business with them, such as discounts, special offers. The only information shared will be just the name of the member and their CNK I/D number to confirm membership. We will **NOT under any circumstances** share emails, mobile/telephone numbers or any other information outside our CNK administrative group.

This we envisage will benefit those smaller independent Celtic nation businesses, especially those with an online sales presence, as well as to our members.

Please advise any suitable small Celtic businesses and ask they contact us on our email/website

# **Celtic Nation Kernow**

President: Vacant
Chair: Ray Chubb
Secretary: Denise Chubb
Treasurer: Jerry Rogers

Vice Chair: Len Sheppard (Website coordinator/ Newsletter editor / Membership coordinator)

Committee: Marilla Walker, Will Emmett, Wendy Curnow

Celtic Nation Kernow is the branding name for charity 'Celtic Congress Cornwall' No' 1125469