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Nowodhow  
a-gynsow

- Bakery staff learn Cornish
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Mis  
Meurth  
09

cornish language partnership  
**maga**

# Lyther-nowodhow

## Pasti Mar Pleg!

**A Cornish bakery has taken business use of Cornish to an entirely new level by encouraging its staff to use a bit of Cornish with customers.**

WC Rowe approached MAGA, the Cornish Language Partnership, initially for a translation for their Cornish Indulgence range of products, and following on from this started thinking about other ways in which they could incorporate the Cornish language into their business. After discussions with the MAGA office it was decided to produce bespoke training materials for shop staff, introducing them to simple greetings, relevant phrases and translations of product names, which could be used on the shop floor with customers.

MAGA produced booklets and an accompanying CD to help with pro-

nunciation, and these were distributed to each of the fifteen Rowe's shops in Cornwall. The initiative was then launched in the run up to St Piran's Day, and attracted attention from the

local radio, newspapers and TV.

"We thought it would be a bit of fun for staff and customers alike to try some Cornish as part of our St Piran's Day



Cornish Language Partnership Chair, Jeremy Rowe CC, launches the initiative with staff at a WC Rowe shop in Truro

Yma oberoryon popiti WC Rowe ow tyski tamm a Gernewek gans gweres a lyvrigow ha sidi gwrys ragdha gans MAGA. Ytho lemmyn y hyllir erhi pasti yn Kernewek dhyworth agas nessa gwerthji WC Rowe, po dhe'n lyha gul devnydh a eryow sempel kepar ha "dydh da" ha "meur ras" gans an dus usi owth oberi ena.

celebrations,” said Paul Pearce, Director of Marketing for Rowe’s. “There’s been no pressure for our staff to learn Kernewek perfectly but everybody’s actually really embraced the idea and it’s been a very enjoyable project. The language is an important part of our county’s heritage and its future, and many people that live here are passionate about keeping it alive. We felt that as a company that is proudly Cornish, Rowe’s should definitely give it a go – it’s our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, what better time to get involved?”

The Chair of the Cornish Language Partnership, Jeremy Rowe CC, is also enthusiastic about the initiative: “More

and more people speak or are learning Cornish and this will provide a really valuable opportunity for them to be able to use their native language in an every day situation, being greeted by Rowe’s bakery staff in Cornish and perhaps even being able to order their pasty in Cornish. We hope that other businesses will follow this example so that Cornish can continue to develop as a thriving community language.”

### Get involved

MAGA is keen to encourage Cornish speakers to make the most of this opportunity by visiting their local Rowe’s bakery. Having learnt some words and phrases in Cornish, staff

will be only too pleased to try them out on you, even if it’s just greeting you in Cornish and saying simple things such as “meur ras” and “mar pleg”. Some members of staff will have learnt more than this, so do encourage them to use whatever Cornish they know. Obviously they will not be fluent and may not understand everything you say, so please be patient with them and try to help them out or explain things where necessary.

If you are not already a Cornish speaker, MAGA has also produced some leaflets with some simple phrases for customers which will be available in Rowe’s shops around Cornwall.

## The Staff Viewpoint

To get an idea of how Rowe’s staff are responding to the Cornish language initiative, MAGA spoke to Jon Coyne, who works in the Rowe’s bakery on Lemon Quay in Truro.



**MAGA:** *Dydh da, Jon.*

**Jon:** Dydh da.

**M:** *Did you have any experience of Cornish prior to this new initiative with WC Rowe?*

**J:** Prior to the initiative, the closest experience I had to Cornish was the sign on the Tamar Bridge and the Wetherspoons signage.

**M:** *What was your reaction when you heard about the initiative?*

**J:** I thought, and still do, that it’s a great idea, bringing us closed to our heritage, and anything to improve my knowledge is a bonus!

**M:** *How are you finding it?*

**J:** Cornish, as a language, is surprisingly easy to learn. Once you understand how the letter groupings sound the words just fall into place.

**M:** *Have you had a chance to use much of what you’ve learnt so far?*

**J:** I use the basic phrases a lot around the house and I think it’s driving my girlfriend up the wall because she doesn’t understand!



Jon Coyne is enjoying using Cornish in the WC Rowe shop on Lemon Quay in Truro

**M:** *Are you actively greeting people in Cornish, and if so what has the general reaction been?*

**J:** I try to, and the general reaction is great, although I’m sure a lot of customers are thinking “what?”.

**M:** *Do you think you will continue using bits of Cornish once this promotion is over?*

**J:** I honestly think I will. Already I pepper my conversations with French, German and Spanish so adding Cornish to that will confuse people even more!

**M:** *And finally, what’s your favourite word or phrase that you’ve learnt so far?*

**J:** I’m torn between “Dydh da” and “Pasti kig bewin hengovek”, because “Dydh da” has such a happy sound, and traditional steak pasty just doesn’t sound as good!

## New Class in Newbridge

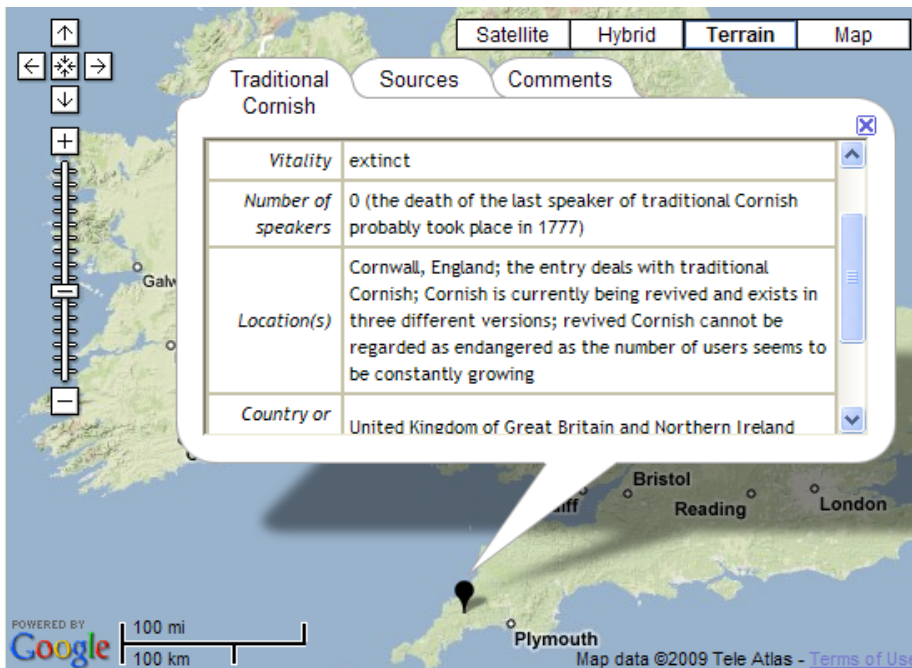
A new class has started up in Newbridge, Penzance on Monday nights. It takes place at the Fountain Inn, Newbridge and starts at 7pm.

For further information please contact Craig Weatherhill on 01736 363219 or e-mail [craig@agantavas.org](mailto:craig@agantavas.org).

Yma class Kernewek nowyth gans Craig Weatherhill. Derivadow pella dhyworto orth [craig@agantavas.org](mailto:craig@agantavas.org) po 01736 363219.

## Difeudhys ew po nag ew yndella? Obma an kwestyon!

An peth a veu kompys an moyha a-dhiwedhes ew atlas UNESCO, heb dout an dra, rag ena, keffres Kernowek ha Manowek a vedh kevys war rol an tавosow difeudhys.



The entry for Cornish in the UNESCO atlas of endangered languages

Der reson an vaner klassya ew hedna, kens oll. Purposys ew an klassyans sewya difygyans тавosow “normal” ha nag ew abel lowr dhe attendya тавosow a veu gorrys dhe dhasvewa. Moy ‘vel hedna, an udn pennventen a veu kompys yn gwasva UNESCO, keffres rag Kernowek ha Manowek, a veu skrifys yn lyver a’n vledhen 1993. Nei a wor pur dha fatel yll diyskydnja lies tra a-jei dhe seythen, heb prederi a hwetek bledhen! An atlas y honen ew dijital, ha mar menno’ hwei hwilas Kernowek ena, hwei a vedh pres kompla ‘gas breus dhe UNESCO. There’vy ow kwatya dre veu usyes gen meur ahanowgh.

Na hwath, ma hebma diskwedhes pana les a yll bos drehevys gen agan тавas Kernowek. Keffres ha’n maynys kedhlow ha nowodhow pow Kernow, a gowsas an dra der vaner efan, nei a gowsas meur gen dyffrans radyos yn Kembra, Loundres ha Zealand Nowyth. Skrifow a wrug diskwedhes yn broassa radn an paperyow-nowodhow nacyonal ha hwath nag eus diwedh dhe wovynadow an maynys nowodhow – dhort Pow

Amerika, an termyn-ma. Oll hebma a dherivas aman dyffrans govynadow ha hwans nowyth ‘mesk an dus kawas trelylanjow.

Ma govynadow an maynys nowodhow dustuni fatel ew moy ha moy apert an тавas Kernowek dherag presens an dus, ha fatel uji ‘ga warneth yt y gever ow kressya. Ma’n peth a veu skrifys ha leverys ow tiskwedhes trelylans fortudnyes yn konversacyon an meynys nowodhow -ha kens oll an maynys nacyonal - a hevel godhvos dasserryans an тавas der vaner bysi. Gras dhe hwel kales oll an dus ew hedna, ha termyn ‘vedh dhe nei hwath drehevel war an meyn leur-na.

### Extinct or not.....that is the question!

The most talked about item in the past few weeks has undoubtedly been the UNESCO atlas, which listed Cornish, along with Manx, as extinct. This is mainly due to the classification system, which is designed to chart normal language decline and cannot deal with revived languages. In addition, the only source quoted by the UNESCO site as an information source for Cornish and Manx was a publication from 1993. As we all know, a lot can happen in a week, never mind sixteen years! The atlas itself is digital and if one searches for Cornish, there is an opportunity to comment back to UNESCO which we hope a large number of people have used.

That said, the incident did show just how much interest Cornish can generate. Quite apart from the local press and media, who covered it extensively, we talked to radio in Wales, London and New Zealand, articles appeared in most of the national daily papers and there is continuing press interest – this time from the USA. It also provoked a fresh wave of enquiries and translation requests.

The press interest bears witness to the increasing visibility and awareness of Cornish and the coverage shows a welcome change in attitude – especially from the national press who seem finally to be taking the revival seriously. This is due to everyone’s efforts over many years and is something on which we can continue to build.

UNESCO’S LANGUAGE team has put its foot in its mouth by branding the Cornish language “extinct”. That has come as something of a surprise to the 300-odd Cornish people who can still speak it.

National coverage: a press cutting from a leading article in the Independent newspaper

## MAGA Celebrates 1000th Translation

**The MAGA translation team recently celebrated completing its 1000<sup>th</sup> translation since the service was set up in 2006.**

In those three years the service has grown from receiving sporadic requests through to processing an average of approximately sixty translations per month. This February was also the busiest month to date with a total of 92 translations – a figure which was no doubt boosted due to the run up to St Piran's Day.

To mark the 1000<sup>th</sup> translation, MAGA is sending a free box set of the *Tales from Porth* books to Poltair School Library, who requested the translation. Alison Hancock from the school contacted the translation service to request various phrases in Cornish to be used in and around the school library during a Cornish week based around St Piran's Day.

The MAGA translation service is free of charge for small translations of

under forty words. Longer translations can also be processed, and we will provide you with a quote for the cost of the work before passing it on to one of our team of translators. To request a translation you can either use the online translation request form at [www.magakernow.org.uk](http://www.magakernow.org.uk), e-mail us at [cornishlanguage@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cornishlanguage@cornwall.gov.uk) or call us on 01872 323497.

Gonis trelyans MAGA re solempnyas y vilves trelyans a-gynsow. Yma'n gonis ow tevi, gans a-dro dhe dri ugens trelyans gwrys pub mis. Y fydh dasskrif a *Tales from Porth* danvenys dhe'n lyvvera skol a dhervynnas an milves trelyans.

## Students in Saltash

Having conducted sessions with child-care students at Cornwall College in January, February saw similar 'taster' activity in Saltash college, where, joined by volunteers Maureen Pierce and Jerry Jefferies, we delivered an introductory session for, once again, childcare students. The course tutor is keen to make this an annual event for her students and it may well be something that other course tutors might like to think about.

Moy a dhyskojow-assaya rag dyskyblon a veu synjys an mis-ma, - yn Kolji Essa an termyn-ma.

## Kesva Exam Dates 2009

Wednesday 13th May 2009, 6pm at West End Methodist Chapel, Callington – oral examinations for 2nd and 3rd grade students in East Cornwall.

Saturday 16th May 2009, 10.30am, centre to be announced – oral examinations for 2nd and 3rd grade students in West Cornwall and all 4th grade candidates.

Written examinations will be held at 10am on 13th June 2009 in the following centres:

Liskeard Community School, Pool School and City Lit., London. The 4th grade Paper II will be held at 10 a.m. on the 20th June (centre to be announced).

To enter: candidates must complete the enrolment form and send it by 30th April 2009 to the Examinations Secretary, Mrs. M.L.Fuller, Sowena, 11, Barton Close, Landrake, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 5BA, e-mail: [mlfuller33@btinternet.com](mailto:mlfuller33@btinternet.com).

Dydh-yow apposyansow an Gesva 2009 yw dyllys lemmyn. Res yw dhe obroforyon omrolya kyns 30ves mis Ebryl.

## Pirantide Events



Busy MAGA stall at the Pirates' Festival

MAGA has been out and about as usual this Pirantide, running a display stand at the Bodmin St Piran's Day celebrations and also taking part in the first Cornish Pirates' St Piran's Festival.

The latter took place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March and MAGA was invited to run a stall as part of the family fun day activities taking place prior to the match in the afternoon. Volunteers from Agan Tavas and Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek helped man the stall, selling books and giving out stickers and postcards to children as well as promoting the Pirate's bilingual young supporters' club, Bagas Benbow.

MAGA a wrug stall yn Bosvenegh rag Dy'gol Pyran hag ynwedh orth darvos synsys gans an Vorladron Gernewek dy' Sul an 8ves a vis Meurth.

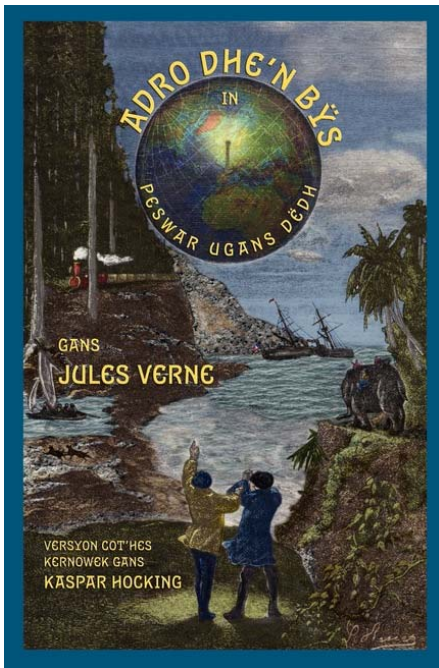
## Dydh Dyskadoryon

Kesva an Taves Kernewek a rester Dydh Dyskadoryon arta. Synsys vydh dhe'n 20ves a vis Metheven, yn Hel an Konteth, Truru. Kedhlow pella a vydh dyllys nebes diwettha.

### Teachers' Day

The Cornish Language Board are organising another Teachers' Day. This year it will take place on June 20th, in County Hall, Truro. Further details will be available later.

## A-dro dhe'n Bys in Peswar Ugens Dedh dyllys yn Kernowek



Yma Evertime ow notya gans hebma aga versyon Kernowek, cot'hes rag dyscoryon ha rag redyoryon yonk, a lyver Jules Verne, "A-dro dhe'n Bys yn Peswar Ugens Dedh". An lyver ma re beu treyllys dhe Gernowek gans Kaspar Hocking, tas Vanessa Beeman, an Bardh Meur.

Yma an lyver scrifys y'n spellyans gelwys Kernowek Standard. Henn yw pur ogas dhe lytherednans an Furv Savonek Scrifys.

Y'n lyver Kernowek may fedh gwelys moy es deg warn ugens a'n delinyansow gwres gans an artystyon gerys da Alphonse-Marie de Neuville ha Léon Benett rag an kensa dyllans Frynkek. An lyver ma re beu ollsettys

ha dyllys gans Evertime, Cathair na Mart, Wordhen.

Y hyllir cavos copioiw a'n lyver dhyworth Amazon.co.uk, dhyworth Amazon.com, bo dhyworth Spyrys a Gernow, pellgowser 01209 842394, e-mail [shoppa@spyrys.org](mailto:shoppa@spyrys.org). Gweler <http://www.evertime.com/books/adro-dhen-bys.html>

### *Around the World in Eighty Days* published in Cornish

Evertime announces the publication of a translation, abridged for learners and younger readers, into the Cornish language of *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne. The book has been translated into Cornish by Kaspar Hocking, father of Vanessa Beeman, the Grand Bard.

This book is written in the spelling called Kernowek Standard, which is very close to the orthography of the new Standard Written Form.

This new book contains more than 30 of the famous illustrations of Alphonse-Marie de Neuville ha Léon Benett, which first appeared in the original French edition in 1873. The book was typeset and published by Evertime of Co. Mayo, Ireland.

Copies may be obtained from Amazon.co.uk, from Amazon.com, or from Spyrys a Gernow, tel. 01209 842394, e-mail [shoppa@spyrys.org](mailto:shoppa@spyrys.org). See <http://www.evertime.com/books/adro-dhen-bys.html>

## Kynsa Kesstrif Kenkanedh Kernewek Keswlasek

Yn lies yeth keltiek, an bardhonieth a wra dhevnydh a systemow komplek a geslytherennans, kenkanedh, ha ri-myow pervedhel. Saw ny welyn ni tak-low teg a'n par na y'n lien Kernewek hengovek a aswonny'n dhyworth an Osow Kres. Prag? Wel, kynth yw Kernewek yeth keltiek kepar ha Kembrek, kenkanedh yw kalessa yn Kernewek es yn Kembrek. Ha marte-sen nyns yw rim pervedhel mar es yn Kernewek del yw yn Bretonek. Mes yma nebes berdh gernewek arnowyth re assayas gorra kenkanedh ha rim pervedhel a-berth y'ga bardhonogow.

Rag skodhya lien kernewek arnowyth, Kernewegva.com a vynn synsi "Kynsa Kesstrif Kenkanedh Keswlasek Kernewegva.com" rag oll an re a gar gwari gans geryow. Mar kyllowgh skrifa bardhonek gans keslytherennans (*alliteration*), kenkanedh (*cynghanedd*), po rim pervedhel, dan-venewgh e kyns diwedh mis Ebryl dhe [kenkanedh@kernewegva.com](mailto:kenkanedh@kernewegva.com). An gwella bardhonogow a vydh dyllys y'n wiasva Kernewegva.com, ha gwaynyer an gwari a gyv piwas posh (po dhe'n leha piwas prydydek!). Kewgh dhe [www.kernewegva.com/kenkanedh.html](http://www.kernewegva.com/kenkanedh.html) rag gweles rewlys dien an kesstrif po rag kavos pella derivadow a-dro dhe *gyngghanedd* Gembrek, *kenganez* Bretonek, ha furvyow-gwers hengovek Kernewek.

Kernewegva.com is launching its first international Kenkanedh competition, to encourage Cornish speakers around the world to try their hand at producing some modern poetry in Cornish inspired by the traditional Celtic art of alliteration and internal rhyme known in Welsh as *cynghanedd* and in Breton as *kenganez*.

## Sodhogyon Kesva an Taves Kernewek

Kuntelles bledhynnyek Kesva an Taves Kernewek a veu synsys an 21a a vis Hwevrer. An sodhogyon yw lemmyn: Kaderyer: Polin Prys; Iskaderyer: Pol Hodge; Skrifenyades: Maureen Pierce; Alhwedhor: Wella Brown. Drefen bos an diwettha etholans 2006 y fydh etholans mis Du 2009 dhe dhewis eseli an Gesva.

### Cornish Language Board Officers

The annual general meeting of the Cornish Language Board was held on 21st February. The officers are: Chairman: Polin Prys; Vice-chairman: Pol Hodge; Secretary: Maureen Pierce; Treasurer: Wella Brown. As the last election was held in 2006 there will be an election in November 2009 to elect members of the Board.

## Den Toll

News came to us this month of the death of Den Toll, Hugh Miners. An ex-Grand Bard of the Gorsyth, Hugh Miners continued to be interested in and work for Cornish up to his death and corresponded with MAGA recently about work with the Scout movement. It was his visit to talk to the Scouts in Penzance which started in-

terest there, leading to MAGA translating the Scout promise.

Degemerys a veu nowodhow a vernans Hugh Miners (Den Toll), neb a wrug ober a-barth Kernewek dres oll y vewnans hir.

## Diwettha Chons dhe Ragbrena Agas Tyller orth an Benniseythen Gernewek

An Benniseythen Gernewek Bledhynnyek, ordenys gans Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek, a vydh synsys ynter an 3a ha'n 5es a vis Ebryl yn Ostel Sandy Lodge, Tewnyn Pleustri. Y fydh lies darvos: vyaj dhe Vilva Tewnyn Pleustri, arethow ha dyskansow y'n yeth kernewek ha meur a dhidhan yn Kernewek. Hemm yw chons perfeyth rag dalethoryon ha tus a wor kewsel nebes dhe dhyski ha gwellhe aga Hernewek kewsys. Nyns eus kost dhe dus yn-dann 16 bloodh; i a wra gwellhe aga honvedhyans an yeth, an tir y'ga hyrghyn, ha'ga linyeth hag i ow tyski Kernewek. Kemerewgh an spas dibarow ma dhe dhyski Kernewek yn kyrhynnedh golonnek ha gans dynnargh tomm. Derivadow pella dhyworth [koreen@koreen3.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:koreen@koreen3.orangehome.co.uk)

### Last Chance to Book Your Place at the Cornish Language Weekend

The annual Cornish Language Weekend, run by the Cornish Language Fellowship, will take place from 3rd to 5th April in the Sandy Lodge Hotel, Newquay. The weekend consists of various events: a trip to Newquay Zoo, talks and lessons in the language and lots of entertainment in Cornish. This is a perfect chance for both complete beginners and those who already know some Cornish to learn and improve their spoken Cornish. Under 16's go completely free and will benefit hugely in general language studies and understanding of the land around them and their ancestry, by learning their language - Cornish. Don't miss this unforgettable experience - learn Cornish in a family friendly and welcoming environment. Further details from Koreen Twydell [koreen@koreen3.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:koreen@koreen3.orangehome.co.uk)

## Darvosow / Events

### March

**24th** Yeth an Werin, Try Dowl, Truro, 8pm - for further information contact [elizabethstewart@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elizabethstewart@hotmail.co.uk)

**31st** Yeth an Werin, Plume of Feathers, Scorrier - for further information contact [ray@spyrays.org](mailto:ray@spyrays.org)

### April

**3rd-5th** Cornish Language Weekend, Sandy Lodge Hotel, organised by Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek - for further information and booking forms contact [koreen@koreen3.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:koreen@koreen3.orangehome.co.uk)

**7th** Yeth an Werin, Royal Standard, Gwinear, 8pm - for further information contact [jori.ansell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jori.ansell@tiscali.co.uk)

## Kestavow / Contacts

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[www.magakernow.org.uk](http://www.magakernow.org.uk)

## Derivadow Pella / Further Information

For further information about any of the articles in this newsletter, please contact either Jenefer Lowe, Development Manager, or Elizabeth Stewart, Administrator, at the contact details above.

If you are organising a Cornish language event and would like to have it publicised in this newsletter please send us the details.

If you would like to subscribe to receive this newsletter free of charge every month send us an e-mail or letter and we will add you to our distribution list.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to others.

Deadline for contributions to April newsletter: **Monday 30th March.**

Arhesans Keskowethyans an Taves Kernewek yw rennys ynter:  
The Cornish Language Partnership is part funded by:

