



Gorsedh Kernow - The Celtic spirit of Cornwall

Press release for immediate use issued Wednesday 31st July 2019

Gorsedh Kernow congratulates successful Cornish language candidates

Gorsedh Kernow has warmly welcomed news of the results from this year's Cornish language examinations. KESVA - The Cornish Language Board - set up in 1967 by Gorsedh Kernow and the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, has announced another year of impressive results from the 82 candidates who took their exams in June.

“Once again we are congratulating an increased number of successful candidates, a further 7% rise on last year, who are joining the growing number of people learning and taking exams in *Kernewek*,” said Grand Bard of Cornwall Elizabeth Carne, *Mellenek*, “and I would like to say ‘*Keslowena dhywgh hwi oll*’ which means ‘Congratulations to you all’ in Cornish, you have all worked so hard.”

The results are spread across the four grades of examinations currently offered by the Cornish Language Board with the largest group of candidates based in Cornwall. Following previous increases in the number of students taking first grade exams, numbers in the higher grades continue to rise while numbers taking first grade exams is also being maintained.

“Demand for *Kernewek* is as strong as ever,” said Elizabeth Carne, “because it is such an important part of Cornish culture. As a teacher of the Cornish language myself I see every week just how many people want to know more about our shared heritage and Cornish identity and we would encourage everyone to embrace *Kernewek* as a unique part of our precious culture.”

The Grand Bard once again expressed her enormous gratitude to all the hardworking volunteer teachers and examiners, many of whom are bards of Gorsedh Kernow, who give a lot of their own time to help a variety of people of all ages and backgrounds learn Cornish. While the majority learn at traditional

weekly classes, sales of language textbooks are growing steadily and many individual students are also supplementing their face to face learning with online resources as a gateway to the language such as those available through the popular Go Cornish website.

“The Council of Europe, which is not connected to the European Union, has long since recognised the Cornish people and the importance of our cultural assets, such as *Kernewek*, under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities” said Elizabeth Carne, “and we call on HM Government to honour their commitment to the Cornish people and provide funding as recently promised so we can promote and share our culture, especially the Cornish language.”

The successful candidates for 2019 are:

First Grade: Pass with Distinction

Charmaine Ashwin, St Columb

George Batey, Ponsanooth

Susan Davies, St Ives

Annie Ferrari, Luxulyan

Lucie Gibbons, Ludgvan

Rosalind Hayward, Luxulyan

Emma Jenkin, Truro

Judith Lawrence, Penzance

Patricia Maloney, Herodsfoot

Tamsin Spargo, Redruth

Paul Tyreman, Penzance

First Grade: Pass

Victor Aussedat, Callac, Brittany

Christopher Bartram, Luxulyan

Mark Bunney, Newquay

Michael Cummings, Truro

Glynis Davies, Gulval

Jeremy Forbes, Clitters

Yvonne Frankson, Carnon Downs

Rachel Gannon, Tresillian

Gemma Goodman, St Stephens

Malcolm Gould, Luxulyan

Gareth Horner, Newquay

Servane Huonic, Graces, Brittany

Elowenn Jenkin, Truro

Liz McKenzie, St Mawgan

Michel Mermet, Moëlan-sur-Mer, Brittany
Graham Perry, Penzance
Philip Pring, Edenbridge, Kent
Thomas Rogers, London
Graham Rundle, Sticker
Martin Van Staeyen, St Ives
Stephen Waite, Plymouth, Devon
Jean Wood, Roche

First Grade: Pass in Part

Greta-Marie Kendall, London

Second Grade: Pass with Distinction

Sue Dustow, Connor Downs
Melanie Frankell, Carbis Bay
Kate Neale, Padstow
Fiona O'Cleirigh, St Just
David Pollard, Falmouth
Karen Sellwood, Falmouth
Carole Street, Redruth
Pam Vincent, Bristol
Christina Wheeler, Stennack Troon

Second Grade: Pass

Raymond Bridgewater, St Ives
Susan Dabb, Chacewater
Joseph Enys, Falmouth
Ivor Frankell, Carbis Bay
Charlie Fripp, St Agnes
Sarah Fuller, Breage
Kim Hopewell, Nanpean
Ian Marr, St Ives
Katrina Naomi, Penzance
Claire Rakotozafy, Callac, Brittany
Judith Scrimshaw, Manaccan
Lucy Seale, Truro
Marrick Taylor, Plymouth, Devon
Diana Trudgeon, St Austell
David Wheeler, Stennack Troon

Second Grade: Pass in Part

Serge Aubin, Bourbriac, Brittany

Third Grade: Pass with Distinction

Kirsty Lauder, Saltash
David Matthew, Heamoor
Rita Nield, St Just
William Orchard, Penzance
Howard Peskett, Penzance

Third Grade: Pass

Colin Gordon Allen, Godalming, Surrey
Frances Bennett, Newbridge
Jennifer Blockley, Egloskerry
Will Coleman, St Buryan
Marie Helene Croizier, Ploumagoar, Brittany
Thomas Kadleck, Liskeard
Joe Lewis, Illogan
Tony Phillips, Newmill
Deborah Pollard, Redruth
Kevin Steede, Plymouth, Devon
Matthew Underwood, Plymouth, Devon
Judith Vandy, Camborne

Fourth Grade: Pass with Distinction

Andrew Johnson, St Austell

Fourth Grade: Pass

Kensa Broadhurst, Camborne
Wella Morris, Penzance
Helen Pascoe, Camborne
Wayne Tonkin, Pool

Fourth Grade: Pass in Part

Sarah Smith, London

Further notes for Editors

Gorsedh Kernow exists to promote and maintain the national Celtic Spirit of Cornwall and to give expression to such spirit, to encourage the study of Cornish history and literature, the Cornish language *Kernewek*, to foster Cornish art, music, dance and sport and to link with other Celtic countries.

The revival of Gorsedh Kernow started in 1928, and the organisation immediately began using the Cornish language *Kernewek* as the language of all their annual ceremonies.

66 of the successful candidates of the Cornish Language Board examinations are from Cornwall, 10 are from England and 6 are from Brittany. Several of these candidates will be presented with their certificates by the Grand Bard of Cornwall at a special Graduation ceremony in Lys Kernow (Cornwall Council Offices, Truro) later in September.

For more information about learning Cornish please see <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/the-cornish-language/cornish-language/learning-cornish/>

The Go Cornish website can be accessed via <https://gocornish.org/>

For more information about the KESVA Cornish Language Board please contact Tony Hak, *Karer an Yeth*, Examinations Secretary, email apposyans@hotmail.co.uk

For more general information about Gorsedh Kernow please contact hon.secretary@gorsedhkernow.org.uk
