

# LOWENDER PERAN

## SOCIAL ACTIVITY FUND REPORT 2018

### MORGANNOW KERNEWEK

The repetitive, participatory, nature of shanty songs make them an ideal medium for encouraging people to sing in Cornish. The “shantyman” leads the song and the audience join in with repeating phrases. Three groups of performers (4-piece, 2-piece and solo) were asked to prepare, learn and lead singing on two shanties in Cornish each.

During the session lyrics were projected on a screen as they were sung to make the Cornish accessible. A focal point for filming was set in the centre of the audience so that a clear sound and good quality video could be captured with wider images of audience participation. Videos can be seen here: <https://vimeo.com/301168047>, <https://vimeo.com/303237119>

Festival outreach workshops were taken to local primary schools by a three-piece band plus dance teacher. The children were taught to sing a shanty in Cornish. They were also taught the refrain of a second shanty and dance to go with it.

### KAN RAG DONSYA

Two workshops were held back to back, firstly singing for dancing in Cornish followed by singing for dancing in Breton. The workshops were well received with a good balance between those just singing, just dancing or doing both. Anecdotal feedback including questionnaire

responses (see page 5) suggested adding singing to the workshops was popular.

A video compilation of the event has been captured and has been made available on the An Daras YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjzQzNRIwiU&feature=youtu.be>

### KESCAN LEVOW BRYTHONEK

The Levow Brythonek concert brought together The Rowan Tree from Cornwall, members of Jamie Smith’s Mabon from Wales and the Lorho-Pasco family from Brittany, for an evening of song in the brythonic languages. The concert played to the festival’s strengths as a platform for cultural exchange and served to highlight how Kernewek connects Cornwall on an international level.

As part of the concert the Rowan Tree, winners of Liet International XXL 2018 and who placed highly at the International PanCeltic Song Competition, were commissioned to produce two new translations of the songs Pencarrow Hunt and The Mallard, with respective historic connections to Wales and Brittany.

Professional recordings of these songs were made by Distilled films and will be made available on the festival’s website and social media.

We had hoped with work with Stephane Rouget, from the Giant's Crossing St Piran Statue Project, to include a Breton/Cornish Kan ha Diskan song in the concert which they had planned to commission as part their celebrations of the St Piran Statue. Sadly the song didn't come about, however, with Stephane's permission, the festival took on this project as it was such a strong fit for the concert.

Dr Ken George was approached to write a song in the Kan ha Diskan style in Breton and Cornish which was performed by the Rowan Tree and the Lorho-Pasco family. Again, this was filmed and will be made available online, alongside the lyrics for the song.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fy1dcZqpxV0&feature=youtu.be>

Again, these commissions helped to further highlight and celebrate how Kernewek connects Cornwall internationally.

#### **KESARWETH ILOW KERNEWEK**

The Cornish music symposium included a presentation on the Keneugh! project which has been commissioned by the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies. This is a Cornish songbook / online video project. As part of this project Keur Heb Hanow prepared and recorded videos of four songs in Cornish. For the symposium choir member Steve Penhaligon described how the songs were prepared and how particular problems with translating and setting the songs to music were addressed. Keur Heb Hanow then performed the songs.

#### **PROMO VIDEO**

We were pleased to once again produce a promotional video which included the Cornish language working with Distilled Films.

<https://www.facebook.com/lowenderperan/videos/1028319744015198/>

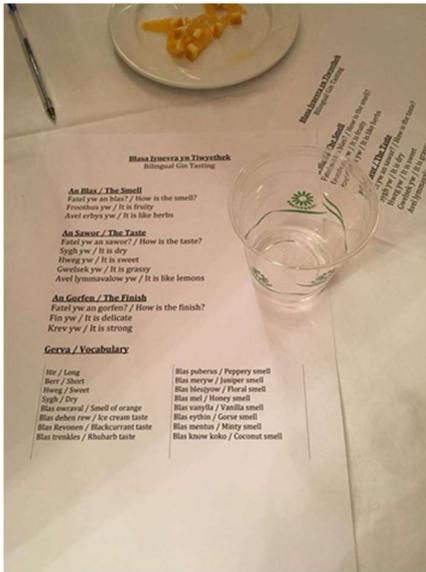
#### **LEVOW WERIN**

After the huge success of the Levow Werin event with Newquay Rowing Club Singers and Côt Clwb Rygbi Aberteifi, we were pleased that the Lorho-Pasco family were able to take part in this important cultural exchange event in 2018. Newquay Rowing Club performed their repertoire of songs in Kernewek, with song sheets available for everyone to join in. And the Lorho-Pasco family performed a number of songs in Breton which were well received. Again, the event helped to normalise minority languages, as well as highlighting international cultural connections. There was a real sense of pride in sharing Cornish culture and language, in contrast to the occasional sense of reticence with Kernewek we have experienced in the past. There was a good mix of Newquay locals usually at the Rowing Club on a Sunday afternoon, and festival goers who had come to take part in the event.

## GIN TASTING

### In partnership with Atlantic Distillery

We found that the format for last year's bilingual whisky tasting as a 'blind' taste test worked well to encourage use of Cornish in a fun and social way. The event attracted 77 people (almost double last year's numbers) and again talking around flavours and aromas of the gin proved a great way of getting people talking. Matthi Clarke worked effectively to encourage audience participation, including nice touches such as poetry, and ensured the event was as much about using Cornish as tasting gin. Though they have named some of their gins and vodkas in Cornish, Atlantic Distillery had little previous experience working with Kernewek, so we were delighted to encourage greater awareness of the language with a local Newquay company. Moreover, the gin sold well on the evening proving Kernewek is also good for business! They have expressed an interest in working with the festival again on similar events in the future.



## FAMILY EVENTS

We were pleased to work with the Lawrance family and Loveday Jenkin to host Cornish language activities for kids at the festival. There was a steady flow of participants, and we look to how we can further integrate the event next year perhaps more closely with cultural expo activities and opening out events such as the gin tasting to a more family friendly audience – for example cream tea or ice cream tasting.

## BILINGUAL COMPERES

We were pleased to once again ensure that comperes for our main events used both Cornish and English. In a development on previous years, we looked to include those who previously had little or no Cornish, as well those who were fluent speakers. A prompt sheet was created to help comperes with less language experience.

Comperes were:

Liz Carne – Grand Bard, and used Cornish in the official festival opening on Thursday night, alongside use of Cornish by Merv Davey.

Toby Lowe – Cornish language learner who compered the Friday night concert.

Stephen Hunt – Aware of Cornish but never formally learnt, used a great deal of the language as he compered dance displays all day Saturday and Sunday with the use of prompt sheets prepared by the festival.

Matthi Clarke – Fluent speaker, compered Saturday night's gin tasting.

Jenefer Lowe – Fluent speaker, compered the Saturday night Levow Byrthonek concert using Cornish, Breton and Welsh.

Mel Evans – Visiting friend from Wales, fluent Welsh speaker and learnt a number of Cornish words and phrases for compering the Sunday night closing concert.

### WIKITHON

This event worked as an introduction to the use of minority languages on Wikipedia, how to write articles and the potential of Wikipedia to help Cornish speakers. Lowender Peran was pleased to host the event connecting music/dance and language experts.

### GENERAL USE OF CORNISH AT LOWENDER PERAN

We were delighted that, unprompted, The Hotel Bristol used Cornish as part of their food and drinks menus.

As we settle into our new home, we would like to work with the Hotel Bristol to get more – where we are very much pushing on an open door.



### ONLINE LEGACY

Videos have been made of:

- Complete Shanty singing session 30 mins approx.
- Morgan Farwel (Shanty) with bouncy ball lyrics
- Goos Nelson (Shanty) with bouncy ball lyrics
- 'The Mallard' by the Rowan Tree
- 'Pencarrow Hunt' by the Rowan Tree
- The Kan ha Diskan song in Breton and Cornish
- The Cornish / Breton singing for Dancing Workshop

These will be made available through a variety of Website / social media platforms:

- Lowender Peran
- An Daras (Lowender Peran 24/7 outreach)
- Keneugh! (FOCS songbook/online project)
- Pellwolok an Gernewegva
- Lien Gwerin – Cornish Folklore Journal
- Argh Ilow Kernow – Cornish Music Archive

## REACH FIGURES

### Physical attendance

Please note that other than events where individual event tickets were sold, it is not possible to give a definitive figure as audience members dropped in and out. Estimates are given as attendance figures at their peak:

Morgannow Kernewek Workshop (at the festival)	c. 25
Morgannow Kernewek (Schools Activities)	90
Kan Rag Donsya Workshop	c. 50 across 2 workshops (80 including dance/song leaders and team members)
Kescan Bythonek	c. 200 audience plus 14 concert participants
Kesarweth Ilow Kernewek	c. 50
Levow Werin	c. 200 – 250
Gin Tasting	77
Family Events	c. 15 – 20
Wikithon	c. 15

We therefore reached an estimated audience of over 800 people directly through Cornish language events at the festival.

We also reached c. 1,700 indirectly through general attendance at the festival and experience of the language through e.g. bilingual comperes, use of Cornish by groups in song, hearing the language spoken generally around the event by other attendees and use of Cornish on the hotel menus.

Total physical reach at the festival therefore c. 2,000 – 2,500.

### Questionnaire Responses

Of 100 responses, over 10% directly cited Cornish language activities as part of what they enjoyed most about the festival, with many more citing 'workshops', 'concerts' and 'singing sessions' as a favourite, which can be assumed also included events such as the Levow Brythonek concert, Kan rag Donsya workshops, Shanty singing sessions, children's activities and Levow Werin session. Some examples of responses:

- Chatting with my fellow Celts and the sea shanties in Cornish.
- I loved the bilingual gin tasting, that was such fun!
- The dances which everyone could join in!!! The children's activities during the day.
- Loved the dance workshops, wrestling displays, ceilidh and Breton dances. Also I enjoyed the bands some I already knew (firm favourites such as Rowan tree, black eyed nancy, breton singers, bagas crowd, mabon) but I really enjoyed musicians I'd not seen before such as tinner's rabbit.
- Cornish language activities
- Informal, open sessions with outstanding musicians. Singing session at Newquay Rowing Club.
- Gin tasting in Cornish and Mabon concert
- It feels a genuinely Cornish event, and seeks to promote Cornish music culture and identity but in a positive and not exclusive manner.
- The main concerts
- The music dancing and friendly atmosphere. The craft fair and cultural expo. The concerts.

- The ceilidhs, early evening music for food, language singing concert, and daytime dance displays.

Of the areas where people felt their festival experience could have been made better:

- I really liked the dance/song workshops. Maybe more dance workshops!
- Perhaps more Cornish language sessions and lessons.
- I would love to see the festival signage in both English and Cornish.
- I would like more of the language to be used, this year had the families covered and the gin tasting was great but a bit more would be even better.

Other anecdotal comments on social media:

- Filled in [the questionnaire] but forgot to say the gin tasting was defo a highlight! Please have it again next year! (Facebook)
- It [the Breton singing for dancing workshop] was great fun! A big 'Thank You' to the wonderful (and patient) Breton teachers x (Facebook)
- Awesome sharing, live culture, thank you :) [response to Breton singing for dancing workshop – Facebook]

Feedback about Cornish language activities has therefore been positive, and suggests that people would welcome more at the festival. Particularly encouraging comments are those where people felt the festival was promoting cultural/language activities in a positive and not

exclusive manner – which suggests attempts to integrate and make it a fun part of the festival are succeeding.

## PROMOTION

### Social Media

Activity Area	Reach Figures
<b>Facebook – Targeted Advertising</b>	
General festival events advert, including Cornish language events.	19,583 – Reach 35,233 – Impressions
Family Activities advert boost	6,564 – Reach 150 – Event responses
<b>Facebook – General Posts</b>	
Event post – Video of Breton singing for dancing workshop	1.2k – Reach 156 – Post clicks 64 – Reactions
Event post – Cultural Expo	564 – Reach 20 – Post clicks 9 – Reactions
Event post – Newquay Rowing Club Session	929 – Reach 125 – Post clicks 34 – Reactions
Event post – Wikithon	695 – Reach 53 – Post clicks 17 – Reactions
Cornish Language Flyer Post	918 – Reach 60 – Post clicks

	11 – Reactions
Event post – Bilingual Gin Tasting	1.1k – Reach 43 – Post clicks 31 – Reactions
Event post – Levow Brythonek	533 – Reach 40 – Post clicks 20 – Reactions

### Other Press / Media

**Radio Cornwall** – Coverage of the festival on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October on the Debbie McRory show – Cornish language used during show and Cornish Language events covered.

**Maui Celtic Radio** – Coverage of the festival throughout the weekend including Cornish language activities.

[Radyo an Gernewegva](#) – One hour programme covering the festival weekend including Cornish language events and activities.

[Cornwall 365](#) – We were listed as number 1 in their top picks for November.

- ENDS -