For other ‘What’s on’ information, go to Kalendar Kernewek at kalendarkernewek.weebly.com

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Agan Lev (Our Voice)

As a part of the Cornish Quest Festival Kernewek, the Cornish Language Festival in Penzance, Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek, in conjunction with Agan Tavas and Cussel an Tavas Kernowek, hosted a one-day seminar in order to discuss the community’s view on the way forward for Cornish. Language speakers, learners, supporters and activists were encouraged to take part in this one-off opportunity to come together to form an action plan for the language community.

Delegates were encouraged to register for the event and about 50 people turned up on the day to join in a lively series of workshops led by representatives from each of the organising groups.

As a result of this event, some exciting new ideas were put forward for consideration. In time, these will be collated by the group leaders and presented in a summary document for implementation by the voluntary groups. Watch this space for more information!

Vyaj yn salow, Esther! (Bon voyage, Esther!)

In February, a group of Cornish speakers met together at the Blue Anchor pub in Helston in order to say goodbye to Esther Johns, a long-time early years Cornish teacher at the bilingual Kerensa and Kaos nursery schools, co-teacher of Cornish (with Pol Hodge) at Halwin School at Porkells, near Helston, co-teacher at the Mullion Cornish Class on the Lizard, and organiser of the Helston and Mullion Yeth an Werin events.

The group - a mixture of class members, colleagues and friends from across the years - shared cake, played games and sang songs in Cornish with the regular Helston Yeth an Werin crowd.

Esther has now moved with her husband Jimmy to Brittany, where she intends to spend her time enjoying the Breton countryside and pursuing her hobby, painting. An art school graduate, Esther has illustrated several books in Cornish and designed covers for others, so she’s looking forward to having more time on her hands to spend in creative pursuits.

Photos: Above: Esther with Hykka, organiser of the Mullion Cornish Class, and Loveday, Kowethas Chair. Left: Holding up a Breton flag with Jori and Rod (right)

It’s AGM season! By Sarah Cooke

The AGM of Kesva an Taves Kernewek was held in the morning of Saturday 4 February in the Trelawney Room at Lys Kernow, Truro. In the absence of the chairman, the deputy chairman, Jori Ansell, welcomed the members. Reports were given by the sub-committees: plans to update the Kesva web-site were discussed; the new WJEC assessment scheme with its extension to Cornish was described, the level of assessment is approximately one third of the current Kesva grade one examination; publications continue to be a successful part of the Kesva’s work with several new books having been added this year; the new KDL course is now available at first and second grade in both Kernewek Kemmyn and the Standard Written Form.

In the afternoon of the same day, there was also the AGM of Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek, attended by 21 members. Before the business of the meeting, there were three interesting talks. Jori Ansell talked about the Cornish Academy, describing the work of the four panels: Signage and Place-names, Dictionary, Research, and Terminology. Mark Trevethan talked about the work of the Cornish Language Office at Cornwall Council since his appointment last year. It is good that the language is now visible in the First Kernow Tinner buses. Pol Hodge then told us about the current lively evenings of conversation and songs in the Union Hotel in Penzance, leading towards the "Union Weekend" in late February. The number of members of the Kowethas has remained at 243. Thanks were expressed to Koreen Twydell who has retired as Treasurer after many years. Nev Meek was appointed as the new Treasurer.

New publications

New from Kesva an Taves Kernewek this quarter comes Tenkys (Fate) by Rod Lyon. Based in both Cornwall and on the island of Tenerife, Tenkys is a love story across cultures and across the miles.

Buy your copy from the Kowethas at http://www.cornish-language.org/Cornish-language-books.html or at our shop, Kowsva Krestir (Heartlands).