An Gannas through the years (continued)

In March 1986, more serious matters were covered with photos on the front page of a march of hundreds of Cornish tin miners with their supporters in London against the closure of tin mines in Cornwall. It says that it was not known when the mines would be closed but that that would be a serious loss of work in the tin producing areas as well as a loss to the economy of the United Kingdom.

The January 1987 edition includes a long tribute to Brian Webb who had died suddenly at the age of 45 just over a month before. As well as being Secretary of Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek, he had played a very important role in the Cornish language revival.

Read more!

This is just a sample of the wealth of material in An Gannas over the last 500 editions. Copies of all editions of An Gannas are held at Kowsva and Kowethas members are welcome to go there to look at them. Kowsva is in Heartlands at 6, Artists’ Muse, Fordh an Bal, Pool. It’s open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 10 am and 1 pm. Find out more about the Kowethas at http://www.cornish-language.org

The Future

The Kowethas is determined to continue publishing An Gannas in paper format in keeping with the original ideals to supply interesting reading material for Cornish speakers at all levels of fluency on a monthly basis. There is now an editorial team to co-ordinate publication each month. The members of the team are as follows: Barney Carver, Rod Sheaff, Dee Harris, Sarah Cooke, Roger Bailey, Fiona O’Cleirigh, Frank Blewett and Tim Hambly.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to find an editor for An Gannas so far. A volunteer to do this important work would be welcome!

Graham Sandercock has edited An Gannas for 500 editions, continuously from December 1976 to August 2018 which is a fantastic achievement. Quite understandably, after a commitment lasting nearly 42 years, he has decided to retire as editor. In this special edition celebrating Graham Sandercock’s amazing achievement of producing and editing An Gannas, the monthly Cornish magazine written entirely in the Cornish language.

A message from Loveday Jenkin, Chairperson of the Kowethas:

I would like to thank Graham Sandercock, our former editor of An Gannas, very much for his perseverance publishing An Gannas every month since 1976 (500 editions!). The work done by Graham is the foundation stone of our language today. We thank him very much for his foresight to start An Gannas and to continue so long. Time now for Graham to relax – his baby has grown up and is in the safe hands of our new editors.
The first edition of *An Gannas* in 1976

Graham’s editorial in the original Unified Cornish and translated into English:

**Penscryf:**

Y’n lyvryk-ma, tewlys yu dhe ry stof redya dhe Gernewegoryon. Dhe’m brys-vy, yma ethom dhyn-ny a vater redya yu dyllys yn fenough hag a yl bos redyes gans dal-lethoryon. Raghenna, y fyth folen abarth dal-lethoryon pup mys. Ynweth, my a wyn dyllo scryvennow yn kever Kernow ha’n bryow keltek erel, newodhow ha wharfedhyansow a vern dhe Gernow, ha lytherow mar quraf aga degemeres. Pur dha vya genef degemeres scryvennow po bardhonek dhe bryntya kyn fens hvr po ber.

**Editorial:**

In this magazine, it is planned to give reading matter to Cornish speakers. To my mind, we have a need for reading matter which is published often and which can be read by beginners. For this reason, there will be a page for beginners every month. Also, I want to publish articles about Cornwall and the other Celtic countries, news and events of interest to Cornwall, and letters if I receive them. I would be very pleased to receive articles or poetry to publish whether they may be long or short.

*An Gannas* Edition 1 was published in December 1976 and it consists of 6 pages of A4 paper. It contains details of Christmas cards with greetings in Cornish which were available from Old Cornwall Societies and Mebyon Kernow. There are details of Cornish language Christmas services to be held at St Ive church just before Christmas and also at Gulval. There is a report on the rugby match held on 15 September 1976 in Redruth between Cornwall and England under 23s which Cornwall won 12-7. Graham says that he included this story to show that Cornish can succeed in modern-day use. There is an article on bagpipes in Cornwall and the evidence that they existed prior to the reformation based on carvings in churches such as at Altarnun and Davidstow. There is a cartoon very much like Snoopy by Tony Casey and a page for beginners.

In Edition 1, the annual subscription for receiving *An Gannas* (12 copies including postage) is shown as £1.70p. Also, the annual subscription for the 3-monthly magazine Eythen (4 copies including postage) is 90p. There is a reduced price for receiving the two together of £2.50 – a saving of 10p!

An *Gannas* through the Years

In Edition 2, there is an interesting editorial which reviews the state of the Cornish language at the beginning of 1977. There was a monthly Yeth an Werin which was meeting in west Cornwall. There were music groups such as Tremenysy and Quylkyn Tew ha Tavas singing in the language. There were articles in Cornish in the magazines Carn, Cornish Life and Kenethel. Each week, there were 5 minutes of spoken Cornish by John Page in the BBC’s Morning South West. It was planned to put bilingual Kernow/Cornwall signs on the roads crossing the border, thanks to the Gorsedh.

Graham’s hopes to publish letters were starting to be fulfilled by Edition 4 (March 1977) where Ken George responded to an earlier letter from Tony Casey discussing damage from a tidal surge at Penzance. These texts were pushing the boundaries of Cornish language terminology for that time.

In July 1977, there is confirmation that a Kernow/Cornwall road sign had been installed on the A30 at Launceston. The first crossword appears in October 1977, though without the famous clue ‘an mis ma’ (this month) which has proved a useful starting point in solving more recent crosswords.

There are details of the fifth Pennseythun Gernewek in the November 1978 edition. The event was to be held at Fowey Hotel from 23-25 March 1979 and the cost was given as £13 to include accommodation for the Friday and Saturday nights with all meals. Bookings were to be made by the beginning of January 1979 using forms available from evening class teachers or from John Page in Fowey.

In January 1980, *An Gannas* started to be published by Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek and in that month’s edition, it is stated that copies of the magazine could be obtained from Brian Webb, Secretary of the Kowethas. He stated that he would be happy to receive articles in Cornish about the life of Cornwall and suggestions to improve the publication.

The 100th edition was published in April 1985 and Graham says in his editorial that it is fortunate that the production of *An Gannas* had coincided with a large growth in the status of the language (something which the magazine must have played a part). He says that, at first, he had to write most of the contents of *An Gannas* himself but that, by then, he was doing the real job of an editor and that the real difficulty was in deciding which of the contributions to leave out each month.