



GORSEDH KERNOW – THE CORNISH GORSEDH 1928 - 2017

Arrangements for Gorsedh Kernow 2017 in Launceston

Solempnita Gorsedh Kernow, dy Sadorn 2sa mis Gwynngala, Kastel Lannstevan / Gorsedh Kernow ceremony Saturday 2nd September, Launceston Castle

This year's ceremony will be held in the grounds of **LAUNCESTON CASTLE** and will be conducted by the Grand Bard of Cornwall, Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn*, assisted by Gorsedh Kernow Officers.

Booking for Launceston 2017

With this special newsletter you will find a form to book a place for the Saturday bardic ceremony, for the bardic tea in Launceston Town Hall (£6.50) and places at the Friday Gorsedh Kernow conference (£5 inc pasty) and the Saturday evening concert in the Central Methodist Church (£5). If for any reason you have not received the booking form please contact the Membership Secretary, David Holman, *Rifelwas*, by email on membership@gorsedhkernow.org.uk

If you would like to pay online via PayPal/credit card/debit card you can do so via the PayPal button at www.gorsedhkernow.org.uk/newsforbards.html#booking.

Please download and fill in the editable booking form, sending it as an attachment to the Treasurer Jerry Rogers at tickets@gorsedhkernow.org.uk and confirming that you have paid via PayPal. Please note that you will need to fill in the total owed on the PayPal screen when paying. You do not need a PayPal account to pay by credit or debit card.

If booking by ordinary post please send your completed booking form with a self addressed envelope, cheque or postal order for the full amount as appropriate, made payable to **Launceston Town Council** and send it to:- **Helen Gribble, Responsible Financial Officer, Launceston Town Council, The Town Hall, Western Road, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7AR**

ALL BOOKINGS MUST ARRIVE PLEASE BY FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST 2017.

The bardic tea is for bards and invited guests only as unfortunately we have insufficient room to accommodate friends and relatives as well. For bards who are not booking a bardic tea, and for their families and friends, there will be tea and refreshments available on the ceremony field as well as in the cafes, pubs and restaurants around Launceston.

Accommodation

If you wish to stay in the area and have not already booked accommodation you are strongly advised to do so as soon as possible. The Launceston Tourist Information Centre telephone number is 01566 772321 or email info@launcestontic.co.uk or visit the website www.visitlaunceston.co.uk Since the last newsletter was sent out, the Eagle House Hotel, near the Castle, has re-opened although it does not appear on the TIC website but it appears on an online booking agency website.

Directions to Launceston

From the A30 Pennygillam junction take the A388 towards Launceston Town Centre.

Directions to the Central Methodist Church for robing - follow the main road (A388 Western Road), bearing left into St. Thomas Road at the junction by the Town Hall (on your right) and opposite the castle. After approximately 500 yards take the first turning on the right into Dockacre Road. Take the next turning on the right into Tower Street. This road is quite steep. On the left, as the road bends sharply to the right, there is a car park and at the top of the road (Castle Street) is the Central Methodist Church.

The route from the A388 Tavistock Road (further in from the Pennygillam junction) will be marked by black and white Garsedh Kernow signs.

For a map of Launceston with all car parks please see <https://carparkmaps.co.uk/carparks/Launceston>

A map is enclosed with this newsletter showing Esedhvos and ceremony venues and some car parks.

Car parking in Launceston

Short stay car parks – 3 hours or less, no return within 3 hours.

[Castle Street, PL15 8BA](#); [Cattle Market, Race Hill, PL15 9BA](#); [Pannier Market, PL15 7BA](#); [Walkhouse, PL15 8BQ](#). The Walkhouse and Castle Street car parks are quite small and get very busy on a Saturday so if you wish to use either of these please get there in good time.

Long stay car parks

The closest car park to Launceston Town Hall is the **Westgate Street** multi-storey car park and public conveniences, owned and managed by Launceston TC. There are 128 spaces and 2 blue badge disabled spaces available. Tickets can be purchased for any period of time from one hour to one week.

Charges are; 1 hour = 60p; 2 hours = £1.30; 3 hours = £2.00; 4 hours = £3.00; 10 hours = £5.00.

Please do not park motorhomes in this car park as there is a height restriction at the entrance. The coach park opposite should also not be used - parking tickets will be issued to vehicles other than coaches. Public conveniences are available in this car park, including a toilet for the less able (24 hour access - RADAR key required). The toilets are open from 8am until 6pm.

Race Hill long stay shoppers' car park, Launceston PL15 9BA, is the biggest surface car park in the town. It is also known as The Cattle Market. The entrance is about 350 yards from the Central Methodist church. Ignore the first entrance which is for short stay, the long stay is just after that. According to the Cornwall Council website, from Monday to Saturday the charge is £2 to park from 9am-4pm and free after that until 9am the next morning. It's free all day Sunday.

Other long stay car parks in Launceston

For season ticket holders only [Duke Street, PL15 8HD](#) and [Tower Street, PL15 8BQ](#)

Disabled bards

There will be designated parking spaces for disabled people on the lower deck of the Westgate Street (Town Hall) car park. Otherwise there is ample space in the other public car parks.

The area for robing for disabled bards will be on the ground floor of the Central Methodist Church hall. There is step-free access from the left hand side of the building when viewed from the road (with Jericho's behind you). The ceremony site is about 450 yards from the robing rooms. There will be a **minibus** if this distance is a problem and **if you require assistance to the bardic circle please fill in the booking form** appropriately and **please advise the Senior Marshal, Tim Hambly, Roscarrek, in advance if you have any other special requirements for the day.**

Route to and from the bardic ceremony site

The site for the bardic ceremony is Launceston Castle grounds. The procession route to Castle Green is about 450 yards and is generally fairly flat but there is a steep slope up into the Castle. The outward route is Church Street – High Street – through the Square (across cobble stones) – Broad Street – Castle. For the return route, about 250 yards, we will go out of the north gate of the Castle (steep slope down), past the Eagle House Hotel then up Castle Street which is steep and has a rough surface.

Robing

Robing rooms will be open from **10.30am onwards in Launceston Central Methodist Church, Castle Street, PL15 8BA. There will be NO morning civic procession.** Bards are advised to arrive early for robing. Robing rooms will be clearly signposted and will be shown on a plan when you arrive. Please note – **Bards are asked NOT to eat in any of the changing rooms** – thank you.

Tea and coffee will be available in the church before the ceremony and of course there will be food and refreshments stalls in the ceremony field.

New bards

Following numerous requests, we have decided to take a group photograph of all new bards, with the Grand Bard Merv Davey if possible, as a welcoming souvenir of this special day. In order to keep to a reasonable timetable the photograph will be taken by one of Gorsedh Kernow's official photographers, Gareth Parry or Ivor Corkell, **in the robing room before the briefing for the bardic ceremony.**

Timings for the Gorsedh Kernow bardic ceremony – Launceston Castle - Saturday 2nd September

10.30am Robing rooms open in Central Methodist Church, Castle Street, Launceston, PL15 8BA.

12.30pm Initiates to be robed before a briefing at this time by the Initiates Stewards and a group photograph with the Grand Bard.

1pm All Bards to be robed. The Senior Marshal will brief bards, guests, initiates, Lady of Cornwall and dancers with the specific instructions for the ceremony in Launceston Castle grounds.

1.30pm Bardic Procession leaves Central Methodist Church for the Circle.

2pm The Gorsedh Ceremony begins in Launceston Castle grounds.

4.30pm Prompt! (Please note earlier time) Grace in Cornish for bardic tea in Launceston Town Hall for Gorsedh Kernow Council's special guests and bards who have pre-booked.

Dress & decorum

Please ensure that your robe is clean and ironed. **No jeans, shorts or trainers to be worn under robes please.** It is important that the ceremony is orderly and impressive, so please retain ranks throughout processions.

Seating

The chairs forming the Bardic circle are for Bards, Dignitaries and special guests only. Public attendance is FREE and welcomed, but visitors are asked please not to enter the Bardic circle although they are very welcome to bring their own chairs and view the ceremony from behind the circle.

We hope that visitors will regard the ceremony as a mark of the unique difference between the Celtic nation of Cornwall, now recognised under the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and the entirely separate counties of England.

Wet weather

In the event of wet weather the afternoon Gorsedh Kernow bardic ceremony will take place in St Mary Magdalene Church, Church Street, Launceston, PL15 8AU.

Photography

Sorry but only official Gorsedh Kernow photographers will be allowed in the bardic circle during the ceremony.

Eshvos Festival of Cornish Culture

An outline of the programme is below. Full details will be sent with the next newsletter. It will also be posted on the Gorsedh Kernow website Eshedvos page and Gorsedh Kernow Facebook page. Please try and come to as many of these events as possible, your support will be most welcome.

Wednesday 30th August onwards

Grand Bard's chair on display @ St Mary Magdalene Church, Launceston

Thursday 31st August

11am - 3pm Book Festival and book launch @ Launceston Town Hall

6pm Display and Presentation of Gorsedh Kernow Adults Awards & Competitions and Young People's Awards @ Launceston Town Hall

Friday 1st September

10am – 4.30pm Conference "Cornish Culture and Tourism – Friends or Foes?" @ Launceston Town Hall. Tickets £5 to include pasty lunch. Advanced booking essential.

7.30pm Cornish Troyl/Ceilidh with Carmen Hunt & ScootsKernow @ Launceston Town Hall.

Saturday 2nd September

Morning Cornish stalls open @ Launceston Castle.

1.30pm Procession of bards from Central Methodist Church, Launceston via The Square to Launceston Castle

2pm Gorsedh Kernow bardic ceremony @ Launceston Castle or @ St Mary Magdalene Church if wet

7pm Gala Concert @ Central Methodist Church, Launceston. Tickets £5. Advanced booking advised.

8.30pm Cornish singalong @ The Bell Inn.

Sunday 3rd September

9.30 – 11.30am “Blas a Gernewek – A Taste of Cornish” session @ Launceston Town Hall. Refreshments available.

11am History Walk around Launceston starting @ Launceston Town Hall and finishing @ The Bell Inn.

3pm Evensong in Cornish @ St Mary Magdalene Church, Launceston. Collection for church funds.

The general public, both locals and visitors to the area, are welcome to attend all the above events, most of which are free.

Ceremony booklet

The ceremony is conducted mainly in Cornish and a ceremony booklet with proceedings in English and Cornish will be available for purchase at a cost of £2.

Celtic delegates

Gorsedh Kernow warmly welcomes representatives from our sister nations of Brittany and Wales. We hope they have a memorable time.

We also warmly welcome those who have travelled great distances, especially those from the Diaspora, to be with us in Cornwall for our celebrations.

Linear order of procession

To facilitate the work of the Marshals and Stewards in forming the procession, it is requested that bards and guests acquaint themselves with the linear order of the procession, which is as follows:-

Marshal, Piper, Gorsedh Banner, Initiates, Bards, St. Piran's Banner, Council Members, Esedhvos Banner, Mistress of Robes and Herald, Chanter and Chaplain, Horner, Dancers, Lady and Attendants, Past Deputy Grand Bards, Past Grand Bards, Secretary and Treasurer, Breton Banner, Breton Representatives, Welsh Banner, Welsh Representatives, Deputy Grand Bard, Sword Bearer, Grand Bard, Junior Marshal, Deputy Senior Steward, Old Cornwall Society Banners.

Stalls

There will be a number of stalls at the Launceston Castle site selling Cornish language books, Cornish memorabilia, jewellery, crafts and other goods with a Cornish theme. Displays are also welcome if they relate to Cornish cultural life. We are hoping to provide small marquees for stall holders. Stalls will also be available at the Book Festival and book launch in Launceston Town Hall on Thursday 31st August.

Details and application forms are available from Pat Parkins, Gorsedh Kernow Esedhvos Events Manager, email esedhvos@gorsedhkernow.org.uk or tel 07762 169 733.

Thanks

The Council of Gorsedh Kernow is very grateful to the Launceston Local Organising Committee, the members of which have worked tirelessly to help us deliver a memorable Esedhvos Festival and bardic ceremony, and also Launceston Town Council, Central Methodist Church, St Mary Magdalene Church, Launceston Castle, The Bell Inn and to all local organisations and volunteers for their welcome and for the help given, without whose assistance our ceremony and Esedhvos Festival could not be staged.

You can keep up to date with news about Gorsedh Kernow and the Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture

on our website www.gorsedhkernow.org.uk or you can  Find us on Facebook or follow us on 

Myrghwyn Melynor / Delia Brotherton, Gorsedh Kernow Communications Officer