

Kernow Goth or **Old Cornwall** is a movement with a mission. Its members have the broad and inclusive aims of preserving and recording Cornwall's threatened traditions, its unique culture, its language and dialect, and of caring for its environment, and promoting public awareness of these concerns.



In existence for over a century, it has spread across the length and breadth of Cornwall, and is working to establish links with other like-minded groups.



A great number of other organizations, some amateur, some professional, have taken up Old Cornwall's early lead. They aim to look after

particular aspects of Cornwall's culture, for instance, the Cornish language, the music, or the archaeology. Looking to the future, there are encouraging signs of mutually-shared ambitions to foster improved co-operation.



Some Old Cornwall Societies are quite small, whilst a number have well over 100 members. Each one is run independently with its own officers and committee. Membership is certainly not confined to those with long Cornish ancestries, but Old Cornwall welcomes all those who truly care for Cornwall's distinctiveness.



Each Old Cornwall Society normally elects a Recorder, whose duty it is to collect and record the data gathered by its members about aspects of their community which might disappear, perhaps buildings, place-names, dialect words and phrases, archaeological

artefacts, recollected history, and so forth. This is a very important role, and some Societies might choose to supplement the general Recorder's post with another of, say, Dialect Recorder, Photographic Recorder, or Archaeological Recorder.

Publishing Old Cornwall members' research has been a long-standing activity (see overleaf).

Walks and talks for community bodies and schools have long been a feature of Society activities, and many Old Cornwall local historians give freely of their time and expertise to inform and educate others.



Our Societies are united by a Federation which can bring members together at events spread throughout the year. Traditional ceremonies take place, such as Tansys Golowan – the Midsummer's Eve Bonfires, 'Crying the Neck' harvest ceremonies, the Cornish Gorsedh, when their colourful banners are paraded, and Christmas celebrations when the Cornish carol melodies are sung.

Throughout their existence a watchful eye has been kept on Cornwall's ancient

monuments. Their care and restoration has often been at their instigation and voluntary work. Sometimes this is in co-operation with other societies, sometimes the local authorities, for whom the local awareness provided by Old Cornwall can be vital.

Some Societies have established museums. In other communities members are involved with volunteer-managed museums and heritage centres.

A twice-yearly members' journal, *Kernow Goth / Old Cornwall*, is published by the Federation, and contains very varied articles, many contributed by members. Subscriptions by non-members are also accepted. Contact the Publications Officer.

Over the years the Federation has published a considerable number of books usually by members, and pamphlets about particular customs.

Publications contacts:

Publications Officer

Email: publications@oldcornwall.net

The Federation's online shop
www.kernowgoth.org/shop (with Paypal, credit card and Bacs payment facilities).

Any good bookshop will either stock or order the Federation's publications.

Photos:

Front: Roche Rock.

Inside: Midsummer Bonfire; Crying the Neck; Wheal Peevor, Redruth; Fingerpost near Mabe; Mevagissey; Newquay huer's hut; King Doniert's stone, St Cleer
[all © G T Knight].

Sellan cross, Sancreed [©A G Langdon].

Old Cornwall Societies

Motto

"Kyntelleugh an brewyon es gesys,
na vo kellys travyth."

"Gather ye the fragments that are left,
that nothing be lost."

There are currently over 40 Societies spread throughout Cornwall. Each one is a member of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies. Its President normally serves for 3 years.

Why not join us?

For details of local Societies and their programmes, go to -

Our website:

www.kernowgoth.org

- and see "Member Societies".

Watch us at: www.facebook.com/oldcornwall

Secretary, Federation of Old Cornwall Societies:

Email: secretary@oldcornwall.net

Your local Old Cornwall Society contact:



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OLD CORNWALL SOCIETIES

What are they?

What do they do?

