

# CELTIC CONGRESS - CORNWALL

## NEWSLETTER 2023

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Dear One and All

I hope you are all enjoying this lovely weather.

Having recently returned from Waterford for the International Celtic Congress I thought I'd send out a newsletter to let you all know about our time there.

We had some interesting talks on the theme Nature. From Ireland Éanna Ní Lamha spoke about the history of trees there taken from archaeological evidence. Many trees we have here are not found in Ireland as obviously it's a different climate. It was very interesting and we were left much better informed! We then had a report from Ian Dunn and Joy Rooney on the archaeological work they are doing on the East Coast and South Wales assessing the evidence showing the land was joined or the sea much shallower. The talk from Roland Mogn from Brittany showed the immense amount of work which has been carried out by himself or others and is available by looking on-line for 'Plantkelt'. A really interesting talk showing the evidence of the occurrence of similar plant names in the Celtic Countries. Loveday Jenkin spoke about placenames in Cornish relating to trees and what is being carried out here by Merlin Hanbury-Tenisomn concerning Atlantic Temperate Rain Forests.

The evening music sessions were given by various entertainers from Ireland and the Breton Speaker, and our duo, Brother Sea, who enjoyed themselves with the Congress and at a venue or two in the City. We had entertainment one evening from a group of children from the area who played a range of instruments from harps to concertina to whistles. A talented group of young people.

Our day out began by visiting Dungarvan where we stopped to look at the port and to wander around the town led by a local guide. We then went a site on a hillside where many people who died during the famine were buried. The field was given by a local landowner and is kept tidy but not altered in memory of those who are buried there. We then went on to Ardmore which is well known for the remains St Declan's cathedral and his oratory.





After lunch at a hotel we went on to Mount Melleray Abbey (a Cistercian Monastery) where the ecumenical service took place, thank you to David Fieldsend who read the Cornish. The monks there were very hospitable and we were able to have tea and cake there followed by a look around the outside of the monastery and the shop. Those who wished to were invited to take part in Vespers. The Abbot spent time showing us the various stained glass windows and gave us some information on the history of the Monastery.

The Congress finished on the Friday morning but Ray and I and David and Anne Fieldsend went to Mount Congreve Gardens – a huge garden and woodland previously in the ownership of the Congreve family for 300 years. Earlier in the week during a free afternoon we had tried to visit Hook lighthouse, it is the oldest intact working lighthouse in the world, unfortunately the road was closed and so we had to return on the ferry. To get there and back we had to cross the river Suir by a small car ferry from Passage East to Ballyhack – pictured here.



The Irish branch have been thanked for organising the Congress and we now await the International Committee meeting to find out how the organisation will go forward next year onward.

We have brought back some programmes if anyone would like a copy.

It would be good to organise some events this year and we hope to organise something we hope to sort some dates out for these at our next meeting shortly.

Gans oll an gwella

Denise Chubb  
Secretary