

# **AN LYTHERENNEK MEUR**

THE COMPLETE CORNISH ALPHABET

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Typeset with Typst

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# 1 A-dro About

## 1.a An awtour

*The author*

J. C. Andrever-Wright yw skrifer, studhyer, ha dyskador an yeth Kernowek. Yma hun ow studhya an yeth a-dhia 2019. Hun a gesost an hwarvos seythenneyel *Yeth an Werin Warlinen* keffrys ha kesperghenna an leuren Discord *Dyski Kernowek*, a-dhia 2020. Avel rann an para *Bagas Gonisogeth Kernow*, hun a weresas an gemeneth ow tismygi hag avonsya rakhenwyn ha yeth diduel yn Kernowek. Y hyllir redya eydh baperen *Proposals and degrees of gender-neutral vocabulary in the Cornish language* dhe dhiskudha moy.

*J. C. Andrever-Wright is a writer, student, and teacher of the Cornish language. They have been studying the language since 2019. They have co-hosted the weekly event Yeth an Werin Warlinen and co-owned the Dyski Kernowek Discord server since 2020. As a member of the Bagas Gonisogeth Kernow team, they have helped the community invent and advance gender-neutral pronouns and language in Cornish. You can read their paper *Proposals and degrees of gender-neutral vocabulary in the Cornish language* to find out more.*

Y teu hun a Goberynys, ha trigys yw yn Loundres gans eydh gespar.

*They come from Cyprus, and they live in London with their partner.*

## 1.b An ragdres

### *The project*

Yma rychedh an yeth Kernowek a-berth yn varyans kowrek usi ynni. Gans moy es milvledhen a istori war hy lergh yma lies varyans an yeth a veu kovadhys, a Gernowek Koth an 10ves kansbledhen dell welir y'n *Vocabularium Cornicum*, dhe Gernowek Diwedhes dell welir mar dhiwedhes avel yn ober Lhuyd ha tus y oos. Dres an termyn pur hir ma y hyllir merkya chanj pur vras yn gnas an yeth ha'y gerva.

*The richness of the Cornish language lies in the enormous variation within it. With over a millennium of history under its belt there are many attested varieties of the language from the Old Cornish of the 10th century as is seen in the Vocabularium Cornicum, to the Late Cornish seen as late as in the work of Lhuyd and his contemporaries. Throughout such a long period of time one can notice great changes in the nature of the language and its vocabulary.*

Herwydh meur varyans an yeth ma dres hy istori, y feu ynwedh lies furv skrifys herwydh hengov spellyansow dyffrans. Mar mynnir kewsel a'n yeth yn maner a-vanyl y tal dismygi hag usya fordh savonegys a dheskrifa pub gnasen anedhi. Yn-mysk henna yma edhom a allos deskrifa spellyans geryow. Y'n eur ma nys eus lytherennek a veu komposys dre vaner restrys hag a yssyns pub lytheren usys yn pub varyans an yeth; ytho, an lytherenogow usi seulabrys ny yllons deskrifa an yeth dien.

*Because of the great variation in this language throughout its history, there have been a great many different orthographical traditions. If we want to discuss the language in a detailed manner it falls to us to invent and use standardised ways of describing every aspect of it. Among this is the need to be able to describe the spelling of words. Currently there is no alphabet that has been put together in an organised manner and which includes every letter used in every variation of the language; so, the alphabets currently in existence cannot describe the full language.*

Keffrys ha henna, yma henwyn dyffrans dhe lytherennow y'n lytherenogow mayth yw kemyskys devedhyans pub hanow, ytho ny yllir dargana henwyn pub lytheren.

*In addition to that, letters in each alphabet have different names, in which the etymology of each name is mixed up, so it is impossible to predict the name of each letter.*

Rakhenna y tismygis an lytherennek ma: dhe dhiamstyrya deskrifans an yeth hag ow surhe bos pub varyans an yeth delinys y'n deskrifans na. Yma an lytherennek ow sewya an rewlys a-woles:

*That is why I created this alphabet: to disambiguate description of the language while assuring that every variety of the language is represented in that description. The alphabet follows the rules below:*

1. **Reythter**: pub lytheren yw res hanow reyth ha darganadow.
2. **Kowalder**: lytherennow usys yn py varyans pynag yw yssynsys.
3. **Kewarder**: kehys ha dell vo possybyl, hanow an lytheren yw delinyans kewar hy son.
4. **Kesunyans son**: ny fols an lytherennek son unnik dhe dhiw lytheren.

1. **Regularity**: every letter is given a regular and predictable name.
2. **Completeness**: letters used in any variety are included.
3. **Accuracy**: as much as possible, the letter's name is an accurate representation of its sound.
4. **Unification of sound**: the alphabet does not split a single sound into a digraph.



## **2 Termys**

*Terms*

Kyns kemynna an lytherennek res vydh provia ha styrya nebes termys:

*Before introducing the alphabet it is necessary to provide and define several terms:*

**Kessonen:** a consonant.

**Bogalen:** a vowel.

**Syllaben:** a syllable.

**Pennran:** the onset of a syllable.

**Kresran:** the nucleus of a syllable.

**Lostran:** the coda of a syllable.

**A-lev:** voiced, of a consonant.

**Dilev:** unvoiced or voiceless, of a consonant.

**Deges:** close(d), of a vowel.

**Ryb-deges:** near-close(d), of a vowel.

**Deges troha kres:** close-mid, of a vowel.

**A-gres:** mid, of a vowel.

**Ygor troha kres:** open-mid, of a vowel.

**Ryb-ygor:** near-open, of a vowel.

**Ygor:** open, of a vowel.

**A-rag:** front, of a vowel.

**Kresel:** central, of a vowel.

**A-gil:** back, of a vowel.

**Krenn:** rounded, of a vowel

**Platt:** unrounded, of a vowel.

### **3 Kessonennow**

*Consonants*

Pub hanow kessonen yw furvys gans son kessonen yn savla an bennran, ha bogalen yn savla an gresran.

*Every consonant name is formed with a consonant sound in the onset position and a vowel in the nucleus position.*

**3.a Kessonennow a-lev**

*Voiced consonants*

Henwyn an kessonennow a-lev yw furvys gans son an gessonen y’n bennran, ha’n vogalen **e** y’n gresran.

*The names of voiced consonants are formed with the consonant sound in the onset and the vowel **e** in the nucleus.*

Lytheren (Letter)	Hanow (Name)
b	be
d	de
dh	dhe
g	ge
j	je
l	le
m	me
n	ne
r	re
v	ve
w	we
y	ye
z	ze

### 3.b Kessonennow dilev

*Unvoiced consonants*

Henwyn an kessonennow dilev yw furvys gans son an gessonen y’n bennran, ha’n vogalen **a** y’n gresran.

*The names of unvoiced consonants are formed with the consonant sound in the onset and the vowel **a** in the nucleus.*

Lytheren (Letter)	Hanow (Name)
ch	cha
f	fa
h	ha
k	ka
p	pa
q	kwa
s	sa
sh	sha
t	ta
th	tha
hw ~ wh	wa

### 3.c Kessonennow erryus

#### *Deviating consonants*

Yma nebes kessonennow y’n yeth na yll omdhesedha dhe’n rewlys profys a-wartha drefen bos usys neb hanow mayth omdhesedhsons orta seulabrys, po drefen nag yw usys an lytheren yn savla pennran yn geryow y’n yeth. Hanow an kessonennow ma yw **kessonennow erryus**. Henwyn an kessonennow ma yw furvys gans son neb kessonen perthynek y’n bennran, hag an vogalen **i** y’n gresran.

*There are a few consonants in the language that cannot conform to the rules set out above because a certain name to which they would conform is already used, or because the letter is not used in the onset position in words in the language. These consonants are called **deviating consonants**. The name of these consonants are formed with the sound of a relevant consonant in the onset, and the vowel **i** in the nucleus.*

Lytheren (Letter)	Hanow (Name)
c	ki
gh	hi
gw	gi
ng	ni
x	si

Rag ensampel, nyns eus hanow aral a omdhesedhsa orth an lytheren **c**, rag bos usys **ka** seulabrys. Ytho y’n henwir **ki**.

*For example, there is no other name that could be used for the letter **c**, because **ka** is already being used. So, it is named **ki**.*

## **4 Bogalennow**

Vowels

An bogalennow yw pur sempel. An re selyek nyns yw furvys saw gans son an vogalen avel kresran hy honan. An re erel yw varyansow bogalennow selyek gans an ger **eyl**.

*The vowels are very simple. The basic vowels are only formed by the vowel sound as a nucleus on its own. The others are variations of basic vowels with the word **eyl**.*

Lytheren (Letter)	Hanow (Name)
a	a
e	e
eu	eyl e
i	i
o	o
oo, oe, o	eyl o
u	ou
ou	eyl ou
*y	*eyl i

Rag bos leveryans an lytheren **u** mar dhyffrans yntra lies varyans, **ou** yw hy hanow, leverys avel an vogalen y'n ger **gour**.

*Because the pronunciation of the letter **u** is so different between many varieties, its name is **ou**, pronounced like the vowel in the word **gour**.*

Merk ynwedh bos an lytheren **y** yssynsys omma keffrys hag yn rol kessonennow. Yma hi omma arta yn-dann hanow "**eyl i**" rag kowsoryon dhe gavos chons a-dhewis dhe henwel an lytheren **y** avel bogalen yn komparek. Nyns yw res vytholl an devnydh ma.

*Note additionally that the letter **y** is included here as well as on the list of consonants. It is here under the name **eyl i** for speakers to have the optional chance to name the letter **y** as a vowel specifically. This usage is not mandatory at all.*



## **5 Nosow**

*Diacritics*

Yma lies varyans an yeth ow kul devnydh a **nosow**, yn-mysk an varyansow *Kernowek Unys (hag Amendys)*, *Kernowek Standard*, *Curnoack Nowedga*, ha hwath moy. Ytho, an lytherennek ma a brof henwyn rag an nosow hag yw usys y'n yeth Kernowek, ha lies moy a-barth kowalder. Kyns oll otta nosow usys yn Kernowek.

*Many varieties of the language make use of **diacritics**, among those varieties are Unified Cornish (Amended), Kernowek Standard, Curnoack Nowedga, and more still. So, this alphabet will offer names for the diacritics used in the Cornish language, and many more for the sake of completeness. Firstly here are the diacritics used in Cornish.*

Lytheren (Letter)	Hanow (Name)
ˉ Ää	nor barr
˘ Àà	nos poos
^ Ââ	nos to
¨ Ëë	nos dewlagas

War-lergh henna otta nosow ollgemmyn.

*After that here are some general diacritics.*

<b>Lytheren</b> (Letter)	<b>Hanow</b> (Name)
˘ Ää	nos bolla
° Åå	nos bysow
˘ Ăă	nos genn
˘ Ȧȧ	nos higen
˘ Aą	nos lost
˘ Áá	nos lymm
˘ Àà	nos poynt
˘ .Aạ	nos poynt a-is
˘ ãã	nos tonn
˘ Çç	nos sedila
˘ Hh	nos barr a-is
- Ĥĥ	nos linen a-dreus
˘ Œœ	nos dewlymm
˘ Œœ	nos korn
˘ Şş	nos treghen

Y leverir pub nos wosa hanow an lytheren usi orth y berthi. Y hyllir sewya an lytheren gans ...*gans nos...*, ...*nos...*, po saw hanow an nos.

*One should say the name of each diacritic after the name of the letter which uses it. One can follow the letter with ...gans nos..., ...nos..., or simply the diacritic name.*

Ynwedh, mars eus diwlytheren yn Kernowek a us nos yn hy hynsa rann, res yw leverel hanow an dhiwlytheren gans hanow an nos.

*Additionally, if there is a digraph in Cornish that uses a diacritic in its first part, one should say the name of the digraph with the diacritic name.*

## **6 Aray keskorrans**

*Collation order*

Hag y lytherennow profys hag an lytherennek kowlwrys a neb sort, y koodh wortiwedh profya aray an lytherennow dhe selya an fordh may hyllir restra dogvennow herwydh aga hynsa lytheren.

*With its letters introduced and the alphabet complete to some extent, it is necessary finally to introduce an order for the letters to establish a manner in which documents can be organised according to their initial letter.*

Kyn halsen vy (ha kyn hwrug yn privedh) kemynna aray keskorrans nowydh herwydh, rag ensampel, heglewder, po savla a-hys an chanel lev, ow frofyans alemma rag yw gwitha aray keskorrans an lytherennek Latinek, gans varyansow kemynns a-wartha les ryb lytheren berthynek.

*Although I could (as I have done in private) introduce a new collation order according to, for example, sonority, or position along the vocal tract, my recommendation from here on out is to keep the collation order of the Latin alphabet, with variations introduced above placed next to a related letter.*

An aray a le ytho lytherennow erryus wosa hanow lytheren a berth kynsa son hanow an lytheren erryus. Ynwedh, pub bogalen gans "eyl" yn hy hanow yw les wosa hanow lytheren heb an ger na.

*So, the order will place divergent letters after a letter name that carries the first sound of a divergent letter. Also, every vowel with "eyl" in its name is placed after the letter name without that word.*

<b>Lytheren</b> (Letter)	<b>Hanow</b> (Name)
a	a
b	be
ch	cha
d	de
dh	dhe
e	e
eu	eyl e
f	fa
g	ge
gw	gi
h	ha
gh	hi
i	i
*y	*eyl i
j	je
k	ka
c	ki
l	le
m	me
n	ne
ng	ni
o	o
oo, oe, o	eyl o

<b>Lytheren</b> (Letter)	<b>Hanow</b> (Name)
p	pa
q	kwa
r	re
s	sa
x	si
sh	sha
t	ta
th	tha
u	ou
ou	eyl ou
v	ve
w	we
hw ~ wh	wa
y	ye
z	ze

Oll war-barth:

*All together:*

A  
a

B  
b

Ch  
ch

D  
d

Dh  
dh

E  
e

Eu  
eu

F  
f

G  
g

Gw  
gw

H  
h

—  
gh

I  
i

Y  
y

J  
j

K  
k

C  
c

L  
l

M  
m

N  
n

—  
ng

O  
o

Oo ~ Oe  
oo ~ oe  
o

P  
p

Q  
q

R  
r

S  
s

X  
x

Sh  
sh

T  
t

Th  
th

U  
u

Ou  
ou

V  
v

W  
w

Hw hw  
~  
Wh wh

Y  
y

Z  
z



Wortiwedh ny dal diblansa lytherennow herwydh hirder. Yn varyansow an yeth a wra devnydh a nosow y tal gorra geryow gans nosow ynna a-berth yn rannas an lytheren selyek perthynek dell viens gans rewlys keskorrens normal.

*Finally, words should not be separated by length. In variations of the language which use diacritics, words with diacritics should be placed within the section of the relevant basic letter, as they would be with normal collation rules.*

Mars eus geryow diblensys herwydh hirder hepken, y tal araya ger gans nos hirder wosa ger hebdho. Ytho, yn gerlyver may fia an geryow **dêl** ha **del**, aray an gerlyver a dal diskwedhes **del** kyns **dêl**.

*If there are words separated by length alone, one should order the word with a length diacritic after a word without one. So, in a dictionary in which there might be the words **dêl** and **del**, the dictionary order should display **del** before **dêl**.*

## **7 Devnydh hag ensamplow**

*Usage and examples*

Amkan an lytherennek dien yw deskriba an yeth dien. Yn resnel y sew y vos possybyl neb varyansow goheles neb lytherennow. Rag ensampel, y hwodhor na wra *Kernewek Kemmyn* usya **c**, **q**, po **x**; keffys ny wra *Curnoack Nowedga* devnydh a **oo ~ oe** po **eu**. Y'n kasow na y hyllir desedha an lytherennek yn ta dhe'n varyansow na dre dhilea an lytherennow didhevnydh a'n lytherennek dien, ha gasa hepken an lytherennow res.

*The aim of the complete alphabet is to describe the complete language. It follows logically that it is possible for some varieties to ignore certain letters. For example, it is known that Kernewek Kemmyn does not use c, q, or x; at the same time Curnoack Nowedga does not make use of oo ~ oe or eu. In these cases one can adapt the alphabet well to those varieties by removing useless letters from the complete alphabet, leaving only the necessary letters.*

Yma ensamplow a-woles kemerys a erlyvrow lies varyans an yeth.

*There are some examples below taken from dictionaries of several varieties of the language.*

**Kemynegoresow:** KA-E-ME-YE-NE-E-GE-O-RE-E-SA-O-WE  
(*Gerlyver Warlinen, Akademi Kernewek*)

**Yeuni:** YE-EYL E-NE-I (*Gerlyver Meur, Ken George*)

**Desempiz:** DE-E-SA-E-ME-PA-I-ZE (*Gerlyver Hedhyw, Tim Saunders*)

**Gwlasegeth:** GWE-LE-A-SA-E-GE-E-THA (*Gerlyver Rod Lyon Sawsnek-Kernowek*)

**Ternestaṯha:** TA-E-RE-NE-E-SA-TA-A-THA-SEDILA-A (*Teer ha tavaz, via Web Archive*)