

BRO NEVEZ

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE
NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. BRANCH



AR REDADEG
10th EDITION
10^{vet}

BEVAÑ
BODAN
BEZAN

LANNUON
NAONED

BEVAÑ = VIVRE · BODAN = RASSEMBLER · BEZAN = ÊTRE

8 > 16 / 05 / 2026

LANNUON >>> NAONED

Redomp gant plijadur evit ar brezhoneg

Course relais de 2226 km pour la langue bretonne à travers toute la Bretagne

#NAONED2026 QUEST CONSEILS KERNE ELAGAGE silvadec YPREZHA DISTILLERIE MUNDUS informations @touroù

KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H AR BREZHONEG

No. 178

May 2026

Bro Nevez 178

May 2026

EDITOR'S ADDRESS & E-MAIL

Lois Kuter, Editor
Bro Nevez
605 Montgomery Road
Ambler, PA 19002 U.S.A.

215 886-6361
loiskuter@verizon.net

U.S. ICDBL website: www.icdbl.org

The U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language (U.S. ICDBL) was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation on October 20, 1981. *Bro Nevez* ("new country" in the Breton language) is the newsletter produced by the U.S. ICDBL. It is published quarterly. Contributions, letters to the editor, corrections, and ideas are welcome from all readers and will be printed at the discretion of the Editor.

The U.S. ICDBL provides *Bro Nevez* on a complimentary basis to a number of language and cultural organizations in Brittany to show our support for their work. Your Membership/Subscription allows us to mail print copies. Membership (which includes subscription) for one year is \$20. Checks should be in U.S. dollars, made payable to "U.S. ICDBL" and mailed to Lois Kuter at the address above.

This newsletter can be sent as a PDF file attached to an e-mail instead of the print version. Just let the Editor know how you would like to receive it. The e-mail version is much more colorful than the photocopied print copy!

Back issues of *Bro Nevez* can be found on the U.S. ICDBL website

Ideas expressed within this newsletter are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent ICDBL philosophy or policy. Unless otherwise noted Lois Kuter is the author of all articles in this issue. Contributions from others would be very welcome !

Editor's Note

Not being in Brittany, readers will note that my contributions to this newsletter are not based on original research. But, I do my best to dig out news and information that might not be easily accessible to the American/Canadian readers of *Bro Nevez*. It is time consuming and I cannot claim that I do not make mistakes in interpreting and summarizing the information I find. Letters to the Editor to note needed corrections are welcome!

The first article you will find in this issue of *Bro Nevez* addresses the problem of finding information about Brittany beyond touristic descriptions in the English language. For this article I did a bit of Google research, and also had some notes to show that – even if not highly visible – there are English language resources to be found. And, happily, Bretons themselves are in the forefront of providing this. Read on. – Lois Kuter

Is Brittany invisible to English speakers?

This April, an article by Remy Penneg was posted by Agence Bretagne Presse with the title "Brittany news: why Brittany is still invisible in English ... and why it's changing." The article notes that tourism is a main driver for English language publications: "Most English language content about Brittany tends to look the same. It highlights landscape, food, and traditional festivals." I believe that these are indeed great reasons to visit Brittany, but certainly there is more to Brittany than that, as Remy's article emphasizes.

In contrast to Brittany, it is noted that Wales, Scotland and Ireland produce a wealth of information in English on all topics making them internationally visible. The article notes however that things are changing with Breton media outlets building information in English to inform and educate and not just to attract tourists. Two media cited which provide news coverage as well as analysis of events and issues are Agence Bretagne Presse (news.bzh) and NHU Brittany (Ni Hon Unan) at nhu.bzh/nhu-brittany. I highly recommend NHU.bzh/Brittany-in-europe-analysis, a basic article to present Brittany as a unique entity within Europe.

Yes, the perspectives of Bretons themselves on a range of topics – social, economic, political, environmental, as well as cultural and linguistic – are important and welcome to English speakers who lack fluency in French or Breton. And NHU Brittany and Agence Bretagne Presse are well positioned to provide *current* news. Yet, while it takes some diligent searching, English language news about Brittany that goes well beyond tourism has been available for a number of years.

While not highly visible, *Bro Nevez* has been an English-language source of information since 1981 with 177 issues as of February 2026. All back issues are available on the U.S. ICDBL website. It has been sent in paper form as well as by e-mail to Americans, Canadians, and dozens of Breton individuals and organizations supporting the Breton language and culture. While the news it includes is not always timely with its quarterly schedule of publication, it covers a wide range of topics and events in Brittany.

Then, there's *Carn*, published since 1973 by the Celtic League with 191 issues as of Summer/Autumn 2025. With reports in the Celtic languages as well as English on a range of issues, this has surely served as a valued source of news for English speakers of the Celtic countries as well as the U.S. and Canada. Like *Bro Nevez*, *Carn* is not likely to be known to a wide public, but nevertheless has been a source of news for many years.

Of more recent vintage for English speakers living in Brittany was *Central Brittany Journal* which published 250 issues between 2004 and April 2025. The bulk of this magazine was directed to finding resources – familiar foods, home repairs, tax assistance, churches, gardening, or events organized by the English-speaking community in Brittany. But, the magazine also included some basic information about Breton history and culture.

For those interested in Breton music especially, the website *AllThingsBreton.org* is highly recommended. It cites as its goal: "...to provide a deep, content-rich, graphically exciting portal for the English-speaking world to learn more about the magnificent culture and music of Brittany." While the focus is on music (and not in a "folkloric" way), the site provides links to other English language resources such as the U.S. ICDBL and Breizh Amerika. It is indeed content-rich.

And, *Breizh Amerika* (breizh-amerika.com) should also be recognized as a significant source of information for English speakers. Since 2014 its hundreds of articles have been posted on its blog (in French and English) about a wide range of topics – history, famous people, music, cuisine, economy, environment, etc. – all available to readers. With the goal of forging links between Brittany and America the site reports on the work of this group to foster business as well as musical exchanges.

For those who want information about the Breton language and its use the *Ofis Publik ar Brezhoneg* is a great place to look. The main site has a Breton and French alternative, but a link provided by the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (npld.eu) takes you to a basic presentation by the Ofis Publik ar Brezhoneg: <https://npld.eu/ofis-publik-ar-brezhoneg-public-office-for-the-breton-language/>

Of course, finding all of these resources, including Ni Hon Unan and Agence Bretagne Presse, depends on knowing of their existence in the first place. For most English speakers who have a curiosity beyond touristic ambitions, a Google (or other search engine) website search is probably the first place they would look for a basic introduction to Brittany. This would take you to lots of tourism information but also to a number of other publications. Wikipedia is likely to jump up at the top of any search and this is not the worst place to get a start as an English speaker.

I tried several Google searches just to see what pops up first in site listings. Here's some of what I found. I did not delve beyond the first list of things that came up with each search and did not look into everything there. But this gives an idea of some of the good and not-so-good links Google provides.

Googling "English language news of Brittany"

Among the first links listed was the article cited above "Why Brittany is still invisible in English."

Also noted was *The Brittany Times*, a monthly publication "Connecting English-speaking residents and visitors across Brittany." Very much like *Central Brittany Journal*, this includes local news and events, nature and culture, with lots of advertising for services for English speakers living in Brittany.

Among the top sites to appear was *The Local France* which was mostly geared to tourism but included other news stories as well. *The Connexion* also popped up – "French news in English since 2002." This covers all of France with lots of context geared to tourists, but also coverage of current events such as the flooding this spring which impacted Brittany.

Googling "News from Brittany"

This led to a mix of sites about women named Brittany (see the note at the end of this article) as well as some of the sites noted above. This search also brought up news.bzh, the English language version of Agence Bretagne Presse.

Googling "Breton News" (as an English speaker might be tempted to do)

This leads to links mostly to articles about Cape Breton Island in Canada as well as an engineering company named "Breton" headquartered in Italy and an individual with a last name of Breton. But also, there was a link to a very short Wikipedia article about the magazine *Breton News* which was set up in the 1950s by Alan Heusaff (1921-1999) to bring news (especially political) to Breton expatriates in Ireland. It was published

in English, French and Breton and was later merged with *Carn*, the magazine of the Celtic League in which Heusaff was active.

Googling “Introduction to Brittany in English”

Here Wikipedia was prominent in the first list of sites as well as Britannica.com which led to a brief overview of all the Celtic countries.

Prominent in the search list also was the NHU article introducing Jean-Pierre Le Mat’s *History of Brittany, the Breton Point of View*. See *Bro Nevez*, 138, July 2016, for a review of that book which provides a great introduction to Breton history. Wendy Mewes has also written a history of Brittany in English, *Discovering the History of Brittany and Brittany: A Cultural History*, as well as a number of books about Brittany. See a note in *Bro Nevez* 176, December 2025.

Worth noting also is a link to the EBSCO site, a company supporting research and publication. One will be linked to a short introduction to Brittany which leaves much to be desired. For example, it states “French is the national language of Brittany, although some people still speak Breton and Celtic dialects.” Celtic dialects?? Much of the EBSCO information seemed directed to tourists.

Googling “Introduction to Breton Culture in English”

This also had a Wikipedia link featured as well as tourism sites. Also among the top cited links was *World Culture Encyclopedia* (everyculture.com). This offered a pretty woeful overview of Brittany with very brief introductions to a number of areas – geography, economy, population, language, folklore ... It depicted Bretons as very devout Catholics with festivals and traditions highly influenced by that.

Also in the sites coming up first was *studyguides.com* which provided a more interesting overview of cultural and linguistic challenges and resilience.

There was also a link to a YouTube “History of Brittany in under 5 minutes.” Covering prehistory through 1532 this was not terrible, but a map outline provided at intervals throughout showed only a Brittany of four departments, giving the impression that Loire-Atlantique was never a part of Brittany during the periods of history presented.

Googling “The Breton language”

This brought up a mix of good and not so good sites lacking in depth, sometimes to the point of inaccuracy.

Britannica.com was among the first to be found. Its description and history of the presence of the Breton language in Brittany left a bit to be desired. It noted: “a

Breton-language school system and bilingual education began to develop at the turn of the century.” Not sure what century they were referring to, but Diwan and the public and Catholic school bilingual programs were developed in the 1970s and early 1980s.

The Endangered Language Alliance stie was in need of updating and more accuracy when it came to the Breton language.

Also popping up in this search was a YouTube “Saving Breton from Extinction.” This featured the Eurovision performance by Ahes as well as some good interviews (in French with English subtitles) with Breton language teachers. The film clearly placed blame on France for the fragile situation of Breton.

Also to be found was the Wikipedia stie with a good presentation of the history and characteristics of the Breton language with lots of statistics and links to articles and websites for further details.

Found in this search was also a link to Gweltaz Hamel (gildas.ucsc.edu) and an interesting 1982 paper he authored, reflecting the state of things in 1982.

In addition there was a link to Breizh Amerika and a blog from August 2023 with a good presentation of the history and current challenges for Breton as well as actions being taken to support it. This included lots of statistics from 2022 (as recent as most can get). As noted earlier, Breizh Amerika has posted on its website a number of excellent articles about Brittany.

Last but not least, Minority Rights Group was linked. It provides a good but very brief section on schools and support for Breton, as well as a two-paragraph discussion of politics and Breton nationalism which needs much more context to avoid misinterpretations.

In conclusion

So, English speakers, do not be discouraged in your search for news and information about Brittany. It may take some searching but thanks to NHU and Agence Bretagne Presse the pool of news is growing, and Bretons themselves are providing accurate and interesting information on a number of topics.

As you explore the internet, you may find that a website’s information is too brief to be really useful (or trustworthy). Sometimes information is woefully out of date. It’s a buyer-beware situation in trolling the internet. If you discover a great English-language source of information, be sure to let this Editor know so it can be noted in a future issue of *Bro Nevez*.

Note on Women named Brittany: This name became very popular in the 1980s when it entered the top 100 baby names. By 1986 it was among the top 10 for girls. Popularity continued through the 1990s but plummeted after that. The name has a variety of different versions: Britney, Brittney, Britnee, Brittani, Brittanie. Perhaps best known of women sporting the name are singer Britney Spears (born 1981) and basketball player Brittney Griner (born 1990).



Bretagne Culture Diversité

Bcd.bzh

This organization based in Lorient has as its mission to make Breton culture accessible to a wide public and to document the immaterial cultural patrimony of Brittany, including a range of knowledge about legends, crafts, cuisine, nature, song, dance ... The organization works in partnership with major Breton associations such as Dastum, Sonerion, Kenleur, as well as museums and festival organizers. And it works in partnership with universities and researchers as well.

BCD organizes conferences, training sessions, and traveling exhibits as well as a wealth of online resources with five sections for information.

Bécédia is an encyclopedia on a wide variety of topics with some 300 articles, videos and images.

Another section is *Bretagne & diversité* which works in partnership with the Festival de Cinéma de Douarnenez. This takes you to hundreds of documentary films about Brittany and other world cultures as well as information about the peoples documented and the filmmakers.

The section *Bretania* is a rich archive on the history and culture of Brittany – articles, newspaper clippings, museum images, etc., documenting social issues, politics, people, events, sports and the arts.

Bazhvalan? Baçadou? Is a service to put learners of Breton and Gallo in direct contact with native speakers, an invaluable aid to mastering language beyond books and classes and to highlight the unique knowledge of native speakers.

And then there is *Patrimoine Culturel immatériel en Bretagne* which presents a range of different organizations and events featuring Breton song, dance, foods, crafts, sports, costume, ethnobotany and other non-material aspects of Breton culture.

You will need some mastery of French (or Breton) to fully take advantage of these resources but there are lots of illustrations and images to support learning.

Prizioù 2026 – Recognizing Support for the Breton Language

The 29th edition of prizes for Breton language initiatives was held this March, co-organized by France 3 and the Ofis Publik ar Brezhoneg. Prizes were awarded in seven categories.

Breton Speaker of the year (Brezhoneger/Brezhonegerez ar bloaz)

1 – Gwennyn for her work to launch Breizh A Live in September 2025, a gathering for musicians and singers to raise funds for Diwan and the bilingual programs in public and Catholic schools. (See *Bro Nevez* 176, December 2025)

2 – Matyas Le Brun for the association 1000 Familh (1000familh.bzh). This project supports the goal of having 1,000 families speaking Breton with children in the home.

3 – Renan Kerbiged of Mignoned ar Brezhoneg (mignoned.bzh) for the promotion of Breton in everyday life, businesses and work places, with events and products promoting Breton and helping people to use it.

Song in Breton (albums with song in Breton / pladennoù kanet e brezhoneg)

1 – *D'an neb a glevo* by Plouz & Foen (see *Bro Nevez* 176, December 2025 for a quick intro)

2 - *30°* by Emezi (see *Bro Nevez* 175, September 2025)

3 – *Un noz a vo* by Brieg Guerveno (see *Bro Nevez* 175, September 2025)

Audiovisual works (Oberennoù kleweled)

1 – Tourmant, a series of fictional podcasts by Kalanna, Heklev Podcast and radios associatives bretonnes

Fiction books (Levrioù faltazi)

1 - *Bedoù nevez* by Paskal an Intañv (Pascal Lintanf) a collection of short stories published by Al Liamm

2 - *Berr he botez* by Laurence Lavrand, a novel published by Al Liamm

3 - *A-drek kerreg tevrieg* by Hervé Seubil Kernaoudou, a young adult novel published by An Alarc'h

Initiatives by Associations (Kevredigezhioù)

1 - Patati (patati.bzh) to the creation of a center for children's activities conducted entirely in Breton, in Saint-Herblain, Loire-Atlantique

2 – Dibistig, created within the hospital system of Morlaix to provide new parents with bilingual materials

3 - Ti Erminig, Quimper, for the production of Breton language pedagogical materials for families

Businesses (Embregerezhioù)

1 - Arfolk, an old record label reinvented to serve Breton music

2 - Barikenn Saona, for a mobile sauna with Breton provided by Jean Guiavarc'h

3°- Tavarn ar Roue Morvan (Lorient), for its organization of a beginners class in Breton and the publication of a bilingual book of recipes

Communities (Strollegezhioù)

1° Auray (An Alre), for its establishment of walks in Breton to discover patrimony through the app Baludik, and for signing on to level 2 of the charter Ya d'ar Brezhoneg

2 - Rennes (Roazhon), for its linguistic policies and for signing on to the Ya d'ar Brezhoneg charter, and for its municipal daycare center Gaston Tannou

3 - Blain, for opening a bilingual stream in its public school and for putting up bilingual signage in the center of town (the first town of Loire-Atlantique to do this).



Redadeg ar Bed

The Redadeg relay run to raise funds for Diwan and other Breton language initiatives has been presented in the pages of *Bro Nevez* before (see the February 2026 issue) but much more can be found on their website: ar-redadeg.bzh. This includes an article

about the Redadeg being run in other countries – Redadeg ar Bed – where different dates, distances and numbers of participants will be found. As is the case in Brittany the runs are accompanied by a number of festivities.

In the U.S. BZH New York had a May 3rd run in Central Park, New York City. BZH New York has also supported Breton culture year-round to bring the Breton community

of that area together. They have hosted different Breton bagads who have annually marched in New York's massive Saint Patrick's Day parade. This year it was Bagad Brieg and a fest noz was held in Brooklyn on March 15 including a Breton dance workshop, cocktail buffet and a DJ from Quimper.

In Hamburg, Germany the association Abban mobilized the Breton community there for a run followed by a picnic and fest deiz.

In Ireland a run was organized in Dublin by the organization Kouign Anam with the Breton and Gaelic languages featured. Runs were also planned for Galway and Sligo with participants exchanging words in Gaelic and Breton at each relay point.

In Galicia, Spain, the association Breizh-Galiza (Bretagne-galice.com) organized a run in Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle with children from Semente schools who are learning Galician. A kilometer of the Redadeg in Brittany was purchased to be run by members of the twin city group of Ribadeo-Loctudy.

In Wales the association Kembre-Breizh (kembre-breizh.org.uk) organized a short run in Aberystwyth to show solidarity between these two Celtic countries.

Ongoing Demands for Support of Breton and other “Regional” Languages

The group Pour que vivent nos langues (so that our languages may live) was created in 2019 to fight against continued action (and inaction) on the part of the French government hampering the success of what are called regional languages. These are languages with deep historical roots like Breton, Basque, Catalan, Corsican, and Alsatian, that are found within France.

This April representatives from Pour que vivent nos langues met with members of the French Ministry of Education to address the lack of progress in a number of areas and levels of education. These requests are not new but continue to block the advance of education in bilingual programs as well as immersion schools (such as Diwan) and in teacher training.

Among the demands were:

The elaboration of a public policy favoring regional languages and a true place for them in education.

The incorporation of regional languages in teacher training with the creation of degrees specifically for this.

Financial security for immersive schools.

The opportunity for students to take exams in the regional language in which an exam subject was taught to them.

The creation of state-region conventions on regional languages with qualitative and quantitative objectives specified.

The group also repeated the desire for a modification of Article 2 of the French Constitution which states “the language of the Republic is French” – wording that has been used to block advances for regional languages.

Some Hope for Immersive Language Schools

On May 20 the Minister of National Education Édouard Geffroy announced plans to implement regulations that would support immersive language schools of France. This was announced to the Groupe d'Études sur les langues et cultures regionales (Study group on regional languages and cultures) of the French National Assembly co-presided by Paul Molac of Brittany and Peio Dufau of the Basque country. Their work was supported by a letter from fifty Deputies demanding support for immersive language schooling and an end to administrative challenges blocking the advance of regional languages. What progress this new initiative will bring for schools like Diwan for Breton and those for Basque, Catalan, Occitan or Corsican is yet to be seen.

Additionally, the Ministry of National Education announced that beginning in 2028 students taking various subjects through a regional language will be able to take their baccalaureate exams in that language. Currently even if one took geography, say, in Breton or Basque, a student would need to take exams for that subject in French. This is good news for students, and may make secondary school bilingual and immersive programs more attractive.

(information from Agence Bretagne Presse, May 25 & 26 postings).

The tilde ~ finally gets legitimacy

This spring the Justice Minister Gérald Darmanin asked prosecutors of France to stop contesting the use of the tilde and other diacritical marks for first names entered in the French civil registry. As readers of *Bro Nevez* have read in past issues, this has been a long legal battle beginning in 2017 when parents tried to register their baby Fañch in Quimper. Other cases followed. The March ruling should eliminate administrative issues for parents in Brittany and other regions of France like the Basque country where the tilde is common for some names.

Support for Replacement of a War Memorial Plaque in the Breton Language

Plans are underway to replace a plaque in Breton honoring maritime fusiliers killed at Dixmude during World War I. A majority of the 6,600 soldiers of the brigade were Bretons. Over half were lost in combat alongside Belgian allies against a greatly larger German force.

The plaque reads: “Enor d’ar Vretoned marv e Diksmuide evit ar frankiz d’ar 16 a viz Du 1914” (Honor to the Bretons who died at Dixmude for freedom on 16 November 1914). Koun Breizh has been petitioning for the return of the plaque after it was removed due to vandalism. There seemed to be objections on the part of the organization Souvenir Français and/or the French Embassy in Belgium to the use of Breton on memorials which has stalled reinstallation.

Dixmude is a twin city with Ploermel. The mayor of Ploermel invited a delegation from Koun Breizh for the anniversary of this twinning on May 16. The mayor and associate mayor of Ploermel and two Koun Breizh members met with the Burgermeister of Dixmude and the town’s municipal council will make a decision on the return of the plaque which is expected to be positive.

Funding Cuts for Breton Cultural Institutions

While times are tight for a wide range of institutions across France – economic, social, or cultural – several Breton organizations have felt particular pain as support from the Region of Brittany is cut for 2026. This is not due to lack of public interest in or merit of the work they accomplish, but shrinking budgets at the wider governmental level.

Dastum received word this May that the Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelle (DRAC) would be cutting its annual support by 30,000 euros which will mean cutting one of its ten employees – an already lean group tasked with ever growing interest and use of Dastum resources.

Since 1972 Dastum has served as an “archive” of musical and oral traditions of Brittany with a vast collection of sound recordings and documents which are made available without a charge. The significant holdings of Dastum have been donated by many collectors – singers, musicians and storytellers themselves. The act of collecting is not just an academic study of Breton heritage, but the active engagement of Bretons in an ongoing oral transmission. Through publications, recordings and events Dastum has been key in enabling new generations to explore traditions and use them as a base for new creativity.

Also facing financial challenges with budget cuts is the **Cultural Institute of Brittany** (Skol Uhel ar Vro / Institut Culturel de Bretagne) which has counted on support from the Region of Brittany to organize the yearly ceremony where four lifelong supporters of Brittany are inducted into the Order of the Ermine. This brings public awareness to the important work of Bretons (and sometimes non-Bretons) over the course of their lives – usually outside of any paid job. This can also inspire others to continue their own work for Brittany in a number of areas from arts, literature, historical research, music and dance, to sports and language transmission.

From 20,000 euros previously granted, the contribution dropped to 14,000 euros in 2022. For 2026 it will be just 10,000 euros, impacting the ability to organize this important event.

Loss of a Breton Militant Charlie Grall (1955-2026)

This February Brittany lost the voice of a long active militant for the cause of Brittany. Charlie Grall was a journalist by profession but his activism dates to the 1970s when he got involved with the Front de Liberation de Bretagne (FLB) famous for bombing symbols of French domination while avoiding human harm. Charlie Grall was arrested and jailed in 1979 for his engagement with the FLB and amnestied along with others in 1981 with the arrival of François Mitterand at the head of France.

Like others of this generation who saw “violence” as the only way to attack a government system seemed intent on destroying Brittany, Grall shifted to use media like newspapers, publishing and cultural organizing to mobilize Bretons. In 1980 he moved to Carhaix and in 1990 created the Festival du Livre en Bretagne which continues to gather authors and publishers (in French and Breton) as well as actors in the cultural world working to support Brittany.

In 1996 Charlie Grall founded the weekly *Breizh Info* which continued until 2001 and he would publish a number of books in French and Breton – both fiction and non-fiction with political essays, portraits of Breton militants and writers, and stories rooted in Breton experience.

(information drawn from an article by Philippe Argouarch, Agence Bretagne Presse, March 1, 2026).

A Few New Books from Brittany

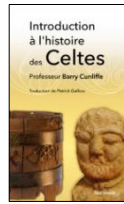
The following are just a few books (in French) recently published in Brittany covering a range of topics. Although

not noted here, Breton publishers continue to provide books in the Breton language – fiction and non-fiction – on a range of topics.



Erwan Chariter-Le Floc'h & Genkis Genkkis. *Les Saints Bretons*. Yoran Embanner.

Brittany continues to honor the history and spiritual importance of hundreds of saints – many of which are not recognized by Rome. Most have interesting legends and powers associated with them and this book explores historical facts as well as stories associated with saints. Author, historian and journalist Erwan Chartier-Le Floc'h has published a number of books and articles on Breton history and traditions. The book is illustrated by Genkis Genkkis.



Barry Cunliffe, translation by Patrick Galliou. *Introduction à l'histoire des Celtes*. Skol Vreizh.

From the Bronze Age to the heritage found today – especially linguistic – this is a concise and readable introduction by an expert. Barry Cunliffe is an emeritus professor at Oxford University and member of Brittany’s Order of the Ermine in recognition of his life-long work. See *Bro Nevez* 175, September 2025.



François de Beaulieu. *Lucien Pouëdras – La mémoire du peintre*. Skol Vreizh.

Lucien Pouëdras was born in 1937 in Languidic. Regretting the disappearance of the countryside of his youth he set out to produce hundreds (some 460) of paintings depicting rural life of Brittany – detailed scenes of children and adults, farms, horses, trees and orchards, fields, farm buildings, and houses...



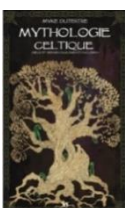
François de Beaulieu, director. *Dictionnaire des monts d'Arrée*. Skol Vreizh.

First published in 2025 the first edition of 2,500 copies of this book sold out by January 2026 – an exceptional hit for the publisher Skol Vreizh. Under the direction of François de Beaulieu this work is the collaboration of 67 authors, 12 photographers, and some 100 museums, archives and other contributors. This 2nd 784-page edition includes 574 articles and 932 illustrations documenting 17 communes and border areas in the Monts d'Arrée of central western Brittany. Its scope can be judged by its index of 2,330 people cited.



Armel de Wismes. Corsaires et aventuriers bretons. Yoran Embanner.

Brittany has a long and colorful maritime history. Besides the many explorers like Jacques Cartier, the ports of Brittany – Nantes, Lorient, Saint-Malo – have been the launching off place for corsairs and adventurers active particularly in the 17th and 18th centuries. They were authorized to attack enemy ships and brought a wealth of captured goods to Brittany. This book by a notable scholar of maritime Brittany and its ports presents some of the better known corsairs like René Duguay-Trouin and Robert Surcouf as well as lesser known men and women on the seas.



Myke Dutertre. Mythologie celtique – Dieux et déesses gauloise et galloises. Yoran Embanner.

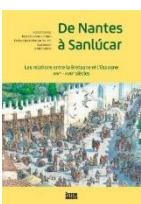
This is a richly illustrated presentation of gods and goddesses and heroes and heroines of the ancient Celts of Gaul and

Wales.



Patrick Hervé, with illustrations by Nono. Manuel de Savoir-vivre – Au Fest Noz. Skol Vreizh

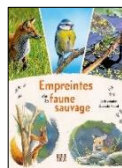
Reinvented in the 1950s, the fest noz is a festive dance event where people gather to socialize as much as engage in the traditional dances of Brittany. These can be very local or massive events, and since the 1970s have fostered the participation of hundreds of singers and musicians adopting various styles to power the dance. This text is by Patrick Hervé with illustrations by Nono, known for his humor in bringing life to Breton people and events including other books such as *Savoir-faire sous la pluie en Bretagne* and *Cousins et cousines à la mode de Bretagne*.



Istor Breizh. Les relations entre la Bretagne et l'Espagne du XIV^e au XVII^e siècle.

Istor Breizh is a quarterly journal launched at the end of 2024. With some 112 pages it is as much a book as a magazine and it is loaded with richly illustrated articles on all periods of Breton history. Now a book has been published which presents the history of commercial and political relations between Brittany and Spain. A number of researchers and scholars have contributed: Robert Omnes, former professor at the Université de Bretagne Occidentale and specialist on linguistics of Spain; Antonio Moreno Ollero, medievalist historian; Enrique Javier Román Martell,

specialist on the Magellan-Elcano circumnavigation; Guy Saupin, emeritus professor of modern history in Nantes; and Gildas Salaüen, curator of the numismatic (money) collection at the Dobrée museum.



Joris Munier and Gwénoél Noirel. Empreintes de la faune sauvage. Locus Solus.

This is a richly illustrated guide to some 44 species of wildlife found in Brittany. Facts about the animals, birds, insects and other wildlife are augmented by 200 watercolors and photo images. This is an augmented reedition of the book published by Coop Breizh in 2025. Locus Solus took on the distribution of Coop Breizh titles at the demise of that publisher/distributor.



Yes Breizh. Yoran Embanner.

This is a 72-page booklet by the group Yes Breizh to present and clarify issues related to decentralization, autonomy and independence of Brittany. Yes Breizh is not a political party but a group of individuals united to work for Brittany's future (See Bro Nevez 176, December 2025).

And two new books featuring Breton rock bands:

Gwenaëlle Fleur and Steven Le Roy. Matmatah, 30 ans ferme. Le Mot et le Reste.

From Brest, the group Matmatah was formed in 1995 and this book celebrates their 30 years as a favorite on the Breton rock scene. Breton rock bands are not just clones of better known American or British bands, but bring their own unique experience as Bretons in lyrics and rhythms.

Philippe Gonin. Marquis de Sade 1777-2019. Le Mot et le Reste.

The publisher Le Mot et le Reste specializes in documenting the world of rock music. Founded in 1996 by Yves Jolivet of Finistère, it is not surprising that Breton bands would be part of the documentation. In this case it's a detailed history of the Rennes-based band Marquis de Sade and its various transformations over time.



Kan ar Bobl Song Festival and Contests

The Kan ar Bobl was launched in 1973 to encourage song in Breton, French and Gallo, for dancing or just for listening. Also included is storytelling and instrumental music and dance. In recent years participation by children and schools has expanded to

showcase especially the joyful role children have taken in learning traditional songs.

Preliminary contests to select participants for the finals held in Pontivy are held throughout Brittany – mini-festivals in themselves. The Kan ar Bobl (song of the people) is not for the many professional musicians of Brittany but shows off the participation and talent of a large number of Bretons in perpetuating a rich cultural heritage.

The following are this year's winners in the various categories of competition. I have tried to fill in full names and the language for songs (Breton, Gallo, French), but in many cases could not find clear information. – LK

Duos

1st prize – Gwénolé and Gwendal Gestin from Treglamus (flute and accordion)

2nd – Baptiste Barbier and Pablo Molard from Rennes (flute and guitar)

3rd – Erwan Kervino and Maël Le Paih from Nanterre (violin and accordion)

accordions here are diatonic, and flutes are wooden flutes

Storytelling in Gallo

1st prize - Rejanne Deluce from St Laurent de la Mer

2nd – shared by Franci Guilard from Ercé and Jean Luc Oger from Hirel

3rd – Annie Guinard from Hillion

Prize for youth – Thibault Vadet from Uzel

Special mention - Maurice Le Dourneuf from Le Bodeo Plémet

Speech in Gallo

1st prize – Gerard Gore

Storytelling in Breton

1st prize – Awen Plougoum of Botmeur

2nd – Gwendal Jacob of St Tegonnet

3rd – Brigitte Cloarec of Quimperlé

Special prize – Fanny Chauffin

Songs for dance

1st prize – Jean-Félix Hautbois and Gaël Chauvin from Melesse (kan ha diskan)

2nd – Guy Pensec and Jean Billon from Scaer

3rd – Le Goff and Madec from Montigny le Bretonneux

Note of encouragement – Leonie and Gael Lepage from Bourgon

Special prize for youth – Houzio and Chevrier from Rieux

Accompanied song

1st prize – Alan ar Rouz and Alexi Orgeolet (Breton song with Hawaiian guitar)

2nd prize Aya Kiyono (with harp)

Songs for listening

1st prize – Katel Loire from St Cast le Guildo

2nd – Youenn Amice from Brasparts

3rd shared by Violaine Mayor from Plouneour Menez and Sylvie Guiner from Queven

Special prize for creation – Maela and Emma from Noyal Pontivy

Schools

Cycle 1 - 1st prize – Diwan school of Lannion (Lannuon)

Cycle 2 – 1st prize – Div Yezh of Langonet

2nd – Diwan school of Louaneg

Cycle 3 – 1st prize – Div Yezh of Cavan (Kawan)

2nd – Diwan school of Pontivy (Pondi)

Musical groups

1st prize – Trio Tarare from Laillé

2nd – Barbatoul from Nantes

3rd – C'houez from Cléry st André

Encouragement to KLB of Lannion

Family group

1st prize – Robic family from Brec'h

Children singing (Kanit 'ta bugale)

1st prize – Loeiza, Pauline, Gwennan from Pontivy

2nd shared by Oriane Plaza and Kanerion an Pont Douar from Brec'h

3rd – Emma and Maela from Pontivy

Discovery – Morrighan Kervegant

Encouragement to Sarah Derrian

Special mention – Aurélien Le Gallic



Produit en Bretagne Prizes for Musical Creation

Produit en Bretagne was founded in 1993 to promote business and products of Brittany (in all five departments). Members include 503 business representing 110.000 employees and 3,835 products.

Each year Produit en Bretagne awards a prize to musical creations inspired by Brittany (and this year song in the Breton language). Candidates are chosen by a jury including recording professionals, journalists and festival organizers and a prize is also awarded by popular vote.

This year's winners were:

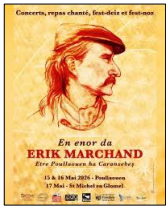
Brieg Guerveno for the album *Un noz a vo*, selected by the jury.

Emezi (duo of Perynn Bleunven and Élise Desbordes) for the album *30°*

(see *Bro Nevez* 175, September 2025 for a short note on these)

Also recognized was Annie Ebrel with the jury's special mention for her album *An Ebatoù* (See *Bro Nevez*, 176, December 2025)

Other artists in the final voting were Eben (*Dinaskañ*), Klara Ninn (*An Ankoun*), Typhaine Corre & Tangi Le Gall-Carré (*Gouloù mil steredenn*), and Plouz & Foen (*D'an neb a gleva*)



Homage to and Celebration of Erik Marchand

This May the organizations Dañs-Tro, Drom Kreiz Breizh Akademi, La Grande Boutique, and Paotred an Dreujenn-Gaol paid homage to singer and clarinetist Erik

Marchand who passed away in October (see *Bro Nevez* 176, December 2025). The evening of Friday May 15 featured concerts by some of the musicians with whom Erik Marchand worked, showcasing the international reach he had beyond the traditional song and clarinet music of Brittany. On the program: the Breton group Gwerz, Costica Olan et Mircea Dobre of the Taraf de Caransebes (Rumania), Svetlana Spajic (Serbia), Thierry Robin (oud player of France), Hameed Khan (India), the polyphonic Ensemble of Mallakaster (Albania) and Fransy Gonzalez Calvo (Galicia). In each case the group engaged a former participant from the Kreiz Breizh Akademi. Goulc'hen Malreu a clarinet player and former organizer of the Rencontres Internationales de la Clarinette Populaire provided narration on Erik Marchand's different musical adventures.

On Saturday in the town of Poullaouen, the morning featured a festive parade through the town by clarinet players and other musicians. A *repas chanté* (literally sung meal) took place mid-day with traditional singers - especially from Gallo Brittany where Erik Marchand first made his remarkable voice known. Saturday also featured a fest deiz and a fest noz with a veritable who's who of singers and musicians. During the fest deiz younger kan ha diskan singers competed with a suite for the gavotte de Montagne.

Saturday also featured an evening musical cabaret with musicians who took part in the Kreiz Breizh Akademi which was created by Erik Marchand in 2004-2005.

The Sunday May 17 program held in Glomel featured the Breton clarinet (treujenn goal) and other clarinet traditions of the world with a renewed Rencontre Internationale de la clarinette populaire (international gathering of folk clarinets) starting with a meeting of young and older players and a parade through the town. The afternoon and evening was filled with concerts and dancing, featuring some of the musicians with whom Erik Marchand worked. Here too, Erik Marchand's

international network was on display as was the role of the clarinet in jazz.

More information about the four organizing groups can be found:

Dañs-Tro based in Poullaouen (www.danstro.com)

Drom Kreiz Breizh Akademi based in Brest (www.drom-kba.eu)

La Grande Boutique based in Langonnet (www.lagrandeboutique.fr)

Paotred an Dreujenn-Gaol (based in Glomel) (www.facebook.com/clarinette.populaire)



Alan Stivell celebrates 60 years of performance

There has been perhaps no musician of Brittany who has had a wider impact on the Breton music scene than Alan Stivell. He inspired the creation of many a Breton band in the 1970s and introduced Celtic music to a wide audience with song in the Celtic languages.

With roots in the traditional music of Brittany and the Celtic world he has always been highly innovative in performance with arrangements and compositions. Sixty years on stage has not slowed down the creativity and Alan Stivell is celebrating with a tour called "Liberté – 60 ans de carrière" which will travel in Brittany, France, Ireland and other destinations.

Described as "world-electro-rock" Stivell has gathered musicians with a range of instruments and styles to accompany his harp and vocals:

Gaëtan Grandjean (guitars and bouzouki), Tangi Miossec (keyboards), Ronan Després (drums and percussions), Cédric Motte (bass and "machines"), Brewen Favreau (uilleann pipes, low-whistle and electronic pipes), David Chivers (violin), Marie-Amélie Vivier (violin and vocals), Marie Beaudon (alto), and Marcel Caro (cello).



Festival Anne de Bretagne

This festival has been held for 32 years traveling to different sites in the Loire-Atlantique department – underlining the clear Breton identity and musical traditions of this area. Although part of historical Brittany this department has been incorporated since 1982 in the region of Pays de la Loire, despite repeated calls for its reunion with the other four departments of Brittany. Anne of Brittany (1477-1514) was Duchess of Brittany whose capital was Nantes and is remembered for her efforts to protect Breton independence.

This year's Festival Anne de Bretagne will involve a number of events from May 16th through September including:

The arrival of the Redadeg at its final point in Nantes on May 16 with dance, concerts, games and various activities

A May 22 Saint-Herblain hosting of a concert by the choirs Orvez and Anna Vreiz with musicians from the conservatory of music in Nantes

On July 5 the town of Sain-Michel-Chef-Chef hosted part of a tour by the organization Kenleur with presentations, concerts and a fest-deiz and fest-noz.

On September 12 in Saint-Nazaire there will be workshops and concerts by the Bagad of Saint-Nazaire with a fest-deiz and fest-noz

Breton Composer Paul Ladmiraut's Work Performed in the U.S.

As reported in *Istor Breizh* (no. 4, 2026) the Virginia Chamber Orchestra gave a concert in October 2025 featuring works by Breton composer Paul Ladmiraut. The orchestra director had explored Ladmiraut's repertoire with his orchestra, and the grandson of Ladmiraut and his family were invited to attend.

Paul Ladmiraut was born in Nantes in 1877 and deceased October 30, 1944, in Camoët (Morbihan) where his family had a home. He studied music at the conservatory of Nantes and then at the conservatory in Paris where he studied under Gustave Fauré among others. He would return to Brittany to teach at the Nantes conservatory.

He won numerous awards for his compositions for chamber ensembles, piano, choral music and orchestral symphonies. He was inspired by Brittany in his works and learned the Breton language. He was also attracted to Ireland and Scotland and a clear Celtic influence is found in some of his works such as the unpublished opera called *Myrdhin*, a ballet called *La prêtresse de Korydwenn*, *Rhapsodie gaëlique*, *Suite bretonne*, *Variations sur des airs de biniou*, or *La Brière*.

A detailed biography and list of compositions and writings by and about him can be found in Vefa de Bellaing's *Dictionnaire des compositeurs de musique en Bretagne* (Ouest Éditions, 1992) which includes entries on some 200 other composers.

It is common for musicians and singers of Brittany to compose in a variety of styles – from traditional to rock, jazz and pop. This book has a focus on those of a more

classical tradition and style but includes some Celtic harpists (Dominique Bouchaud, Mrydhin, Mariannig Larc'hantec, Soazig Noblet and Kristen Nogues) as well as musicians well known in the world of traditional and folk-rock music of Brittany (Roland Becker, Dan ar Braz, Christian Desbordes and Alan Stivell). Had Vefa de Bellaing (1909-1998) been able to continue research to the present day, I believe she would have been pleased to see the continuing creativity among Breton musicians and she might have added some more names to the dictionary.



Breizh Fest in Minnesota

Breizh-fest.com

Breizh Fest is a festival celebrating Brittany held since 2021 in Minneapolis (this year June 5). It is organized by the Alliance Française Minneapolis/St Paul and Monark Productions, in partnership with Oh Crêpe and the Minneapolis Cider Company with music and family-friendly activities, and food or course.

Musical performances include the Bretones, a trio of Laura MacKenzie, Tom Klein, and Bob Walser. New to the event this year is a group from California, Farther Shore (Aod Belloc'h) with Shira Kammen (multi-instrumentalist), Jim Oakden (accordion, guitar, winds), Ronan Keryell (bombarde and Breton dance leader), and Adrienne Simpson (dancer and teacher).

The Bagad New York is back for their fourth time with the unique sound of the Breton style bagpipe band which includes bombards as well as bagpipes and percussion.

Also performing is Jimmy Sherman, a master bagpiper, whistle player, composer, and arranger from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area who has been part of the event since its beginning.

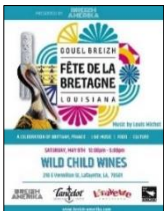
There are also an abundance of kids activities – though not necessarily Breton. As for any good festival, food and drink are also celebrated with sweet crêpes and buckwheat galettes, kouign-amann, cider and wines, as well as mussels and fresh oysters.

Speaking of Minnesota - an American and the Breton Language

William McMillan began to discover Brittany as a teen, even hanging a gwenn ha du flag in his room. In working on French language skills he discovered the Rennes soccer team and was struck by the strong show of Breton identity at the games. During his high school years he had the opportunity to spend time in France and made a

point of traveling to Brittany. He then pursued a masters degree at the university in Rennes followed by studies at the Université Occidentale in Brest where he currently resides. He has traveled throughout Brittany, never hesitant about speaking Breton when the occasion arises.

Learn more about this ardent defender of the Breton language on the Ni Hon Unan website: nhu.bzh/american-apprend-breton-brest.



Fête de la Bretagne Louisiane

(information from the Breizh-Amerika blog of May 4, 2026)

This May 9 event held in Lafayette, Louisiana, was just the latest of many collaborations between Breizh Amerika linking American and Breton musicians.

Held at the Wild Child Wines site, the festival featured gastronomy with products from Brittany and Louisiana provided by Bordier butter, Payson butter, Bret's chips, Groix & Nature and Kouign Marie. Center stage at the festival was musician Louis Michot who will be at the 2026 Festival Interceltique de Lorient from August 3–6, 2026.

As noted in the Blog article, exchanges between Brittany and Louisiana span a decade with some 20 initiatives and exchanges by some 50 artists and musicians.

Here are the highlights as they were listed in the blog article:

2016 — Breizh on the Road in Louisiana: Early cultural programming in Lafayette, Scott, Arnaudville and New Orleans helped launch the Brittany-Louisiana relationship.

2018 — Copains Comme Cajuns: Breizh Amerika produced a documentary exploring the cultural, linguistic and musical links between Brittany and Louisiana.

2018 — Cycle Zydeco with Bernard Hinault: Breizh Amerika helped connect Louisiana's cycling culture with Brittany through the participation of five-time Tour de France winner Bernard Hinault.

2019 — Klaxoon at UL Lafayette: Breizh Amerika helped bring Brittany's innovation and tech ecosystem to Lafayette through a Klaxoon Teamwork Tour stop connected to UL Lafayette.

2019 — Bagad Plougastell at Festival International de Louisiane: Breizh Amerika helped bring a major Breton musical delegation to Lafayette.

2022 — Brittany Region delegation: Breizh Amerika helped facilitate official Brittany-Louisiana ties during a visit involving Christian Troadec, Vice President of the Brittany Region for Breton languages, Bretons of the world and diaspora relations.

2023–2026 — Fête de la Bretagne in Acadiana: Breizh Amerika organized local Fête de la Bretagne celebrations at Prejean's, Naq's N' Duson and now Wild Child Wines, using food, music and gathering to strengthen community ties.

2023–2026 — Celtic Bayou and Festival Acadiens collaborations: Breizh Amerika expanded musical exchange through collaborations with Celtic Bayou Festival, Festival Acadiens et Créoles, Lost Bayou Ramblers, Louis Michot, Jourdan Thibodeaux, Trey Boudreaux, Kevin Naquin and Breton artists.

2025 — Louisiana at Festival Interceltique de Lorient: Breizh Amerika helped bring Lafayette and Louisiana culture to Brittany through festival programming, Kevin Naquin & The Ossun Playboys, and a business forum session titled "The Business of Tourism in Louisiana."

2026 — Lafayette tourism tent at Festival Interceltique de Lorient: The next step in the exchange will spotlight Lafayette's tourism, music, food and French-language culture before one of Europe's largest festival audiences.

Some New Albums from Brittany

Information for these short notes were gleaned from *Ar Men* 271 (March-April 2026), *Ar Men* 272 (May-June 2026) and *Musique Bretonne* 285, (March 2026) as well as the e-newsletter of Culture-Celtie and various websites for record labels and musicians.



B.R.E.T.O.N.S., D.A.O.U. Marzelle / Aztec Musique.

This is the second album by this group of fourteen singers and musicians who draw on their experiences in a number of Breton groups – six from Digresk, six from Kervegans, and one each from E.V and Soldat Louis. There are 13 selections on a maritime theme with a rock beat and songs in Breton, English and French. The mix of instruments includes bombarde, bagpipes, uilleann pipes, violin, drums and percussion, electric and acoustic guitar, flute, banjo, bouzouki...



Dañs a Jâze. An tad moualc'h 'kano. Arfolk AR 1252.

This album features a repertoire from the fest-noz with the dances plinn, mazurka, fisel, kost er hoed,

laridé de Pontivy and others. Also on the album are three melodies. The group is composed of Yves Campo (clarinet), Mikaël Derrien (sax) Soïg Guervenno (chromatic accordion), Franck Guilloux (clarinet and bombarde), Yann Kerjean (biniou) and Marius le Pouhiet (drums).



Gwen Dayot & Job Defernez. *L'envol des bourdons*. Self-produced.

This bombarde-biniou pair celebrates 50 years of performance with Gwen Dayot on bombarde and Job Defernez on biniou koz. They present selections of traditional dances and six compositions featuring melodies and marches from the Rennes/Redon area. While the paired bombarde-biniou is at the heart of this album Dayot and Defernez are joined by a number of excellent musicians of Brittany: Gaëlle Dubois, Nanou Mesnil, Jil Léhard, Sylvain Girault, Matthieu Hamon and Charles Quimbert (song) ; Mathilde Chevrel (cello), Janick Martin (accordion), Gilles Le Bigot (guitars), Florian Baron (oud, daf) ; Louise, Prune and Célestin Hamon (biniou-bombarde and song).



Didier Dréo. *Kanaouennou 'ba tal ar bern foen / Chants des tas de foin*. Arfolk AR 1251.

Didier Dréo is a singer and guitarist and composer. This album offers eight songs in Breton (on which he is joined by his children) and five instrumental compositions for guitar.



Erwan Hamon and Janick Martin. *Les Ineffables fantaisies nocturnes de Frédéric Lambierge dit « Gazman »*. Arfolk LGP 0925.

This album pays homage to Frédéric Lambierge (deceased in 2020) in a variety of styles and a musical swing reminiscent of his varied repertoire. The ten selections are described as a combination of swing, musette, and folk with roots in Breton tradition. Erwan Hamon plays flute and bombarde and Janick Martin plays accordion.



Konoz. CD KNZ1

This group was created in 2021 by biniou and bombarde player Konogan An Habask. With creative arrangements of Breton dances he is joined by Guillaume Le Bourc'h on bass guitar and Nicolas Kervazo on acoustic guitar.



Olivier Le Goas & Ensemble Pulse. *The chaining loops*. CD OLG And Lib Errance Prod.

Olivier Le Goas is a drummer who is well known in the world of jazz. This album of five compositions features Le Goas in pair with Médéric Collignon with vocals and coronet for innovative arrangements. The Ensemble Pulse joins with the musicians Frédéric Borey on saxophones, Gueorgui Kornazov on trombone, Michael Felberbaum on guitar, David Patrois on vibraphone and Yoni Zelnik on bass fiddle.



Nadoz. *Le jour entier*. Musiques Têtues. CMT 202503.

This is a duo from central Brittany made up of Christelle Séry on guitar and Étienne Cabaret on clarinet and bass clarinet. They draw from traditional rhythms and melodies with nine compositions of a jazzy / progressive rock style.



Les Ramoneurs de Menhirs. *D'ar gad ataw*. CD AZM CD44

This is the sixth album by this punk-rock band celebrating twenty years of concerts and festoù-noz appearances. Song is led by Gwenaël Kere and Loran who also provides electric guitar. Paired bombarde-biniou is provided by Eric Gorcé and Richard Bévillon. The group is known for its militant song texts highlighting issues of concern to Bretons as well as justice for other peoples such as Gypsies and the Kanaks of New Caledonia.



Jean-Luc Thomas. *Souffleur de rêves*. Hirustica HIR 27022.

This album features solo flute from a veteran of festoù-noz and other group performances. Jean-Luc Thomas's innovative compositions travel the world with influences from Brittany and Ireland as well as Africa, India and the Americas.



Trio Pêr Vari Kervarec. *Pellgent, un Noël breton*.

This album was released in December 2025 in time, appropriately, for Christmas since it features songs (in Breton, Gallo and French) of the Christmas season – of a spiritual rather than commercial nature. Pêr Vari Keravec is the singer and composer for the trio and Tony Dudognon plays organ with Briec Colléter playing biniou, bagpipes and low whistle.



Trio Rozètt. *Reviens le jour, reviens la nuit.*

This is a trio from Redon with Maxime Lhermitte, jazz guitarist, Carmen Leroy on flute, and Éva Cloteau on cello. All three are singers immersed in the traditional repertoire of Gallo Brittany. They make the music their own with various combinations of voice and instruments.



Triskill, *Bemdez bemnoz.*

Not to be confused with the group Triskell, this group here provides thirteen selections of dances primarily from the Trégor and Mené areas of Brittany. The group is made up of Lucas Belaunde on bass guitar, Matthieu Foltête on accordion, Nicolas Foltête on drums, Victor Laffargue on violin, and Morvan Le Touze on guitars.

Tamm Kreiz

Tamm-kreizh.bzh

This website was noted in the September 2025 issue of *Bro Nevez* with some statistics about the occurrence of the fest-noz in Brittany. The fest-noz should not need an introduction to readers of *Bro Nevez*, but see issue no. 164, December 2022, for an introduction if you need one!

If you will be traveling to (or are in) Brittany, there is no better place to find out about musical events than the Tamm Kreiz website. This has a calendar of concerts, festoù-noz and workshops with details (often maps) as to where they will be and who will be participating.

The site also includes an *Annuaire* which includes thousands of musical groups, individuals, sonneurs, bagadoù, music teachers, etc. For the section on fest-noz performers there are literally thousands of performers to be found. Many groups or individuals may no longer be active, but there is information nevertheless about them. Entries include a note on active status, a list of current (and past) members for groups, usually a photo, sometimes a brief description of the performers, sometimes contact information, a calendar of upcoming performances, a discography for those who have produced albums, and a sample of music. This is certainly a place to find out about your favorite musicians or singers but it is also a history of the many Bretons who have been active on the music scene. One could spend days just checking out all the fest-noz groups whose name starts with A.

The section called *Observatoire* provides interesting analysis on music activity – especially on the fest-noz. Numbers from 2025 showed that there were 1,258 festoù-noz during that year. Up from 2024 and 2023 but

lower than pre-Covid days. But Bretons need not despair of the opportunity to dance. In looking at the calendar for festoù-noz in May, I found the following numbers:

36 scheduled for Côtes d'Armor
54 for Finistère
49 for Morbihan
27 for Ille-et-Vilaine
9 for Loire-Atlantique

For a total of 175

Additionally there were 6 festoù-noz for other parts of France, 2 in Poland, 2 in Germany, 1 in Belgium, 1 in Wales, 1 in China, and 1 in Canada (Montreal) for an additional 14.

As one would expect Saturday was when most take place – 83 for the five Saturdays of May ranging from 10 to 23 for those days.

Street Names and Breton History

Les Noms qui ont fait l'histoire de Bretagne – 1000 noms pour les rues de Bretagne. Directed by Emmanuel Salmon-Legagneur. Coop Breizh & Institut Culturel de Bretagne, 1997.

In the mid 1990s a team from the Cultural Institute of Brittany set out to inventory street names honoring Bretons who have had an impact on Breton history. This was put together in an alphabetical listing of names with a short biography and dates of birth and death as well as cities in which their street names can be found.

1,055 names were selected – 995 for individuals, 34 for important places in history, and 26 for major events. An index in the back of the book sorts names by historical period and “types.” These include kings, dukes and duchesses, important families, royal ministers, politicians... In the category of “Heros” you have aviators, admirals, military officers and soldiers, corsairs, explorers and Resistance members. For religion there are saints, bishops, missionaries, nuns, religious orders, etc.

Under the category of culture there are bards, historians, journalists, linguists, philosophers, poets and novelists, actors, storytellers, architects, singers, musicians, composers, cinematographers, painters and sculptors. In science and development you find agronomists, archeologists, economists, geographers, industrialists, doctors, physical and natural scientists.

There is also a list of all the names in the book who were Breton speakers (which may not include those whose fame was not linked in some way to their use of Breton). This includes 82 names.

Also separated out is a list of all the women – just 69. Clearly the role of men as warriors and politicians favored their selection to be honored with a street name. The same is true here in the U.S.

This study was published nearly 30 years ago, so it would be interesting to see if more Breton women have become visible in street names or if names of Bretons with key roles in history – particularly in defending Brittany from France – have been replaced or submerged in the use of names considered more “politically correct” in the history of France as a whole. One hopes not.

Here in the U.S. there is considerable turmoil around the renaming of places bearing the name of people who are now seen as being undeserving of being glorified by a street or building name, or statue for their role in our history – confederate army generals or those who supported racist or antisemitic policies, for example. There has been a call for many years by Indigenous Americans (and others) to remove statues of Christopher Columbus. Our current president seems dead set on taking down signage that reminds us of negative parts of our history like the brutality of slavery or the genocide of Native peoples and replacing it with a more glorious or at least gentler views of the past. Can it be true that he erected a statue of Columbus on the White House grounds?

Who are the heroes and who are the villains of history? We should remember them as part of history, but not all deserve a place of honor.

In looking through the book *Les noms qui ont fait l'histoire de Bretagne*, I chose some of the women in the listing to present here. These are not internationally known and probably most would not be known to anyone outside of Brittany or even beyond the particular part of Brittany where they have a street named for them. But hopefully *Bro Nevez* readers will find them interesting. The following are my translations of just a few of the entries in the book.

Janig Corlay (Jeanne Leclerc)

Born 1915 Corlay / Deceased 1992 Lorient
Nurse and novelist

Director of an antituberculosis dispensary in Quintin, she married Herry Caoissin with whom she worked for a large part of her life. With him she participated in the creation of *Olôlé*, an illustrated magazine for youth, and in the publication of two novels, *Le Glaive de lumière* and *Goneri, la filleul de Cadoudal*, as well as in the first stages in the development of Breton cinema. She would be remembered also for: *Le Paradis breton* (illustrated) of 1950 and a beautiful biography, *Läennec face à l'Ankou*, 1980.

Towns with a street named for her: Corlay, Lorient, Vitré, Vannes

Anjela Duval

Born 1905 in Vieux-Marché / deceased 1981 in Lannion
Poet

On the small farm of her parents, Traoñ-an-Dour, Anjela Duval started to write in the Breton language later in her years, at first for *Ar Bed Keltiek*, encouraged by Ivona Martin and the Abbot Marcel Leclerc (Klerg). She published her first collection *Kaier al louarn* (the notebook of the fox) in 1972. She read a great deal and wrote in a somewhat simple language - stories and poems marked by her attachment to the land and her language. *Kan an douar* (song of the earth), *Traoñ an dour* (Valley of water) and many others that made her popular among Breton speakers. *

Towns with a street named for her: Plouaret, Le Léguer, Lannion, Vieux-Marché

* English translations of her poetry can be found in Lenora Timm's *A Modern Breton Political poet – Aneal Duval: A Biography and an Anthology*, 1990.

Jeanne de Belleville, called « the Breton Tigress »

Born about 1300; Deceased 1354 England
Corsair

Around 1312 she married Geffroy de Châteaubirant with whom she had two children. Then around 1330 she married Olivier IV de Clisson who was decapitated in 1343 by King Philippe VI for a felony. After swearing vengeance for her five children she sold her goods and jewelry, armed a ship, and fought against the French as a corsair, which earned her the name “Breton Tigress.” Her vessel was shipwrecked upon arriving at England with her two sons. Guillaume died; Olivier – the future high constable of France and head of the opposition party to the Duke of Brittany – was raised in the English court. In her third marriage she wed Gautier de Bentley, head of the English troops allied with Montfort's party during the War of Succession (1341-1364) and she disappears, probably in England. A long poem of 8,000 verses was written about Jeanne de Belleville in 1812 by Émile Préhart.

Towns with streets named after her: Nantes, Clisson, Josselin, Vannes

Odette du Puigadeau (Odette Loyen)

Born 1894 Saint-Nazaire ; Deceased 1991 Saint-Nazaire
Zoologist, ethnologist

Daughter of the painter Ferdinand du Puigadeau, she was first a designer of maritime flora and fauna at the

Muséum d'histoire naturelle. She participated in fishing expeditions and then rode on the backs of camels in ethnological explorations through Mauritania (1933-1951). In 1961 she became director for prehistory at the museum of antiquities of Rabat and resided in Morocco until her death. She wrote numerous books on Brittany, Mauritania and Morocco.

Towns with a street named for her: Saint-Nazaire, Nantes

Marie de Kerstrat

Born 1841 Breic / Deceased 1920 Pont-l'Abbé
Film maker

Marie-Anne Tréouret de Kerstrat was born in the chateau of Trohanet in Briec on the outskirts of Langolen. At the age of 56 she left her property of Suer in Pont-l'Abbé where she had created the first vacation village of Cornouaille and she departed with her son for Quebec to discover the cinema of the New World. She opened two cinemas on 6th Avenue in New York and triumphed with her own films at the Universal Exposition of Saint-Louis (Missouri) in 1904.

Towns with a street named for her: Briec, Langolen, Pont-l'Abbé, Quimper

Marc'harid Fulup (Maguerite Philippe)

Born 1837 in Pluzunet / Deceased 1909 in Pluzunet
Storyteller

Totally illiterate, but blessed with a prodigious memory, she knew to perfection over 300 Breton language stories or songs which she would perform at local festivities. Noted by Anatole Le Braz, she became an irreplaceable source of information for him and François Luzel on everything which made up the oral tradition of Trégor. Thanks to her, many legends, beliefs and traditions of ancient Brittany could be conserved as a base for those authors. A statue representing her was erected in the town of Pluzunet.

Towns with a street named for her: Pluzunet, Lannion, Bégard, Guingamp, Tréguier

Nathalie Le Mel

Born 1826 Brest / Deceased 1912 Ivry-sur-Seine
Political activist

She first established a bookstore in Quimper but after a bankruptcy she left for Paris. Married and mother of three children she soon separated from her husband who had become an alcoholic. Remarkably intelligent she became one of the thought leaders of the socialist movement and joined the Internationale in 1865. During the Commune de Paris she showed herself to be a particularly dynamic revolutionary, heading the Union of Women for the Defence of Paris and devoting herself tirelessly in the

care of the wounded. Arrested in 1871, she was condemned to exile and left with Louise Michel for New Caledonia. In 1879 she returned and worked for the journal *l'Intransigeant*. The end of her life was marked by great misery and she died blind in the hospice of Ivry.

Towns with a street named for her: Brest, Quimper

Marie-Louise Lemonnier (Marie-Louise Toulmouche)

Born 1840 Rennes / Deceased 1942 Nantes
Benefactor

Daughter of a Rennes attorney, she moved by chance to Locronan at the age of 60 after the death of her husband. She then put all her energy and resources into the aid of Breton institutions. She first created the school Anne de Bretagne for girls, another for boys, a home for teachers, a theater, and the chapel of Plaz-ar-C'horn in Locronan; then a school for fishing navigation in Groix, an orphanage for children from maritime families in Pornic and a sea lifesaving station in Primelin. She also financed the bulwark of Loctudy, a chemistry lab at the medical school of Nantes (in memory of her husband). She also made many gifts to individuals in need. The museums of Rennes and Quimper each received artworks. The pursuit of all this work is carried on by foundations, but who shall remember this generous woman who did so much for Brittany?

Towns with a street named for her: Groix, Le Croisic, Locronan, Loctudy, Nantes, Pornic, Primelin, Quimper, Rennes (two streets)

Thérèse de Moëllien

Born 1759 Rennes / Deceased 1793 Paris
Heroine of the Counter-Revolution

Her father Sébastien de Moëllien, lord of Tronjoly (Landerneau) was a councilor in the Parliament of Brittany. At the death of his wife he entrusted his little girl to her grandfather de la Bélinaye who raised her at this home near Fougères. She was in contact with her cousin Armand de La Rouërie for whom she later became the advisor and liaison in the conspiracy of the Association Bretonne in which she played a very active role. After the death of La Rouërie she burned the list of conspirators that she alone possessed and thus saved the lives of many conspirators. Arrested in Fougères in March 1793 she was transferred to Rennes and then Paris. She did not speak and died courageously on the scaffold.

Towns with a street named for her: Rennes, Fougères, Plonévez-Porzay, Saint-Ouen-la-Rouërie, Landerneau

Bro Nevez 178

May 2026

<u>Content</u>	<u>Page</u>
Editor's Note	1
Is Brittany invisible to English speakers?	1 - 5
Bretagne Culture Diversité	5
Prizioù 2026 – Recognizing Support for the Breton Language	5 – 6
Redadeg ar Bed	6
Ongoing Demands for Support of Breton and other “Regional” Languages	6 - 7
Some Hope for Immersive Language Schools	7
The tilde ~ finally gets legitimacy	7
Support for Replacement of a War Memorial Plaque in the Breton Language	7
Funding Cuts for Breton Cultural Institutions	7 – 8
Loss of a Breton Militant - Charlie Grall	8
A Few New Books from Brittany	8 – 9
Kan ar Bobl Song Festival and Contests	9 – 10
Produit en Bretagne Prizes for Musical Creation	10 - 11
Homage to and Celebration of Erik Marchand	11
Alan Stivell celebrates 60 years of performance	11
Festival Anne de Bretagne	11 – 12
Breton Composer Paul Ladmiraut's Work Performed in the U.S.	12
Breizh Fest in Minnesota	12
Speaking of Minnesota - an American and the Breton Language	12 – 13
Fête de la Bretagne Louisiane	13
Some New Albums from Brittany	13 – 15
Tamm Kreiz	15
Street Names and Breton History	15 - 17