

ARCHDRUID PROCLAIMED.

Heralds lead a procession through the streets of Pwllheli as members of the Gorsedd of Bards make their way to the traditional circle of druidical stones at South Beach. Members of the Ovate order wear green robes. Bards wear blue, and the Druids are dressed in white.

The Hirlas Horn is carried in the procession, as is the Aberthged or Sheaf of Corn, behind which follows girl dancers. Arriving at the Gorsedd Circle, a ceremony begins, during which proclamation will be made of the 1955 Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales. The Archdruid Gynan is retiring from his office but will resume the position of Gorsedd Recorder. By tradition, a National Eisteddfod must be proclaimed at least one year-and-a-day before the event is to take place.

Within the Circle of Stones, the Hirlas is offered to the Archdruid Gynan in token of the wine of welcome given by the district to the Eisteddfod.

Now the new Archdruid, the Reverend Dyfnallt Owen kneels beneath the Grand Sword of the Gorsedd. This is a Sword of Peace and is never fully withdrawn from its sheath.

The retiring Archdruid places the crown upon the Reverend Owen's brow. The crown, together with the gold signet ring, a carved breastplate and a sceptre, are the traditional symbols of the Archdruids office.

Thus with full traditional rites, the National Eisteddfod is proclaimed and the new Archdruid begins his term of office.

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