

January 2021

Dear All, Laa Mie!

It's your friend Dorrays here. I hope it's not too late to wish you a 'Blein Vie Noa'? No, surely it is never too late: we all deserve a happy healthy new year! So *Blein Vie Noa* to you, your family, your friends, and your pets.

Let's get straight down to the business of our last mission.

I must say, the Wren was blown away by the quality of your Nollick greetings. You are artists and poets: Co Phobble Obbee and the Community of Birds salute you!! Every team that sent a bundle of greetings will be awarded 15 bonus points. We fed the Wren's comments and reviews into our computer brain, Inchyn, and we are proud to announce one mystery bonus of 5 points (I am not allowed to tell you who won that, yet) and an extra bonus of 10 points to the Giant Munchkins for the extra sprinkles. The King of the Birds rests happily in his nest.

All of the Co Phobble Obbee team, like you and everyone on the isle, have been resting in their shelters. Fortunately, the main door of our HQ closes tightly, like the special little lid on a snail's shell, and indoors we are happy with food and water, lots of tea, and warm blankets. To maintain our museum and library we have important staff who live here all the time. Mr Screeuee who runs the Department of Secret Codes is marvellous at making cakes, although his seaweed and sea salt bonnag was a bit of a disaster...

I have a thinking room here and I spend my time solving puzzles and reading about the history of Ellan Vannin. At the moment I am particularly interested in the tradition of *L'aal Breeshey*, the wonderful Saint Bridget, expert poet and healer. Did you know that tradition tells us that Breeshey visits the island every year on the 31st of January, seeking a place to stay and bless? It is a very different year this year, and I think St Bridget would quite understand if no one let her in. However, there's no need to be rude, and I'm sure a little gift and a note would make up for it. And we most definitely all need her blessing!

This got me thinking: what would I leave out for dear Breeshey? It is traditional to make a bed for her, and leave a little light on to guide her in, where she would find a table with some food and drink. Maybe I would leave one of Mr Screeuee's bonnags? Maybe not... I could leave her other treats too such as a poem like this one I wrote late last night in the Library:

"A Note for St Bridget, January 31st 2021"

Welcome to our home,
We hope you like this poem.
Wishes here for you,
Number more than two.
A bucket of shells,
A bottle of smells,
A heart full of spells,
A ringing of bells.
Sorry we have locked the door,
Next year we will offer more.
This year there's a nasty virus,
But we are strong, it cannot tire us.
Rest a while and read this well,
Then rub your hands with special gel.

Not bad. I typed it into Inchyn and I was awarded 8 bonus points.

This gave me a little idea. Are you ready for another challenge? Here's my question: what would you leave out for Breeshey? Obviously some food. Maybe a little note. What would you say? Can you write a poem? What would you leave as a gift?

If you are up for this challenge, have a go and put together a little treat for Breeshey. If you can, take a picture of your arrangement. You could even draw it. You are allowed to ask someone brilliant from your house to help you. Show them this letter. (Hello, brilliant person, if you are reading this! Thank you for helping with this mission.)

Simply take your photograph or drawing into your school. We will ask your teachers to help send them to us here at Co Phobble Obbee HQ. Every photograph or drawing will be awarded bonus points for your team. And if Inchyn detects a small poem, he might be inclined to award you some points. Your Wren poems certainly made him whirr merrily.

Thank you, dear agents, for reading this far. I have enjoyed writing to you again. Now I must leave the warmth of my little thinking nest for the dusty Map Room. I am busy preparing a Treasure Hunt. You will be hearing more about that very soon...

Your loyal chum,

DORRYS

