Celtic

Welcome to the Celtic Section

The Celtic Section covers the waters from Land's End to Inverness, the Caledonian Canal and around Ireland. This area is one of the most demanding but rewarding in Northern Europe. We have tides which range from 13m in the Bristol Channel (the second highest tidal range in the world) to an amphidrome off Islay (an area of no tidal range). The landscape is simply breathtaking, ranging from the West Coast of Ireland to the North & West Coasts of Scotland, with islands galore, the coasts of North Cornwall and the mountains of Snowdonia and the Lake District as a backdrop. For those more used to marinas it comes as something of a revelation to find that sheltered anchorages abound and, using the excellent pilot books, in the remoter areas it is not too difficult to be alone there.



Loch na h-Uidhe, Taransay (west of Harris)

Recent years have seen the development in Scotland of a number of community-run pontoons making stocking up, watering and charging your batteries easier than in the past. However, capacity can be limited – so come prepared to anchor, whether for pleasure or necessity.

Despite the remoteness of some areas, the standard and value for money of eating out is a revelation and the co-operative movement has provided a lifeline in some of the remoter areas and its "buy local" policy is delivering ingredients of amazing quality.

Apart from the members who base their boats in the Celtic Seas, and frequently make substantial trips within the area, we are also of assistance to the many sailors who flock to our waters in the summer months, round Land's End, through the Caledonian Canal, and braving the Pentland Firth from the East Coast and Continental Ports.

We offer:

- Local cruising information, via CAptain's Mate
- Information seminars and webinars
- Celtic Net Forum
- Newsletters
- Honorary Local Representatives (HLRs)
- Informal get-togethers when cruising

Section Secretaries
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Join Us!

Be part of our cruising community ashore and afloat.
Join as many CA Sections as you wish. Section membership is FREE to subscribed members. To find out more about our other Sections, visit www.theca.org.uk/sections alternatively contact us on the details provided

Celtic Section Aims

The Celtic Section now has over 750 members and its main function is to provide members with useful information beyond the scope of the Almanac. This is done by members' contributions to the CA website and CAptain's Mate, and by participation in our forum, Celtic Net, where a simple question will bring a host of detailed and helpful replies. We also look to the Celtic Net as the main means of CA members making social contact while afloat.

Electronic communications around the Western Isles have long been problematic but the situation has improved considerably over the last 2 or 3 years and the number of places with no internet access on any network is declining rapidly and now largely confined to remote anchorages.

Meeting up

With the scale of the area covered, there is no convenient place for all the Celtic Section members to meet together face-to-face, although a remarkable number of Celtic members live within travelling distance of CA House, London. The rest are well spread along the rest of the UK, Ireland and overseas. For the moment we have settled on having one all-day winter seminar at CA House, supplemented by the ever-popular online webinars (often from local experts, focussed on specific cruising areas) which have very large attendances and positive feedback.

Celtic Net & WhatsApp

It is inevitable that most of the Celtic Section's communications will be via the internet, where every member can have their say on a wide range of topics about the cruising grounds. The Section has its own dedicated forum – Celtic Net – which is used for exchanging information about cruising the whole Celtic area. In 2026, we introduced a Scottish West Coast WhatsApp group for more casual and immediate communication between members, which has proven very popular.

CAptain's Mate

With the huge number of harbours and anchorages in these waters, CAptain's Mate is a key asset to our members, giving up-to-date information and reports from like-minded cruisers. With so many stunning locations, the recent addition of photos to CAptain's Mate has been a major bonus. Feel free to add your photos and reports.

Photos (left to right): Porthlysgi - Pembrokeshire, Entering Crookhaven - County Cork, Loch Spelve - Mull



