



GORSEDH KERNOW

The Celtic Spirit of Cornwall

LYTHER BARDHEK - BARDIC NEWSLETTER
Mis Est bys dhe vis Hedra 2017 / August to October 2017

Etholans Kannas Bardh Meur 2018-2021 / Election of Deputy Grand Bard 2018-2021

There was just one nomination for the next Deputy Grand Bard – Pol Hodge, *Mab Stenak Vur*. At their recent meeting, members of the Council were asked to vote on the candidate and they voted unanimously to elect *Mab Stenak Vur* as Deputy Grand Bard from 2018-2021. *Keslowena!* / Congratulations!

Mab Stenak Vur will become *Kannas Bardh Meur*/Deputy Grand Bard at the September 2018 bardic ceremony when the current KBM Elizabeth Carne, *Melennek* takes over as Bardh Meur from Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn*.

At the same meeting, Council also agreed to split the duties of the Secretary's role. Sam Rogerson will in future take on the role of Admin Support for Council meetings and Delia Brotherton, *Myrghwyn Melynor* agreed to take on the executive duties of the Honorary Secretary's role while maintaining as much of the Communications role as possible.



Solempnyans Awen 2017 / Awen Ceremony 2017

A delightful time, although not a particularly well supported one, was enjoyed by a small group of robed bards at Carn Glouce, near St Just, where we gathered for our midsummer Awen ceremony.



Unlike last year, the weather was absolutely glorious and many of us made a day of it round beautiful West Penwith. The "elders" of the local community were represented by bard and harper Esme Francis, *Ylyades* and Justas Hattam, the dialect recorder of the St Just and Pendeen OCS, along with two local children representing young people of the community.

If you want to see what you missed please look at the photos on the GK website

<http://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/Galleries/Awen2017.html>

Pewasow Holyer an Gof / Holyer an Gof Awards

Gorsedh Kernow has recently announced through a press release the results of the Holyer an Gof Publishers Awards. A fantastic evening was enjoyed by winning publishers and authors, reader reviewers and special guests at Waterstones in Truro and special congratulations go to bards Steve Harris, *Mab Jowan*, Rod Lyon, *Tewennow*, Bernard Deacon, *Crakky Lewen*, Stephen Gadd, *Reskadinnick* and Anne Trevenen Jenkin, *Bryallen* for their prize winning contributions. All the results can be seen on the GK website http://www.holyerangofawards.org.uk/publication_winners_2017.html

We also wish to say a very big thank you to Peter Harvey, *Godhonydh an Nor* and Rael Harvey, *Myrgh Mydroilyn* who have now stood down after 8 years as co-ordinators of the *Holyer an Gof* Publishers Awards. This very important and busy role will in future be done by Gareth Parry, *Mab Meliner Gwlan* and Pat Parry, *Gwylan Gernow*. *Meur ras dhewgh hwi oll* / Many thanks to you all.

Pewasow & Kesstrifow Gorsedh Kernow / Gorsedh Kernow Awards & Competitions

The results of the Adults Awards and Competitions and Young People's Awards were recently released to the press and to the Gorsedh Kernow website, Facebook page and Twitter page. The link to the GK

website is <http://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/wp/?p=557>

Congratulations to bards Delia Brotherton, *Myrghwyn Melynor*, John Jenkin, *Carrek an Jawl*, Mo Keast, *Myrgh Cana Hengovek*, Jill Thomas, *Myrgh Elerghi*, William Morris, *Haldreyn*, Tassy Swallow, *Morvoren Mordonnow*, Will Coleman, *Pednithan* and Esther Johns, *Tamm Steren* on their success.

A display of all winning entries and a special presentation evening for all Gorsedh Kernow Awards and Competitions winners will be held on the Thursday of the Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture in Launceston (details below).

[Berdh Nowydh 2017 / New Bards 2017](#)

Following a review of the guidelines governing the appointment of new bards, the Admissions Secretary Maureen Fuller, *Steren Mor* has confirmed that the following will be initiated into the College of Bards at our forthcoming ceremony in Launceston;

Clive Boutle, London, for publishing services to Cornish culture and promotion of European minority languages.

John Buckingham, Padstow, for promoting Cornish identity and culture through the history of Padstow and the wider environs.

Jon Cleave, Port Isaac, for promoting Cornish identity through song.

Dee Harris, Porkellis, Helston. By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

Martine Knight, Helston, for promoting the Cornish language and identity in a wide field across the community.

Jakki Love, Ludgvan Churchtown. By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

Russell Pearce III, Orinda, California, for promoting Cornish identity in the U.S.A.

Wendy Simpson, Retire, Nr. Withiel, Bodmin. By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

Shaun Toft, Falmouth. By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

[Towlen Gool Esedhvos / Esedhvos Festival programme](#)

Wednesday 30th August onwards

Grand Bard's chair on display @ St Mary Magdalene Church, Church Street, Launceston PL15 8AU.

Thursday 31st August

11am - 3pm Book Festival, with Holyer an Gof 'Meet The Authors' and book launch @ Launceston Town Hall, Western Road, Launceston, PL15 7AR. Free entry.

2pm onwards Display of Gorsedh Kernow Adults Awards & Competitions and Young People's Awards entries @ Launceston Town Hall Otho Peter Suite. Free entry.



7pm Presentation of Gorsedh Kernow Adults Awards & Competitions and Young People's Awards by Grand Bard Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn* @ Launceston Town Hall. Hosted by Edward Rowe, *Mab Tregarrek* with guest appearance by Jim Causley. Bar. Free entry.

Friday 1st September

9.30am – 4.30pm Conference "Cornish Culture and Tourism – Friends or Foes?" @ Launceston Town Hall with guest speakers Malcolm Bell, Ben Gilby, Fiona Wotton, Kim Conchie and Merryn Davies-Deacon. Introduced by Grand Bard Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn*. Tickets £5 to include pasty lunch & refreshments. Advance booking essential. All welcome.

7.30pm Cornish Troyl/Ceilidh with Carmen Hunt & ScootsKernow @ Launceston Town Hall. Bar. Free entry.

Saturday 2nd September

11am Cornish stalls open @ Launceston Castle.

1.30pm Procession of Bards from Central Methodist Church, Launceston via The Square to Launceston Castle.

2pm Gorsedh Kernow Bardic ceremony @ Launceston Castle or @ St Mary Magdalene Church if wet. Led by the Grand Bard of Cornwall Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn*, with Miss Sophie Hillman as Lady of Cornwall. Procession returns via Castle North Gate and Castle Street.

7pm Gala Concert @ Central Methodist Church, Launceston. With Jane Nancarrow reading the poetry of Charles Causley, Rob Strike & students of Launceston College, Mike O'Connor, *Crowder* & Barbara Griggs and Launceston Town Band. Compered by Bert Biscoe, *Vyajor Gans Geryow*. Tickets £5. Advance booking advised.

8.30pm 'Come All Ye' Cornish music and song session @ The Bell Inn, 1 Tower Street, Launceston, PL15 8BQ. Hosted by Rob Strike. Free entry.



Sunday 3rd September

9.30 – 11am “*Blas a Gernewek* – A Taste of Cornish” session @ Launceston Town Hall. Free.

Refreshments available.



11am History Walk around Launceston with bard and local Town Crier Rob Tremain, *Cryor An Dre Lanstefan* starting @ Launceston Town Hall and finishing @ The Bell Inn. Free.

3pm Choral Evensong in Cornish @ St Mary Magdalene Church, Launceston. Collection for church funds.

Please support as many of these events as you can. The general public, both locals and visitors to the area, are welcome to attend all the above events, most of which are free. Tickets are available for the Conference (£5 including pasty lunch and refreshments) and Gala Concert (£5) from Launceston TIC tel 01566 772321.

Gorsedh Kernow's Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture is supported by Launceston Town Council, Launceston Central Methodist Church, St Mary Magdalene Church in Launceston, Launceston Castle, Robinson Reed Layton and The Bell Inn plus many local organisations and volunteers.
Meur ras! / Many thanks!

[Pons nowydh dhe Dintagel / New bridge at Tintagel](#)

You may have seen in the press and on social media, reports about the planning application from “English” Heritage to Cornwall Council with proposals to build a new pedestrian footbridge between the mainland and Tintagel island. Gorsedh Kernow will be sending a letter, signed on our behalf by Bardh Meur, laying out our objections which focus mainly on the process of dealing with Cornwall's historic sites, especially relevant as the Tintagel site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Heritage Coast and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



If you feel strongly about Cornwall's ancient sites and think that not enough care is being taken to protect our unique heritage then please write or send an email to the Planning Officer with your comments, in your own name please. The case officer at Cornwall Council will accept representations right up to the due decision date, which is 21st September 2017 and the case reference number is PA17/05087. Here is the link to the CC Planning portal

<http://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=OQRC99FG1OU00>

[Forum Ertach Kernow / Heritage Kernow Forum](#)

Cornwall's ancient sites featured heavily in the recent public meeting of the *Forum Ertach Kernow* / Heritage Kernow Forum at Lys Kernow. There is growing opposition towards the apparent imposition of strategy and policy by the quango known as “English” Heritage and bards are encouraged to take an active interest in this matter before it is too late. Bardh Meur is a member of the *Bord Ertach Kernow* / Heritage Kernow Board but he has said that sometimes it is as if he is a lone voice, so any support is

welcome. The proposed Tintagel bridge issue is the most high profile at the moment but others will follow. All are welcome to attend the Forum so please keep a watchful eye for news of future developments and meetings or contact the Chair of the BEK Rachael Bice who is based at Cornwall Council's Pydar House in Truro. Her email is rbice@cornwall.gov.uk

[Nowodhow gwask erel / Other press news](#)

There have been some very ugly and misleading stories in the local media recently about Cornish "nationalism" coupled with certain actions attributed to so-called Cornish activists. Blaring web based headlines about fires ripping through business premises turned out to be utterly overblown and false, and the truth was much more mundane although serious for the business owner who obviously needed to check his electrical wiring. Requests for Gorsedh Kernow to comment on the political ramifications of these stories were politely resisted, although two bards commented in their own names after discussions with the GK press officer, *Myrghwyn Melynor* and a subsequent article on Cornwall Live turned out to be mostly fair and balanced. However, it does emphasise the need for continuing vigilance in order to maintain Gorsedh Kernow's enviable reputation as an organisation that inspires credence and trust.

Here is the link to the Cornwall Live story if you wish to read it..

<http://www.cornwalllive.com/this-is-what-cornish-nationalism-is-and-what-it-mean-for-cornwall-today/story-30440496-detail/story.html#70V1vst8TJwVdbQS.01>

[Gwreys fest yn ta Ledyores Kan! / Very well done bard Angela Renshaw!](#)

The chamber choir from Truro Prep School under the leadership of Head of Music, bard Angela Renshaw, *Ledyores Kan* are celebrating their success after winning third place at the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod. 45 pupils from the school, from year three to six, travelled to north-east Wales to represent Cornwall. Dressed in traditional Cornish tartan, the pupils took to the main stage in the Junior Children's Choir competition, and performed two pieces.



Angela, who conducted the Chamber Choir on stage at the festival, described the choir's performance as 'incredible' and was also delighted to be awarded the overall award for Best Conductor in the children's choir categories. The award is given to recognise the most inspiring conductor during Eisteddfod, and with previous winners of this award being from Wales and

Indonesia, Angela is the first Cornish conductor to have won this at Llangollen. She was presented with the award on July 18th at Truro Prep School. The school will also be presented with a Gorsedh Kernow Award at the Esedhvos Festival following their successful entry to this year's Awards scheme.

Keslowena! / Congratulations!

[Dydhchow a Vri / Important dates](#)

Old Cornwall Societies 'Crying the Neck' ceremonies occur during August/September. For dates please visit the website <http://www.oldcornwall.net/>

Wed 1st – Fri 18th August Arts & Crafts of Cornwall Exhibition at Cape Cornwall School, St Just. With music by harpist Esme Francis, *Ylyades*.

Wednesday 30th August – Sunday 3rd September Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture including the Saturday bardic ceremony. See details above.

Mon 4th September 7.30pm St Buryan V Hall OCS film West Penwith Coast Path.

Sat 9th September Institute of Cornish Studies Annual Conference "Spiritual Cornwall" at Chapel Lecture Theatre, Tremough Campus, Penryn. Info cornishstudies@exeter.ac.uk

Sun 10th September 3pm Treslothan P Church, nr Camborne. Harvest Festival service in Cornish.

Sun 17th September 3pm St Ive (Callington) Methodist Ch. Harvest Festival service in Cornish.

Sun 2nd October 5.30pm Truro Cathedral Sung Eucharist in Cornish for Feast of St German.

Mon 9th October 7.30pm Madron Landithy Hall, film about Nanquidno Valley.

Wed 18th October 7.30p, St Hilary Church Hall, film A Bygone Era.

[Kovheans / In Memoriam](#)

We are very sorry to report the passing of bard Brian Douglas Hammond, *Ystoryor Tylu*, who passed away at home in St Austell on 27th March 2017 aged 87 years. Brian was barded at Launceston Castle in 2003. A retired teacher, Brian was a former Secretary of the Cornwall Archaeological Society between 1993-97. His funeral service was held at St Pauls Parish Church, Charlestown on Monday 10th April.

We are also sorry to pass on the sad news of the passing of bard Susan Trenberth, *Bronwyn*, who died on Sunday 23 April 2017 at Leycester House Care Home in Warwick. Susan was barded at Hayle in 1976 and was the daughter of Hugh Miners, *Den Toll*, who was Grand Bard from 1982 to 1985. Susan was a valued member of St Austell Old Cornwall Society. In 1973, she took the role of Lady of Cornwall at the Gorsedh Kernow ceremony held in St Austell. Details about Susan and her husband, Kenneth, *Gwas Ylow*, are in the recent Cornish Bards of St Austell & the China Clay Area book. Her funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church, St. Austell on Tuesday, 9th May.

Also bard the Rev Brian Coombes, *Cummow*, who died on Sunday 4th June, aged 83 years. Brian was barded at St Ives in 1966 after passing his Cornish language examinations. He was a former Grand Bard from 1994-1997 and before that was the Deputy Grand Bard between 1991 and 1994. Brian also held the posts of Herald Bard, Assistant Chaplain and Chaplain and was also a long standing member of Bodmin OCS, serving as President/Chairman from 1995 until 1999, then as Vice-President until his retirement to Falmouth in May 2007. In May 1997 in support of the 500th anniversary of the Cornish Rebellion Brian was quoted in the national Independent newspaper as saying ... "*We are a Celtic nation. We have our own language, our own way of looking at things. Here, there's a close link between everyday life and the spiritual that you don't have in England. Tourism can't provide work all year round.*" His funeral service was held at Budock Parish Church on Wednesday 21st June.

Also bard Lady Mary Holborow, DCVO, *Gweresores Egloslasek*, who died on Friday 9th June after a long illness. She was barded in 2012 at Camelford. Lady Mary was the Lord Lieutenant for Cornwall between 1994 and 2011 and supported Cornwall in everything she said and did. She was patron, trustee, president or chairman of numerous organisations. Her funeral was held in Ladock Church and a memorial service was held in Truro Cathedral on Thursday 6th July. Fellow bard Colin Gregory, *Skriker Trewalowder*, wrote an article for the West Briton which can be read via the following link <http://www.cornwalllive.com/cornish-bard-and-reporter-colin-gregory-remembers-lady-mary-holborow/story-30383527-detail/story.html>

[Nessa Lyther Newodhow Bardhek / Next Bardic Newsletter](#)

News and information to be included in the next newsletter for November & December 2017 and January 2018 should be submitted please to Delia Brotherton, *Myrghwyn Melynor*, Honorary Secretary by email to hon.secretary@gorsedhkernow.org.uk by the 15th of October 2017.

If you have an email address and wish to receive the newsletter electronically please tell the Membership Secretary, David Holman, *Rifelwas*, on membership@gorsedhkernow.org.uk Although everyone receives the quarterly newsletter there are often "short notice" events that members who receive paper copy will not hear about. You can also catch up with the latest news about Gorsedh

Kernow on our website www.gorsedhkernow.org.uk or you can  Find us on **Facebook** or 

If you use Facebook or Twitter it would be great if you would please "LIKE" the Gorsedh Kernow Facebook page and "FOLLOW" the Gorsedh Kernow Twitter page. *Meur ras* – many thanks.

Tereba nessa / Until next time..... Myrghwyn Melynor / Delia Brotherton