

**Acting President**

Elaine James  
74 Paynters Avenue  
Strandon  
New Plymouth 4312

Ph: (06) 769 9904  
E-mail: e-james@xtra.co.nz

Web Site: <https://sites.google.com/site/nzcornish/home>

**Secretary & Treasurer**

Nick Bartle  
88 Weka Street  
Miramar  
Wellington 6022

Ph: (04) 388 1958  
E-mail: nzcornish@slingshot.co.nz



■ ■ Est. 1962 ■ ■  
Founder: Cliff Trevelyan  
Trevelyan an Tyrnoweth

**N E W S L E T T E R**

L y t h e r - n o w o d h o w

**Gorsedh news**

Gorsedh Kernow held its annual ceremony at Barrowfields in Newquay on Saturday, 1 September. It was a blustery day which whipped up the bright blue robes of the bards and made it difficult for the participants to make themselves heard even with a microphone and amplification. It also kept down the numbers of spectators.

The bardic ceremony forms the centrepiece of five days of the Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture that started on 29 August. The program of events included a range of activities from a literary festival, a gala concert, a troyl or ceilidh, a conference on “Cornwall’s cultural assets – Time for a change?” and a demonstration of Cornish wrestling.

The main bardic ceremony, which followed the procession of bards through the town, included the admission of new bards and the installation of a new Grand Bard and deputy Grand Bard. Elizabeth Carne *Melennek* of Newquay took over from Merv Davy as Grand Bard. The new deputy is Pol Hodge *Mab Senak Vur*.



I am very proud to say that I was one of the new bards announced this year. Sadly I wasn’t able to be in Cornwall to be installed in person but will aim to attend a meeting of the Gorsedh as soon as possible and be “admitted into the circle”. As is tradition, I was invited to choose a bardic name and, after some considerable thought and research, decided on *Den an Soth* which translates to Man of the South or Southern Man. You can’t get much farther south than New Zealand!

I would like to thank the bards who nominated me and everyone who has sent kind messages since the news leaked out. I was sworn to secrecy by the Gorsedh until it made its official public announcement so this is the first

opportunity I have had to make an announcement of my own.

A nice touch for each new bard is to receive a short poem – something that might be compared to a Japanese haiku. The one sent to me was quite poignant because (maybe intentionally, maybe not) it contained a memory of Ida Hocking, whose bardic name was *komolen wynn hir* (long white cloud) despite some spelling differences:

*kommolenn wynn hir  
a vag sergh erwir  
yntra’gan dew dir*

*long white cloud  
nurtures devout love  
between our two lands*

Another fact gleaned from my communications with the Gorsedh is that *Kernewek* for New Zealand is

**Mordir Nowydh**

It bears a resemblance to Mordor, the mythical land in the Lord of the Rings; another possible lucky coincidence?

2018 is also the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gorsedh Kernow which it marked with another blue-robe ceremony at Boscawen Un, the site of the first assembly in 1928.

**Crossword clue**

I like to spot references to Cornwall in unexpected places. This was a cryptic crossword clue in the DominionPost on 18 August.

Right Reverend out of a cathedral in Cornwall (5)

Solution at the end of the newsletter.

**50 years ago - 1968**

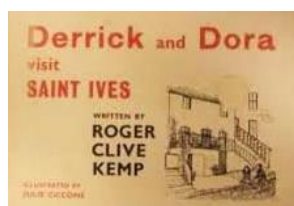
Wellington member, Geoff Curson, is writing the history of the NZ Cornish Association. Here are some highlights from the section on 1968.

In the first newsletter for 1968 Cliff Trevelyon reported from Eketahuna that Cornish granite was about to be used to build a new £4 million London Bridge. He also advised that Bude had won an award for best Cornish Holiday value. "No evidence of visitors being fleeced" Unfortunately fleecing does still exist in some parts. Quite severe fleecing. The fact that Trevone, Padstow was awarded tidiest village in Cornwall was mentioned in September 1968 edition.

Used postage stamps continued to pour in and were sent onto the UK in early 1968. Perhaps these were sold for charity and appeared in stamp shops for sale eventually. Stamp albums were once very popular.

Cornish food stuffs were much sought after in NZ and Cliff wrote to the Acting Minister of Customs concerning the possibility of the Association being granted a license to import Cornish products. This had previously been turned down but the minister said "he intends to examine the previous correspondence in relation to present circumstances and that he would write back to Cliff again shortly. Don't hold your breath!

A Children's book Derrick and Dora Visit St Ives - a modern adventure story to delight youngsters everywhere - was advertised in that same newsletter in early 1968.



The British Postmaster General repeatedly refused to grant a Cornish Postal Stamp. Mebyon Kernow (The Sons of Cornwall) were "fed up" about this and decided to issue one of their own. The first issue depicted a Celtic Cross and a mine engine-house. It was green and white in colour.

The Annual Tea at Auckland was a great success and described as a 'friendly informal meeting.' The Tea consisted of Cornish pasties, seedy cake, saffron cake, hog's puddings, sandwiches, clotted cream, splits with strawberry jam and golden syrup (thunder and lightning) and many other dishes.

This same newsletter reported from Christchurch with a similar spread being laid on at the hilltop home of Mr and Mrs Manhire with great views over the city. The highlight of the evening was a musical interlude by Miss Heather Mitchell, "an extremely talented young member who delighted the audience with songs which she accompanied on the accordion".

News from Cornwall was of a zoo being opened at Newquay and the first woman mayor of Penryn - after 700 years.

The following membership figures were given in the July 1968 newsletter:

Auckland 35, Christchurch 31, Nelson 34, Taranaki 60, Wellington 31, General membership 108 giving a total membership of 299.

Nevertheless, members were asked to consult their telephone directories for surnames commencing with Tre, Pol or Pen - provided they sounded like they could be Cornish - and, if so, whether they would be interested in joining.

Flights to the UK were said to be considerably cheaper if 15 members were agreeable to travel to and from the UK on the same dates. An update about group trips to Cornwall said that Air New Zealand had provided a suggested itinerary - Tour A leaving 26th April 1970 via Sydney, Hong Kong, Tokyo, New Delhi and Moscow to London arrive 3rd May. Return trip depart London 10th August via New York, Los Angeles, and Honolulu and Auckland arrive 14th August. Tour B would leave Wellington 26th April via Sydney, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Rome to London arriving 4th May. Return trip as per tour A.

Viewers of WNTV - 1 Wellington TV Channel watched Daphne Du Maurier films Rebecca and Frenchman's Creek at this time. At the same time in Cornwall a tree preservation order was imposed by Cornwall County Council to protect further trees being destroyed on the banks of the Helford River Inlet of Frenchman's Creek.

In September 1968 it was reported that Mr Len Barkla the National President of the Association had died at Wellington Hospital. He was greatly respected and missed.

Meanwhile in Cornwall...

On June 14, 1968, Sir Robin Knox-Johnson set out from Falmouth in his yacht, Suhaili, at the start of the Sunday Times Golden Globe Race in an attempt to become the first man to complete a solo non-stop circumnavigation.



Although packed to the gunnels with provisions for his journey, last minute essentials were picked up from the UK's oldest and longest-trading chandlery, Bosun's Locker in Falmouth - which is still in business to this day - before heading out on his 30,000-mile voyage.

Sir Robin said: "Falmouth is one of the last stops as far west as you can get. By starting the race there, I was able to avoid heavier

traffic up the channel, giving me the best start for the race.”

His epic voyage took 312 days, with little human contact or communication with the outside world. His only contact, his radio, malfunctioned within two months of the voyage and it wasn't until he was off the shores of New Zealand that he found out he was in the lead and that only four of the nine participants were still in the race.

His next contact with the outside world was just off the Azores, where he managed to get a message to Falmouth to say that he would be arriving within the next two weeks. On April 22, 1969, Sir Robin entered Falmouth Harbour as the sole finisher, leaving behind him a trail of broken boats and spirits.

Falmouth's natural harbour is one of the deepest in the world and has seen many famous names in sailing set sail from its shores, including pioneer Charles Darwin, and Dame Ellen MacArthur who broke the world solo circumnavigation record in 2005 with a time of 71 days 14 hours – less than a quarter of the time it took Knox-Johnson.

In August this year Knox-Johnson and Suhaili returned to Falmouth to lead the flotilla of boats as they circled the harbour before starting the 2018 Golden Globe Race.

### **From the past – into the future**

Cornwall began its involvement in the space industry in 1969 when the facility at Goonhilly Downs channelled TV pictures to millions of people across the world as Apollo 11 landed on the moon and Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the surface. No-one at that time would have imagined that there would be a growing space industry in the area within 50 years.

Newquay airport has several things in its favour.

It has a very large runway (thanks to its military origins), a growing airport with national and international connections and easy access to uncongested airspace over the Atlantic. The lifestyle in Cornwall adds the icing on the cake when it comes to recruiting the staff to drive the technology.

Spaceport Cornwall has recently announced a partnership with Richard Branson's Virgin Orbital to be the launch site for the deployment of 'constellations' of micro-satellites in space. Horizontal take-off is hoped to be much more economical than vertical rocket blast-off. At the announcement of the Spaceport deal, Geoff



Brown, Cornwall Council cabinet member for transport, quoted the statistic that the UK manufactures 44% of the world's small satellites and will benefit from having its own launch capability.

There will be valuable down-stream benefits such as building a clean hangar for loading the satellites onto the launchers. An aviation academy to train the pilots and crew is planned as part of the expansion to Newquay's Aerohub Business Park.

Goonhilly retains its important role in communications and has been awarded a £8.4 million contract to provide the UK's first deep-space communications station.

Forming another part of the growing space cluster is Flann Microwaves based in Bodmin. It has clients around the world including NASA's jet propulsion laboratory in Pasadena, California for its specialised products – highly engineered bespoke metal tubes that guide microwaves transporting high frequency radio waves over huge distances. “Like plumbing for radio waves”.

A group of companies has formed Cornwall UK Space group to co-ordinate developments and promote the region's increasing breadth and depth of expertise. They include Spaceport, Goonhilly, Flann and software companies Bluefruit (based in Redruth) and Packet Ship (at Pool).

James Watts is CEO of Flann Microwaves (a name that sounds at home in developing technology in Cornwall – think steam engines) suggests that Cornwall can “stop using pictures of old wheel engines and disused mines to promote Cornwall's engineering skills and the future. It was 250 years ago. We've moved on a bit from that.”

### **The Mining Games**

To show that mining in Cornwall is still alive, well and up to international standards, Camborne School of Mines (CSM) hosted the 40th International Mining Games for three days over Easter weekend this year. 39 teams from mining schools all over the world came to Cornwall to tackle seven incredibly demanding challenges derived from traditional mining techniques. Each one designed to test the strength and skill of the competitors.

The seven events covered mucking (filling a cart with gravel and pushing it up and down a track); handsteel (hammering a steel rod into concrete); Swede saw (sawing a 6x6 block of timber); trackstand (constructing and deconstructing a rail track); Jack leg (drilling a

series of holes with a pneumatic drill); surveying (using traditional equipment to survey known coordinates); gold panning (find 5 flattened pieces of lead in sand).



The CSM men's team claimed the overall title from the games with an overwhelming sense of pride at taking out the trophy on home ground.

There were more women's team this year than ever before. Unfortunately the CSM women's team did not do as well as their male counterparts. The female champions were "Babes in Bibs" from Missouri USA.

### School of journalism

I first found out about the mining games after stumbling on a website called TRUTHfal. Run by the School of Journalism at Falmouth University it gives the students a real-time opportunity to put their skills to real life situations.

Broken into sections with titles unashamedly full of puns, TRUTHfal claims to be "Falmouth's antidote to fake news and the suddenly de rigueur but stupid notion that we've been plunged helplessly into a 'post-truth' era."



The students write news article in SCOOPfal and in depth articles in INSIGHTfal. Opinion pieces are called THOUGHTfal and the sporting section goes under the heading PLAYfal. There are video and audio reports in WATCHfal and EARfal respectively.

The Falmouth campus started its life as an outpost of Exeter University but was granted its stand-alone status in 2012. The first Chancellor (a figure-head ceremonial and ambassadorial position with no direct educational responsibilities) is Dawn French (of Vicar of Dibley fame). Ms French has lived in a rather large mansion overlooking the sea near Fowey for many years.

Yet in the last few days Dawn French has threatened to leave Cornwall if it doesn't get more beautiful soon. This continues months

of regular 'hate' posts on her twitter account. Here are just two to explain why she feels as if she has had "enough of this misery".

27 September: "Oh, Cornwall, when are you going to cheer up and look nice? It's one disappointment after another..."



14 April: "Primroses. Cornwall. A dog. Inconceivably awful..."



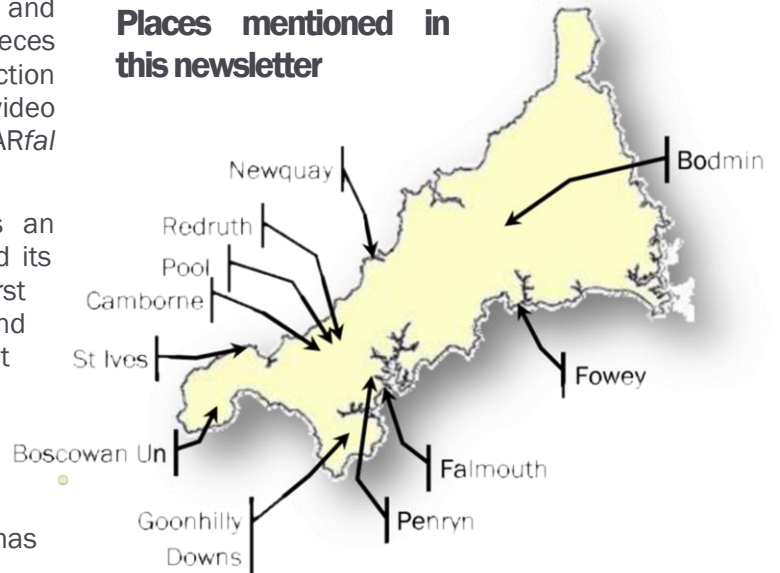
Always the joker!

### Christchurch Branch

Genetics was the topic of conversation at the meeting of the Christchurch Branch on 8 September. 28 members and friends enjoyed a pictorial visit to Cornwall guided by Barbara, Jenny and Heather who had undertaken a trip there during this last northern summer.

The ladies also spoke of having DNA tests carried out and it turned out that other members had done so too and results were compared.

### Places mentioned in this newsletter



That's it for this newsletter. - All the best, my 'ansomes!

*Nick*

Crossword solution: Truro - an anagram of Right Reverend OUT