

Jly \ August 463 - mis Gotheren / mis Est 2022

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

**Kowethas Kernewek  
Mordir Nowydh**



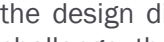
**N E W S L E T T E R**

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

**Pottery Throwdown**

I watched a 'new' programme on TV3's Eden channel that has been screening on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The show is also available on demand through Freeview. It may have been 'new' to NZ but it was first broadcast in the UK in January 2020. The Great Pottery Throwdown pits 12 potters against each other to produce ceramics, testing a range of skills at the pottery wheel, moulding, decorating and sculpting. One is eliminated each week - it's the standard format for competitive reality shows.

I mention it not only because I enjoy the type of show where you get to marvel and learn from the skill of the contestants but there are also two potters from Cornwall. One, the oldest competitor, is 70-year-old Leonard Young from [Truro](#). He described himself as a company director who had retired to Cornwall. He studied pottery at Ealing College of Art in 1978. Many of Leonard's designs were inspired by his passion of scuba diving and the plants and creatures he had seen in the sea. One of the challenges was to make a complete chess set of 32 pieces. Leonard's interpretation included shrimp pawns (prawns - get it?) and hammerhead sharks for kings.

The other competitor from Cornwall, 19-year-old Kit Andrews, was living with his parents on their organic turkey farm near [Fowey](#). He was introduced to pottery on his 9th birthday, was hooked and later took professional lessons. For the chess set challenge, Kit submitted a simple and stylish design inspired by the rivalry between Devon and Cornwall. One side was glazed in traditional Cornish black and white. Some of the pieces also carried the St Piran cross. The other side was based on Devon's green and white St Petroc's cross. Although it  appealed to viewers from the  comments left on the programme's  Facebook page, the simplicity of the design did not involve the level of technical challenge that the judges expected so did not score highly.

Since the end of the show, Kit has moved to

Bristol, developed his skills and has established his own pottery studio under the name of 'The Cornish Potter'.

**Spoiler alert:** both survived the first stage but neither made it to the final.

**Heatwave**

The news in NZ over several days in July marvelled at the extremely high temperatures being experienced in Europe and especially in the UK. Cornwall, renowned as a holiday destination for its beaches, sun and sand, did not endure the same highs as its neighbours but has still broken a heat record.

BBC Cornwall weather forecasters said, "Temperatures above 30C (86F) are quite rare for Cornwall. We have a long coastline and nowhere is too far away from the sea. This means mild winters and comfortable summers.

"Today [19 July], we have reached 36C (96.8F) in [Bude](#) - a new record for Cornwall, beating the previous high of 33.9C (93F) at [Ellbridge](#) in June 1976. We would not normally get so hot, but there are some topographical effects: the advection of hot air from France and the prolonged dry, very warm spell warming the ground and buildings. These combined are pushing temperatures up to exceptional levels. Overnight temperatures may not fall much below 23-25C (73F-77F)."

The 2022 record temperature coincided with a three-day visit to Cornwall of Prince Charles, Duke of Cornwall, and the Duchess of Cornwall.

At a garden party at [Bocconnoc House](#) near Lostwithiel, the Duke and Duchess used a large sword to cut a cake marking the 70th anniversary of his accession to the Duchy. It was an automatic appointment when his mother became Queen in 1952 and he became the male heir to the throne. In his speech at the party, The Duke brought up a memory of Prince Philip.

"I remember my late father telling me years ago



that not long after I was born and became Duke of Cornwall at the age of three and a bit, he found himself in Cornwall, launching a new lifeboat called, inevitably, the Duke of Cornwall. In his speech, he said to a somewhat bemused crowd of onlookers that this was the second time he 'had had a hand in launching a Duke of Cornwall!' "

## Cornish Rugby XV's

One of the young people invited to attend the event at Boconnoc was Ethen Pearce Cowley, the captain of the Cornwall under 20s rugby team. The invitees were current leaders, up-and-coming leaders, those who had made a particular contribution to the vibrant life of Cornwall and those who have been put forward by their communities.



Ethan's team had won the Jason Leonard Cup, in the national Under 20s county championship in May. Cornwall beat Kent 24:21 in a close match in Worcester.

The 'youngsters' were not the only Cornish team to win rugby finals this season. The senior county side, noisily supported by Trelawny's Army at Twickenham in London, took out Cheshire 37:24 and carried home the Bill Beaumont Cup.

The women's XV was also victorious in the national women's division 3 final at Richmond, London. Their score of 36 to 17 against a team from three English counties (Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire) reflects a rather one-sided game and the strength of women's rugby in Cornwall.

## Gwenno

A music album by Gwenno, sung almost entirely in Kernewek, has been shortlisted for the Mercury Prize. The album, titled 'Tresor' (treasure), is Gwenno's third full-length studio album and the second to feature Kernewek. Only one of the ten tracks is in Welsh. The songs were written in [St Ives](#) but the album was recorded in her home in Cardiff, Wales. The lyrics, in both Kernewek and English, are on her fan website, [www.gwenno.info](http://www.gwenno.info). Her husband Rhys Edwards produced the album and they have a son.

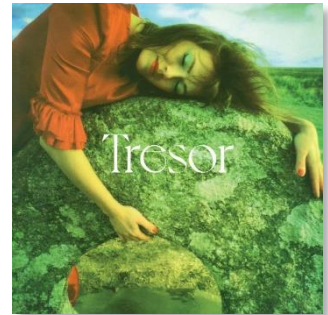
Gwenno's style can be described as psych-pop. To me, there were influences from Enya, and Clannad with elements of 80s electronic rhythm and traditional folk music. She has rubbed shoulders with the famous, having toured with Elton John as a keyboard player.



Gwenno is the daughter of Cornishman, Tim Saunders, a Bard, poet and journalist who writes in Cornish, Welsh, Irish and Breton. She was brought up using Kernewek and Welsh as her main languages. In 2019 Gwenno was, herself, admitted as a bard of Gorsedh Kernow for her success with music in the Cornish language.

Her previous album, *Le Kov*, had been credited with a 15% increase in the number of people taking classes in the Cornish language.

You can hear Tresor on Spotify or YouTube or you can buy the album on CD or vinyl.



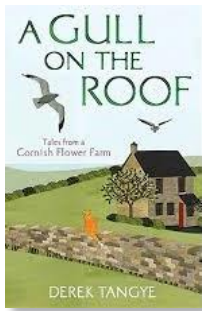
If, like me, you had not heard of the Mercury Prize, the fact that the nominations hit the international headlines shows its importance. The Prize promotes UK and Irish music and the artists who produce it. This is done through celebrating 12 'Albums of the Year' across a range of contemporary music genres. The organisers describe it as is the music equivalent to the Booker Prize for literature and the Turner Prize for art. They also make the point that, to ensure that coverage is concentrated on the artists and their music, it has been a policy since the Prize began that the production company does not engage in any publicity or PR activity other than that which directly benefits the artists that it's promoting. Other nominees, who appear to be famous names but, like me again, you possibly have not heard of, include Harry Styles, Sam Fender and Self Esteem.

## Writers around Lamorna

National member, Bill Trewheellar, sent me a magazine article about authors who had based themselves and their work around picturesque [Lamorna Cove](#).

On the headland to the east of Lamorna Point is Carn Barges where Derek Tangye and his wife, Jeannie, came on holiday in the 1950s and spotted an uninhabited cottage and they both knew at once that it was where they wanted to make their forever home. They gave up glamorous jobs in London – Derek was a journalist and Jeannie the publicity manager for the Savoy Hotel group. The story of their





transformation from city-dwellers to coastal gardeners is told in Derek's possibly best-known work, *A Gull on the Roof*, published in 1961. He went on to write 18 more books about their life and the surrounding flora and fauna.

Jeannie also wrote about her work at the Savoy and 3 hotel-based novels. Together they set up a trust that owns 18 acres of land next to the cottage which is now run as a nature reserve open to the public as a 'place for solitude' according to the sign on the gate.

Nearby in [St Buryan](#), is the property of another famous writer, John le Carré, whose real name was David John Moore Cornwell. He was, of course, known for his spy novels such as 'The Spy who Came in from the Cold' so, unlike Derek Tangye, did not draw on his immediate surroundings for his artistic inspiration. He was born in Dorset but lived in Cornwall for 40 years and died there at the age of 89.

A little further along the coastal footpath lies [Boskenna](#) Manor, once owned by Mary Wesley, the author of many books including 'The Camomile Lawn'. The Camomile Lawn was based in Cornwall's Roseland Peninsula and was later made into a television series.

Crosbie Garstin is not so well known today as Tangye, le Carré or Wesley. In the 1920s he conceived a character called Ortho Penhale that possibly inspired the creation of Ross Poldark decades later. Penhale was a swarthy, adventurous type who travelled far and wide and survived wars and close scrapes with authorities. Ortho Penhale featured in a trilogy with the titles 'The Owl's House', 'High Noon' and 'The West Wind'.

Garstin himself was well-travelled. He was born in [Newlyn](#), the son of Norman Garstin who painted the picture of Penzance promenade called 'The Rain it Raineth'. At the age of 19, after a disappointing education, Crosbie Garstin left home to work as a bronco buster in America and in the gold fields and lumber camps of Canada. Later he became a cattle rancher and a bush ranger in Africa. He returned at the start of the Great War and joined a cavalry regiment serving in France and Ireland.

When visiting Lamorna in 1922, in an incident that could have come from a novel, he bravely rescued a girl from drowning. They fell in love and he

married Lilian Barkworth in 1924.

To add to the romance and intrigue surrounding Garstin, he was lost at sea in 1930 at the age of 42 while rowing a boat to a friend's yacht moored in the harbour at Salcombe, Devon. He was presumed drowned but his body was never found



Another of Garstin's novels, 'China Seas' was made into a successful movie in 1935 starring Clark Gable as an abrasive, gambling, captain of a tramp steamer carrying a cargo of gold and was boarded by pirates. Jean Harlow provided the love interest and Wallace Beery was the anti-hero.

## Anniversary project

In the last newsletter I asked members to send in details of the one place in Cornwall where they felt the strongest connection and whether that link was through their ancestors, immediate family or simple love of the place. The two branches have submitted group responses and many thanks to the people there who co-ordinated the replies.

This is the **last chance** for other members to join in. The resulting map has been drawn up and will be finalised later in August. If you haven't yet contacted me and wish to be included, please do so before **15 August**. You do not want to be left out.

You can let me know your connection by post, email or phone. You may need to leave a message on my mobile or landline. Please be as clear as you can leaving

- ■ your name
- ■ the place in Cornwall where you feel the closest connection and
- ■ how your connection arises.

The map will go onto our website and will be included in the anniversary booklet. Geoff Curson, Judy Wright and I have been working on the booklet to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association and it is close to going to print. The map is the final 'piece of the jigsaw'. More details about the booklet will be provided in the next newsletter when we know more about production dates.

## Royal Cornwall Museum

The Toronto Cornish Association passed on the news that Cornwall Council did not award any funding to the Royal Cornwall Museum (RCM),

the Royal Institute of Cornwall and the Courtney Library in its latest culture and creative programme. Our Canadian counterparts were indignant that this was a mistake and that Cornish people around the world should contact the Council to express their disapproval of the decision.

The museum is located in [Truro](#), the 'capital' of Cornwall. It seems that a similar situation in NZ would be for the government to stop funding Te Papa. The RCM and its sister organisations are fundamental to conserving, recording and displaying the history of Cornwall. It also plays a very important role in educating children and the general public about the heritage and importance of Cornwall.

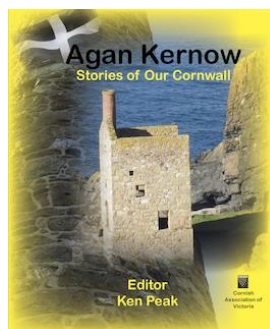
With £1.8 million to allocate over four years, the Council chose to finance 21 organisations including ones that "champion the role of the arts and creativity in promoting health and wellbeing" and "celebrate diversity, ability and community". Recipients include the Cornwall Museums Partnership which supports the Royal Cornwall Museum along with six other, smaller museums in Cornwall. The Council acknowledge that there had been "a change in emphasis" from the previous funding approach.

In response to a similar local reaction to the news, the Council said, "This is no reflection on their excellent work in culture and the creative arts and we had already said we want to work with them to unlock other potential funding opportunities from partner organisations in the future."

## Agan Kernow

Our friends across the ditch - the Cornish Association of Victoria - have published a book of Cornish writing with the title *Agan Kernow* (Our Cornwall). It is a 262-page book of 76 stories by 51 authors from across the Cornish diaspora. It contains stories from all around Australia, as well as from folk with Cornish heritage in Canada, the United States and New Zealand.

Given the NZ input and the general Cornish interest, the National Association is buying a copy to go into its library. It will, of course, be available for any member to borrow.



## Branches

The Christchurch Branch held a meeting on 11 June with 15 members and 2 guest speakers who took the meeting on a fascinating cultural trip to Sri Lanka that prompted many questions.

The meeting concluded with the drawing of the raffle took place and afternoon tea.

Twelve members braved a very wet and cold Christchurch afternoon on 9 July.

Heather led the Cornish song for July which was the Cornish Wassail. It is a house-to-house

luck and good-health-wish song that would have been sung in Cornwall around Christmas or twelfth night.

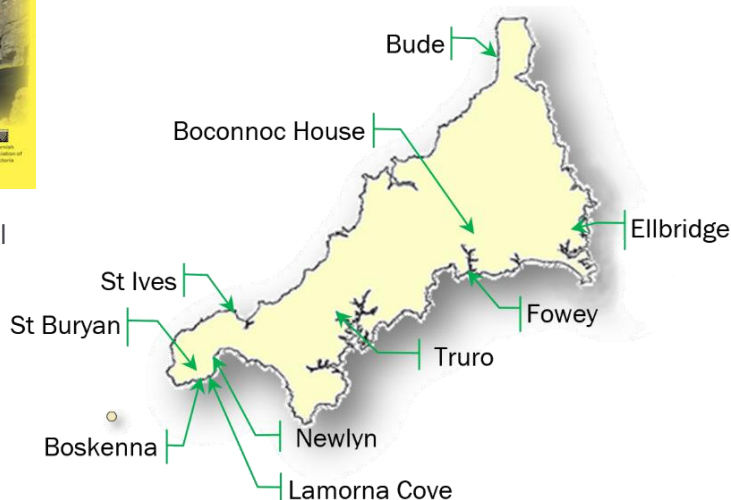
Les had St. Nonan's Holy Well at [Alternun](#) as the legend subject with all the rituals and duckings into the well associated with ridding a person of the devil's influence.

Adrienne showed The first part of a DVD, Gardens of the World Tour, conducted by Audrey Hepburn and we look forward to part 2.

The raffle was drawn and afternoon tea was enjoyed by all present.

Both the Taranaki Branch and Christchurch Branch are holding meetings on **13 August** at their usual venues - see the website for details. There will be celebrations to mark the first meeting of the National Association in Wellington on 15 August 1962 - 60 years ago to the day (almost).

## Places mentioned in this newsletter



That's it for this newsletter my 'ansomes. See 'ee again dreckly!

*Nide*