

- photo of new bards 2018 before initiation into the College of Bards, taken by Gareth Parry

GORSEDH KERNOW - The Celtic spirit of Cornwall



(Photo: Tim Stevens)

“We must control our own destiny” says the Grand Bard of Cornwall

“Newquay is a shining example of where Cornish history, heritage and contemporary community combine to create our distinctive modern Cornish identity”, said the proud Newquay born Grand Bard of Cornwall, Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn*, as he welcomed bards, dignitaries, guests, banner bearers and a large crowd of members of the public to Gorsedh Kernow’s annual bardic ceremony, held this year on the clifftops of the Barrowcliff in Newquay.

“These views reach way back to the Bronze Age and the harbour below echoes nineteenth century Cornish industrial ingenuity,” said the Grand Bard as he opened the bardic ceremony during the final few hours of his tenure.

Thanking members of the local organising committee for all their hard work over many months and the Mayor of Newquay Cllr Andy Hannan for such a warm welcome, the Grand Bard stood alongside delegates from the Welsh and Breton Gorseddau and reminded the crowds who had gathered in and around the bardic circle of the importance of recognising Cornwall as a distinct part of Great Britain.

“The culture of our modern Cornish community is born of the environment, the landscape and ocean around us, the movement of people and the history played out. It is a complex environment with many aspects that give rise to a distinct cultural identity.”

The Grand Bard highlighted that some national institutions such as the BBC exclude Cornwall unjustly by failing to recognise and support our distinctive cultural identity, which is also a challenge to Cornwall’s economic development and search for equality.

“Radio Cornwall is exemplary in its work for the Cornish community but once beyond the Tamar commitment to Cornwall tapers dramatically” he said, “and yet Cornwall creates such an attractive environment for businesses, nurturing and inspiring through confidence in our cultural life, while retaining and drawing in the talent and skills we need to build a vibrant economic community.”

“Our unique Cornish culture is an asset to be promoted and fostered and is an integral part of the very successful ‘Brand Kernow,’” said Dr Davey, taking his last opportunity to speak as Grand Bard before handing over the copper crown to his successor and fellow bard Elizabeth Carne, *Melennek*.

“I urge those organisations which are distant from Cornish aspiration and rooted in a centralist cultural narrative and yet control Cornwall’s cultural and heritage assets, to hand them over. We must control our own destiny and take responsibility for the assets that define our identity.”

New bards with Bardic Names



Nick Bartle, Wellington, New Zealand, for services to Cornish identity in New Zealand including work for the NZ Cornish Association. Bardic Name: ***Den An Soth*** meaning Man of the South. (Accepted by his representative Vanessa Moyle, *Trevesiges*).

Dave Brotherton, St. Ives, for services to Cornish music including writing and performing Cornish folk music as co-founder of Tir ha Tavas, Bagas Porthia and the revived St Ives Guisers. Bardic Name: ***Ilewydh Porthia*** meaning Musician of St.Ives.

Jean Charman, Camborne, for services to Camborne's heritage and the Cornish in Mexico including twinning with the Cornish in Mexico and, as a Camborne councillor the protection and re-use of historic buildings in her home town. Bardic Name: ***Myrgh Godhyan*** meaning Daughter of Gwithian.

Dick Cole, Fraddon, Truro, for campaigning for Cornwall's cultural and geographical integrity. Bardic Name: ***Gwythyas an Tir*** meaning Guardian of the Land.

Jane Darke, Porthcothan Bay, Padstow, for services to Cornish film making and writing, her archival and educational work and the promotion of films and other work by her late husband Nick Darke. Bardic Name: **Morva** meaning Seashore.

Mark Elton, Twickenham, London, by examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Cornwall. He also helps organise Kernow in the City to celebrate St Piran each year in London. Bardic Name: **Gwas An Wrekkoryon** meaning Servant of Wreckers.

Malcolm Gould, Luxulyan, for services to Cornish industrial history including talks on China Clay and work for the China Clay museum. Bardic Name: **Map Pry Gwyn** meaning Son of China Clay.

Darren Hawken, Tideford, Saltash, for services to Cornish music. Bardic Name: **Hembrenkyas Ilow** meaning Conductor of Music.

Margaret Johnson, Morphett Vale, South Australia, for services to Cornish identity in South Australia. Sings with and leads the choir at Australian bardic gatherings and is a popular mc and public speaker at bardic events in Australia including Kernewek Lowender. Bardic Name: **Kanores Keur** meaning Choir Singer.

Jan Lokan, McLaren Vale, South Australia, for services to Cornish identity in South Australia. A hardworking member of the Kernewek Lowender organising committee. Bardic Name: **Myrgh Golsery** meaning Daughter of Goldsworthy.

Peter Meanwell, Washaway, Bodmin, for services to Cornish music including researching old Cornish music for performance by his own choir the Washaway Gallery Choir. Bardic Name: **Hwilor Ilow** meaning Seeker of Music. (Accepted by his representative Mike O'Connor, Crowder).

Jane Nancarrow, St. Stephens, Launceston, for services to Cornish literature. A pupil and disciple of Charles Causley who works hard for the Charles Causley Festival and is one of the finest readers of Causley's poetry. She is also well remembered for her performance as Mary Yellan in 'Jamaica Inn' and had a leading role in Edward Woodward's last film 'A Congregation of Ghosts'. Bardic Name: **Skrifores Nans Karow** meaning Writer of the Valley of the Deer.

Jonny Nance, Cullompton, Devon, for services to Cornish maritime culture. Builds traditional boats for St. Ives, which resulted in the formation of the Jumbo Association, named after the design of the boat, and the reappearance

of unique Cornish luggers in St.Ives harbour. Grandson of Robert Morton Nance, *Mordon* and Bernard Leach, *Resor an Nor*. Bardic Name: **Gwythor Scathow** meaning Builder and Guardian of Boats.

Richard Damian Nance, Stratford, Connecticut, U.S.A., for services to Cornish identity in the U.S.A. A geologist with a particular interest in the geology of Cornwall, especially the Lizard. He has also directed attention, with a view to increasing public access, to the only known surviving Cornish engine house in the U.S.A. which housed a massive Cornish engine known as 'The President'. Grandson of Robert Morton Nance, *Mordon* and Bernard Leach, *Resor an Nor*. Bardic Name: **Karrek** meaning Rock.

Glen Ridnour, Mineral Point, Wisconsin, U.S.A., for services to Cornish identity in the U.S.A. Bardic Name: **Kren Pilen** meaning Shake Rag.

Carole Roberts, North Vancouver, Canada, for services to Cornish identity in Canada. Bardic Name: **Myrgh Tavernor** meaning Innkeeper's Daughter.

90th anniversary year

Saturday 1st September 2018, Newquay

Grand Bard's speech

Newquay is a shining example of where Cornish history, heritage and contemporary community combine to create our distinctive modern Cornish identity. Cliff top views reach back to the Bronze Age and the harbour below echoes nineteenth century Cornish industrial ingenuity. The waters around us fostered the sports of gig racing and surfing which help image modern Cornwall and Newquay will soon join Goonhilly at the forefront of space exploration. This is a truly fitting place for the ceremonies of Gorsedh Kernow. We thank Andy Hannan, Mayor of Newquay and the people of the town for their fantastic welcome. We also owe a depth of gratitude to the Local Organising Committee and all their hard work in preparing for the Gorsedh Ceremony and the programme of Esedhvos events.

It is my pleasure as Bardh Meur to welcome you all, guests, delegates from Wales and Brittany and all the people around the circle, to our Gorsedh here today.

The culture of our modern Cornish community is born of the environment, the landscape and ocean around us, the movement of people and the history played out. It is a complex environment with many aspects that give rise to a distinct cultural identity. Our Cornish language is the boldest assertion of our identity and one that cements together all aspects into a cohesive whole. The language belongs to all the people of Cornwall and represents our collective identity. We are proud of our fluent speakers and the increasing number of students but the language also belongs to those who keep Cornish alive with the occasional phrase of “Myttin Da” or “Meur Ras”. Cornish is alive in the place names around us and enhanced by the increasing use of bilingual signage. It is a powerful tool in promoting the all important “Brand Kernow” and here we encourage Cornwall Council to stick to its place and street naming policy. Keep Cornwall special with more “Nansledan” and less “Copperfields”.

Austerity can encourage a narrow view that supporting the Cornish language and culture is a luxury we cannot afford. But celebration of our identity and culture is an expression of confidence and, as we learned at our conference yesterday, it is confidence that will overcome the conditions which cause austerity. Prosperity and well being in Cornwall depend upon being different, challenging, innovative and creative and our language and culture are central to this ambition. Our distinctive Cornish culture is an asset to be promoted and fostered and is an integral part of the very successful “Brand Kernow”. It creates an attractive environment for businesses, nurturing, inspiring, retaining as well as drawing in the talent and skills we need to build a vibrant economic community.

The failure of some national institutions to recognise and support our distinctive cultural identity is also a challenge to Cornwall’s economic

development and search for equality. The BBC is one such institution. Radio Cornwall is exemplary in its work for the Cornish community but once beyond the Tamar commitment to Cornwall tapers dramatically. Gorsedh Kernow invited Ken MacQuarrie, BBC Director of Nations & Regions to attend the Gorsedh Kernow Conference to speak on proposals to create a designated service for Cornwall, such as an i-player platform, as it does for the other UK nations. We received no response from Mr MacQuarrie or from the BBC. Gorsedh Kernow calls upon the BBC to acknowledge the UK Government's recognition of the Cornish as a National Minority alongside of the Welsh and Scots and deliver a designated service to us. We also call upon the secretary of State for Media, Culture and Sport to take this matter up and on our Cornish MPs to champion it. To the Trustees of the BBC we say this exclusion of Cornwall is unjust.

A similar challenge to Cornwall's economic and cultural development lies in the way in which some aspects of our cultural heritage are controlled by external organisations distant from Cornish aspiration and rooted in a centralist cultural narrative. We must control our own destiny and take responsibility for the assets that define our identity. Cornwall Council has presented proposals to the UK Government for the next stage of our devolution which include management and regulation of our own heritage and cultural assets. Gorsedh Kernow calls upon the Cornish community and our political representatives to work together to deliver a Devolution deal that will give us the resources and power to manage and develop our Cultural Heritage.

Kernow Bys Vykken.

Merv Davey / *Telynyor an Weryn*

Grand Bard of Cornwall / *Bardh Meur Kernow*

Areth Bardh Meur, solempnita bardhek Tewynblustri

dy Sadorn 1sa Mis Gwynngala 2018

Tewynblustri yw ensampel splann a le may kesun istori, ertach ha kemeneth kevos kernewek dhe wruthyl agan honanieth kernewek arnowydh diblans. Gwelyow a benn an als a ystyn a-dhelergh dhe'n Oos Brons ha'n porth a-woles a dhassen ynjynieth dhiwysyanssek kernewek an nownsegves kansvledhen. An dowrow a-dro dhyn ni a vaga an sportys a resow gyg ha mordardha hag a weres furvya imach Kernow arnowydh, ha skon y hwra Tewynblustri omjunya gans Goon Helghi orth bleyn a hwithrans efanvos. Hemm yw yn tevri le gwiw rag solempnitys Gorsedh Kernow. Ni a wor meur ras dhe Andy Hannan, Mer Tewynblustri, ha dhe dus an dre a'ga dynnargh marthys. Ni a dal ynwedh grassyans an moyha dhe'n Kessedhek Ordena Leel rag oll aga ober diwysyk ow pareusi rag Solempnita an Orsedh ha'n dowlen a hwarvosow an Esedhvos.

Yth yw ow flesour avel Bardh Meur dh'agas dynerghi oll, ostysi, kanasow dhyworth Kembra ha Breten Vyghan ha pub huni a-dro dhe'n kylgh, dh'agan Gorsedh omma hedhyw.

Gonisogeth agan kemeneth kernewek arnowydh yw genys a'n kerghynnedh, an tirwel ha'n keynvor a-dro dhyn ni, gwayans a bobel ha'n istori displegys. Yth yw kerghynnedh kompleth gans lies vu hag a re sav dhe honanieth wonisogethek diblans. Agan taves kernewek yw deklaryans an moyha hardh a'gan honanieth, hag onan a stroth war-barth pub vu oll yn somm kesklenus. An taves a long dhe bub huni oll a Gernow hag omdhiskwedhes agan honanieth kemmyn. Gothus on ni a'gan kowsoryon freth ha'n niver ynkressya a studhyoryon, mes an taves a long ynwedh dhe'n re na neb a with yn few Kernewek gans an lavaren dreweythus "Myttin Da" po "Meur Ras". Yma Kernewek yn few y'n henwyn tylleryow oll a-dro dhyn hag afinys yw der an us ow tevi a arwodhyow diwyethek. Yth yw toul galosek rag avonsya an "Brand Kernow" pur bosek hag omma ni a generth Konsel Kernow dhe besya gans y bolici dhe henwel tylleryow ha stretys. Gwithyn Kernow arbennek gans moy a "Nansledan" ha le a "Copperfields".

Dibalster a yll kenertha gwel ynn, may fo skoodhyans an taves ha gonisogeth kernewek neb gorlanwes na yllyn y affordya. Mes solempnians a'gan honanieth ha gonisogeth yw displetyans a omgyfyans ha, dell dhys'syn ni orth agan keskussulyans de, yth yw omgyfyans hag a wra fetha an studhow a gaws

dibalster. Sewenyans ha speda yn Kernow a greg war agan bos dyffrans, parys dhe jalenjya, nowydhyansek hag awenek, ha'gan taves ha gonisogeth yw kresel dhe'n ughelhwans ma. Agan gonisogeth kernewek diblans yw an pyth a godh bos avonsys ha megys, hag yth yw rann bosek an "Brand Kernow" pur sewen. Y form kerghynnedh tennvosek rag negysyow, yn unn vaga, awena, gwitha, keffrys ha tenna war-barth an roas ha sleyghneth anedha mayth yw edhom dhyn rag drehevel kemeneth erbysek bewek.

An fall a nebes fondyansow kenedhlek dhe aswon ha skoodhya agan honanieth wonisogethek diblans yw ynwedh chalenj dhe dhisplegyans erbysek Kernow ha'gan hwithrans rag parder. An Korteb yw unn fondyans a'n par ma. Radyo Kernow yw heb fowt yn y ober rag an gemeneth kernewek, byttegyns tremena an Tamar hag omrians dhe Gernow a dheu ha bos tanow yn uskis. Gorsedh Kernow a elwis Ken MacQuarrie, Lewydh Korteb a Genedhlow & Ranndiryow dhe dhos dhe Geskussulyans Gorsedh Kernow rag kewsel a-dro dhe brofyansow dhe furvya gonis henwys rag Kernow, kepar ha bynk i-warier, dell wrava rag gwlasow erel an Rywvanedh Unys. Ny wrussyn ni degemeres gorthyp vyth dhyworth Mr. MacQuarrie nag a'n Korteb. Gorsedh Kernow a elow orth an Korteb dhe amyttya aswonvos Governans an RU a'n Gernowyon avel Minorita Kenedhlek ryb tenewen an Gembryon ha'n Albanyon ha delivra gonis henwys dhyn ni. Ni a elow ynwedh orth Skrifennyas an Stat rag Media, Gonisogeth ha Sport dhe sewya an mater ma, ha'gan ES gernewek dh'y skoodhya. Dhe fydyadoryon an Korteb ni a lever y vos anewn an ekskludyans ma a Gernow.

Chalenj a'n keth par dhe dhisplegyans gonisogethek hag erbysek Kernow yw der an fordh mayth yw kontrolys nebes tremynnnow a'gan ertach gonisogethek gans kowethyansow a-ves, pell dhyworth gorvyn kernewek ha gwreydhys yn hwedhel gonisogethek kreselek. Res yw dhyn kontrolya agan tenkys agan honan ha kemeres charj a'n pythow hag a styr agan honanieth. Konsel Kernow re ros profyansow dhe Wovernans an RU rag nessa gradh a'gan digresennans, hag a gomprenend dyghtyans ha rewlyans a'gan ertach agan honan ha pythow gonisogethek. Gorsedh Kernow a elow orth an gemeneth kernewek ha'gan kanasow politek dhe gesoberi dhe dhelivra bargaen Digresennans hag a wra ri dhyn an asnodhow ha gallos dhe dhyghtya ha displegya agan Ertach Gonisogethek.

Kernow Bys Vykken.

Telynyor an Weryn

Bardh Meur Kernow