

## Messach a'n Bardh Meur / Grand Bard's Message

*Ha my ow skrifa hemma, yma meur a fronansow hwath mayth yw kales dhe dewlel towl gans surneth. Bytтыgens, an nowodhow da yw ni dhe besya gans solempnita bygghanhes dhe Ses mis Gwynngala. Ny vydh pubtra gwrys dell usyes, mes rol an re neb a dhiberthas adhyworthyn y'n vledhen ma a vydh redyes ynno ha'n Verdh Nowydh a vydh degemmers y'n kylgh. Soweth, herwydh reflow an governans y'n eur ma, ny yll moy es 30 pobel kesvetya war- barth. Mar pyth an reflow ma an keth yn mis Gwynngala, ny vydh spas rag moy es Berdh Nowydh ha nebes a'n sodhogyon gans devar dhe vos ena.*

*Gans hemma, ha ni ow konvedhes ny vydh possybyl rag lies bardh omjunya y'n kylgh y'n vledhen ma, yth esen ni ow restri froysans bew a'n solempnyans der gwiasva Gorsedh Kernow, may hyll kemmys hag yw posybyl onjunnya genen war-linen, hag y'ga mysk an re yn Diaspora keffrys ha teyluow ha kowetha Berdh Nowydh. Moy kedhlow adro dhe'n fordh dhe kestava gans an froysans bew a vydh danvenys moy ogas dhe'n termyn. Ny vydh Te Bardhek ha pubonan a wra gwiska ryb aga herri, dell wren ni y'n solempnita Awen. Ombellheans socyal a vydh gwithys dres oll an termyn ha rol a gevrenogesow ha kedhlow kestav ragda a vydh gwithys*

*My a wor nag yw hemma delvrysek, ha lies ahanowgh a vydh tollys na vydh possybyl dos, mes dell hevel hemm yw an gwella fordh y'n kesstudhyow. Mar pe an reflow lehe kyns dalleth mis Gwynngala, y hyllsen ni gelwel moy Berdh, mes y fydh frosnansow hwath drefen an spas hag ombellheans socyal.*

*Gorsedh Kenow re omvetyas pub bledhen a-ban 1928, hwath dres Nessa Bresel an Bys, ha ny wren ni gasa dhe Covid-19 agan lettya y'n vledhen ma.*

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As I write this there are still a lot of restrictions in place so it is difficult to plan with any certainty. However, the good news is that we are going ahead with a very reduced ceremony on 5<sup>th</sup> September. This ceremony will not involve some of the usual features, but will include the roll call of those who have left us this year and the welcoming of New Bards into the circle. Unfortunately government guidelines at the moment state that the maximum number of people that can meet up is 30. We will therefore be unable to include many Bards at this ceremony. If these guidelines are still in place in September, it will mean a gathering consisting of New Bards and a few officers essential to the ceremony only.

With this in mind, realising that many Bards will be unable to join the circle this year, we are arranging for the ceremony to be live streamed via the Gorsedh Kernow website so that as many as possible will be able to join us online, including those in the Diaspora as well as family and friends of New Bards. Details of how to access the live-stream will be sent out nearer the time. There will be no Bardic Tea and participants will robe by their cars, as we usually do at our Awen Ceremony. Social distancing will be observed at all times and a list of participants and their contact details will be kept.

I realise this is not ideal, and many of you will be disappointed not to be able to attend, but it seems to be the best we can do under the circumstances. If the government relaxes the rules by the beginning of September, we may be able to include more Bards, but will still be restricted by the space and social distancing rules. If this is the case I will contact you again.

Gorsedh Kernow has met every year since 1928, even during the Second World War, and we are not going to allow COVID-19 to stop us this year.

*Mellenek, Bardh Meur Kernow*



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Since the last newsletter, when we announced that the Holyer an Gof Publishers' Awards' Scheme was being put on hold because of the almost impossibility of distributing the books entered to readers in the three reading periods, organisers Gareth and Pat Parry, class co-ordinators and a team of reader-reviewers have been able to get the scheme back on track. Books have been posted or collected from and deliv-

ered from a door-step box and readers have read many more books than usual, in a very short space of time. *Meur ras* to everyone.

A 'Zoom' adjudication meeting was held on July 15<sup>th</sup>, nominations were published by press release and on the Holyer website on 22<sup>nd</sup>. July and the winners announced by Gareth on Tiffany Truscott's evening show on 29<sup>th</sup>. All results are on the Holyer website [www.holyerangofawards.org.uk](http://www.holyerangofawards.org.uk)

There will be no 'physical' ceremony in 2020 but we hope to include 2020 winners in the 2021 ceremony. The beginning of the submission period for books published in 2020 is November 1<sup>st</sup>. 2020 and the deadline for submissions is the end of February 2021. Bards are encouraged to send details of any likely entries from this year to the organisers at [holyeran-gof@btinternet.com](mailto:holyeran-gof@btinternet.com).

*Mab Meliner Gwlan, Gareth Parry and Gwylan Gernow, Pat Parry, Co-organisers*

## Pewasow Gorsedh Kernow 2020 / Gorsedh Kernow Awards 2020

2020 seemed a very challenging year in which to run an awards scheme, but it is pleasing to report that the Gorsedh Kernow Awards attracted a fine range of submissions and we are now ready to celebrate.

All this year's award-winners have been contacted and they are, without exception, delighted. It was particularly pleasing to know that those who had been nominated, as opposed to submitting their own work, were surprised and moved. All unsuccessful entrants and nominators have been contacted with constructive feedback.

It was agreed, in consultation with the Grand Bard, that to celebrate the awards this year we would focus on a lively online exhibition on the website rather than attempt a socially-distanced live event. The latter would, of necessity, have been a rather sad affair, with no contact or entertainment, and many award-winners are either at a considerable distance or would be ill-advised to attend for health reasons. An online celebratory exhibition went 'live' to coincide with the adult press release date of 15 July. This comprises definitive lists, lively 'poster' material on each award and a filmed celebration, with comprehensive listing of each award winner, accompanied by a good selection of filmed and visual images. This is introduced by the Grand Bard offering a formal congratulatory message. This film has also been shared more widely on social media, both to celebrate and honour the award-winners and to promote the scheme.

Tamsin and Amanda arranged to deliver all the medals, for adults, and children's pins and certificates and shared the good news about the awards in the media and online. Celebrations for children's award winners may be arranged at a suitable later date.

The Acting Awards Secretary would like to thank all those who nominated, the adjudicators who offered invaluable comment on the submissions, the panel members, and others, for their input, including Pat Parry, whose computing skills have made the online exhibition possible. In challenging circumstances, this team has enabled Gorsedh Kernow to honour, and to spread the word about, Cornwall's creative and community champions. Good news indeed in difficult times.

*Acting Awards Secretary, Tamsin Spargo.*

## Goursez Breizh 2020 / Gorsedh Breten Vyghan 2020

The Breton open Gorsedh Ceremony was held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July at Ploeneg in the Cap Sizun area. As it was impossible for anyone to travel from Cornwall, and I live in Brittany, I was invited to represent Melennek.

The Bards, Ovates and Druids started by processing to the war memorial which had been sculpted by a past bard, Reun Killiveg, who came from the village.

The Gorsedh had decided to hold their ceremony this year as there were several new bards and initiates but of course we all had to follow the various safety measures. Masks were worn in the processions and the circle was big enough for everyone to be a metre apart. The onlookers also wore masks.

The ceremony itself started by welcoming the overseas delegates and as there was no one from Wales there was only the part in Cornish. I also read this message from Melennek which I translated into Breton too and added that I was happy to participate in honour of my parents, Map Dyvroeth and Bryallan who had both attended in the past.

*'A Dhrewydh Meur, Drewydhyon, Berdh hag Ovatys Gorsedh Breizh.*

*Gorhemynadow a'n gwella diworth Bardh Meur Melennek ha Berdh Gorsedh Kernow. Pur drist ov vy nag yw possybyl ragov dhe dhos dhe Vreten Vyghan hevlena rag an Orsedh Digor. Yma govenek dhymm bos an solempnita dhe Cap Sizun splann hag an gewer deg ragowgh. Kemmerewgh with ha gortewgh salow. Kernow ha Breizh bys Vykken.'*



As well as the ceremony of the lady of the flowers and the joining of the two parts of the sword, the Grand Druid, Morgan (Pe r-Vari K&loc'h) gave a speech, honouring health workers. He used the idea of the mask as a metaphor, covering our eyes so we are blinded to the destruction of the planet, the lack of water and the suffering of the poor to increase the profits of large companies. He also mentioned the recent fire which destroyed part of the cathedral of Naoned, a symbol of the unity of Brittany.

Two local mayors, the Mayor of Ploeneg where the ceremony took place, and the Mayor of Gwaien, a nearby town, were also honoured for their actions in favour of Breton. The whole of the ceremony was in Breton of course and it was good to see that many of the new initiates were Breton speakers.

Lena Louarn, the representative for Breton in the Regional Council as well as Mona Bras, an elected representative spoke of the importance of the language and the use of it in the home as well as in an official capacity. The Breton Gorsedh has a different role from the Cornish one but under Morgan the number of bards is growing and the ceremony was filmed for the local TV channel and watched by a couple hundred or so spectators. They appreciate greatly their links with Gorsedh Kernow and their regular trips to Cornwall.



Kestenen at Goursez Breizh



**Kestenen, Morwenna Jenkin**

## *Ow kovhe Delynyer Hendhyscans/ Remembering Craig Weatherhill 1950—2020*

**Craig Weatherhill** (1951 – 2020) was an inspirational person with a range of skills and interests that brought him into the lives of a very wide spectrum of people. I first met him at a gig when he was very keen to immerse himself in the rhythm and noise of, I think, Gulval Mead. As with everything he did, Craig immersed himself in the music with vigour, and so our first meeting was a mingling of dripping sweat and twelve-bar elation!

During his early years in local government, at Carrick Council, Craig took on a senior colleague over the fate of an archaeological artefact. Whilst he enraged officialdom with his rhetoric, his assessment of the artefact, his knowledge of procedure, and his tenacity as a campaigner fired the imagination of many who read accounts of the saga in *Peninsula Voice*. He later served with distinction as Conservation Officer at Penwith District Council.



As a conservationist, an archaeologist, an historian and a persistent defender of the Cornish cultural community, following up his childhood explorations, Craig led and sustained the ongoing battle for the integrity and beauty of Penwith. There was not a stone or indentation that Craig had not studied and gazetted. His exceptional book, 'Cornovia' (preceded by 'Belerion'), is not only a central text in any Cornish library, and an immensely useful and deeply researched work, it also set out a now internationally accepted model, and is a textbook of Cornish heritage.

As a linguist Craig was immersed in place-names. His 'Place Names of Cornwall and Scilly' is a vital resource for any geographer, anthropologist or explorer of Kernow. He took his position in the great debates about Kernewek and often found himself quite isolated. His rationality sustained him, even though, sometimes his passion had painted him into a tight corner. Nothing mattered so much, though, that it shattered the relationships which his innate charm, wit and inner repose had built up throughout the many layers of Cornish and British life. He served for many years on the Place-Names Panel of the Cornish Language Partnership, and was Chairman of Agan Tavas.

Craig lived quietly in Newbridge, between Penzance and St Just. He kept a horse and together they roamed his beloved moors, observing, delighting and patrolling. Many a landowner will testify that, whilst small (or large) reorganisations of things was being carried out, a large, bright-eyed and fierce Celtic chieftain would trot out of the low cloud to berate such disturbance of the scarred turf and its artefacts, and demanding restoration before a list of mellifluously quoted and referenced regulations unleashed their full force upon the hapless miscreant.

He was, I think, above all things, a storyteller and a writer. He loved the Cornish story, and he told it in many forms, in many books, for many years. He told it to academics and to children with the force, passion and adherence to facts which were his central attributes.

His last book, *The Promontory People*, was an historical polemic driven by his narrative style, detailed and incontrovertible – not just his swansong, but a bringing together of the many facets of his life's work in a work of seminal power and beauty.

We have fought together, and sat on opposite sides, and ruminated over past times and varied futures. I, and all who knew him, have lost a man of resonant knowledge and wisdom, of wit and compassion, whose research, thinking and imagination have enriched all our lives, and will continue to do so for as long as Cornish eyes are left to liberate Cornish literature from cold shelves, or to wander among the stones.

I was standing on Eagles' Nest, above Zennor, in a gathering mist, with the Parish of Towednack reaching out to the west and all of Kernow to the north, with Tremedda, Porthmeor, Foage and Wicca entering possibly their five thousandth year of cultivation and harvest. John Davey lay in the graveyard, and D H Lawrence jingled along from Tregarthen to discover the truth by the fire in the Tinnars'. On the air came some words of his old friend, Sidney Graham, lamenting the death of Peter Lanyon. I thought of Craig, unable to ride his horse, sitting quietly with his mellotron, conjuring echoes of little folk below the beams of his lair. I thought that, but for Craig, there would be red brick and dual carriageways, broken farms and unrecognisable stones.

The days are shortening over Little Park Owles.  
The poet or painter steers his life to maim  
Himself somehow for the job. His job is Love  
Imagined into words or paint to make  
An object that will stand and will not move. (*W.S.Graham*)

Craig Weatherhill was a completer of projects, a draughtsman, thorough and intense in his method, modest and self-effacing in his achievement. His early experience in the RAF gave him a work ethic which has driven him to produce, to perfect, and to make a lifework of lasting and statuesque value to his Nation, her people and the sum of human culture. I know he was anxious about where the next generation of fighters and thinkers for Cornwall was to be found – with its head buried in the books he wrote in his spare time, I have no doubt!  
Kernow bys vykken.

*Vyajor gans Geryow*, Bert Biscoe, July 2020

## Kovheans /

## In Memoriam

**Craig Weatherhill, *Delynyer Hendhyscans*.** He was initiated at Nance, Illogan in 1981

**John Potter, *Den Pen Kernow*.** St Just. He was initiated in 2004 for services to Cornish Industrial History, including producing films on Levant Mine and South Crofty Mine. He was the husband of *Ylades*, Esme Potter, Gorsedh harpist for many years.

## Lyther-Nowodhow / Newsletter

News and information for the next issue, covering November, December and January, should be sent to [news@gorsedhkernow.org.uk](mailto:news@gorsedhkernow.org.uk) by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

If you have an email address and would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please tell the Membership secretary, David Holman on [Membership@gorsedhkernow.org.uk](mailto:Membership@gorsedhkernow.org.uk). You will also then receive the occasional interim postings which go only by email.

## Sodhow Gwag / Vacancies

Gorsedh Kernow is seeking offers of help in the following areas.

We are sad to report that *Kevryn*, Terri Jones, who has served as Mistress of the Robes for some years, wishes to step down this September. We would like to thank her for her work and also ask for anyone who be interested in taking this role on to come forward.

Secondly, our webmaster *Gwylan Gernow*, Pat Parry, also wishes to retire and we are looking for someone to design and/or manage the Gorsedh website.

We are also seeking a new Awards Officer, as Tamsin Spargo, who has done a sterling job in the role this year is unfortunately not able to continue.

## Berdh Nowydh / New bards

The Admissions Secretary *Maureen Fuller*, *Steren Mor* will shortly be confirming the names of those who will be initiated into the College of Bards in 2020. Their English names will be announced very soon by press release (please keep an eye on the Gorsedh Kernow website news page <http://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/news.html> ) and their bardic names will be announced at the shortened bardic ceremony on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September when they are initiated into the College of Bards.



[www.gorsedhkernow.org.uk](http://www.gorsedhkernow.org.uk)



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## **Gorsedh Kernow names 22 new Bards for 2020**

Gorsedh Kernow was established with the aim of celebrating and promoting Cornwall's distinctive Celtic culture and continues this year with announcing new bards as usual, although we are in a pandemic and our ceremony in Bude has been postponed until 2021.

Gorsedh Kernow is proud to announce that 22 worthy people have been invited to take their place among the 500 or so existing members of the College of Bards of Gorsedh Kernow and will be barded as restrictions allow.

*“This year we have new bards whose work for Kernow reflects both traditional and modern aspects of our Cornish culture,” said Grand Bard of Cornwall Elizabeth Carne, Mellenek, “which continues in all parts of the Diaspora. These latest honours show an amazing diversity in many cultural areas from proficiency in the Cornish language, conserving old film, audio tapes and written evidence for use by future people, continuing traditional sports like Cornish wrestling and researching the lives of Cornishmen, for example who mined in India and making it into a modern musical performance. This reverence for Cornish culture is then showcased in thoroughly modern media, by photography, social media, film and in theatres, in community projects at the grass roots to films for global audiences. Each of these showcasing platforms proclaims to the world that Cornish culture is distinctive, traditional and modern, precious to the Cornish people and alive and well.”*

The new bards for 2020 are:

**Edward Bolitho**, Tregwainton

For being a great ambassador for Kernow.

**Andrew Bolton**, Belgium

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

**Kensa Broadhurst**, Camborne

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

**Matt Curnow**, South Australia

For the promotion of Cornwall in the Diaspora.

**John Gillingham**, Troon

For being a valuable supporter of Cornish Culture and Language.

**John Penrose Goody**, Isles of Scilly

For his energetic promotion of the Cornish Language in the Isles of Scilly.

**Peter Green**, Gloucester

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

**Simon Harvey**, Truro,

For embracing Cornish Identity and Culture in the Media.

**Brian Jacob**, Tregonissey, St.Austell

For his continuing work for Kernow.

**Mark Jenkin**, Paul, Penzance

For promoting Kernow through Film internationally.

**Andrew Johnson**, St.Austell

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

**James Kitto**, Porthleven

For promoting Cornwall through Photography.

**Wella Morris**, Penzance

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

**Jack Morrison**, Redruth

For being an enthusiastic promoter of Kernow.

**Priscilla Oates**, Cury

For a lifetime's work for Kernow.

**Helen Pascoe**, Camborne

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

**Jamie Purvis**, Truro

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

**Peter Sheldon**, Truro

For a lifetime's service to Cornish Wrestling.

**Leonard Sheppard**, Newquay

For his continuing work for Kernow.

**Wayne Tonkin**, Pool, Redruth

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing service to Cornwall.

**Richard Trethewey**, Goonabarn, St.Austell

For the promotion of Kernow through Music.

**Claire Tripp**, Portreath

For her extensive work for Cornish Culture and Identity.