

Cornish Nation

No. 79

£1.50

Launch of “Go Cornish”

Victory in NHS &
police campaigns

Tributes to Steffan
Lewis, Colin Murley
& Ian Williams



UK Government is not supporting Cornish tick-box on 2021 census

The leader of Mebyon Kernow has condemned the publication of a Government White Paper about the next census which rules out the provision of a Cornish tick-box.

Cllr Dick Cole has described the announcement as “discriminatory.” He has also called on campaigners to continue to push for a Cornish tick-box and to pressure the United Kingdom Government to reverse its present position.

The document is titled “Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales.” It does state that the “Office of National Statistics fully recognises the need of the Cornish community for data on the socio-economic, educational, health and housing conditions of those who identify as Cornish,” but goes on to make spurious arguments about why there should not be a tick-box.

The document states that the “ONS has met and reviewed the evidence of Cornish stakeholders to understand the need and conducted testing to consider the acceptability of adding regional tick-boxes, including Cornish, to the national identity question. Having reviewed the evidence against the evaluation criteria, ONS has concluded that the need for a Cornish tick-box is very localised and not strong enough to justify its inclusion in the nationwide census.”

It is frankly ridiculous that the need for Cornish statistics is deemed “local” but, as an example, the need for Welsh statistics is not.

It is also shameful that the ONS and UK Government have chosen to ignore the demand from an Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe which calls on “the authorities to take the necessary measures to include the possibility to self-identify as Cornish, through a ‘tick-box’ in the next census, and to facilitate the expression of self-identification ... because data collection is relevant to the application of minority rights.”

In a statement issued on behalf of MK, Cllr Dick Cole said: “The Cornish are recognised as a national minority through the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, just the same as the Irish, Scots and Welsh.

“It is scandalous that the UK Government and Office of National Statistics consider it acceptable that the Cornish will be the only UK national minority to be denied a tick-box on the 2021 census.

“This is discriminatory. It is also illogical, prejudicial, disrespectful and just plain wrong.

“But we must not give up. We must redouble our efforts to push for a Cornish tick-box and to pressure the UK Government to do the right thing and to meet its obligations through the Framework Convention.”

The strength of support for a tick-box was demonstrated at a meeting of Cornwall Council in February when a motion on this issue, co-drafted by Cllr Cole, was overwhelmingly backed by councillors. There was only one vote against and a single abstention.



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Cornish Nation 79

Cornish Nation is a magazine which is distributed free to all members of Mebyon Kernow.

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Steffan Lewis

Cornish Nation pays tribute to one of Wales' most respected politicians and Plaid Cymru's "very brightest star"

Plaid Cymru's much-loved Assembly Member for South East Wales, Steffan Lewis, sadly lost his battle with bowel cancer on 11th January.

The *Western Mail* newspaper rightly wrote that "his untimely passing is a tragedy for his family, of course, but also for Wales. Steffan was not simply a politician with a very sharp mind who might easily have become his party's leader, but a man of unfailing courtesy and good humour."

A proud champion for Wales, the very high esteem in which he was held was evident from the enormous range of warm and heartfelt tributes, which followed his early death, and came from across the political spectrum.

Plaid Cymru leader, Adam Price, led the tributes by expressing his "state of shock and grief at losing our very brightest star." He added: "Steffan will be remembered as a politician of rare talent who achieved an incredible amount during his time in elected office, which has been cut short in such harrowing circumstances. His powers of reasoning and intellect were matched only by his capacity for compassion – even while suffering illness, Steffan persisted in prioritising the welfare of other people by speaking openly about his difficult experiences while all the time continuing to work on behalf of his nation and constituents.

"I cannot begin to express our sense of loss and how much we will miss having Steffan in our lives. His legacy will forever be remembered in the history of Plaid Cymru and the Welsh nation.

"Steffan first addressed a Plaid Cymru conference at the age of 14. It was clear that this was somebody that was going to have a big impact on the life of the nation. From that moment, Steffan devoted his life to his dream of a free and independent Wales. In our last conversation, he shared with me his confidence that his dream would be realised and urged us to do all that we can to bring the day closer.

"Steffan dedicated his working life to the task of helping others and was able to do so with exceptional ability due to his astonishing breadth of talents.



"From campaigning on behalf of former miners' pension rights to saving health services in his region, everybody knew that Steffan was a formidable representative to have on their side who would never let them down.

"In terms of his portfolio responsibilities, he succeeded in directing Welsh Government policy on Brexit on no less than three occasions. Firstly, he co-authored the Welsh Government Brexit White Paper "Securing Wales' Future." He then introduced groundbreaking continuity legislation to prevent the Westminster power-grab which eventually led to the Inter-governmental Agreement and he succeeded in persuading the Welsh Government to support his amendment to their own Brexit motion.

"I can't think of any other politician in any parliament who succeeded in directing government policy on the great issue of the day to such an extent from the opposition benches. That only begins to reflect the greatness of his character. He touched the lives of so many people in such a positive and life-affirming way. That will guarantee both his political and personal legacy."

In other tributes, Carmarthenshire MP Jonathan Edwards described Steffan as the "greatest philosopher politician of his generation," while Plaid Cymru President Dafydd Wigley said "he made his mark" and "brought quality, integrity and dignity to Welsh politics; and left his country a better place for his contribution." The Presiding Officer in the National Assembly, Elin Jones, has meanwhile recounted how she "could not recall another AM who was as proud as Steffan to have been elected to his national parliament," adding that he had a "caring heart, a charming smile and an intellect the size of Wales."

Steffan was also a great friend of Cornwall and, in a show of Celtic solidarity, joined Mebyon Kernow when he was only eleven years old. He subsequently represented Plaid Cymru at three MK Conferences; the last time being in 2016, quite soon after he was elected to the National Assembly of Wales.

At this very sad time, our thoughts are with his wife Shona, his son Celyn and his wider family.

Go.Cornish.org

Gwiasva marthys a veu lonchys dhe avonsya dyskas an yeth kenedhlek a Gernow ha dhe brovia asnodhow rag dyskoryon

“GoCornish.org” yw gwiasva nowydh rag tus a vynn dyski Kernewek. Desinys re beu dhe gennnerthi tus nowydh dhe assaya Kernewek ha skoodhya dallethoryon, mes yma taklow ena rag dyskadoryon ha skolyow ynwedh — hag y fydh moy keworrys yn 2019.

Desinys ha dyllys re beu gans Gwedhen Owr avel rann aga hevambos gans Konsel Kernow rag aslea Learn Cornish Now. “Go Cornish” yw leun a asnodhow rag dallethoryon, tus a vynn dyski ger po dew hepken hag asnodhow rag klassow rag gweres dyskadoryon.

Rag an kynsa prys, yma oll an lyvrow Porth warlinen gans asnodhow rag dyskadoryon skol. Yma app nowydh henwys Magi Ann ha henn yw perfeyth rag fleghes a tri-peswar bloodh a vynn dyski Kernewek – mes da vydh gans tus kottha ynwedh.

An lonch sodhogel a hwarvia yn Mis Genver gans skoodhyans kytrrin dew-flour a dhyworth First Bus Kernow ha lu a Gernewegoryon.

‘GoCornish.org’ is a new website for people who want to learn Cornish. It has been designed to encourage new people to have a go at Cornish and to support beginners, but there is plenty there for teachers and schools as well — and there will be more added throughout 2019.

It has been designed and published by Golden Tree as part of their contract with Cornwall Council to replace Learn Cornish Now. “Go Cornish” is full of resources for beginners, people who just want to learn a word or two and resources for classes to help teachers.

For the first time, all of the Porth books will be online with resources for school teachers. And there is a new app called Magi Ann and this is perfect for three–four year old children – but older people will like it too.

The formal launch took place in January with the support of a double-decker bus from First Bus Cornwall and a host of Cornish language speakers.



Question Time in Cornwall

Party Leader Cllr Dick Cole considers the visit of the BBC politics programme to Penzance and Conservative spin about austerity

The BBC's Question Time programme – in which politicians and other public figures are quizzed on topical issues – was in Cornwall on 6th December. It was broadcast from Mounts Bay School in Penzance but, disrespectfully, not one of the five panellists came from Cornwall or even had the vaguest of Cornish connections.

There were three Westminster MPs involved. Representing the Conservatives was Nadhim Zahawi MP (Stratford-upon-Avon) and Labour's choice was Rebecca Long-Bailey (Salford and Eccles), while Layla Moran (Oxford West and Abingdon) was there for the Liberal Democrats.

The two other panellists were Tim Martin from the Wetherspoon chain of public houses, who I understand lives in Exeter, and the writer Benjamin Zephaniah who presently resides in Lincolnshire.

I don't think that it would have been too difficult to have some Cornish voices on the programme. Surely, one of Cornwall's six MPs could have represented the Conservatives and Adam Paynter, the leader of Cornwall Council, could have been the Liberal Democrat's nominee. I can also think of a number of business people from Cornwall who would have had plenty to say.

The BBC website has a "frequently asked questions" section about Question Time. This includes: "Why doesn't the panel reflect the region they are in by having local politicians on the panel?" It blandly answers its own question by stating it is a "national programme which must be relevant to audiences across the United Kingdom" though it is "broadcast from all round the country to make sure that a broad cross-section of audiences have the chance to take part."

That claim is crass nonsense. Could you imagine an episode from Scotland or Wales, without a single representative from those countries? Of course not!

A couple of months before the Penzance visit, the programme was in Edinburgh and all the panellists had meaningful Scottish connections: Ross Thomson (Conservative MP for Aberdeen South), two members of the

Scottish Parliament – Kezia Dugdale (Labour) and Mike Russell (Scottish National Party), crime writer Val McDermid from Kirkcaldy and the editor of the Spectator magazine Fraser Nelson, who was actually born in Truro but raised in Nairn.

Likewise, when Question Time was last in Wales, the guests included Plaid Cymru's Westminster leader Liz Saville Roberts and the general secretary of the Public and Commercial Service Union, Mark Serwotka, who is from Cardiff.

It is my view that the BBC should apologise for the total exclusion of Cornish political voices from the recent Penzance show and give guarantees that, in the future, it will treat Cornwall with the same respect as the other Celtic parts of the United Kingdom.

At the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, the Prime Minister announced that the austerity of the last decade is to end and "support for public services will go up."

I have to admit that I am somewhat sceptical about what was said, and Theresa May's announcement has been widely derided as a "soundbite" or positioning for short-term political gain. Indeed, she has couched her pledge as a future action, linked to the outcome of the forthcoming spending review while also being dependent "on a good Brexit for Britain."

It was followed within a few days by a cynical appeal by the PM to likely Labour voters, asking them to consider changing their allegiance to the Tories.

Quite rightly, journalists and commentators have been quick to critique the lack of detail behind the rhetoric and how it contradicts what the Conservatives have been saying in recent months, weeks and even days.

And they have not been afraid to point out how it does not reflect the Chancellor of the Exchequer's financial plan which, while honouring the recent commitment to increase funding for the NHS, would still lead to what one newspaper has described as yet more

"eye-watering" cuts in "every other department of state."

Political opponents have also rubbished the pronouncements from the occupant of No. 10, especially when other leading Conservatives such as the Party Chairman Brandon Lewis have refused to consider rethinking planned reductions in funding to local councils and other public services.

Make no mistake, austerity has done great damage to public services across the United Kingdom, hurting individuals and families and communities in the process.

Senior Conservatives may be making shallow statements about some future cessation of austerity, but local councils such as the unitary authority in Cornwall are still having to grapple with the implications of savage, unjust and ongoing cuts in central government funding.

And it is to be welcomed that the merger of the "Devon and Cornwall" and Dorset police forces is not going to happen, but such a proposal would not even have been put forward if the promised levels of funding for the police had actually been delivered.

If Theresa May is serious about ending austerity, her Government needs to reverse the cuts to local government, the police and other public services right now; and deliver a whole new approach to government finance through enhanced and fair taxation with the wealthy and big business paying their fair share.

We would like to thank Cllr Michael Bunney, Cllr Dick Cole, Golden Tree, the Murley family, Bethia Naughton-Rumbo, Plaid Cymru, Ann Reynolds and Jan Williams for photographs used in this magazine.

Colin Murley

Looking back at the achievements of the first Mebyon Kernow member to be elected to Cornwall County Council

Colin Murley, who passed away in October at the age of 82, was a leading member of Mebyon Kernow across three decades and dedicated his later years to a range of campaigns linked to Cornwall's distinct constitutional position.



Born in Penzance, Colin grew up in nearby Ludgvan. He attended the Humphry Davy Grammar School and then joined the Royal Air Force, serving for a number of years in West Germany.

He came back to Cornwall in the 1960s, when he secured employment with West Penwith Rural District Council. He became active with Mebyon Kernow and, faced with the news that the Greater London Council was looking to build "overspill" housing developments in Bodmin and the Camborne and Redruth area, Colin agreed to stand against a well-known pro-overspill councillor at St Day and Lanner in the 1967 Cornwall County Council elections (see right).

His election leaflets clearly called for "independence in domestic affairs" and stated that "no-one will take Cornwall seriously until she asserts her national status." He was elected with a majority of three votes, but this victory was really remarkable as Colin did not actually live in the division but ten miles to the west at Hayle.

In the late 1960s, there was significant debate about the future direction of the Cornish movement and, in particular, MK's status as a pressure group rather than a fully-fledged political party. Colin unsuccessfully stood to be MK Chairman in 1969 and later that year joined the breakaway Cornish National Party as its treasurer.

In 1970, Colin twice stood as a CNP candidate for Cornwall County Council but, later in the decade, rejoined Mebyon Kernow and stood in the 1979 General Election in the St Ives constituency.

In the early 1980s, he contested three further local elections in the Penzance and St Just areas for MK, but was forced to spend much of the later 1980s working outside Cornwall. This included spells in Papua New Guinea and Saudi Arabia.

Upon his return home, Colin became one of the leading activists in the Cornish Stannary Parliament, and he played a prominent role in a wide range of campaigns that were grounded in the continued existence of stannary law and Cornwall's constitutional variance from the rest of the UK.

In 2005, he launched a legal challenge as to whether the Department of Transport had the legal right to build on the proposed route for the dualling of the A30 across Bodmin Moor. Colin was unsuccessful in his application for judicial review, but Lord Justice Bean nonetheless noted "the massive and scholarly learning" which he had "deployed in his research."

Colin also campaigned for the Cornish to be recognised through the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and was delighted when the recognition was belatedly acknowledged in 2014.

Nigel Hicks who delivered the eulogy at Colin's funeral service said that "Colin Murley will be remembered as a great Cornishman, a legendary campaigner for the Cornish and a dedicated champion of Cornwall. For five decades he was a leading voice in the battles for Cornish recognition and was always encouraging and generous with advice to those he inspired."

Our condolences are with his widow Suzie and his three sons from a previous marriage.



Ian Williams

Celebrating the life of a dedicated and long-standing activist with Mebyon Kernow and the Celtic League

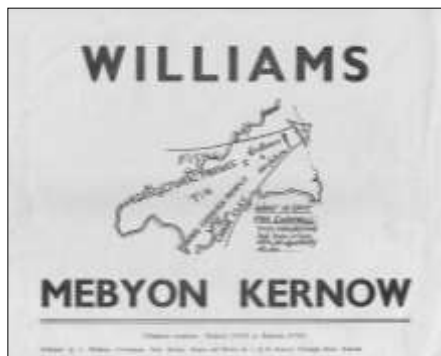
Ian Williams, who passed away in September at the age of 71 after a short battle with cancer, was one of Mebyon Kernow's most loyal members.

Born in St Ives, he lived in the Redruth area for most of his adult life. Ian joined MK in the early 1970s and was an active campaigner in the Cornish movement for over forty years as an election candidate, a leafletter and a canvasser.



A regular attendee of the An Gof commemoration in St Keverne (see above photograph from 1975), he and his wife Jan were also members of the folk group Quilkyn Tew in the 1970s, which performed songs in the Cornish language. He played the crowdy cawn.

Ian held numerous positions within MK. He served on the National Executive for many years, was a driving force with local branches in the Redruth and Camborne area and even helped out with the production of *Cornish Nation* magazine. In addition, he was also a three-time council candidate. Ian contested a St Ives seat on Cornwall County Council in 1977 and twice sought election to Kerrier District Council in the Illogan area.



Ian was also active with the Cornish branch of the Celtic League and Bernard Deacon describes him as the “lynchpin holding the organisation together in the 1970s and 1980s.” Bernard remembers: “Ian had two spells as League Secretary, the first from 1976 to 1979 and the second from 1985 to the end of 1990, when the League and Ian played a particularly important role keeping the flag flying in difficult times.

“He was also an extremely competent administrator. Just one year of his correspondence (1986) chosen at random reveals an astonishing volume of behind the scenes activity. In that year he was writing to a range of people, from Conservative MPs to the Cornwall Morning Star Supporters’ Group, from Radio Cornwall to the Nicaraguan ambassador.

“His letters covered a wide range of subjects, including the beleaguered Cornish mining industry, the growing pollution of Cornish beaches, the need for united opposition to the Tories in advance of the 1987 general election, the revived Cornish language, Manx language film production, solidarity with Nicaragua and the anti-apartheid struggle. Truly, Ian was able to combine the Cornish struggle seamlessly with internationalist concerns, something that we could all do well to emulate.”

In the 1990s, he was to the fore of the campaign for a Cornish Development Agency which included the production of a report titled “An Agency with a Future” and a petition campaign. He is pictured below with Peter Wills, sending the petition of 5,000 names to 10 Downing Street in 1998.

A passionate enthusiast for greater self-government for Cornwall, Ian was still a regular on the campaign trail throughout the 2000s and 2010s, assisting with various General Election and local election campaigns in the Camborne and Redruth area and further afield.

He will be sadly missed by all in MK and our thoughts are with his ex-wife Jan, his two children Bryok and Talwyn, and his young grandson Rhys.



Cornish news and views

Gwythias an Tir

MK leader Cllr Dick Cole has been recognised for his campaigning work and was welcomed into the College of Bards of Gorsedh Kernow in the 2018 ceremony which took place at the Barrowfields in Newquay. His bardic name is Gwythias an Tir, meaning Guardian of the Land, to reflect his efforts to protect the geographical and cultural integrity of Cornwall. (1st September 2018)



NHS victory

Proposals to centralise treatments for a range of rare cancers out of Cornwall, to Exeter or even Bristol, have been cancelled following a massive public backlash.

When the “Modernising Radiotherapy Services in England” consultation was launched in 2017, cancer patients and others galvanised themselves into campaign mode and even Cornwall’s leading cancer specialists sent a strong response opposing the move.

Dr Alastair Thomson, who leads the oncology team at the specialist Sunrise Centre and signed a letter along with several senior colleagues, said: “As a group of oncology consultants we are very much against the removal of services from Cornwall. We believe that we offer an excellent level of care using modern techniques including radiotherapy and chemotherapy and that there is no evidence that patient care would be improved by this process.”

In the public consultation, it was reported that “11,000 of 12,000 responses” were from “the ‘South West’ region,” and it is known that the majority of responses actually came from across Cornwall.

Commenting on behalf of MK, Cllr Loveday Jenkin said: “It is fantastic news that people power has won the day, but we must be vigilant in our efforts to safeguard all aspects of Cornwall’s NHS.” (25th October 2018)

Failure of police merger

The Police Commissioner has pulled the plug on the proposed merger of the “Devon and Cornwall” Police Force with that of Dorset. A key factor in the failure of the move was the level of opposition in Cornwall from a wide range of organisations including Mebyon Kernow.

The online survey – criticised as “extremely biased” by MK activists – was completed by 2,080 people in Cornwall. Just 16% agreed with the statement: “As the police forces already work closely together, a merger seems like the next logical step.” This was in stark contrast to feedback from South West England, where 36% of respondents in Devon were in agreement and, in Dorset, 48%.

In response to the statement: “I don’t mind how the police are organised, as long as my community is safe,” only 31% of respondents in Cornwall agreed. To the east, it was 46% in Devon and 59% in Dorset. In addition, only 18% of people in Cornwall considered that there would be benefits from the merger.

Mebyon Kernow’s candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner Cllr Michael Bunney has welcomed the decision not to proceed with the merger, but hit out at the announcement that the whole experiment had cost a quarter of a million pounds.

In a statement issued on behalf of MK, Cllr Bunney said: “The failed police merger was indefensible and a complete waste of public funds that should have been used for frontline policing.

“The Cornish public were quite obviously opposed to the merger from the very beginning and it should have been ruled out from the start. This would have saved much needed money, that could have been spent on police officers on the ground.

“Funding police officers and detectives should always be the absolute priority, rather than bureaucratic reorganisations. Cornish communities feel more and more let down by centralised authorities that are out of touch with local concerns. Our police force is more

and more stretched due to a lack of central government funding and it is high time that central authorities listened to local people and funded public services properly.” (10th November 2018)

2021 elections

MK members were at the heart of the unsuccessful fight to prevent the cut in the number of councillors on the unitary authority from 123 to 87, but the boundaries of the new divisions have been agreed. MK constituencies will soon be selecting candidates for the next round of elections in 2021, while MK’s four sitting Cornwall Councillors are hard at work in their divisions, keeping voters informed, often with newsletters such as the one below being distributed by Cllr Matt Luke.



Anyone interested in finding out more about being a council candidate in 2021 should contact their local constituency party.

MK Conference

Mebyon Kernow’s 2018 Conference was held at the Shire Hall Suite in Bodmin, where it was formally announced that MK’s leadership team of Cllr Dick Cole (Party Leader), Cllr Dr Loveday Jenkin (Deputy Leader), Cllr Andrew Long (Treasurer) and Cllr Michael Bunney (Party Development Officer) had been re-elected.



There were a series of open debates on subjects including planning matters with guest Cllr Armorel Carlyon, Cllr Dick Cole and a newcomer to Mebyon Kernow's National Executive Julie Fox; and national minority status with Cllr Loveday Jenkin plus guests Cllr Jesse Foot (Chairman of the unitary authority's working group on national minority status) and Ian Saltern (author of the second Cornish National Minority Report) – pictured above.

The key policy debate at the Conference was on Brexit and those members present condemned the UK Government's shambolic approach to leaving the European Union and overwhelmingly backed calls for a People's Vote on any final deal. (17th November 2018)

Post-Brexit fears

Mebyon Kernow's economy spokesman has challenged the Prime Minister and Cornwall's MPs to "come clean" about their post-Brexit plans for regional investment.

This followed new analysis from the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions about the level of regional development funding (13 billion euros) that would come to the United Kingdom for the 2021-2027 period should it stay in the European Union.

The CPMR report stated that the two parts of the UK currently classed as "less developed regions" – (i) Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly and (ii) West Wales & the Valleys – would continue to receive the top level of EU structural funding.

Three further regions would also become "less developed regions" for the 2021-2027 period – South Yorkshire, Tees Valley & Durham, and Lincolnshire.

The report added: "All five of these regions would stand to receive EU support in excess of 500 euros per capita for the seven-year period."

Cllr Andrew Long said: "There is great inequality across the United Kingdom. Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is receiving significant structural funding, because of our weak economic performance and decades-long under-investment from central government.

"I have no faith in the present UK Government and fear that, should Brexit get through Parliament, Cornwall will not be a priority in a future London-centric political system.



The Prime Minister and Cornwall's six MPs need to come clean about their post-Brexit plans for regional investment. They need to confirm whether Cornwall will see funding equal to that which would have been received through the EU programmes – or whether we will be failed by Westminster again." (30th January 2019)

St Piran's Day

Mebyon Kernow activists in mid Cornwall, led by Nessa Brown and Julie Fox, organised the first St Piran's Day parade and associated fete in the town of St Austell. The role of Cornwall's national saint was played by Mac Waters who is pictured below with Hairy Tej, the mascot of the Cornwall Heritage Trust. (3rd March 2019)



Adam Price

Highly-regarded, talented AM and former MP chosen as the leader of Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales

MK's sister party in Wales, Plaid Cymru, has a new leader in the shape of the formidable parliamentarian Adam Price. Elected ahead of two colleagues in the National Assembly of Wales, Rhun ap Iorwerth and Leanne Wood, he represents the seat of Carmarthen and Dinefwr.

“He is a politician of great ability who is ambitious for Wales in a way few other politicians are. He is on a different level to those who carry on in a time-serving way, and has an incredible amount to offer.”

Speaking after the result was announced, he said it was a “privilege and honour” to be Plaid Cymru’s nominee for First Minister and made a pledge, to supporters at the Novotel Hotel in Cardiff, that he would deliver “positive change” in politics and for Wales.

He said: “The fate of our nation is a responsibility that we all share. We all have to play our part. We have to realize that we are the ones to do the job. We have to give hope to those who have no hope. Those who have been left behind. Those who believe they cannot realize their dreams; who believe we cannot create the Wales that is needed.

“Our message to the people of Wales must be absolutely clear: Wales can. We can be prosperous. We can be confident. We can self-govern. We can be successful.

“The episode will not be written in the magnificent halls of Westminster but in the streets and villages of Wales, because the time for change has come. We’re on our way – and we will not delay any further. Together we can win a New Wales.”

Born in Tumble, Adam was brought up in Tycroes near Ammanford. His father was a coal miner and a well-known local boxer, while his mother was originally from Worcester.



He became politicised during the Miners’ Strike in the 1980s and was drawn to Plaid Cymru. Educated at Cardiff University and the University of Saarbrücken in the heart of one of Germany’s mining regions, he stood at the General Election in 2001 in his home seat of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr.

Adam defeated the incumbent Labour MP and quickly made a name for himself as an effective spokesman for Wales. He exposed the Mittal scandal, in which members of the then Labour Government helped a donor to purchase the state-owned Romanian steel industry, which had a very adverse impact on the steel industry in Wales. He then spearheaded the campaign to impeach Tony Blair for what he and many others saw as the illegal invasion of Iraq.

In 2010, he stood down as an MP and was honoured with the Fullbright Scholarship to study a Masters Degree in Public Administration and was appointed Fellow at the International Development Center at Harvard University.

He returned to frontline politics in 2016 and was elected as the Assembly Member in the same constituency that he had previously represented at Westminster.

Adam is especially well-regarded and one newspaper report made the following observation: “He is a politician of great ability who is ambitious for Wales in a way few other politicians are. He is on a different level to those who carry on in a time-serving way, and has an incredible amount to offer.”

Book reviews

New books of interest to MK members include Brenda – For the Love of Cornwall, The Promontory People, The Surnames of Cornwall and Trusting Fully Trusting

A new biography of the famous Cornish singer Brenda Wootton has been produced by her daughter Sue Ellery-Hill. Titled **Brenda – For the Love of Cornwall**, it has been described as “an intimate and thorough account of the life and times of Brenda Wootton, Cornwall’s first lady of song.”

One reviewer has written how “few people embody the Cornish spirit and what Cornwall really means to me, more than Brenda. This book will help put people in touch with her life and inspire them to listen to her music ... it sheds a nostalgic light on Cornish village life, the arts scene, the ‘folk revival,’ and the resurgence of interest in the Cornish language ... the story also tackles what it really means to be Cornish.”

Journalist and writer Mike Sagar-Fenton, who assisted with the publication, has added: “Only Sue, Brenda’s daughter, has the full story, the memory, the detail, and the courage to tell it as it was. The blood-line of engaging conversational story-telling, passed down from Brenda, her grandfather Angus and who knows how many other generations, runs sweet and true in her. It is a terrific story, beautifully and movingly told, and will give pleasure to the thousands who fell under Brenda’s spell and thousands more who were never lucky enough to know her.”

Brenda – For the Love of Cornwall costs £20.00 and for more information about Brenda and the book, visit www.brendawootton.org.

The Promontory People – An Early History of the Cornish has been written by well-known archaeologist Craig Weatherhill. The author of a number of popular works including *Belerion: Ancient Sites of Land’s End* and *Cornovia: Ancient Sites of Cornwall and Scilly*, Craig’s latest publication sets out the story of the “ancient Cornish people, tucked away on a long, tapering peninsula at the extreme bottom left-hand corner of Britain.”

The book is underpinned by analysis of the “most up-to-date archaeological, archaeo-linguistic and genetic research” and describes the “history of the Cornish people from the earliest times to the Norman period and places

Cornwall in the context of its wider relationships with the rest of Britain and Europe.”

Produced by Clive Boutle Publications, the book costs £12.99

The latest book from Bernard Deacon, formerly a Senior Lecturer in Cornish Studies at the University of Exeter’s Institute of Cornish Studies, is titled **The Surnames of Cornwall**.

Cornwall has a unique stock of surnames. Some of these have their origin in the Cornish language. Many are also found in other parts of the UK but are particularly common in Cornwall.

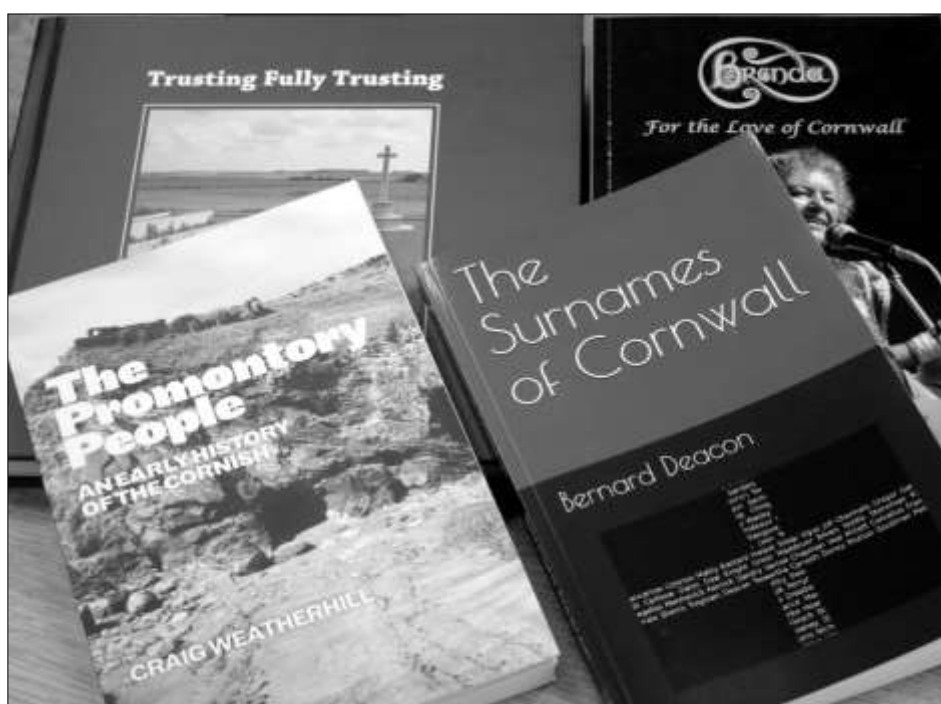
The Surnames of Cornwall is a guide to these names and gives the meanings for 700 of those which were the most common or the most unique to Cornwall in past times. It describes the areas in which the names originated and where they were found in the 1800s.

It includes an introduction setting out the context for the study of surnames and provides interpretations of many names and corrects some long-lasting myths.

The book is priced at £9.99 and is based on a study of the distribution of names in Cornwall since the 1400s. It is supported by distribution maps that are available online at <https://bernarddeacon.com>.

MK leader Cllr Dick Cole and his wife Ann Reynolds have been at the heart of a community project to remember the 73 men from Fraddon, Indian Queens, St Columb Road and Summercourt who lost their lives in the First World War. A comprehensive publication, **Trusting Fully Trusting**, has been produced which includes a narrative for each of the fallen servicemen. In addition, it includes background information about the area between 1914 and 1918, as well as chapters about two local war memorials and two memorial buildings (Indian Queens Victory Hall and Summercourt New Memorial Hall).

A hardback book, it has been published by St Enoder Parish Council. The price is only £12.00 and can be ordered from Cllr Dick Cole on 07791 876607.





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