

**KESCOWS NEBES MOY**  
**CORNISH FOR EVERYDAY LIFE**

Second Edition

Ian Jackson

*Supplementary to Gerlyver Kescows  
and continuously reviewed and expanded*

**SECTION 3**

**LIFE, DEATH**

Last updated: 27 February 2025 (10:00)

A more up-to-date version may be available on-line at [lovinglivingcornish](http://lovinglivingcornish)

The purpose of *Kescows Nebes Moy* is to enable Cornish conversation about most non-specialist subjects without the need to switch into English. A first edition appeared in 2018. Cornish vocabulary items not found in *Gerlyver Kescows* were presented for the first time in classified lists that take the learner beyond elementary vocabulary, enabling conversation about more technical topics that nonetheless form part of everyday life.

The first edition was necessarily quite experimental, and was confined to just five thousand entries. Much has been learned since the first edition appeared. This second edition is being developed in more comprehensive form on-line. In particular we are considering families wishing to speak Cornish in the home, as well as the challenge of establishing potential for teaching through the medium of Cornish in primary and secondary schools.

We are very grateful to Professor Nicholas Williams and Michael Everson for the opportunity to coordinate these lists with drafts of their *Gerlyver Brâs*.

A word has a single stress accent on the penultimate syllable in the absence of any specific indication. When this accent falls elsewhere, the underlined vowel marks the syllable which is stressed. The symbol || after a word indicates that, instead of a single stress accent, two syllables of the word are given prominence. In the case of a disyllabic word the prominence is usually slightly stronger on the adjectival element.

**3-A CONCEPTION, BIRTH**

**camberthy** *v* miscarry

**decessya** *v* pass away, die

**dhyrag termyn** *phr* premature

**dyghtyans froothus'he** || **in gweder** *phr* in vitro fertilization (IVF)

**embriô** *m embriôs* embryo

**endenythyans** *m* inbreeding

**fâls-torras** *m* phantom pregnancy

**genesygeth cledh** *f* breech birth

**genesyglâ** *m genesygleow* place of birth

**genys yn farow** *phr* stillborn

**gevellas kehaval** *pl* identical twins

**glovedhes** *f benenes glovedhes* midwife

**golovas** *m* childbirth

**gorel** *f gorellow* incubator

**gory** *v* hatch

**kenflogh** *m kenflehes* foetus

**mabm benfyk** *f mabmow* surrogate mother

**mamoleth** *f* maternity

**shora golovas** *m shorys* contraction

**torras** *m torasow* pregnancy

**torras ectopyk** *m torasow* ectopic pregnancy

### 3-B LIFETIME

**a jaunjyas y vêwnans** *phr* life-changing

**adolescens** *m* adolescence

**floholeth** *f* childhood

**gwaityans bêwa** *m* life expectancy

**henys** *m* old age *Note phrase* henys teg = ripe old age

**hiroos** *|| m* longevity

**rag bêwnans** *phr* for life

### 3-C DEATH

**ancow** *m* death (especially high register or personified)

**clogh an marow** *m* death knell

**corf marow** *m corfow* corpse

**dyvew** *adj* lifeless (incl figuratively)

**dyvynyans corf** *m* autopsy, post mortem examination

**dywethynder mernans** *m* rigor mortis

**embaumya** *v* embalm

**galarak** *adj/m* *galarogyon* bereaved

**lien bedh** *m* *lienyow* shroud

**logel** *f* *logellow* sepulchre; sarcophagus

**marowjy** || *m* *marowjiow* || mortuary, morgue

**marwoleth** *f* mortality

**megva** *f* suffocation

**merwel yn wheresys** *phr* assisted dying

**mortal~~u~~lyta** *m* mortality

**omladhans** *m* suicide

**ronk mernans** *m* death rattle

**scattra lusow** *phr* scatter ashes

**tebel-dewedha** || *v* come to a sticky end

### 3-D SENTENCED TO DEATH

**an daras leur** *m* the drop

**cader tredanladha** *f* *caderyow* electric chair

**cregor** *m* *cregoryon* hangman, executioner

**cregy, dygowla, qwartrona** *phr* hang, draw and quarter

**crogpren** || *m* *crogprednyer* || gallows

**dybedna** *v* behead

**execûtya** *v* execute

**gortos wâr strêr an mernans** *phr* to be [waiting] on death row

**gylotîn** *m* *gylotîns* guillotine

**let cowlwrians** || *m* stay of execution

**lovan an cregor** *phr* hangman's noose

**omdhyyowla** *v* commit hara-kiri

**omoffrydna** *v* sacrifice oneself

**omoffrydnans** *m* self-sacrifice (often figuratively)

**sentens a vernans** *phr* death sentence, death penalty

**skîtyans mortal** *m* lethal injection

**storvya** *v* kill with cold; die of cold

**tredanladha** || *v* electrocute

### 3-E HONOURING THE DEAD

**bedhscrif** || *m* *bedhscrîvoyow* || epitaph

**crug lesky** *m* funeral pyre

[*eus*] **tremenys** *phr* the late + *name*

**gormola** *m* *gormolys* eulogy

**growethva** *f* *growethvaow* [final] resting-place

**kyny** *v* mourn *Note construction* *kyny warlergh nebonen* = mourn sb

**marowscrif** || *m* *marowscrîvoyow* || obituary

**martyrdom** *m* martyrdom

**ros mogh** *col* *rosen* poppies

**scrîven bedh** *f* *scrîvednow bedh* epitaph

**servys covath** *m* *servysyow* memorial service

### 3-F MISCELLANEOUS VOCABULARY

**anvarwoleth** *m* immortality

**anvarwyl** *adj* immortal

**bythvew** || *adj* unquenchable

**dyvarow** (*dyvarwyl*) *adj* immortal

**dyvarwoleth** *m* immortality

**imortal** *adj* immortal

**imortalyta** *m* immortality

**ladhva mergh** *f* knacker's yard

**latty** *m* slaughterhouse, abattoir