

KESCOWS NEBES MOY

CORNISH FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

Second Edition

Ian Jackson

*Supplementary to Gerlyver Kescows
and continuously reviewed and expanded*

SECTION 11

PEOPLE

Last updated: 27 November 2025 (15:00)

A more up-to-date version may be available on-line at 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.

11-A ABOUT TOWN

anedhyas *m anedhysy* occupant, resident

anedhyas heb cubmyas *m anedhysy* squatter

arwhythror (musuror) *m arwhythroryon* surveyor

brygâd dyfudhy *m brygâdys* fire brigade

bûrôcrat *m bûrôcratyon* bureaucrat

bûrôcratek *adj* bureaucratic

chif-gonesyas || *m chif-gonesyjy* || foreman

covscrefor || *m covscreforyon* || registrar

creswas dyllas pùb jorna *m creswesyon* plain clothes policeman

crowdror (person dydô) *m crowdroryon* homeless person, rough sleeper

curador *m curadoryon* curator

den atal (den lusow) *m tus* binman, dustman

den clogh *m tus* bellringer

dierbynor (recepnyonyst, wolcùbmor) *m dierbynoryon* receptionist

encledhyor *m encledhyoryon* undertaker

frankmason || *m frankmasons* || freemason

gonesyas *m gonesyjy* workman, labourer

gùstlor *m gùstloryon* rioter

gweithyas eglos *m gweithysy* church warden

gwyll *m gwylllyow* tramp, down-and-out

helerghyas *m helerhysy* detective

lethor *m lethoryon* milkman

lewyor lyfrêson *m lewyoryon* delivery driver

lytherwas || *m lytherwesyon* || postman

margh-creswas || *m margh-creswesyon* || mounted policeman

porthor *m porthoryon* porter, doorkeeper, janitor, caretaker

resor *m resoryon* courier

tavernor *m tavernoryon* publican, licensee (of pub)

tendyor *m tendyoryon* attendant; carer; waiter

towlor mes *m towloryon* bouncer

tregor (anedhyas) *m tregoryon* inhabitant, resident *Note phrase* tregoryon an dre 'the townsfolk'

trevesyk *m trevesygyon* villager

warden *m wardens* warden

11-B ARTISANS, SKILLED LABOUR

carpenter (carpenter, ser predn) *m carpentryon* carpenter, joiner

chambrouer *m chambrouers* valet

den an côcha *m tus* coachman

den bal *m tus* miner (minerals)

den dê y dhorn *phr* handyman

desînôr grafek *m desînoryon* graphic designer

desînôr lowarthow *m desînoryon* landscape gardener

desînôr rômys *m desînoryon* interior designer

desmygyor dower *m desmygyoryon* water diviner

dockor *m dockoryon* docker, stevadore, longshoreman

fordhor *m fordhoryon* scout

glanheor *m glanheoryon* cleaner

glanheor fenestry *m glanheoryon* window cleaner

glanythor dens *m glanythoryon* dental hygienist

glower *m gloworyon* collier, coal miner

gov [du] *m govyon [dhu]* blacksmith

gwarior strê *m gwarioryon* street performer

gwedror *m gwedroryon* glazier

gwenynor *m gwenynoryon* bee-keeper

gwehyas gam *m gwehysy* gamekeeper

gwiador *m gwiadoryon* weaver

hernyor *m hernyoryon* farrier

hudor *m hudoryon* magician, conjuror

injynor tobmans *m injynoryon* heating engineer

lorden *m lordens* clown

lowarthor *m lowarthoryon* gardener

lowarthor losow *m lowarthoryon* market gardener

magor *m magoryon* breeder

medhek gwëdh *m medhygyon* tree surgeon
paintyor *m paintyoryon* painter, decorator
paintyor rômys *m paintyoryon* interior decorator
paintyor tu wâr ves *m paintyoryon* outside decorator
paja mergh *m pajys* groom, stable hand
palor glow *m paloryon* miner (coal)
potor *m potoryon* potter
sedhor (dîvyor, plûnkyor) *m sedhoryon* diver
ser *m sery* artisan
ser gwydn *m sery* tinker
ser kerry *m sery* cartwright, wainwright (historical)
ser lestry *m sery* shipwright (historical)
ser meyn *m* stone mason
ser rosow *m sery* wheelwright (historical)
styward *m stywars* steward
stywardes *f stywardesow* stewardess
taxydermyth *m taxydermydhyon* taxidermist
tior *m tioryon* roofer, thatcher, slater
tonyor *m tonyoryon* tuner
tredanegor *m tredanegoryon* electrician
11-C INTELLECTUAL
antyqwary *m antyqwarys* antiquary
antyqwaryan *adj* antiquarian
arethor *m arethoryon* speaker (giving a speech)
colovnyth *m colovnydhyon* columnist
covscrefyth *|| m covscrefydhyon ||* archivist
crytycor *m crytycoryon* critic
desmygyor *m desmygyoryon* inventor
gohebyth *m gohebydhyon* reporter

golegyth *m golegydhyon* editor (all senses)

kesscrefor *m kesscreforyon* correspondent (all senses)

keswelor *m kesweloryon* interviewer

laghwas || *m laghwesyon* || clerk (of solicitor, barrister, magistrate, judge)

lyfror *m lyfroryon* librarian

mebyon an rom dhelergh *pl* backroom boys

mêster qwyz *m mêstrysy* quizmaster

naturor *m naturoryon* naturalist

penscrefor *m penscreforyon* editor (media)

pùndys *m pùndyjjyon* pundit

scrifwas || *m scrifwesyon* || clerk

studhyor edhnow *m studhyoryon* birdwatcher, ornithologist

tempror *m temproryon* moderator (of discussion)

11-D NOBILITY ETC

barnet *m barnettys* baronet

barneteth *m barnetedhow* baronetcy

baron *m barons* baron

barones *f baronesow* baroness

baroneth *m baronedhow* barony

den nôbyl *m tus* noble[man]

dùches *f dùchesow* duchess

dùcheth *m dùchethow* dukedom, duchy

dûk *m dûkys* duke

gororydhes *f gororydhesow* marchioness

gororyth *m gororydhyon* marquis

gre arlùth *m* peerage

gwelhevyn *col* gentry

isyùrl || *m isyùrlys* || viscount

pensevygyans *m* nobility

sqwier *m sqwieryon* squire

uhelor *m uheloryon* aristocrat

yùrl *m yùrllys* earl

yùrles (contes) *f yùrlesow* countess

yùrleth *m yùrlethow* earldom

11-E IDENTITY

andewek *adj* non-binary

cysreydhak *adj* cisgender[ed]

daspoentyans reydth *m* gender reassignment

ertach *m* heritage

ethnycter *m ethnycterow* ethnicity

ethnyk *adj* ethnic

hanow besyth *m henwyn* Christian name

hanow dobyl *m henwyn* double-barrelled name

hanow personek *m henwyn* forename, given name

hanow teylu *m henwyn* surname

honensys reydhak *m* gender identity

interreydhak || *adj* intersex

kenhanow *m kenhenwyn* alias

keveryans reydhak *m* sexual orientation

les'hanow *m les'henwyn* nickname

lynaja (lynaj) *m* ancestry, lineage, pedigree

qwer *adj* queer

qwerneth *m* queerness

reydhogneth *m* sexuality

testscrif || **aswon reydth** *m testscrîvyow* || gender recognition certificate

therapy convertya *m* conversion therapy (so called)

trailva reydhak *f* gender transitioning

11-F SEX

benenor *m benenoryon* womanizer
benyn dhyveth *f benenes dyveth* tart
benyn dindom || *f benenes tindom* || nymphomaniac
caror yonk *m caroryon* toyboy
coweth gwely *m cowethysy* kept man
cowethes gwely *f cowethesow* mistress
gouroleth *f* masculinity
gouryl *adj* masculine (not grammar)
gwergh *f gwerhy* virgin
gwregoleth *f* femininity
gwregyl *adj* feminine (not grammar)
jygolô *m jygolôs* gigolo
mabm dhynyak *f mabmow dynyak* milf
mêstres cruel *f mêstresow* dominatrix
myrgh wâr alow *f myrhas* call girl
myrgh gal *f myrhas* easy woman
myrhessa *v* philander
myrhessor *m myrhessoryon* philanderer, casanova
omgyjyor *m omgyjyoryon* wanker
prêdhores mebyon *f prêdhoresow* sexual predator (female)
prêdhor myrhas *m prêdhoryon* sexual predator (male)
sergh *m* love interest (male or female)
staloun *m stalouns* stud
strûmpet *f strûmpettys* strumpet
tasyk shùgra *m tasygow* sugar daddy
yonkwas || **sêmly** *m yonkwesyon* || hunk
11-G DISAPPROVING, DISPARAGING
abô [pagan] *m* oaf, clodhopper
aflythys *adj/m aflythyjyon* ruffian

amprëf *m amprevyon* scoundrel
an plos flêrys *phr* the rotter
asen *m asenas* [jack]ass
barbaryan *adj/m barbaryans* barbarian
berryk *m berrygyon* fat cat
bodhorak *m bodhorogyon* boor, philistine
bodnyk *m bonygas* follower, fan, hanger-on
bolhen vrâs *f bolhednow brâs* fatty
brathky *m brathkeun* cur
brybour *m brybours* swindler
bylen *adj/m tus vylen* thug
cady *f cadys* poof[ter]
casek goth *f casygy coth* jade
cawghwas || *m cawghwesyon* || layabout, ratbag, scumbag
chorl *m chorlys* boor, philistine
clopen *m* dunce, dunderhead, numbskull
cobba *m cobbys* nitwit, twit, pillock, sucker
colîta *m colîtys* crony, henchman, sidekick
contrewer *m contrewers* crook
coyntwas || *m coyntwesyon* || crank, weirdo
craghdhen || **jenty1** *m craghdus* || upstart, parvenu
cronak du *m cronogas (cronogow)* black toad
crothak *m crothogyon* whinger
den lyg *m lech[er]*
diegyn *m diegydnow* lazybones
fâcyor *m fâcyoryon* poser
faitour *m faitours* imposter; swindler, scammer, grifter
feclor *m fecloryon* sycophant, bootlicker, arselicker, toady
fethgy *m fethgeun* boffin; swot; geek, nerd

foul *m foul*ys fool, berk, wally
fugvethak || *m fugvethogyon* || prude
fùlmart *m fùlmars* loser
fyslak *adj/m fyslogyon* fusser, pesterer, fidget
gadlyng *m* vagabond, vagrant, scoundrel
gal (mab gal) *m galow* rat[bag]
gaja meur *m* braggart
gargasen *f gargasednow* glutton
gest *f gysty* bitch
grolyak *m grolyogyon* whinger
gùsen grog *m* clinging vine
gyglot *m & f gyglos* lech[er], libertine
harlot (javal, vylen) *m harlos* rogue, scoundrel
jaudyn *m jaudyns* rascal, scallywag
jevan *m* fiend
kilgy *m kilgeun* sneak, cad
knofen gog *f knofednow cog* nonentity
lagator *m lagatoryon* voyeur
ledhyas lowena *m ledhysy* killjoy
lobba (lowt) *m lobbys* lout, yob, hooligan
lobba loven *m lobbys* couch potato
lobba medhow *m lobbys* lager lout
lodn *m lodnow* sluggard
lorel *m lorels* vagrant, vagabond; rascal
lowtieth *f* loutishness, hooliganism
mab hora (horsen) *m mebyon* bastard, son-of-a-bitch
maw myrhus *m* sissy
mellyor *m mellyoryon* busybody
mellyor dader *m mellyoryon* do-gooder

Natsy *m Natsys* Nazi

nedhessor *m nedhessoryon* nitpicker

oleker *m olekers* parasite

paumster *m paumsters* charlatan

pedant *m pedans* pedant

pedn bobba *m pednow* fool, idiot, pillock

pedn brâs *m pednow* blockhead, fathead

pedn brodnen *m pednow* scatterbrain

pedn bûssa *m pednow* blockhead

pedn càl *m pednow* dickhead

pedn cales *m pednow* stubborn person

pedn cog *m pednow* dolt, ignoramus

pedn crehy *m* wretch

pedn crohen *m pednow* skinhead

pedn medhow *m pednow* drunkard

pedn pyls *m pednow* baldy

pedn pyst (pedn brâs) *m pednow* blockhead, fool, idiot

podryn *m podrydnw* rotter, cad, jerk

pùnk *m pùnks* punk

pûrgy *m pûrgeun* snotty-nosed so-and-so

pycher pîsa *m pychers* wimp

pylf *m* good-for-nothing

pylyak *m pylyogyon* creep, jerk, git, arsehole

qwallok *m qwalokys* oaf, bruiser

qwalokes *f qwalokesow* 'Amazon', strapping wench

raf *m* good-for-nothing, guttersnipe

rascayl *m* ruffraff

rybot *m* scoundrel

scogyn *m scogydnw* fool, halfwit

scowt *f scowtys* hussy, slut

scramyor *m scramyoryon* scrounger

scubelak *adj/m scubelogyon* scruff

solk *m solkys* sneak

solkgy *m solkgeun* sneaky type

shauvynyst *m shauvenystyon* chauvinist

snobus (craghjenty1 ||) *adj* snobbish

snobuster (craghjentylys ||) *m* snobbishness, snobbery

snobyn *m snobydnaw* snob

spyv *m spyvys* spiv

sygeror (den wast) *m sygeroryon* idler

taryor *m taryoryon* dawdler

tavas padn *m tavosow* gibbering idiot

tavas re hir *m tavosow* chatterbox

tebel-el || *m tebel-eleth* || devil

tebel-wreg || *f tebel-wrageth* || shrew

tellek (frêgys) *m telygyon* ragamuffin

turont bian *m turons* little Hitler

vandal *m vandalys* vandal

vandalieth *f* vandalism

vandalîsa *v* vandalize

11-H AT THE MOVIES

an debeles *pl* the bad guys / baddies

argh-orour || *m argh-orwer* || superhero

buwghwas || *m buwghwesyon* || cowboy

cledhevor *m cledhevoryon* gladiator

gangster *m gangsters* gangster

mafyôso *m mafyôsy* mafioso

sheryf *m sheryfys* sheriff

tebelwas || (sherewa) *m tebelwesyon* || villain

11-I SCOUTING

Colyn *m Kelyn* Cub [Scout]

Fordhor *m Fordhoryon* [Boy] Scout *It is not appropriate to use scowt in this sense!*

Fordhorieth *f Scouting Note uncapitalized fordhorieth* = orienteering

Gedyores *f Gedyoresow* [Girl] Guide

Gelyges *f Gelygesow* Brownie

11-J MISCELLANEOUS VOCABULARY

adolescent *adj/m adolescens* adolescent

an Kernow (den) **kemmyn** *phr* the common man, the man in the street

aspior rag talent *m aspioryon* talent scout

avîsyor *m avîsyoryon* supervisor; superintendent

botler (*botteler*) *m botlers* butler

boya *m boyes* boy, lad, servant

brusyas *m brusysy* judge (especially of competition), arbiter

caffler *m cafflers* collector

chansler *m chanslers* chancellor

chaunjyans demografek *m* demographic change

chif-constâbyl || *m chif-constâblys* || chief constable

chyften *m chyftens* chieftain

Cobba Calan Ebrel *m Cobbys* April Fool

corr *m corras* dwarf

coweth gwary *m cowetha* playmate

cowethyas *m cowethysy* colleague, associate

den negys *m tus* businessman

den servabyl *m tus* volunteer

dynasyth tramor *m dynasydhyon dramor* expat[riate]

dyssentyor *m dyssentyoryon* dissenter, dissident; nonconformist (Christian)

dywyskyth *m dywyskydhyon* naturist, nudist

gelwysak *m gelwysogyon* invitee
genesyk coth *m genesygyon goth* aborigine
gùrû *m gùrûs* guru
gwandryas *m gwandrysy* itinerant, nomad, traveller (Roma etc); hiker
gwethyas corf *m gwethysy* bodyguard
gwrety (gwre'ty) *f gwrageth ty* housewife
hensegeror || *m hensegeroryon* || trailblazer
henwysak *m henwysogyon* nominee
hynsa *m* one's kind, one's peers / peer group
hyppy *m hyppys* hippy
jiant *m jians* giant
jypson *m jypsons* gypsy *This word is no longer socially acceptable*
kescoweth *m kescowetha* companion, associate
leg *adj/m legyon* lay(man)
mentor *m mentoryon* mentor
mentorya *v* mentor
messejer *m messejers* messenger
moren *f moronyon* girl, lass
morenus *adj* girlish
nothwibyor || *m nothwibyoryon* || streaker
oll aga hynsa *phr* all the rest of them
paja *m pajys* page
patron rol *m patronys* role model
penlêder *m penlêders* ringleader
pobel goth *col* old
pobel yonk *col* young people
porsor *m porsoryon* purser; bursar
ragvleynyth *m ragvleynydhion* predecessor
solksewyor *m solksewyoryon* stalker

sevylyak *adj/m sevylyogyon* bystander

sewyor *m sewyoryon* follower; successor

smat *adj/m smattys* tough guy (physically, positive or negative); ruffian (negative)

stervarner (spâcyth, den efander) *m stervarners* astronaut

tasek *m tasygyon* father figure; godfather (Mafia)

teddy-boya || *m teddy-boyes* || teddy boy

towlysak *m towlysogyon* castaway

troyllyor platednow *m troyllyoryon* disc jockey

viajyor *m viajyoryon* traveller (on journey)

viajyor brâs *m viajyoryon vrâs* globetrotter

vysytyor *m vysytyoryon* visitor