

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Hall for Cornwall, Truro, Wednesday 23 October 2024, 11am-4pm

GUEST SPEAKERS

ESME YOUNG



Esme Young is one part of BBC's 'Great British Sewing Bee' judging duo, along with Patrick Grant, joining the show in 2016. The show follows a group of talented amateur sewers who encounter different sewing challenges each week. 'The Great British Sewing Bee', has become a much anticipated annual fixture on our screens and is watched by 3.4 million viewers.

In early 1970s Esme, along with four other women who were passionate about fashion, opened a London based shop called 'Swanky Modes'. Their clothes appeared in magazines and newspapers and were photographed by renowned photographers. The iconic shop attracted a diverse clientele, including Julie Christie, Toyah Wilcox, Princess Julia, Midge Ure, Bette Bright, Viv Albertine and Grace Jones.

In the mid-80s Esme started doing work with independent stylists and costume designers, and opened her own studio. She began working on films, adverts and pop videos, and made bespoke clothes. Esme typically makes costumes for a film's leading actors. This meticulous process involves understanding the context, the cultural and the fashion references of the film's time and setting. She utilises her broad set of skills to provide advice, source fabric and collaborate with the costume designer in fitting and producing the garments.

Esme has worked on high profile advertising campaigns and has had individual commissions, including for Phil Collins, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Cher and Jane Asher. She mentored and taught designer Ashish until he became a professional fashion designer. Following his success, she worked on his London Fashion Week collections, cutting patterns and creating the shape of the designs, making the toiles and doing the fittings. Esme has developed new sewing and pattern cutting techniques for underwear and swimwear. In her free time, she teaches Innovative Pattern Cutting for graduates and professional students at Central Saint Martin's College. Esme uses hands on experience of design, pattern cutting and clothes making to move student's imagination and help them interpret their drawings so that they can develop the designs into actual garments.

MATTHEW KENWORTHY GOMES

Matthew has been CEO of Cornwall Pride for the past three years and has been an integral part of the organisation for eight years. With over two decades of dedication to LGBTQ+ activism and support, Matthew has worked to make a meaningful impact on communities by uplifting and empowering them. His journey began by providing support to Legacy, one of Cornwall's earliest LGBTQ+ youth groups. This led him to participate in significant events such as performing at the inaugural Cornwall Pride and engaging in Cardiff Prides. Additionally, he has served as a Trustee for the UK Pride Network, and has been a Trustee of Black Voices Cornwall for the past two years.



Cornwall Pride is more than just a one-day celebration. It is an organisation that operates with a clear vision and purpose. Guided by the core values of "Love Who You Want To Love" and "Be Who You Want To Be," the aim of Cornwall Pride is to inspire communities to champion a Hate Free Cornwall. The group strives to unite and empower individuals, creating a safe and inclusive environment where everyone can embrace their authentic selves.

For many in our communities Pride is the only day of the year they feel safe. Marginalised communities have the hardest human challenges so this must be the priority. Matthew says, "I love humans...for who they are, how they can be, and how they want to be. I love our own fears. I love the endless crises that can be opportunities. I want every single person to be included in those opportunities."

BRYHER'S BOYS



Bryher's Boys was formed back in 2017 when the tenor and bass sections of several West Cornwall choirs were press ganged to form a new crew especially designed to navigate the choppy waters of sea shanty singing! Although firmly rooted in the male vocal tradition, their trademark style of free harmony ensures that no two performances sound exactly the same. Named after Bandleader Trevor Brookes's youngest daughter, Bryher, the Boys do not hail from the Scillies themselves, but are based firmly in West Cornwall, spread out from Newlyn to Truro.

Their collective love of the established folk repertoire, both nautical and Cornish, proved an immediate hit with local audiences, with over 200 performances clocked up to date in venues as diverse as weddings, private parties, crowded pubs, community fundraisers (particularly for the RNLI), large scale concerts – even afloat aboard the RFA Lyme Bay! The group are particularly proud to have been selected to represent the whole of Cornwall in the summer of 2019, at Brittany's *Festival Interceltique*, taking their unique mix of traditional Cornish songs, shanties and shaggy dog stories to a new audience of over 800,000 attendees and singing to 9,000 people at a time! It topped a busy year which also saw the release of their first CD, *The Ballad of the Boy Jacq*. Lockdown didn't stop the Boys performing virtually, via a series of lockdown videos which have entertained over tens of thousands of viewers across the World.

Bryher's Boys' music has reached a national audience of millions, being featured in two episodes of the hit TV series *Rick Stein's Cornwall* and they were involved in the 2021 G7 Summit activity, being asked to compose and perform a *G7 Shanty* for Reuters News Agency, singing it live on the BBC National and Worldwide News Channel, which boasts an audience of over 70 Million!

Join us in the beautifully refurbished Hall for Cornwall!

All the usual activities will be available:

- * Browse the stalls and exhibitor displays**
- * Do a bit of shopping at our WI Shop**
- * Have a go on a VERY SPECIAL BIG RAFFLE**
- * Collect your newsletters and diaries from our friendly Office staff**

And best of all ...

Meet up again with WI friends from all over Cornwall