



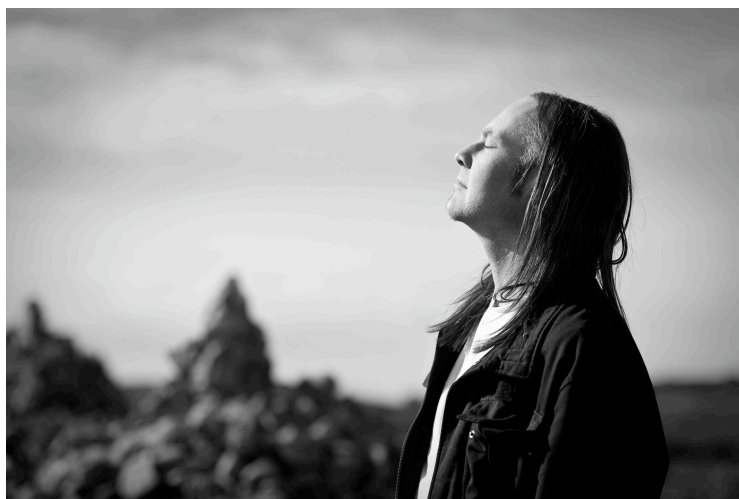
Good Morning! It's Wednesday on August 03, 2011.

Literature for everyone in the South West

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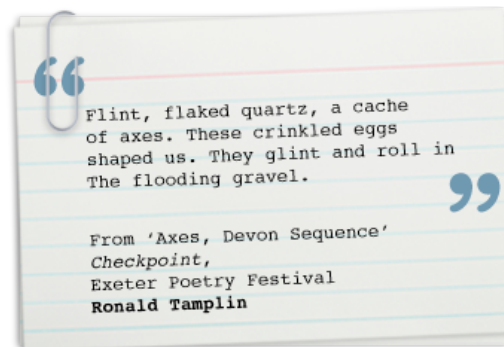
Alan M. Kent



Dr Alan M. Kent was born in Cornwall in 1967 and grew up in the china clay mining region of mid-Cornwall. He studied at University College Cardiff, obtaining a B.A. in English Literature, with a dissertation on 'Cornish Literature'; and at the University of Exeter, completing an M.Phil in 'Cultural Materialism' and an M.Ed. on the effects of National Curriculum English on Language Development in Secondary Schools in Cornwall. He completed his Ph.D. thesis ("Writing Cornwall 1497-1997: Continuity, Identity, Difference") at the Institute of Cornish Studies. He has worked as a Head of English and Drama and an Advisory Teacher.

He is now lecturer in literature for the Open University in south-west Britain and visiting lecturer in Celtic literature at the University of La Coruña in Galicia, northern Spain. He also teaches contemporary Cornish folklore and literature to the Workers' Educational Association. In addition to being a poet, novelist and dramatist, he has several academic publications to his name. Recent works include *Wives, Mothers and Sisters: Feminism, Literature and Women Writers of Cornwall* (1998), *Voices from West Barbary: An Anthology of Anglo-Cornish Poetry 1549-1928* (2000), *The Literature of Cornwall: Continuity, Identity, Difference 1000-2000* (2000), *Pulp Methodism* (2002) and *The Dreamt Sea: An Anthology of Anglo-Cornish Poetry 1928-2004*. He has also co-edited *Looking at the Mermaid: A Reader in Cornish Literature 900-1900* (2000) and *Inside Merlin's Cave: A Cornish Arthurian Reader 1000-2000* (2000). His work has also featured in numerous journals and publications including *Cornish Studies*, *Peripheral Visions*, *Celtic Englishes*, *Language and Region*, *21st-Century Celts*, *Celtic Languages in Contact* and *Celtic Geographies*.

In 1998 he was winner of the Charles Lee Literary Competition and in 1999 winner of a European Union script-writing prize. His editing of the poetry of Jack Clemo in the volume *The Awakening* won the Cornish Gorsedd's Holyer an Gof Award in 2004 for 'Outstanding Contribution to Cornish Literature'. His most recent collections of poetry are *The Hensbarrow Homilies* (2002), *Love and Seaweed* (2002), *Assassin of Grammar* (2005) and *Stannary Parliament* (2006). His books include *Cousin Jack's Mouth-organ: Travels in Cornish America* (2004), his verse translation of the Cornish trilogy of mystery plays known as Ordinalia (2005) [winner of the adult literature section of Holyer an Gof in 2006], *Nativitas Christi* (A Cornish Nativity), and a novel - *Proper Job, Charlie Curnow!* (2005). 2008 saw a new volume of verse published: *Druid Offsetting*. He has twice been winner of the Cornish Gorsedd's Anglo-Cornish poetry competition.



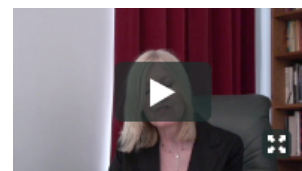
Calendar

South West
 What's On



Literature Clips

Our patron, Helen Dunmore
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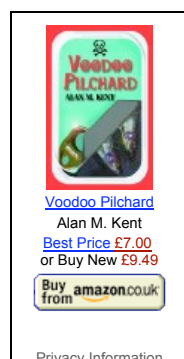
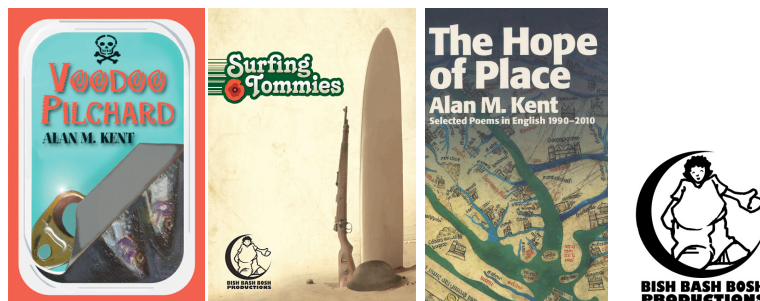
[Lee Weeks](#)



Surfing Tommies Trailer from Ian Bucknole on Vimeo.

In 2004 The Times Literary Supplement wrote that 'Kent's work should have a wide appeal' while *The Guardian* newspaper recently described his work as 'prescribed reading for anyone interested in Cornwall'. 2007 witnessed the publication and performance of a play *Oogly es Sin* - based on the life of Anthony Payne. This was nominated for a Sony Regional Radio Drama Award and 2008 saw a successful tour in both Cornwall and London of *The Tin Violin*. Both were serialised on BBC Radio Cornwall. His novel *Electric Pastyland* was published to acclaim in November 2007, and a collection of overseas Cornish Literature titled *The Busy Earth* (co-edited with Gage McKinney) emerged in March 2008. In 2010 his theatrical history of Cornwall (*The Theatre of Cornwall: Space, Place, Performance*) was published. A play *Surfing Tommies*, toured Cornwall and England in May and June 2009 and will go on a national tour in 2011. The play was awarded a development grant from the UNESCO Cultural Fund. 2010 has also seen publication of a bi-lingual novel, *The Cult of Relics / Devocyon dhe Greryow*, and his editorship of the *Selected Poems of Charles Valentine Le Grice*. He is also the Series Editor of Francis Boutle's Literature across frontiers series, so far featuring Breton, Galician and Manx Literature.

His play *A Mere Interlude* (an adaptation of a short story by Thomas Hardy) toured in 2010, and his latest novel, *Voodoo Pilchard* was published at the end of the year. He is also the co-editor of *The Francis Boutle Book of Cornish Short Stories*, and editor of *Four Modern Cornish Plays*. A selected poems, *The Hope of Place: Poems in English 1990-2010* was also published in 2010. He is presently working on *The Cambridge Companion to Celtic and Anglo-Celtic Literature* (2012).



SW Writer Profile PDF Archive

June 2010: Clare Morrall

July 2010: Julia Copus

August 2010: Elen Caldecott

September 2010: Sarah Duncan

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November 2010: Lee Weeks
December 2010: Matt Lynn
January 2011: Damian Furniss
February 2011: Jill Mansell
March 2011: Tim Weaver
April 2011: Adrian Tinniswood
May 2011: Emily Barr
June 2011: Saul David

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