



## CHARLES CAUSLEY AND THE CAUSLEY TRUST

Charles Causley (1917 – 2003) is recognised as one of the finest 20<sup>th</sup> century English poets. He lived nearly all his life in Launceston in Cornwall following wartime service in the Royal Navy but did travel abroad on residencies including to Canada and Australia. Causley received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1967 and was made a CBE in 1986. He died on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2003, aged 86, and is buried in St Thomas Churchyard, Launceston. In 2017 there were many celebrations of the Centenary of his birth, culminating in a December visit from Dr Rowan Williams which finished with him reciting 'Eden Rock' at Causley's grave. Causley's 'Collected Poems 1951 – 2000' and a new edition of 'Collected Poems for Children' are currently in print. There is a short biography by Malcolm Wright (2013) available from the Trust, and a fuller biography by Laurence Green, 'All Cornwall Thunders at my Door' (2013, Cornovis Press), as well as a recent publication 'A Portrait of the Poet' produced by the Trust.

Just prior to Charles Causley's death, the Charles Causley Trust was established to keep the work and legacy of the poet in the public eye. Since 2007, a main activity has been the rescue and preservation of No. 2, Cyprus Well in Launceston which was Causley's home for 50 years. The Trust now fully owns the house and a major capital project, largely funded by the Arts Council and Cornwall Council, was completed in July 2014 with an official opening by Sir Andrew Motion. The Trust became a registered charity in 2004 (no. 1152107) as well as a limited company in 2012 (no. 08239130).

The Arts Council, with other partners, has also supported two revenue projects titled 'Spark to Flame' (2015-2017) and 'Fuelling the Flame' (2018-2020). Furthermore, the Trust has recently received news that a new project titled 'Ignite' will be funded from April 2020 to March 2022, meaning a seamless transition from Fuelling the Flame. Ignite will also be part-funded by Cornwall Council, Launceston Town Council, and Plymouth University. The successful bid for the Ignite project means that, not only will existing Trust staff remain in post, the project can be expanded to include PR, marketing, and admin support. It also means that the Trust can continue its core activities of hosting Writers in Residence, poetry competitions, publications and events, and the annual Causley Festival.

The current Patrons of the Trust are Lord Paul Tyler, Sir Andrew Motion, and Patrick Gale. There are 18 current Trustees – Dr Ian Tunbridge OBE (Chairman), Dr Malcolm Wright (Secretary), Dr Barry Helme (Treasurer), Rose Bonner, Fiona Colville, Mike Cooper, David Devanny, David Fryer, John Hurst, Anna Maria Murphy, Vicky Reece-Romain, Richard Sharland, Penelope Shuttle, Rita Skinner, Kent Stanton, Kate Stark, Julia Twomlow, and Mary Utton. There are also two Honorary Trustees – Les Baker and Professor Ronald Tamplin.

The Trust is now looking forward to building on the success of Fuelling the Flame, working with both established and new partners, and expanding the staff base. We aim to reach out to a wide audience across Cornwall and beyond, engaging with a diverse mix of people and organisations, building partnerships, strengthening Cornwall's cultural offer, promoting Causley's legacy, and nurturing literature, poetry and the arts in general.