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# MY BRITAIN

PORTRAIT BY GARETH IWAN JONES

**Karina Rickards**, ceramic artist and Cornishware owner

**Thomas Gresham Green started Cornishware almost a hundred years ago.** He acquired our first factory in Stoke-on-Trent when he was on his honeymoon – something my husband would do!

**I often visit the Potteries in Stoke-on-Trent for work.** I’m always mesmerised by the liquid clay as it is poured out and crafted into one of our iconic Betty teapots.

**Cornishware is famed for its hand-painted stripes.** When I’ve painted the last one of the day, my favourite place to go is Helford River on the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall. We have a wooden boat, which we sail up and down the river at Frenchman’s Creek.

**On Friday evening, we often go to the Cadgwith Cove Inn in Helston for a bowl of mussels.** We listen to the sea shanties sung by local fishermen as we eat – it’s the perfect family get together. Otherwise, the best seafood is at the Kynance Cove Café. After a coastal walk we love to tuck into their crab sandwiches.

**Chettle in Dorset was my first taste of England’s beautiful countryside.** In my 20s, I lived in London with my husband and we would drive out to visit his family at his childhood home. I vividly remember the gentle rolling hills and the thatched roofs. That’s when my love affair with the southwest began.

**Post-lockdown, I’d love to go and see a classic Shakespeare play at the Minack Theatre.** It is an outdoor theatre perched on a cliff near Land’s End in Cornwall. Due to its uniquely warm microclimate, Cornwall is famed for its tropical gardens. Trewithen Gardens is first on my list to visit too.

**I’m aching to get a tree fern from The Duchy of Cornwall Nursery.** It’s set on a private estate established by Edward III in 1337 for his son and heir, Prince Edward. The café there enjoys gorgeous views of Fowey Valley. Of course, I’ll have to share one of their famously good cream teas with my daughters too. [www.cornishware.co.uk](http://www.cornishware.co.uk)

Karina Rickards puts the finishing touches to her latest Cornishware