

= Cynthia Lennon =

Cynthia Lennon (née Powell ; 10 September 1939 ? 1 April 2015) was the first wife of English musician John Lennon , and mother of Julian Lennon . She grew up in the middle @-@ class section of Hoylake , on the Wirral Peninsula in North West England . At the age of 12 , she was accepted into the Junior Art School , and was later enrolled in the Liverpool College of Art . John Lennon also attended the college ; a meeting with Powell in a calligraphy class led to their relationship .

When John was performing in Hamburg with the Beatles , she rented his bedroom from his aunt and legal guardian , Mimi Smith . After Powell became pregnant , she and John were married on 23 August 1962 at the Mount Pleasant register office in Liverpool and from 1964 to 1968 , they lived at Kenwood in the Surrey town of Weybridge , where she kept house and participated with her husband in a London @-@ based social life . In 1968 , John left her for Japanese avant @-@ garde conceptual artist Yoko Ono and as a result , the couple 's divorce was legally granted on 8 November 1968 on the grounds of John 's adultery with Ono .

She married Italian hotelier Roberto Bassanini in 1970 , divorcing him in 1973 . In 1976 , she married John Twist , an engineer from Lancashire , but divorced him in 1983 . After her divorce from Twist , she changed her name back to " Lennon " by deed poll and met Jim Christie , her partner for 17 years . She was later married to Noel Charles , a night club owner , from 2002 until his death in 2013 . She published a book of memoirs , A Twist of Lennon , in 1978 , and a more intimate biography , John , in 2005 . Over the years she staged several auctions of memorabilia associated with her life with John Lennon . In 2006 , she and her son Julian Lennon attended the Las Vegas premiere of the Cirque du Soleil production of Love whose theme is the music of the Beatles . Until her death in 2015 , she lived in Majorca , Spain .

= = Early years = =

Cynthia Powell was born on 10 September 1939 in Blackpool , Lancashire , England , the youngest of three children of Charles Powell and his wife Lillian (née Roby) , who already had two sons a number of years older , Charles and Anthony . Charles Powell worked for the GEC company . The Powells had lived in Liverpool , but along with other pregnant women , Lillian Powell was sent to the safer Blackpool after World War II had been declared , and lived in a small room in a bed @-@ and @-@ breakfast on the Blackpool seafront . After the birth , with Liverpool becoming a frequent target of German air raids , the Powell family moved to a two @-@ bedroomed semi @-@ detached house in Hoylake . This was a middle @-@ class area on the Wirral Peninsula , considered " posh " by those in Liverpool .

At the age of 11 , she won an art prize in a competition organised by the Liverpool Echo . One year later she was accepted into Liverpool 's Junior Art School , which was also attended by Bill Harry , later editor of Liverpool 's Mersey Beat newspaper .

= = Art college = =

When Powell was 17 , her father died after a long battle with lung cancer . Before he died , he told her she would have to get a job to support her mother , and would not be able to go to art school . As her mother wanted her to receive an education , she rented out a room to four apprentice electricians . In September 1957 , Powell gained a place at the Liverpool College of Art . Although studying graphics , she also took lettering classes , as did Lennon . He never had any drawing tools with him , so he constantly borrowed pens and pencils from Powell , who discovered he was only there because other teachers had refused to instruct him . She had an air of respectability and moved in different social circles than her future husband . Lennon and an art school friend , Geoff Mohammed , used to make fun of her by stopping the conversation when she walked in the room , saying : " Quiet please ! No dirty jokes ; it 's Cynthia . "

Powell once overheard Lennon give a compliment to a girl with blonde hair in the college , who

looked similar to the French actress Brigitte Bardot . The next Saturday , Powell turned up at the college with her hair several shades blonder . Lennon noticed straight away , exclaiming , " Get you , Miss Hoylake ! " (Lennon 's nickname for her , along with " Miss Powell " or " Miss Prim ") . Dressed like a Teddy Boy , he sometimes brought a guitar with him into class , and once sang " Ain 't She Sweet " directly to Powell .

= = = Relationship with John Lennon = = =

After a college party to celebrate the end of term , Lennon asked Powell if she would like to " go out " with him . She quickly replied that she was engaged to a young man in Hoylake , he replied , " I didn 't ask you to marry me , did I ? " He later approached her and asked if she would go to the Ye Cracke pub . She was confused when he ignored her all evening , but eventually invited her into the group with a joke .

They began dating , with Lennon now referring to her as " Cyn " . In the autumn of 1958 , she ended her engagement to be with him , and he ended his relationship with another art student , Thelma Pickles . His jealousy could also manifest itself in violent behaviour towards her , as when he slapped her across the face (causing her head to hit a wall) , after watching her dance with Stuart Sutcliffe . After the incident , she broke up with Lennon for three months , but resumed their relationship after his profuse apology . Another time a cleaning woman at the college caught Lennon hitting her and suggested she stay away from him .

Her work at art school began to suffer , and teachers told her the relationship with Lennon was doing her no good . Lennon continued to be casually inconsiderate towards her , later saying , " I was in sort of a blind rage for two years . I was either drunk or fighting . It had been the same with other girl friends I 'd had . There was something the matter with me . " Tony Bramwell ? a friend of Lennon 's since his youth ? later said : " Cynthia was beautiful , physically , and on the inside . Although she knew he [Lennon] was apt to find love on the road , she was totally dedicated to his success ... and extremely influential . He was insecure and Cynthia was there to pump him up , to buttress , sort of , his weak side . "

The Beatles ' first Hamburg residency took place in 1960 , with Lennon writing frequent and passionate letters back home to Powell . After returning home , Lennon 's aunt and legal guardian , Mimi Smith , threw a hand @-@ mirror at him for spending a lot of money on a suede coat for Powell . Smith later referred to her as " a gangster 's moll " , and was often unpleasant towards her . The Beatles went to Hamburg for a second time in 1961 , and both Powell and Dot Rhone (Paul McCartney 's girlfriend at the time) , visited them two weeks later , during the Easter holidays . They had to stay up all night because of the long sets , with both taking Preludin to stay awake , which the group were also taking . Lennon and Powell stayed with Sutcliffe 's girlfriend , Astrid Kirchherr , at her mother 's house . After the trip to Hamburg , Powell 's mother Lillian said Powell 's cousin and husband were emigrating to Canada with their new @-@ born baby , and that she , Lillian , would be going with them while they studied to become teachers . Powell waited until Lennon came back from Hamburg before she asked Smith ? who had taken in lodgers before at 251 Menlove Avenue ? if she would rent a room to her . Smith rented out the box @-@ room above the front door (which had been Lennon 's bedroom) , but insisted she also do chores around the house . To pay the rent , she took a job at a Woolworths store in Liverpool , after her student grant had run out . In the same year , when Lennon was 21 years old , he received £ 100 from his aunt Mater who lived in Edinburgh , and went to Paris with McCartney . Powell could not accompany them as she was studying for her final exams .

When Lennon went to Hamburg again in April 1962 , she found a bedsit in a terraced house at 93 Garmoye Road , Liverpool . Shortly after having failed her art teacher 's diploma exam , in August 1962 , she found she was pregnant with Lennon 's child . She later explained that she and Lennon had never used contraception , had never talked about it , and didn 't think about it at the time . When she told Lennon he said , " There 's only one thing for it Cyn , we 'll have to get married " .

= = Marriage and Julian = =

The Lennons were married on 23 August 1962 at the Mount Pleasant Register office in Liverpool . Fellow Beatles McCartney and George Harrison were in attendance , as was their manager , Brian Epstein , who was best man ; no parents were there . The wedding was farcical , because as soon as the ceremony began a workman in the backyard of the building opposite started using a pneumatic drill which drowned out anything the registrar , Lennon , or Powell said . When the registrar asked for the groom to step forward , Harrison stepped forward instead . With no photographs or flowers the wedding party celebrated afterwards , at Epstein 's invitation , in Reece 's restaurant in Clayton Square , which was the same restaurant where Lennon 's parents , Alfred Lennon and Julia Lennon , had celebrated their marriage in 1938 . Lennon was 21 years old , and Powell 22 . The newlyweds had no honeymoon , as Lennon had to play an engagement at the Riverpark Ballroom in Chester the same night , although they did travel to the Hotel George V in Paris , for a belated honeymoon on 16 September , but were accompanied by Epstein , even though he had not been invited to join them .

During her pregnancy , Epstein offered the couple the use of his flat at 36 Falkner Street , and later paid for a private hospital room when the pregnancy was coming to term . Although still completely unknown outside Liverpool , by now the Beatles had a fanatical following among girls within the city . Epstein had one condition which the Lennons had to follow : the marriage and the baby were to be kept a close secret , so as not to upset any of these fans . One time when news of the wedding leaked out , the group denied it . Cynthia was happy to keep a low profile , not wanting to be the subject of public attention the way her husband was .

The Lennons ' son , John Charles Julian Lennon , was born at 7 @. @ 45 am on 8 April 1963 , in Sefton Hospital . Lennon , being on tour at the time , did not see his son until three days later , and when he finally arrived at the hospital , said : " He 's bloody marvellous , Cyn ! ... Who 's gonna be a famous rocker like his Dad then ? " He then explained that he would be going on a four @- @ day holiday to Barcelona , with Epstein . Lennon later referred to Julian as a " Saturday night special ; the way that most people get here " , or said that his son " came out of a whisky bottle " .

= = Beatlemania = =

Around the time of Julian 's birth , the Beatles became a pop sensation across Britain , a phenomenon which became known as Beatlemania . That one of the members was married and had a son was not publicly known at the time ; a 1963 " Lifelines of the Beatles " page in the New Musical Express detailed over 25 biographical facts about each member of the group , but never gave any hint Lennon was married , even reporting " girls " as one of his hobbies . The press heard rumours about Lennon 's wife and child at the end of 1963 ? after Beatlemania had already swept the UK and Europe ? and descended on her mother 's house in Hoylake (where mother and son were staying) , in November and December . Friends and neighbours protected their anonymity , but she was often approached by journalists . In November she had her son christened at the Hoylake parish church , but didn 't tell Lennon (who was on tour at the time) , because she feared a media circus . She told him two days after , and he was angry as he hadn 't wanted his son to be christened , even though Epstein had asked to be Julian 's godfather . Not long after the christening , every newspaper was full of the story about Lennon 's secret wife and baby boy . Epstein told the other Beatles to make the best of the situation , and hoped newspapers would not say Cynthia was pregnant before marrying him . After living at Lennon 's aunt 's house for some months , the couple moved to London and found a three @- @ bedroomed flat at 13 Emperor 's Gate , off Cromwell Road . The top floor flat was the third of three , which were each built over two floors . This meant climbing six flights of stairs , as the building had no lift . Cynthia firstly had to carry Julian up to the flat , and then go back down to collect shopping bags . The Beatles ' fans soon found out where they were living , and she would find them camping out in the hallway , and have to push through them when leaving or arriving .

She accompanied Lennon to America on the first Beatles ' tour there , with Lennon allowing the press to photograph them together , which infuriated Epstein , as he had wanted to keep their

marriage a secret . On the tour , she was left behind in New York when Lennon and the other Beatles were quickly ushered into a car , and in Miami she had to ask the help of fans to convince a security guard who she was . Lennon 's response was , " Don 't be so bloody slow next time ? they could have killed you " . It would be the only time Cynthia would go on tour with them . At the Emperor 's Gate address the situation grew worse , with fans sticking chewing gum in the lock of the flat and tearing at any article of clothing when she or Lennon were leaving or arriving . American girls would write her letters proclaiming their desperate love for John ; the women in the lives of the other Beatles received equivalent missives . As late as 1967 , Beatles ' wives were still dealing with occasional physical danger from female Beatles ' fans , with Cynthia being kicked in the legs by one who demanded she " leave John alone ! " .

As Lennon was either touring or recording , supposed family holidays in 1966 were skiing in St. Moritz , with producer George Martin and his girlfriend , or staying at a castle in Ireland , with George Harrison and Pattie Boyd (Harrison 's wife) . Even these were subject to being discovered by fans , with Cynthia and Pattie having to escape the Irish location by being dressed as maids . As a result of the long recording sessions and tours , Lennon usually slept for days afterwards . When Lennon started filming *How I Won the War* in Almeria , Spain , he promised his wife and son they could join him there after two weeks of filming . The small apartment they were allocated was swiftly replaced by a villa when Starr and his wife joined them .

= = Kenwood = =

= = Domestic life = =

The Beatles ' accountant told Epstein the group members should move to houses near his in Esher , so Lennon bought a house called Kenwood in July 1964 . It was a mock @-@ Tudor @-@ style house on three acres in Weybridge , where Cliff Richard already lived . Lennon then spent twice the original £ 20 @,@ 000 purchase price on renovations for Kenwood , reducing its 22 rooms to 17 . The new kitchen was so modern and complicated , someone had to be sent to explain how everything worked , and during the extensive renovations the couple had to live in the attic bedroom for nine months . Although Cynthia enjoyed entertaining in the larger rooms , Lennon could usually be found in a small sunroom at the back of the house overlooking the swimming pool , which was similar to his aunt 's conservatory in Liverpool . They had a cat called " Mimi " , named after Lennon 's aunt . Cynthia took care of Julian herself , without a nanny , although babysitters were frequently employed . She also did the cooking herself , but employed a housekeeper , gardener , and chauffeur , who lived off the premises .

When she passed her driving test , Lennon serially bought her a white Mini , a gold Porsche , a red Ferrari , and a green Volkswagen Beetle , usually as surprises without consulting her first . Cynthia enjoyed the closeness of Pattie Boyd (George Harrison 's wife) and Maureen Starkey (Ringo Starr 's wife) , as both lived nearby , often going on holiday together or shopping . She was often photographed at Beatles ' movie premieres and special occasions , and sometimes with Lennon and Julian at home , which meant she had the role of a Beatle wife , as well as being a mother . The Lennons often went to a nightclub in central London until nearly dawn , after which she took Julian to school . Kenwood became the place to visit for the other Beatles , various American musicians , and total strangers who Lennon had met the previous night in London nightclubs .

In 1965 , she opened the front door of Kenwood to see a man who " looked like a tramp " , but with her husband 's features . He explained that he was Alfred Lennon , the father whom Lennon had supposedly not seen for years . Lennon was annoyed when he came home , telling her for the first time that his father had visited the NEMS office , Epstein 's business , a few weeks before . Three years after the meeting in the NEMS office , Alfred Lennon (who was then 56 years old) turned up at Kenwood again with his fiancée , 19 @-@ year @-@ old student Pauline Jones . He asked if the Lennons could give Pauline a job , so she was hired to help with Julian and the piles of Beatles ' fan mail . Lennon 's father and his fiancée then spent a few months living in the attic bedroom . During

an interview at Kenwood with Evening Standard reporter Maureen Cleave , Lennon said , " Here I am in my Hansel and Gretel house , famous and loaded , and I can 't go anywhere . There 's something else I 'm going to do , only I don 't know what it is , but I do know this isn 't it for me " .

= = = Drugs = = =

Cynthia knew her husband took drugs like Preludin , and regularly smoked cannabis but thought of them as not being very dangerous , especially the cannabis . On 27 March 1965 , at a dinner party given by a dentist , John Riley , the Lennons , Harrison , and Boyd were given LSD without their knowledge . Although told not to leave the house , Harrison drove them to various nightclubs , with Riley following them by taxi . At the Ad Lib club , they thought the lift up to the club was on fire and started screaming , before finally crawling out of the lift for which Mick Jagger , Marianne Faithfull , and Starr were waiting . Harrison later drove them back home in Boyd 's Mini Cooper at no more than 10 mph , as he was also feeling the effects of the drug . They stayed up all night at Kenwood , experiencing the full effects of their first LSD trip .

Lennon then started taking LSD on a regular basis , as well as his daily use of cannabis . After much encouragement from him , Cynthia agreed to try LSD one more time , but the adverse effects were the same . Although she said at the time she would never take the drug again , she relented and took it for the last time a few weeks later , on the way to a party at Epstein 's country house in Warbleton , East Sussex . Although she hated the psychological effects of the drug , from this point she could see the change taking place in her husband : " It was like living with someone who had just discovered religion ... Tensions , bigotry , and bad temper were replaced by understanding and love " . In 1970 , Lennon confessed he had probably taken LSD one thousand times since 1965 , saying : " I used to just eat it all the time " . In the decades ahead , Cynthia would always maintain that John 's drug use was the beginning of the end for the couple .

On 22 July 1967 , Harrison , Boyd , Starr , and assistant Neil Aspinall flew to Athens , where they stayed overnight until Lennon , his wife and son , McCartney , and Jane Asher (McCartney 's girlfriend) , Boyd 's 16 @-@ year @-@ old sister , Paula , roadie Mal Evans , and publicist Alistair Taylor set off for Athens . Looking for an island they could buy to live on together , they chartered a yacht , the MV Arvi . McCartney later said that whilst sailing around Greek islands , everybody just " sat around and took LSD " . Lennon and the other Beatles publicly renounced drugs ? although never completely ? after their initial meetings with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in London , and Bangor , Wales .

By 1967 , Lennon 's aggressive edges from his childhood had disappeared , and he spent considerable amounts of time sitting in his sunroom or garden and daydreaming for hours at end . He became somewhat uncommunicative towards most people , including Cynthia (but not with the other Beatles , who had an almost unspoken ability to understand one another) . Cynthia once complained , saying : " What I 'd like is a holiday of our own ... John , Julian and me " . Lennon replied with , " OK , I know , we 'll all retire to a little cottage on a cliff in Cornwall , all right ? " Then adding , " No , I 've got these bloody songs to write . I have to work , to justify living . " She understood his temperament , but felt frustrated at never having developed her own career by using her art college background .

= = = India and Ono = = =

The Beatles were scheduled to fly to India to visit the Maharishi for two or three months of Transcendental Meditation . Before they left , Cynthia found letters from Yoko Ono to Lennon which indicated he had had contact with her over a period of some time . Lennon denied he was involved with Ono , explaining that she was just some " crazy artist " who wanted to be sponsored , although Ono kept up a stream of telephone calls and visits to Kenwood . On 15 February 1968 , the Lennons flew to India , followed by the other Beatles and their partners four days later : Boyd , Asher , and Maureen Starkey (Starr 's wife) . The division between the sexes was emphasised by the male musicians sitting outside at night composing songs , while their partners gathered together in one of

their rooms , often talking about life as the wife or partner of a Beatle . The Lennons shared a four @-@ poster bed at the ashram , with Lennon playing guitar and Cynthia drawing and writing poetry between their long sessions of meditation .

" Magic Alex " (Greek @-@ born Alex Mardas , who controlled Apple Electronics) arrived later , smuggling in alcohol from the nearest village as it was not allowed in the ashram . After two weeks Lennon asked to sleep in a separate room , saying he could only meditate when he was alone , but walked down to the local post office every morning to see if he had received a telegram from Ono , who sent one almost daily . Cynthia found out about these secretive trips much later , saying : " I had thought our magical interlude with the Maharishi would be the making of our marriage ? but in reality it just presaged the end " . Paul Saltzman later published a book of photographs , The Beatles in Rishikesh , showing Lennon deep in thought , and Cynthia 's confused expression . Despite the alienation from Lennon , she later spoke about her time there , saying : " I loved being away from the fans , hordes of people , deadlines , demands and flashing cameras " .

= = = Divorce = = =

During the flight back to England , Lennon got very drunk on Scotch and confessed that he had been involved with other women during their marriage . He went on to detail his liaisons with groupies , friends (such as Joan Baez , actress Eleanor Bron , journalist Cleave) and " thousands " of women around the globe . Although not wanting to hear Lennon 's confession , she knew women were attracted to him , " like moths to a flame " . Two weeks later , in May 1968 , Lennon suggested Cynthia take a holiday in Greece with Mardas , Donovan , and two friends , as he would be very busy recording songs for what would become The White Album . She arrived back at Kenwood from Greece earlier than expected , at four o 'clock on 22 May 1968 , to discover Lennon and Ono sitting cross @-@ legged on the floor in matching white robes , staring into each other 's eyes , and then found Ono 's slippers outside the Lennons ' bedroom door . Shocked , she asked Jenny Boyd and Mardas if she could spend the night at their apartment . At the apartment Boyd went straight to bed , but she and Mardas drank more alcohol , with Mardas trying to convince her to run away together . After she had vomited in the bathroom , she collapsed on a bed in the spare bedroom , with Mardas joining her and trying to kiss her until she pushed him away .

Lennon seemed absolutely normal when she returned home the next day , and steadfastly maintained his love for her and their son , saying : " It 's you I love Cyn ... I love you now more than ever before " . Lennon went to New York with McCartney shortly after , but as she was specifically not invited , a trip to Pesaro , in Italy , was arranged with her mother . After an evening with Italian hotelier , Roberto Bassanini , Mardas was waiting at the hotel to break the news that Lennon was planning to sue for divorce on grounds of adultery , seek sole custody of Julian , and " send her back to Hoylake " . She said in 2005 : " The mere fact that ? Magic Alex ? [Mardas] arrived in Italy in the middle of the night without any prior knowledge of where I was staying made me extremely suspicious . I was being coerced into making it easy " ... [for Lennon and Ono] " to accuse me of doing something that would make them not look so bad . " As Lennon had initiated divorce proceedings , it prompted her to exclaim : " Suing me for divorce ? On what grounds is he suing me ? " When the news of Ono 's pregnancy broke , Cynthia started her own divorce proceedings against Lennon on 22 August 1968 . The financial settlement was hampered by Lennon 's refusing to offer any more than £ 75 @,@ 000 , telling her on the phone that the payment was akin to winning the football pools and that she was not worth any more . The settlement was then raised to £ 100 @,@ 000 , £ 2 @,@ 400 annually , and custody of Julian . Another £ 100 @,@ 000 was put into a trust fund which Julian would inherit when he was 21 . Until that time , his mother would receive the interest payments . Their decree nisi was granted on 8 November 1968 . The trust fund had one codicil , which provided for any further children by Lennon , so when Sean Lennon was born in 1975 , Julian 's inheritance was cut to £ 50 @,@ 000 .

She lived for a few months in a flat Starr owned at 34 Montagu Square , central London , but returned to Kenwood as Lennon and Ono preferred to live there instead , rather than in isolated Weybridge . Lennon and Cynthia had one last short meeting at Kenwood (with Ono alongside

Lennon) , with Lennon accusing her of having an affair in India , saying she was no " innocent little flower " . McCartney visited her and Julian that year , and on the way to Kenwood he composed a song in his head which later became " Hey Jude " . Talking about their divorce , McCartney later said : " We 'd been very good friends for millions of years and I thought it was a bit much for them suddenly to be personae non gratae and out of my life " . Cynthia recalled , " I was truly surprised when , one afternoon , Paul arrived on his own . I was touched by his obvious concern for our welfare ... On the journey down he composed ' Hey Jude ' in the car . I will never forget Paul 's gesture of care and concern in coming to see us . " She was once asked if Lennon had written any songs about their time together , and answered : " It was too sloppy when you were young to dedicate anything to anybody . Macho Northern men didn 't do that in those days " . In contrast , Lennon said he wrote the 1965 song " Norwegian Wood (This Bird Has Flown) " about an affair he was having , but rendered it in " gobbledegook " so Cynthia would not know .

= = Subsequent life = =

On 31 July 1970 , Cynthia married Bassanini , whom she had started dating after parting with Lennon ; the couple divorced in 1973 . She then opened a restaurant in Ruthin , Wales , called Oliver 's Bistro , which also had a B & B above the premises . She enrolled her son into the Ruthin School and he later joined the local Combined Cadet Force . During Lennon 's separation from Ono in 1973 / 74 , his partner at the time , May Pang , actively tried to get Lennon to spend more time with his son , forming a friendship with Lennon 's ex @-@ wife in the process , which continued even after Lennon and Ono were reconciled . A meeting during this period was the last time Cynthia saw John . Previously , Julian had been allowed to visit his father twice a year by himself , but Lennon complained that during his time with Pang his ex @-@ wife also wanted to be present , saying : " She [Cynthia] thought she could walk back in ' cos I wasn 't with Yoko ! " After his reconciliation with Ono , he complained again that his son was not being allowed to visit him .

On 1 May 1976 , Cynthia married John Twist , an engineer from Lancashire . She published a memoir during their time together , A Twist of Lennon , in 1978 , telling about her life before and with Lennon , and containing her own illustrations and poetry . Lennon tried to stop the publication of the book after an excerpt was published in a newspaper .

On 9 December 1980 (UK time) , whilst staying at Starr 's ex @-@ wife 's home , she received a phone call from Starr , two hours after Lennon had been shot in New York . " The memory of Ringo 's words , the sound of his tearful voice crackling over the transatlantic line , is crystal clear : ' Cynthia , I 'm so sorry , John 's dead ' . I had only one clear thought . My son , our son , [Julian] was at home in bed , I had to get back to Ruthin so that I could tell him about his father 's death . "

Cynthia 's memoir gained renewed interest and went to a third printing of 200 @,@ 000 copies in the weeks after Lennon 's death . She and Twist separated in 1981 and were divorced in 1983 . She sold the Bistro and changed her name back to Lennon by deed poll , later commenting about why it was financially necessary : " Do you imagine I would have been awarded a three @-@ year contract to design bedding and textiles [for Vantona Vyella in 1983] with the name Powell ? Neither did they . When it is necessary to earn a living , it is necessary to bite the bullet and take the flack . "

She began a relationship with Liverpoolian chauffeur Jim Christie in 1981 , who became her partner for 17 years as well as her business manager , living in Penrith , Cumbria . She said at the time : " Jim has never felt he 's living in John Lennon 's shadow . He 's four years younger than me and wasn 't really part of that whole Beatles ' scene . " They later lived on the Isle of Man and then Normandy for some years , but separated in 1998 .

She had kept mementos of Lennon for years , but began auctioning them off after his death , including a personally drawn Christmas card from Lennon to her , which fetched £ 8 @,@ 800 at Christie 's in August 1981 . With her finances in an unsteady state ? would say in 1999 that " Apart from John , the men I have fallen in love with have never been good at earning a living " ? more of her memorabilia of Lennon went up for auction in 1991 , including antiques from Kenwood . She said at the time , " I 've enjoyed these things for 30 years . But it 's time for a change . " Another set of items , including some of Lennon 's drug paraphernalia , brought over \$ 60 @,@ 000 for her in

1995 . She later said , " I think in life we collect so much baggage , when you have a clearout , you send it to a car @-@ boot sale , etc . My baggage was in demand and sold at Christie 's . When you have to pay the bills , you 're not proud and you can 't take it with you . "

Over the years she entered some failed business ventures , including in 1988 a perfume named Woman (after the 1980 John Lennon song) and , in April 1989 , a restaurant named Lennon 's ? at 13 / 14 Upper St. Martin 's Lane , Covent Garden ? which had menu items such as Rubber Sole (a play on the already @-@ punning 1965 Beatles album) , as well as Sgt. Pepper 's Steak and Penny Lane Pâté . It had a short life as a business venture , as it was considered to be far too expensive . She would later blame some of these efforts on the men in her life encouraging her .

The Beatles ' Hamburg days were the subject of the 1994 film Backbeat , with Jennifer Ehle portraying Cynthia Powell . The film characterises Lennon and Cynthia 's relationship as one that will eventually be doomed by their wanting different things from life , but with Lennon not wanting to hurt her . Cynthia later complained that the film made her out " as a clingy , dim , little girlfriend in a headscarf " . She was portrayed in 2000 television film In His Life : The John Lennon Story by Gillian Kearney ; the negative aspects of John 's treatment towards her were not overlooked . Cynthia was subsequently portrayed in the troubled , Ono @-@ centric 2005 American musical Lennon , with her character ? played by Julia Murney ? gaining a little more prominence during one of the show 's rewrites . Her life had a more central role in the 2010 BBC Four film Lennon Naked , with Claudie Blakley playing the part . However , her character was absent from the 2009 British film Nowhere Boy , which purported to cover the story of Lennon from 1955 to 1960 but focused on his relationships with his aunt and mother .

In 1995 , Cynthia made her recording début with a rendition of " Those Were the Days " , which as produced by McCartney had been a number one hit for Mary Hopkin in 1968 . It failed to chart . Whilst living in Normandy , an exhibition of her drawings and paintings were displayed at Portobello Road 's KDK Gallery in 1999 . By the 1990s she was appearing at some Beatles conventions , but appeared ambivalent about the practice . At times she maintained she was moving on with her life and putting her Beatles past behind her and at other times seemed to embrace continued interest in that past as inevitable . The Daily Telegraph said in a 1999 profile , " In essence , she is a suburban woman who ? almost in spite of herself ? got caught up with one of the most extraordinary men of modern times . More than 30 years since her marriage to John Lennon ended , she is as entangled as ever . "

= = Later years and death = =

In 2002 , she married Noel Charles , a Barbadian night club owner . In September 2005 , she published a new biography , John , re @-@ examining her life with Lennon and the years afterwards , including the events following his death . Michel Faber , writing in The Guardian , said of the book : " John is Cynthia 's attempt to prove how much more she was worth . In theory , the disclosures of Lennon 's loyal partner from 1958 to 1968 cannot fail to be valuable . On the page , the potential withers " . In 2006 , she and her son attended the Las Vegas premiere of the Cirque du Soleil production of Love , which marked a rare public appearance with Ono . In 2009 , she and her son opened an exhibition of memorabilia at The Beatles Story exhibition in Liverpool , and she and Pattie Boyd staged a first @-@ ever joint appearance at the opening of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts in Yerevan , Armenia . On 30 September 2010 , Julian opened his " Timeless " exhibition of photographs at the Morrison Hotel Gallery in New York . In attendance were Cynthia , Julian , Ono , Sean , and Pang , which was the first time all five had been in the same room together .

The John Lennon Peace Monument was unveiled by Cynthia and Julian at a ceremony in Chavasse Park , Liverpool , on 9 October 2010 to celebrate what would have been Lennon 's 70th birthday . Cynthia lived with her husband , Noel , on the island of Majorca in Spain until his death on 11 March 2013 .

She died on 1 April 2015 at her home in Majorca , Spain , at the age of 75 after a short struggle with cancer , with her son Julian Lennon by her side . Public messages of condolence were made by McCartney and Starr , with the former saying " She was a lovely lady who I 've known since our

early days together in Liverpool . She was a good mother to Julian and will be missed by us all ... " and the latter " Peace and love to Julian Lennon God bless Cynthia " . Ono also issued a statement , emphasizing the position she held in common : " Being a single parent of a strong and intelligent boy is never easy . Cynthia and I understood each other in that way , wishing well for our sons and their future . " Beatles biographer Hunter Davies , who had spent considerable time with her and John in the 1960s while researching his book , remembered her as " a lovely woman ... She was totally different from John in that she was quiet , reserved and calm . "