



Queensland Manx Society

Serving the Manx Community since 1914

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

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Well Tynwald Day had to be cancelled again this year due the "Lock-Down" called by the Queensland Government in response to some infection cases occurring at various centres throughout the State. It was mostly in South East Queensland and Townsville districts and the lock-down only lasted for four days while they clarified contacts and waited for any new cases to emerge. With all systems firing, it was given the all-clear on Sunday 4th July, but face masks have been deemed necessary ever since.

While we are not out of the woods yet in Queensland, it looks promising that we may rid ourselves of the problem but cases still keep popping up so who knows. Australia have wider "Lock-Downs" in New South Wales and Victoria, and South Australia have declared "Lock-Downs" for seven days at times. Number restrictions have curtailed some events but they look like being eased bit by bit as time goes by. Vaccinations in Queensland are very slow compared to other States and other countries, and everyone is urged to get vaccinated as soon as possible to try and stem the spread of the virus. While Queensland has had a very low out-break of cases compared to other States, it is in everyone's interest to guard against the further spread of the virus so please have your vaccination as soon as possible.

We planned our Annual General Meeting at Arana Leagues Club instead of the Brisbane Library on 28th August at 1.00 pm. and had a small group to conduct the business of the agenda. Nominations were received and as there were no other nominations, each nomination was accepted and passed. The positions accepted were: -

President - George Cowin D Ua

Vice President - Maxwell Cain D Urr

Secretary - Glen Smith

Treasurer - Douglas Quayle D Ua

Committee - Betty Elmes, Val Ashworth, Norma Conwell D Ua, Tony Ashworth, Edna Davis



BACK IN TIME FAMILY DAY

Following the meeting on Saturday, we joined the Ipswich Historical Society on Sunday at their wonderful Cooneana Heritage Centre, 1041 Redbank Plains Road, New Chum for their "Back in Time Family Fun Day Festival". We



had our tent there and meet up with their members and friends to have a happy day of fun and entertainment. This included 'Ride the Trackless Train' from the Bendigo Bank Station, Watch the Wheelwright make a



metal tyre for a wagon wheel, Learn to draw with Miss Julie, Taste a damper, find out about Celtic culture at the Manx tent, do some weaving and make a collage or a peg doll, get an education at the schoolroom, veteran and classic motorcycles, play old-fashion games and stilt walking, do washing in an old fashion tub, learn about Genealogical research, see the historical museum, and have a sausage sizzle. With a beautiful day, a sizeable crowd attended and the children enjoyed the opportunity to participate in so many activities. We look forward to next year's event.

Member News

We have had news that both Margaret and Les Witherington have undergone surgery in July. Margaret with a hip replacement and Les has had one of his legs amputated. Both are doing well and in good cheer. Their daughter came down from Chinchilla to look after them for a week. We wish them well and trust they will recover good health.

Another member has undergone a five hour surgery recently as well. Richard Blackburn has had a melanoma removed from his brain and is recovering well and is coherent with limb movement. There are other melanoma's present in his system but these will be treated differently. We wish him well and hope that he recovers to lead a normal life again. Jan Blackburn is also about to have eye treatment that will prevent her from

driving again for a while, so we wish her well also and hope there are no other complications.

Spreading the Word

Following our contact with the Ipswich Historical Society, we have been invited to talk to their members and friends about the QMS, its history and our member heritage from the Isle of Man. We will have three or four members speaking of these matters along with our 'Power Point' slide presentation. This will occur on Sunday 26th. September at 10.00 am, leading off with a morning tea and then the talk. Their venue is the Cooneana Heritage Centre, 1041 Redbank Plains Road, New Chum (Ipswich). Our members are invited as well and a small charge of \$10.00 is entry to the event. If you are able to attend, please come early to allow the committee to prepare seating. I am sure you will enjoy it as much as the HIS will. This is an initiative to spread the word about our Society, and it will be followed by other talks to interested organisations in our region. We need to make contact with as many people as possible to find Manx heritage citizens in our community. If you are a member of another organisation that you think will invite us to talk, please let George Cowin know and we will make contact with them.

CCAQ Drum & Pipe Band

The Combined Celtic Council of Australia (Qld) has established a Drum and Pipe Band, made up of members of the Council and has called it the "Celtic Nations Pipes & Drums & Band". It is fully functional now and ready to go to any function that requires this entertainment. Each member will wear their own outfits of different colours and clans, hence the name.

They have practiced and learned the various national anthems and will be able to play these at individual events that they are invited to play at. We will be inviting them to our Christmas Party in December, so we look forward to hearing them play.

New Island Governor

The present governor, Sir Richard Gosney, has served longer than originally expected because of the pandemic but his successor has recently been announced and Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer will succeed him later this summer in a swearing-in ceremony at Castle Rushen. London Manx will be inviting him to succeed Sir Richard as one of their patrons.

Sir John's army career included tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and he has recently completed a three-year tour as the Defence Senior Adviser Middle East and North Africa at the Ministry of Defence. Prior to that he was the principal adviser to the Secretary of State for Defence and the Chief of the Defence Staff on the Middle East, Sir John was Chief of Joint Operation, a role that involved commanding all of the UK's worldwide operations including those with NATO and the United Nations.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

HOP TU NAA FAMILY PICNIC

SUNDAY 31ST. OCTOBER

10.00 AM. – 3.00 PM.

BONGAREE BEACH, BRIBIE ISLAND

LOOK FOR THE MANX TENT ADJACENT TO THE PIER.

FOOD AND CATERING SHOPS ARE NEARBY.

BRING A COMFORTABLE CHAIR AND SUNSCREEN AND ENJOY A FUN DAY BY THE WATER. DRESS UP IN HOP TU NAA OUTFITS IF YOU LIKE OR BRING SOME DECORATIONS. WE MAY HAVE SOME MUSIC TO WHILE AWAY THE TIME AS WELL.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME BUT DO NOT HAVE TRANSPORT LET GEORGE COWIN KNOW ON 0421210222 AND WE WILL ARRANGE TO PICK YOU UP AND GET YOU THERE.

Car Hire

A member of the London Manx Society at their July's cooish mentioned that, told car hire was not possible at her age, she had stopped visiting the Island. While this is true if you book direct, Avis, a company for which LMS quiz sponsors Mylchreests are agents, has no age maximum so long as you have had a full, valid licence for at least one year and, if over 75, advise them prior to picking up the vehicle so their insurers can be informed. Book through them but let Mylchreests know before landing at Ronaldsway so they can welcome a Manx Society arrival.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

2021 is Election Year

The Island holds a General Election every five years and the next one will be on Thursday 23rd September. The election is for members of the House of Keys only and two members will be elected from each of twelve constituencies. Members of the House of Keys who can describe themselves as MHK, decide policy, pass laws and regulations and debate matters of national importance as well as authorising public expenditure. One of its first jobs will be to choose a First Minister as Howard Quayle will not be seeking re-election.

All voters will have reached the age of 16 and lived in the Isle of Man for the past twelve months and are not be subject to any legal incapacity to vote while those away at university can vote as long as they are registered at their Manx address. Throughout the summer the Manx press has been announcing a steady flow of candidates so many competitive campaigns are anticipated.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

50 Years of Laxey Fair

It was first held in 1971 and the village showed the same mixture of enjoyment and reminiscing on Saturday, 26th June this year with a day of entertainment to commemorate the history of the village. It was a hub of activity as visitors and villagers celebrated its heritage, especially its mining heritage. With everything from Manx dancing to bouncy castles beginning with a parade from the Rose Garden at 1.30 pm.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

Bee Gees Memorial in Douglas

Barry, Maurice and Robin Gibb seem to be striding into the town where they were born in the bronze statue by Andrew Edwards on the Loch Promenade unveiled by Jon Joughin, the Mayor of Douglas on 8th July. Costing some £170,000, it is a tribute to the popular group's continuing love for the Island, not least through its recording of "Ellan Vannin".

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

Source: Isle of Man Courier

The Making of Ronaldsway Airport

A film by amateur filmmaker J. Walter Royston showing the development and expansion of Ronaldsway Airport is now available at the iMuseum. Ronaldsway was first used as an airfield in 1928 with passenger services to the UK starting in 1933 and operated by Blackpool and West Coast Air Services.

The airfield came under Royal Air Force control at the outbreak of the Second World War. It reverted to civilian flying solely almost immediately after the war but the airfield remained in Admiralty possession until sold to Isle of Man Government for £200,000 in 1948, far short of the £1 million that the UK Government had spent on constructing the airport buildings and runways.

Footage includes the Ronaldsway air traffic control tower, the day-to-day operations in the tower, including flight paths, assessment of weather conditions with a balloon, construction of the runway and airport passenger figures including a graph of "Yearly Passenger Returns" from 1947 to 1957 in which passenger figures increased from 65,900 to 246,349 with a slight dip in 1951.



The footage is the second in a series of films which can now be found on www.imuseum.im by clicking on the "Isle of Man on Film" image on the homepage.

Manx National Heritage

Alastair Kneale (London Manx Society)

Image: Peel Castle (Manx:

Cashtal Purt ny h-Inshey) and Fenella Beach, courtesy of Visit Isle of Man.

Puffins Return to the Calf

In early July, Manx National Heritage, the charity responsible for the care and promotion of the Isle of Man's natural and cultural heritage and its conservation partner, Manx Wildlife Trust, confirmed the return of puffins to the Calf of Man.

To encourage investigation by visiting puffins, in 2015 they installed lifelike puffin manikins as decoys and an 'Adopt a Puffin' scheme was launched by the trust where members of the public could adopt one of a hundred decoy puffins to be positioned on the Calf.

In early 2016, the decoys were distributed between two sites near the lighthouses at Kione ny Halby, a location where puffins had historically nested. Puffins tend to nest in big groups so the decoys act as a seed colony. To help make the decoys as realistic as possible, a speaker system (kindly funded by The Manx Ornithological Society) was placed on the east coast site. The speakers play out the sound of puffin calls to help attract the juvenile

puffins in from the sea to prospect the area. It is a slow process since it takes five or more years for them to reach sexual maturity and to start prospecting for burrows in readiness for breeding. So, the two charities are delighted to report early signs of potential success of this decoy colony.

On 6th July this year, a group of kayakers saw and photographed two puffins at Kione ny Halby with one snuggling up to the decoys. Rob Fisher, Volunteer Assistant Bird Warden on the Calf of Man, went to investigate and managed to observe and photograph a puffin with nesting material in its mouth. This is a positive sign that they may be breeding on the Calf, after an absence of over thirty years. Hopefully this is the start of many more puffins returning and we will hear their cries again, but for real this time.

Historic accounts show that Manx shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) was harvested in large numbers on the Calf during the 17th and 18th centuries and possibly earlier. It is also apparent that the Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), or Sea Parrot as it was known, was present and also culled. As the puffin "harvesters" did not differentiate between the two species in their records, it is not possible to gauge their relative numbers at that time.



Although thousands of birds were harvested by humans, it has long been assumed that the start of the shearwater/puffin annihilation by long-tails (brown rats) coincided with the 1792 wreck of a ship engaged in the Russian trade, However, the Quayle Bridge House Papers reveal that the devastation of the shearwater colonies had predated 1792 so suggest that the shipwreck that led to the presence of long-tail on the Calf had

occurred some years earlier. Indeed, Manx National Heritage has discovered that on 2nd September 1786, Thomas Quayle wrote to his father John Quayle who held a lease of the Calf at the time, "I am sorry to hear rats have committed such great devastation on the Calf" and that three years later on 14th September 1789 he wrote, "The Duchess (of Atholl) says she was very fond of the puffins and much regrets their extermination."

Over two hundred years later, many seabirds globally and locally have seen a sharp decrease in numbers over the past few decades and this includes the charismatic Atlantic Puffin, so much so that they are red listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern report. Along with the Manx Shearwater, as ground nesting birds they are particularly vulnerable to predation by long tails and it is believed that the puffin last bred on the Calf in 1985.

The Manx Shearwater Recovery Project started in 2012 and aimed to eliminate the long tail and largely appears to have been responsible for the resurgence in Manx Shearwater numbers from less than 100 breeding pairs in 2010 to more than 600 breeding pairs currently. Although the long-tail has not been completely eradicated, it is looks as though

the project might also have created favourable conditions to encourage the return of the puffin to the Calf too.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

Source: Manx National Heritage

Photo Rob Fisher, Volunteer Assistant Bird Warden, Calf of Man

Manx Missile Strikes France

Following his successes in the summer's Tour of Turkey, Laxey's Mark Cavendish, now a near veteran at 36, was drafted in as a late replacement in the Tour de France to be the Deceuninck Quick-Step team's sprinter and soon repaid their confidence in him by surprising the field and winning the fourth stage to the delight even of his fellow competitors at seeing him back to form after several years of misfortune. Two days later an emotional Cavendish won again in the stage to Châteauroux where he had tasted his first tour success back in 2008, going on to win six stages in 2009.

Tynwald Day coincidentally being a rest day, on 6th July his team gave him a perfect lead-out and he won a third stage as the riders prepared for the Alps. 9th July was scorching hot and required a 220 km ride (nearly four laps of the TT course) across the Western Riviera to Carcassonne. It was exhausting but after 219 km, the team had guided Mark to the point where the sprint began. He did the rest and brought his life's total of stage wins in this toughest of cycle races to 34 to equal the record held since 1975 by king of the tour, Belgium's Eddy Merckx who was to turn up at the start of the nineteenth stage two days later to congratulate Mark. I hear that on the news of this success there were calls on the Island for the old Douglas to Peel Railway line, currently being converted into a footpath and cycleway, to be renamed Mark Cavendish Way.

After a rest day, the tour then headed west for three tough days in the Pyrenees to be followed by a long stage to the Dordogne River, a time trial and the ride into Paris. For that a fan zone was set up at the Villa Marina. They saw three sprinters leading the way up the Champs Elisée, Mark among them. Anticipation was high in the crowd but the other two knew that they could only win if they rode together and blocked our hero. They succeeded but the headlines were for the third placed man. Not for nothing has Mark long been known as the Manx Missile.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

Patronymics and the Loss of the Prefix Mac

Patronymic names were formed by the use of the Gaelic prefix Mac to the father's name. The "Irish" O (Ó) never took root among Manx names.

By the early 16th century, the Mac prefix was almost universally used on the island; but, by the 17th century, it had almost completely disappeared. The pronunciation of the prefix Mac was unstressed, so that the final consonant became first consonant in the second element of

the name (the father's personal name). When the Mac prefix fell out of use, the final consonant became the first sound of the surname. Because of this, many Manx names characteristically begin with the letters C, K, or Q.

Yn Chruinnaght

Having run for over forty years, Yn Chruinnaght, one of the island's largest festivals used the opportunity created by the border restrictions to hold a one-week celebration of Manx culture from 19th to 25th July. Unable to play host to the usual variety of acts from Celtic nations, visitors could hear the best of traditional Manx music.

The concerts began at the Peel Masonic Hall on the Wednesday with the folk/pop group the Mollag band with the main event being a grand-scale Ceili, held in the Royal Hall of the Villa Marina on the Saturday night. There many of the island's traditional groups performed including Perree Bane, Ny Fennee and Skeddan Jiarg with the opportunity for the hundreds of concert-goers to get up and dance.

They also heard the first performance of the Manx Fiddle Orchestra, a 27-strong group of violinists and viola players led by music teacher Kate Lawrence through a set of traditional classics arranged specially to accommodate the number of instruments involved. Elsewhere, throughout the week, there was a mix of free music sessions, workshops and concerts as well as a range of Manx language events and an artisan crafts fair in the grounds of Peel cathedral.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

More Viking Silver Found

Just five months after a previous find, a Manx metal detectorist has unearthed more Viking treasure in the north of the Island.

He found a spectacular one hundred item hoard of Viking Age treasure in silver coins and pieces of cut silver armbands buried in around AD 1030. There were 67 coins, all pennies minted in England, Dublin, modern day Germany and the Isle of Man, indicating the spread of Viking trade and influence. The silver items would have been used to pay for goods and there is a lead weight which may also have been used in trading. The earliest coins date from the late 900s so this stash of wealth was probably acquired over a few years. They were declared treasure trove in mid-July.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

Source, Manx National Heritage, Manx Radio.

World Interest Widens

NAMA has told us of the recent formation of two new Manx societies: the Butte and Western Montana Manx Society in the United States and the Ottawa Area Manx Society in Canada. It's encouraging news for all groups of Manxies off the Island and it comes at the

same time as a Manx language study group becomes a member society of North American Manx.

Manx mining experience was in demand in the USA's north-west for most of the late 19th and early 20th centuries not least in Montana, especially Butte with its reserves of minerals, including gold discovered in 1863. Many became members of North American Manx Association. This year their descendants have formed their own society and the Society's Facebook page tells us it now has 74 members.

Ottawa launched with a Facebook page (@ottawamanx) in late January and within four months had 68 followers and plans to have a live meeting during the summer in central Ottawa, appropriately at "The Manx Pub". The Facebook page is most informative and well worth regular visits.

Kiarkyl ny Gaelgey, the Manx Gaelic Circle, has no geographical boundaries and started out as a Manx language study group in the Washington DC area meeting in Alexandria, Virginia for a twice a month two-hour session led by Kelly McCarthy, originally from Port St Mary. It focussed on conversational Manx using Brian Stowell's Bun-choorse Gaelgagh text book with four CDs, the on-line resources of learnmanx.com and Manx Radio. Have a look at www.kiarkyl.wordpress.com

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

Source: North American Manx Association

Maughold Missed

From early in the Second World War until the early '60s, RAF Jurby was one of the training camps under "HQ Tech Training Command, Brampton" which did not have an airfield so its communications were by an Avro Anson aircraft when I was stationed there. If the plane was to fly to Jurby, I was often offered a flight to the Island, sometimes requiring a phone call to my father at work as the schedule only gave me three or four hours to get home to Douglas and back. My last flight might have been my last.

It was in 1961 and I was again given the opportunity to fly to Jurby. On the way we ran into thick fog, "Mannanin's Cloak" and after a while I heard the crew say they were going down to find out where they were. At that moment Maughold lighthouse appeared above us and I quickly said my final prayer before the pilot managed to miss the lighthouse, climb up out of the fog, landing at Jurby in sunshine.

On its next flight the aircraft again ran into the mist and hit the top of North Barrule killing all aboard.

Maureen Wigley (London Manx Society)

A Surfeit of Lamb

Eighty years ago, in the autumn of 1941 WW2 food rationing was becoming very severe not least in the Isle of Man where transport difficulties meant that in most weeks some product

or another was unavailable and residents seemed always to be playing catch up. Yet those same transport difficulties created another problem. The Ramsey Courier of 7th November reports that the annual surplus of lambs, usually solved by exporting them, was insurmountable that year and complaining that the government had not invested in large scale cold storage facilities. Some 800 lambs per week surplus to Island needs were coming onto the market and, as the article also pointed out, in the New Year there would be a similar problem with beef.

My recollection of shopping during the war is that there was no meat rationing on the Island but I cannot remember as far back as 1941 and that might have been confined to darkest Andreas. Can any reader provide more information?

The same article mentions a large-scale surfeit of cabbages because mainland importers were refusing to buy as their quality deteriorates while in transit - not an excuse Manx importers of some produce arriving into the Island were allowed to make, the reporter complains.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

Hop Tu Naa

Centuries ago, 31st October was celebrated in Celtic countries as New Year's Eve, the completion of harvest signalling the end of the year and the beginning of winter and was known as Oie Houney, spelt differently but pronounced the same in Ireland. Over time it seems to have merged with All Hallows' Eve in England to become Halloween and been exported to America changing over the years as it combined with local traditions. However, the old ways continued on the Isle of Man and it is believed to be the oldest continuous tradition on the Island. It took its current name Hop tu Naa from the meaningless refrain to the Manx Gaelic song, "Jinny the Witch" of which there are different English words for each of the island's four towns and a popular dance. You can find them all and the Gaelic version on the internet.

The traditions include the carving of swedes: always known as turnips on the Island but often called "moots" and again the style of the carving varies according to the groups' location although the vegetable cannot have been present more than 120 years ago as it was only introduced late in the 18th century.

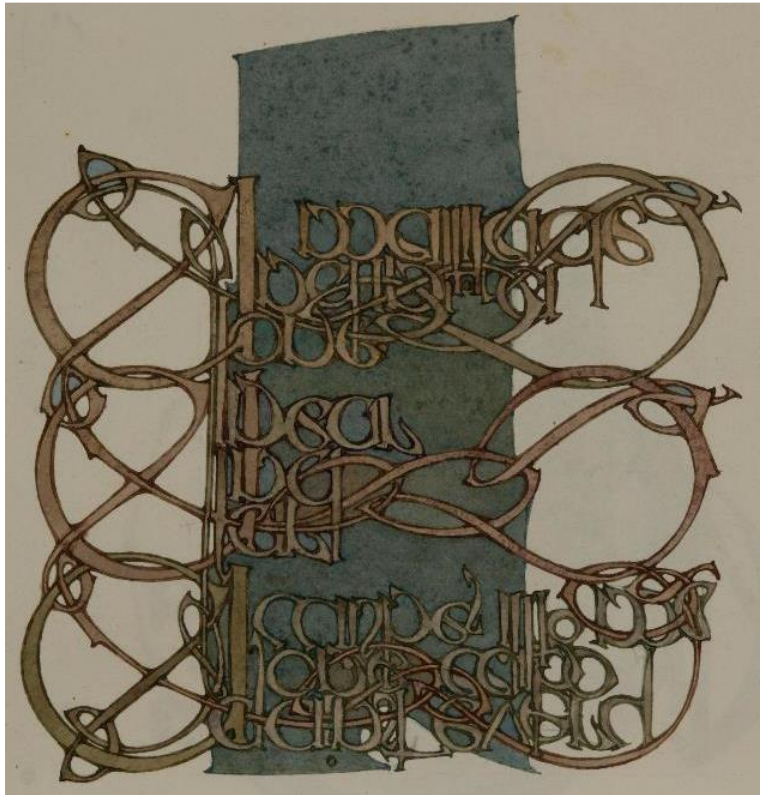
Hop tu Naa is celebrated on the Island with dancing as well as singing and the Hop tu Naa dance has been collected by both Mona Douglas and Leighton Stowell. It's a simple procession dance for couples using the Manx reel step and a combination of arches and it is likely that it was performed carrying a turnip lantern. Now taught in schools it will be seen across the Island creating an evening little different from those described by Hall Caine in his 1887 novel, "The Deemster."

As with Halloween, the day attracted a number of superstitions the most unusual being that of Soddag Valloo or Dumb Cake the ingredients of which made its taste revolting, had to be baked in total silence giving it its name, must be prepared by all the women of the house in a

prescribed manner. Only this will ensure the apparition of their future husband offering a drink of water. These days, many of the modern customs of Halloween are invading 31st October but lots of islanders remain determined to keep its peculiar traditions alive especially its food: potatoes, parsnips and fish mashed with butter and toffee for afters while Culture Vannin has commissioned new songs for the festival.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

ARCHIBALD KNOX FORUM NEWS



The image adjacent is a study of, and a look at, The Deer's Cry (also known as St Patrick's Breastplate) which was beautifully illustrated in watercolour by Archibald Knox.

Although captions say made 1914-1918 we now know that Knox worked on the illustrations from no later than 1912 to the time of his death in 1933.

Date made: 1914-1918 Artist: Knox, Archibald Description: The calligraphy reads 'Against everyone who wishes ill to me Far and near Alone and in a multitude'. Page **forty** of bound volume. Materials: watercolour on paper Object name: book Collection: Art Collection ID

number: 1958-0202/40

https://www.imuseum.im/search/object_record/view/40?id=mnh-museum-565723&type=object&tab=all&from=40&term=deer%27s+cry&size=20&sort=&filter=&view=&images=&ttmgrp=0&rfname=&rlname=&machine=&race=&raceyear=&linked=0&pos=53

This is Page 40 of the bound volume of The Deer's Cry at the Manx Museum.

On the left hand side are three "a"s forming the first letter for "Against", "and" and "Alone."

Pandemic Update

Things were looking good three months ago: one old case in the community, the patient almost better and one other case in a returning visitor from the UK who was self-isolating. Then there was a single near identical discovery two days later. The population was looking pretty safe especially as the vaccination programme was well advanced. Thoughts were turning to welcoming visitors again.

However, there was a fly in the ointment and it was across the water. Back in March the island government had indicated that 29th April was likely to be the big day. Five days before, a compromise was announced: because of concern over the "Indian Variant" newly arrived in the UK and subsequently renamed, "Delta" complete opening of border was deemed

unwise and only very limited freedom of movement was to be allowed permitting residents, family members, partners, property owners and those with an employment contract of at least three months to come to the Island and leave isolation after 48 hours and a negative test.

On 17th June hope was restored with an announcement that from 28th unrestricted travel to the island would be allowed although only for those fully vaccinated for at least two weeks and who had not travelled outside the UK, Ireland or Channel Islands in the ten days preceding arrival on the Isle of Man. There had been no new cases for over a week, the four in the previous week having all been people self-isolating after a visit to the UK and just one person was still recovering.

In the days leading up 28th, there had been a handful of new cases, all of people who had travelled to the mainland but as the date for relaxation approached, the authorities made part of the community aware of a new risk: enforcers arriving to claim unpaid UK drug debts. The police announced Operation Strongbox employing covert and undercover officers to monitor sea, air and fishing ports and included neighbourhood officers from Liverpool Police patrolling Pier Head to disrupt criminal activity.

Then, just one day before, the level of anxiety increased when three people being tested after contact with a possible case were found positive with Covid-19, one of which was a teacher at St Ninian's High School in Douglas and six colleagues had to self-isolate. The virus was back and from Tynwald Day with its five new cases, things got progressively worse with the virus finding its way into several schools in the south and, as criticism arose of a relaxation as new case numbers on the mainland were increasing, there were 114 new cases bringing the Island's total to 298 although none was in hospital. By 28th July there were over 2,000 cases and things looked extremely serious. As in England, new case numbers reduced during August but, unlike in England, they did not increase again in mid-month. Nevertheless, as we post this news there are nearly forty new cases per day with fourteen people in hospital, one in intensive care and, a week ago, the 38th island death from the virus.

With most of the adult population fully vaccinated and the programme to extend it to the under seventeens under way, there are now few restrictions on the fully vaccinated Society members looking to visit the Island can find full details on the [visitisleofman](http://visitisleofman.com) web site

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

Sources: Isle of Man government web site, iomtoday, Manx Radio

Turning Tourists Away

Until shortly after the Covid-19 virus struck I thought it impossible that the Island would ban visitors. So, it was a surprise when I discovered recently that nearly a hundred years ago some residents thought that Tynwald was considering just that. Is the electorate less powerful today?

This is what the Isle of Man Times reported on 15th December 1928:

How the Gambling Petition was Signed.

A Douglas business man recently entered the house of a customer just as another caller, bearing an obvious document of some sort, was going out. After the lady of the house had bidden him sit down, the following conversation ensued:—

“I’ve just been signing the petition. Have you signed it?”

“No. What petition is it?”

“It’s a petition to stop the House of Keys from passing a Bill that will keep all the people away from the Island. It’s a wonder you haven’t heard about it.”

“Oh, I know what you mean now. Are you in favour of horse racing?”

“No.”

“Are you in favour of betting?”

“No. But they didn’t tell me that the petition had anything to do with that. They just said there was a Bill that would drive all the visitors away; and, of course, I signed anything that would stop that. We couldn’t let a thing like that happen, could we?”

Douglas Barr-Hamilton (London Manx Society)

Source: Manx museum newspapers

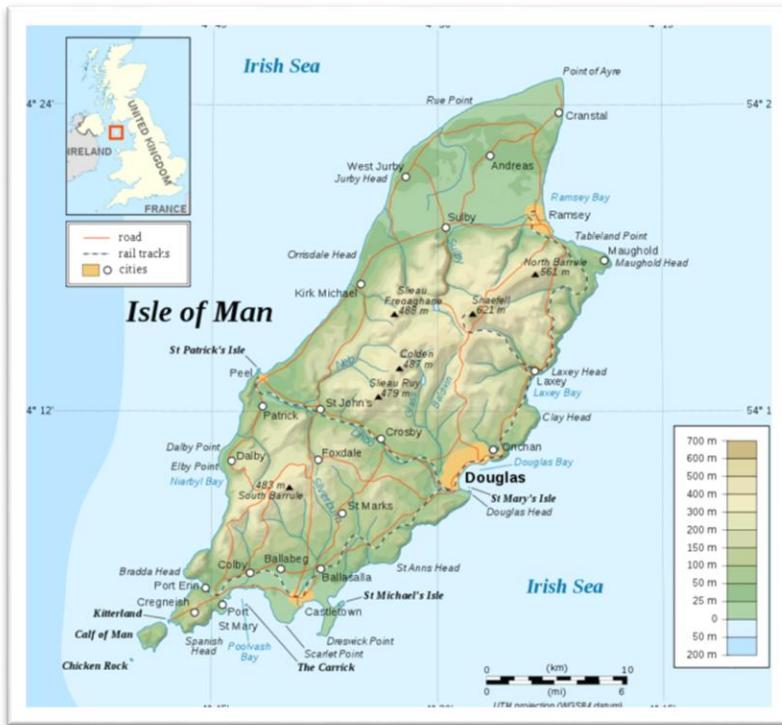
10 Lesser-known Interesting Facts about the Isle of Man

The 'Isle of Man' or 'Isle of Mann' sometimes simply termed as 'Mann' with two n's is a self-governing island under British Crown possession since 1828. This is one of the most unique bits of British and Europe isles located in the Irish Sea between Ireland and England. Outside the Europe and the British Empire, very low numbers of people know about this beautiful and unique island.

How is Isle of Man unique from neighbouring islands?

Mann is historically, geographically, culturally, and linguistically different from various islands surrounding it. Its rugged coastline, rural landscapes, mountainous center, and medieval castles make it unique and a point of attraction. The proofs of the island's rich heritage can be seen in the ['Manx Museum'](#) in ['Douglas'](#) the capital city of the island. Although some visitors do travel to the Isle of Man, the numbers of tourists are quite low. Enhance your knowledge about this wonderland by going through these interesting facts about the Isle of Man.

1. Geographic Location of Isle of Man



If you live in the British Empire, you may be well aware of the island called 'Isle of Man', but if you are based out of British realm then the chances are quite high that you probably not know about the geographic location of the 'Mann'. You are not alone who don't know of the whereabouts of the unique island.

Yes! The Isle of Man does exist. It is located at the equidistant (roughly) of England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland. The

dimension of the island is about 48 km long and 16 km wide. There is a central mountain mass on the island. The Calf of Man, an islet lies to the southwest with a precipitous cliff. It is administered as a bird sanctuary by the Manx National Heritage. According to 2016 Isle of Man Census Report, the total population of the island was 83,314 on 24th-25th April night, 2016. The country's capital is Douglas. The principal cities of the country are Douglas, Ramsey, Peel, and Castletown. The island is well connected to the British mainland by air and ferries.

2. Crown Possession by the United Kingdom



Some people think that the Isle of Man belongs to the United Kingdom. Though it is a part of the United Kingdom, the story of its belonging is more complicated.

The British Parliament purchased the sovereignty of the island in 1765 and acquired remaining prerogative of the island in 1828. Thus, the Isle of Mann came under the possession of British Crown that means it is directly under the possession of the crown, not of the United Kingdom. They use the British Pound as their currency but

the United Kingdom has no responsibility for the safety and security of the Island.

3. Climate and lifestyle



The Island witnesses a temperate climate having cool summers and mild winters. Cereals and vegetable cultivation, cattle rearing, poultry and catching fish are the main occupations of the country. Moreover, light manufacturing, tourism, and financial services are some other source of income of the Manx people. The island also exports processed beef, lamb, shellfish, tweed, and herring.

4. Manx Language



An ogham inscription on a stone in the Manx Museum written in Primitive Irish.

The official language of the Island is English. Manx is considered the original language of the island. It is similar to some kind of Irish and Scottish Gaelic. Almost the whole population of the island spoke Manx until 1765. When the Duke of Atholl sold the island to the British Crown in 1765, it affected the language also. Immigrants from North West England sped up the decline of the original language of the Mann in the 18th and the 19th centuries.

The Manx Language Society was formed in 1899 to preserve the language. UNESCO in 2009 officially declared the Manx language extinct. Some people claim to write, read, speak Manx today but it does not illustrate actual fluency as the native speaker. But the UNESCO has changed the classification from extinct to critically endangered language.

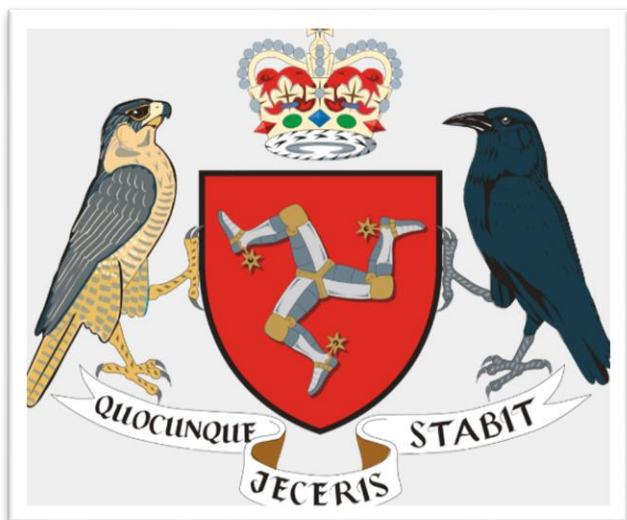


Mann: Motorcycle Racing Capital of the World

The motorcycle racing fans may already know that the Island organizes a major cross country motorcycle race annually under the name 'International Isle of Man TT (Tourist Trophy)'. The Isle of Man TT was initiated in 1907 and is considered the most prestigious motorcycle race in the world until now. The Manx Parliament passed a law in 1907 to close the two-lane public roads on Mann and use them for the racing tournament.

Since then, every year in June the roads are closed for the use of two weeks racing event. A total of 250 lives have been lost in the event including racers and some spectators since the beginning of this event. Unlike closed course track for racing, the roads of Mann are uneven and rough. Stone walls, buildings, lampposts, trees, and curbs line the entire TT track. It is also full of hills, corners, and turns.

6. The Government of Isle of Man



It's worth noting that although the island has 'Man' in its name, the women's suffrage (right to vote for female) is first given in the Isle of Man in 1881. Though these rights were given to a few female residents who fulfill the conditions that were decided to vote at that time, still the country holds the record for being the first parliament to give 'Right to Vote' for women.

Also, the Tynwald, the Isle of Man Parliament holds the record for the **oldest continuous parliament** of the world since 979. Though the Iceland Parliament is the oldest since 930, it was suspended during the period 1800-1845.

Tynwald parliament has three parts, namely, the House of Keys, the Legislative Council, and the Tynwald court, thus it is called Tri-Cameral parliament.

7. Manx Cat



The Manx cat breed is popularly known for its tail — or the non-existence of one. The Manx kittens can be born with full-length tail, short tails or no tails. These cats are termed as longy, stumpy, and rumpy respectively. The Manx cat also has very large hind legs and rounded head. According to modern time geneticists, the Manx's taillessness is caused due to

spontaneous mutation within the local cat population of the Mann.

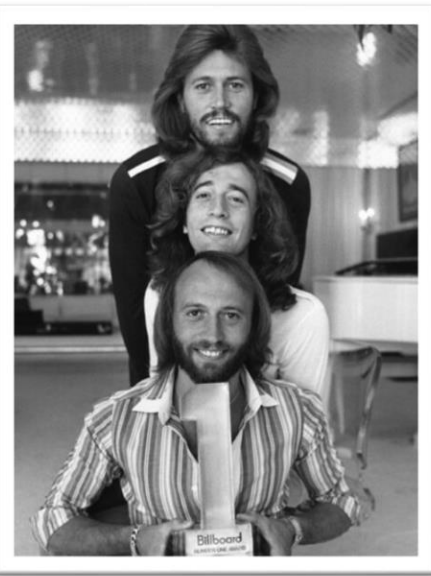
8. Triskelion symbol on the Isle of Man Flag



The emblem of the national flag of Isle of Man is called Triskelion and consists of three armored man legs running clockwise towards the sun. It is not sure why the emblem was adopted by the king in the 13th century. The emblem is quite distinctive and striking. This spiral symmetry

was originally a symbol of the Sun, life and power. The three-leg man symbol is associated with the motto "Quocunq̄ue Jeceris Stabit", the translation of which is "Whithersoever you throw it, it will stand."

9. The origin of the kings of Disco (Bee Gees)



Known as the Kings of Disco, the Bee Gees namely Maurice, Robin, and Barry Gibb all were born on the Isle of Man to a British Couple. The trio formed a band in 1958. Robin was famous for his vocals, Barry for their signature sound and Maurice wrote all of their hits. The family stayed in the Isle of Man until the late 1950s.

They then moved to Queensland, Australia and later to Cribb Island. They returned to the United Kingdom in 1967 as they were being promoted to the audience of the world by the producer Robert Stigwood. Barry is the only surviving member of the group since Maurice

left for heavenly abode in 2003 and Robin was defeated by cancer in 2012.

10. The superstition about Rats



If you are not aware of the superstitious beliefs of the Isle of Man, the island is rife with superstitions. Manx people believe in the stories of ghosts, giants, goblins and other supposed creatures on the island. The most common fear there is of the word rat. It is believed that it will attract bad weather or bad luck. Instead, rats are commonly called

'Longtail', 'Ringie', 'Joey' or the Manx language word 'Roddan'. Many people don't even utter the 'r' letter in their entire lives. While visiting the island, you should dodge the word 'rat' as it may attract outrage from the locals.

We have gone through the interesting facts about the Isle of Man. Surely, this article has enhanced some knowledge about a wonderland and gave us a new place to add on our list of places to be visited in future.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We would like to acknowledge the support we have received from the Arana Leagues Club at Keperra for the use of rooms at the Club for our activities. The rooms have been provided without charge and the staff have been wonderful in servicing our needs at our events over several years. We are most grateful to this support and hope to work with them into the future as we have in the past.

ANNUAL CALENDAR

26 th . September	QMS Talk	Ipswich Historical Society Cooneana Heritage Centre 1041 Redbank Plains New Chum	10.00 am.
31 st . October	QMS Hop Tu Naa Picnic	Bongaree Beach Bribie Island	10.00 am.
27 th . November	CCAQ Christmas Party	Services Club Coorparoo	11.00 am.
5 th . December	Welsh Society Sunshine Coast, Christmas Party & AGM	Indoor Bowls Club 1 Burke St., Caloundra	11.30 am.
11 th . December	QMS Christmas Party	Arana Leagues Club Dawson Pde., Keperra	11.00 am.
1 st . March 2022	St. David's Day Lunch	Caloundra Power Boat Club	11.30 am.

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
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Manx Kids



By Deb Rowles – Daughter of Edith Smith who was a long-standing QMS member.

Five Fun Facts about the Manx Common Lizard

1. The common lizard is usually brownish-grey in colour.
2. It lives in grasslands, woodlands and coastal areas.
3. It eats insects like flies, grasshoppers and spiders.
4. Female common lizards have live babies.
5. Common lizards can shed their tails to distract predators.



THE MERMAID OF GOB NY OOYL (Adapted)

Once in the Isle of Man, there lived a family by the name of Sayle who made their living mostly from catching fish and lobsters to sell at the markets. Nearby, up Bulgham way lived a Mermaid who was a friend to them. The family was always in luck's way and never seemed to be short of anything.



Mr Sayle had a strong liking for apples, and he would often take a bag of apples with him out in the boat and give some to the Mermaid as he went past Bulgham. As he got older, Mr Sayle couldn't do boat-work any more so his son, Evan took over and then their luck began to get less.

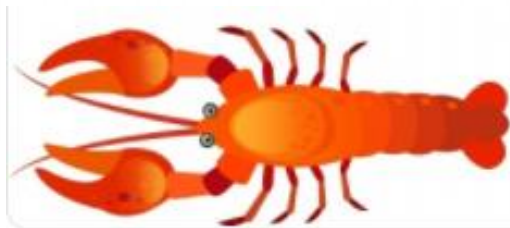
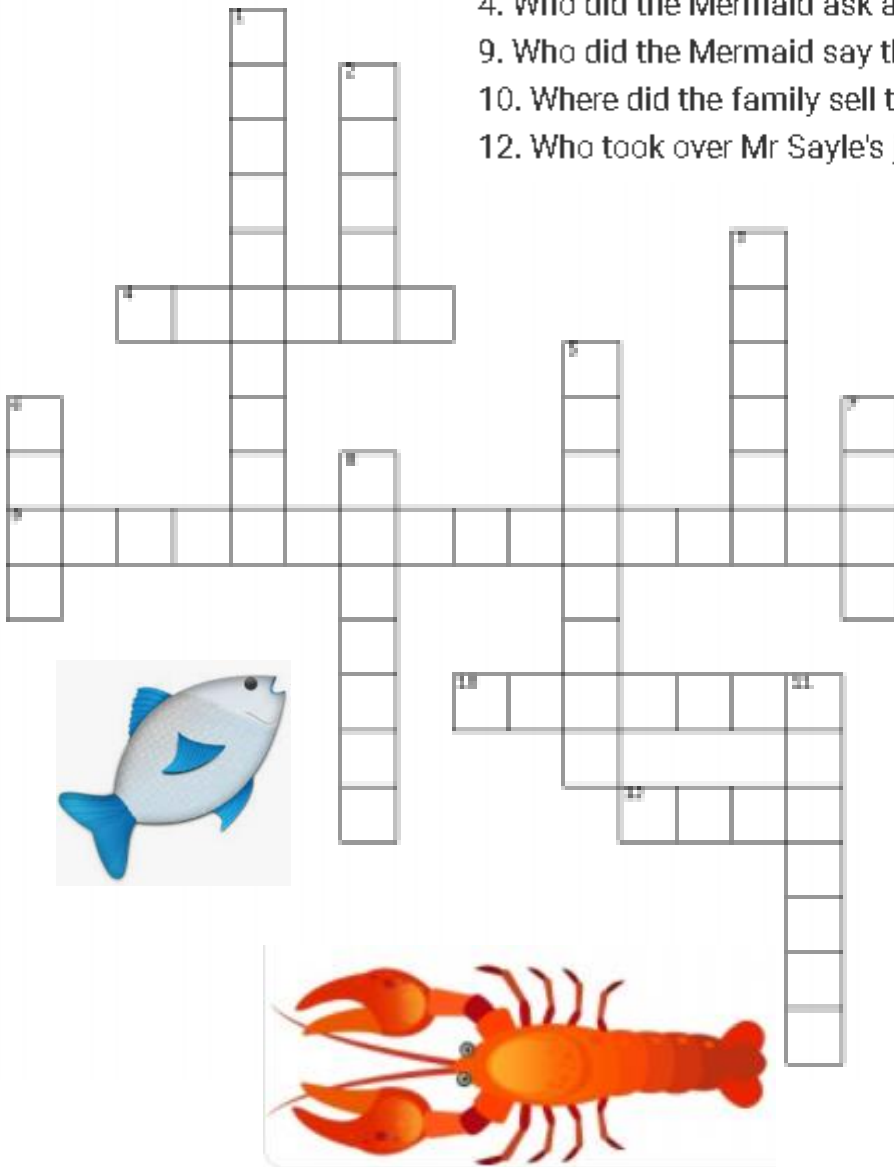
One day, just after Evan had set the lobster pots near Bulgham, he heard someone calling to him, and, looking round, he saw the Mermaid sitting on the edge of a rock. 'And how's your father?' she asked. 'It's seldom he's coming this way now.' Evan was a bit frightened at first, but seeing a pleasant look on her face, he took courage and told her how things were at home. Then, saying she hoped to see him again, she slipped into the water and disappeared. On getting home, Evan told his family what had happened. His father's face lit up and he said, 'Take apples with you the next time you go up that way. There will be luck in this house yet.'

The very next time Evan went fishing, he took some apples with him. As he neared Bulgham, he heard sweet singing and the Mermaid appeared leaning over the boat and smiling pleasantly. She took an apple and began to eat and chant: '*The luck o' the sea be with you, but don't forgetful be, of bringing some sweet, red apples for the children of the sea.*'

Crossword

ACROSS

4. Who did the Mermaid ask about the first time Evan saw her?
9. Who did the Mermaid say the apples were for? (four words)
10. Where did the family sell their fish and lobsters?
12. Who took over Mr Sayle's job?



DOWN

1. How did Evan feel the first time he saw the Mermaid?
2. What was the name of the family?
3. What did Mr Sayle tell Evan to take to the Mermaid?
5. What couldn't Mr Sayle do when he got older? (2 words)
6. What did the Mermaid bring to the family?
7. What was the Mermaid leaning over the second time Evan saw her?
8. Who lived near Bulgham?
11. What did Evan hear the second time he went to Bulgham?



ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY CROSSWORD

Across

1. Who did Aedan call out to before going to bed? (2 words) **(littlefellows)**
2. Where did Aedan go? (2 words) **(londonbridge)**
3. What was in the box under the tree? **(gold)**
4. How many boxes did Aedan find? **(two)**

Down

1. Who did Aedan meet first? (2 words) **(littlefellow)**
2. What was Aedan looking for in London? **(fortune)**
3. What was beside Aedan's chimney? (2 words) **(thorn tree)**
4. What was under the tree? (2 words) **(ironbox)**
5. Where did Aedan go before he went to bed? **(frontdoor)**