



Queensland Manx Society

Serving the Manx Community since 1914

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

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Well, we hope that everyone is keeping safe and well in these trying times. It seems difficult to stay away from some variation of the COVID 19 virus even if it is a mild dose of it. We hear that 12 people came down with it after the Combined Celtic Council of Australia (Qld) Awards Presentation on the 25th. March. Crowds can add to the risk of cross infection as we know. We hope that they all recover well and get back to normal again.

Our Manx year began well with a joyous picnic at Scarborough on 20th. March, after being postponed from the 27th. February due to the storm bomb that hit south east Queensland in that period. Many parts of eastern and central areas of Australia have also received exceptional rainfall this year so far. When it got close to the 27th. February, it was obvious that the weather was not going to clear, so it was a



must to defer the picnic to a later date. The picnic was attended by 17

members and friends, even though we expected more to come, but everyone who arrived enjoyed themselves with good cheer, good food and entertainment from the new keyboard, and we thank Edna Davis for bringing it. The music flowed for most of the afternoon and most were reluctant to leave until about 4.00 o'clock. Thanks to Shaun Smith, Geoff Conwell, Betty Elms and Neil Griffiths for an entertaining afternoon. If this is what we can expect at future events, we will have to ask Edna to bring her keyboard along again.



What was hard to bear is sweet to remember..... Indian Wisdom

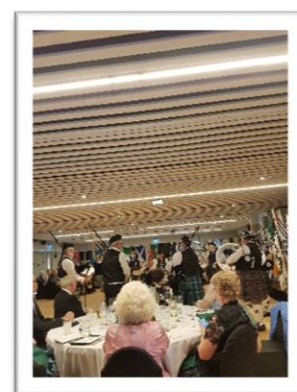
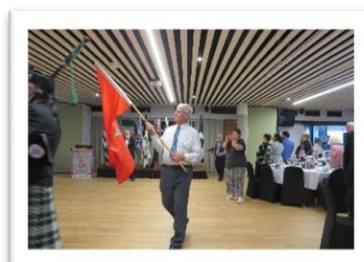


We participated again in the St. Patrick's Day parade by providing a vehicle for the new float which displayed the Celtic Nations flags, bunting and photos for the CCAQ entry. It was a great success and received 2nd. award for the best float in the parade. The parade was redirected on a different route due to huge disruptions in the CBD from reclamation work of flooded basements throughout the city and pumping machines lined up along the roadways. A couple of building sites added to the chaos to traffic so in all it was lucky the parade happened at all. Hopefully, next year will be less chaotic.

As mentioned above, the Combined Celtic Council of Australia (Qld.) Pan Celtic Awards presentation was held on the 10th. March, and was a huge success at a new venue this year. The Wests Rugby Club



at Toowong provided a sumptuous meal and provided excellent service for the event. The large room accommodated everyone and allowed for the parade of flags and entertainment from the Celtic Pipe and Drum



Band, Thistle Highland Dancing Studio and balladeer. However, the low ceiling height did not help the acoustics throughout the room. We were honoured to have Rt. Hon. Councillor Vicki Howard from the Brisbane City Council, Central Ward, in attendance. Also, we were honoured to have Dr. Suzanne Jamieson, the Combined Celtic Council of Australian Convenor to present the awards to the recipients.

The Australian Celtic Festival held in Glen Innes each year has been a regular event that the Queensland Manx Society has attended since its inauguration, and we intended to do so this year again. However, due to a lack of numbers going, we have decided that we can't do justice to the event and will not be setting up our tent this year and participating in the formal proceedings that occur. It is a shame that we cannot continue in the traditional way that others have in the past, but it cannot be helped.

Closer to home, there is a new event happening again this year at Bundamba Race Course on the 21st. May. "The Celtic Gathering" is developing into a big event, where last year it was held on Saturday only, this year it will held over Saturday and Sunday 22nd. Attendance last year was so huge, the organisers found that it deserves a longer period, and sponsors have agreed. So, we will be setting up our tent there to be part of it.

Do a good deed and throw it into the sea.... - Egyptian proverb

Anyone who would like to be part of this grand event and be present at our tent for an hour or so, please contact George Cowin to arrange a time you wish to be there. We get lots of lovely people come and chat with us about their family history or ask about the Isle of Man, and anyone with a story can speak about their knowledge and history which leads to other things to discuss. Join us in this happy atmosphere of friendly chatter.

The next big event on our Manx generated calendar will be Tynwald Day being held on 2nd. July this year, the closest Saturday to the traditional 5th. July. Again, we will be holding it at the Arana Leagues Club, Dawson Parade, Keperra from 11.00 am. We look forward to seeing everyone there for a wonderful event, and further details will follow in the next Newsletter.

THE ISLE OF MAN CENSUS 2021

Last year's census has revealed a tiny increase in the number of residents. According to the results published at the beginning of February giving details from the 2021 census which took place on 30th. May, the Island's population has grown by just 0.9% since the last census and shows 84,069 people now reside on the island. It was 83,314 in 2016.

Where people live have not changed much but we expats may be interested to know that the largest population outside Douglas (26,677) is Onchan's with 9,030 residents. Ramsay is the most populous town with 8,288 inhabitants followed by Peel with 5,710 and Castletown with 3,206 although the latter's total is now smaller than Port Erin's 3,730, larger than Port Mary's 1,989 and Laxey's 1,656. Braddan is the largest of the country parishes with a population of 3,404 while only 359 people live in Bride.

Residents' place of birth is also interesting. The percentage of the population born in the Isle of Man fell slightly from 49.8% to 49.6% while that born in the United Kingdom fell by 1.7%. Interestingly, 4,728, some 13%.

The economically active population: people aged 16 and older and either seeking work or waiting to start work, increased from 42,777 in 2016 to 44,875 in 2021, and the number of people in employment has increased by 1,930 (4.6%). The average age of residents increased from 42.5 to 44.4 years old.

Courtesy of Douglas Barr-Hamilton, London Manx Society - Source, iomtoday.

MANX MUSIC RENAISSANCE

Music has always been a life-blood of Manx culture, even back in 1851 -

"On Sunday last two sermons were preached in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Peel, by the Rev. G. Dawson, when collections were made towards defraying the expenses incurred by the erection of a new singers' gallery, and other improvements. The congregations were good, and the contribution liberal."

Anon. "On Sunday last...." *Mona's Herald* 4 June 1851 (3)d.

'As can be seen, change was afoot in the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Peel, where 'a new singers gallery' had recently been erected. The musical life of the Island in the nineteenth century was not a static one, and it was not just musical taste and fashion that changed, but also the organisation of musical life and practice in places of worship such as here in the Methodist Chapel.'

Stephen Miller RBV

Recently on 7th. February, Dr. Fenella Bazin gave a fascinating talk to the Michael Heritage Trust at the Ebenezer Hall, Kirk Michael, where she talked about the general cultural revival in the Isle of Man and she refers to the people who helped this revival. People such as W. H. Gill, A.W. Moore, Sophia Morrison, Mona Douglas and others were a part of this movement and features the background to the National Anthem.

Her talk was recorded and filmed By Culture Vannin, and released thanks to the Trust and Dr. Bazin, it can be seen at: <https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/a-remarkable-renaissance-710321/>

POVERTY, PASSION AND POETRY

There is a new book out written by Spencer Needs, "Poverty, Passion and Poetry" about the life of Eliza Craven Green. She was a seamstress, actor and poet of the Victorian era who attained literary acclaim despite her humble origins.

Eliza was born in Leeds in 1803 to parents who had fallen on hard times. By her early twenties, she and her younger sister had become actors and were recruited to act in the Isle of Man. Eliza had poetry published in the island's newspapers during her stay. On returning to England, she lived in Manchester and met her future husband through the theatre. She also became involved in the vibrant Manchester literary scene.

She and her husband lived in Leeds in somewhat close to poverty level, but as a wife and mother her acting career stalled and she was forced to maintain some income from her poetic output. The themes of children, nature and topical issues, and also her love for the Isle of Man were often written with great passion. She began to write short stories for monthly magazines as well. After her husband deserted her, the money she earned from those short stories became a lifeline for the family as her occupation as a seamstress, a sweated trade, paid below subsistence wages.

Her major work *Sea Weeds and Heath Flowers or Memories of Mona* was published in 1858 and contains 138 poems. It went to a second edition and a paperback version was also printed. Eliza is best remembered today for her 1854 poem "Ellan Vannin" which was set to music by J. Townsend and is still much loved in the Isle of Man.

Courtesy of kiaull manningagh jiu 04/22

LAXEY WHEEL UNDER REPAIR

Work has begun to repair Laxey's landmark. Manx National Heritage contracted Auldyn Construction to begin the first phase of the project in January. It will replace the old and defective timbers and repaint the wheel, housing, railings and viewing platform, the work taking four months. It will cost some £300K.

"We are delighted and extremely grateful for the assistance of the Laxey Mines Research Group", said John-Paul Walker, Historic Buildings Architect for Manx National Heritage, the charity responsible for the Island's natural and cultural heritage. "Their expert volunteers will also be undertaking essential preparatory works for the second phase of the work. The Laxey Mines Research Group has been directly involved with the Laxey site since the 1980's and will bring unparalleled expertise and knowledge to the project. The second phase of the works will repair the T-rocker along with the rods, bogies and rod duct".

They know enough who know how to learn... - Henry Adams

Plans are being put in place for managed public access to see the work as it happens, providing a fascinating insight into the skills and challenges involved in the repair and conservation of this iconic monument. Conservation work on this scale to the Lady Isabella only takes place once or twice in a lifetime and the start of the project marks a significant moment, not only in the history of the Laxey Wheel but also of our Island.

Designed by the Victorian engineer, Robert Casement, the wheel was completed in 1854 to pump water from the depths of the Laxey mines using water from Glen Mooar to power the wheel. The impressive 22.1 m (72.6 feet) diameter structure found immediate popularity and has remained one of the Island's most iconic and dramatic attractions for 168 years.

Courtesy of Douglas Barr-Hamilton, London Manx Society - Source Manx National Heritage

COLD AND WET

The Island's new governor, Sir John Lorimer and his wife, Lady Philippa, seem, from media reports, to be exceptionally busy in joining Islanders' activities. One of the bravest must have been taking a dip in the icy waters of Douglas Bay on New Year's Day. We understand that it is the first time in history that a Lieutenant Governor has taken part in a New Year's Day dip, joining something like four hundred others plunging into the Bay and raising funds for the charities - Breast Cancer Now and Beach Buddies.

There were a number of other intrepid ventures into the Irish Sea that day and we understand they were at Castletown, Port St. Mary Chapel Beach, Port St. Mary Inner Harbour, Brewery Beach in Gansey, Port Erin, Ramsey and Peel.

Courtesy of Douglas Barr-Hamilton, London Manx Society - Source Manx Radio

NEW LOOK GRAND PRIX

The Manx Grand Prix will return this year but a number of changes were announced with the news, the biggest being that the event will now run for nine days instead of fourteen. The changes in the motorcycling classic are aimed at allowing sufficient marshalling cover (an increasing problem), reducing the overall cost for taxpayers and minimising road disruption for residents and businesses. Ned Bowers, of the Manx Motor Cycle Club, is confident interest from racers and spectators will be high when the races return.

Courtesy of Douglas Barr-Hamilton, London Manx Society - Source Manx Radio

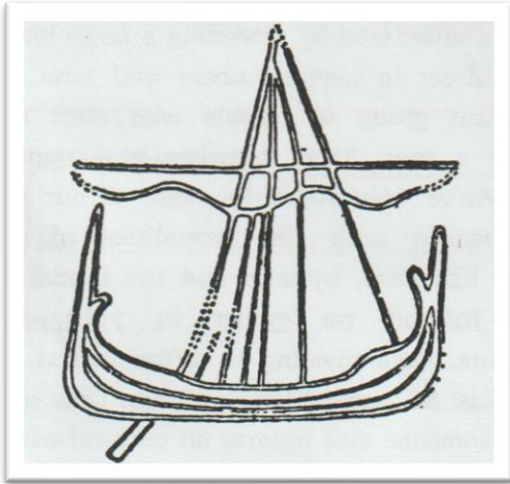
MANX WORDS - BIRLING / LHONG LIAUYR / LONGSHIP

What do Manx words have to say to us about Manx life, history, identity? Although it's related to Irish and Scottish Gaelic, Manx is a unique language, and its vocabulary reflects a unique community and experience. Let's explore a few Manx words that have an interesting story to tell.

The sea is arguably as important in defining Manx identity as the Isle of Man itself. Today we might think the sea isolates or separates the island and its people from the rest of the world, but that's a modern view. The sea actually connects the Manx to other lands. Remember, the Medieval Kingdom of Man and the Isles stretched from Man to Lewis in the Scottish Hebrides and that the Manx had strong connections to Dublin in the early Middle Ages (King Gorree, or Godred Crovan), ruled Dublin for a time as well as the Isle of Man.

The Manx are rightly famed as mariners and there are many Manx words and phrases related to boats, ships, and sailing. The two words we'll explore here refer to a specific type of ship, however, the longship that once made the Isle of Man the dominant Irish Sea naval power.

Birling ultimately, and most fittingly, is a word of Norse origin, from *byroingr*, which originally may have meant a "ship of boards" or "ship of burden" (a cargo-carrying ship). The Gaels adopted the word as **beirling**, and the modern Irish word has the same spelling as the Manx word (and that's highly unusual!). Birling is most often translated as "galley" or "barge". In Scotland the word became **birlinn**, and the famous Clann Domhnaill and Clann Raghnaill (Clan Donald and Clanranald, a branch of the MacDonalDs) who inherited Manx sea power in the later Middle Ages used the birlinn, little changed over the centuries, as late as the 1600's.



As a symbol of the Isle of Man, the longship is second only to **Ny Tree Cassyn** (the three legs). The ancient arms of the Kings of Mann featured a longship, and the modern flag of Tynwald, the Manx Parliament, features a gold birling on a field of blue. (This is the MacDonald Flag, named not for Clan Donald but Roy Macdonald, a former member of the House of Keys for Peel).

The image of a birling above is from the Hedin Cross, Kirk Maughold, Isle of Man, and dates to the period of the Kingdom of Man and the Isles (1079-1265). It is strikingly similar to the later West Highland galley of birlinn. These ships might have 12 or 24 oars. There likely were smaller versions of these clinker-built, single-masted ships, and maybe larger ones, too. They could carry large numbers of men and goods quickly across the Irish Sea. If it took three men to work an oar, as a 17th. Century source suggests, the 12 oared longship would have a crew of 36 plus any additional passengers, and a 24 oared ship might have 72 men at the oars! The Manx kings commanded large fleets. Small wonder English kings John and Henry III in the early 1200's decided to pay Manx kings to patrol and protect - rather than raid - the Irish and English coasts.

Lhong liauyr is a direct translation of longship, or in the case, "a ship (that is) long", as Manx places adjectives after nouns. Lhong is long in Irish and Scottish Gaelic, and the word's origin may be found in Norse or Latin. **Liauyr** is the Manx word for "long" as in length. It's one of those older Gaelic words that survive in Manx but not in the other Gaelic languages. Irish and Scottish Gaelic now use **fada** (Manx **foddey**) to mean "long" but once used **leabhar** or **leahhra** as well. We find this word in medieval poetry but not in modern usage - except on the isle of Man.

Courtesy of Bill "Illiam" Cassidy - NAMA

CULTURE VANNIN MUSIC

We have always wanted to exhibit Manx material in our tent at festivals such as the Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes, Tartan Day at King George Square in Brisbane, The Celtic Gathering at Bundamba and Scots in the Bush at Boondooma so we then thought it suitable to expose some Manx music at the same time.

One night out and another one in, bad for horses but good for sheep.

Oie mooie as oie elley s'thie olk son

A low level of background music in our tent would be nice to have to let people know what great compositions come from the Island. So, we sought the help of Culture Vannin to see if there was material that we could download and use on a CD player at these events.

Well, they were most helpful and directed us to their website to see what music was available for sale for downloading. They also stated that if we were using the material as a promotion in our tent at festivals and at our events in our calendar, that we could download what we saw as suitable without any cost. We are most grateful for their generosity and will proceed to develop a CD of lovely Manx music that can be played when thought suitable.

You may hear this music at our next function so you will know where it has come from and why it is playing.

HORSE TRAMS MAY NOT RUN THIS SEASON

The infrastructure minister has said he is 'not hopeful' the horse trams will run this season.

In a sitting of Tynwald this morning, Tim Crookall explained that there had been 'considerable difficulty' in securing materials to finish the tramway that runs along Douglas Promenade. He said: 'I'm very disappointed there is not a definite delivery date so I am not able to provide a date for completion. 'I am not hopeful there will be horse trams running this year.' Mr Crookall added that the department should know by the end of this week if the trams will run or not as it is currently waiting for the set of points, originally ordered in January of this year, to be delivered.

Isle of Man News Today

MANX SCOLLOPS IMPROVED RATING

The latest Marine Conservation Society Report has given an improved rating for Manx King and Queen Scallops. The report, published annually, has been welcomed by [Michelle Haywood](#), political member for the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture. It has placed Manx King and Queen Scallops on the amber list in its *Good Fish Guide*, which measures how much fishing for them impacts the environment. It means the scallops have shown improvement in terms of sustainability.

Dr Haywood told [Manx Radio](#) that it's good news for Isle of Man-produced shellfish seafood. She said: 'This report's been running for a number of years now and it's excellent news that we're actually improving on our scores that are on that report and that we've got some new fisheries included this year that weren't included last time as well so the crab and lobster fisheries have also been rated and they're coming out well too.'

Chief executive of the Manx Fish Producers Organisation David Beard added: 'We did feel our ratings were wrong in previous years, down to the fact they have not asked for enough information from us. I think now that we've had really good discussions with people that decide these ratings, they've realised we're managing this in a sustainable way, so it's really good they recognise that. 'We've got sustainable management practices and in the last three years the stocks have increased in biomass each year and also the number of juveniles that are coming through has increased as well and I think that's been recognised in the ratings that we're now receiving which is really good news for us.'

Isle of Man News Today

ANNUAL CALENDAR

30 th . April -1 st . May	Australian Celtic Festival	Glen Innes	
22 nd . May	The Gathering	Bundamba Turf Club Ipswich	All Day
26 th . June	CCAQ Friendship Day	590 Creek Road	11.00 am
		Mt Gravatt East	
2 nd . July	QMS Tynwald Day	Arana Leagues Club	11.00 am
		Dawson Pde., Keperra	
23 rd . July	Scottish Clans Tartan Day	King George Square	Cancelled
30 th . July	CCAQ Annual General Meeting	Coorparoo Services Club	11.00 am
		Holdsworthy St., Coorparoo	
13 th . August	QMS Annual General Meeting	Arana Leagues Club	1.00 pm
		Dawson Pde., Keperra	
18-21 st . August	Scots in the Bush	Boondooma Homestead	
20 - 23 th . October	Family & Local History Assoc.	Redcliffe	
	4 th . Qld State Conference		
26 th . November	CCAQ Christmas Party	RSL Coorparoo	12.00
		45 Holdsworth St.	

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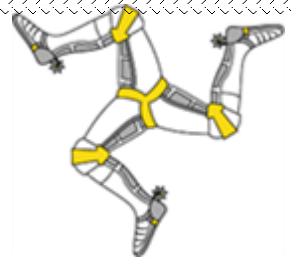
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Manx Kids



Dedicated to Edith Smith who was a long-standing QMS member.

Five Fun Facts about the Brown Long-Eared Bat

1. Brown long-eared bats have big ears nearly as long as their bodies.
2. They live in colonies or groups.
3. They roost in holes in trees and old buildings.
4. They feed on moths and insects in trees.
5. Females have one baby called a pup.



THE FYNODEREE (Adapted)



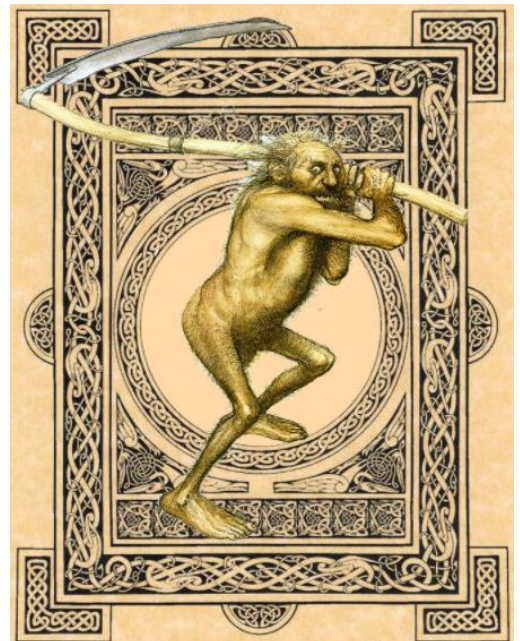
There was once a Fynoderee living in Gordon working on Big Gordon's farm. People who saw him said that he was big and shaggy, with fiery eyes, and was stronger than any man.

Because the Fynoderee didn't feel the cold, he wore no clothes. Big Gordon, however, took pity on him and one frosty winter he had clothes made for him - breeches, jacket, waistcoat and cap - great big ones they were too. Big Gordon gave them to him in the barn one night.

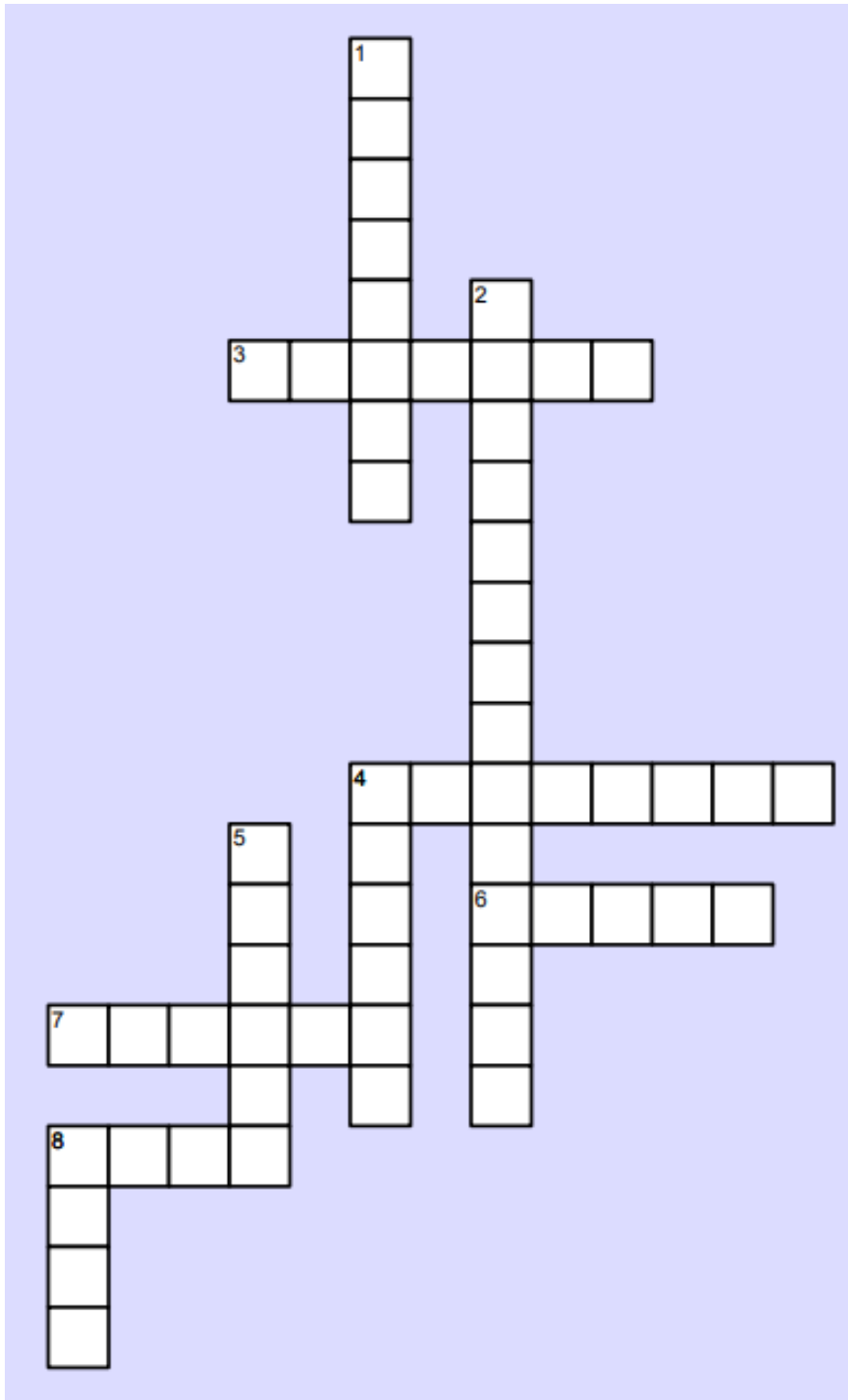
The Fynoderee thought clothing to be unhealthy and the cause of diseases. He looked at the clothes and said:

*Coat for the back is sickness for the back,
Vest for the middle is bad for the middle,
Breeches for the breech is a curse for the
breech,
And cap for the head is injurious for the head.*

The Fynoderee felt insulted and flung the clothes away. He walked away never to return to Big Gordon's farm.



Crossword



across:

- 3: What did the Fynoderee like to wear?
- 4: What did the Fynoderee do after he threw the clothes away? (2 words)
- 6: What were the Fynoderee's eyes like?
- 7: What part of the body did the Fynoderee think a vest was bad for?
- 8: In which place did Big Gordon give clothes to the Fynoderee?

down:

- 1: How did the Fynoderee feel when Big Gordon gave him clothes?
- 2: Where was the Fynoderee working?
- 4: In which season did Big Gordon have clothes made for the Fynoderee?
- 5: Where was the Fynoderee living?
- 8: What part of the body did the Fynoderee think a coat was bad for?