



Queensland Manx Society

Serving the Manx Community since 1914

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

INDEX:

Page 2 - QMS Hop tu Naa

Page 3 – Sir Frank Gill

Page 4 – Celtic Culture

Page 5 – A Musical Retelling, Drought

Page 6 – The Laxey Wheel

Page 7 – The Buggane of Glen Meay Waterfall

Page 9 – Ramsey Church – Harvest Festival

Page 10 – Island Government tackle Energy Crisis

Page 11 – Heritage Sites

Page 12 – Annual Calendar

Pages 13/14 – Kids Pages

Well, Winter has departed in Australia and warm weather is afoot with many rain clouds predicted for this summer again. We should not complain though, after seasons of dry weather making things difficult it is a welcome change to the landscape. It would be nicer if we could even out the fluctuations, but that's life in Australia as it has been over centuries. Climate change, if you would like to call it, but change has been the norm for thousands of years (maybe millions). Never-the-less, we must get on with our life and adapt to whatever we are presented with.

The Manx Society will celebrate "Hop tu Naa" this year on the 30th October. Betty and Howard Elmes have kindly agreed to host an afternoon of fun, games, and music at their home in Closeburn for us to enjoy the spirit of "Hop tu Naa" in a friendly homely atmosphere. Please put it in your diary and come along for true Manx friendship. (See next page).

We have lost Queen Elizabeth II as 'Lord of Man' but gained Charles III as her successor. Queen Elizabeth endeared herself to the inhabitants on the Island for many years and it is a sad loss but not unexpected as she aged in the later years of her life. She will be sadly missed, and we send our condolences to her family and wish them well in their bereavement.



Dear Queensland Manx Society families, friends and members,

On Sunday 30th October, Howard and Betty Elmes will be hosting the

Manx Hop Tu Naa at their place in the Sanford Valley.

Commencing at 1pm, we have entertainment in the form of Manx Trivia Questions, a Magic parcel, (with prizes)

Shaun Smith (Keyboard), Neil Griffiths (vocals), Geoff Conwell (vocals, keyboard, piano accordion and guitar) and Michael McGeever (vocals & guitar). Val and Tony Ashworth have kindly offered to perform and encourage a sing-a-long session with the Pianola.

As you will see, it sounds like a lot of fun. Now, all we need is your attendance. Please bring a plate of finger food to share, BYO drinks (though coffee and tea will be provided) and a chair.

Contact Betty by sending a DM through Messenger if you intend attending and I will provide my address to you.



Hoping you can make it.



The Queensland Manx Management Committee

Sir Frank Gill

The BBC will be one hundred years old in a few weeks' time. Originally called the British Broadcasting Company, it was formed on 18th October 1922 and began broadcasting daily from Marconi's London studio, 2LO in the Strand shortly afterwards on 14th November. Frank Gill played an essential part in its creation, and it seems right that we remember his contribution as the organisation prepares to celebrate its centenary.

Unlike the other pioneers, Alexander Graham Bell, Guglielmo Marconi and John Logie Baird, Sir Frank Gill is not a household name. It should be remembered.

Frank Gill was born in Castletown on 4th October 1866 but left to live in Southport with his uncles after the death of his father when he was eleven and went on to become a highly talented electrical engineer who was to play a crucial role in the BBC's establishment. When only sixteen, Frank joined the United Telephone Company, eventually managing the Ireland branch after it had been taken over by the National Telephone Company. In 1902 he was appointed Engineer-in-Chief and moved to their London office. Until 1912 the company provided the majority of the telephone service in Great Britain as a franchise from the Post Office which also had the right to buy it after a fixed period. After the Post Office exercised that right, Gill formed a partnership with W.W Cook and together they carried out international telephone work in several countries until the first World War began when Gill was appointed to the Ministry of Munitions earning promotion to Controller of the Central Stores and, at the end of the war, being made an OBE. After four years inactivity, the partnership with Cook was dissolved.

He was elected president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1922 and in his presidential address he proposed that Europe should have a long-distance telephone system equivalent to AT&T in the USA which ran a service between New York and San Francisco. However, it was the French who led the attempt to make this a reality. They convened a meeting of delegates from six of the western European states to form an international consultative committee to establish the technical standards required as different countries had different telephone systems.

The first official radio broadcast was made in 1922 and it triggered a demand from many other stations to apply for broadcast licenses from the GPO. It was clear that there would be chaos if every licence requested was issued and it would be best to have a single broadcasting company. A meeting was called to discuss the issue and held at the Institute of Electrical Engineers, Frank Gill as its President took the chair and ensured competing factions worked together towards the foundation of a single organisation. The BBC was conceived.

Transmitting on radio only of course, the BBC service was initially just that of a local broadcaster since a national network was technically impossible until its long-wave transmitter in Daventry came into service in July 1925. Prior to that it oversaw a network of separate local stations linked to London by telephone and "simultaneous broadcasting". These nine stations were in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Glasgow, Cardiff, Aberdeen,

Bournemouth, and Belfast. Each served an area of about twenty miles in radius - although it varied with the quality of the set receiving the signal - and the production used largely local talent. How different it is 100 years on! Eventually television arrived, transmission strengths increased, Overseas broadcasters such as Radio Luxemburg reached our shores and pirate radio stations such as Radio Caroline set up just off them. Change rushed in.

Frank Gill, who was to be knighted in 1941 for services to the telephone industry, continued to work until his death in Geneva in 1950 while attending meetings of the International Consultative Committee on Telecommunication, helping to create the first transatlantic radio telephone call and build telephone networks in Spain and Japan.

Given Sir Frank's frequent spells in London, I had hoped to find reference to him attending London Manx Society events but, alas, I found none. Indeed, I found no acknowledgement of his roots on the Island. Nevertheless, he remained a Manxman and the Island is proud of him. A blue plaque was placed at his birthplace in Castletown on 22nd May. It reads, "Global Telecommunications Innovator whose leadership ensured the creation of the BBC in 1922."

Douglas Barr-Hamilton London Manx Society

Sources: Castletown Heritage, iomnewspapers, Dr Matthew Linfoot, Bob Stimpson,

Celtic Culture Celebrated in a busy week of events

By Mike Wade. Originally printed in Island Life, Manx Independent 04/08/22.



Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering made a welcome return... [25-31 July] with a jam-packed six days of events at venues around the island. In addition to traditional concerts from choirs, folk groups, soloists and bands,

artists and dance groups performed throughout the week. The Gathering has been celebrating Manx, Irish, Cornish, Welsh, Scottish and Breton culture for more than 40 years, but this was the first full festival in several years because of covid. It kicked off on Monday evening at the Peel Centenary Centre with the pop-folk group Mec Lir. Manx fiddle player Isla Callister then hosted a special premiere night of 'Creeaght' on a project she has put together, influenced and dedicated to women who have shaped the history of the Isle of Man. Meaning 'courage' in Manx Gaelic, 'Creeaght' is a suite of music that explores the stories, lives, experiences and legacies of courageous women, such as Sophia Morrison and Angèle Kneale, the women behind

the campaign for Abortion Law Modernisation and 'Handmaids IOM'. The music for the special concert was performed by an all-female group, including Katie Lawrence, Mera Royle, Kirsty Lawrence and Ruth Keggin, with spoken word from Annie Kissack.

Courtesy Culture Vannin

A Musical Retelling of a Traditional Piece of Manx Folklore...

During Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering (July), Manx musician Isla Callister led a workshop with young Manx musicians from Bree, exploring the story of the mysterious sighting of the footsteps of the fairies in a cave one night at Niarbyl through music. In the space of only an hour or so, Isla had weaved her magic, inspiring the children to create this beautiful musical presentation of the tale. Enjoy! <https://tinyurl.com/2nezmn7c> Isla Callister devised and created this workshop on the material of folklore collector and cultural activist Sophia Morrison, linked to her new composition, 'Creeaght,' performed at Celtic Gathering Isle of Man - Yn Chruinnaght. She was accompanied by Scottish pianist, Anna Garvin. Creeaght was one of the most talked-about events of the festival this year, leaving the audience moved and in awe. More information about the piece is here: www.islacallister.com/creeaght/ More about Bree: www.manxmusic.com/education_page_92022.html "The Little Footprints" - fairytale collected by Sophia Morrison: <https://manxliterature.com/sort-by-genre/other/manx-fairytales>.

Courtesy of Culture Vannin

Drought

As an island resident I lived in Andreas at Larivane. Although the house was dry enough on a slight rise, the garden was always wet and digging a hole just inches deep resulted in it quickly filling with water. Just recently, my national newspaper included a picture of the British Isles taken from a satellite. While I was not surprised to see the South-east of England a dry yellow colour, I had not expected the northern plain of the Isle of Man to look the same. The island had clearly been hit hard by this year's drought.

The Manx press told me that water levels were 16% lower than average for mid-August and that water levels in the largest reservoir in Sulby stood at 65% while Kerrowdhoo had dropped by 7% to 54%. The overall level was 16% lower than average for this time of year. Manx Utilities had already announced a hosepipe ban from 22nd July, the first in the British Isles, explaining that the water shortage had resulted mainly from an unusually dry spring and a 50% drop in rainfall in June had made things much worse. One interesting additional problem was that they were having to pump water from Sulby Reservoir to West Baldwin Reservoir because it feeds the island's largest water treatment works that supplies Douglas. As I put the finishing touches to this edition (Monday 22nd August) to get it ready for the printers, the first Manx Grand Prix practice was scheduled. Naturally, it poured with rain and the practice was cancelled. Larivane's garden is turning from sandy yellow back into a green swamp.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton.. London Manx Society



Rise comes after hosepipe ban was lifted earlier this month. Reservoir levels on the Isle of Man have increased again and are now just 5% lower than normal for this time of year. The latest figures from Manx Utilities show its four sites are now at 79%, an increase of 6% compared to last week. Dry weather in July and August saw the reservoirs fall to 65% last month, but levels have been rising for the last three

weeks. Manx Utilities was able to lift the hosepipe ban earlier this month after levels increased.

Sunday, September 18th, 2022 - Manx Radio

The Laxey Wheel is turning once more!



Lady Isabella has been spotted turning this morning - in its first period of testing, with the second due to get underway tomorrow. It's thought the historic landmark should be up and running fully by this weekend. It was hoped works on the waterwheel would be completed by this year's TT, after being out of action for two years.

Courtesy Manx Radio ...14th. Sept 2022

How old is the Laxey Wheel?

After 4 years of construction and with much fanfare, the Laxey Wheel was **opened in September of 1854** and christened Lady Isabella, after the wife of the current governor. The wheel became a major tourist attraction and continued to serve the mine until it closed in 1929.



Who built the Laxey Wheel?

It is the largest working waterwheel in the world. Designed by Robert Casement, the wheel has a 72-foot-6-inch (22.1 m) diameter, is 6 feet (1.8 m) wide and revolves at approximately three revolutions per minute.

Why was the Laxey Wheel built?

Designed by the Victorian engineer, Robert Casement, the wheel was built in 1854 to **pump water from Glen Mooar part of the 'Great Laxey Mines' industrial complex.**



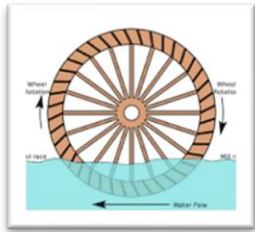
What did they mine in Laxey?

Laxey was primarily mined for its lead ore. However, in addition the mine yielded **zinc, silver, copper pyrites and hematite iron** in significant quantities.

What does the Laxey Wheel Power?

The Great Laxey Wheel was a **water powered wheel**. The power generated by the wheel turning was used to drive a set of pumps which would bring water that had flooded the lower levels of the mine up to the Main Adit. Once the water had reached the Main Adit it would drain out to the Laxey River and out to sea.

How does a water wheel work?



A waterwheel is a type of device that takes advantage of flowing or falling water to generate power by using a set of paddles mounted around a wheel. **The falling force of the water pushes the paddles, rotating a wheel.**

The Buggane of Glen Meay Waterfall

There was once a woman living near 'Glen Meay' and she was the wife of a decent, quiet, striving man, of the place. There was no-one but herself and the man, and, they had a nice little cottage and owned a bit of a croft on which they grazed a cow and a few sheep and grew enough potatoes to do them the winter out; and the man had a yawl and went to the fishing when things were slack on the land. But for all that they were not comfortable, for work as hard as the man might at his farming and his fishing, he was kept as poor as Lazarus by a lazy wife.

For the woman was fonder of lying a-bed in the morning than sitting at her milking stool, indeed, the neighbours had it to say that she wore out more blankets than shoes. Many a day her man would be going out early as hungry as a hawk, without a bite or a sup in him. One morning when he came in from work there was no fire as his wife was never up. Well, my poor man had nothing for it but to get his own breakfast ready and go back to his work. When he came in for dinner it happened as it had happened for breakfast.

'Bad luck to her laziness' he thought, this is coul comfort for 'a poor man, but I'll play a trick on her for it'. And with that he fetched a bart of straw and bunged the two windows of his house. Then he went back to his work. The sun had not yet set when he came home in the evening. His wife was lying in bed waiting for day. 'Aw, woman' he shouted, 'make haste, an get to see the sun rise in the wes!'

Up jumped the wife and ran to the door just as the sun was going down, and the sight terrified her. The whole sky looked like fire, and she thought that the end of the world had come. But next morning it all happened as it had happened before, and himself said to her:

'Kerry, it's the Buggane, sure enough, that'll be having thee one of these days if thou don't mend thy ways!'

'What Buggane?' said she.

'Ax me no questions,' said he, 'an I'll tell thee no lies. But its the big, black, hairy fellow that lies under the Spooyt Vooar that I'm meanin'.'

'Aw, houl yer tongue, man, thou don't frecken me wi' thy Bugganes,' shouted the woman.

In the evening, the man left the house to go out to the fishing. As soon as he had gone the woman took a notion in her head to bake, as she had only the heel o' the loaf left for breakfast. Now, Themselves can't stand lazy ways, and baking after sunset is the one thing they won't abide. She who does so will meet their revenger, something sure, to be taken by them, but seldom worse than some of the livestock. Well, the woman set to work to bake some barley bread and flour cake. First, she went out to get gorse to put under the griddle, slipping the bolt on the door as she came in, that none of the neighbours would catch her and cry shame on her for baking after sunset. She got some meal out of the barrel and put it on the round table, and put salt and water on it, and then she kneaded the meal and clapped a cake out as thin as sixpence with her hands. But she was only a middling poor baker, one of the sorts that has to use a knife to make the cake of a right round. She had turned the cake twice and taken it off and brushed the griddle with a white goose wing ready for the next cake which she was busy cutting round with her knife.

Just at that moment there was heard, the sound of something heavy lumbering up to the door. After a few seconds *something* fumbled at the sneg of the door, then *something* knocked high up on the door, and a voice like the thick, gruff voice of a giant was heard saying, 'Open, open for me.' She made no answer. Again, there was a load knock, and a big hoarse voice was heard which cried, 'Woman of the house, open for me.' Then the door burst open and behold ye, what should she see but a great, big ugly beast of a Buggane rushing in mad with rage. Without as much as a 'Bye your leave,' he made one grab at her, and clutched hold of her by her apron and swung her on his shoulder, and away with him. Before she knew where she was he rushed her across the fields and down the hill, till he brought her to the top of the Spooyt Vooar, the big waterfall of Glen Meay. As the Buggane tore down the hill, the woman felt the ground tremble under his feet, and the noise of the waterfall filled her ears.

And there in front of her, she saw the stream turn to white spray as it came leaping down the rocks. As the Buggane swung her in the air to throw her into the deep pool, she thought that the last hour had come. Then all at once she remembered the knife that she held in her hand! Quick as thought, she cut the string of her apron and down she tumbled to the ground, rolling over and over down the hill. And before she knew where he was the Buggane, with the speed he had on him, pitched forward head-first down the rushing Spooyt Vooar. As he went head over heels and down to the bottom of the pool with a souse you'd have heard half a Mile away, she heard him give a roar out of him.

Rumbyl, rumbly, rumbly, I thought I had a lazy Dirt, and I have but the edge of her skirt.

And that was the last that was seen of that fellow!

Manx Fairy Tales, Sophia Morrison 1911 - Manx NoteBook

Ramsey Church Celebrates 200 years

The congregation of St. Paul's Church in the Market Square, South Ramsey was celebrating on Thursday 18th. August, two hundred years after its opening. Manx Radio described the opening of a building that was a turning point in Ramsey's growth from village into a town. Historians will note that its consecration led to the decline of the old Ballure Chapel, in the parish of Maughold, which needed to be rebuilt in 1851, but, continuing with a tiny congregation, again fell into disrepair and was finally demolished in 2003. However, St. Paul's has gone from strength to strength and both the congregation, and the townsfolk celebrated its anniversary in style.

Douglas Barr-Hamilton - London Manx Society Source - Manx Radio MNH

Harvest Festival

Autumn is here, the nights are drawing in and it's the season to celebrate the harvest, known in the Isle of Man as the Mheillea - it's a time for music, feasting, and dancing and celebrating the gathering in of the crops.

The harvest was so important in the traditional Manx calendar that the Manx Gaelic for 'September' is 'Mean-fouyir' (pronounced Main Fower) meaning the middle of harvest. Then, soon it'll be the 31st of October, when children sing traditional songs and turnip lanterns are carved and the Island will bring in the Celtic New Year with Hop tu Naa!

DESC and Culture Vannin have produced a resource toolkit to help schools teach about the two Manx traditions of Mheillea - the Manx harvest- and Hop tu Naa on 31st October. You can download it here:



www.manxmusic.com/media/Education/Hop%20tu%20Naa%20&%20Mheillea%20Teaching%20resource.pdf



Perree Bane performed at Manx National Heritage's *Little People's Picnic* in Rushen Abbey last weekend.

Photo: Murat Guner

Island government tackles energy crisis

Last week the Manx government announced several measures to mitigate the surge in prices resulting from the staggering increases in the cost of fuel. These include another round of targeted support payments in December for those in receipt of child benefit and those on low incomes, the capping bus fares at a maximum of £2 per journey for a three-month trial starting on 1st November and accelerating an £8 million programme to improve energy efficiency in homes. Treasury Minister Alex Allinson said, "We are shielding households, businesses and organisations from what would have been a sharp and sudden increase in electricity costs of between £16 million and £26 million by March next year.

"Instead, people will have that money in their pockets this winter. It is a considerable sum which will help people and businesses to meet rising costs and means this money can circulate in our economy boosting both consumer and business confidence. "The aim here is to flatten the curve on the cost-of-living increases and give households a degree of certainty and time to adjust to what may be a longer term set of challenges." More significant as the island generates most of its electricity from gas will be a government loan to prevent an increase in tariffs by 90% by capping prices at their current level until next year; limiting the cost to all customers at 22 pence per unit until 31st March and avoiding the need for the average customer to find an extra £500 per

year. Subject to Tynwald's approval the price cap freeze will be funded by a £26 million government loan to Manx Utilities which will be repaid over the next 20 years. The minister added, "Providing a loan with a 20-year repayment means that the costs of record electricity prices expected this winter can be factored into bills over a much longer period, cushioning consumers from what would be, for many, crippling price rises."

Douglas Barr-Hamilton - London Manx Society Source: Manx Radio

As an adjunct to the above article, QMS has received an email (below) asking for our support. Without researching any detail, it has been copied for your information and action if you agree with the proposed petition (check out the website).

Hi,

I live in Port Erin, IOM. I'm very concerned about proposals for a commercial onshore wind farm here. I've started an online petition and would appreciate your consideration. If anyone would like to sign/share the petition (no pressure to do so) that would be great! The petition is at: <https://www.change.org/p/keep-the-isle-of-man-beautiful-no-wind-turbines-ever>

Kind regards,

Julian Barton

Heritage Sites

Several heritage attractions are set to remain open for an extra month in a bid to extend the tourist season on the Isle of Man. Manx National Heritage's seasonal sites, including Peel Castle, Castle Rushen and the Grove Museum, will now stay open until 29 November. The move is part of a new [Visitor Economy Strategy](#), aiming to increase tourists to 500,000 by 2032. Tourism bosses said attracting visitors in the autumn was "critical" to that. Under the plans to grow visitor numbers during the autumn, which is known as the shoulder season, the Isle of Man Steam Railway will also operate at weekends during the same period. Traditionally the heritage sites and the steam railway have closed at the end of October. The new arrangements will also see the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company work with local hotels to create package deals for holidaymakers, and there will be additional promotion of the island as a holiday destination during the period.

Visit Isle of Man chairman Randal Caldwell said: "Seasonality is a major challenge to achieving our visitor growth targets, with reduced visitors between September and March resulting in a number of temporary business closures during that period. "Extending the season and attracting visitors during the autumn and winter is critical to realising the Visitor Economy's growth ambition."

MEMBERSHIP FEES

It is that time of the year again where membership fees are due. Could you send the membership fee to Treasurer, Doug Quayle before the end of June, please?

If you have any friends who wish to join our Society then let them know that now is the time to put in an application and forward their fee. Single membership is \$15.00, and family is \$20.00.

Your membership fee can be deposited in any Westpac Bank using the BSB 034080 and A/C # 183032. Please make sure you add your surname to the deposit so your membership can be recorded. Or, if you use Internet Banking, it can be sent using the same numbers.

ANNUAL CALENDAR

20 - 23th. October	Family & Local History Assoc.	Redcliffe	
	4 th . Qld State Conference		
30 th . October	QMS Hop Tu Naa	"Balley Meen" 43 Woods Rd. Closeburn	1.00pm.
26 th . November	CCAQ Christmas Party	RSL Coorparoo 45 Holdsworth St.	12.00 noon
4 th . December	Welsh Society Sunshine Coast Christmas Party AGM	Indoor Bowls Club 55 Burke Str. Caloundra	11.300 am
10 th . December	QMS Christmas Party	Arana Leagues Club Dawson Pde., Keperra	11.00 am.

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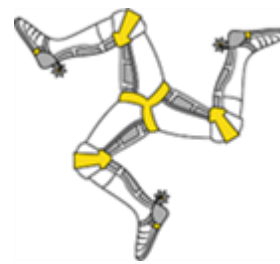
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Deborah Rowles

Manx Kids



For Edith Smith who was a long-standing QMS member.

Five Fun Facts about Hop Tu Naa

Hop tu Naa is an old celebration that takes place on October 31st. On Isle of Man, children have been going door-to-door around the neighbourhood on this night, for the past century. They dress in costumes and carry lanterns made out of turnips, singing versions of this song:



Jinny the witch went over the house,
To fetch a stick to lather the mouse.
Hop-tu-naa, trol-la-laa.
If you don't give us something,
We'll run away with the light of the moooooon....



Jinny the Witch (Adapted from Sue Woolley's *Jinny the Witch Story*)



One night, a traveller was making his way along the Ballaglonney road towards Union Mills. It was getting dark, the wind was getting up and it began to rain. He knew he should find shelter for the night. He walked on until he saw a little cottage, half hidden by undergrowth, with a dim candle burning in the window. He made his way through the brambles until he reached the door and he gave three timid knocks. The door creaked open and there stood Jinny.

'Come in out of the storm', she said, ushering him into the kitchen where a low fire was glowing in the hearth, casting shadows on the whitewashed walls. Jinny offered the man some supper and made up a bed on the floor.

The traveller climbed under the covers, weary after his long walk. As he drifted off, he saw strange shadows on the wall. He fancied he saw Jinny stepping stealthily into a big basket on the floor. He heard the door creak open.... and with a whoosh! the basket, with Jinny in it, flew out of the door.



Thinking he was dreaming, the man was soon asleep and he slept soundly until dawn when he heard the door creak open and Jinny return with a whoosh! He peeped over the covers and saw her step out of the basket, which was full to the brim with fresh herring. Soon the story was all over the neighbourhood. Jinny became known as a witch.

Fun Things to Do for Hop Tu Naa

Make Hop Tu Naa Biscuits

(Recipe adapted from Suzanne Woolley's Grandmother's Manx cookbook)

- 85g of margarine or butter
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup
- ¼ cup of sugar
- 1¼ cups of plain flour
- 1½ teaspoons of ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon of mixed spice
- ½ teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda
- A little water

1. Melt the margarine (butter), syrup and sugar together in a saucepan over a low heat.
2. Sieve the flour and spices into a bowl.
3. Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in a little water
4. Add to the ingredients in the saucepan.
5. Mix in with the dry ingredients to form a dough.
6. Cover the bowl and leave for at least one hour.
7. Roll out thinly and cut into Hop Tu Naa shapes
8. Bake in a moderate oven for about fifteen minutes.
9. When the biscuits are cold, decorate with lemon peel, icing and currants.



Make a Turnip or Pumpkin Hop Tu Naa Lantern

