



Edition 6 – September - 2024

Hello to All !

<i>Items of Interest</i>	<i>Message from President</i>
<i>President's Report</i>	<i>It is hard to believe it is September already! Where does the time go? Although here in Brisbane, the weather suddenly turned very hot with no sign of Spring, and thoughts of summer and the beach are going through my head already, and we have only officially finished with Winter.</i>
<i>Manx Snippets</i>	
<i>Folk Dancing</i>	
<i>Redcliffe Remembers</i>	<i>Our annual General Meeting was held on the 17th August, and despite a disappointingly lower than average turn up, the voting for a new Committee went off well, with one or two changes to the Committee. We are still waiting for all members to return the questionnaire sent out recently and would ask that you give this some serious thought. We still need a Secretary and a Newsletter Editor to keep this Society going, as we have a good, working connection to the Celtic Community of Brisbane, and a lot yet to contribute to the younger generation. Voting results appear later in this newsletter.</i>
<i>Message from QMS Management Committee</i>	
<i>Celtic Corner</i>	<i>As reported in the July newsletter, I recommend attending the upcoming event to be held by History Redcliffe, called Redcliffe Remembers 1824 – 2024 “Picnic in the Park”, on 14th September, 2024. It is sure to be a good day out for the whole family. Please also look out for the Blue QMS tent, which will display Manx memorabilia and items for sale.</i>
<i>QMS Badges</i>	
<i>History Queensland</i>	
<i>Celtic Council of Australia [Qld] - Festival</i>	<i>In October, the Celtic Council of Australia [Qld] will be holding their first Festival, combined with the International Tartan Day, at Moorlands Park, Auchenflower, on Sunday, 13th October. Read on for more details. This should be an outstanding day of Celtic activities and entertainment. We will be there with our Manx Tent, so come and visit us.</i>
<i>Snippets from the Isle of Man</i>	<i>The Committee is working very hard to make these events successful and memorable for our members and to keep the Manx culture alive and well, and we would love to see you there. Until next time.....</i>
<i>Results of AGM</i>	<i>Val Ashworth PRESIDENT QUEENSLAND MANX SOCIETY</i>

MANX SNIPPETS:

Former member of the QMS, Anne Pollitt, sent me this story of her Manx Ancestors, which I thought might be of interest to our present members and others.

*"My great-great-grandmother was born somewhere on the Isle of Man in the late 1790s, but with her common name of Margaret Quirk I had been unable to determine her parent's birthplace, and specific baptism date. Last year, however, with a combination of the usual genealogical sources, DNA matches and Wills, the problem was solved. My Margaret was born to John Quirk and Ann "Nancy" Crain and baptised on 1st April, 1798 in Patrick. She was twelve when her mother died and left her a feather bed and bedding, a gold ring, half her clothes, and half her unchecked flax. As well, 50 pounds was to come to Margaret when she reached twenty years. Ann Crain's parents were almost certainly James Crain and Margaret Christian of German. Ann was baptised in 1767. The Wills were very useful in this research, so I am most grateful to Frances Coakley for the Will summaries she has made available through the Manx Notebook and to **FamilySearch.org** for filming the Wills.*

My Margaret Quirk had a sister Ann Quirk who married Patrick Creer and then lived at St Johns. This Patrick was something of a character, as revealed by an article in the Belfast Commercial Chronicle on 16th September 1816, summarised here:

'When Sir John and Lady Stanley visited Man in 1816 they went to Tynwald Hill. Patrick Creer spoke with them there. He believed he could summon the spirit of Manx legendary figure O'Brien. Patrick repeatedly struck the ground with a white wand and recited incantations urging O'Brien to either emerge or to open his portal for Patrick to enter, but O'Brien failed to comply. Eventually, not at all discomposed, Patrick stated that O'Brien was not at home, otherwise he would have responded. To allay the disappointment of the visitors, Patrick invited them to his house nearby to view and image of O'Brien. In all good humour Sir John and Lady Stanley accepted the invitation.'

*One of the children of Ann Quirk and Patrick Creer was Joseph Creer. Joseph and his wife came to NSW and settled in the Hunter River region. After a fire in 1872 he changed careers and became a Real Estate Agent – the firm **Creer Property** still operates in Newcastle. Joseph Creer became an MP in the NSW Legislative Assembly from 1885 to 1891. Over those same years, his first cousin, my great-grandfather Joseph Mitchell, was also an MP in that Parliament. I would love to know if those two men facing across the political divide knew they were cousins!"*

Anne Pollitt- Former member of the QMS

LOCAL NEWS - FOLK DANCING:

*As promoted in our July Newsletter, If you are interested in Anglo-Celtic Folk Dances, here is the social activity for you. Lively social dances are taught. No partner or special costume required. **Live music by Phillip's Dog**, who specialise in Manx dance and song. Cost \$4.00. **Activities held at the Farmers Hall, 30 Main Street, Samford – Friday 7.30 to 9.30 a.m. and Community Centre, 291 Dawson Parade, Arana Hills, Friday, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.***

HISTORY REDCLIFFE:

*History Redcliffe will be holding an event called 'Redcliffe Remembers' - 1824 to 2024 - **PICNIC IN THE PARK, on Saturday, 14th September, 2024**, from 10 a.m. To 3 p.m. in the Redcliffe Museum Precinct, 45-75 Anzac Avenue, Redcliffe. All welcome to attend. Look out for the QMS Blue tent, where Manx memorabilia and Manx history will be on display. Also we will be presenting a display of "The Bee Gees", who, of course, were born on the Isle of Man, and who lived for some time in the Humpybong/Redcliffe area. The entertainment will include roving bands, dancers, choirs and North Pine Bush poets. There will also be children's activities such as face painting and arts and crafts, a range of food trucks will also be on site.*

Refer July Newsletter for full details.

historyredcliffe.com.au

MESSAGE FROM QMS COMMITTEE:

As previously advertised in our July Newsletter and also at our Annual General Meeting, we are still looking for a **Secretary** to join our Committee. The job is not demanding, involving the typing of Minutes, booking dates for functions, designing and typing up programmes, etc. We usually hold our meetings at Arana Leagues Club, so it would suit someone living nearby. Our Committee is friendly, hard working and dedicated to the continuation and promotion of the Queensland Manx Society. If you can help out in any way, please contact Mrs Val Ashworth, on 0403 564 217. We look forward to hearing from you.

Also, the Committee is on the lookout for an **Editor for the QMS Newsletter**. If you can put a few words together and are reasonably creative, and like to share a good story, this is a job for you. We usually send out a newsletter every two/three months, mainly by email, which is a fairly simple operation. If you are interested, please contact Val Ashworth, on 0403 564 217.

CELTIC CORNER:

SEPTEMBER

14th September, 2024 - History Redcliffe - "Picnic in the Park" - Redcliffe

OCTOBER

Sunday 13th October, 2024. CCAQ First Festival at the Standing Stones, combined with the International Tartan Day, at Moorlands Park, Auchenflower –

NOVEMBER

November 9th - Centenary of the Buderim War Memorial Hall – The Sunshine Coast Welsh Society will have a display to celebrate the Centenary and to showcase their Society. There will be many other attractions as well.

Saturday 30th - CCAQ Christmas Function – Middy at Coorparoo RSL & Community Club, Holdsworth St, COORPAROO.

DECEMBER

Saturday 7th – Qld Manx Society Christmas Function - Arana Leagues Club, Dawson Parade, Keperra

Saturday 14th – Qld Irish Association [QIA] - Christmas Function, West's Rugby Club, 65 Sylvan Road, Toowong

December 15th, - Sunday, The Sunshine Coast Christmas Function, Brightwater Tavern. The AGM will also be held prior to the Christmas function 11.45 a.m. followed by the Christmas luncheon.

QMS EMBROIDERY WOVEN QMS BADGES AND MEMBERS' NAME TAGS:

If you require a Member's Name Tag, please contact Mrs Janis Blackburn on 0414 764 848. Also, if you need a garment embroidered with the QMS logo, please contact Mrs Val Ashworth on 0403 564 217.

HISTORY QUEENSLAND NEWSLETTER:

Please click on this link to bring up their recent newsletter:

newsletter@historyqueensland.org.au

CELTIC COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA [QLD] – CELTIC FESTIVAL:

I am happy to report that the Queensland Manx Society will be participating in this event, and will be erecting our Blue Manx Tent at the site. This should be a great day for all Celts.

Celtic Council of Australia (Queensland) Inc
ABN 83 434 304 383

proudly presents



BRISBANE CELTIC FESTIVAL

Moorlands Park, Auchenflower, Brisbane

Sunday 13 October 2024 9.30am to 4pm



WHAT'S ON

Celtic Music and Dance from the Eight
Celtic Nations
Massed Pipe Bands
Tartan Clothing & Kilts: please wear
Kids Celtic Games
Prizes: Best Celtic dressed child & adult



WHAT TO BRING

Hats, Umbrellas, Chairs, Water and
Picnic Lunch if desired.
Light Refreshments available from food
vans on site. Variety of vendor tents.

HOW TO GET THERE

Train: Auchenflower Train Station
Bus: Coronation Drive, such as routes
444 or 445. Get off at a stop near
Land St or Wesley Hospital
CityCat Ferry: Get off at the Regatta
Ferry Terminal. 10-minute walk to



**Standing Stones
Celtic Nations Monument**

Information contact

<https://www.ccaq.org.au/brisbane-celtic-festival-2024>

CCAQ President Mavis Williams CyC
email: mkw.pinklady.dua@hotmail.com
Phone: 07 3849 8271

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SNIPPETS FROM THE ISLE OF MAN:

ISLE OF MAN STEAM RAILWAY, PORT ERIN, ISLE OF MAN – 150 year old Steam locomotive crosses the Southern half of the Island daily: [Random Place – Isle of Man]

Since 1874, an authentic, steam-powered locomotive has traversed the countryside of the Isle of Man, between the coastal village of Port Erin and the capital of Douglas, huffing and puffing through idyllic green pastures, rolling hills, grazing sheep, and coastal cliffs overlooking the Irish Sea.

Several times per day, these old engines chug along, blowing hoarse, reedy whistles at every crossing. With brief stops in several towns and hamlets, including Castletown, the Isle of Man's former capital and home to its parliament building, The Old House of Keys, a one-way trek of 16 miles takes around two hours.

All of the locomotives in operation are authentic steam engines from the 19th century, and have been running continuously since. Each engine is lovingly and meticulously maintained by government trust, tourism revenue, and the hard work and efforts of [occasionally fanatical] railway technicians and enthusiasts. A railway museum at the Port Erin terminus chronicles its history and preservation efforts, and is a worthy stop for any railroad junkie.

Riding the rails is a feast for the soul and the senses: the rhythmic respiration of mechanical lungs, the warm breaths of the steam engine, the pastoral landscape unfurling. It is a perfect way to escape the modern world and take in the serenity of the Isle of Man.

The IOM Steam Railway operates between early March and early November. A day pass [Go Explore Card] costs 16 pounds for adults and 8 pounds for children, with family and multiday rates available. The Go Explore card is also usable on the Isle Of Man's other heritage railway routes, the Manx Electric and Snaefell Mountain Railways.



HASSAL GRAVE: MALEW CHURCHYARD, BALLASALLA, ISLE OF MAN – Mysterious chains and iron stakes adorn this strange grave, with no explanation. [Random Place – Isle of Man]

There is a curious gravesite in Malew Churchyard on the Isle of Man. The burial plot is cornered by four iron stakes, draped with heavy chains. A huge slate slab covers the grave. It remains a mystery as to exactly why these chains were placed here back in the 1850's, but they still stand to this day.

The grave belongs to Mathew and Margaret Hassal, husband and wife. Little is known about the couple, but their unusual resting place is steeped in myth. The most popular theory is that this is the grave of a vampire.

According to the legend, an ungodly groan was heard coming from Mr Hassal during his wake, which panicked those attending to the extent that chains were placed around the grave to keep the vampire from rising again. Allegedly a stake was also driven through his heart before his burial.....just in case.

Another speculative theory, however, is that Mr Hassal took his own life, which would have forbade him from being buried on consecrated ground. Some suggest that the grave was dug from behind the stone wall that marks the church boundary as a sort of middle ground compromise. The chains and stakes, however, remain a mystery.

This is viewable in the old churchyard, and can actually be seen from the road. You need only climb over a small stile to access it.



RESULTS OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 17TH AUGUST, 2024 :

WE ARE STILL IN URGENT NEED OF A SECRETARY AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

President:	Val Ashworth
Vice President:	Max Cain
Treasurer:	Janis Blackburn
Secretary:	Vacant

Committee Members	Betty Elmes, Norma Conwell, Doug Quayle, Richard Blackburn
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Social Media & Website Director:	Doug Quayle
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Newsletter Editor:	Val Ashworth
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THIRTY-FIVE TOUR DE FRANCE STAGE WINS

A couple of days before Tynwald Day, Manx cyclist and Essex resident, Mark Cavendish stormed into the lead of the riders completing the fifth stage of the Tour de France and secured the 35th stage win of his career. It would have been a magnificent achievement in any circumstances but was all the more remarkable as he had been sick during the opening stage requiring his team-mates to nurse him to the finish line. The congratulations and praise in the press the following day are well deserved and it was lovely to read of congratulations from Eddy Merckx whose record he beat.

Perhaps just as remarkable is that nearly three weeks later he finished the final stage of the tour. In many ways, completing the event must have required as much determination and been as great an achievement as one more stage win.

The record-breaking Tour de France exploits were marked at a special homecoming event at the Island's National Sports Centre on 16th August. It celebrated a remarkable cycling career with a special lap of honour at one of the places it all began - the NSC raceway - with folk giving a flag-waving roar of appreciation as Sir Mark completed a lap on the cycling track he rode as a child and youngsters were given the opportunity to cycle with Sir Mark on their lap of the raceway.

DBH

London Manx Newsletter:

2024 Birthday Honours List

Mark received a KBE in the King's birthday honours on 14th June "for services to cycling and to charity work".

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