

NEWSLETTER Autumn 2012
Editor – Douglas Barr-Hamilton

Tynwald Cooish

Whilst many familiar faces were missing from the Tynwald cooish held at the home of Margarita and Douglas Barr-Hamilton, it was nice to welcome some new ones: Eleanor Vine and her son Bob from nearby Oakwood and Carol Radcliffe from Billericay.

Tables had been prepared and chairs had been placed on the patio to enjoy the sunshine but, sadly, guests soon found themselves indoors because of a cool wind and the threat of rain. Douglas was doing an excellent job cooking the kippers in the kitchen and, along with various gateaux, shortbread and bonnag to follow, everyone enjoyed the usual Tynwald feast.

Manx songs followed with both Eleanor and Carol singing Ramsey Town with gusto but things were curtailed to Ellan Vannin and the National Anthem as people hastened to watch the Isle of Man featured on Country File. Many thanks to Douglas and Margarita for hosting the event, attended in this instance by two lovely nonagenarians, Eleanor, who loved the singing, and our own dear Maisie Sell.

Mavis Bell

Manx profile grows in States

When I had the pleasure of attending the North America Manx Association biennial convention in Denver, Colorado two years ago we discovered that a large part of the assembled group were descended from Manx from either Peel or Laxey. We know too that many went to Ohio, particularly to Cleveland but we learned that there was also an early community that settled in the northern state of Wisconsin in the early 1840s that had even named their village “Laxey” and that the University of Wisconsin in Platteville had agreed to open a museum to maintain the history of the Manx in America and to help students and researchers in the years to come. Its opening was timed to be in the summer of this year so it was decided to hold this year’s convention in the town.

It duly took place during the second week of August and the Isle of Man News web site contains an excellent report. Some eighty people attended (paying \$120 for college dormitory accommodation or up to \$170 for a hotel room) and the keynote speaker was Clare Christian, the President of Tynwald. We will be able to ask her about it at our mhelliah but, if the convention resembled the one in Denver, it was a happy three-day weekend in a friendly atmosphere of joyful reunions and interesting meetings of strangers with a sales room, raffle and Manx embroidery of a professional standard. The group will have made visits and did go to Laxey with the only known Manx church in North America then to its churchyard where many Manx immigrants are buried and a special service was held for them on the Sunday at Linden Methodist Church.

Turning to the museum, two names are deserving of mention: James Hibbard, an archivist with the university who will take responsibility for the museum and sees its exhibits as an essential part of the history of the southwest of the state; Robert Kelly, Hon President of NAMA, from Rockford, Illinois, who donated \$100,000 towards the building and fitting out of the museum and who also presented artefacts roughly of equal value. Pictures of many of these can be found on the web site of the Wisconsin State Journal. What generosity! Jody Morey was elected President of the Association and we offer our congratulations and best wishes for a successful term of office. Her great-grandfather came from the island and she is the Municipal Judge in the Wisconsin village of Mount Horeb.

The 2014 Convention will be a "Homecoming" and the Association hopes to base itself at the Sefton Hotel. It will be yndyssagh (wonderful) if a good number of London Manx could welcome them there. We'll let you know the dates as soon as we have them.

DBH

Mhelliah

Arrangements for last year's mhelliah represented a change from tradition but the choice of a week day, although inconvenient for a number, provided such better value for money and the opportunity to hold the preceding Church service close at hand was so convenient that the Society's committee was persuaded to keep things the same this year.

Monday, 1st October has been chosen and we shall be going back to St Bride's for our gathering with the service starting at noon and then, at about one o'clock, to the nearby Press House Wine Bar for our meal. We are delighted that Clare Christian, President of Tynwald, has agreed to be our speaker and we feel sure the combination will attract a good number of members. It would be good if we

had half as many as she addressed at the North American Manx Association two months before (see preceding article)

Another Manx Olympian

His old track rival John Disley told me recently that Maurice Herriott, President of IOM Athletics Association, has been unwell. Maurice, who lives in Port Erin, ran the steeplechase in the Tokyo Olympic Games of 1964 winning a silver medal and in every event in the Andreas Ascension Day Sports, winning them all. We wish him well. Researching this paragraph I discovered that Maurice's wife, Marina, died in April this year. We also offer our belated condolences

The Cream of Manx Culture Heads for Brittany

The Lorient Inter-Celtic Festival has long been crowned the undisputed champion of the European folk scene. Attracting in excess of 700,000 visitors to the Breton sea port during a ten day feast of music, song and dance from the Celtic diaspora, the festival presents 200 events and invites 5,000 performers including many representatives from the Isle of Man.

In recent years the Manx contingent has forged even greater links with the festival and shown that it can punch above its weight by winning the celebrated Tropheé Loic Raison (for the best performing folk group) twice in the last four years. And it's the consistently high quality of our local musicians which has led to the festival committee embracing a variety of new ideas from the Manx delegate Aalish Maddrell. This is already bearing fruit with the Isle of Man co-hosting an evening concert in the historical Eglise St Louis which will include David Kilgallon playing his own Manx organ compositions and working as a duo with one of the Island's most talented musicians, Russell Gilmour, on trumpet. Joining them will be Ruth Keggins and Dave Pearce from Nish As Rish; winners of last year's Tropheé Loic Raison. Ruth has also been invited to open the nightly stadium concerts with a Manx Gaelic song in her distinctive style, which is acknowledged to be a great honour.

Aalish Maddrell commented, "I feel exceptionally proud to be the Isle of Man's delegate. Over the past few years the Island's musicians have built up an outstanding reputation with both festival goers and organisers. In my opinion Manx performers stand out as being some of the most innovative at the festival. We may be the smallest of the Celtic nations but the Isle of Man more than holds its own on an international stage at a festival that hosts over 700,000 people".

But this year the Island is even more determined to make its voice heard. Local duo Turrys, seminal Manx band Mactullagh Vannin and the dynamic northern based dance group Ny Fennee will all make the journey to Brittany to express the unique culture of the Isle of Man. However, all eyes will be on new trio Barrule who will be striving to win the coveted Tropheé Loic Raison during the 2012 festival, where they will also release their debut eponymous album.

It's also a good opportunity to attract visitors to the Isle of Man with representatives from the Island also manning a pavilion, selling Manx seafood and beer and promoting the Island as a destination for cultural tourism.

Valerie Caine

© August 2012

(Courtesy of Manx Tails)

More about Kathleen Joughin

We tried to do a little research about this lady whose war-time grave Maureen Wigley had come across in Egypt and on which we reported in our last issue. It was interesting to notice that the New Zealand forces record lists six other people with the Joughin surname serving during the war.

The New Zealand Cenotaph files say that Kathleen Joughin was the daughter of William Cleave Joughin and Rose Joughin, of Christchurch. She was 24 years old and serving as a military nurse (New Zealand Army Nursing Service web site) when she died of sickness in November 1943.

We discovered that the Dolores Cross project in New Zealand, an ambition of a Malaysian Chinese military historian immigrant named Dolores Ho who wants to record every WW2 Kiwi casualty, was in need of a photograph of the grave and, having taken a picture of all the graves, Maureen was able to provide the one needed. The fir tree leaf cross mentioned at the end of the piece was the Dolores Cross, made from harakeke, a New Zealand flax.

A brief trawl on the internet using Kathleen's father's unusual second forename found a Richard Cleave Joughin (born 1856 in St Mark's) also of Christchurch New Zealand and an estimation of generations from him suggests Kathleen might be his great, granddaughter and mention of a letter to a brother (born 1845) in the possession of another branch of the family in United States indicates that these were two of many children of a William Joughin of Cronkbane, Bride who was married to a Jane Teare of Andreas and that they, and some other siblings, had emigrated from the Island. Pat Nicholson of the Manx Family History Society has asked her connections in New Zealand if they can confirm our conjecture.

Meanwhile, what of Cronkbane? Well, we suspect that William (senior) never took possession of the family farm in the Lambhill district south-east of Bride village and very close to Sam Weller's old cottage. His father (or grandfather) Daniel, born in 1773, lived until 1862 and we were able to establish that when Bride resident Ann Comish married Philip Kaighin in 1866 they went to live there – although the record calls it “Knockbane.”

DBH

Bride Rustlers

Just to the south of Cronkbane, 43 sheep: 18 ewes and 25 lambs born last winter, were stolen from a field at Dogmills during August this year.

The theft is clearly of great concern to the local farming community and must be especially distressing for the owner and we trust is not the start of a trend.

According to IOM Today, police spokesperson, Constable Ysanne Williamson said, "Until such time as the culprit can be apprehended, farmers are reminded to keep their livestock secure and to report suspicious activity."

Anybody with information about the disappearance of the sheep should contact Constable Williamson at Ramsey police station on 812234

World Manx on Facebook

Angie Weimar, Chairman of the World Manx Association has written to us to say the movement now has a Facebook page that enjoys a good following from all around the world. She also draws our attention to a Manx Nostalgia"

Facebook page to which people send old photographs of places and buildings now long gone but, gladly, not forgotten. Members might find it interesting as the nights start to draw in.

A resident of Glen Maye, she was delighted by Maisie's poem, Peel Hill, that we reproduced in our June edition.

Does anyone know how to pronounce Lewaigue?

Adrian Cain poses this question as an advertisement for the next evening class for beginners in Purt le Moirrey in September but it's also a serious question for linguists and it's one that the London Manx Society are especially well placed to help answer. Those who left the Island forty, fifty, sixty years or more ago will be less tainted by the influx of new residents. Adrian cites the example of his uncle whose father was a lighthouse keeper brought up in Jeremy Clarkson's Manx home; he (his uncle, not Jeremy Clarkson) refers to the area as Durbyhaven and not Derbyhaven and to him it is also definitely **kregnaysh** and not kregneesh (Cregneash) and he suspects we get a little corree (angry) with anyone who gets Dalby or Lewaigue wrong and feel a little foolish when we say creg **na baa** and not creg na bar.

So the challenge to us is to think of about ten names of places or people often now pronounced in a way that differs from the way we remember. I shall start with Andreas. I know the name is Viking and not Gaelic but a Norwegian friend tells me Andrews are still called Andrus in remoter parts of his country but I never hear it outside the village and its older folk. Let's make our list and send it to Adrian (greinneyder@mhf.org.im or Adrian Cain, PO Box 17, Port St Mary, IM99 7QJ) and provide our name and telephone number so he can check our

pronunciation if required. It would be lovely if you could let me have a copy so we can share the exercise – and better if we omit Kennaugh; that's a favourite.

DBH

And what does the name mean?

I got most of my Manx from a great speaker of the language whose middle name was **Corjeag**. Now as far as I'm aware there aren't any Corjeags left in the Island, although there may be elsewhere in the world. Corjeag probably comes from 'cur jeag' or a 'giving dish' or 'church collection plate' and it was anglicised in the 19th Century to **Cavendish**. There may not be any Corjeags left now but the name Cavendish has a certain resonance at the moment!

Still in the world of cycling, the name **Kennaugh** may not have had such an eventful history as Cavendish, but it is a quintessentially Manx name which means 'fair one'.

Most people will be aware that many Manx surnames have either a **Gaelic or Norse** origin to them. Cain, Kelly, Kennaugh, Craine, Mylchreest, Clague, etc. originating from the former and names such as Cowley, Costain, Corkish, Corkill having Norse roots. Many of these names will have had an interesting history and certainly the origins of the name Cavendish is a great introduction to folk etymology. If you'd like to find out more about the origins of Maddrell, Caley and Mylrea then check out Les Quilliam's classic '*The Surnames of the Manx*' which should be available in most local bookshops.

One name which is definitely not of Manx origin (as far as I'm aware) is **Gruffalo**. However, unknown to most people Gruffalos do speak Manx, and quite a lyrical version of the language too. Luckily, you'll be able to find out more about our Manx speaking Gruffalo, and the brave and adventurous mouse that met him (also a Manx speaker!) when we release the Manx Gaelic version of this classic children's story in September. This wouldn't have been possible without the financial support of **Lloyds TSB** in the Island who deserve a big thank you for this. **Gura mie eu!**

Hopefully, we'll bring you more children's classics in Manx over the next few years. I certainly hope that '**yn Gruffalo**' will bring a great deal of joy to little Kennaughs, Cavendishes, Cains the world over but more importantly to any young or, for that matter, not so young, speaker of the language.

For those of you keen to speak Manx like a Gruffalo then there are some **classes for beginners** starting in September. I'll be running a class in Port St Mary; there will be one at the Isle of Manx College in Douglas and also a class in Ramsey.

Let me know if you're interested in learning the language.

Gruffalo? Agh c'red t'eh? - Gruffalo? - But what's a Gruffalo?

Gruffalo? Nagh nhione dhyt eh? - A Gruffalo! Why, don't you know?

Adrian Cain,

Manx Language Development Officer, Manx Heritage Foundation

Isle of Man Stamps - Mark Cavendish

An undisputed champion in the cycling world, Mark Cavendish MBE has now become the focus of a set of specially designed stamps issued by the Isle of Man Post Office, and includes a souvenir sheet which will appeal to those who prefer their stamps to be a little more animated than usual.

Highlights of his career to date dominate seven stamps in a dramatic biopic which sees the dynamic Manxman challenge his rivals all over the world, capturing moments of victory at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, Italy, Belgium, Copenhagen and the close of close of the 2011 Tour de France.

Mark Cavendish commented, "I'm proud to feature in this stamp collection and delighted with the images which have been selected. It's a great honour for me personally, but it's also a reflection of the widespread interest in cycling now and that's always great to see".

But it's probably the unique souvenir sheet which will secure the most attention, with one stamp in particular taking advantage of new technology. Using an 'augmented reality feature' the £1.05 stamp (on the souvenir sheet only) can be brought to life using a special app from a Smartphone, Tablet screen, or other mobile device which allows the purchaser to activate a video of Cavendish winning the world title in Copenhagen.

The Isle of Man Government will also be celebrating the Manxman's achievements by issuing a commemorative fifty pence coin minted by the Pobjoy Mint, which will be put into general circulation and also be available as part of a special celebration pack.

Valerie Caine

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English Stamps - Cost

At the news of the hike in UK postage prices that was imposed earlier this year, our treasurer, Sam Weller, authorised the purchase of a sufficient supply of second class stamps to enable us to continue to distribute the newsletter at the old rate for a year. However, the rise was so large that it will become uneconomic to continue our present method of production after March next year.

We would prefer not to cut the number of issues to three a year, although that is a practical solution, and we should be able to avoid that if about 15% of recipients can agree to forego the paper copy and rely on the Society's web site where it is already reproduced each quarter. An email will be sent to advise those members of the posting. Two or three have already indicated they are willing to receive the news in this way and I would ask, with sadness, if rather more could volunteer to join them.

DBH

Hop tu Naa

On 31st October, people on the Isle of Man celebrate 'Hop tu Naa', a Celtic festival which is said to predate Halloween. Traditionally however, there's no connection between the two. Hop tu Naa, once known as 'Hoga-nan-aa', is the end of summer and the start of winter, a celebration of the original Celtic New Year's Eve and shares its origins with the Scottish Hogmanay.

At Hop tu Naa, instead of pumpkins and trick or treating, children carry carved turnip lanterns and sing Hop-tu-Naa songs about a witch called Jinny!

These days the celebrations could involve boarding the 'Hop-tu-Naa Express to Port St Mary, where the Ghost Bus will take you to Cregneash to see Jinny the Witch and friends and listen to Manx fairy tales and witchcrafts or try your hand at some potion making! The good folk at the National Folk Museum there will stage a traditional Manx Hop tu naa celebration. From a few days before the 31st, every visitor will get a free turnip candle and on the big day itself, kids can decorate their own turnip lanterns.

If you like a scare, from 26-28 October take the Hop tu Naa Ghost Train to the Castle of the Cursed (also known as Castle Rushen) where the Quartet of Horror awaits! Ghostly figures will be lurking in the shadows to recount gruesome stories of old! Not for the faint hearted!

In days gone by the boys would run around asking for free food and the girls would sit at home trying to guess who they were going to marry. The celebrations at the National Folk Museum attempt to keep the spirit of Hop tu naa alive.

Based on **Manx National Heritage** and other sources

Finlo and the Fairy Kings

Book Review

This is Ruth Blindell's first foray into the world of fiction with the Dhoon Glen on the north-east of the Island playing the central role in a truly Manx adventure. One of the author's favourite places to visit, she has skilfully introduced the glen as a backdrop for a raft of new characters attempting to save their home from the avaricious William Pratt, with an early introduction to the 'Keepers of the Glen' and the prickly relationship between Smayr and Connee who rarely see eye to eye.

Using her own photographs and Katie Quine's artwork (her niece), Ruth has combined her talents and introduced traditional music and song with a sprinkling of Manx Gaelic, and a useful glossary of Manx dialogue as an aide memoir. Ruth's vivid imagination has conjured up an easy-to-read story inviting the reader into an enchanting world they probably never knew existed, where Manx mythical characters join the 'little people' in their quest to outwit the 'giants' and save their beloved glen. As the story develops the reader will discover why the

threatened inhabitants were eventually obliged to invade the Tynwald chamber and why twin fairies zip!

Included in the book is a map showing the location of Dhoon Glen with an invitation to explore features from the area which Ruth has incorporated into this enchanting tale.

It's now available from many of the Island's bookshops, Peel newsagents and a selection of Manx National Heritage outlets priced at £11.50 and also from www.authorhouse.co.uk and Amazon.

Valerie Caine

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(Courtesy of Manx Tails)

Glen Mooar

CORRECTION

The railway line that passed the glen west of Kirk Michael was, of course, the line to Ramsey and not Peel.

Island Quiz

(open to non-members through the web site)

1. The Brig Penny can be found in
a) Castletown, b) Douglas, c) Port St Mary, d) Ramsey.
2. Chicken Rock takes its name from its
a) seal pups, b) shipwrecks, c) small size, d) stormy petrels,
3. William Kennish invented
a) fishing net hauling machine, b) marine gun sight, c) sail raising system, d) method of underwater tunnelling.
4. The Lady of Mann sailed into Douglas on 9th March 1946
a) completing the fastest ever sailing from Liverpool, b) carrying the King and Queen, c) on return from Royal Navy service, d) at the end of her maiden voyage.
5. The vessel shown here can be seen at
a) Canal Museum, King's Cross, b) Godalming Navigation, Surrey, c) Imperial War Museum, Lambeth, d) Paddington Basin.

Our thanks to Rose Fowler for two of the questions.

Answers to the editor by post or email, please. Closing date 12th October.

The first reader to send me five correct answers will receive £20 of free petrol when hiring a car from Mylchreests Car Rental at Ronaldsway Airport. Our thanks for their kind support.

Answers to June's quiz:

1. 2012's mhelliah will be held at St. Bride's.
2. Yn Chruinnaght was held between 21-28th July 2012.
3. The Real Man Pizza Company is in Clerkenwell.
4. "Chasin' the bumbees hummin' so cross," is a line in Betsy Lee.
5. The former Tynwald Club was in Bavaria (Stalag 383)

Congratulations to Colin Gill for the first correct answers received.

"Back End" Weather

Summer is dying, dying.
The leaves go flying, flying.
In a flurry they scurry
Round the trees with every breeze.
In drifts of brown, crisply they drown
Our shoes, as they rustle and in the wind hustle.
Sycamore 'angels' on the wing.
Wild, flying grit that makes our eyes sting,
A patch of white sky where the sun had shone.
Yes, summer is gone, summer is gone.

Maisie Sell

Acknowledgements

The Editor thanks Mavis Bell, Adrian Cain, Valerie Caine, Pam Fiddik, Rose Fowler, Maron Honeyborne, Maisie Sell, Angie Weimar, for their kind contribution and also the Manx National Heritage and Manx Radio. News about you and articles (of around 450 words) about Island life are welcome and of interest to all. If in doubt, please contact me - contributions can be sent at any time for inclusion in the next newsletter, if possible by email (barrhamilton@btinternet.com) otherwise 132 Bush Hill, London N21 2BS. Copyright is retained by the contributor. Closing date for the next issue, 28th November.

Dates for your diary

Mhelliah

Monday 1st October has been chosen for this year's mhelliah and we shall be going back to St Bride's for our gathering and to the Press House Wine Bar for our meal.

The Church service, again conducted by Canon Teare will begin at 12.00 noon and our speaker after the meal will be Clare Christian, President of Tynwald.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE IN THREE MONTHS

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