

Christmas Gathering

"Not many of us here," was our verdict in 2018. There were even fewer Manx at the "Bonnington" on 10th December, 2019 but "The Fewer" all enjoyed the comfortable arm chairs, the blazing (artificial) log fire, the professional service and the opportunity to get away from London's hustle and bustle to gossip the late afternoon away.

"The Fewer" are happy to continue but without new faces and conversations, it's unlikely to last long. Members are asked to let the secretary know if they would like to join them this year and, if Southampton Row in early December is not convenient, to suggest a better time or place to gather.

DBH

Annual General Meeting

Members will receive with this newsletter notice of the Annual General Meeting. To make it a more attractive day, we plan to hold it on 17th April in the café of St Martin's in the Fields after lunch there following a free lunch time concert that begins at 1.00 p.m. As we go to print questions arise about the wisdom of travel with the threat from the coronavirus/Covid-19. The committee asks people to let the Secretary know that they intend to attend so that we can contact them should any arrangements change (email barrhamilton@btinternet.com or telephone 020 8360 8001)

OBITUARY

Colin Gill

A tribute from Dr Jack Eaton BA Cambridge, MA Warwick, PhD Cambridge
Colin and I were among a group of fifteen who studied for a one year master's degree in Industrial Relations at the University of Warwick beginning in September 1969. That is over 50 years, two thirds of my life and Colin was a loyal friend and constant guide throughout.

It seems odd now but then Industrial Relations was considered a vital subject. There were books published with titles such as "*Is Britain really Strike prone?*" In 1968 the report of a royal commission into Trade Unions and Employers' Associations was published known as *The Donovan Report*. That era seems aeons ago now and more like industrial archaeology. Anyway, it was then a significant branch of Economics, sociology and of course, employment law.

Colin had arrived from the Isle of Man via Enfield and we soon discovered that we had something in common as I had a grandfather who was from Jurby. We also liked football and Colin often displayed his fervour for Manchester United by singing about "Willie Morgan on the wing" and *King Dennis Law*. He liked to imitate the shuffle and body swerve that George Best used when taking a penalty. Sometimes on Saturdays we would take the Midland Red bus to Coventry to see a match at Highfield Road.

After a year or two we both found our way into academic life as university lecturers. For myself, I certainly found developing a research and writing repertoire from Aberystwyth elusive. But it's Publish or Perish and it looked as though I was booked for the latter. But Colin who by then was at the University of Salford, threw me a lifeline. He had already nurtured postgraduate students at Salford and together with one of his protégés, Richard Morris, we produced *Industrial Relations in the Chemical Industry*. Later we wrote two editions of the *Trade Union Directory*. A third edition was produced mainly with the youthful enthusiasm and energy of Wolodymyr Maksymiw, another protégé of Colin.

Cambridge University Engineering Department appointments board must have been delighted when, having advertised for a lecturer in Industrial Relations to inform undergraduates about HR in the industry, somebody applied who actually knew something about engineering as well as HR. That was Colin. Not only did he immediately instil his fundamental approach but included an emphasis on effective employee representation, consultation procedures for redress of grievances and resolution of disputes. The he developed the courses, motivated students and developed strong faculty friendships. In research, Colin was among the first, if not the first in university and academic Industrial Relations to appreciate the importance and future significance for the subject and for the practice of personnel management of the then new digital computer and microprocessor and robotic technology. In 1985 *Work, unemployment and the new technology* was published. It is maybe an overused word in academic circles but this was I am sure a seminal book.

But this is too serious. Colin loved culture, music and literature. He was a Francophile and loved French culture and I don't just mean Eric Cantona. He read all of Zola's novels and could have read them in French. His linguistic abilities led him to develop research contacts throughout Europe and with Richard Morris and others in Australia. But mention of France reminds me of Colin's amiable sense of humour: one of his party pieces relied on a play on words - où est la guerre? Mais la guerre est finie! But mainly he loved mimicry, though was never cruel. There was one of our colleagues at

Warwick who, if during a seminar anyone was over-enthusiastic about anything such as, say, productivity bargaining, would say, "You are just eulogising." Colin might imitate him if he could hear me now. In fact one of them that I liked best was his imitation of the sound of the horn of an old fashioned Douglas Corporation taxi.

So, Colin, our friendship will be an abiding and comforting memory for me, Thank you, Colin , CGG – Constant Guiding Goodfella.

During Colin's memorial service the Society's President Alastair Kneale recited from T E Brown's Betsy Lee at the family's request

Now the beauty of the thing when childher plays is
The terrible wonderful length the days is.
Up you jumps, and out in the sun,
And you fancy the day will never be done;
And you're chasin' the bumbees huminin' so cross
In the hot sweet air among the goss,
Or gath'rin' blue-bells, or lookin' for eggs,
Or peltin' the ducks with their yalla legs,
Or a climbin' and nearly breakin' your skulls,
Or a shoutin' for divilment after the gulls,
Or a thinkin' of nothin', but down at the tide
Singin' out for the happy you feel inside.
That's the way with the kids, you know,
And the years do come and the years do go,
And when you look back it's all like a puff,
Happy and over and short enough.

Annual lunch

This year, our annual lunch will be held on Saturday 30th May, again at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Southampton Row, WC1B 4BH. Our guest speaker will be the Hon Stephen C Rodan OBE BSc (Hons) MRPharmS MLC President of Tynwald who will be accompanied to our event by his wife Ana.

The hotel's restaurant has increased its restaurant prices considerably but the Society committee has agreed to limit the price for an excellent three course meal to just £32 per person to encourage as large attendance as possible to hear Island news from a leading figure in Manx affairs and to meet together in enjoyment of one another's company. The larger dining room towards the back of the hotel that we used for many years has been reserved. It would be wonderful to fill it.

The date is very close to the publication day for the next edition of our next newsletter so we encourage members to contact Sam Weller as soon as they can (samandmary_weller@hotmail.com) to say they will come.

DBH

Roger Watterson

From the moment I began as newsletter editor and undoubtedly long before that Manx Radio reporter Roger Watterson took a lively interest in the happenings at London Manx. Sadly, he died in November last year He was 77 years-old.

Roger's involvement with Manx Radio began in 1974 when he co-authored a report into the station. His was a familiar Sunday voice to listeners from 1992 with Sunday Opinion and the Mannin Line presenting Sunday Opinion from 12pm to 1pm, and the Mannin Line from 1.15pm to 2pm.

He was a member of the House of Keys representing Middle between 1976 and 1981 and was appointed to the Broadcasting Commission and the Manx Radio Management Committee.

Away from broadcasting and politics, Roger's interests included transport, photography, walking, motoring, music and Manx culture.

His successor at Manx Radio is Andy Wint who has already made contact with the Society

DBH

Bi-Centenary of Calf of Man Lighthouses

There's a trio of lighthouses situated on the Calf of Man which have long since served their useful purpose, and now lie forlorn and abandoned amongst the rugged terrain, but this year two of them celebrate a remarkable bi-centenary. Their story revolves around dispute, uncertainty and the lives of innumerable mariners whose safe passage became the focal point of their development. Although lighthouses appeared around the coasts of England, Ireland and Scotland, the Isle of Man remained an unlit corner for those risking their lives at sea. Initially pleas for illumination fell upon deaf ears, but as more ships succumbed to the treacherous, semi-submerged reef (known as the Chickens' Rock) which future lighthouses would mark, further pressure was administered. This resulted in a visit in 1802 by the celebrated Scottish civil engineer Robert Stevenson, designer of lighthouses and grandfather of the famous author Robert Louis Stevenson.

There were, however, a number of problems to resolve - namely which authority would build the lights, how would they be powered, where they would be positioned and who was to pay for their construction. The Isle of Man was deemed a separate jurisdiction, but eventually the Isle of Man Lighthouse Bill was passed in 1815, which forced the Duke of Atholl to lease land to the Northern Lights Authority. The estimated cost of building the three lighthouses required (two on the Calf of Man and one at the Point of Ayre) was in excess of £10,000, but funds were difficult to acquire. Debate continued between Stevenson and other parties as to the position of the lighthouses and other important aspects of the scheme. One of the staff from Northern Lights also remained on the Calf of Man for approximately six months purely to record daily levels of fog, providing important information for citing of the lighthouses which needed to be lined up exactly with the one on Chickens' Rock, and do preparatory work at the harbour. Contractors, an agent, a senior mason and others were appointed on the Island and some of the building materials were also locally sourced.

Stevenson drew up detailed instructions for the contractors, which included remarkable attention to exterior detail, such as the inclusion of iron-work dolphins around the light room and the Three Legs of Man symbol within the iron work.

However, a thorn in the side of Stevenson was the Duke of Atholl's tenant on the Calf of Man. John Gourlay, who lived with his wife, was a warrener, but remained determined that the lighthouses should not be built and anything connected with them stopped. Their relationship continued to deteriorate, with Stevenson exclaiming that it was necessary to have as little communication with 'that Dutchman' as possible. His claims and demands got seriously out of hand, resulting in significant delays, but Stevenson persevered.

Problems, however, continued to plague the project. The lighthouse keepers were compelled to live in unfinished lighthouses whilst their families moved into lodgings in Port St Mary. Later tragedy struck on the Calf of Man when deadly typhus fever decimated the families who had now joined their men folk. Four children and a servant of the aforementioned John Gourlay died, but fear of this highly contagious disease made it difficult to persuade a boat crew to take a doctor and nurse to the Island.

The two lighthouses were used for fifty six years in total, with a third, contemporary model operating for just thirty nine years.

Regrettably the buildings are now in a bad state of repair, not least because of unconcealed vandalism, which included the removal of exquisite woodwork (in place since 1818) which was sold as firewood.

All three lighthouses on the Calf of Man were ultimately decommissioned and abandoned, and nowadays the unmanned, automatic lighthouse on Chickens' Rock is the sole marker of the treacherous reef which left so many mariners in fear of their lives.

Valerie Caine

© November 2019 (Courtesy of Manx Life)

More of Island's Viking past revealed

The Island's Coroner of Inquests has ruled that a silver ingot from Viking times is treasure. Found by a local detectorist in a field in the south of the Island it has been dated as between 950 and 1075AD. It had probably been used as currency between traders of the period, is 3.5cm in length and weighing 17g and, although not pure silver, contains a high percentage of the metal.

Manx National Heritage's curator of archaeology, Allison Fox explained that ingots might be used as a means of exchange in places where silver was valued and that during the later Viking Age were used as well as coins. She added that it illustrates that the Isle of Man was one of the Viking trading nations.

The ingot was on display in the Manx Museum until February but is now in the hands of the UK Treasure Valuation Committee.

DBH

Source: IOM Today, 12th December 2019

On your doorstep

Arts and culture, 14-15th March

The "On your doorstep" week-end this year will have arts and culture as its principal theme so on 14th and 15th March islanders will be able to discover new activities in their neighbourhood and talk to those who participate in Manx arts and culture and visitors will be able to join them, of course. The Isle of Man Arts Council and Culture Vannin will join together to create four hubs, conveniently in the north, east, south and west of the island. The hubs will be open from 11am - 4pm and three will be open on Saturday 14th March at St Paul's Hall, Ramsey, Corrin Hall and Centenary Centre, Peel and Civic Centre, Castletown. On Sunday 15th March there will be a hub at the Villa Arcade in Douglas. More details on www.manxmusic.com.

Open all day, the public will be able to drop in to find out about joining a local arts or cultural society, meet like-minded people, discover a festival or

entertainment venue, learn Manx or get involved with an artistic activity they had never considered before. For Manx societies and people who organise local events it will provide an opportunity to make themselves known and recruit new members. As the organisers say, they would hope that the weekend will appeal to choirs, visual arts societies, studios and galleries, drama groups, film clubs, music sessions, craft workshops, heritage trusts and history societies, creative writing groups, music ensembles and projects, dance schools, Manx language groups, annual festivals and community venues that would like to open their doors and invite new faces in.

London Manx members considering a visit to the Island may wish to note the dates for an opportunity of seeing what is available to current residents.

DBH

Source, Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Culture Vannin.

Port Erin past and present

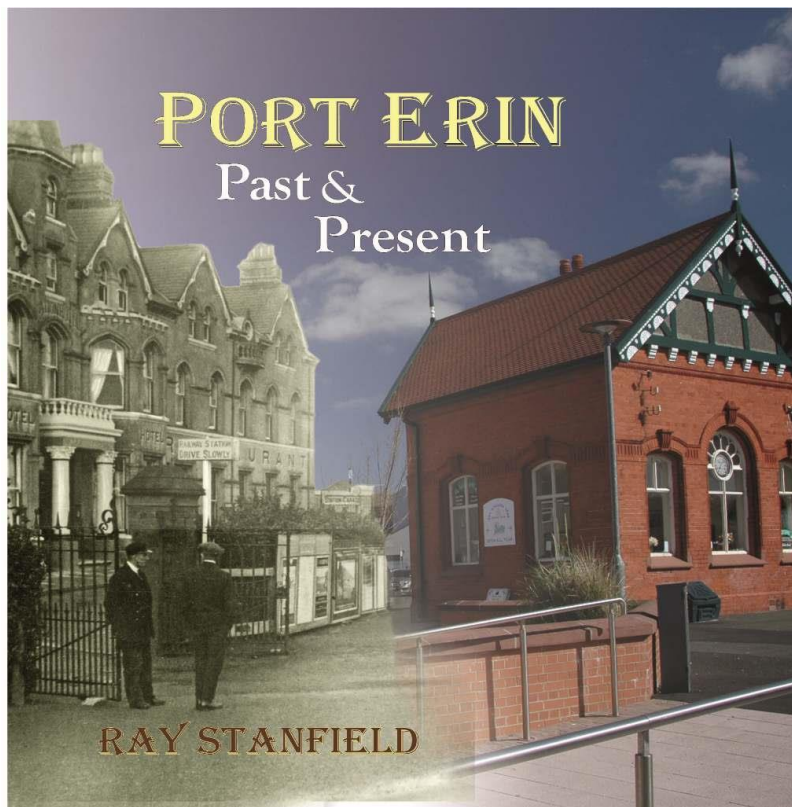
Telling us that history is one of their main interests, Loughtan Books have published a book that may be of interest to many Society members and other newsletter readers. Costing £13.95, it is available from the company's web site, www.loaghtanbooks.com. You may feel it would make a lovely present. The publisher tells us their books make excellent gifts and they will gift wrap (free of charge) and ship anywhere (p+p free within the British Isles; for global shipping charges check the website).

At the end of the nineteenth century Port Erin was a tiny fishing hamlet but it was soon to become a popular place for visitors as holiday makers discovered the Isle of Man. Hotels were built and life began to revolve around the needs of the tourists. However, by the 1960s "abroad" meant something different from a century before, many of the hotels struggled to survive; most have gone. Quite a lot have been replaced by flats and apartments where people live all the year round. Port Erin is having to reinvent itself all over again. This book reminds us of the dramatic changes that have taken place in the seaside resort. Port Erin, Past & Present does exactly what it says on the cover. Old sepia photographs are matched with specially taken modern photographs to show exactly how the village has changed and reveals the odd quirks that have stayed the same.

The publishers' Sara Goodwins whom many members will remember as a speaker at our lunch when she was Poet Lauriate, tells us the book is really a collaborative effort, with Ray Stanfield providing the old postcards, George Hobbs taking the modern equivalents and her putting together the captions. They put only Ray's name on the front cover, however, as without his magnificent postcard collection there would be no book. The book is selling so well that they plan a sister volume about Peel.

DBH

Source: Loughtan Books



Addition to article in December's newsletter

Florrie Forde was well regarded for her generosity in many areas of life, and on the Isle of Man it was reported that she threw herself wholeheartedly into many deserving causes, but it was perhaps a simple, heartfelt gesture, which remains the most poignant.

Submarines were common in the Irish Sea during World War I and as a result of their unscrupulous activity many bodies were washed up on the west coast of the Island, including one at Niarbyl who remained unidentified. Local newspaper reports identify the body as a British sailor, who was subsequently buried in the churchyard at Holy Trinity Church in Patrick village in 1918. Some years later Florrie Forde, who was often found relaxing at a bungalow at Niarbyl, visited the church and was moved with compassion when she saw the stark, anonymous reference on his grave, which acknowledged him simply as

'British - unidentified' and date interred. In 1927 she added a handsome headstone and white marble kerb with the touching inscription 'Some Mother's Son', and ensured it was adorned with fresh flowers whenever she was on the Island, including on one occasion a bouquet of red and white roses presented to her in Douglas. The hugely successful music publisher Bert Feldman also looked after the grave, whilst Florrie Forde kindly arranged a collecting box for the up-keep of the graveyard.

Valerie Caine

World heritage timepieces to chime on the Isle of Man

Some of history's most significant British timepieces dating from 1500 to 1800 have gone on display on the Isle of Man in a new Luxury of Time exhibition, made possible thanks to the generosity of the philanthropist Dr John C Taylor OBE. The stunning spectacle showing the golden age of clock and watch making can be seen at the Manx Museum in Douglas from Saturday 15th February until Sunday 10th May 2020.

Born in Buxton, Derbyshire in 1936 and educated at King William's College, Dr Taylor returned to the Island in 1977 to bring up his young family. He founded Strix in 1981, made numerous world-changing inventions including kettle controls now used a billion times a day. He retired and left the company in 1999. He has over 400 patents to his name and has since focussed on philanthropy and passing on his knowledge to future generations through talks, lectures and endowments. He has also built a stunning home in Santon: Arragon Mooar House which is elliptical in shape because, in his own words, "Building a circular one would have been too easy".

Dr Taylor continued, "I've always loved clocks and my interest started at a young age when I would watch my father, who was an engineer and inventor. He would boil clock mechanisms in a pan to release built-up grease and then scrub and clean the metal until he breathed new life into the gear wheels and got them working again."

Dr Taylor has since built up a unique collection of early clocks and watches from the British Isles that tell many stories of great design, metal work, furniture making, entrepreneurialism, engineering and timekeeping.

"Hand-made English clocks, many dated and numbered, were in fact the first mass-produced luxury items, heralding the start of the industrial revolution. Not only is the craftsmanship astoundingly intricate, it amazes me that such wonderful works of art could be created to such a high specification when spectacles were rare and clockmakers had to make their own tools."

The exhibition will feature 30 different outstandingly beautiful timepieces, including a gothic lantern clock, made by blacksmiths (from 1500) plus majestic clocks and exquisite watches. The collection has many Royal connections. The silver and gilt David Ramsay astronomical verge watch (c1618) puts modern “complicated” watches in their place. The dial of this watch shows the hour, the day (sign, name and deity), the month (name and date) together with the sign of the Zodiac, the age and phase of the moon, and the planet hour. This incredible timepiece bears an engraving of a portrait of King James I and is signed, ‘David Ramsay Scottes me Fecit’. There is also the bedside table clock, Queen Mary’s Turtle-shell Tompion (c1693) styled from the design of Daniel Marot and Louis XIV’s court in Versailles. Tompion billed Queen Mary II £40.00 for this clock on an itemised account dated 16th August 1693.

The Joseph Knibb ebony veneered table clock with tic-tac escapement (1677) also has an impressive pedigree. It was part of King George III’s collection and was presented to his surgeon, Thomas Beckett. It then remained in the Beckett family until it was sold to the collection of the renowned Isle of Man watchmaker, George Daniels.

Taking pride of place in the exhibition is the John Harrison of Barrow Longcase Clock (1726), made famous through global interest in the Longitude Prize. This magnificent timepiece was originally created as a land-based clock against which to calibrate his sea clocks. Following Harrison’s addition of his gridiron pendulum, this became the most accurate clock in the world for 150 years.

Kirsty Neate, Head of Professional Services for Manx National Heritage said, “The exhibition would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of Isle of Man resident, inventor and philanthropist, Dr Taylor, and his team, to whom Manx National Heritage are extremely grateful for their generosity in bringing this unique collection together for display on the Isle of Man for the first time”.

Dr Taylor added, “Most people state that the world’s greatest invention is the wheel. The wheel is the servant of mankind, but mankind is slave to the clock so therefore, surely, clocks are the most important objects ever invented.”

The *Luxury of Time* exhibition runs at the Manx Museum, Kingswood Grove, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LY, from Saturday 15th February 2020 to Sunday 10th May 2020. It is open daily from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM admission free. Following the launch of the exhibition, Dr Taylor will deliver a public lecture on 5 March 2020 at the Manx Museum, with all proceeds to Manx National Heritage, Isle of Man registered charity no. 603. Tickets are priced at £10. Dr Taylor will also be leading an exclusive guided tour of the gallery on 9th April.

DBH

Source: Manx National Heritage

Stroll Amongst the Snowdrops Brightens Stormy Afternoon

With spring (hopefully) just around the corner, the anticipation of a stroll amongst the snowdrops followed by afternoon tea, was a welcome diversion from the winter storms.

Organised by the hard-working team at St James Church in Dalby, a leisurely walk amongst the snowdrops attracts an annual, dedicated number of followers. Their first port of call was to see the glorious display of flowers within the grounds of Dalby House, with kind permission of Mrs Clarke. Fortunately the gardens were sheltered from the surrounding storm and featured a rich display of these robust, little gems. Pots of snowdrops were also on sale.

Meanwhile, back at St James' Church, preparations were well in hand for a mouth-watering, home-made afternoon tea - beside a welcome fireside. Additionally, a special draw took place to win a ride for two people in a Classic 1957 Rolls Royce.

Proceeds from the event, after costs, were distributed between the church's chosen charities - Alana's Gift (Special Needs Unit at St John's School), Bees for Burundi and the on-going restoration of St James Church in Dalby; www.stjamesdalby.org

Valerie Caine

© February 2020

(Courtesy of the North Western Chronicle)

Manx Spinners

Images of lone Manx spinners, sitting at spinning wheels at the doors of thatched cottages. They are evocative of times gone by, but not really so long ago. Failing eyes getting out of the smoky, indoor darkness to obtain the benefit of daylight. What the eyes can no longer focus on, compensated for by years of experience in the craft and knowledge of the machine. The spinning wheel, so important in the Celtic home in years gone by. For hundreds of years spinning held a central place in the lives of the craft and the spinning wheel was a proud possession. The Manx Museum (Manx: Thie Tashtee Vannin) has a collection of these images. Faded black and white photographs of, usually older, women with a look of pride as they undertook their work.

Thanks go to Manx National Heritage (Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin) for the pictures.

Fibres have played a crucial part in human life from prehistory and the skill to spin thread and weave into cloth has developed over many centuries. The Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers have a history section on their website and write:

'The earliest known evidence in Ireland of woven material dates from about 1600 B.C., as pottery from that period shows signs of woven material in which the clay was placed before firing. A fragment of cloth in the National Museum, found in a bog in County Antrim, is dated from at least 700 B.C.

Stone spinning whorls have been recovered from many excavations such as crannogs or lake dwellings of the first and second centuries B.C., although we know that spinning was certainly practised in Ireland in Neolithic times.

Fragments of woven fabric and weaving tools have been found in the excavations of Viking and Medieval Dublin.'

It was not easy work with wool having to be cleaned when sheared from the sheep, carded in order to separate the fibres and spun into yarn. The weaving often then being undertaken at home to supply own, family or neighbours' needs, but also the yarn being supplied to the weaver to gain income and be made into cloth for various items that were sold. However, as technology changed and the level of demand grew the supply coming from the domestic spinners and weavers was simply not enough. Although a number of other political and social factors also added to the decline in the domestic spinner. There were regional variations, with remote areas holding longer to the tradition and there are also those who continue to work in this small scale way today. Nevertheless, the numbers fell, leaving just the image, for some reason a very powerful and wistful one, of the lone spinner at the door of the Manx thatched cottage. Remembered not only from museum archives but in folklore and song, with spinning wheels an object commonly associated with Manx fairy tales.

Alastair Kneale



Commemoration of Archibald Knox at Braddan New Cemetery

Members and supporters of the Archibald Knox Forum gathered at the grave of the famous Manx born designer, situated in Braddan New Cemetery, to commemorate the anniversary of his death. Director of the Archibald Knox Forum, Chris Hobdell, recited a short prayer at the grave-side before placing a floral tribute at the distinctive stone - initially designed by the artist for another family.

Archibald Knox was born on the Isle of Man at Cronkbourne village in 1864, joining the Douglas School of Art (where he became a pupil teacher and studied with another celebrated Manx artist John Miller Nicholson) and

teaching at Douglas Grammar School. Later he moved to a teaching position in Surry, before being appointed head of design at Kingston upon Thames Art School. It was during this period that the world-renowned designer began employment with the Silver Studio who supplied the world renowned Liberty & Company in London; establishing Knox as one of the major designers in the Art Nouveau style. Preferring to describe himself as a Celtic Revivalist, this was a prolific time of his career. Knox moved, briefly, to the USA before returning to settle permanently on the Isle of Man - where he was employed as a parcel censor at Knockaloe Internment Camp during World War I and returned to teaching.

Despite his success, Knox shunned publicity and was remembered as a somewhat private individual. Archibald Knox died in 1933.

Further information about the designer can be found at www.archibaldknoxforum.com or on their Facebook page.

Valerie Caine

© February 2020 (Courtesy of the North Western Chronicle)

Plans for New Sea Terminal Exhibited in Liverpool

The Isle of Man has an extensive and proud historical link with the North West of England through the busy port of Liverpool, serving a need for migration, employment, transport of goods and latterly an important connection for onward travel.

But the port represents much more than this to people on the Island as we continue to foster a long held affinity.

This tangible link with the Isle of Man has recently been brought into sharp focus with the need to shift the position of our current terminal building to a new site, after many years alongside the iconic Royal Liver Building. The move has been required after it was revealed that a new cruise liner terminal would be situated on that site, which has provoked questions about its re-assignment and cost.

A one-day exhibition about the on-going project, staged in Liverpool, invited the public to learn more about the proposed scheme, with an opportunity to raise any concerns.

Held in the magnificent RIBA North Building, based at the appropriately named Mann Island on Liverpool's waterfront, the event was jointly hosted by the Isle of Man Government's Department of Infrastructure, Aecom

(Consultants and Engineers) and The Manser Practice, a firm of architects with offices in London and York.

There's no doubt that the current terminal facility in Liverpool is tired and jaded and would welcome an upgrade, but the Isle of Man Government's proposal centres on an ambitious, modern replacement designed to meet the needs of the twenty first century traveller. The proposed site is located at Prince's Half Tide Dock, some eight hundred metres north of the current terminal, a location which has evolved since the early nineteenth century. With substantial regeneration dominating the Merseyside landscape, the new terminal will be positioned within a residential area which is home to some eight hundred people in surrounding apartments, some of whom raised their own concerns with representatives at the exhibition. Many were assuaged, but others remained un-assured.

Several diagrams and images adorned the walls, portraying the vision of the Isle of Man Government for the site, which lies in the desire to organise the flow of both vehicular and passenger traffic in a seamless fashion; avoiding congestion and bottlenecks. The overall design is, appropriately, distinctly reminiscent of a sailing vessel and incorporates a number of local references - with external and internal signage proposed in both Manx Gaelic and the English language. The distinctive triskellion, instinctively linked with the Isle of Man, will also be used to visual effect using Manx colours. Meanwhile, the terminal itself will be constructed mainly of glass and zinc in an effort to create a bright and reflective building. A deliberate choice of material to withstand the rigours of a waterfront setting, the use of zinc is also additionally reported to be a nod towards the Island's now defunct mining industry.

It's proposed that passengers will be filtered around the perimeter in an efficient manner, with a clear view of the vessel at all times and up-to-date facilities for the travelling public. Additionally, the main building is perceived to be a high quality pavilion constructed sensitively for use in a designated World Heritage site.

In the meantime you can view an inter-active visual image of the proposed terminal in a short clip on the Isle of Man Government's Youtube channel. Since publication of this article the cost of the project has increased and completion date extended.

Valerie Caine

© November 2019

(Courtesy of Business 365)

Manannan's Choice of the Year awarded to Stephen Miller

Stephen Miller was awarded the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan (Manannan's Choice of the Year) at Culture Vannin in St John's recently, in recognition of his passionate research into Manx folklore, music, dance and its collection. As well as a dedicated researcher, Stephen also seeks out the important figures and collectors involved with the Celtic revival. His persistence, energy and expertise during a period of forty years, has resulted in an impressive body of work - which he shares freely and generously in both print and online.

An early adopter of technology, Stephen's work is available for anyone through his website now in its twenty fifth year (Chiollagh Books), the Manx Music and Dance Newsletter (Kiaull Manninagh Jiu - subscribe through the manxmusic.com website), the Ballaugh Heritage Newsletter, as well as numerous personal publications and lectures.

Director of Culture Vannin, Dr Breesha Maddrell commented, "He remains someone determined to tease remarkable stories relating to Manx cultural and social history out of the archives in order to bring life to some of the key characters who have shaped our Island; to understand what their focus was in terms of collecting, recording, or promoting Manx culture - and to share his findings with other researchers."

His interest in Manx folklore encouraged Stephen to subscribe and reprint important work, such as William Cashen's Folk-Lore and the Manx Folklore and Superstitions by John Rhys. An extensive list of transcriptions and historical detective work has allowed us a better understanding of several Manx antiquarians and the cultural revival. Stephen was presented with a medal, certificate and a cheque, naming Moinjer Veggey (the Manx Gaelic playgroup) as his chosen Manx cultural cause for the additional donation. Although now based off the Island, Stephen remains a frequent visitor and can usually be found amongst the national archives held by Manx National Heritage.

Valerie Caine

© February 2020 (Courtesy of the North Western Chronicle)

Sophia Morrison, Mona Douglas and Their Enchanted Isle

Local author, Derek Winterbottom, has written several books concerning different aspects of the Isle of Man, but he has now focused his attention towards two remarkable women who devoted their lives to an all consuming passion.

Both Sophia Morrison and Mona Douglas undoubtedly played a crucial role in the survival and continuity of the Island's language, folklore and other traditional elements of Manx life; but here we have a book which brings them together in printed form and explores their lives on an intimate basis.

Although their backgrounds couldn't have been more different, both women sought the same goal, in an attempt to save and nourish what they held dear to their hearts, and within these pages you'll find out more about their tremendous accomplishments and determination. And yet in some respects their upbringing reflected each others. Notwithstanding their unbridled love of Manxness, both women experienced an unusual childhood, spent time in a rural setting and were the daughters of businessmen. As recounted in this book, neither of their lives were without colour and boldness, but both of them experienced sadness and frustration in equal measure.

Other notable characters who have played their part in Manx history make a brief appearance as important cornerstones to both women's stories, which develop on either side of the Island.

This book offers a glimpse into their daily lives and lifts the curtain occasionally on private moments, but also teases out other elements which defined them. It shadows the growing work of both women and their determination to be successful in a somewhat patriarchal world.

Sophia Morrison was very much a facilitator, and although largely remembered for her iconic book *Manx Fairy Tales*, worked upon other, diverse publications which also deserve recognition. Unfortunately ill health dogged her later years and with her early death we can only surmise what her greater achievements may have been.

A large section of the book is, however, devoted to Mona Douglas, to whom Sophia passed the baton as cultural field-worker and was, indeed, encouraged by her mentor to move amongst the people and record what remained of the Island's folk memory, language and other unique aspects of Manx life. There are many who still remember this veritable tour-de-force, who were themselves inspired from an early age by her cultural endeavours and have continued to uphold the legacy of both women.

Sophia Morrison and Mona Douglas pursued different avenues in their quest, but were united in their resolve to be a flag-bearer for their beloved Isle of Man. Fortunately the baton has been picked up by many since their time, who now continue Sophia and Mona's important work.

Priced at £12.50, *Sophia Morrison, Mona Douglas and Their Enchanted Isle* is available from bookshops across the Island.

Valerie Caine

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(Courtesy of the North Western Chronicle)

March Island Quiz

(Open to non-members through the web site)

Closing date 15th April. The first reader to send me five correct answers will receive £20 in fuel when hiring a car from Mylchreest Car Rentals at Ronaldsway Airport.

1. What is the most westerly point in the Kingdom of Man, (a) Bradda Head, (b) Chicken Rock, (c) Kitterland, (d) The Stack?
2. Which Parish rector went on to become Bishop of Sodor and Man and later, of Rochester? (a) Andreas, (b) Bride, (c) Lonan, (d) Patrick?
3. Where was Florrie Forde's Island house, (a) Lhen, (b) Niarbyl, (c) Port Grenaugh, (d) Port Mooar?
4. Which English monarch appointed Antony Beck (Bek) to be Lord of Man, (a) Edward I, (b) Edward II, (c) Edward III, (d) Edward IV?
5. Which Manx writer described Knockaloe Camp in "Barbed Wire", (a) W. Walter Gill, (b) Sir Thomas Hall Caine, (c) Josephine Kermode, (d) John Quine?

Answers to Winter quiz:

1. The words to the Manx fishermen's Evening Hymn were written by (d) W H Gill
2. Hollywood's film of Hall Caine's, "The Manxman," was made in (b) 1929*
3. The car with the first MN number (MN1) belonged to Deemster (b) Sir William Drinkwater,
4. The IOMSPCo ship that ran aground on Conister Rocks in 1939 (98 years after the Tower of Refuge) was (c) The Mona,
5. The LMS quarterly quiz is published to honour the memory of (c) P E Garbutt.

*with apologies for mis-typing the options offered as the correct date.

There was no all-correct set of answers in January.

Acknowledgements

The editor thanks Valerie Caine, Dr Jack Eaton, Sara Goodwins, Alastair Kneale, Mylchreest Car Rentals, Andy Wint, Chloë Woolley for their kind contribution and also Isle of Man Newspapers, Culture Vannin, Yn Cruinnaght and Manx National Heritage. 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*) or to 132 Bush Hill, N21 2BS. Copyright is retained by the contributor. Opinions expressed are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the editor or the Society. Closing date for the next issue, 21st May.

Dates for your Diary

Annual General Meeting

Friday 17th April 2020 at 2.30 p.m. after 1.45 lunch
St Martin's in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ

Lunch

Saturday 30th May, 2020
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Southampton Row, WC1B 4BH
12,00 for 12.45 p.m.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE IN THREE MONTHS

PLEASE SEND NEWS TO:

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