



London Manx Society (Yn Cheshaght Manninagh Lunnin)

PATRONS: H E THE LT GOVERNOR OF THE ISLE OF MAN
THE PRESIDENT OF TYNWALD
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF KEYS

President – Alastair Kneale

NEWSLETTER Spring 2023
Editor – Douglas Barr-Hamilton

The Annual London Manx Society Lunch is back!

After a pandemic break, we are returning to our usual venue, the Doubletree by Hilton West End in Southampton Row on Saturday 13th May at 1pm

To mark this special occasion, we have a real treat!

Our Guest of Honour will be Chloë Wooley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin.

Chloë will talk to us about Manx Music and she, and her family, all talented musicians, will perform for us.

This has to be a must for your calendar!

Where else will you be able to partake in a three course silver service lunch in London for £30 while, at the same time, learning about Manx Music, listening to the talented Wooley family perform and catch up with friends, catch up on the skeet?

Oh, and by the way, you could win prizes such as an IOM Steam Packet car crossing for two, a £50 voucher to use in the Manx Museum and £20 fuel for a rental car in the Island.

Sam Weller

OBITUARY

Douglas Bolton FCA

It was the Chronicles of Mann that brought Doug to London Manx. Back in 2014 the Society visited the British Library following its AGM, having arranged to see the Chronicles of Mann which are held there. It was a rare opportunity to see a valuable piece of Island history; he decided not to miss it and made it the centre piece of a few days in the Smoke. He joined the Society and, although we have not seen him in person since, we will have seen his contributions to our activities as he faithfully kept the newsletter editor in touch with what was happening on the Island where he had spent his working life as an accountant and, in retirement, found another career breeding Loughtan Sheep at his farm on the outskirts of Kirk Michael.

It is with sadness that we report that Doug died peacefully in Nobles Hospital on 2nd February at the age of 87. Our thoughts are with his friends and family and we take this opportunity of expressing the Society's condolences.

DBH

London Manx member's long walk

Sean is preparing to take on the Isle of Man Parish Walk again in June this year - it's the weekend closest to the longest day. The Parish Walk is a gruelling 85-mile walking race around the Isle of Man and Sean is keen to complete it this year, his fourth go at trying. Each of the Island's seventeen Parish churches have to be visited.

In order to prepare for the race, Sean has been training hard since Christmas. He has been walking long distances, doing strength and conditioning exercises, and eating a healthy diet. He has given up alcohol completely.

The excitement starts on the day before the weekend when we pick up his number and T-shirt at the NSC. It's then an early start the next day to get there for 8am with the other walkers - around 1,500 in total - they expect around 10% to finish at 8am the following day.

This year he will be partnered by our niece Louise and will have the benefit of her very experienced support crew. They will be needed after Peel, which is at mile 32, before then the roads have regular food and drink opportunities. The

traffic on the roads is usually very heavy until Peel - it's been described as a 32 mile traffic jam.

A lot of people retire at Peel (32 miles including the Sloc being a fantastic achievement) and it's a bit of a party atmosphere at the Town Hall - lots of cheering and Manx Radio coverage. After Peel the walkers and also the catering facilities are a bit more spaced out - one of the highlights being Maughold where the village provides a BBQ for anyone who can still eat at that time of the morning - this is mile 67 and well after midnight - although it's still nearly 20 miles to the finish back at the National Sport Centre.

The flights are booked and the training continues!

Wendy Ellis Kneen

Hannah Waddingham to co-host Eurovision

Hannah Waddingham, known to many as the Ted Lasso star playing Rebecca Welton, but to London Manx as daughter of member Melodie Waddingham, will co-host the Eurovision Song Contest, alongside Ukrainian singer Julia Sanina, Britain staging the event on behalf of Ukraine which won last year. The contest will be held at the Liverpool Arena and will consist of two semi-finals on 9th and 11th May with the final on 13th May. Congratulations Hannah.

DBH

Source BBC



Chloë Woolley to be guest of honour at LMS lunch

We hope the front page has whetted your appetite. Next, we'd like you to book. It is going to be a great event. The first formal reunion of London Manx members for a very long time, we have subsidised the event to keep the cost unchanged and to make it as inexpensive as we can and three Island enterprises have added prizes to encourage you to come. We are most grateful to them. While Chloë will provide a special treat, we will also welcome Kate Kneale, daughter of Bryan Kneale, MBE RA, the distinguished Manx sculptor who would like to place a site specific work on the Island reflecting his life-long love of the Island to explain more about it and meet old friends after a long break.

The number diners that the hotel can accommodate is fixed so early booking is recommended. Payment details to reserve a place and to notify any dietary requirements contact: londonmanxsociety@googlemail.com.

RNLI bicentenary

4th March 2024 will be the Institute's 200th anniversary but The Manx Museum's iMuseum newspapers tell me that there was a preparatory meeting in Douglas a year earlier and the society's archives hold a handwritten copy of a play to celebrate the event held a hundred years later.

Members and others may be interested to see it and, this edition of the newsletter being roughly the meeting's bicentenary (although I am unable to ascertain its exact date), I have typed a copy thinking that some groups may be interested in staging it though, if you do, please note there is an additional character in scene two who is not listed as cast. It accompanies this newsletter.

Three hundred plungers

Hundreds of people helped to raise money for good causes around the island when they plunged into the sea on New Year's Day. Possibly the biggest was Douglas's event where more than 300 braved the conditions to raise money for the charities Breast Cancer Now and Beach Buddies with Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer and Lady Philippa Lorimer, who are joint patrons of both charities, among them and bringing with them a group of friends and relatives to join in the event which started with a hailstorm exactly at the 10am start time. Rather smaller events took place around the Island.

Angie Aire of Breast Cancer Now said, "We were a little concerned about an earlier start time than usual of 10am, but it didn't stop us creating yet another new record. We will have the exact number once we have put all the figures together.

"We would very much like to thank our long-term sponsors Canada Life International and the many volunteers who helped on the day, especially the Coastguard, the Lifeboat and the St John Ambulance.

"The hailstorm at exactly 10am was greeted by a huge cheer from everyone and set the tone for another great event which finished in sunshine. It was cold, but it was a great day again and we are so grateful to everyone who took part in any way."

DBH

Source, Manx Radio

New Discovery in Great Laxey Wheel's History

Manx National Heritage has made an important new discovery in the history of the Laxey Wheel. In January 2023 a selection of watercolours from a gentleman's tour of the British Isles went on sale in a London auction house. One of these was labelled as the Laxey Wheel. Closer inspection revealed that this was not the much-loved Lady Isabella, though the location in the Glen Mooar valley was accurately depicted. Instead, it is believed that the painting shows the pre-cursor of the world-famous waterwheel.

Curator of Art & Social History Matthew Richardson commented, "When I first saw this, I was immediately intrigued; not wishing to get my hopes up too early I consulted a number of colleagues including renowned Laxey expert Andrew Scarffe BEM. All confirmed what I was thinking, that this was a portrayal of the original wheel, previously only known as a silhouette in the distance in another painting.

This new picture shows us how that first wheel worked in great detail, and it adds enormously to our understanding of the site. Clearly, the Lady Isabella did not arrive fully formed in the mind of the designer Robert Casement. Instead, he drew on certain elements of the previous wheel, but altered and improved others. It may even be that a whole section, the rod duct, was carried over from that first wheel."

As well as undertaking extensive and painstaking work to preserve the physical structure of the historic sites under its care, Manx National Heritage strives to deepen its understanding of those sites and their place in Manx history. The painting, which dates from around 1840 will now become part of the art collection which is held on behalf of the Manx people by Manx National Heritage.

Courtesy of Manx National Heritage



19th century watercolour shows 'precursor' to Lady Isabella

Primary School house named in Sophia Morrison's honour

The Society was pleased to learn that Sophia Morrison is to be honoured in her native Peel by Peel Clothworkers' Primary School. Amongst the most important Manx figures, she encouraged Manx identity at a difficult time in its history, scarcely a single aspect of Manx identity does not bear her mark.

It is therefore wonderful news that Peel's primary school is to re-name one of its houses in her honour. Previously, the houses have remembered English men unconnected with the Island: Drake, Hawke, Nelson and Raleigh but its houses are being renamed in honour of heroes from Peel's own history.

DBH

Manx Link to Skail Viking Hoard Found in Orkney

In March 1858, a boy named David Linklater came across a few pieces of silver in the earth at the entrance of a rabbit warren near St Peter's Kirk in Sandwick, Orkney. Together with other locals, they unearthed over one hundred items.

This is one of the largest Viking treasure troves ever found in Scotland. The 15lbs of silver that made up the hoard consisted of nine brooches, 14 necklets, 27 armlets and an assortment of ingots and silver fragments. Thought to date from around 950-970 AD, they were carefully concealed in a box of stone slabs.

The Skail hoard contains ten penannular brooches, and fragments of others. Including a large silver brooch clearly meant for ostentatious display of wealth and status. The pinhead and the terminals of the hoop are ball-shaped. They have an engraved animal pattern on one side on the front. The inner collar of the left terminal has broken away but otherwise the brooch is complete. This, along with many of the other brooches, have been identified by experts as from a workshop based in the Irish Sea area. It is thought they were made on the Island or by a Manx craftsman where the same design appears on stone carvings.

There are many Scandinavian, mainly Norwegian, influences in areas of Scotland, Ireland and Isle of Man. The Viking interventions began in the 8th century AD. The Islands of Scotland and the Isle of Man formed the Northern and Southern Isles. The Northern Isles of Shetland and Orkney were known to the Norse as Norðreyjar. The Southern Isles consisting of the Hebrides, the islands in the Firth of Clyde and the Isle of Man were known as Suðreyjar.

There were strong links between these areas. The Isle of Man has a strong Norse–Gael heritage with people of mixed Gaelic and Norse ancestry and culture. They emerged in the Viking Age, when Vikings who settled in the Isle of Man, Ireland and Scotland became Gaelicised and intermarried with Gaels.



Image: Skiall Viking Hoard images courtesy of National Museums Scotland

Praying The Keeills 2023 - Goail Padjer Ec Ny Shenn Chialteenyn

It has been announced that Praying The Keeills - Goail Padjer Ec Ny Shenn Chialteenyn week 2023 will take place from Saturday 20th - Saturday 27th May 2023. Keeills are the Christian chapels built on the Isle of Man between the 8th and 12th centuries. However, the sites and burials can date back to the sixth century, or earlier. The earliest keeills were built of sods of earth and rarely larger than 3 metres by 5 metres internally. Some of the keeills were more substantial – bigger, and built of stone. There may have been as many as 250 of them, of which about 35 now have remains that can be seen.

Praying the Keeills Week is an annual event organised by local churches and who encourage all those who can to join them and state: "We hope you will be able to join in person to share together as we journey on foot, by car and public transport visiting keeills and exploring other sacred sites, learning about our Celtic and spiritual heritage."



Keeill Vael, Balladoole.

Courtesy of Manx National Heritage

News from South Africa

It was a great pleasure to be able at last to get rid of our masks, sanitizers and most of the other impedimenta of COVID at the beginning of April last year. At first it was quite scary to contemplate socializing again, but we have slowly gathered courage and started behaving (almost) normally again.

We had a small Tynwald gathering via Zoom on the afternoon of Sunday 3 July. Those who were able to attend were Kevin Williams (Reiltagh), George Woods (Scrudeyr), Margaret Redman and Noel and Helen Joughin. The toasts were celebrated with tea and water – what an abstemious lot of people we are these days! After the formalities we settled down for a “catch-up chat”. Kevin informed us that he had recently been granted an Ancestral Visa for the UK, and was rather surprised to learn that he would be required to be resident in the UK for at least half of each year for the next five years! As he had several St Johns meetings, celebrations and services to attend, these were keeping him busy in the UK for several weeks, thus completing some of his mandatory UK sojourn, and he had the pleasure and convenience of staying with George in his new home in St Albans during any ‘down time’. Margaret has returned to South Africa after her enforced stay in New Zealand during Lockdown. She was in the midst of our famous “loadshedding” during our Tynwald meeting and was obliged to sit outside where she was able to get a better internet connection. Bear in mind that it was July, our coldest winter month!

On 18 December 2022 we held the annual SA Manx Association picnic at the grand old house, Glenshiel, the headquarters of the Order of St John. We were joined by members of the Bedfordview Methodist Church choir, and we all assembled indoors in the main hall, which had been stripped of its decorations and furniture for the filming of a Netflix documentary. It was rather nice to see the ‘bones’ of this room with its distinctive wooden panelling and windows. Kevin and George started off the proceedings with some Christmas solos, sung by George and accompanied by Kevin on the grand piano.

George was asked by Kevin to give us a report of the Association of St John, England, where George is the Chief Financial Officer. It was a pleasure to hear George express the fulfilment he enjoys in his work. He enthused about the support received by St John’s – the Nation’s Favourite Charity - from the UK government and the National Health Service. The financial situation of St John’s England has improved appreciably under his guidance. In recognition of his leadership role as CEO of St John’s South Africa, and the help that the

Association rendered to those in need during the pandemic, he was inducted as a Knight of the Order of St John at a ceremony in England in December.

George gave us a description of the role that St John's had played in the days before, during and after the Queen's funeral. The queue to pay respect to the Queen was several kilometers long, and there were over a hundred St John's First Aid stations servicing the queue, dealing with fainting, blisters, fatigue and many other situations. He was deeply moved by an incident where they were called to an emergency, and managed to save the life of a woman who was choking.

Kevin and George have joined the Marlborough Methodist church in the heart of St Alban's, where George has been asked to preach occasionally and Kevin sometimes plays the organ. In addition, they enjoy moonlighting at the St Alban's cathedral where they sing in the parish choir.

Paul Stander, who took over the position of CEO of St John's after George left for the UK, gave an impassioned talk about the work of St John's over the past two years. It was great to hear that the financial situation has improved despite the difficult COVID years, and that the Association has prospered while at the same time delivering an outstanding service to all South Africans. Paul expressed his love for the work he does at St John's, and the fulfilment that he experiences daily in his role.

After this, we made our way to the lawn adjacent to the main hall and patio, where chairs had been set out, and we could enjoy the brilliant summer afternoon. We had abundant rain in this early part of summer and the grass was so green that it was almost luminous. Margaret Redman, Penny, Les and Jacquie Smith, Tom Cain, Sally George and her young son and daughter, Adam and Bronwyn, Henry and Helen Joughin and, of course, George and Kevin formed the Manx contingent. Picnic baskets were opened and shared, as were catch-up conversations.

Margaret has three sons, who all live in New Zealand. She was visiting her family when the borders of NZ were closed on account of lockdown, and this lengthened her stay from a few months to two years and three months! It was an opportunity for Margaret to weigh up the pros and cons – family and a new environment, or South Africa with all its old ties to friends, church and the school she had worked at for so many years. Being Margaret, she was soon involved in the local NZ community and recounted in glowing terms her joy in starting a group craft session for people with various mental handicaps.

Margaret has decided to return to her family in New Zealand as soon as she can sell her home here and wrap up her affairs. We shall miss her.

Penny and Les Smith are both very busy people. Les has for many years been the Chairman of Methodist Homes for the Aged, and over the past year has also fulfilled the role of CEO of the organization. There are 15 homes in all and many hundreds of retirees are under the care of the MHA. Penny is a telecoms analyst and continues to run her business, BMIT, (Business and Marketing Intelligence Technology). The Smiths are members of the St John's United church in the central business area of Sandton, where their daughter Jacquie is the accountant and administrator. St John's extensive outreach programme is run by Jacquie as well. Penny's mother has reached the age of 103 years in good health! Recently, the headmistress of Collegiate in Port Elizabeth interviewed her and wrote an article about her in the school magazine. She is the oldest matriculant (1936), and doubtless has many memories of her time there.

Penny is in regular contact with her cousin on the Isle of Man, and also has a friend who lives part-time on the island and part-time in South Africa because of her husband's business.

Sally George is in charge of Singapore Airlines in Johannesburg. She is extremely busy at present as the demand for travel escalates after the compulsory cessation of travel during lockdown. Sally's father, Tom Cain was our Scrudeyr for many years, and is looking as fit as ever at the age of 82.

Bronwyn George has completed her university education and is hard at work coaching swimming and Adam George has returned from a year in the UK and is going to study for his Master's degree in Music this year.

Henry Joughin keeps busy as the family handyman – he is in demand every time renovations need to be done, and he and Kerry are active members of the Anglican community and their outreach programmes. Helen Joughin also keeps busy in the community with The Link Literacy programme at Melpark School and the local Parkview Police Victim Support team.

In chatting to the various people at the picnic, it came across strongly that most members of the Bedfordview choir and the Manx Association are involved in many different community initiatives, and there were enthusiastic discussions about these, as well as news of family and friends.

Our SA Manx Association has dwindled in size over the years, and we are grateful to have a few stalwarts left! It is especially challenging for George, now settled in the UK, Kevin, half the year in SA and the other half in the UK, and Margaret, who hopes to be joining her family in New Zealand permanently

before the end of this year. However, with the help of virtual meetings and occasional get-togethers, we hope to continue meeting with our friends who have a Manx heritage!

All the Best for 2023!

Manx Society of Southern Africa

Laa'l Breeshey, the Saint and the Witch

After the first of a new series of articles about Manx folklore and calendar customs, our article about the Manx traditions for the start of February was recently published in the Manx Independent.

What ties together Bride, Port St. Mary and the Nunnery with a saint and a witch, at the start of February? Laa'l Breeshey, or Breeshey's Day. Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best..... St. Jerome 'Breeshey' is the Manx form of 'Bridget,' the Irish Saint who famously laid out her cloak, which miraculously stretched to cover enough land for her nunnery. Hers is the name behind Bride (the church, village and parish), and it was also believed that it was Breeshey who founded the Nunnery, having come to the island to receive the veil from none other than St. Maughold. The Manx believed that Breeshey would wander the island on Oie'll Vreeshey (St. Bridget's Eve, January 31), looking for a place to stay. So people would make up a spare bed, leave out food and drink, and recite at the door before bed: 'Vreeshey, Vreeshey, tar gys my hie, tar gys y thie aym's nocht. (Breeshey, Breeshey, come to my house, come to my house tonight.) In the morning, if the food and drink tasted and the bed slept in, it was a sign that Breeshey had visited and your house was blessed, so you could look forward to great luck and fortune ahead. This was, however, open to abuse, as at least one story tells us. Edward Faragher, the poet of Cregneash, tells of the woman of Earyween, a farm high up the Baldwin valley, who prepared correctly for Oie'll Vreeshey. However, unknown to her, a Jurby man was passing in the night and couldn't resist the free food, beer and bed. He had already gone by the time she emerged in the morning, allowing her to believe that Breeshey had visited and her luck was made. She carried this belief to the grave, as the man was too ashamed to tell the true story until after her death. We recently released a video on the Culture Vannin website and YouTube of Ruth Keggin telling this tale, in the very place where it happened. But what of the witch? It was believed that the Caillagh ny Groamagh (roughly translated as 'Gloomy witch') was thrown in

the sea in Ireland and drifted here. On the morning of February 1 she landed at Port St. Mary where she hunted for sticks to light a fire to dry and warm herself. The area she landed used to be known as Callie or Caillagh Point, but has today become known as Kallow Point. It was later believed that she once lived on the exposed slopes of Cronk ny Iree Laa. So the legend goes, it is hoped that every ditch will be full of rain or snow on the first morning of February. This is so the caillagh cannot start her fire, and only then can we be sure of a good spring. So, whether you're leaving out food on 31 January, or hoping for rain on the morning after, Laa'l Breeshey is another great day to reflect on our own special Manx traditions and beliefs.

Queensland Manx Society

Roaring into Manx Museum

One of the most iconic machines in the history of motorcycling has roared back to life as preparations for the opening of a world class new TT Gallery gather pace at the Manx Museum. The Suzuki RG500 was ridden to victory by Mike Hailwood, the most successful rider of his generation, in the 1979 Senior TT. In preparation for display in the Manx Museum's TT gallery, another legend has breathed life into this spectacular motorcycle once more, studying and recording the extraordinary machine's engine and gearbox.

Carefully selected for his experience working on two stroke engines for some of the greatest riders of modern times, including Joey Dunlop, Carl Fogarty and Steve Hislop, racing engineer Anthony 'Slick' Bass was honoured to take up the challenge. Working on the priceless machine in a secret location over a three to four week period, what he found was extraordinary. Instead of the expected corrosion and successive restorations, the engine was just as Mike Hailwood had left it.

Slick said, "After carefully stripping down the machine, to my amazement, we discovered the engine to be in near to original condition, which was an absolutely extraordinary find. Remarkably, coolant liquid had corroded a small hole in the water pump housing, with the liquid draining away, meaning that magnesium and aluminium components had not corroded over time. The machine had effectively been dry since around 1980. The coating of oil remaining inside the engine had preserved the machine in amazing condition".

The work uncovered fascinating details never before revealed, such as the factory-stamped engine, the modified frame, the prototype brakes and thumb choke, and unbranded prototype tyres which had been slashed as they came off the track.

Christopher Weeks, Conservator for Manx National Heritage said:

“After detailed studies, the machine was carefully reconstructed, using next to no replacement parts in the process and we had the thrill of actually hearing Hailwood’s Suzuki run once again for the very first time since 1979. This was one of the most extraordinary days of my career and I’ll never forget it”.

Hailwood was already a living legend when he returned to the Island in 1978 after an eleven year absence, single-handedly re-invigorating the event. In 1979 he returned for his farewell TT. Only Suzuki had the confidence to supply a machine for him to ride, the RG500 on which Hailwood scored his 14th and final TT win.

Although the machine is too fragile to risk damage on the course, in future the thrilling sound of the RG500 roaring into life will continue to be heard when the bike is started as part of regular conservation and maintenance.

The RG500 will go on display in the new TT Gallery at the Manx Museum, paired with the original leathers and helmet worn by Mike Hailwood in one of the most famous races of all time, the 1979 Senior TT.

Opening in time for TT 2023, this spectacular gallery at the Manx Museum is a new visitor attraction not to be missed.



Image: Mike Hailwood at Union Mills in the 1979 Senior TT. Image by Ken Sprayson courtesy of Manx National Heritage.

Manx National Heritage

The Big Lock In and The Mystery of the Missing Castle Rushen Ruby

Over 400 Brownies, Cubs and their leaders from across the Isle of Man have taken part in the 'Big Lock In' at the Manx Museum. Visiting the museum, in the belief they were coming to the Museum to watch a film, their real mission was much more complicated, as they found themselves at the scene of an alleged crime.

After learning that the 'Castle Rushen Ruby' had been stolen, the young detectives set to work piecing together evidence hidden in the museum galleries and solving clues to locate the missing treasure.

The children were able to have a go at lifting finger prints, analysing hand writing samples, examining evidence, seeking out secret passageways, DNA swabbing and interviewing suspects. The teams then reported their findings back to the Police in the incident room. After examining the evidence in more detail, and with the help of some incriminating CCTV footage, the culprit was soon apprehended, handcuffed and taken to Douglas Police Station for further questioning.

The 'The Big Lock In' was jointly organised by Manx National Heritage and Girlguiding and Scouting Isle of Man to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Manx Museum.

In addition to the special evening events, a new MUSEUM 100 Guiding & Scouting badge has been launched to encourage young people to explore the heritage and culture of the Isle of Man.

Courtesy of Manx National Heritage

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to make your members aware of my new book, 'Manxman Captain Henry of the Mosquito Shore 1752-1769'.

The book is a tale of survival in the alien environment of Central America: exporting mahogany and tortoiseshell to England and Jamaica and dealing in contraband with the neighbouring Spanish. Captain Corrin was extremely successful and a global trader. When Captain Corrin died in 1769, he left his

Bluefields estate to his five-year-old Peel nephew, Robert Cummins. Captain Robert Cummins would later become a British naval hero in his own right. For copies of the book/further information please contact: John Manley Mobile: 07624 420662 Email: johnmanley58@hotmail.com, or Toby Press, 37 Stanton Road, Ashbourne DE6 1SH Tel: 01335 345239 Mobile: 07771 667097 Email: bpps@franscript.co.uk.

With best wishes,

John Manley, Historian & Author, Douglas, Isle of Man

New Members

In the past week or so we have been delighted to welcome new members, Kathryn Kneale and Chris Moorhouse. We look forward to meeting them soon.

Follow London Manx Society on Facebook

Over recent months we have seen an increasing number of people following our society's Facebook page. Follow us on Facebook. Access to the page can also be made via the f icon our webpage via www.londonmanxsociety.co.uk

Alastair Kneale

Island Quiz

(Open to non-member through the web site)

1. What is the name of Flanagan's girl who wanted to be taken to the Isle of Man again?
(a) Mary Ann, (b) Mary Elizabeth, (c) Mary Mary, (d) Mary Sue?
2. Is the most southerly point of Man's main island (a) Dreswick Point, (b) Langness Point, (c) Scarlett Point, (d) Spanish Head?
3. Was the 1888 (unsolved) murder victim (a) Joni Callister, (b) Jack Corlett, (c) Betsy Crowe, (d) Billy Quayle?
4. Was the Battle of Ramsey Bay fought (a) between Bride and the Mull of Galloway, (b) on the shore at Port-e-Vullen, (c) in Ramsey Bay, (d) at Shellag Point, Bride?
5. Is the Manx Gaelic word for "Coronation" (a) barriaght, (b) crooinaghey, (c) crooiny, (d) roshtyn?

Answers to December quiz

- 1 (d) Wordsworth.
- 2 (a) an explosion.
- 3 (a) Bowring Road.
- 4 (c) Boxing Day
- 5 (c) Happy Christmas.

Winner's note:

After my advising him of his win, Richard Moore wrote, "Many thanks once again for providing me with good news" adding that he knew Ramsey well but never remembered Bowring Road being known as the Sandy. And it was. A 2010 edition of the Ramsey Sprint 2010 wrote, "Bowring Road used to be called the Sandy for good reason. The road underneath is sand as it formed part of the river delta before it was diverted at the stone bridge and into the current harbour at the end of the 19th Century. The road was shameful and has been for years. It needed doing and unfortunately, due to its position, was always going to cause inconvenience.

"I spent my early life in Kirk Michael from 1955 to 1966, moved to Ramsey just before starting at Ramsey Grammar School after one term at Albert Road Primary School - opposite the Ramsey Bus Station.

"I am sure that my grandparents and mother would certainly have known: my grandparents on her side were born and bred in Maughold and my mother was actually born at home in Maughold Street.

My father's parents were, like him, from Kirk Michael."

DBH

Acknowledgements

The editor thanks Alastair Kneale, Wendy Ellis-Kneen, Richard Moore, Sam Weller, the Manx Societies of Queensland and Southern Africa for their kind contribution and also NAMA, Isle of Man Newspapers, Manx Radio, Culture Vannin 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 mail 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 of the Society. Closing date for the next issue, 22nd May 2023

Dates for your Diary

Annual Lunch, 13th May 2023, £30 per person

Bloomsbury Suite, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Southampton Row, WC1B 4BH

With generous support of Isle of Man Steam Packet Company,
Mylchreest Motors and an anonymous well-wisher.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IN THREE MONTHS

PLEASE SEND NEWS TO

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LONDON MANX SOCIETY