

## NEWSLETTER Summer 2013

Editor – Douglas Barr-Hamilton

### **Melodie Waddingham delights Society's Lunch**

Our 2013 lunch took place on 20th April in the Russell Suite of the Doubletree by Hilton in Southampton Row and after a good meal, past president, Stewart Christian raised the toast to the Queen, Lord of Man, followed by the Manx National Anthem.

Popular senior member, Maisie Sell was presented with a bouquet of flowers, the day being her ninety-first birthday. Maisie's lovely poems appear in our newsletter and she is still lively and sprightly at her great age. She is an example to us all. We learned later that Veen Hill was also celebrating her birthday and had invited her two daughters and two grand-children to the lunch in lieu of a party. Her grandson, Carter, proved to be an expert at selling raffle tickets!

The office of president had been vacant for two years and we were happy to see Alastair Kneale installed by Stewart as our new President. Alastair was born in Regaby, leaving the Island to take a degree at Surrey University followed by Bristol. He is employed in the public sector in the City and spends his time between London and refurbishing his house in Laxey.

Professor Bryan Corrin then gave us the toast, Land of our Birth, recalling days when he was evacuated to the Island, his description of rough journeys on the Steam Packet boat met with sympathetic groans all round. He shared memories of Douglas during the war years when Corrins and Creers hailed from the South, the Costains from Colby and the Kneens and Dodsworths came from Upper Douglas. He mentioned the old Manx surname Corjeag which has now disappeared altogether.

Alastair then greeted us all in Manx, "Good Manx men and women, welcome on this warm spring day," and toasted the guests before introducing Melodie Waddingham, our Guest of Honour.

Melodie's maiden name was Kelly and she related how she was brought up in a Manx family with a great joy of living and a deep love of music. Her parents had met in the Choral Union and her earliest memories are of listening to the Messiah, taking music lessons and imbibing music from all around. She attended Ingleby School in Douglas before moving to Rushen Primary when her father bought Cooil's Cafe in Port St Mary in 1952. When Melodie went to Castle Rushen High School, she was fortunate enough to be taught by Harry Pickard who, along with his son, Alan, did so much to advance the music scene in the Isle of Man. They wanted every child to make music, whether playing and instrument or singing and Harry encouraged Melodie to apply for an audition to Trinity College, London where she won a place to study singing, piano and violin. She has vivid memories of leaving the Island and adapting to life in London, an experience shared by many of us.

Her first job on completing her training was to go on tour with My Fair Lady and she later joined the Royal Opera House singing with famous conductors like Sir Colin Davies George Solti and Sir Malcolm Sargent. After a break of eleven years to raise her two children, Melodie joined English National Opera where she stayed for 28 years, appearing in the Carmelites and the Mikado amongst many other well known productions of which we were reminded by the photographs on display.

Having decided to retire in 2010 and after spending the first holiday on the Island for many years, Melodie was delighted to receive a phone call to join the cast of the film, "Quartet" directed by Dustin Hoffman. Based on the real life Casa di Ripose, a retirement home for gifted musicians founded by Giuseppe Verdi, the film's location was Hedsor House, near Taplow, set in beautiful surroundings. Having worked all her life in Opera Houses, Melodie experienced the luxury of being well looked after on the film set. She was particularly impressed with Dustin Hollman who was kind and friendly and, being a givted musician himself, joined the cast after shooting to sing and play the piano. Another Manx connection in Quartet was Maron's husband, Jack Honeyborne who made frequent appearances throughout the film as a professional jazz pianist. Alongside famous names in the cast included Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Tom Courtney and Pauline Collins. I think many of us had spent most of the film trying to spot Melodie and Jack.

We enjoyed listening to the story of Melodie's career and we gave her a small piece of Archibald Knox pewter to express our gratitude. It is interesting to note that another well known Manx singer, Christine Teare, was present - also a protegé of the Pickard family with a successful career in the world of Opera. After the raffle, we all sang Ellan Vannin and returned home with our new President's exhortation to "keep the Manx flag flying in London."

**Mavis Bell**



## **Alastair Kneale**

She stayd onnoroil Eaghtyrane Yn Çheshaght Vanninagh Lunnin. She shennaghys liauyr as mie ec yn Çheshaght Vanninagh Lunnin. Ta fys aym dy vel shin ooilley maynrey ve nyn olteynyn. (President of the London Manx Society is an honourable position. The London Manx Society has a long and excellent history. I know we are all glad to be members.)’

Alastair was born and brought up in the Isle of Man. Since completing a degree course at University he has worked in London. Alastair now spends his time in London and also in Laxey, Isle of Man. He praised the work being undertaken by all of the officers, committee members and every member of the Society past and present. ‘As always it takes the work of a dedicated few to maintain the continued success of any organisation. This is particularly true of those in the London Manx Society, who are real supporters of the unique culture and traditions of the Isle of Man. Those who give their time voluntarily in all capacities, as well as every member of the Society are tremendous ambassadors for the Island.’

Alastair is a keen supporter of the Manx Gaelic language. ‘Over recent years there have been tremendous developments in regard to the Manx Language. In recognising the significant revival in the fortunes of Manx, particular mention needs to be made about the great work being undertaken at the Bunscooill Ghaelgagh, the Manx Language Primary School in St Johns, Isle of Man. The children are taught lessons solely in Manx at the Bunscooill. There has also been considerable progress in teaching Manx on the Island. Adrian Cain, Manx Language development Officer for the Manx Heritage Foundation, amongst others, has worked hard to achieve this. A process helped by the increased number of broadcasts in Manx now being made by Manx Radio.’

Alastair is also keen to promote cooperation and understanding between the Six Celtic Nations of Isle of Man, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany. He is the founder of the inter-celtic website Transceltic.com . ‘There are significant cultural and historical links between these Celtic lands as pointed out by The Celtic League. The pan-Celtic festivals that take place in the Six Celtic Nations, including Yn Chruinnaght (The Gathering) on the Isle of Man, have

seen Manx music and dance talent coming to the fore. This is demonstrated by the tremendous success achieved by artists from the Isle of Man at all of these festivals.'

In looking at the inter-Celtic festivals in the home Celtic Nations, it is also exciting to see the blossoming number of such festivals taking place in the 'New World'. It is also great to see the participation in these festivals of our sister Manx societies and organisations around the world. We send greetings to them all.

### **Tynwald Cooish**

Our next annual event will take place on Saturday 6th July when we shall gather for our midsummer cooish from 12.30 p.m. at 2 Priory Way, Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9BH, the home of Nicolas and Elizabeth Watson.

The event is traditionally well attended and it would help Elizabeth if you could telephone to say you will go so she can cater appropriately: 01462 452160

### **2014 Homecoming**

We have learned from the North American Manx Society that their homecoming, long scheduled for next year, will take place between Thursday 3rd July and Monday 7th July and that activities will include an all-day coach tour to some of the Island's beauty spots, a reception at the Manx Museum, the raffle of a Manx quilt, a special NAMA banquet, attendance at the Tynwald Day ceremony and guest at the Governor's Tea Party.

London Manx members over at the same time may be able to join them in some of these activities and will certainly enjoy the atmosphere their visit will engender.

### **Barrow Manx Society**

The Manx Society in Barrow has a full programme for the summer and autumn. On 17th June they visit Sizergh Castle with tea afterwards and on Tynwald Day they will lunch at Michaelson House. Their autumn programme gets under way on Monday 23rd September with a talk from Mr Robert Wheatley at Cheques Hotel in Dalton, they will hold a mhelliah lunch once more at the Chequers on Sunday 13th October, then on Monday 18th November will enjoy an illustrated talk about the Midnight Sun Marathon and Norway and, preparing for Christmas in good time, have booked the Chequers Hotel again for Christmas lunch.

**DBH**

### **March Snows**

The Island's mountains were white throughout my recent visit in mid-March but the snow was as nothing compared with that of Friday 23rd and subsequently. The Isle of Man experienced the heaviest fall since at least the early 60s, probably 1947. The west of the Island was hardest hit with roads impassable and Kirk Michael completely cut off. The severe weather conditions also hit the Scottish isles and the north of Ireland but it was Man that received a BBC television crew that reported regularly and, a day or two later, accompanied some Michael farmers as they searched huge drifts for missing sheep.

Faced with an unparalleled situation, the Manx community rallied around to support its farmers who are facing a catastrophic loss of livestock. To help the effort to raise funds for the Isle of Man Agricultural Benevolent Trust, the Manx music trio *Barrule* released a track early from their forthcoming album, a track almost prophetically called, *Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey* (The Sheep Under The Snow). The generous band comprises Jamie Smith, Adam Rhodes and Tom Callister and Greg Joughin sings the Manx gaelic vocals on the track who deserve our praise.

It is still possible to donate: see the band's website [www.barruletrio.com](http://www.barruletrio.com).

**DBH**

## **May sunshine**

It being my sport, I was delighted to read on the [iomtoday](http://iomtoday.com) web site that the Island's volleyball club is now promoting the sport again and provided an opportunity to watch and to try in the Villa Marina gardens over the weekend of 25-26th May.

Those who enjoy the game will be able to play at the Onchan Community Centre on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

## **Round the Island Glens**

The Island's glens have always provided pleasure and delightful memories and over the years some seventeen of them have been adopted as "National Glens" and are maintained by the government. I have recently paid them all a visit, albeit only on line, although that created its own challenge.

Probably the most popular in view of its proximity to Douglas is Groudle Glen a little natural canyon and a large pool near the sea, it was made into a special attraction for summer tourists in late Victorian times. Walking there is now peaceful and it can be reached by the tram. Following the Groudle River takes us to Molly Quirk's Glen via a tunnel under the main road. It's a narrow, wooded glen along the stream and parts were generously donated by Ballakilmartin Farm. I go into Bibaloe Glen, a very small glen, which is more like a path along the stream, the path being known as Bibaloe Walk formed when the Douglas to

Laxey road was built in the 1800s, cutting it off from Bibaloe Farm. The path is rather primitive and a little rough but still a lovely walk.

Towards Governor's Bridge and at the top of Victoria road is Summerhill Glen, with wide footpaths leading through trees and bushes to a children's area. It also has a little piece of history, two old canons at the western entrance revealing where a small island defence point once stood.

The east coast is famous for its glens. Renowned in its day is Laxey Glen created in about 1800 with a planting programme that lasted around 50 years and some of the larger trees from this time are still visible in the glen. The pleasure grounds, once so popular, have long been left to develop naturally.

I carry on towards Ramsey and alight at Dhoon Glen, small and beautiful. A difficult glen to walk descending from mountain to coast rapidly, the paths rugged with steep inclines and often wet from random streams of water. It requires effort to see its unique beauty with streams tumbling over waterfalls on their way to the sea.

I have always preferred Ballaglass Glen, a couple of miles to the north, deep and rocky with the Cornaa river running rapidly down to the sea. Its beauty is amazing as it was once an industrial area: a corn mill, still in use when I first went and mining in the mid to late 1800s. Copper, lead, and zinc were found beneath the riverbed and the signs these former industries remain all through the glen, though mostly covered by thick vegetation.

Approaching Ramsey the road passes over a deep ravine down which runs Ballure Walk a tiny glen winding down to the coast below where "wreckers" are supposed to have lit fires to lure ships to their destruction.

Nearby, between Lhergy Frissel and Cloughbane is another deep valley, Elfin Glen. Nearby used to be a slate quarry that provided the stone used to build the Albert Tower which overlooks the glen and offers good views of Ramsey and the northern plain.

Heading west on the TT course and leaving it at the Ginger Hall, I arrive at Sulby Claddagh. More flood plain than glen it is probably the only true common land left. I recall its beautiful simplicity when it was used to graze animals but I feel its appearance has been spoiled by "tasteful" posts needed to control vehicles of visitors camping there during TT fortnight. I wonder what the Sulby Cossacks would make of the change. Yet it remains pleasant out of season with the Sulby River on one side and a sparkling stream seeming to bar the foreboding Cronk Sumark to its east.

Continuing through the claddagh, turning left I arrive in Sulby Glen. It's unlike all the others. The Sulby river runs through the middle of the valley, parallel to the road. The glen is more suitable for serious ramblers than casual walkers but there are some short walks and the scenery is breathtaking and stopping by a pool where the river valley flattens out briefly is a delight and so peaceful.

I take a car to the plateau as it's a serious walk to reach Tholt-y-Will, a glen below Sulby Reservoir, deep with steep sides and winding paths, a waterfall and

riverside walks. A centre offering Manx craft works is situated on the boundary of the glen near the road. Parking was available and there are picnic areas and sign-posted maps of walks.

Most vehicles fly past Bishopscourt Glen at over 100mph but I stop to find what was once part of the bishops' private garden. It's said that Bishop Murray took refuge there from angry locals during the 1825 Potato Riots.

Continuing west through Michael, I arrive at Glen Wyllin. I can't forget Sunday School outings there, this glen having been mainly a pleasure ground owned and operated by the railway. Acquired by the government in 1978, an attempt was made to restore the glen's natural beauty but since the early 1980s the glen has been used as a camp site with even more facilities added the late 1990s. Some mature trees remain and natural history devotees will admire the ferns, horsetails, and mosses which grow well in the moist shady conditions.

Glen Mooar is deserving of another mention as we described it in a recent newsletter but no more for now as Peel is bypassed to arrive at Glen Maye. The glen is well known for its spectacular waterfall with overlooking bridge and at the bottom of the glen is the Mona Erin wheelcase: a mini Lady Isabella and the only remains of the mining which took place in the glen between 1740 and 1870. In the sheltered climate of the glen, ferns thrive and the path winds down to a pebbled beach where sea birds nest.

Had I taken the inland route from Michael to Ballacrane, I would have passed Glen Helen, once known as Glen Rhenass. Last century it was acquired by a Liverpool man and named after his daughter; it has glen gardens with rustic bridges and waterfalls through foliage as a theme although the main attraction is Rhenass Fall on a stream that makes its way down between two hills flanked with boulders. Refreshment is available from the family friendly Glen Helen Inn. South-west in Port Erin are several glens. One, a combination of nature reserve and pleasure park is Breagle Glen. For the ramblers there is narrow dirt track through dense vegetation, essentially a nature reserve while the youngsters can be left in an activity area. Afterwards, all can meet up in the cafe.

Overlooking the town is Bradda Glen where paved paths wind through trees and on to Bradda Head and Milner's Tower. High up the glen large fuchsias grow in abundance. Then close to the town is Athol Park Glen, just off the Steam Railway Line. Large trees shade the summer sun and a tiny stream runs through the glen. It too has a children's play area with loads of modern equipment.

Just outside Ballasalla is Silverdale. On the Silverburn River, it comprises two main parts, one a play area with boating lake and famous water powered merry go round dating from the early 1900s. The other is the cafe building and old mill which, although long dormant, adds character to the area.

Returning finally towards Douglas I go to Port Soderick Glen which has much on offer: open spaces for picnics, beautiful flowering areas and sheltered walkways. The glen leads down to the shore and small bay and the walk can continue round the headland. Approaching Douglas, it was worth a stop at Colby

Glen which is one of the few glens left without man's interference with only paths and bridges cleared and maintained. It is pure wild beauty with plenty of trees.

Now I need to do it all for real.

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**DBH**

### **The Aliens have landed**

Picture this! Port St Mary promenade, quite deserted and bathed in moonlight while the guest houses lining it were all in darkness.

It was Christmas Eve, 1940 and inside the compulsorily blacked-out dwellings their Manx proprietors were roasting goose for their German guests who were known universally as The Aliens.

The latter's cultural habit was to enjoy their feast on Christmas Eve so their hosts were helping them to uphold this custom. But one Alien, Herr Eberhart, did not feel up to merry-making. He had just lost his wife in this unfamiliar land and was in deep mourning. He chose to join the sympathetic Manx folk, confident that they would provide him with a toned-down festive season, more in keeping with his depressed state. Never mind that his cast a pall over the locals' own celebration. No objection from the young people was entertained; a new slogan excused everything: "Remember, there's a war on."

Before midnight the silence outside was broken by musical sounds. A large number of Aliens had been mustered in the cold and, forming a choir, was walking slowly while singing the beautiful German carol, "Silent Night, Holy Night," all the way to the far end of the promenade. The locals came out to hear and enjoy this inspired and memorable gesture from the Aliens.

The Manx were told it was a "Thank you," for all their efforts to make their guests' incarceration bearable.

### **Veen Hill**

### **Friends and Heroes**

The last few years have seen some fantastic developments on the Manx language front but one which deserves special praise is the launch this week of the Manx Gaelic version of *Friends and Heroes/Caarjyn as Fenee* cartoon series.

First show on the BBC in 2007 and already available in eleven languages the Manx Gaelic version is illustrative of what a vibrant and exciting time it is for the Manx Language.

These fun Biblical stories are set in the first century AD and follow the adventures of two children, Macky and Portia, as they engage in countless escapades and fight for justice across the Roman world.

The project has been made possible by the generosity of Friends and heroes Production Ltd, which produced the animated series, and which is part of the AFD group based in Ramsey .



The DVD box set consists of thirteen 25 minutes episodes, in Manx - nearly 5½ hours of animated material in total - and comes with subtitle options in both Manx and English. The DVD is available to buy from Manx Heritage Foundation Alison Dorricott, Executive Producer, of Friends and Heroes came up with the idea of translating the series into Manx whilst attending a language course ran by Adrian Cain, the Manx Language Development Officer, for the Manx Heritage Foundation. Bob Carswell RBV was responsible for the translations whilst Paul Rogers recorded and edited the material. The whole project was made possible by fantastic support from the Manx Language community who provided the voices for the characters, as well as the Manx Heritage Foundation, The Gaelic Broadcasting Committee and Manx Radio.

The release of this Box set closely follows the release of *The Gruffalo* in Manx - *The Gruffalo's Child* will be released later this year - and the development of a fantastic Learnmanx app for Android and iphones. It's definitely a great and exciting time to be involved with the Manx language.

**Adrian Cain**

### **World Fiddle Day 2013**

Manx fiddle players joined forces in a global initiative when they gathered at the Strand Shopping Centre in Douglas to celebrate World Fiddle Day. Organised locally by the Manx Heritage Foundation, Island based fiddle players of any age or ability were invited to participate in the first 'Manx Music flash mob' to be staged on the Isle of Man, which it was hoped would involve all members of the violin family, including viola, cello, double bass, hardanger and viola da gamba. Using a set of tunes led by David Kilgallon, they included Peter O'Tavy, Three Little Boats and Car y Phoosee followed by free traditional music workshops with two of the Island's leading fiddle players and composers, the aforementioned David Kilgallon and Katie Lawrence.

World Fiddle Day is the brainchild of Caoimhín Mac Aoidh, a Donegal fiddle player who decided upon an annual celebration of the instrument and its extensive family after realising that a dedicated day of celebration was yet to be established on the calendar.

It's a day in the year when fiddle players from all over the world can celebrate the beauty of the instrument together, and is timed to fall on the Saturday closest to the 19th May, the date of the death of Antonio Stradivari (Italian luthier and crafter of stringed instruments) and brings together people in both the northern and southern hemisphere with the hope they can hold outdoor events involving groups of people.

Events will be happening all over the world, including Ireland, Germany, Holland, Cuba, Canada and the USA. ([worldfiddleday.com](http://worldfiddleday.com))

**Valerie Caine**

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## **Box Designed by Archibald Knox Takes the Biscuit**

During a recent auction at Reeman Dansie of Colchester, a decorative biscuit box designed by the internationally famous Manx designer Archibald Knox was sold for £26,000 to a private collector in the UK.

This attractive Cymric silver, enamel and blister pearl biscuit box by Liberty & Co. was part of a remarkable collection of Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau silver which recently came to light after 40 years locked away in a bank vault.

They were being sold by the daughter of the late Douglas Shepherd (1922 – 1989) an architect and designer for the Ind Coope Brewery and a member of the Art Workers' Guild, who was responsible for several pub interiors during the 1970s which reflected the style of renowned artist and designer William Morris. Shepherd collected silver by Omar Ramsden, Robert Ashbee and Archibald Knox between the 1950s and 1970s.

Speculation that the biscuit box was the only known example of its kind outside the Victoria and Albert Museum in London attracted eight telephone bidders, with an opening bid of £7,000, which was well in excess of the pre-sale estimate of £4,000 - £5,000. A battle between London dealer Jan Van Den Bosch and a UK private collector eventually pushed the price up to £26,000.

The 80th anniversary of Knox's death has just been celebrated on the Isle of Man, with supporters of the Manxman's work gathering at the designer's grave at the new Braddan Cemetery to hear Chairman and Founder of the Archibald Knox Society speak briefly about the man and lay a floral tribute.

This was followed by an exhibition and sale of artefacts by Island resident Chris Hobdell at the nearby Braddan church hall, which included a number of items designed by Knox, all of which were sold in record time as keen buyers and curious onlookers crowded into the tiny hall to see what was on offer.

**Valerie Caine**

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## **Island Quiz**

(open to non-members through the web site)

1. In what London show did Melodie Waddingham 's daughter Hannah recently star:  
a) Flower Drum Song, b) Kiss me Kate, c) My Fair Lady, d) South Pacific?
2. By what name is the Manx Music, Speech and Dance Festival popularly known:  
a) Folk Festival, b) Guild, c) Yn Cruinnaght, d) Yn Kiaull?
3. What was the Royal Navy's name for Ronaldsway Airport during the second half of WW2 while a Fleet Air Arm base:  
a) HMS Blackcap, b) HMS Scraal, c) HMS Urley, d) HMS Valkyrie?
4. Is under 21 hockey international, Louise Corkill, from:  
a) Castletown, b) Douglas, c) Peel, d) Ramsey?

5. Which glen is found immediately below Sulby Reservoir:  
a) Glen Auldyn, b) Bishops court, c) Sulby Glen, d) Tholt-y-Will?

*Answers to the editor by post or email, please. Closing date 14th July.*

*The first reader to send me five correct answers will receive a £20 voucher to spend at a Harbour Lights restaurant on the Island  
Our thanks for their kind support.*

Answers to March's quiz:

1. Dan Teare, who died in 1787 aged 111, was the oldest recorded Manxman.
2. The 12 apostles can be found at Bishops court.
3. Sugarloaf Rock can be found below the Chasms.
4. The Carnanes can be found south of Cronk ny Iree Laa.
5. The "Three Legs of Man" is the name of the ferry that crosses the estuary at Knysna, Western Cape.

*No all-correct answer was received.*

### **Another triumph for Cav**

Laxey's Mark Cavendish finished top in the points classification (for the best sprinter) at the recent Giro d'Italia three-week cycle race, making him only the fifth rider to have accomplished this feat in all three of the great cycling tours.

**DBH**

### **Members' details**

We are required from time to time to state that a record of members names and addresses are held on computer and that the details are confidential under data protection rules. Should anyone need another member's address or phone number, we are unable to provide it direct but Douglas, LMS membership secretary, will be happy to make contact on your behalf.

**DBH**

### **Acknowledgements**

The Editor thanks Mavis Bell, Margaret Brady, Adrian Cain, Valerie Caine, Veen Hill, Alastair Kneale, Wendy Ellis Kneen, Maron Honeyborne, Maisie Sell 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*) or 132 Bush Hill, N21 2BS.

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Closing date for the next issue, 24th August.

### **Visiting LMS web site**

#### **London Manx Society website – [londonmanxsociety.com](http://londonmanxsociety.com)**

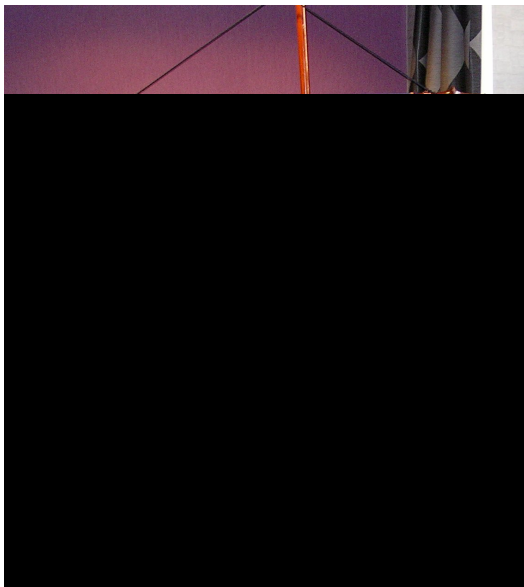
The minutes of our March AGM are posted on the web site and, in addition to Margaret Brady's standing down announced in our last edition, Rose Fowler and Veen Hill also decided not to stand for re-election, Rose after many years of service to the Society, most recently as its Hon. Secretary. As a result, there are three vacancies.

For items on what's happening on the Island, go to **NEWS** and then

#### **MANXLIFE**

**Wendy Ellis Kneen**

### **Views from the Annual Lunch**





## Letters to Editor

### LMS Choir

I was interested to read Mike Devereau's letter in the Spring edition about his 78rpm record of the LMS choir. I recall being told that a record had been made of it singing in St Paul's Cathedral during the mid '30s and that the service had been broadcast by the BBC and relayed through loud speakers in Athol Street, drawing large crowds to listen. Can anyone vouch for this?

### Maron Honeyborne

*We are delighted to report that Maron has made an excellent recovery from the injuries suffered in her recent fall and that she was well enough to enjoy April's annual lunch with us.*

### Quartet

I understand that Tesco and some other supermarkets are selling the film "Quartet" with all the out takes. Both Jack Honeyborne and Melodie Waddingham were in quite a lot which had to be cut from the general release film. It has a golden sticker on the front which says that there is a commentary by Dustin Hoffman. From the good reception Melodie received at the lunch (what a lovely occasion that was! Well done, Sam!) I should imagine that a fair number of Manx members might like to find this particular version of Quartet. Please could you let everyone know?

Many thanks in advance.

**Margaret Brady**

*I thought the lunch a marvellous occasion too. Ed.*

### **A double event**

Another wonderful birthday this year  
Among long-time friends I hold specially dear,  
Didn't really expect it, but had half a hunch  
I might share the day with the London Manx lunch!  
Overjoyed when it finally came to pass  
And even the weather turned out first class.  
Met new friends whose families I'd known  
Back in the days when Peel was my home.  
More memories to treasure when time to depart,  
How these joyous gatherings warm the heart.

**Maisie Sell**

### **Dates for your diary**

**AGM**

**Midsummer Cooish**

Saturday 6th July

12.30 p.m.

2 Priory Way, Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9BH

The home of Nicolas and Elizabeth Watson

Everybody welcome.

Telephone: 01462 452160

**Mhelliah**  
Monday 7th October  
St Bride's Church and Press House Wine Bar

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE IN THREE MONTHS**  
**PLEASE SEND NEWS TO:**  
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(telephone number 020 8360 8001)  
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**Visit the Society's web site at [www.londonmanxsociety.com](http://www.londonmanxsociety.com)**