

## **President – Professor Bryan Corrin**

NEWSLETTER Summer 2019

Editor – Douglas Barr-Hamilton

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Society held its AGM on 19th March 2019 at the Casa Mamma restaurant in Grays Inn Road, and the usual business conducted. Stewart Christian, Derek Costain, Margaret Hunt, Nicholas and Elizabeth Watson and Mary Weller were unable to attend and presented their apologies..

Treasurer, Sam Weller presented his report, financial statements and accounts for the year to the end of February which showed an excess of expenditure over income of £497 but this had been planned. However, the society's investments had fallen along with the stock market by £505. Their value currently stood at £7,686 so the society's finances are sound.

The President reviewed the past year including mention of all our activities, observing that AGM attendance was down from last year and thanked committee members for their work.

The secretary reported that email and telephone communication had meant just a single meeting but the affairs of the Society had continued. There was encouraging attendance at both the annual lunch and mhelliah. A booklet of poems had been produced in memory of Maisie Sell and its cost reflected in the printing costs. The newsletter continues to be produced quarterly and seems to be well received and total membership was now 97, an increase of one over last year.

No nomination for President had been received and with Professor Bryan Corrin standing down at the end of his three year term, the meeting was unable to elect a President but it was agreed that the committee could co-opt Alatair Kneale to fill the office.

The other officers and committee members were re-elected: Douglas Barr-Hamilton as Hon. Secretary, Sam Weller as Hon. Treasurer with Stewart Christian, Alastair Kneale, Sally Miller and Maron Honeyborne elected to the committee with Past President Bryan Corrin joining ex-officia.

In his address, the President expressed concern at shrinking numbers and challenged the committee to strive to recruit more members. In the following discussion, it was suggested that the committee set themselves a target of 105 members at the end of the year by mounting an agreed recruitment drive. The full minutes of the meeting have been published on the Society's web site.

### **OBITUARY**

#### **Carol Radcliffe**

Carol died on 18th March, two days before her 82nd birthday. She had been undergoing treatment for lung cancer for about two years, the illness having

struck very suddenly. Before that she had been in excellent health, an active golfer and committee member of her golf club, near Brentwood in Essex where she had also been ladies captain. A very sociable person; she and my wife, Margarita often went together to theatre and exhibitions. However, she joined London Manx only comparatively recently, attending our annual lunch on several occasions.

I first met Carol when I started in Standard 2A at Albert Road School in Ramsey in September 1944. We were in the same class. At Ramsey Grammar School she did well academically but many will remember her best in the school's annual Gilbert and Sullivan productions, in the chorus when younger and in the lead as Josephine in "HMS Pinafore". She had a very good singing voice.

Carol went to college in Liverpool and taught in the city for the following two years before moving to London where she took an additional diploma then a MA degree while a teacher before becoming a local council schools administrator and, later, deputy Director of Education, both in the London Borough of Newham

Carol and I came face to face again nearly thirty years after our first meeting at a mutual friend's party in Ramsbury, Wiltshire and have been in contact ever since, meeting frequently for a drink, a meal and a chat. She was always up to date with Ramsey news maintaining her close friendship with Aileen Ball (née Corlett) for whom she had been a bridesmaid.

Her funeral, held at Bentley Crematorium, near Brentwood on 11th April was well attended and led by Rev. Paul Carr, the team rector of Emmanuel Church Billericay, the town where Carol had been living in recent years.. Her sister, Joy, asked me to say a few words at the service and I was privileged to tell a little about her life, her membership of the Society and her friendly and cheerful personality even in the recent spell of ill health.

**DBH**

### **Annual Lunch**

You will want to arrive soon after mid-day on 1st June at the Doubletree by Hilton, in Southampton Row, still known to many as, "The Bonnington," because the Society is proud to announce that Dr John Callow will be the guest speaker at its Annual Lunch. He will be speaking on "Yn Stanlagh Mooar: The Great Stanley as Cavalier and the Lord of Man".

Dr John Callow is a Manx writer and historian, specialising in Seventeenth Century politics and popular culture. He has given lectures at the Manx Museum and been the invited speaker at a number of events on the Isle of Man. He is the author of 'The Making of James II', 'Witchcraft and Magic in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Europe', 'King in Exile' and 'James II -The Triumph and the Tragedy'. His book 'Embracing the Darkness. A Cultural History of Witchcraft' was recently published by I.B. Tauris to wide acclaim. Alongside his books he is the author of the articles on 'The Limits of

Indemnity: Sovereignty and Retribution at the Trial of William Christian (Illiam Dhone)' (Seventeenth Century, vol.XV. no.2), 'Thomas Fairfax as Lord of Man' (in England's Fortress – New Perspectives on Thomas, 3rd Lord Fairfax) and a study of 'Lieutenant John Hathorne & Garrison Government on the Isle of Man, 1651-60 (Isle of Man Studies Vol.XIV).

**Alastair Kneale**

### **Manx Folk Songs in London**

Last month a couple of members joined others with an interest in Manx folk music to hear a lecture at the English Folk Dance and Song Society in Camden Town, It was given by Stephen Miller, originally from Onchan, on the subject of the Gill brothers and their collecting folk songs of the Isle of Man between 1894 and 1898. We learned that, although Manx by blood with both parents' Island forbearers going back two centuries, the brothers were born in Sicily where their father worked but they both retained a lifelong interest in the Isle of Man and the younger returned to live and work there to rise to be deemster while the older became a London civil servant. There were a number of other collectors of Manx music at the time motivated by the triple threat of heavy emigration during the latter part of the nineteenth century, the decline of the Manx language and the Methodist revival with its hymn singing. It seems that their work led to the marginalisation and neglect of the Gill brothers and that they remained so until the one half of the work exchanged between them held among the personal papers of Deemster Gill were released in 2000 although they had, of course, produced the well known Manx National Song Book

The papers show that the brothers, W.H. Gill (1839-1923) and Deemster J.F. Gill (1842-99), although overshadowed by A.W. Moore (1853-1909), whose had Manx Ballads and Music published in 1896, and Dr John Clague (1842-1908), much of whose collection was published in edited form in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society in the mid 1920s, actually left more manuscript material behind than any of these collectors,

We also learned that they seem to have been more systematic in their approach and that they collaborated in their research with Dr Clague, leaving him to seek out folk music in Rushen while they travelled the Island - not an easy or speedy activity in those days - with W H Gill visiting in the summer and over a four year period collecting together 101 songs from every parish except Onchan and Santon, with a large number found in Jurby.

**DBH**

**Knockaloe Centre for WW1 Internment**

Originally scheduled to open in March this year, the centre's web site advises us with profuse apologies that it has decided to postpone the opening of the centre until everything is in place which is likely to be early May.

On the day after war broke out the U.K. government passed the Aliens Restrictions Act to control the movement of "enemy aliens" and the first two hundred internees arrived in the Isle of Man the following month, to be housed in Cunningham's Camp, Douglas. The numbers quickly built up and soon there were riots about overcrowding and poor food in which five internees died and a former territorial training camp at Knockaloe Moar farm was pressed into use. This grew to be the largest WW1 internment housing various nationalities, notably German, Austrian and Turkish, increasing to nearly 23,000 after the sinking of the 'Lusitania' in 1915 led to even more internment.

Three miles in circumference, the prisoners were contained in 23 compounds surrounded by almost 700 miles of barbed wire, guarded by some 4,000 old soldiers, including Archibald Knox, with the basic comforts provided by 250 civilian workers some, no doubt, ancestors of Society members.

In September 1915, the hastily built Knockaloe railway line, paid for by the U.K. government, was opened to carry goods the mile or so from the St. John's - Peel line and was in use for some five years before being dismantled.

The centre has been established by the Knockaloe Charity which first set up a web site on the centenary of the camp's opening then, after confirmation that the Manx government would project the site from development, it turned Patrick's old school into a visitors centre. It sounds as though it might be worth a trip when next on the Island. If it's soon, check. [www.knockaloe.com](http://www.knockaloe.com) to verify its opening.

**DBH**

Sources: Knockaloe web site and Adrian Darbyshire (iomtoday 12/02/18)

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### **George Hobbs on MER**

Loughtan Books has recently (CHECK - news 2.04.19) published a new book by George Hobbs entitled, "Power, Poles & Platelaying: keeping the Manx Electric Railway on track." It examines the civil, structural and electrical engineering behind the well-known facade of the Island's heritage railway and shows how the well-loved Victorian and Edwardian electric railways are supported by twenty-first century railway practices.

The book is packed with rare and, in many cases, historic photographs showing changing working methods as well as seldom-seen and visiting vehicles.

**Sara Goodwins**

## **Isle of Man Bank moves to Jersey**

Isle of Man Bank has written to its customers to explain a planned move of its business to Royal Bank of Scotland International in Jersey. The bank insists that while products and services are moving to RBSI's headquarters in Jersey, customers will notice no changes to their accounts and the Isle of Man Bank has applied to the high court for approval of a scheme to transfer over the legal entity. The court hearing is expect to take place on May 21.

If the high court approves the scheme - which also requires the consent of the Financial Services Authority regulator - then the business will be transferred to RBSI at just after midnight on 28th May.

**DBH**

iomtoday 20/03/19

## **Manx Scriptwriter's Missing Masterpiece Resurrected for Radio**

The late Nigel Kneale is considered to be the Island's most successful radio, television and film scriptwriter, subsequently immortalised by his creation of the cult BBC TV science fiction series Quatermass during the 1950s. But a rarely heard play entitled *The Road*, recently aired on BBC Radio 4, revealed another side of his work.

He was born in Dalton in Furness in 1922, but the Kneale family returned to the Isle of Man six years later, when his father, a journalist, joined his brother to run the *Mona's Herald*.

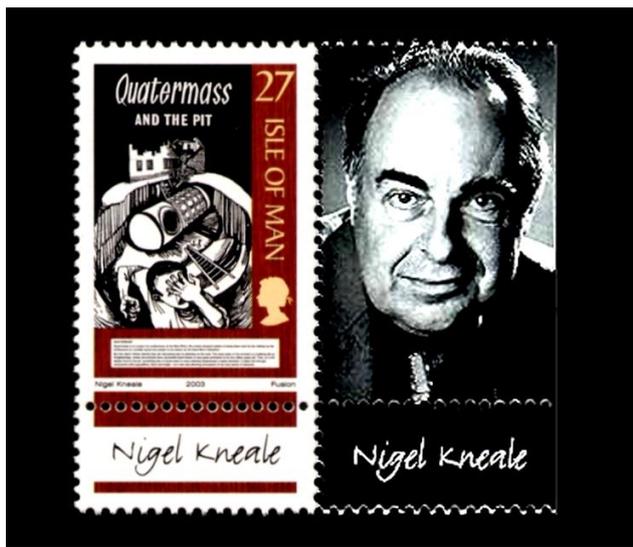
Upon leaving Douglas High School for Boys he initially studied law, but soon realised that his talents lay elsewhere, writing several short stories reflecting upon Island rural life and published in 1949 under the title *Tomato Cain and Other Stories*. He ultimately left the Isle of Man to study acting at RADA, and was presented with the Somerset Maugham Award, but then concentrated on writing for the burgeoning television industry.

Voted Manxman of the Year in 1957, Nigel Kneale soon formed an impressive reputation as an innovative screenplay writer, although he did decline the early James Bond films.

Adapted by Toby Hadoke, who kept as close as possible to the original script, he described *The Road*, last seen on television more than fifty years ago, as a lost classic. It centres upon the ghostly activity of a country wood in 1768, but playing against the backdrop of this story is the dichotomy between the scientist and the philosopher who jockey for position throughout this narrative of the supernatural; which ultimately becomes a tale of futuristic horror. The main players in this formidable production (played by Mark Gatiss and Adrian Scarborough) remain at odds with each others' beliefs throughout the story, but there's a terrifying realisation for one of them in the closing moments of the play.

Unfortunately the original televised broadcast was systematically wiped, along with countless other programmes at the BBC during the 1960s/1970s, but the script, described as 'one of the greatest missing masterpieces', survived. A 1964 Australian TV version was also lost.

Recorded at Maida Vale Studios in London and Salford's Media City, Hadoke's contemporary version benefited from some of the original radiophonic sound effects and the talent of actor Hattie Morahan, whose late father, Christopher, directed the original adaptation. The recording was also attended by Nigel Kneale's widow, Judith Kerr. A successful writer herself (*Mog*, *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*), she spoke fondly about her late husband and his work.



A study of Nigel Kneale's productions reveal a tendency for prophecy, but look closely and you'll also find a trail of subtle Manx references. One of the main characters in *The Road*, Squire Hassall, may well be named after the man who lies in Malew churchyard, better known these days under the sobriquet of the Vampire Grave. Additionally, in the story, unseen people walk upon cobbles beneath the road on Michaelmas Eve and strange cries rent the air - a parallel, perhaps, with the 'little people' travelling to and from an ancient barrow (burial mound) to Maughold churchyard using underground passageways, and the sound of angry voices at a hill fort in Castletown. He also introduced Manx topics into his radio drama *The Long Stairs* (based on the Snaefell mining disaster) and his only stage play *Crow*, centring on the life of the Manx slave trader Captain Hugh Crow of Maughold, which regrettably never went into production.

Nigel Kneale died in 2006.

(Images courtesy of Isle of Man Stamps and Coins)

**Valerie Caine**

© March 2019

(Courtesy of Manx Life)

## **Tynwald Cooish**

Committee member Sally Miller and her husband Peter have once again kindly agreed to throw open their house and garden for the Society's mid-summer cooish on Saturday 13th July and cordially invite members to join them for the afternoon. Their address is 225 Chesterton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1AN and we are asked to assemble from about one o'clock. Please ring Sally or Peter on 01223 502007 or email [sallymiller7@gmail.com](mailto:sallymiller7@gmail.com)  
Do note that parking is difficult so rail travel and taxi is recommended.

**DBH**

## **Explore the Isle of Man before Photography**

Over 300 watercolours from the Island's national art collection have joined other public and private collections from around the world to create a free online website of watercolours painted before and around 1900. Watercolours of the landscape, buildings and people of the Isle of Man by artists including Archibald Knox, Robert Evans Creer and John Miller Nicholson are available to enjoy at [www.watercolourworld.org/collection/manx-national-heritage](http://www.watercolourworld.org/collection/manx-national-heritage) in addition to [www.imuseum.im](http://www.imuseum.im).

This latest initiative fits perfectly with MNH's objective to provide better access to the national collections to as many people as possible. Indeed, the oil paintings already appear on the Art UK website enabling the collections to be enjoyed by audiences around the world at [www.artuk.org](http://www.artuk.org). Watercolour World website provides a fantastic global shop window for a selection of paintings from the Island's art collection. A simple map is included with each painting showing the location of each scene and visitors with local or historical information can leave a comment on any of the images.

Watercolour World is the brainchild of Fred Hohler, the British former diplomat who founded the Public Catalogue Foundation in 2002 which photographed and published over 200,000 oil paintings in public ownership in Britain for the first time, including those held by Manx National Heritage.  
Courtesy of Manx National Heritage

## **The Lord of Mann and the king's escape**

Until 1859, 29th May was an English national holiday known as Oak Apple Day to commemorate the escape of Charles II after defeat by Oliver

Cromwell's troops at the Battle of Worcester in 1651, the date being the king's birthday. The story of his escape after hiding in an oak tree is well known and most Manx folk know also from the saga of Illiam Dhone, shot a little later in 1653, that the Island was a royalist stronghold in those days. However, less familiar I suspect is the part played in the survival of the Stuart monarch by James Stanley, Yn Stanlagh Moare (the Great Stanley), Lord of Mann, 7th Earl of Derby.

Following the 1649 execution of Charles I, the Earl ensured the Island remained faithful to the royalist cause and offered shelter to its exiles, thwarting attacks by the Navy. Charles II, just 20 years old, landed in Scotland in 1650 and the following year marched into England with the army he had raised to try and take the throne. The Earl joined him with 300 men, joined up with the Royalist army and took command for the Battle of Wigan-lane on 25th August. They were routed, losing half of their troops but, although separated, the Earl and the King escaped.

Well to the south, they met up again a day before the Battle of Worcester where Royalist troops had occupied the city. Although in a strong position, many of its defenders capitulated and the king, in disguise, escaped in the familiar account of his hiding in a tree. After making sure the king had a secure refuge where he could arrange his return to France, the Earl returned north, was captured at Nantwich and subsequently tried in Chester and condemned to death then, on 15th October, executed in Bolton.

With the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, his son Charles became 8th Earl of Derby and Lord of Mann.

The day is still observed as Founder's Day by the Royal Hospital, Chelsea which was founded by Charles II in 1681.

### **DBH**

Sources: The Isle of Man, Kinvig; Brief History of Isle of Man, Sara Goodwins; Simon Artymiuk, iomtoday.

### **Cleveland Manx Society**

We understand from the North American Manx Association that it has lost contact with the Cleveland Society and is seeking to re-establish it. The society has posted a note on the Cleveland web site ([www.namanx.org/Cleveland](http://www.namanx.org/Cleveland)) to say they are currently unable to contact any officer of the Society. If any reader has a contact in the city, please let the LMS secretary know so he can pass the information on. It would be such a shame to lose contact with the descendants of the many from the Island who first settled in that part of Ohio a century or more ago.

The Cleveland Man Society was organized from Mona's Relief Society and Mona's Mutual Benefit Society which provided assistance to immigrants from the Isle of Man, Mona once being the name of the Isle of Man. Mona's Relief Society was organized by 21 Manx settlers in 1851, 25 years after the first Manxmen arrived in Cleveland, for "the mutual improvement of its members, and the

charitable relief of" Manxmen in need. It was supplemented 4 years later by Mona's Mutual Benefit Society, a fraternal insurance society charging monthly dues and providing sick and death benefits. In 1935 the Benefit Society had 200 members. Between 1876-86, Mona's Relief Society had 268 relief applicants and paid \$1,745. The society bought a burial lot in Woodland Cemetery, burying 60 there until 1911 when it bought a larger lot at Highland Park Cemetery. Mona's Relief Society became a major social and cultural institution in the Manx community. In 1853 it began annual Manx festivals, and in 1880 initiated an annual picnic; both raised funds for relief work. By 1886 the society had 65 members; it began a debating club for young people in the late 19th century. In 1899 an endowment fund was created and the Ladies' Auxiliary was established; its quilting and sewing meetings provided a more regular income for the society's relief work. The society supported "the First Great Manx Homecoming," a visit to the homeland, in 1927. By the mid-1970s, Mona's Relief Society was known as the Cleveland Manx Society, and had 133 members.

Cleveland Manx Society, Membership Directory (Nov. 1974).

### **Newsletter by email**

With increases in postal charges in excess of the rate of inflation over recent years, the cost of postage and envelope now exceeds the cost of printing the newsletter. We already distribute it electronically to a couple of dozen members and to a dozen other Manx societies around the world. Our printer has a minimum printing charge and the Society has no intention of moving from providing a paper copy but, if members do not mind the news received electronically, it would save expense. Do please let the secretary (Douglas Barr-Hamilton) know your email address if you are happy to forego paper, stamp and envelope.

**DBH**

### **Acknowledgements**

The editor thanks Valerie Caine, Alastair Kneale, Sara Goodwins, 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, 23rd August.

### **June Island Quiz**

(Open to non-members through the web site)

1. From what date could women vote in Manx elections  
(a) 1876, (b) 1881, (c) 1886, (d) 1891?
2. Ramsey Court House, recently in the news, dates from  
(a) 1790, (b) 1800, (c) 1810, (d) 1820?
3. In "English Passengers" who sailed *Sincerity* from Peel to Tasmania,  
(a) Capt. Callister, (b) Capt. Kinvig, (c) Capt. Kewley, (d) Captain  
Qualtrough?
4. By what name was HMS St George better known on the Island during  
WW2  
(a) Bride radar station, (b) Cunningham's Holiday Camp, (c) Knockaloe  
Moar, (d) Ronaldsway Airport?
5. Which of these IOMSPCo ships was *not* lost at Dunkirk  
(a) Ben-my-Chree, (b) Fenella, (c) King Orry, (d) Mona's Queen?

Closing date 15th July. The first reader to send me five correct answers will receive a £20 Manx bank-note

**Answers to Spring quiz:**

1. The House of Manannan is to be found in (c) Peel,
2. Cashtal yn Ard is a (b) Neolithic tomb,
3. Castle Rushen clock appears on the Manx coin of the denomination (b) 20p,
4. The Orchid Line runs in (a) Ballaugh,
5. The missing Mary Weller Yn Cruinnaght award for solo instrumentalist 11 years and under was found at (d) Ramsey Town Hall.

Brad Prendergast of the Chicago Manx Society was the first to answer the quiz questions (by one hour ten minutes) and all correct.



Brad with his mother Florence (his Manx connection) courtesy of NAMA

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **Annual Lunch**

Saturday 1st June, 2019  
Doubletree by Hilton  
92 Southampton row, WC1B 4BH  
12.00 for 12.45 p.m.

### **Tynwald Cooish**

Saturday 13th July, 2019  
1.00 p.m.  
*See page 7 for details*  
225 Chesterton Road, Cambridge, CM 1AN

### **Mhelliah**

Monday 14th October, 2019  
12.00 noon  
St Bride's Church Fleet Street, EC4Y 1DE.  
followed by lunch at Punch Tavern, Fleet Street

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE IN THREE MONTHS**

**PLEASE SEND NEWS TO:**

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**Visit the Society's web site at [www.londonmanxsociety.co.uk](http://www.londonmanxsociety.co.uk)**