



FOUNDED 1895

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 Summer, 2023
Editor – Douglas Barr-Hamilton

The Annual Lunch

Well, not exactly annual: the pandemic meant that we had missed two years but 2023's was a wonderful event and, despite several obstacles, the best attended for a long time. We are most grateful for Island support. The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company's raffle prize allows two people to travel to the Island with their car at no expense and other sponsors gave £50 to use at the Manx Museum shop, a voucher for fuel when using Mylchreests car hire and a book on Manx history and culture donated by Chloë. We thank all who donated a prize.

On 13th May nearly forty people, many new to society events, assembled at our usual venue, the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Southampton Row, some for a pre-lunch drink and chat, before an excellent meal at one o'clock followed by our singing of the (Manx) National Anthem and Ellan Vannin then a brief talk on the work of sculptor Bryan Kneale by his daughter Kate and a wonderful presentation of the work of Culture Vannin by Chloë Wooley, niece of former LMS President Marron Honeyborne (1990-92) who, sadly, died of Covid during the pandemic. Chloë performed along with former professional musician husband Malcolm Stitt and Guild-winning Gaiety stage performing children Cristl and Kerron that took us through a year of Island traditions.

DBH



The Manx Year

The group took us through twelve months of traditional events. We enjoyed New Year's Day first footing and Mylecherane's Dance on twelfth night, learning it was the original tune for our National Anthem. They also performed the Flipper Dance, a Good Friday dance, and entertainingly explained Ole Voaldyn, celebrating the end of Winter. London Manx holds Yn Mheillea each year and we learned that it's the name of a dance too before moving on to Hop tu naa, and "Jimmy the Witch" before Keegeesh Ommidjah, Creg Willy Syl, Oie il Verrey and Hunt the Wren: delightful and informative presentations.

DBH

Obstacle Overcome

The committee went through an anxious time during the fortnight prior to the lunch. Too late to cancel the hotel booking and with interest in attending very light, a rail strike was announced and some six probable guests felt forced to cancel. As many contacts as possible were made and we thank everyone who responded, made further contact on our behalf and attracted so many to join us.

Eurovision

During his address to the lunch Alastair Kneale, our president, asked us watch the televised contest that evening and cheer Hannah Waddingham. How well she did!

New Members

It was encouraging for the Society that three of our guests, Serena Luff, Peter Gray and Christine Corkhill made an immediate decision to join as members and we both welcome them and hope to see them and others too at our Tynwald cooish, which will be on 24th June this year. Everyone hopes more will join us and provide an input of fresh and younger blood.

Bryan Kneale MBE RA

The celebrated artist and sculptor, Bryan Kneale was born in Douglas 93 years ago this month into a talented family, Nigel Kneale being his elder brother. He first studied painting at Douglas School of Art before broadening his education and experience in London and Rome then, in 1960, started sculpture. While engaged in sculpture all the time, he followed a teaching career that led him from Hornsey College of Art to Master and later Professor of Sculpture at the Royal Academy from 1982 to 1990. After recognition with several prizes, in 1974 he was elected to the Royal Academy and was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours of 2019.

His daughter, Kate, spoke about him and his work at the Society's lunch this month and told us that, sadly, Bryan suffered a stroke in 2014. He has continued to paint but is no longer able physically to sculpt but he has conceived one last work to be called, "The Ellipse" a representation of which we reproduce here and he would like it made and the Island to be its final home. Members who would like to know more can read an interview last year on

<https://www.pangolinlondon.com/blog/52-in-conversation-with-bryan-kneale-included-in-the-catalogue-bryan-kneale-through-the/>



Tynwald Cooish

The Society's next event will be the Tynwald cooish and we are planning to hold it on 24th June, a few days ahead of the big day. It will again be in Peter and Sally Miller's lovely garden in Cambridge and we'll start around 1.00 pm although earlier arrival will be fine if train times dictate. Either Cambridge main station or Cambridge North station is fine and both have a taxi rank.

Our hosts will provide our food including, of course, Manx kippers but contributions to the lunch, a bottle of wine or other drink favoured by the giver, whether soft drink or beer/lager etc. as these are most easily carried on train journeys, will be welcome.

It would be most helpful if you could let Sally know by 10th June if you plan to come, giving any dietary requirements she needs to know: 01223 502007 or 0788 660 4249.

Island's Coronation celebrations

While the world's focus on the events of the coronation of Charles III was fixed on London with the governor and Chief Minister at the ceremony in the Abbey and others: two police officers on duty and an ambulance volunteer and a sea cadet lining the route, there were celebrations on the Island too. Several venues were open for communal viewing of the television coverage of the parades and ceremony: at the Empress Hotel in Douglas and Park Hotel in Ramsey, where afternoon tea was available afterwards, in the Market Square in Castletown and at the Courthouse in Ramsey where there was also a community market. Then, in the early evening, Douglas' peace was shattered by the flypast of four Texan Mk.7 planes from RAF Valley in Anglesey.

On the Sunday there was a street party in Ramsey, a Parish Day in Ballaugh and a fair in Colby that was followed by a concert and, next day, a fête in Onchan at the Methodist Church, tea and entertainment on the Queen's Pier in Ramsey where the fourth and fifth bays are nearly complete, the first three being the venue, an afternoon tea with the public able to take a walk on the latest stretch of the pier to be restored.

DBH

March Snow

It seems odd to be reporting on snow in our summer edition but members may be interested to know that the Island experienced a heavy snowfall immediately after receiving our Spring newsletter. Most areas were heavily blanketed and the mountain roads closed although the route from Creg-ny-Baa to Douglas was soon cleared. However, Sue Woolley tells me that Ramsey escaped the snow and they were a bit disappointed. Elsewhere it was heavy and many trees blown down made it difficult to clear the strong drifting on the road between Ballacraigne and Kirk Michael.

With its temperate climate, only infrequently has the Isle of Man experienced memorable blizzards but one was the great snowfall of 1895 - and it did snow in Ramsey that year! Island newspapers tell the story of a thick white blanket covering the whole island: two feet deep drifting to 10 feet, was one estimate. The Ramsey Courier describes a south-easterly blizzard producing 33 hours of snow with temperatures as low as 19°F and it certainly came down hard from the outset. The train from Peel could not make Douglas and its passengers had to spend the night at Union Mills while the train to Ramsey got no further than Ballaugh. The “Ellan Vannin” anchored outside Glasgow because of poor visibility and a vessel that had continued its way into the post collided with her. The Ramsey lifeboat, after being carried to the harbour for launching, was dropped into it before the tide had risen sufficiently and it was damaged, fortunately above the water-line, allowing temporary repairs before setting off late to take the crew from a stricken vessel in the bay.

Different organisations seem to have had a different approach to clearing the snow. Access to the Snaefell Mine was re-established in a few days but Laxey Wheel would not turn so water could not be pumped from Laxey Mines. Snow piled up in Parliament Street in Ramsey remained there for three weeks and it was a long time before anyone could reach Sulby. The effects of the blizzard were most severe in the North of the Island but in the South Santon was badly affected and business on the day after the fall was suspended in Douglas and very few shops opened while a ship went aground near Port St. Mary and the Castletown lifeboat was launched to bring the crew ashore. Many events from funerals to football had to be postponed. In the countryside, grass covered by snow prospered but the turnip crop suffered as did other vegetables and those looking after livestock found life difficult with a big loss of sheep.

Each of us probably has memories of snowfall on the Island. Do share your own with us for our Winter newsletter; my own are of 1947 when there were two in the early months of the year and a blizzard in mid-March so severe that the

cleared snow seen from the bus to school in Ramsey dwindled so slowly that it was the first week of May before it had disappeared. Perhaps a June report on snow is not so unseasonable especially as it snowed heavily again on 12th April.

DBH

Source: Island Newspapers



Waterloo Road, Ramsey, February, 1895. Courtesy of Manx Museum iMuseum

Changing route to Douglas

It won't be this year, but a bypass is coming between the airport and Douglas. Gone last month is a row of houses on Railway Terrace in Ballasalla demolished as part of the village by-pass scheme. It will provide a new four-leg roundabout at Balthane which will link the new bypass, re-routing the main Douglas to Castletown road from the centre of Ballasalla. The new section of road will link Glashen Hill in the north of the village to Balthane to the south.

DBH

Source: iomtoday

Too old to drive!

Mylchreest Car Hire have advised me and Avis confirmed that Avis Car Hire for whom they are agents, now has a maximum age of 78 for those hiring a car on the Island (their own is 76). They believe that all other firms also apply a similar maximum age to all wishing to hire a car on the Island. It makes life more difficult for older members.

DBH

New TT Gallery opens at Manx Museum

The gallery was formally opened by the Lieutenant Governor on 25th May but some members will be aware that it has been open to the Manx public since 15th while finishing touches were being made.

Admission to the new gallery will be free although donations are welcome and the museum opens daily from 9.30am to 4.30pm, extended into the early evenings over TT fortnight as the race schedule allows, hours that will be published on a daily basis throughout TT.

DBH

Source: Manx National Heritage

London Manx's Lifeboat Play

Sue Woolley and Bob Carswell have felt inspired to investigate the use made of the play depicting the meeting that led to the founding of the RNLI, a copy of which we circulated with our last issue. Bob uncovered the following newspaper articles telling us that the Society staged the play at one of its meetings and, two years later, it was performed on the Island in Peel and many of the actors, perhaps all, were LMS members. Even more interesting, he found coverage of the Tower of Refuge centenary commemoration a year earlier that seems to have inspired its first performance:

Ramsey Courier, Friday, May 13, 1932, p.8

HISTORIC LIFEBOAT CEREMONY.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF R.N.L.I.

CENTENARY OF TOWER OF REFUGE.

Interesting Demonstration.

In the evening, an excellent programme of items dealing with varying phases of lifeboat work was presented at the Gaiety Theatre, Douglas. A sketch depicting a scene in Sir William Hillary's residence at Fort Ann, when it was decided to build the Tower of Refuge, was presented by Manx Legion players, and the second scene represented a Manx cottage a hundred years ago, in which lifeboat rescue work was brought into striking prominence.

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The producer and stage manager was Mr Chas. Carroll, and Mr Noah Moore arranged the programme. The library and cottage scenes were written by Mr A. Q. Moore, and the orchestra was under the direction of Miss K. Rydings.

Ramsey Courier, Friday, March 10, 1933, p.7

London Manx Society – open meeting at the St Bride Institute -

The second half of the programme opened with the presentation of the sketch, "The Foundation of the Lifeboat Institution." This was written by the Society's member, Mr A. Q. Moore and had already been presented at home by the Manx Legion. The characters were :-

Scene I. :-Sir Wm. Hillary, Mr R. H. Fargher ; Thos. Crellier [sic] (Editor Manx Sun), Mr C. Cormode ; Mark H. Quayle, Mr W. S. Rosee ; His Honour Deemster Haywood, Mr A. S. Beresford ; Sir Geo. Drinkwater, Mr J. T. Freer ; Manservant, Mr G. Robertson. Scene : The Library at Fort Anne Hotel, Douglas.

Scene II :-John Quilleash, Mr G. Rothwell ; Kate Quilleash, Mrs G. M. Poulter ; Mrs Quilleash, Mrs W. S. Rosee ; (A friend from the South) ; Another lifeboatman, Mr G. Robertson. Scene : A Manx cottage 100 years ago.

The make-up of the characters was very realistic and for this and 'noises off' Mr Rosee deserves great credit. The 'lightning' too was 'vividly' worked by Mr W. L. Long. Mr P. Allen ably attended to the lighting and the curtain.

The whole story was excellently portrayed and reflected great credit to the author, Mr Moore, the producer, Mr D. Fleming, and to all who took part, a splendid cast of capable players.

A collection was taken for the Lifeboat Institution and the satisfactory result will amply repay the officers for their kindly lending the props without which the show could not have been staged.

Peel City Guardian, Saturday, February 09, 1935, p.11 –

The second part of the programme was a request repeat performance of the romance of the Lifeboat played on the occasion of the Centenary.

Those taking part were –R. H. Fargher, J. T. Freer, W. P. Allen, A. S. Beresford C. Cormode A. Tootell, G. Rothwell Mrs G. M. Poulter Mrs Rosee, G. Robertson.

The whole playlet was excellently played and staged and held the audience spellbound.

A collection for the Lifeboat Institute realised a fair amount. Oilskins etc. for scene [sic] two had been kindly lent by the Institute.

We are most grateful for this information and the marvellous examples of the activities of our predecessors.

DBH

Thirty-seven and three quarters

The title of an exhibition by Rachael Clegg at the House of Manannan in Peel from 27 May to 25 June 2023, open 9.30am to 4.30pm daily. The exhibition and gallery tours are free but donations to the charity Manx National Heritage are welcome. More information can be found at www.manxnationalheritage.im/whats-on/

Rachael Clegg, a motorsport journalist and visual artist whose father and grandfather both competed in the Isle of Man TT races will open the doors to her latest exhibition for TT 2023 celebrating the history of the TT through a series of strikingly unusual monochrome photographs, each interpreting and illustrating an event in its history. This history, along with hundreds of stories from Rachael's research has fed into her series of images taken over the last ten years known as *Milestones*. Her latest images will be in this exhibition.

If on the Island for the TT, not to be missed.

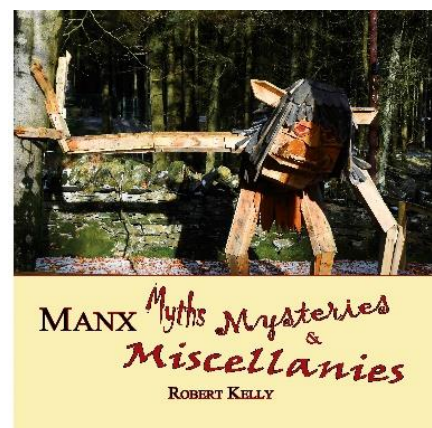
DBH

Source: Manx National Heritage

Manx Myths, Mysteries and Miscellanies

Do you know what a Vitascope clock is? Or where you can find the remains of the Manx flax industry? Or what was the meaning behind Mabelreign? Robert Kelly does! Manx born and bred, Robert spent his entire life researching and writing about the Isle of Man, and amassed a huge fund of fascinating and little-known information. Sadly, Robert died in 2018, but this collection of some of his unpublished work reminds us not only of his erudition and delight in detail, but also his love of the myriad stories which contribute to the identity of his homeland. Whether he's writing about repurposing a concrete ship or the history of the Douglas mace, Robert Kelly writes with wit, individuality and style.

Sara Goodwins



Railways' special anniversaries

Some of my friends love steam trains and view the Island as a paradise for railway enthusiasts. Its Heritage Railways are unrivalled with their unique narrow gauge tracks, beautifully preserved and still running as they ever did. 2023 is a particularly special year, as it is the 150th anniversary of the Steam Railway and the 130th anniversary of the Electric Railway. Both have played an important part in boosting the Isle of Man's tourism, as well as serving the needs of Manx residents throughout their combined 280 years of service. This year, therefore, there will be a celebration of the railways and the ingenuity of the people involved in their operation over the years with a packed calendar of incredible events.

Saturday 1st July - Celebrating 150 Years of Steam

The day will be filled with celebrations to mark the official anniversary of the opening of the Douglas to Peel line by the Isle of Man Railway Company Ltd on 1st July 1873. Featuring the 150th Anniversary Plaque unveiling, a Victorian Fayre at Port Erin Station, a Loco Line-Up at Douglas Station, a Dining Train to commemorate former Isle of Man Railways Company Secretary G.H. Wood, and much more.

Sunday 23rd July - Sunday 30th July - A Week-Long Railways Festival

A festival to celebrate both anniversaries featuring Manx Electric Railway Motorman Taster Lessons, Legendary 'Boat Trains', Ultimate Railway Experience Tours, Workshop Tours, and much more.

Sunday 10th September - Celebrating 130 Years of Electric

A special commemorative day to mark 130 years of the unique Manx Electric Railway which first opened from Derby Castle to Groudle Glen on 7th September 1893. Featuring the 130th Anniversary Plaque unveiling, a Victorian Fayre at Laxey Station, Snaefell Mountain Railway Workshop Tours and more. The railways can be enjoyed throughout the year, whether it's experiencing an unforgettable journey along the coastal cliff tops, trying out one of the many unique dining events, taking a trip to see Santa, or enjoying a 'Fyn & Tonic' (with award winning Manx Gin!) and a Manx Mezze Plate with friends on the MER Fynoderee Line.

BBC Two's Great Coastal Railway Journeys

An episode on Monday 22nd May on BBC Two where Michael Portillo visited the Isle of Man's ancient parliament of Tynwald, being taken down the east coast on the Isle of Man Steam Railway to Castle Rushen, one of Europe's best preserved Medieval castles, test-drove the smallest production car ever made in Peel, hopped aboard a working fishing boat at Port St Mary and met two passionate advocates of the Manx language.

IOM Government, Visit Isle of Man

Retirement of the Manx Missile

Just in time for us to be able to include the news in this newsletter we heard the news that Mark Cavendish had announced on a rest day in the Giro d'Italia that he will leave cycling. He expects to race in the Tour de France which starts on 1st July when he will start his retirement. He has just turned 38 and told a news conference, "Cycling has been my life for over 25 years. It's taught me so much about life, dedication, loyalty, sacrifice and perseverance - all important things to pass on now as a father.

"The bike's given me opportunities to see the world, meet incredible people who are involved and not involved in the sport - a lot of whom I call friends. Today is my son Casper's fifth birthday; it's a rest day and I can spend that with them now. Now it's important to be there for every birthday, every school concert - important I can be there for them."

Cav has been a keen cyclist for most of his life and, after impressing on the Island, was selected for British Cycling's Olympic Academy in 2003. That year he won three gold medals in the Island Games in Guernsey, in the Criterium, the men's Team Trial and the Men's Road Race and the next year a first "adult" event, the Girvan (South Ayrshire) Three Day Race. A sparkling career followed with a spectacular record in the tour de France in which he twice won the "Green Jersey" award for the top sprinter and won a total of 34 stage wins, sharing the record with Eddy Merckx. The Manx will be roaring him on when July comes.

Cav is still expected to race the Tour de France in July (starts on 1st), where he'll be aiming to break the all-time record of 34 stage wins that he currently shares with Eddy Merckx.

During his career, he's won 161 races and two green points jerseys at the Tour de France. He was chosen as the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year in 2011 and been named the Island's Sportsman of the Year twelve times since 2003 when he won the award for Under 21 Sportsman of the Year.

DBH

Queen's Pier update

When we last reported on the renovation of Ramsey's Queen's Pier, constructed between 1882 and 1886 and named after Queen Victoria, work was ongoing by the Queen's Pier Restoration Trust under a five-year lease with the government signed in July 2017 to restore the first three bays, the pier having been closed in 1990 following safety concerns and increased maintenance costs. A condition required the work to be completed in five years but it was actually finished in four. The lease has since been renewed for 15 more years with further extensions available if needed.

There was a special opening to the public on the Monday after the Coronation and on 14th May the pier began opening every Sunday between 2pm and 5pm. This will continue until the close of the summer season at the end of September and there is no admission charge. With the new lease in 2022, Dennis Curphey, an experienced site manager in the construction industry, took control of the project with a team of ten regular volunteers working on the pier four days a week, a team augmented by the governor's wife. In November 2021 Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer and his wife paid their first visit to Ramsey's landmark and Lady Lorimer said that when she had a day free she would volunteer her services to the pier's restoration. Despite her busy schedule, in March she kept her word and joined the volunteers in a morning of sanding and varnishing the rail's centre planks.

A huge operation was carried out over three days in November last year to swap the corroded old iron girders for new steel as volunteers continued their invaluable progress, meaning that phase two of the project, which goes up to bay eight, is on course to be finished next year. Delivery of steel for bay six is due this month and bays seven and eight will be surveyed before more steelwork is ordered. When they are complete, there will be just 52 more to do. The restoration trust continues to seek funds to continue their work. The largest single donation to date has been a £30,000 legacy from a local resident who regularly fished off the pier and they have also been given a total of 36 lengths of rail from Auldyn Construction, which is replacing the track on the Snaefell tramway which are suitable for the track on the pier and the trust is grateful for the very generous donation. The project has cost the trust £375,000 so far and completing the work will probably increase the total expenditure to around £2.5 million. Fund raising efforts large and small will continue and a coffee morning was held in Ramsey town hall in late April.

DBH

Source: IOM Courier

Summerland's not forgotten

2nd August 1973 was a dark day in the Island's history. Built on the site of the old Derby Castle, Summerland had opened on 25th May 1971. Costing £2m the resort covered 3.5 acres and included a dance hall, five floors of holiday games, a roller-skating rink, restaurants and bars with accommodation for 10,000 visitors. But not everything was perfect. The roof was made of transparent acrylic sheeting called Oroglas. About 7.30 that evening, it caught fire.

About 3,000 people were in the complex and three boys were smoking in a shed on the centre's miniature golf course. Later they told the police that the blaze was probably started by a match or stub they'd thrown away. The burning kiosk collapsed on part of the building clad in a material with no fire-resistant qualities and the fire spread quickly through the sheeting that covered the rest of it, largely because of the resort's open-plan design. Because of delays in calling the fire brigade, it was particularly intense and locked fire doors prevented many from a rapid evacuation and some fifty people (some accounts say 53) died: eleven of them aged under twenty. Some eighty were seriously injured.

A public enquiry lasting five months began in September but no-one was specified as responsible and the fatalities were attributed to misadventure with the evacuation and flammable building materials being condemned and changes to improve fire safety required through amended building regulations. The Liverpool boys, two just 12 years old and the other only 14, were each fined £3 for breaking the kiosk door and ordered to pay 33p compensation and 15p costs.

Badly damaged by the fire, the site was cleared later that year and, although rebuilt on a much smaller scale to re-open in June 1978, Summerland closed permanently in 2004 and was demolished the following year.

Although a BBC report seemed to feel that on the Island the tragedy had been, "Forgotten and trivialised" Manx Radio tells us that, according the deputy chief minister who described the tragedy as a 'profoundly sad chapter' in Manx history, the fiftieth anniversary of the disaster should be a 'defining moment' for the Isle of Man. The Manx government plans to mark the anniversary with:

A national service of remembrance on 30th July at St George's Church in Douglas.

A presentation on the eve of the anniversary to recognise formally the emergency services and hospital staff for their response.

Culture Vannin's producing a new oral history project presenting memories from those who experienced the fire and its aftermath. Manx National Heritage launching an online exhibition called 'Remembering Summerland'

On 2nd August, Douglas City Council holding a service of remembrance at the Kaye Memorial Garden.

A book "The Silence of Summerland" by Ruth McQuillan-Wilson, costing £11.95 is available at bookshops in Ramsey and Port Erin, email: mail@bridge-bookshop.com

DBH

Sources: Manx Radio, BBC, Daily Express

Battle of Ramsey Bay

A mercenary army raised by the French had just defeated the British at the Battle of Carrickfergus on 26th February, 1760 but the slaughter had been immense on both sides so after very much a Pyrrhic victory, they set off to return home. As the three-ship flotilla approached the Isle of Man two days after the battle, it was intercepted by a Royal Navy squadron of the same size and battle raged as they sailed from Jurby to the Point of Ayre then, after the death of its commander, François Thurot, it surrendered in Ramsey Bay.

The British had caught up with the French ships at about dawn and the battle begun between the Mull of Galloway and Jurby Head. Thurot responded by trying to use the soldiers he was carrying to board the Royal Navy's *Æolus* but lost many from small-arms fire while they were still on deck. The fleets then engaged in broadsides while sailing towards the north-east but the French, handicapped by being on a transport mission rather than a fighting one, suffered considerably more casualties, Thurot was hit by musket fire and killed with his body, like that of most of the casualties, thrown overboard. On reaching the Point of Ayre, the French turned into Ramsey Bay to surrender. Thurot's body was washed ashore at Monreith Bay in Dumfries and Galloway and buried with full honours in the churchyard at Kirkmaiden-in-Fernis.

In the Manx Museum there is a wonderful picture of the ships in Ramsey Bay after the battle painted by Richard Wright or one of his contemporaries and said to portray the scene accurately.

Despite the battle having little connection with the Island, it seems to have made an impact as there is in the glen on the opposite side of the main road at Bishop's Court, a memorial to the battle, a mound called Mount Æolus, and there used to be a monument including the bowsprit of the "Maréchal de Belle-Ile" which washed ashore on the Manx coast and two cannon that were stolen in 1987 and never recovered.

DBH

From Milk to Rum

When I was a lad in Andreas, Billy Teare used to deliver a can of milk from Ballakelly each morning. Now, the island newspaper web site tells me, I could have one of its current products delivered to me here in London.

On 2nd June it told us that two friends, Rick Dacey and Ian Warborn-Jones, have set up an artisan distillery on the farm in Kiondroghad Road where they produce spirits including a white rum known as "Manx Hoolie" and sell them through their business, Outlier Distilling Company, having converted the old milking shed into a distillery. They are using an 160-litre wood-fired still, burning off-cuts from a local sawmill and using water from a well on the farm: all this part of an undertaking as a UNESCO biosphere partner to produce the rum in a sustainable way; every part of the process is done by hand,

The news is that the rum is now being sold in Harrods. I won't be having it delivered daily.

DBH

A place to chat and more

A bench outside the village store was the spot in Andreas when I was young; now Douglas has a much more sophisticated amenity. The 120-year-old Market Hall on Douglas Quay has opened a 'work café' providing meeting, community social areas and existing space designed for co-working, meeting and banking as well as to provide a community social space.

The initiative results from a partnership between Noa Bakehouse and Santander International making five free bookable meeting rooms, wi-fi and banking facilities available in May. Santander has opened more than a hundred work cafés since 2016 with locations in other Crown Dependencies and those with accounts at Santander International will have access to bank staff and can manage their day-to-day banking, with several ATM machines available.

Last September the bakery began to scale back its operations after flour deliveries became less reliable but Noa Bakehouse's co-owner Pippa Pettit, co-owner said: "The partnership is transformative both for the area and our business. The work café will allow us to scale up our café."

DBH

Source: Manx Radio

"The Magic of the Manx Glens" by Susan Jellis

An email from the author advises us of April's publication that may be of interest to members. It's available from Bridge Bookshop with branches in Ramsey and Port Erin and, of course, an email service. Costing £10.00, its SKU is 978399942423

From Victorian pleasure grounds to treasured green spaces, the Manx glens have enchanted generations of visitors. "The Magic of the Manx Glens" reflects their varying character and amenities, and highlights the continuing appeal of the semi-wild seclusion to be found in many of them. The National Glens are in the care of the Isle of Man Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, which preserves their now semi-natural character and maintains the paths and bridges with accessible access where possible in mind.

To order, phone 01624 813374 (Ramsey) 01624 833376 (Port Erin) email: mail@bridge-bookshop.com

Susan Jellis

Island Summer Quiz

(open to non-members through the web site)

1. The breed of sheep unique to the Island is (a) Herdwick, (b) Loaghtan, (c) North Ronaldsay, (s) Texel?
2. The water wheel, Mona Erin is in (a) Ballaglass Glen, (b) Dhoon Glen, (c) Glen Maye, (d) Glen Grenaugh
3. A breed of bear is called, (a) Keggin, (b) Kennaught, (c) Kermode, (d) Kerruish?
4. The type of aircraft crashed into North Barrule in April 1945 was (a) Avro Lancaster, (b) Boeing Model 386, (c) de Haviland Rapide, (d) Flying Fortress.
5. Those eating “Braddan” at the LMS lunch were enjoying (a) beef, (b) lamb, (c) pork, (d) salmon?

Closing date 17th July. The first reader to send me five correct answers will receive a Manx £20 note.

Answers to March quiz

1. The name of Flanagan’s girl who wanted to be taken to the Isle of Man again was (a) Mary Ann.
2. The most southerly point of Man’s main island is (a) Dreswick Point,
3. The 1888 murder victim was (c) Betsy Crowe.
4. The Battle of Ramsey Bay was fought (a) between Bride and the Mull of Galloway.
5. The Manx Gaelic word for “Coronation” is (b) crooinaghey.

No all correct entry to the quiz was received.

Acknowledgements

The editor thanks Bob Carswell, Sara Goodwins, Susan Jellis, Sally Miller, Sue Woolley 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 material for the next issue is 22nd August 2023

Dates for your Diary

Tynwald Cooish.
1.00pm, 24th June, 2023

NEXT NEWSLETTER IN THREE MONTHS

Please send news to Douglas Barr-Hamilton
132 Bush Hill, London N21 2BS
Email: barrhamilton@btinternet.com

LONDON MANX SOCIETY

Visit the Society's web site at www.londonmanxsociety.co.uk