

NEWSLETTER Winter 2013

Editor – Douglas Barr-Hamilton

Melodious Mhelliah

Our annual Mhelliah thanksgiving service was held on Monday 7th October at St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street. Twenty-nine members and friends attended but, greatly missed, was MC and Treasurer Sam Weller and his wife Mary who had been called away to give help to family in-laws that were unwell.

But very welcome back among us was Rose Fowler and Wendy who was on holiday from work. Terence and Christine Brack had come from the Island and some familiar faces like Margaret Hunt (who had been with us on Tynwald Day), Voirry and Robin Carr from Oxford, the Moore twins, Margaret and Maureen who grew up in Peel and Maureen Lomas brought a friend from South Africa. Sam, with his usual efficiency, had sent us a tick list of duties which Alastair, Stewart and Douglas were attending to when we arrived. We were welcomed by Alastair, our President, and the service was taken by past Bishop of Sodor and Mann, the Right Reverend Graeme Knowles. He drew our attention to the bidding prayer written by Bishop Wilson (1698-1755) who was also responsible for the act of worship before the herring fleet set out for a night's fishing. He spoke of each one of us being a walking harvest festival, possessing individual gifts and talents given by God of which we are stewards and need to react to throughout our lives. Our Island heritage was also one of God's gifts for which we give heartfelt thanks.

There followed Maisie's wonderful recitation of the Lord's Prayer (Padiyr y Dhirn) in Manx and Margaret Brady played all our favourite harvest hymns leading us so well that Bishop commended us for our singing. Margaret has become very adept at playing the organ at St. Bride's and we particularly enjoyed the Manx Cradle Song and her rendition of "Autumn Leaves" at the close of the service. The collection was in aid of Hospice in the Isle of Man.

We then all trooped down to the Press Wine Bar where we enjoyed a good lunch with a choice of menu including boeuf bourguignon, salmon salad and macaroni cheese for the vegetarians. The raffle was well supported as usual and we are grateful to everyone who contribute gifts ranging from Manx memorabilia to delicious cakes made by Stewart, as this is one of our chief fund raisers.

Rt. Rev. Knowles gave us some more amusing anecdotes about his time on the Island and how the only way he can speak the Manx language is by shouting it at full throttle! But he knows what it feels like to be an exile as he still feels moved when he hears, "Ellan Vannin."

President Alastair Kneale thanked the bishop and said how privileged we were to have him lead our Mhelliah. In spite of Sam's absence he felt that we had all pulled together and had an enjoyable afternoon. He also thanked God for Maisie, our dear nonagenarian who had made her way up to the lectern unaided

(in spite of her injured leg) and given a faultless performance of the Lord's Prayer in Manx. We all responded with enthusiastic applause.

Mavis Bell

The Model Bishop?

During his sermon at our Mhelliah, Bishop Graeme suggested it was time there was a new biography of Bishop Wilson.

Professor Richard Burridge, the Dean of King's College London lecturing to AKC students a few years (I was one) used him as an illustration: bishop at only 34 years old and continuing until his death in 1755 at the extraordinary age of 91. A saintly man, he gave generously to the poor, devoting 20% of his income for devout purposes: even more munificent at a time of famine in 1739. He is recognised for rebuilding Bishopscourt and setting up a college there for training clergy but he also oversaw repairs to parsonages and the rebuilding of churches, paying for both out of his own pocket. He was popular with both Church and people. He was ahead of his time in introducing compulsory education of children until they could read. A model bishop the Dean concluded.

Not really, argues Professor RH Kinvig* in his social, cultural and political history of the Isle of Man. While a compassionate man and a civil reformer, he thinks the bishop was also old fashioned in his desire to restore to the Church much of its pre-reformation power and, in ecclesiastic courts, he meted out bizarre and degrading penalties for minor offences possibly seeing them as encouragement to lead a more righteous life but leading to a rift between Church and State when he tried to punish the Governor's wife in 1722. Although Manx was the island's spoken language, there was little written material and it was English that the children were having to learn to read. He did publish a catechism in Manx in 1707 but progress towards the Bible in Manx was slow (only the Gospel of Matthew was published - 1748) and it was left to his successor, Bishop Hildesley, to organise a systematic translation, completed in 1772.

Was he a great bishop but a flawed man then? There's a subject for a thesis.

DBH

Sources: King's College lecture and The Isle of Man* (Liverpool University Press) 1975

Mary Weller Award

This year's contestants come from Kewaigue Primary School and teacher Cheryl Davies sent the hand-written entries from her class of ten year olds in time for us to display them for members to read at the Mhelliah. she also sent a kind note saying that the children had really enjoyed the activity and hoped that their words evoke many fond memories of the Island for members of the London Manx Society.

Veen Hill used to help me select a winner but she has just got out of hospital so we had a working lunch with Sam and Mary Weller, Elizabeth and Nicholas Watson to chose the winner earlier this month.

The winning entry came from Grace Elliott.

Mavis Bell

Growing up in the Isle of Man

I have lived on the Isle of Man for my entire life. I feel safe here, unlike any big cities. I have been to Manchester a couple of times but I missed the wild countryside and the cold salty sea. I didn't like the lack of local swimming pools. the parks are great though, nothing like the small Manx ones. but this is about the Isle of Man, not Manchester. I like Snaefell, the Island's only mountain. It's fun to catch a tram with a friend and slowly make our way up to the Bungalow at the top.

There is also Peel Castle and that's always good to visit. You can walk around with headphones on that ell you parts of the story as you reach each part. It tells you the story of the Moddey Dhoo, a ferocious black hound.

The NSC is a great place to visit. I like it there. There is a massive length pool as well as a family/leisure pool. They hold tournaments in the sports halls and galas in the pool.

My favourite place is my house. It's right on the TT course. It's great to watch the motorbikes go down Ago's Leap and on hot sunny days I can go down to Quarterbridge Glen. I really love living in the Isle of Man and it's fun to go to all the great places.

Grace Elliott

Obituary

Juanita Lucas (died 16th August 2013)

Anita was born on 5th March 1927 in Douglas to Juan and Mona Cain.

Eighteen months later Her brother Jack was born. From the moment she saw him, she loved him and she loved him until the day she died. Although he says that all his parents' money was spent on him as the son at Anita's expense (as was usual in those days) if Anita noticed this at all she never resented him for it.

Anita went to school on the Island and spent the war years there. During the war her grandparents' house was commandeered to house the so called "Aliens" (people who were born outside the UK but who had come there to live). The family were allowed to take just enough cutlery, crockery and bedding for each member of the family but everything else had to stay. Of course the cutlery would have been a very precious wedding present and one blanket was not

enough for a Manx winter so Anita was sent down to the house in her big school coat and her grandmother wrapped spare blankets around her waist and put cutlery in her coat pockets to smuggle them out. This seemingly innocent little girl then skipped past the soldiers giving them a friendly wave.

Towards the end of the war Anita went to Liverpool to train to become a physiotherapist. When she qualified she went to work in London and it was here she met her husband Lionel who was also Manx. They loved to tell people that they met in a sewer; they were both members of the London Manx Society and they were on an organised tour of London's sewers.

They were married at St Thomas's Church in Douglas on 25th August 1949.

In 1950 Paul was born and, three years later, Fiona. Then eight years after that a little surprise came along, Tracey. It must have been hard for Anita to start again with nappies when Lionel was so busy working but she did it all cheerfully.

When Tracey was just four, Lionel fell in a fathers' race and ended up in hospital with a brain haemorrhage. Anita thought he was going to die and that she would have to support the family so she got Tracey into school early and got herself a job. Luckily, after brain surgery Lionel made a full recovery. but her action just show the kind of inner strength she was capable of.

Lionel's job meant that they often had to move. they lived in London, then Lancashire, Surrey, Yorkshire, Hertfordshire and then Droitwich in Worcestershire with a four year spell in Nairobi, Kenya. Anita and the family followed Lionel around the world and each time Anita had to make new friends and create a new home, which she did without complaint.

She worked with children with cerebral palsy in Hertfordshire, she worked with accident victims at St James' in Leeds and she worked with the elderly in Droitwich.

Anita's life was one of service and devotion to her family and to the wider community. She rarely did anything for herself. She did try yoga once but when she fell asleep during the wind down she was too embarrassed to return. She spent her free time working for various charities. She often hosted fund raising events at her home. Cheese and wine, pies and peas, progressive suppers and one time a Swedish meat ball evening.

We are very pleased to welcome representatives here today from one of her favourite organisations, the Inner Wheel. She had been a devoted member for at least thirty years and she had a very busy year back in 1993-94 when she was President of the Droitwich branch.

Anita was a very religious person but religion with a small R and she was happy to worship in any church. In York Anita worshipped at York Baptist Church and she made many wonderful friends there, some of whom we are happy to see here today. She was warmly supported by Gary Patchen, the minister at YBC and, indeed, she called for him the day before she died and they prayed together which will have been a great comfort to her.

Anita had not enjoyed good health for a couple of years and her daughter, Tracey cared for her brilliantly during this time. Anita became very familiar with other carers, nurses and doctors who all said they had rarely met a patient so positive, stoic and uncomplaining.

A very special Lady!

Eulogy from Juanita's daughter, **Mrs Fiona Thomas**

Keke Costain

Just as we were about to go to print we were saddened to learn of Keke's death in late November after having been ill for a while with cancer. Funeral arrangements were being made for 2nd December with a Requiem Mass at Christ the Prince of Peace Roman Catholic Church in Weybridge.

We hope to have a full tribute in our next edition but hasten now to express our heartfelt condolences to Derek, Nigel and Tania.

DBH

Barrule Pulls the Crowds at WOMAD

With international music pulling the crowds as never before, Manx traditional music trio Barrule was delighted to receive an invitation to perform on the BBC Radio 3 stage at the WOMAD international music festival, set in the attractive arboretum of Charlton Park in Wiltshire, where they introduced the unique music of the Isle of Man to large audiences and fellow musicians, several of whom declared Barrule's gig to be the favourite of the festival.

WOMAD (World of Music and Dance) was founded by Peter Gabriel, Thomas Brooman and Bob Hooton, with their first festival in 1982, but now established as a truly international festival bringing together artists from all over the world to present music of passion, individuality and excellence.

With a reputation for introducing unknown artists to a wider audience, WOMAD has presented more than one thousand musicians from over 100 countries to live audiences of in excess of one million people in its lifetime.

After weeks of glorious weather, a forecast of rain did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the all-male line-up of Adam Rhodes, Jamie Smith and Tom Callister, who were overwhelmed by the fantastic response of music lovers determined to have a good time come rain or shine (although Barrule's gig was bathed in sunshine) at the 31st WOMAD festival; with the additional delights of workshops, food tastings and a global trade market.

Their inspirational arrangements bring renewed vigour to some of the older songs and tunes, with an evolutionary approach that has already captured the imagination of a Manx audience and the hearts and souls of many new fans.

Hosting a mix of traditional and newly composed songs and tunes, their performances reveal a youthful exuberance and a refreshing sensitivity with links to the contemporary music scene and a style undoubtedly their own.

Spokesperson for the group Adam Rhodes revealed, "We were very lucky to have been asked to perform on the BBC Radio 3 stage, set in the beautiful arboretum of Charlton Park. It's a venue that myself and Jamie are quite familiar with, having played there two years ago with Mabon, so we were very much looking forward to it! Wanting to put on a good show, we asked Greg Joughin to join us on vocals and also had the pleasure of being joined by Manx dancers Gráinne Joughin and Alison Carroon for a few sets, much to the audience's delight."

The crowd gave Barrule a warm welcome, bought most of their CDs and veritably lapped up their performance of music and dance, which was recorded by BBC Radio 3 as part of a broadcast later that evening.

Dr Breesha Maddrell of the Manx Heritage Foundation commented, "WOMAD is one of the greatest world music festivals. For Barrule to have secured a spot on the BBC Radio 3 stage is fantastic news for them as talented musicians and for the whole of the Island; and the Manx music scene in particular. Tom, Jamie and Adam are a huge inspiration to young musicians in particular – they show that Manx music can take its place on the international stage."

Valerie Caine © October 2013 (Courtesy of Manx Life)

Peel AFC's new community sports hall

A new sports hall opened in Peel on Sunday 1st September.

Tommy's Community Sports Hall is a brand new indoor artificial grass pitch dedicated to Tommy Clucas and it was opened nine years to the day that Tom tragically lost his life by his mother Jean and family. On September 1, 2004 during the Manx Grand Prix, Tommy wrote himself into motorcycling history when he became the first rider to break the 120mph average speed for a lap on the Mountain Course. However, tragically, during the same race and while leading, he was killed on the last lap when his engine seized, causing him to crash heavily on the approach to Ballaugh Bridge.

Chairman of the charity, Kelvin Dawson, said: 'After Tom lost his life in the 2004 Junior MGP, a huge loss was felt in Peel.

"We all knew that something had to be done to remember him, but obviously emotions were high.

"The idea of the sports hall was raised, so we set about forming a charity in Tom's name with the object of helping to promote sport and recreation in the community."

The hall boasts an indoor pitch measuring 40 by 25 metres complete with LED lighting and will provide a safe and enjoyable playing environment for a wide range of sports all the year round especially Peel AFC whose 13 teams - from Mini-Soccer to seniors - will use it for training.

To cover the cost finance was raised by the Tommy Clucas Memorial Fund of over £400,000. The sum raised included a grant from the Football Foundation of just under £100,000, £45,000 from the Manx Lottery Trust, £60,000 from the Lord Cockfield Memorial Trust, £60,000 from a Peel based charitable trust, £20,000 from The Gough Ritchie Charitable Trust and £15,000 from a private Peel-based donor.

The charity also organised various fundraising efforts, focusing on community events including the extremely popular Peelstock music festival and donations from local companies, groups and individuals were also instrumental in the success of the project.

At the Peel Town Commissioners public meeting two days later, chairman Ray Harmer congratulated all those involved on the opening of the sports hall acknowledging the hard work of all the community which had come together to raise the funds.

DBH

Source: IOM Today 6/9/13

Quilliam stained glass window

A second grant from the bequest of Donald Collister who lived in the parish of Arbory and left £1 million in his will for Manx National Heritage, a cheque for £15,000 was presented during October's Quilliam lecture in the parish church. This means a new stained glass window commemorating an older parish resident, Captain John Quilliam, can proceed.

"The Quilliam lectures began in 2010 and each year proceeds have gone towards the stained glass window fund but the primary role of the lecture series, held on Trafalgar Day (October 21), is to celebrate the parish's unique maritime connections," said organiser Phil Smith.

"The primary intention was to remind the community that we have a maritime heritage and we should be proud of our contact with the Royal Navy and make something of it. The window is a great focus of that. But the main plan was to foster the heritage links and make it live as well, which is why giving money (from this year's lecture) to the Sea Cadets was a good idea.'

Captain John Quilliam is the best known Manxman to have fought in the Battle of Trafalgar. Born in Marown in 1777, Quilliam is believed to have been the son of a Manx farmer, joining the Royal Navy in 1794.

He rose through the ranks and came to the attention of Admiral Lord Nelson at the Battle of Copenhagen and Nelson requested that he serve aboard HMS Victory. During the Battle of Trafalgar, the ship's wheel was shot way and in the gun room below. Quilliam rigged up a temporary method of steering her using ropes.

After the war, Captain Quilliam returned to the island, married a member of the Stevenson family of Balladoole, Arbory and resided at Ballakeighen. He also

lived at Balcony House in Castletown. He became an MHK, and improved boat design for the Peel herring fleet. He died in Kirk Michael, in 1829 and is buried in Arbory churchyard.

Local artist Colleen Corlett will complete her design and go on to produce the window so her glass will tell the story.

DBH

Source: Manx National Heritage

Stumpies, Rumpies and even less

We are all familiar with stumpies and rumpies but the more extreme examples of this congenital malformation are not so well known. The affected kittens are paraplegic and incontinent of both urine and faeces. Mortality is high.

A full description is afforded by Michael James CC et al in an article entitled Congenital anomalies of the lower spine and spinal cord in Manx cats published in the Journal of Pathology 1969, 97(2), 269-276, but perhaps readers would rather be spared the gruesome details. However, it has to be asked whether this deformed beast is a suitable representative of the Isle of Man. Other contenders for the title of national animal are unfortunately rare. Fish are kippered in many other places and while Langness is the only European habitat of a certain grasshopper this insect is also found elsewhere. The Manx shearwater was driven from the island but I believe may be returning. The Loaghtan is possibly the best. Some years ago a Loaghtan ram got into a field of Suffolk ewes and inseminated the lot. Nobody wanted a Loaghtan Suffolk cross and there was an expensive insurance claim. On another occasion a Loaghtan ram broke into a garden and saw his reflection in the patio doors. He put his head down and ended up on the hearthrug surrounded by shards of glass. So here's an animal with a bit of spunk, and Manx through and through.

Bryan Corrin.

Wanted at Knockaloe

Isle of Man Today reports that plans have been submitted by Patrick Community Centre Committee for a permanent exhibition centre on Knockaloe internment camp, aiming to be ready in September 2014 with the centenary of the camp's opening.

Members will know that this is the site where enemy aliens were interned during the Great War but probably not as much more as they would wish as there is no comprehensive display of its historical material, beyond the interesting exhibits in the Manx Museum. The committee want to use Patrick Old Schoolrooms to provide a museum of the camp so the Island's school children will have an easy and visual way of learning about it and of its 24,000 internees, guards and staff; among the former was Josef Pilates who developed Pilates and Archibald Knox

who worked as a parcel censor. There will, of course, be a central database for those searching for relatives and, if all goes to plan, another interesting place for us to visit when we are on the Island.

DBH

Found in Colby

Probably not too long after the camp's closing, former soldier Billy Gelling lost his World War I Allied Victory Medal walking near Kentraught Farm in Colby for the medal has recently been found near a public footpath there. It is engraved W H Gelling, Border Regiment 15205 and the finder, Mark Leadley, want to reunite it with his family.

It is proving difficult because enquiries of Gellings in the Colby area have proved fruitless and the only mention he can find of the name is of a William Henry Gelling who was from Douglas and served during the war in the Coldstream Guards.

DBH

Source: IOM Today

Visiting LMS web site

London Manx Society website – londonmanxsociety.com

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

MANXLIFE

Wendy Ellis Kneen

Island Quiz

(open to non-members through the web site)

1. What in the Isle of Man is (was) carval,
a) community carol singing, b) a Michaelmas feast, c) a motor car trial, d) rounding up of mountain sheep?
2. Which Society member is descended from a Sulby Cossack,
a) Stewart Christian, b) Rose Fowler, c) Alastair Kneale, d) Maron Honeybourne?
3. What have Knockaloe and Milntown in common,

a) battle site, b) internment camp, c) territorial army training camp, d) water storage?

4. Which glen was once owned by Isle of Man Railway,

a) Bishopscourt, b) Bibaloe, c) Silverdale, d) Wyllin.

5. Thurot Cottages in Bride are named after

a) an Irish tinker, b) a Scottish tailor, c) an American soldier, d) a French sailor?

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

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 September's quiz:

1. The Island's magnetic hill is on the road between Ronague and Round Table

2. Snaefell is in the parish of Lezayre.

3. Parliament Street, Ramsey used to be known as Lezayre Street.

4. The first distinctive Manx postage stamp appeared in 1958, issued by Royal Mail (not 1973 when an independent Manx Post office was created.)

5. A Viking ship preceded the three legs as the Island's symbol.

No all-correct answer was received.

Lost Alumni

Bryan Harding, Director of Alumni Relations for King William's College and Buchan Society has approached me in case we have among our members alumni who are not receiving information about his society's events because they have changed their e-mail address without informing him. If you are in this category, please contact him: [bryan.harding@kwc im](mailto:bryan.harding@kwc.im).

In the meantime, also note that the next London OKW and Buchan dinner is scheduled for Friday 7th March 2014.

DBH

Homecoming

The North American Manx Society 's next visit to the Island is just seven months away: 3-7th July 2014. It's always a time for Manx folk living off the Island to try and arrange a trip home and we hope a good number of London Manx will be among them.

On such occasions it is good to get to Tynwald Fair and other homecomer events taking place in Tynwald week. To reduce the workload on World Manx Association Secretary, Carol Gray, I have offered to let her know the names of London Members going to the Island and nearer the time tell her whether they would like her to get tickets to the Tynwald grandstand or to WMA events that week.

No rush for the present.

DBH

Acknowledgements

The Editor thanks Mavis Bell, Valerie Caine, Bryan Corrin, Grace Elliott, Carol Gray, Bryan Harding, Fiona Thomas 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, 23rd February

Dates for your diary

Monday 10th March 2014
AGM Venue to be announced

3-7 July 2014
North American Manx Society Homecoming

NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE IN THREE MONTHS

PLEASE SEND NEWS TO:

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Visit the Society's web site at www.londonmanxsociety.com

Nollick Ghennal erriu, as blein feer vie
Seihll as slaynt da'n slane lught-thie;
Bea as gennallys eu bio ry-cheilley,
Shee as graih eddyr mraane as deiney.

Merry Christmas to you, and a very good year
Long life and health to the whole household;
Life and joy to you living together,
Peace and love between women and men.

(Traditional Christmas greeting)