



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 Winter, 2023  
Editor – Douglas Barr-Hamilton

### **Mhelliah**

Having been delayed in Israel by the start of the crisis, St Bride's rector, Rector, Rev Canon Dr. Alison Joyce was safely back to officiate and preach for our annual event with the message that we should give thanks for everything, including catastrophes, since life is a gift as the Bible reading by Society President Alastair Kneale from the ninth chapter of 2 Corinthians reminded us. The remainder of the service followed its usual format and the congregation took its opportunity to sing lustily Isle of Mona, Come Ye Thankful People, Come, the Manx Fisherman's Evening Hymn and the National Anthem.

Nicholson's Fleet Street pub, a few yards from the Church, has been there for 150 years although the building must be 250 years older than that, and the congregation packed into the area they had reserved for lunch and conversations continued for some three hours as everyone caught up with news from the Island and discussed recent events, reminisced about their days there and looked forward to their next trip. Then a quick departure before London's rush hour struck.

**DBH**



## **New Committee Members**

To see us through to the next AGM and to look at our social media presence with a view to enhancing the size of our membership, the committee has coopted two more members, Kathryn and Sally Kneale.

**DBH**

## **NAMA to return next year**

Its latest newsletter tells us that the plans of North American Manx Association to visit the Island in 2024 for its biennial convention are well advanced. The group will be based in the Mannin Hotel in Douglas and activities will start on Wednesday 3rd July with a Manx language and song workshop. The association's newsletter always contains a brief lesson on the language so the delegates' Manx is likely to be much better than mine and they will start with the opportunity to learn some more. Formal registration takes place the following morning before they receive what is called a cultural, historical and geographic orientation to the Isle of Man. Next day will, of course, be Tynwald Day and the group will travel to St John's for the Tynwald ceremony and fair before they can let their hair down with a night out in the vicinity of their hotel in Douglas.

A coach tour of the Island will occupy the group for most of Saturday and the plan for the evening is fish and chips on the Central Promenade followed by a stroll on the edge of the sea. The association's general meeting has been scheduled for Sunday morning and it will be followed by the traditional group photograph. After lunch, they will have the opportunity to attend the governor's garden party before a Gala Banquet in the evening. Much of Monday will be filled with a Manx genealogy workshop, tracing Manx ancestry being an ambition of many and the Farewell Social and Singalong in the hotel will finish the event.

To be fitted in during the stay are a walk to the Camera Obscura on Douglas Head, a visit to a RNLi station, an Archibald Knox walking tour, a visit to the Tower of Refuge and the presentation of the NAMA Youth Awards. They have a packed programme.

**DBH**

Source: North American Manx Association

### **More than a Quiz Question**

The answer to the third question of our last quiz was William Radcliffe, twice president of the London Manx Society. William had been born in 1866 at Ballakiel Croft West, one of three crofts near the shore at Blue Point, a little north of today's rifle range and grew up speaking Manx. His father was a sailor who spent long periods at sea and it was to be some years before a younger brother and sister arrived. When William was ten, his father bought Ballakiel Cottage on Leodest Road near the cross-roads from his wife's parents and the family moved there but his father was lost at sea when he was fourteen. It seems that, having recognised his ability, the schoolmaster at the nearby Lhen took him under his wing, provided a stimulating education and when William left school, found him a pupil teacher post at Andreas School. Years later, T E Brown having published one of his Fo'c's'le Yarns, *The Schoolmasters* (1881):

But the school at the Lhen was just for childher,  
Enfan's in perricuts — Danny Bewildher  
Was the name of the Masther, callin' him out  
Of his proper name, that was Danny the Spout;  
At laste — I don't know; but Skillicorn,  
I've heard them sayin', the man was born —  
Poor old Dan — aw, bless your sowl! —  
Now was it Skillicorn, or Cowle?  
Aw dear!

in an aside in his obituary of Rev. Frederick Lamothe in the 1921 Manx Quarterly No. 25, he wrote, "I must protest here that our school was certainly not the school portrayed in T. E. Brown's poem, for our Master, William Silas Christian, was a man of good intelligence and an excellent teacher" and the two men certainly did not fall out over it being friends, together with Hall-Caine, in later life.

After a few years as a pupil teacher, William came to London to train at the prestigious Battersea College and then taught in London for a short time before securing the post of Head Master back at Andreas School from 1891 which he held for thirteen years where he identified himself whole-heartedly in local movements, and was among the originators of those successful annual events: the Andreas Harvest Show and the Andreas running and cycle races. Then (with a parting gift of five sovereigns) he was tempted back to London's East End to teach where he struck up a friendship with the socialist politician Herbert Morrison, mayor of Hackney who was to become an MP in 1923 and, later, a Labour Cabinet minister. He also joined the LMS and served as its president for two one-year terms. 1914/15 and 1919/20. In 1913 he began classes in Manx in the name of the Society – news that was published in the national Daily Sketch in early November.

Yet he continued to follow life on the Island and in 1918 was among a group of teachers campaigning for a single Manx education authority. After recommendation by Hall Caine, he wrote the Methuen "Little Guide" to the Isle of Man and in 1930 played a major role in the T E Brown memorial of the centenary of his birth preparing the memorial volume published and edited by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch.

He retired to the Island in 1938 but, sadly, his health deteriorated and in the following May he suffered a stroke and died at the beginning of December. His funeral was a memorable one. Held in his old parish

church of Andreas, apart from one hymn it was conducted entirely in the Manx language, according to the Examiner report, “For the first time perhaps in living memory,” the vicar of Michael, Rev. C A Cannan having crossed the Island to conduct it and in the large congregation, members of his Manx language class.

### **DBH**

Sources: IOM Examiner, Andreas (McCambridge), Life at the Lhen (Kinrade)

### **No more questions**

I penned the previous piece about one answer to our September quiz questions as I thought it might be of interest but, having received no answers to any of the questions nor, indeed, to the two previous sets, I feel it's time to stop any suffering. It will stop it for me too for it's becoming increasingly difficult to pose questions that cannot be answered without easy aid from the Internet. The one later in this issue will, therefore, be our last – unless there is great demand.

In doing so, I must also express the Society's gratitude to Mylchreest Car Hire for their support over the years with thanks for their generous support especially in donating one last prize this month.

### **DBH**

### **End of Island's air mail**

Surely the antithesis of progress has been the announcement that the Post Office will no longer use planes to convey letters and parcels to and from the Isle of Man. At the end of August Manx newspapers told us that Royal Mail had announced that airmail will be replaced by a ferry service for post to and from the Island, explaining that recently implemented changes to its UK postal scheme meant it was no longer required to deliver next day mail between the UK and the Isle of Man. This means it will cease operation of the dedicated mail aircraft now used to convey mail to and from the island and extend ferry and road

freight services and are no longer committed to engaging in discussions with the Isle of Man Post Office about changes.

The move will bring problems for businesses but won't be as bad as the postal system of the Scottish island of St. Kilda, where letters had to be put into a bottle and thrown into the sea in the hope it would be picked up on a far-away shore by somebody willing to forward it.

**DBH**

### **A Rival for Bonnag?**

Food manufacturer Angelica Belle is celebrating recognition in a big UK competition. Its amaretti cookies won top prizes at the Great Taste Awards, an Oscars-style event in which there are more than 14,000 entries from 109 countries. The company describes itself as a lifestyle brand created by the award-winning chef Andrea Ashton-Worsfold offering a collection of luxury edible gifts hand crafted and cooked to order in her Port St Mary fisherman's cottage including traditional amaretti almond and lemon or orange cookies. Bespoke hampers and concierge services for events and experiences are available. It operates from her cottage in Fistard Road, Port St Mary,

Both the lemon and orange amaretti cookies, made with Manx free-range eggs, won a two-star award each while the plant-based cookie earned a one-star award.

“It was a great coup for us,” said Chris Worsfold, who runs the company with his wife. “This allows us to get out to the world market, not just the Isle of Man.”

In the competition, the judges had blind tested so had no idea where the products had come from or who had made them. Large retailers

including Tesco and Fortnum and Mason attend such events so the new accolades might make it easier to interest big companies into stocking their products. They already sell via mail order and in Robinson's, Woodbourne Deli, the Good Health Shop and now on the Steam Packet's new vessel, the Manxman.

The initiative started during the Covid pandemic. Unable to continue their usual work on cruise ships and with Andrea an award-winning professional chef, they could create products in the cottage where they live. The company came up with a number of products and not just food. It also produces candles and diffusers and Andrea also gives cookery demonstrations.

They have learned that our island status does have a lot of pluses but there is a big minus for the company. It's the cost of fuel.

Chris concluded, "We try to keep our costs down as much as possible. But the biggest challenge is getting off the island. It's not a level playing field with the UK. Small companies like ours were badly affected and the change in postal arrangements – now that the post plane is a thing of the past - means there might be problems for mail order too".

## **DBH**

Sources: iomtoday, company web site

## **Kippers from locally caught herring are back**

Twenty-five years ago, the EU Common Fisheries policy introduced quotas on the number of fish that could be caught as it had become essential that stocks needed to be rebuilt so none could be caught in the Irish Sea. This year it has come to an end and the UK government is allowing Manx fishermen to catch up to 100 tonnes in 2023 with a possibility that this will be increased in the future. In mid-October, the



first herring were caught a mile off Douglas by the first boat to be fitted out to catch the fish. The newspaper report on the development tells us that two more are being reequipped adding variety on the quayside.

**DBH**

Source: iomtoday

### **Tesco arrives**

The big news from the Island since our last issue has been the purchase by the giant UK retailer, Tesco, of its nine Shoprite supermarkets. Initially, each store will continue to trade under its old name but, over the next nine months, each will be rebranded as “Tesco”.

The purchase has caused considerable anxiety amongst local food producers; I, for one, always make a final purchase of ‘Davisons’ from one of their stores to put in my freezer bag immediately before leaving the Island. Assurances have been given but some favourites may well fall by the wayside as when Tynwald allowed the import of English ice cream some years ago and the wonderful ‘Manx Ices’ stopped trading. The concern of the food producers is understandable and, with Shoprite the source of a number of Waitrose products, customers’ choice may be considerably reduced.

Oh! And if you have a Shoprite voucher it will expire on 31st December.

**DBH**

Source: iomtoday, Manx Radio

## **Cavendish Come-back**

At the time of our last newsletter there was speculation that Manx cyclist, Mark Cavendish, might postpone the retirement that he had announced because the crash that led to his withdrawal from the Tour de France meant he would be finishing his career one win short of the outright record of stage wins in the race. At the beginning of October, he decided he will come back for one more year: encouraged by his children, he said. True to his word, he entered the eight day Tour of Turkey that started a few days later and, although well down the field, he finished the tough event strongly.

When he withdrew from this summer's Tour de France, he had won 35 stages during his career, equal with the great Belgian, Eddy Merckx. The 2024 race starts on 29th June, a week earlier than normal as the Olympic Games start in Paris on 26th and the opening stages will pass through Italy where, experts say, the third one into Turin on 2nd July looks a good opportunity for Mark to take the record. The tour will end on 21st July, for the first time not in Paris but in Nice.

### **DBH**

Sources: Times, Manx Radio, Cycling News

## **Manx evening in Islington**

In many ways Islington is to Londoners what Covent Garden is to its visitors: the place to go for a good evening out. The Outlier Distilling Company that we featured in our last edition were certainly aware of the fact when they chose a restaurant in Upper Street to promote their range of range of spirits sustainably produced from seed to bottle in Andreas mentioned in our last newsletter.

In late September the partners, Rick Dacey and Ian Warborn-Jones arranged to take over the bar of a popular Vietnamese restaurant and

invited a number of Manx folk to join the regulars for the evening. My wife and I were delighted to join them and took the opportunity of sampling Vietnamese food for the first time. It was good. So was the atmosphere in a packed restaurant overflowing onto the pavement with groups enjoying the food and, especially, the variety of rums, Manx honey liqueur, wild berry schnapps and punch, all from Ballakelly.

A visit to the firm's website, [outlierdistilling.com](http://outlierdistilling.com) is recommended as are their products.

**DBH**

## **Bishop retires**

The Island's bishop, the Right Reverend Peter Eagles, announced back in March that he would step down from the post and move closer to family in the south England this autumn after serving the diocese and holding a seat on the island's Legislative Council since 2017. He explained that his time in post had been characterised by huge changes, including the coronavirus pandemic and a steep rise in the cost of living.

"I see that God's task for me has been to navigate these challenges and, quite simply, to support our clergy, people and parishes," he said. He thought appointments of clergy and lay clergy in recent years had provided increased capacity, resilience and confidence and adding that, mindful of his own areas of limitation, it was time for another bishop to bring a new set of gifts to the diocese.

He also paid tribute to Mrs. Eagles' supporting role during their time on the island, which included holding the post of diocesan president of the Mothers' Union from 2019 to 2021. The bishop officially left

his post on 28th October, having told the Island that he and his wife Gail would keep it in their hearts, minds and souls.

During his final sitting on the Legislative Council, he was described as “a moral compass for politicians” in tributes paid and Tynwald President Laurence Skelly praised the bishop for his wholehearted embrace of Manx culture and language, adding that his contributions were highly respected by his peers

**DBH**

Source BBC

### **Royal National Lifeboat Institution 200 year anniversary**

Lieutenant Colonel Sir William Hillary (1771-1847) a Yorkshireman and a Quaker, settled in the Isle of Man in 1808, where he lived at Fort Anne on Douglas Head with his second wife Emma Tobin, a Manx woman.

He joined the local lifeboat crew. This large rowing boat held 6 pairs of rowers and a man at either end, all were tied to the ship so as not to be lost overboard. Sir William was washed out and back into the boat twice. He was a non-swimmer, yet he helped to save 309 lives from drowning, starting with the rescue of the passengers of the Royal Navy Cutter Vigilant in 1822. This boat did 40 years' service, 1790-1830.

In 1823 the island established a district lifeboat, the first boat being stationed in Douglas Bay. The next year another was planned to be placed in Castletown and later Peel and Ramsey, each would have its own boat.

In Douglas Bay were treacherous rocks named Conister, on which in 1823 Sir William desired to create a tower of refuge, which would save any mariner wrecked on them. They would find fresh water and

bread, and a bell to let those ashore know they were there. The construction of the tower was eventually completed in 1832.

Sir William wanted the British Government to provide and maintain a national lifeboat service, but they said it would cost too much money. However, the following year in London, in 1824, he formed the International Association for Shipwreck, which later became known as the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

In 1825 the passenger ferry The City of Glasgow was about to be dashed on the rocks outside Douglas harbour, but all 62 people on board were rescued by the new Douglas lifeboat, with Sir William Hillary leading the crew.

The same year, during a terrible storm, the St. George boat came with the mail and anchored in Douglas Bay.

The chain cable broke and she was drawn onto Conister. Sir William called out the lifeboat crew, he was washed overboard and broke six ribs but he climbed back in the boat and after two hours got the 20 fellows from the vessel into the lifeboat and back to the shore.

Sir William bravely earned his 3 gold medals for gallantry, but he died penniless following a bank collapse scandal in 1847. He claimed he was a victim of fraud, but failed to save his home and art collection, which was seized and sold. The vault in which he was interned in St George's churchyard is a national monument.

In 1924 a new lifeboat house was built in Douglas outer harbour to accommodate the new motor lifeboat that was coming into service.

That same year the centenary of the RNLi was celebrated in Douglas on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The Chairman of the RNLi Sir Godfrey Baring said his visit to the Island was 'like treading on hallowed ground.'

In May 1932, a centenary celebration in association with the tower of refuge took place, and Sir Godfrey Baring attended the celebration to pay tribute to the memory of Sir William Hillary, founder for the RNLi and responsible for the erection of the tower.

Sir Godfrey unveiled plaques on the tower and at Fort Anne. The occasion was marked by the five island lifeboats assembling at the lifeboat house; the Douglas motor lifeboat Manchester and Safford was joined by the pull and sail lifeboats the Henry Kirk from Peel, the Matthew Simpson from Ramsay, the Ethel Day Cardwell from Port Erin and the Marianne from Port St Mary.

One of the many lives saved by the RNLi was of a male descendant of Sir William Hillary. During the Battle of Britain, 21 year old Spitfire pilot Richard Hillary bailed out of his plane and was picked up by the RNLi who had spotted his parachute.

Sir William's legacy continues and the RNLi saves hundreds of lives every year.

**Maureen Wigley**

### **Castletown's Quayles**

Manx National Heritage has secured an important new acquisition for the national collection. A suite of four miniature portraits depicting members of the Quayle family of Castletown, each painted on ivory and encased in a gold frame, has returned to the Isle of Man to be held in the Manx National Art Collection. This important acquisition, secured at an auction in the South West of England, was made possible thanks to the support of the Friends of Manx National Heritage.

The Quayle family played a key role in the administration and economy of the Isle of Man during a time of constitutional change, following the Act of Revestment. Four generations held the office of Clerk of the Rolls at Castle Rushen. The family were heavily involved in high politics as well as the military, economic and social life of the Island.

The star item among the four portraits is undoubtedly an image of Captain George Quayle, a member of the House of Keys and prominent banker, famous as the owner of the Peggy, the world's oldest yacht and one of the most important surviving historic vessels globally. The other miniatures depict George's maternal grandfather Sir George Moore, Speaker of the House of Keys and noted Peel merchant, George's father John Quayle, and his paternal grandfather, John Quayle for whom no other image is known.

Curator of Art & Social History, Matthew Richardson, commented, "This portrait is the only known colour depiction of George Quayle. We knew that it must have been in existence on the Island in the 1930s, because we have a poor quality black and white line drawing of it. However, as it had not been seen since then it was assumed to have been lost or destroyed. To find this item again, and to bring it back to the Isle of Man, has got to be one of the highlights of my twenty plus years working with Manx National Heritage.

"Not only is this portrait important in its own right, but George sits resplendent in his uniform as a Captain in the Manx Fencible Regiment of 1779. There had been speculation previously that this is what he was wearing in the line drawing, but to see the scarlet tunic in all its glory is quite breath-taking. We also see that he had blue eyes, which adds to the description we have of him, which states that he had ginger hair and skin which burned easily in the sun".

**Manx National Heritage**

### **Wildlife haven coming to the Point of Ayre**

As Island Aggregates are ending quarrying at their site near the lighthouse, some 106 acres of gravel pits are being converted into a wildlife centre by Manx BirdLife and its plans are to have it open to the public in May next year. It hopes to add further areas in the future

as quarrying operations finish that could eventually increase its size to 400 acres.

The society has been providing guided walks by invitation only during the past summer which have been well received so more are planned for the coming months and in due course, for an education centre to be established. The area contains a varied habitat of freshwater, marsh and coastal heath that attracts a variety of birds; some 178 species have been recorded. A large hide has already been constructed and a series of smaller lakes dug to supplement the large one so offering greater protection to nesting birds and it is already starting to attract new species.

**DBH**

Source: iomtoday

### **Getting closer to Morecambe**

In early November there was much joy among the volunteers restoring the Queen's Pier in Ramsey when the work on Bay 6 was completed. It had taken four years to finish the first three bays, now three more were ready after six with the material delivered and scaffolding erected for next two.

The pier is becoming more and more central in Ramsey activities with coffee mornings and, on 10th December, switching on of Christmas lights and, at 3.30 pm, a Carol Service.

**DBH**

Source, iom today

### **Viewing Manx glens from afar**

Our island is home to 18 mountain and coastal National Glens but the rugged terrain can be a barrier for those with disabilities or impairments fully to enjoy the natural wonders and, of course,



impossible for expats. Readers may be interested, therefore, in learning of a new initiative will give everyone a chance to take a tour of all of our stunning glens without leaving their house.

To see the glens, [visit the National glens page](#) on the gov's website, choose a glen and click on the Google Street view tab on the top right hand side.

## **DBH**

Source: Manx media web site

### **The Little Everin'**

*A poem by Margaret Kermode*

The sun is goin' wes' with me  
The little everin's nigh,  
An' clearer shines the light upon  
Those mansions in the sky;  
An' surely through that level light  
The very flowers shine more bright,  
An' all things soften to the sight,  
In the little everin'.

The years have slipped away from me  
Like snow before the rain;  
I would not ask to have them back  
Or live them through again;  
But thankful at the close of day  
I linger on the homeward way  
An' watch the childher at their play  
In the little everin'.

There's some that's gone away from me  
In lands afar to roam;  
An' some that's gone to wait for me  
In that new Heavenly Home.  
I see them in the sunset gleam  
They speak with me across the Stream  
An' all my life becomes a dream  
In the little everin'.

## **December Island Quiz**

(Open to non-members through the web site)

1. The name of the latest Steam Packet ferry is (a) Ben my Chree, (b) King Orry, (c) Manxman, (d) Mona's Queen?
2. The song, The Laxey Wheel was written by (a) W H Gill, (b) Annie Kissack, (c) Stuart Slack, (d) Stewart Watterson?
3. According to the 1981 film, "Chariots of Fire" the British Olympic team travelled from Dover to Calais by (a) Empress Ferries, (b) IOMSPCo, (c) South Eastern and Chatham Railway, (d) Southern Railways Ferries?
4. Honda first won a TT race, (a) 1955, (b) 1957, (c) 1959, (d) 1961?
5. HMS Quilliam was (a) King Edward VII class Battleship, (b) WW2 Q Class destroyer, (c) Victorian 120 gun ship of the line, (d) Early 20th century submarine?

## **Answers to Summer Quiz**

1. The collision between the “King Orry” and a fishing boat in September 1904 happened (c) off Maughold Head.
2. The Island experienced, “The Great Snowfall” in (a) 1885.
3. The former Society secretary buried in Andreas churchyard in 1939 following a service conducted in Manx was (d) William Radcliffe.
4. The 1973 Summerland Fire started (d) on the miniature golf course.
5. The number of islands making up the Kingdom of Mann under Godred Crovan (d.1095) was (c) 12.

No all-correct answer was received

Closing date 17th February. The first reader to send me five correct answers will receive £20 fuel when hiring a car at Mylchreests Car Hire.

## **Christmas Greetings**

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.

## **Acknowledgements**

The editor thanks Maureen Wigley, for her kind contribution and also NAMA, Isle of Man Newspapers, Culture Vannin and Manx National

Heritage. News about you and articles (of around 450 words) about Island life are welcome and of interest to all. If in doubt, please contact me.

Contributions can be sent at any time for inclusion in the next newsletter, if possible by email (barrhamilton@btinternet.com) or mail to 132 Bush Hill, N21 2BS. Copyright is retained by the contributor. Opinions expressed are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the editor or of the Society.

Closing date for the next issue, 21st February.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE IN THREE MONTHS  
PLEASE SEND NEWS TO  
Douglas Barr-Hamilton, 132 Bush Hill, London N21 2BS  
Telephone 020 8360 8001  
Email: barrhamilton@btinternet.com**

***LONDON MANX SOCIETY***

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