

### **Getting back to normal**

We had been hoping for complete freedom for the cooish on 3rd July but the legal limit on the number allowed to meet together outdoors remained at thirty. Expecting a much smaller attendance figure than that we were delighted when it reached a healthy twenty-four with people travelling from as far as Basingstoke and Nottingham.

Pandemic restriction uncertainty and Church staff holidays mean we cannot fix a date for the Mhelliah until the second week of September. We will then choose between 11th, 18th or 25th October. Members wishing to attend the service are asked to contact the Society's secretary (phone 020 8360 8001, email barrhamilton@btinternet.com) by 6th September with their preference.

**DBH**

### **Cooish**

The forecast was dire and not far wrong. There were storms to the west, rain to the north, showers to the south and dark threatening clouds kept rolling in from the east. Yet it stayed dry ensuring Saturday was a most agreeable afternoon as hosts Sally, a committee member and husband Peter Miller welcomed Pam and Mike Fiddik, Fran and Alan Higson, Elizabeth and Nicholas Watson, Glenda and Peter Woods, Elaine Abraham, Paul Allot, Stewart Christian, Maureen Cox, Sheila Gill, David Hill, Margaret Hunt, Peter Nash, Maureen Wigley, president, Alastair Kneale, treasurer, Sam Weller and secretary Douglas Barr-Hamilton with his wife Margarita.

It is two years since members of the London Manx Society were last together and the chance to meet again added to the delight and to the vigorous singing of Ellan Vannin which was tinged with a sadness for our cousins in the Queensland Manx Society who had planned their mid-winter cooish for the same day – separated only by the ten hour time difference – but had been forced to cancel their event at two days notice after two cases of the Covid-19 Delta strain had been diagnosed in the state.

Sally provided a superb lunch for the assembled folk seated under gazebos, her excellent dishes augmented by the traditional kippers sent from Peel by Moore's and one or two members' contribution including two delicious gateaux baked by Peter Nash. Reminiscing, exchanging Island news and convivial discussion stretched the afternoon which ended with members wishing it could go on longer and the rain would hold off.



**DBH**

Photograph, Alastair Kneale

## **OBITUARY**

### **Anne Alexander**

It is with sadness that we report the death on 19th July of Anne Alexander (née Turnbull), with her husband Nick a member of the Society for many years.

Anne was born in Port Erin on 2nd January 1938 into a world that soon changed with the housing of war time internees in the village. After the war, her own life changed while attending the summer beach mission in Port St Mary. She was educated at the Buchan School in Castletown before training to be a teacher at Homerton College between 1956 and 1958 and starting a teaching career in North London.

Nick and Anne married in 1958 and lived in North London for three years before moving to Potters Bar, the town in which she was to spend the rest of her life apart from a two year spell in the mid sixties when Nick's job took them to Leeds. In Potters Bar, Anne was involved in local and London activities especially at the local Church but a huge change occurred in August 1996 when she decided to buy the disused 26 bedroom hotel, Mallmore, on the front at Port

St Mary that needed much attention. She saw to the restoration of the building and the running of the business and its eventual assimilation into the activities of the beach mission thus creating a permanent memorial.

Her own memorial service at Christ Church, Little Heath was held on Tuesday 3rd August and was very well attended with a tribute from Nick and a sermon from the vicar, Rev Mark Maloney that was followed by a reception at which all could share their memories. London Manx extend their sympathy to Nick and the family.

**DBH**

### **Car Hire**

A member of the society at July's cooish mentioned that, told car hire was not possible at her age, she had stopped visiting the Island. While this is true if you book direct, Avis, a company for which LMS quiz sponsors Mylchreests are agents, has no age maximum so long as you have had a full, valid licence for at least one year and, if over 75, advise them prior to picking up the vehicle so their insurers can be informed. Book through them but let Mylchreests know before landing at Ronaldsway so they can welcome a Society arrival.

**DBH**

### **Maron**

Over a year after the family and the Society lost her, a Memorial Service was held for member and past President, Maron Honeyborne (née Wood) born 21st January 1939 who died on 24th May last year. Led by Rev Andy Fishburn, it took place at the Methodist Chapel in Atholl Street, Peel at 12 noon on Wednesday, 14th July, delayed because of the limitations on movement imposed during the Coronavirus pandemic. These having been considerably relaxed, her husband Jack and son Magnus were able to be present and bring Maron's ashes to be scattered on the Island.

It was made possible to attend from home in London using Zoom and, duly muted, join the singing of "Abide with me" and "Love Divine" at the beginning and end of a moving tribute to a loving wife and mother and a life of service to her community of which London Manx was a part.

Present at the service itself were Society members Mavis and Davis Bell and Mavis reports, "A memorial service was held for Maron at the Methodist Chapel in Peel followed by a reception at Peel Golf Club. Many of her local friends attended plus Jack and their son Magnus. Her sister Suzie showed us

photos on a screen with many amusing anecdotes. We all have our own recollections of Maron for her amazing personality and warmth.”

**DBH**

### **New Island Governor**

The present governor, Sir Richard Gosney, has served longer than originally expected because of the pandemic but his successor has recently been announced and Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer will succeed him later this summer in a swearing-in ceremony at Castle Rushen. London Manx will be inviting him to succeed Sir Richard as one of our patrons.

Sir John’s army career included tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and he has recently completed a three-year tour as the Defence Senior Adviser Middle East and North Africa at the Ministry of Defence. Prior to that he was the principal adviser to the Secretary of State for Defence and the Chief of the Defence Staff on the Middle East, Sir John was Chief of Joint Operations, a role that involved commanding all of the UK’s worldwide operations including those with NATO and the United Nations.

**DBH**

Source, Manx Radio

### **2021 is Election Year**

The Island holds a General Election every five years and the next one will be on Thursday 23rd September. The election is for members of the House of Keys only and two members will be elected from each of twelve constituencies.

Members of the House of Keys who can describe themselves as MHK, decide policy, pass laws and regulations and debate matters of national importance as well as authorising public expenditure. One of its first jobs will be to choose a First Minister as Howard Quayle will not be seeking re-election.

All voters will have reached the age of 16 and lived in the Isle of Man for the past twelve months and are not be subject to any legal incapacity to vote while those away at university can vote as long as they are registered at their Manx address.

Throughout the summer the Manx press has been announcing a steady flow of candidates so many competitive campaigns are anticipated.

**DBH**

## **New sea terminal at Heysham**

The Steam Packet has announced that its Heysham passenger terminal has been refurbished. A new floor and ceiling have been installed throughout the building and a full renovation of the walls, complete with paintings. The café area has been revamped with new seating throughout, plants, a new air conditioning system and vending machines creating a more pleasant experience for early arrivals while everyone should benefit from the check-in area's makeover.

Steam Packet chief executive, Mark Woodward said, "A renovation of the passenger terminal has been on the radar for some time now and we are really pleased with the results. The improvements will greatly enhance the passenger experience, making it much more comfortable for those waiting to board.

"The timing is great too, just ahead of the borders opening and at a time we expect to see many more passengers passing through - both island residents heading for a much-needed break and visitors to the Isle of Man."

**DBH**

Source: iomtoday

## **Douglas Prom's confusing roundels**

Work has been progressing during the pandemic on the redesigned Douglas Promenade albeit with delays and controversy. One talking point has been the creation of two "Roundels", white painted concentric ovals at the junctions with Broadway which was opened in June and a second near the Sefton on which work is progressing.

The Manx newspapers reported comment on them from around the world including America's Fox News with its headline "British drivers baffled by bizarre roundabout painted on road", pointing out there is no physical island or clearly defined lanes, leaving locals puzzled.

London Manx visitors are duly warned

**DBH**

Sources, iomtoday, Manx Radio

## **50 years of Laxey Fair**

It was first held in 1971 and the village showed the same mixture of enjoyment and reminiscing on Saturday, 26th June this year with a day of entertainment to commemorate the history of the village

It was a hub of activity as visitors and villagers celebrated its heritage, especially its mining heritage. With everything from Manx dancing to bouncy castles beginning with a parade from the Rose Garden at 1.30.

**DBH**

## **Bee Gees Memorial in Douglas**

Barry, Maurice and Robin Gibb seem to be striding into the town where they were born in the bronze statue by Andrew Edwards on the Loch Promenade unveiled by Jon Joughin, the Mayor of Douglas on 8th July. Costing some £170,000, it is a tribute to the popular group's continuing love for the Island, not least through its recording of "Ellan Vannin".

**DBH**

Source: Isle of Man Courier

## **The Arts Society Isle of Man**

The report on our Tynwald Day cooish in the Courier prompted this society's Vice Chairman, Geoff Watts to contact us to let our members know of its activities thinking some of us may wish to join, a practical suggestion as lectures are available on Zoom. The Arts Society Isle of Man was formerly known as the Isle of Man Decorative and Fine Arts Society and the programme shortly includes lectures John Singer Sargent – much more than a modern Van Dyck on 21st September, Women Impressionists on 19th October and From Downton to Gatsby – jewellery and fashion 1890 to 1929 on 16th November.

More information can be found on its web site, [www.theartsocietyiom.org](http://www.theartsocietyiom.org) including a few sample lectures on YouTube which may whet your appetite. One of these entitled, "A Schoolboy's Holiday in Port Erin," is a fascinating seventeen minutes of nostalgia looking at Port Erin past and present so will certainly be of interest to members from the south-west of the Island and probably to all. It will be available there until the autumn, Contact Geoff Watts: 07624 452801 email [geoffwatsiom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:geoffwatsiom@yahoo.co.uk)

**DBH**

### **The making of Ronaldsway Airport**

A film by amateur filmmaker J. Walter Royston showing the development and expansion of Ronaldsway Airport is now available at the iMuseum. Ronaldsway was first used as an airfield in 1928 with passenger services to the UK starting in 1933 and operated by Blackpool and West Coast Air Services.

The airfield came under Royal Air Force control at the outbreak of the Second World War. It reverted to civilian flying solely almost immediately after the war but the airfield remained in Admiralty possession until sold to Isle of Man Government for £200,000 in 1948, far short of the £1 million that the UK Government had spent on constructing the airport buildings and runways.

Footage includes the Ronaldsway air traffic control tower, the day-to-day operations in the tower, including flight paths, assessment of weather conditions with a balloon, construction of the runway and airport passenger figures including a graph of "Yearly Passenger Returns" from 1947 to 1957 in which passenger figures increased from 65,900 to 246,349 with a slight dip in 1951.

The footage is the second in a series of films which can now be found on [www.imuseum.im](http://www.imuseum.im) by clicking on the "Isle of Man on Film" image on the homepage.

### **Manx National Heritage**

NOTE

Although primarily concerned with the airport's development, the news was of particular interest to members Pam Fiddik and Sally Miller whose grandfather J P Kewley was the building contractor for the original airfield.

### **"Peveril of the Peak" Novel by Walter Scott and Fenella Beach**

Walter Scott (15 August 1771 – 21 September 1832), was a Scottish historical novelist, poet, playwright. Many historians consider him to be the inventor of historical fiction. A festival was held at Abbotsford House near Melrose on 14th and 15th August in the Scottish Borders celebrating the 250th anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's birth.

It also served as a reminder of his connection to Fenella Beach, connecting St

Patrick's Isle (Manx: Ynnys Pherick) to the rest of the Island. Fenella is a character in Walter Scott's novel, Peveril of the Peak, part of the story takes place in the Isle of Man and the beach is named after this character.



### **Alastair Kneale**

Image: Peel Castle (Manx: Cashtal Purt ny h-Inshey) and Fenella Beach, courtesy of Visit Isle of Man.

### **Puffins return to the Calf**

In early July Manx National Heritage, the charity responsible for the care and promotion of the Isle of Man's natural and cultural heritage and its conservation partner, Manx Wildlife Trust confirmed the return of puffins to the Calf of Man.

To encourage investigation by visiting puffins, in 2015 they installed lifelike puffin manikins as decoys and an 'Adopt a Puffin' scheme was launched by the trust where members of the public could adopt one of a hundred decoy puffins to be positioned on the Calf.

In early 2016, the decoys were distributed between two sites near the lighthouses at Kione ny Halby, a location where puffins had historically nested. Puffins tend to nest in big groups so the decoys act as a seed colony. To help make the decoys as realistic as possible, a speaker system (kindly funded by The Manx Ornithological Society) was placed on the east coast site. The speakers play out the sound of puffin calls to help attract the juvenile puffins in from the sea to prospect the area. It is a slow process since it takes five or more years for them to reach sexual maturity and to start prospecting for burrows in

readiness for breeding. So the two charities are delighted to report early signs of potential success of this decoy colony.

On 6th July this year, a group of kayakers saw and photographed two puffins at Kione ny Halby with one snuggling up to the decoys. Rob Fisher, Volunteer Assistant Bird Warden on the Calf of Man, went to investigate and managed to observe and photograph a puffin with nesting material in its mouth. This is a positive sign that they may be breeding on the Calf, after an absence of over thirty years. Hopefully this is the start of many more puffins returning and we will hear their cries again, but for real this time.

Historic accounts show that Manx shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) was harvested in large numbers on the Calf during the 17th and 18th centuries and possibly earlier. It is also apparent that the Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), or Sea Parrot as it was known, was present and also culled. As the puffin “harvesters” did not differentiate between the two species in their records, it is not possible to gauge their relative numbers at that time.

Although thousands of birds were harvested by humans, it has long been assumed that the start of the shearwater/puffin annihilation by long-tails (brown rats) coincided with the 1792 wreck of a ship engaged in the Russian trade, However, the Quayle Bridge House Papers reveal that the devastation of the shearwater colonies had predated 1792 so suggest that the shipwreck that led to the presence of long-tail on the Calf had occurred some years earlier. Indeed, Manx National Heritage has discovered that on 2nd September 1786, Thomas Quayle wrote to his father John Quayle who held a lease of the Calf at the time, “I am sorry to hear rats have committed such great devastation on the Calf” and that three years later on 14th September 1789 he wrote, “The Duchess (of Atholl) says she was very fond of the puffins and much regrets their extermination.”

Over two hundred years later, many seabirds globally and locally have seen a sharp decrease in numbers over the past few decades and this includes the charismatic Atlantic Puffin, so much so that they are red listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern report. Along with the Manx Shearwater, as ground nesting birds they are particularly vulnerable to predation by long tails and it is believed that the puffin last bred on the Calf in 1985.

The Manx Shearwater Recovery Project started in 2012 and aimed to eliminate the long tail and largely appears to have been responsible for the resurgence in Manx Shearwater numbers from less than 100 breeding pairs in 2010 to more than 600 breeding pairs currently. Although the long-tail has not been

completely eradicated, it is looks as though the project might also have created favourable conditions to encourage the return of the puffin to the Calf too.

### **DBH**

Source: Manx National Heritage

Photo Rob Fisher, Volunteer Assistant Bird Warden, Calf of Man



### **Manx Missile strikes France**

Following his successes in the summer's Tour of Turkey, Laxey's Mark Cavendish, now a near veteran at 36, was drafted in as a late replacement in the Tour de France to be the Deceuninck Quick-Step team's sprinter and soon repaid their confidence in him by surprising the field and winning the fourth stage to the delight even of his fellow competitors at seeing him back to form after several years of misfortune. Two days later an emotional Cavendish won again in the stage to Châteauroux where he had tasted his first tour success back in 2008, going on to win six stages in 2009.

Tynwald Day coincidentally being a rest day, on 6th July his team gave him a perfect lead-out and he won a third stage as the riders prepared for the Alps. 9th July was scorching hot and required a 220 km ride (nearly four laps of the TT course) across the Western Riviera to Carcassonne. It was exhausting but after 219 km, the team had guided Mark to the point where the sprint began. He did the rest and brought his life's total of stage wins in this toughest of cycle races to 34 to equal the record held since 1975 by king of the tour, Belgium's Eddy Merckx who was to turn up at the start of the nineteenth stage two days later to

congratulate Mark. I hear that on the news of this success there were calls on the Island for the old Douglas to Peel Railway line, currently being converted into a footpath and cycleway, to be renamed Mark Cavendish Way.

After a rest day, the tour then headed west for three tough days in the Pyrenees to be followed by a long stage to the Dordogne River, a time trial and the ride into Paris. For that a fan zone was set up at the Villa Marina. They saw three sprinters leading the way up the Champs Elisée, Mark among them.

Anticipation was high in the crowd but the other two knew that they could only win if they rode together and blocked our hero. They succeeded but the headlines were for the third placed man. Not for nothing has Mark long been known as the Manx Missile.

**DBH**

## **Yn Chruinnaght**

Having run for over forty years, Yn Chruinnaght, one of the island's largest festivals used the opportunity created by the border restrictions to hold a one-week celebration of Manx culture from 19th to 25th July. Unable to play host to the usual variety of acts from Celtic nations, visitors could hear the best of traditional Manx music.

The concerts began at the Peel Masonic Hall on the Wednesday with the folk/pop group the Mollag band with the main event being a grand-scale Ceili, held in the Royal Hall of the Villa Marina on the Saturday night. There many of the island's traditional groups performed including Perree Bane, Ny Fennee and Skeddán Jiarg with the opportunity for the hundreds of concert-goers to get up and dance.

They also heard the first performance of the Manx Fiddle Orchestra, a 27-strong group of violinists and viola players led by music teacher Kate Lawrence through a set of traditional classics arranged especially to accommodate the amount of instruments involved.

Elsewhere, throughout the week, there was a mix of free music sessions, workshops and concerts as well as a range of Manx language events and an artisan crafts fair in the grounds of Peel cathedral.

**DBH**

## **More Viking silver found**

Just five months after a previous find, a Manx metal detectorist has unearthed more Viking treasure in the north of the Island.

He found a spectacular one hundred item hoard of Viking Age treasure in silver coins and pieces of cut silver armbrands buried in around AD 1030. There were 67 coins, all pennies minted in England, Dublin, modern day Germany and the Isle of Man, indicating the spread of Viking trade and influence. The silver items would have been used to pay for goods and there is a lead weight which may also have been used in trading. The earliest coins date from the late 900s so this stash of wealth was probably acquired over a few years. They were declared treasure trove in mid July.

### **DBH**

Source, Manx National Heritage, Manx Radio.

### **World interest widens**

NAMA has told us of the recent formation of two new Manx societies: the Butte and Western Montana Manx Society in the United States and the Ottawa Area Manx Society in Canada. It's encouraging news for all groups of Manxies off the Island and it comes at the same time as a Manx language study group becomes a member society of North American Manx.

Manx mining experience was in demand in the USA's north-west for most of the late 19th and early 20th centuries not least in Montana, especially Butte with its reserves of minerals, including gold discovered in 1863. Many became members of North American Manx Association. This year their descendants have formed their own society and the Society's Facebook page tells us it now has 74 members.

Ottawa launched with a Facebook page (@ottawamanx) in late January and within four months had 68 followers and plans to have a live meeting during the summer in central Ottawa, appropriately at "The Manx Pub". The Facebook page is most informative and well worth regular visits.

Kiarkyl ny Gaelgey, the Manx Gaelic Circle, has no geographical boundaries and started out as a Manx language study group in the Washington DC area meeting in Alexandria, Virginia for a twice a month two hour session led by Kelly McCarthy, originally from Port St Mary. It focussed on conversational Manx using Brian Stowell's Bun-choorse Gaelgagh text book with four CDs, the on line resources of learnmanx.com and Manx Radio. Have a look at [www.kiarkyl.wordpress.com](http://www.kiarkyl.wordpress.com)

## **DBH**

Source: North American Manx Association

### **Maughold Missed**

From early in the Second World War until the early '60s, RAF Jurby was one of the training camps under "HQ Tech Training Command, Brampton" which did not have an airfield so its communications were by an Avro Anson aircraft when I was stationed there. If the plane was to fly to Jurby, I was often offered a flight to the Island, sometimes requiring a phone call to my father at work as the schedule only gave me three or four hours to get home to Douglas and back. My last flight might have been my last.

It was in 1961 and I was again given the opportunity to fly to Jurby. On the way we ran into thick fog, "Mannanin's Cloak" and after a while I heard the crew say they were going down to find out where they were. At that moment Maughold lighthouse appeared above us and I quickly said my final prayer before the pilot managed to miss the lighthouse, climb up out of the fog, landing at Jurby in sunshine.

On its next flight the aircraft again ran into the mist and hit the top of North Barrule killing all aboard.

### **Maureen Wigley**

#### **A surfeit of lamb**

Eighty years ago in the autumn of 1941 WW2 food rationing was becoming very severe not least in the Isle of Man where transport difficulties meant that in most weeks some product or another was unavailable and residents seemed always to be playing catch up. Yet those same transport difficulties created another problem. The Ramsey Courier of 7th November reports that the annual surplus of lambs, usually solved by exporting them, was insurmountable that year and complaining that the government had not invested in large scale cold storage facilities. Some 800 lambs per week surplus to Island needs were coming onto the market and, as the article also pointed out, in the New Year there would be a similar problem with beef.

My recollection of shopping during the war is that there was no meat rationing on the Island but I cannot remember as far back as 1941 and that might have been confined to darkest Andreas. Can any reader provide more information? The same article mentions a large scale surfeit of cabbages because mainland importers were refusing to buy as their quality deteriorates while in transit – not

an excuse Manx importers of some produce arriving into the Island were allowed to make, the reporter complains.

**DBH**

## **Hop tu Naa**

Centuries ago 31st October was celebrated in Celtic countries as New Year's Eve, the completion of harvest signalling the end of the year and the beginning of winter and was known as Oie Houney, spelt differently but pronounced the same in Ireland. Over time it seems to have merged with All Hallows' Eve in England to become Halloween and been exported to America changing over the years as it combined with local traditions. However, the old ways continued on the Isle of Man and it is believed to be the oldest continuous tradition on the Island. It took its current name Hop tu Naa from the meaningless refrain to the Manx Gaelic song, "Jinny the Witch" of which there are different English words for each of the island's four towns and a popular dance. You can find them all and the Gaelic version on the internet.

The traditions include the carving of swedes: always known as turnips on the Island but often called "moots" and again the style of the carving varies according to the groups' location although the vegetable cannot have been present more than 120 years ago as it was only introduced late in the 18th century.

Hop tu Naa is celebrated on the Island with dancing as well as singing and the Hop tu Naa dance has been collected by both Mona Douglas and Leighton Stowell. It's a simple procession dance for couples using the Manx reel step and a combination of arches and it is likely that it was performed carrying a turnip lantern. Now taught in schools it will be seen across the Island creating an evening little different from those described by Hall Caine in his 1887 novel, "The Deemster."

As with Halloween, the day attracted a number of superstitions the most unusual being that of Soddag Valloo or Dumb Cake the ingredients of which made its taste revolting, had to be baked in total silence giving it its name, must be prepared by all the women of the house in a prescribed manner. Only this will ensure the apparition of their future husband offering a drink of water. These days, many of the modern customs of Halloween are invading 31st October but lots of islanders remain determined to keep its peculiar traditions alive especially its food: potatoes, parsnips and fish mashed with butter and

toffee for afters while Culture Vannin has commissioned new songs for the festival.

**DBH**

## **Pandemic Update**

Things were looking good three months ago: one old case in the community, the patient almost better and one other case in a returning visitor from the UK who was self-isolating. Then there was a single near identical discovery two days later. The population was looking pretty safe especially as the vaccination programme was well advanced. Thoughts were turning to welcoming visitors again.

However, there was a fly in the ointment and it was across the water. Back in March the island government had indicated that 29th April was likely to be the big day. Five days before, a compromise was announced: because of concern over the “Indian Variant” newly arrived in the UK and subsequently renamed, “Delta” complete opening of border was deemed unwise and only very limited freedom of movement was to be allowed permitting residents, family members, partners, property owners and those with an employment contract of at least three months to come to the Island and leave isolation after 48 hours and a negative test.

On 17th June hope was restored with an announcement that from 28th unrestricted travel to the island would be allowed although only for those fully vaccinated for at least two weeks and who had not travelled outside the UK, Ireland or Channel Islands in the ten days preceding arrival on the Isle of Man. There had been no new cases for over a week, the four in the previous week having all been people self isolating after a visit to the UK and just one person was still recovering.

In the days leading up 28th, there had been a handful of new cases, all of people who had travelled to the mainland but as the date for relaxation approached, the authorities made part of the community aware of a new risk: enforcers arriving to claim unpaid UK drug debts. The police announced Operation Strongbox employing covert and undercover officers to monitor sea, air and fishing ports and included neighbourhood officers from Liverpool Police patrolling Pier Head to disrupt criminal activity.

Then, just one day before, the level of anxiety increased when three people being tested after contact with a possible case were found positive with Covid-19, one of which was a teacher at St Ninian’s High School in Douglas and six

colleagues had to self-isolate. The virus was back and from Tynwald Day with its five new cases, things got progressively worse with the virus finding its way into several schools in the south and, as criticism arose of a relaxation as new case numbers on the mainland were increasing, there were 114 new cases bringing the Island's total to 298 although none was in hospital. By 28th July there were over 2,000 cases and things looked extremely serious. As in England, new case numbers reduced during August but, unlike in England, they did not increase again in mid month. Nevertheless, as we post this news there are nearly forty new cases per day with fourteen people in hospital, one in intensive care and, a week ago, the 38th island death from the virus.

With most of the adult population fully vaccinated and the programme to extend it to the under seventeens under way, there are now few restrictions on the fully vaccinated Society members looking to visit the Island can find full details on the [visitisleofman](http://visitisleofman.com) web site

### **DBH**

Sources: Isle of Man government web site, iomtoday, Manx Radio



### **Turning tourists away**

Until shortly after the Covid-19 virus struck I thought it impossible that the Island would ban visitors. So it was a surprise when I discovered recently that nearly a hundred years ago some residents thought that Tynwald was considering just that. Is the electorate less powerful today?

This is what the Isle of Man Times reported on 15th December 1928:

## How the Gambling Petition was Signed.

A Douglas business man recently entered the house of a customer just as another caller, bearing an obvious document of some sort, was going out. After the lady of the house had bidden him sit down, the following conversation ensued:—

“I’ve just been signing the petition. Have you signed it?”

“No. What petition is it?”

“It’s a petition to stop the House of Keys from passing a Bill that will keep all the people away from the Island. It’s a wonder you haven’t heard about it.”

“Oh, I know what you mean now. Are you in favour of horse racing?”

“No.”

“Are you in favour of betting?”

“No. But they didn’t tell me that the petition had anything to do with that. They just said there was a Bill that would drive all the visitors away; and, of course, I signed anything that would stop that. We couldn’t let a thing like that happen, could we?”

**DBH**

Source: Manx imuseum newspapers

### September Island Quiz

(Open to non-members through the web site)

1. The Manx phrase, “Slane lhiat” means (a) goodbye, (b) good health, (c) good luck, (d) good riddance?
2. Which is more northerly, (a) Bishopscourt Glen, (b) Elfin Glen, (c) Glen Auldyn, (d) Glen Tramman?

3. The English government first set up a regular sailing between Whitehaven and Douglas in (a) 1752, (b) 1767, (c) 1801, (d) 1813?
4. According to the song, who might take me to the Isle of Man again, (a) Canavan, (b) EasyJet, (c) Flanagan, (d) Kelly?
5. In May Stephanie Quirk teamed up with two dragons to produce (a) a block, (b) a gel, (c) a powder, (d) a liquid?

### **Answer to the Summer quiz**

1. The Manx “Kys t'ou?” means (c) How are you doing?
2. During the First World War Archibald Knox’s occupation was (a) censor,
3. LMS member Vic Quayle has written a book on, (c) Stirling Moss,
4. Samantha Barks recorded the songs, (b) Ellan Vannin and the National Anthem,
5. Island light-houses date from (a) 1818.

Congratulations to Richard Moore of South Africa who was once again the first with a set of five correct answers. £20 in fuel will be available when he visits the Island on hiring a car from Mylchreests Car Hire at Ronaldsway Airport. The closing date for the current quiz is 17th September.

The first reader to send me five correct answers will receive a Manx £20 note.

### **Letter to the Editor**

Thank you for having me on your [email] mailing list. I have deliberately held back on answering your quiz this month and I am hoping by now you will have received a few correct answers. I really do learn so much from your quiz.

I am so pleased that the Manx Missile is doing so well in the Tour de France.

I see that the UK is progressing back towards normality, we are a long way from that here, but progress is being made with the vaccination programme and my wife and I are due our second Pfizer jab next Monday.

Kind regards,

**Richard Moore**, South Africa

### **Acknowledgements**

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**DBH**

**Dates for your diary**

**Mhelliah**

Please see note on page one

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***LONDON MANX SOCIETY***

STOP PRESS

**Noël Cringle OBE**

It was announced on Sunday that the former President of Tynwald and former President of the London Manx Society Noël Cringle OBE has died at the age of 83.

His political career spanned five decades, serving as a Member of the House of Keys between 1974 and 1986, and again between 1991 and 2000. He served as

Education Minister and Speaker of the House of Keys before his election as President of Tynwald in 2000, a post he held until 2011 and in 2008 he was awarded the OBE in the Queen's New Year honours list for public service to the Isle of Man.

Among many tributes, current President Laurence Skelly said, "Today Tynwald and the Island mourn the passing of a political giant. Noël was widely known as a farmer and auctioneer, and as an untiring supporter of every aspect of Island life, especially sport and the arts. But it is above all as a parliamentarian that he will be remembered. In a career spanning five decades he served in many different capacities and ultimately distinguished himself as the longest-serving President of Tynwald in the history of the role. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time of loss.'

Sir Miles Walker, the first ever chief minister of the Isle of Man, who worked alongside Noël for many years said, "Many, many, many are the days that we sat in the car, one dropping the other off outside either of our homes, talking and arguing - in the best possible way. He's been a very good friend, a colleague, somebody who's shown me and demonstrated to me a lot of good things. He's been a very precious friend, really."

Society President, Alastair Kneale wrote, "Sad to hear of his passing. There are fewer and fewer Manx politicians these days that come anywhere near having his skills or being held in the high regard and respect that Noel was."

Noël and his wife Mary were guests of honour at our lunch in 2010 and their visit is remembered with much pleasure. The Society extends its sympathy to Mary.

Source BBC