



# Un Habyr Seyr



The Free Manx Paper

Earroo / Issue 40 - Jerrey Geuree / January 2008

Published by Mec Vannin

## Laa Cooinaghtyn Illiam Dhone - Oraid Ghaelgagh

Liorish Gregory Joughin

Tra ta kimmeys ennagh ayn, ta shin jerkal rish slattyssyn co-reggyrtagh, fo-rheynnyn ny meoiryn shee as yn bree oc dy ghellal rish.

Ren ny meoiryn shee faghtys feie y Nollick (gollrish dagh blein) noi adsyn ta gimman fo smaght ny jough. Ta shin er n'akin ram soilsheenyn as artyn ayns ny pabyryn naightey as er y radio, as ta gleashtynyn fo scrutaght er çheu ny raaidyn. Ta finallyn as eer prisoon dauesyn t'er nyn ngeddyn magh.

Ny yei shen as ooilley, she niee-argid ta'n loght ta coontey son y chooid smoo dy argid mee-leihoil ayns Mannin. Ta shoh leidiel rish surranse deinney, jeeill çhymbyllagh as t'eh cooney lesh kimmeys co-reaghit agh t'eh jeeaghyn nagh vel meoiryn shee Vannin ceau monney traa er y chooish. Cha nel shin fakin soilsheenyn erbee jeant ec ny meoiryn shee mychione y chooish shen as cha nel shin clashtyn monney edyr. Ta cho wheesh dy niee-argid rygheddyn er yn ellan nish dy vel spotçhyn mychione, gollrish tra ta shin tayrn duillag argid fliugh magh ass y phoggaid jeh troosyn neeit.

Ta'n Shirveishagh Tashtee dy arryltagh goaill rish dy vel niee-argid ny voirey 'syn Ellan as ta ny slattyssyn goll er bishaghey dy ghra dy vel shin caggey ny hoi. Agh cha nel yn Sherveishagh Tashtee ny'n Sherveishagh Cooishyn Thie, ny peiagh erbee 'sy Tynvaal er yannoo monney dy chur er ny meoiryn shee dy yannoo ymmyd jeh ny slattyssyn shen. Mannagh nod ny meoiryn shee cur bree da ny slattyssyn shoh, cha n'eue ad!

Agh tra ta mee smooïnaghtyn er y chultoor jeh follaghey bentyn rish co-lughtyn as coontaghyn bank as yn aght ta'n Tashtey lhiggey da ny co-lughtyn argidoil freayll rick orroo hene, as yn aght ta'n Tashtey er yannoo eh smoo eashagh dy chroo as dy reayll co-lughtyn ayns Mannin, ta ourys aym nagh vel yn reiltys as ny meoiryn shee gearree jannoo monney dy firrinagh dy hoie er y chimmeys niee argid

Ta art beg fo'n ennym "Níee Argid" er ny screeu ayns Tuarystyl Vleinoil yn Ard Veoir Shee t'er ny haue nish. Cha nel eh gra monney scanshoil as t'eh g'imraa delleyderyn druggey myn-chimmeeagh

myr ard-ghane ny meoiryn shee.

Er y gherrid, va delleyder ard-ghooagh er yn ellan as e ven er nyn gur fo ourys myr nieederyn argid. Cha 'sayms dy row shoh jeant kyndagh rish bree ny meoiryn shee Vannin ny meoiryn shee ayns çheer elley.

Quoi ren yn ronsaghey? Ta bett aym pene!

Cha nel meoiryn shee Vannin foast er ghra c'raad haink yn fys er y chooish shoh agh my v'eh meoiryn shee Vannin ghow eh, well, jeant dy mie! Agh ta mee smooïnaghtyn orroosyn ghow yn dooinney:

*"Ta fer mooar er ny hayrn ain, Yuan bhoy! Cre 'sy teill neemayd lesh nish?"*

As vel sleih elley fo yn ronsaghey eu? As lhig dooin fakin naight as artyn mychione nyn vaghtys, myr ta shin fakin y lhied mychione faghtysyn elley.

Foddee dy vod yn Ard Veoir Shee noa cur er bun faghtys soilsheen mooar dy eiyrt er as dy hoie er nieederyn argid elley ta g'obbraghey 'syn ellan shoh.

**Gregory Joughin  
Jerrey Geuree 2008**

**Oraid Ghaelgagh - Translation** (included at Gregory's request)

When a type of criminality exists, we expect corresponding laws, police divisions and the resource to deal with it.

The police conducted a campaign over Christmas (like each Christmas) against those who drink and drive. We have seen many adverts and items in the papers and on radio, and vehicles are being examined by the road-side. There are fines and even prison for those who are convicted.

Nonetheless, money-laundering accounts for the greater part of criminal monies in the Isle of Man. This leads to human suffering, environmental damage and it aids organised crime but it seems that the Isle of Man police hardly spend any time on the matter. We don't see any adverts by the police about it and we don't hear much either. There is so much money laundering going on in the Island that there are jokes about it, like when we pull a wet note out of a pair of washed trousers.

The Treasury Minister willingly admits that money laundering is a problem in the Island and laws are expanding to say that we are combatting it. But neither the Treasury Minister, the Home Affairs Minister or anyone in Tynwald has done much to empower the police to make use of these laws. If the police cannot give effect to these laws, then they are worthless.

But when I think about the culture of secrecy relating to companies and bank accounts and the way the Treasury allows financial companies to

self regulate, and the way the Treasury has made it easier to establish and maintain companies in the Isle of Man, I have a suspicion that the Treasury and the police don't want to do too much to clamp down on the crime of money laundering.

There is a small article under the title "Money Laundering" in the Annual Report of the Chief Constable who has retired now. It doesn't say much of importance and cites petty drug dealers as the chief objectives of the police.

Recently, a well known businessman and his wife were accused of money laundering. I don't know if this was done because of the efforts of the Isle of Man police or because of police in another country.

Who carried out the investigation? I have my own bet!

The police in the Isle of Man have still not said where they got their information in this matter but if it was the IoM police, well, well done! But I think about the arresting officers:

"We've caught a big one, Juan Boy! What on Earth will we do with him now?"

And are other people under their investigation? And let's see news and articles about the campaign like we see the likes about other campaigns.

Perhaps the new Chief Constable can establish a big advertising campaign to clamp down on other money launderers operating in this island.

Gregory Joughin

**Yn Pabyr Seyr is 40!**

No, not 40 years but 40 issues. The numbering system went a little awry in the twenties and was out of step until the 30th issue. The first seven issues were produced using bitmapped fonts and a dot-matrix printer. It's had five editors but has appeared consistently since June 1991. Here's to the next 40!

**Tax Strategy to be Tested**

Mec Vannin was the only body to raise a voice against the government's tax strategy. This is based on both the anti-social nature of the regime but also its dangerous reliance on VAT income.

This means that any spending slow down has an instant negative effect on government receipts and, unlike income tax, cannot be adjusted to accommodate differing economic conditions.

The UK slow down will quickly impact upon our own economy so a testing time seems likely.

**Steamy Ownership**

Tynwald has recently conducted an inquiry into the Steam Packet service. This is a perennial amongst the populace and rightly so, given the special status afforded this company. Mec Vannin's policy is to reacquire a majority holding but at the moment the ownership is through Australian merchant bank, Macquarie.

We have no evidence to support suggestions that Macquarie acquired it on someone else's behalf but, as a simple commodity to be bought and sold on the open market, what purports to our "Island Lifeline" is completely out of our hands and the barely visible "user agreement" is no protection.

**Health cuts continue**

Recent news stories reported concerns of IT staff within the Health Department over employment conditions. We are surprised that no-one has picked up on "point of delivery" cuts at the Ballamona (Nobles) site.

Apparently, nursing staff is being reduced through natural wastage despite increasing work load. Two wards have been knocked into one and staffing reduced accordingly. This seems to be a back-door implementation of Steve Rodan's original ward closure plans.

**Planning Irregularities**

What use is a publicly visible planning system when it may as well not exist due to ministerial interference?

When ministerial government was established, the DLGE minister was given unilateral power to accept or reject appeal findings without further accountability. This was meant to give latitude in exceptional circumstances.

Since then, various ministers have unilaterally overturned independent planning inspectors' findings on a regular basis. Current minister John Shimmin is following in this tradition and is unlikely to be criticised by Chief Minister Brown who was a regular offender when DLGE minister himself.

**Public Transport - What's That?**

While everyone was gnawing their way through too much food on Christmas Day, how many of us stopped to spare a thought for those who *have* to work, mostly public sector employees. Did any of us wonder how such people would get to work?

You can rest assured that that it wasn't on a bus, anyway, because there weren't any. That leaves cars and, if you're rich enough, taxis.

This reveals this government's true commitment to public transport, reduction of car dependence, congestion etc.

**NONE!**

## Illiam Dhone Commemoration - English Oration by Angela Moffatt

In An Island - Thomas MacDonagh

'Mid an isle I stand,  
Under its only tree:  
The ocean around -  
Around life eternity:  
'Mid my life I stand,  
Under the boughs of thee.

Thomas MacDonagh

***"This country will be one entire slum unless we get into action, in spite of our literary movements and Gaelic Leagues it is going down and down. There is no life or heart left in the country."***

Also Thomas MacDonagh

I've chosen to quote MacDonagh, as his life and beliefs encapsulate some of my own in relation to a sense of national identity.

He was an Irish Nationalist, not much older than me, who died in 1916. Like Illiam Dhone, a rebel, like Illiam Dhone taken out by British forces and executed by firing squad.

In speaking today, I wanted to address what it felt to be Manx today, what I felt my sense of national identity meant in the 21st century. In doing so, it seems strange that I would draw from an Irish nationalist who died nearly 100 years ago - but perhaps not so strange.

Why? Because we have always had a curious relationship with other peoples. I have often thought in the face of wave after wave of invasion and settlement we adopted our own flexible approach. Let them conquer. We will endure, assimilate the best of what is on offer and ultimately use it to our advantage. As such our culture and attitude is enduring, resourceful, inclusive and confident - we have little to be defensive about when we have opened our minds to what others can offer over thousands of years. We do not have a national identity characterised by fear and resulting violence and intolerance of others, although we can be forthright and tough when faced with attempts to belittle and marginalise us.

I think of these qualities, when I think of this island. I think primarily in terms of the landscape around me, and that is why MacDonagh's words have such resonance still.

I think of the sea, forever changing yet unchanging - unpredictable. I think of the trees you see as you climb the Injebreck hill towards Brandywell - weathered, beaten, twisted and worn. Yet still they stand, against all the elements, year after year - and in spring and summer they bud and break into leaf. For me, this is an obvious metaphor for the Manx people - that no matter what, we will thrive and prosper, through our own

individual and collective determination.

You may wonder then why I have included the second quote - which seems completely out of place in these prosperous times.

I spoke at this event 15 years ago as a younger but no less passionate individual. I wanted to stress that a key part of national identity was the ability for that to find expression because of economic prosperity - and an economic prosperity fairly shared by all. This was and is the key to maintaining the inclusive and welcoming aspects of our culture. Where groups are excluded or marginalised, our culture, and its security, come under threat and mindless xenophobia emerges. This view was influenced by my very different memories of the Isle of Man from my childhood.

When I grew up, in the Isle of Man of the seventies, it was a fairly grim place. Everything was characterised by a dull, grey, cold sense of decay, made grimmer by a bizarre and increasingly forced cheap seaside merriment that entered our lives for part of the year. There was little money, little freedom of choice in most peoples' lives, attitudes that were intolerant and slow to change and a cultural landscape that was all but through - only kept alive by the dogged efforts of Manx nationalists. In this we were like much of the rest of the world - our practical everyday reality completely influenced by the lack of economic benefit for all sections of society.

I sometimes think that we take all we have now

***Continued on page 4***

**For more information about  
membership of Mec Vannin and our  
policies, please visit our website at**

**[www.mecvannin.im](http://www.mecvannin.im)**

## Yn Arrane Ashoonagh

O Halloo nyn dooie  
O Chliejeen ny s' bwaai  
Ry gheddyn er ooir aalin Yee  
Ta dt' Ardstoyl Reill-Thie  
Myr Baarool er ny hoie  
Dy reayll shin ayns seyrnys as shee.

Lhig dooin boggoil bee  
Lesh annym as cree  
As croghey er gialdyn y Chiarn  
Dy vodmayd dagh oor  
Treishteil er e phooar  
Dagh olk ass nyn anmeenyn 'hayrn.

## The National Anthem

O land of our birth  
O gem of God's earth  
O Island so strong and so fair  
Built firm as Barrool  
Thy throne of Home Rule  
Makes us free as thy sweet mountain air.

Then let us rejoice  
With heart, soul and voice  
And in the Lord's promise confide  
That each single hour  
We trust in His power  
No evil our souls can betide.

### Illiam Dhone Commemoration - English Oration (Continued)

for granted when I think back to that time, and in that there is a warning for us all. I now have a child, and I never want a return for our island to those times, and my experience.

A time when prosperity was something experienced only by the few. A time when hard work produced poor wages and pitiful change in living standards. A time when the Manx language and culture was only saved and promoted by passionate individuals dedicated to saving and building on our unique cultural aspects. And that is again the words of MacDonagh still have resonance. Because we can never allow ourselves to go back, and because real economic and cultural change came when a small but dedicated group of

individuals, much mocked at the time as I recall, fought for it. The real spirit of the Manx, the root of our national identity is that resistance to inequality and marginalisation.

Some far sighted individuals took a chance and built an island economy on what became known as 'the finance sector'. And some others took that and built an island economy where the average person was able to take a share in it - by fighting for socio-economic & legislative change, which meant we as an island are able to start to take our place in the world as a modern and truly democratic nation.

But we have a long way to go. Perhaps in 15 years time, we will have an island where the development of our young people is not under threat through potential cuts to training and educational opportunities, which will develop our children and our island. Perhaps in 15 years time, we will have a situation where we won't need trade unions, because we have a society that embraces fairness and equality in all aspects of working life. Perhaps in 15 years time, I will have a child that can listen to the Manx oration and actually understand her own language. All I know is that in 15 years time, those trees at Injebreck will still be there, and that gives me hope.

What is it to be Manx?

It is a national identity that is ALL embracing and progressive, in all areas of life and includes all the people who live here and come to this island and embrace its ways - and I believe in fighting for it.

That to me is the essence of what Illiam Dhone died for, what MacDonagh died for, and what I live for.

**Angela Moffatt - 2 January 2008**

