



# Yn Pabyr Seyr



The Free Manx Paper

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## Colin Jerry

# 15-06-36 to 19-12-08

Colin was born in Tetworth, Sussex on the 15th June, 1936. His first experience of the Isle of Man was as a young child in the 1940s, when his family spent their summer holidays with his father who was stationed at RAF Jurby at the time.

The family, and Colin particularly, enjoyed the experience so much that it became a favourite holiday destination and Colin set his heart on living here. When he married Cristl, in 1963, he brought her here on honeymoon. Having qualified as a teacher, he was able to secure a teaching position here in 1968, a year at Demesne Road and then to Peel Clothworkers' School where he spent the rest of his career.

Although never a member of Mec Vannin, Colin wrote several articles for the Party, produced several cartoons and, most significantly, designed the current Party emblem that appears on the header of Yn Pabyr Seyr.

The following article is by one of our former Chairmen, Gregory Joughin.

### Thoughts of Colin Jerry by Greg Joughin

I was still at school, in the late 70s when I first met Colin, at the session in the Central Hotel, Peel. He was playing the guitar then, with an ad hoc group of musicians called Celtic Tradition. I was impressed and went on to join the Manx dance group Bock Yuan Fannee, where Colin both played and danced.

It was about that time when he started to make musical instruments, firstly the harp, which his wife Cristl played, then

all manner of (mostly) wind instruments. But it was the Uilleann pipes that he took to, in such a way that, all of us that knew Colin will remember him with his pipes. Colin helped me to create my own musical instruments, and we would often share notes on our latest projects.

As a musician he was clever and, for many years, played not only traditional Manx music but brass with the Garff City Stompers, and at times made guest appearances with the Tholtan Builders. He would weave his Jazz style improvisation into his traditional Manx music playing from time to time.

Colin developed a lasting fondness of all things Manx. His command of the language allowed him not only to converse, but to write songs, stories, and articles. He was in demand as a translator and transliterator.

A tireless worker, Colin went to great lengths to seek out, and play, the old Manx tunes. Eventually, this led to the compilation of, firstly, a small publication, and then the two volumes of Kiaull Yn Theay. Hand written, and presented in a very user-friendly format, these books soon became popular. Affectionately referred to as the red and yellow books, they have, without doubt, formed the single most significant contribution to the promotion of Manx Music, since its revival.

Colin the artist explored many different media, from ceramics and three dimensional form, to calligraphy and illuminated script. He was an inspired cartoonist which he used to illustrate

some of his literary work. A man with an innate sense of wit, and an astute vision, he invariably had an amusing comment on life's situations. I remember one particular time we were at the Lowender Peran festival in Cornwall where the bodhran players were particularly numerous and pestilent. Colin produced a beautifully illustrated poster announcing that there would be, at high noon the following day, in the market square, a bodhran cull!

One of his many books, Ny Three Muckeyn Beggey, hand written and illustrated, took a satirical look at the political situation on the Island in the late Eighties. (The profits from the sale of this publication he donated to help the families of the imprisoned F.S.F.O. Campaigners.)

I crossed swords with Colin on many a frozen parapet ..... and although he played a formidable St. Dennis in the Mummies' Christmas Whiteboys play, he had, over many years of his involvement, performed all the parts.

Although never one to seek praise for his work, when he was awarded the Reih Bleinney Vannanan, for his services to Manx culture, Colin wore his badge with immense pride. He was fiercely proud of the Manx culture that he was involved with, and when he felt it threatened, he wasn't afraid to take up the defensive, and sometimes unpopular argument.

Colin had a deep affection for the Manx countryside, and was keen student of country lore. He was familiar with the

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## In memory of Colin Jerry

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names and properties of many hedge row plants and animals. Once when researching for a song, he was able to tell me off the top of his head, with a remarkable degree of accuracy, what was the preferred tippie of the Buggane.

Colin had just played his favourite carol, and was half way down a second large whiskey at the session in the Tynwald Inn, on the Friday 19th December 2008, when he collapsed and died. He was a man of many talents, and for all those that knew him, we can now take pleasure only in the memories that we have of him. But his name will be added to those worthies that have assisted and guided the course of the revival of interest in traditional Manx culture.

G.J. Of course, if Mr Gawne had the courage

## The Future is Farming ...

Mec Vannin endorses the views and concerns expressed by the Farmers FOR Productive Farming Group, as expressed in the notice below.

The group were meant to be represented by farmer David Moore of Michael at what was originally supposed to be a "public meeting" organised by the Progressive Action Group last autumn. At the last minute, however, Mr Moore found out that he would not be sharing the platform since the Agriculture Minister, Phil Gawne, would only entertain speaking if there was no opposition expressed to his policies to cripple food production in the Island. The meeting was also re-jigged to be an invited audience only - propaganda coup for the Department. Perhaps the PAG should rename itself as the RAG (Regressive Action Group) if it's going to endorse that sort of behaviour.

of his convictions, he would be able to argue his policies rather than depending on subverting discussion.

Apart from the loss of the ability to sustain essential food production within our country, we will also lose even more of those with the necessary skills to farm the remaining Manx countryside effectively. The policy change was originally pedalled as a necessity because of a change in the Island's damaging relationship with the EU via Protocol Three. That situation has now changed so why is he so keen to drive it through? It is also against Mr Gawne's previous utterances about "food miles" and "Think Local". There is a good reason. As stated in previous editions of YPS, it is now government policy to eradicate farming as a viable industry and give the countryside over to large scale gardens for tax-dodgers. Mr Gawne is clearly firmly behind that policy.

## DO YOU WANT FOOD TO BE PRODUCED ON THE ISLAND ?

At present the Government pays your taxes to livestock farmers only if they produce high quality food.

Agriculture Minister, Phil Gawne, will be seeking Tynwald approval to the detailed proposals which will pay the same amount of your taxes to farmers just to tend the countryside with no need to produce food.

This amounts to poor value for money for tax payers as our "Farm Assured" farming for food will also give a better landscape and keep more animals grazing in the fields with the Agri-Environment Scheme already caring for special habitats.

Many farmers want to continue proper farming using the land to produce local food just as they have done for centuries.

Without continuing the present production related incentives from government, the money that farmers

receive for their products will not cover the cost of production so farmers will cut back.

This was the EU's aim of the subsidy removal, with less being produced to create a shortage and force up consumer prices to cover the full cost.

In EU countries that have already removed direct production support, the numbers of animals on farms has fallen dramatically with shortages of beef and lamb.

The EU Commission is now considering reversing its policy by allowing countries to continue government support for beef and sheep production.

Sufficient food supply has become a serious concern world-wide due to climate change and increasing populations, making farming for

food vital.

Here on the Island we should continue to encourage our farmers to produce food which will also maintain an active agricultural industry, providing employment in the wider rural economy.

To retain productive farming we need to persuade Tynwald to keep the support payments linked to production or hold an all Island referendum on it.

If you do not want to see the decline of the farming industry on the Island then contact your M.H.K. and support our campaign.

### FARMERS SHOULD HAVE TO PRODUCE FOOD TO RECEIVE YOUR TAXES

David Moore  
Farmers FOR Productive Farming Group.

# Laa cooinaghtyn Illiam Dhone - Oraid Ghaelgagh Liorish Markys y Kermitt

Myr va armee ardwaiyllagh Hostyn chaglym noi Mannin tree keead vleeaney jeih as daeed er dy henney, myr va reiltys Hostyn sluggey stiagh seyrnsys Vannin daa cheead vleeaney as daeed er dy henney, nish, ta reiltys Hostyn gaarlaghey ee hene dy hoie orrin reesht as she ny Manninee boghtey vees 'sy check kyndagh rish reesht.

Rish roud dy vleeaney, va'n reiltys ayns Mannin geiyrt er Sostyn ayns dy-chooilley chooish. Bunnys ooilley yn seyns v'er ny cosney ain feie ny bleeantyn chaaie er ve currit er-ash da Sostyn gollrish gioot. Cha nel yn reiltys ayns Mannin nish agh fo-rheynn mynreiltys ynnydag Sostynagh. Ny yei shen as ooilley, adsyn ta shirrey oik 'sy vynreiltys shoh jerkyl orrin ad y oltaghey.

Cre'n fa? T'ad er ve maynrey dy liooar dy yannoo ymmyd jeh slattyssyn Sostynagh, shirveishyn Sostynagh, as polasseeyn Sostynagh ayns ynnyd jeh croo raad dooin hene. Keayrt erbee ta brogh ayn, t'ad follaghey ad hene cooyl Sostyn as cooyl cooishyn Sostynagh. T'ad lhiggey raad da'n chooid smoo dy vriwnnyssyn dy ghoil er chroo liorish shirveishaghyn theayagh. Beggan er veggan, v'ad lhiggey da litçherys as treisht ommidagh ayns mieys Hostyn dy tuirrey nyn mriwnys. Myr shen, ta shin nish croagey er Sostyn cour ram reddyn as ta reiltys Hostyn nish goaill stiagh yn lhiastynys.

Ec y traa cheddin, 'syn ynrican ynnyd raad ta seyrnsys foast ain, shen keesh er çheet-stiagh, ta'n reiltys ayns Mannin er chroo polasee va shicky drogh-vaght y hayrn. Ta reiltys Hostyn er chur magh fogrey dy hoie ee er ny buill ta lhiggey da sleih as co-lughtyn shaghey keeshyn. Cha nel eh goaill ardcheeayllys shen y aaishnaghey as choud's veesmayd fo Sostyn as fegooish bunraght chiart,

bee Sostyn lane seyr dy yannoo myr t'ee gearree lesh Mannin.

Ta fys mie ec reiltys Hostyn er ny t'ee jannoo. T'ee bishaghey yn cost dooin er un laue, as leodaghey nyn jeet stiagh er y laue elley, as shoh ec tra tra vees nyn jeet stiagh foddey ny sloo na ve 'sy vleeantyn shoh chaaie. Tuittee Mannin stiagh ayns laueyn Hostyn dyn caggey erbee.

Ta ny ashooneyryn er ve greesaghey son seyrnsys rish l'eh cheead vleeaney nish as shimmeys sleih va craidey mooin er son shen agh, cho Leah's ta Sostyn jannoo red ennagh nagh mie lhieu, ta'n sleih shoh cheddin goaill toshiaght er gaccan dy lajer my-e-chione. Cha nel seyrnsys ny feasley obbeys agh choud's veesmayd fo Sostyn, beemayd fo gaue veih dy-chooilley raad. Adsyn ta craidey mysh seyrnsys, t'ad jannoo ymmyd jeh arganeyn boghtey. Praaseyn as skeddin, t'ad gyllagh magh, agh va shin slane fo Sostyn tra v'ad shen ayns jeh'n vee ain, as t'ad foddey ny foaysagh na Mac Mooar as spollagyn praasey. T'ad dobberan mychione yn tra lurg yn nah chaggey vooar, tra va keeadyn dy leih faagail Mannin dy hirrey obbyr ayns Sostyn, agh va shin slane fo Sostyn ec y traa v'ayn. Tra v'eh er ny hoilshaghey magh liorish scruiaght MacLeod er y chooish Chronk Vurray dy vel yn reiltys ayns Mannin lane dy loauys, va reiltys Hostyn lane arryltagh lhiggey raad da'n loauys shen y arraghtyn. C'raad va Sostyn, as eh urreeys shickaraghey reiltys vie ayns Mannin, tra va Rishart y Corkill gobbal cur seose yn oik echey? C'raad v'ee tra va Donal y Gelling er ny chur stiagh ayns ynnyd jeh, slane noi reiltys vunraghtoil vie ayns agh erbee?

Ta'd gra dy vel shin fo coadey Hostyn dy jig noidyn elley nyn oi. Dy jarroo? Cha row peiagh erbee er-lhimmeys jeh

ny Sostyneey cur çheb da caggey noi Mannin 'sy chiare cheead vleeaney chaaie. As c'raad va coadagh Hostyn tra hie ny Germaanee stiagh ayns Jersee as Gernsee?

Myr shen. Cre'n agh ta shin share fo Sostyn? Cha nel shin. Cre'n agh veagh shin ayns staid smessey as Mannin seyr? Cha beagh shin.

Ta shin gaccan dy lajer noi'n reiltys ayns Mannin, as ta palçhey dy accan mychione agh ny jarrood-jee rieau dy nee Sostyn yn noid firrinagh t'ain. Nish, myr v'ee, ayns l'ing Illiam Dhone.

Gura mie eu.

Markys y Kermitt, 2009.

## Glossary

ardwhaiyllagh	parliamentarian
ardcheeayllys	genius
bunraght	constitution
(f)aaishnaghey	predict
lhiastynys	debt

## Précis

England is preparing to undermine us again. The government in the Island has played into their hands through laziness and poor policies. Detractors of the nationalists cite arguments of no credibility, as the woes they associate with independence have all occurred under English rule. Furthermore, the English government has always sanctioned corruption and maladministration by the government here so it couldn't actually be worse with independence. The government here attracts much criticism and with good reason but the real enemy is England, just as it was during the life of Illiam Dhone.

# **Illiam Dhone Commemoration - English Oration**

## **By Mr. Stephen Moore**

In giving this address today to commemorate William Christian, I thought, "Why me?"

I am not a Manx scholar.  
Nor rich.  
Nor well connected.

I am just an ordinary subject and, I suppose, representative of the Grumbling Class.

Was it this grumbling class of people who gained the most from Illiam Dhone's actions in surrendering the Island to the Parliamentary forces so long ago?

To try to understand the scale of what happened is almost impossible:

A Parliamentary army landing on the Island and laying waste to our towns, farms and villages, the rape of our women and the killing of our men is almost laughable.

The example fresh on our minds is the indiscriminate bombing of men, women and children in the Gaza strip. The massing of an invasion force to teach the people "a lesson" is something we look upon in surprise.

The television pictures we see in our comfortable, centrally heated homes can sometimes make us immune to the true horror of war.

Who has suffered the most, with over 340 innocent killed by rocket fire.

The ordinary people.  
The Grumbling Mass.  
The innocents.

This is exactly what the ordinary Manx people were saved from so long ago by William Christian.

With his actions, we were able to

continue with our own government on the Island and the evolution of our parliament, unique in the British Isles.

Of course, the ability to govern ourselves is a two-edged sword: When things go wrong, we only have ourselves to blame.

The difficulty also of being a small state means that we can end up being a one industry state. This is nothing new.

In the past, we have had farming, fishing, the running trade and the tourist industry. Now our industry is finance. This means that the government has learnt nothing from the past and all our eggs are in the one basket with the other industries only being given a light dusting of false interest.

For the Chief Minister to state that 2009 will be difficult is only stating the obvious.

What country or people will not be touched by the economic problems in 2009?

How our government deals with these issues will be the measure of them.

There is a number of issues which I am concerned about:

The lack of affordable, rentable social housing.

Civil Liberties - The creeping prying of the state - cameras on street corners - everyday agencies can spy on people for the most mundane reasons. The notion that if you have nothing to hide then you have nothing to fear, "fills me with dread for the future."

The Treasury's policy of attracting

"high-nett-worth individuals" to the Island with their income tax capped. This, I believe, will bring a great number of problems that will be difficult to correct.

The access to justice remains out of reach for most people.

Things are not all bad, though. There have been decisions taken in Tynwald that have been positive.

Some of these will have a great effect and benefit to households in the Island.

The Bord Gas Éireann renegotiation. Hopefully, this will result in cheaper energy bills.

The decision to look at the introduction of legislation to regulate monopolies is a major step forward.

And finally, there is the decision to hold a Public Inquiry into the rights of way at Langness Peninsula. But, as with most things when you set a hare running, "it's the law of unintended consequences."

Who knows? Will we end up being banned from any green areas that "high-nett-worth individuals" have purchased?

The former members of Mec Vannin, some of whom are high-ranking politicians, show how the trappings of politics can alter the principles and views, once held so high and now lying so low.

Maybe principled people like Illiam Dhone only seldom appear.

On behalf of the Grumbling Mass, William Christian, I thank you.

Stephen Moore, 2009.

## Missing or Weak Signal

The government in the Isle of Man, over the last three decades anyway, has always been exceptionally keen to ignore the best interests of the people who elected them. Take the hardy perennial issue of the TV licence fee.

For the past three years, the UK broadcasting companies (and the BBC in particular) have been pedalling the digital channels as a wonderful world of extended viewing - news, documentary, cutting edge comedy, history, films etc. The reality is substantially different. Most of the "freeview" channels (and the BBC in particular) offer an extremely limited service. On

top of this, there is no support offered for the digital service. Many people who have gone to the expense of getting digital equipment find that most of the digital channels hyped on the analogue stations cannot be received.

So, for the past three years, the message from the BBC has been, "If you're still on analogue, then you're scum and we'll prove it by boadcasting inane crap while telling you about the wonderful world on digital."

For those who have gone digital, the message is either "Ha, ha, you idiots, welcome to even more crap!" or a blank screen.

For this, we are expected to

pay the UK millions of pounds a year or for the increasing number of people who have made the choice to remove this expensive waste of space from their household, be subject to an incessant barrage of intimidation, threats and harassment from the UK licensing authorities.

And the government in the Isle of Man does nothing ... M.K.

## Take VAT

Mec Vannin has made extensive warnings about the reliance upon VAT, a tax over which we have no control, for government revenue.

The UK's VAT reduction of 2.5% has nothing like the impact on its total revenue stream and, the UK's Chancellor argues, may stimulate the broader base of the UK's industries - the overall saving to consumers of 2.1% (if passed on) will make little difference to spending habits.

Here in the Isle of Man, however, it will result in a straight 10% loss on whatever revenue the government receives over the coming year which, itself, will be reduced as a result of the UK's economic difficulties and there is nothing that Treasury Minister, Alan Bell can say or do about it. M.K.

## We'll keep a welcome in the hillsides ...

The economic turbulence of the last six months or so has been blamed, both by the general public and politicians the world over, almost entirely on the unbridled greed and avarice of bonus-culture bankers, financiers, 'short sellers', sub prime agents and hedge fund managers.

People and politicians have been competing to heap blame and opprobrium on them for bringing the world economic order to its knees. Yet these are the very people that our finance sector and our senior politicians have most admired and fawned over for the last twenty years or more.

Our Treasury ( and indeed our media) would go into a paroxysm of delight whenever these people or organisations turned up on the Island to take advantage of our finance sector.

Even now, should any of these disgraced financial 'fat cats' take up residence here they will be welcomed with open arms and on bended knee. Indeed, provided their income is high enough their tax will be capped, courtesy of Tynwald. No questions asked. P.K.

**For more information about membership of Mec Vannin and our policies, please fill in the coupon overleaf and send to:**

**The Secretary  
Mec Vannin  
c/o 23 Kerroo Coar  
Peel  
Isle of Man**

**You can also visit our website at**

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

### Yn Arrane Ashoonagh

### The National Anthem

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.

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.

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.

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.

## RICH (OR NOT SO RICH) MAN'S GUIDE TO BUILDING A MANSION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

Either ...

Or ...

1. Buy some fields, preferably about 100 acres.
2. Apply for planning permission to build an agricultural shed (with Government grant) near the most prominent part of the site.
3. Planning permission will be granted. No problem.
4. Apply for planning permission for one very large 'farm house' near to the agricultural building with the best views.
5. Following approval, apply for extension, large conservatory, and stables.
6. When successful, rent out the land and agricultural building.
7. Result - A very large house with panoramic views for the owner. One big blot on the landscape for everyone else.

1. Buy old house / cottage / tholtan (with a good view) built before a planning process was operating or even dreamt of.
2. Knock down the old building and replace with a much larger modern house.
3. Once approved, apply for large extension, conservatory etc.
4. Result - Yet another incongruous building in a prominent part of the countryside.

All achieved by a flawed and weak planning system helped along the way by taxpayers money.  
 R.K.

**I am interested in joining Mec Vannin. Please send me a policy summary and membership form to:**

Name.....

Address.....

email.....

**Please complete and send to the address on the other side of this coupon.**

### Follow that Star

A Nativity Play was held on Tynwald Hill on Christmas Eve. This is believed to be the first time in living memory that so many wise men have gathered on the Hill at the same time.

### Editorial Comment

The editor would like to thank all the contributors to this issue of Yn Pabyr Seyr. Yn Pabyr Seyr is editorially aligned to Mec Vannin though non-members may submit articles for consideration. Articles that do not reflect Mec Vannin's aims and objectives may appear with suitable editorial response. The Editor has the right to edit all submissions as necessary. Articles used are copyrighted by the publication.

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