



Un Habyr Seyr



The Free Manx Paper

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The Producers

So Treasury approved funding of almost £34 million since 2007 for the so called 'film industry'. Already more than £10.5 million has been written off. We suspect there will be more to come!

Treasury minister Anne Craine, speaking in defence of this 'investment' said, "film is an industry which is, by reputation, risky sometimes you are not lucky, that is the nature of the game."

We say that government has no business gambling with tax payers' money!

Mrs Craine continued, "We can't look at these figures in isolation these investments are very long term the film industry is an important part of the economy in film terms and in promotion of the Island".

Well really? For a risky return? It is not the function of government to play stock markets, speculate or back commercial film productions. That's the territory of producers and many of them don't survive in a very risky business.

Government claims that, in overall terms, the amount of money coming back to the Island had exceeded all investment. Let's see the figures then! If films had created hundreds of jobs for set construction, wardrobe and all the many categories of trade that production requires, then maybe some of the investment would be excusable. £34 million is hell of a lot of investment. The money invested represents about £425 for every person on the Island (not just every tax payer) and for that the returns so far are about £76. That doesn't seem like the "modest aim to break even" of public accounts committee chairman and sister of Anne Craine, Claire Christian.

Since the Isle of Man Film Commission was wrapped up and the remaining money subsumed into Isle of Man Film LTD., money seems to have been invested in no hopers. One has to ask if this outfit is a competent body, or a bunch of amateurs. We have particular concern that Treasury financial controller Clive McGreal, is also director of Isle of Man Film LTD.

Do YOU remember voting for the latest Lieutenant Governor?

According to the BBC, which continues to thief nearly £5,000,000 a year out of this country, the Manx people had a say in the appointment of the Lieutenant Governor for the first time this year. Sorry, but that particular election got past us. Actually, a panel of three pillars of Manx society were given a choice of names. Actually, a choice of name. Nice to see a clear and transparent democratic process in operation.

Of course, the latest incumbent is such a nice young man. Well, that makes it all alright then, doesn't it? The whitewash is far too thin to hide the fact that the Lieutenant Governor remains a colonial appointment sent here to keep an eye on the natives and report back to Westminster if we dare get any ideas above our station. Those who try defend the indefensible claim that the governor's function is essentially reduced to attending tea parties. That would explain why the Chief Constable went to seek his advice before daring to arrest former Chief Minister Richard Corkill on fraud charges.

And what terrific value for money! The LG is appointed by the UK and we pay all expenses. He gets a well appointed residence in extensive grounds, rarely has to get out of bed before midday unless he's forced to attend a Coffee MORNING (how tiresome), is driven everywhere by a chauffeur in the latest Jaguar saloon, a day and night chef (in case he feels like a midnight snack), a housekeeper, P.A. , all necessary household staff and a huge furniture budget.

It has been calculated that each cup of coffee he slurps at the various events he graces to allow the little people bow and scrape to him costs the tax-payer upwards of £1,000.

But let's not forget that he ISN'T there just to open fetes and grace coffee mornings. His full list of powers show that he is very much capable of wielding a lot of power on the UK's behalf through the back door.

Manx Children still lose out on nursery placements

Mec Vannin raised the matter of discriminatory practices in admission to state school nurseries in YPS 43 (July 2009), and the Department for Education and Children (yawn) has begun to reconsider some criteria, especially the "English as a second language" rule but the selection process remains "post code lottery".

After all the special criteria admissions have been leap-frogged over the heads of others, the remaining places are given to those children living physically closest to the school. This means that in Onchan and Peel, where the schools

have been built on the outskirts and then surrounded by new development, the inhabitants of the area for whom the schools were built are losing their places to new housing, all to often containing new residents.

A Peel candidate has already signalled his desire to transpose local politics into what claims to be a national government by promising to fight for free nursery places for all Peel children. If you want to be a part of "national" politics, wouldn't a policy of free nursery places to all Manx children be more appropriate, Mr Harmer?

The Consultants

We make no apologies for printing this brilliant piece of satire by the late Roly Drower yet a third time. Originally given to Mec Vannin and published in Issue 26 of YPS (wrongly numbered as 23) in January 2001, it un-nervingly forecasts the “Manx Space Programme”. Printed again in 2008 as part of a tribute issue, now that we have NASA astronauts as guests and a couple of ex Russian space stations up at Jurby, it’s reproduction is felt appropriate.

And God opened his window, and reached out and pointed down with a single, wrinkled finger.

And a thunderbolt fell to the earth and hit the Chief Minister on the forehead just as he was about to say something. And suddenly the Chief Minister was a changed man.

And the Speaker of Tynwald looked up from his lingerie catalogue and said: 'Yes, Mr Gelling.'

And the Chief Minister said: 'I would like to say, Mr Speaker, that, by the end of this decade, we shall put a Manxman on the Moon.'

And everyone was amazed.

And the Isle of Man Examiner had the headline: Manxman to be put on moon. And the Manx Independent had the headline: Man found pissing in sink. And the Courier had the headline: Shoprite prices lower than ever.

And God fiddled with the catch on another window.

And Gabriel said: 'Who let him out of bed?' But nobody knew.

And the civil servants got together and said: 'Ah-ha. The Moon. What we need are the very best consultants for this job. There's my nephew Jim in Walsall. And I have a sister in law in Baltimore whose brother knows something about space.'

And the consultants arrived on the Island, and then more consultants, and everyone said, 'Where are we going to put them.'

And the President of Tynwald said: 'I know of some holiday cottages in Maughold.'

And the inspector for counting livestock more than once and other hill-farming subsidies said: 'Who let him out of bed?' But nobody knew.

And the consultants asked 'What do you want us to do?'

And they were given several reams of paper and told: 'We want you to write a report.'

'What do you want in the report?'

'Well, start with your credentials and then itemize your expenses so far.'

'Do you not want us to suggest a site for the launching pad?'

And the MLC's looked hurriedly at the civil service. And the senior civil servants said,

'Don't worry about that bit.' and then quietly drew straws.

And after much deliberation, they said: 'We have chosen Braddan for the project, which will be code-named "Up Yours Buster" Obviously, in order to accommodate the vast workforce necessary to complete this prestigious project, we will also need to build 5000 first time buyer homes and to widen a few roads.'

And the road widening began immediately without consultation for some reason, in Abbeylands.

And the consultants said 'What shall we do now? Shall we help with the rocket?'

And the Treasury Minister shook his head and said:

'We have negotiated the purchase of a retired SS20 missile from a businessman in Minsk - a well respected dealer who let us have it for a snip in exchange for some Offshore financial services.'

'What shall we do then?'

'Why don't you write that report!'

'What do you want in the report?'

'Well, use your imagination.'

So the Consultants used their imaginations, then phoned up the Chief Minister's Office.

'We have finished our report.'

'I'm sorry but there's no one here at the moment. Can I take a message?'

They phoned up The Department of Local Government.

'We have finished our report.'

'I'm sorry but the Minister is in a meeting.'

They phoned up Port St Mary Harbour Master's office.

'I'm sorry but Mr Madrell's laying pots.'

And so the Consultants submitted their four inch thick report as directed by the bylaw enforcement officer to the recycling bins outside B and Q, and then posted their bill to the treasury.

And the treasury passed the bill to the Chief Minister. And the Chief Minister passed it back to the treasury and said:

'Because of gross overspending in the consultancy stage the mission will now be a hot air balloon carrying a small dog.'

And the next day Manx radio received a record fourteen phone calls, including one fifteen minute call from the wife of an MLC protesting at the cruelty of using a battery dog in an airborne no-escape balloon situation.

And so the balloon was shelved, and the dog was sent back to Ard Jerkyll and the civil servants sighed with relief because thousands of houses had now been scheduled, and nobody had even noticed.

Gabriel gave God a large sedative Then waved his finger and said: 'Have we been going walk-about again?'

And he walked over to the window and quietly closed it.

Roland Paul (Roly) Drower

The January 2006 edition of YPS foresaw Tynwald Hill as a node for space travel and the cartoon below was accompanied by an article entitled "Space Cadets" which speculated that the several abortive attempts of our high powered space delegation was the result of them being part of a reality TV hoax

As the race for space continues, we use these pages to predict that Tynwald Hill will be used for interstellar travel in the future. Many of those who "go up the hill" certainly don't remain on this planet for long



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Mec Vannin Membership / Information Request

I wish to join Mec Vannin as a full / associate / family / unwaged member. I enclose a cheque / PO for £10 / £5 / £15.

Print name.....

Address.....

Telephone

Email

I have read and support the policies and agree to be bound by the constitution of Mec Vannin. I agree to having my details stored for communication purposes in keeping with the relevant sections of the Isle of Man Data Protection Act while a member. I am not a member of another political party (except associate members).

Signed Date

BBC - BRITISH BROADCASTING CHEATS

A Tynwald Select Committee was set up in 2009 to decide whether the Island receives good value for money from the cost of a TV licence. We wait with anticipation for the report due to be published this month. How does it take so long to make a decision that to many people is quite clear? Compared to other regions trapped in the net of the BBC we do not get a good deal.

Let's compare with the Channel Islands. For the same licence fee as us, they get a fully funded Local Radio station plus a dedicated Television Local News slot daily in both early and late evening regional News. In other words, the Channel Islands receive more local news on television by the BBC in one day than we receive in one month.

In order to provide this superior service to the Channel Islands, the BBC employ about 50 journalists compared to 3 in the Isle of Mann.

This situation reflects the disdain of the BBC towards the Manx audience. Their weak argument to this obviously imbalanced coverage is that local news is available on-line. A recent personal survey over 2 months indicated that Granada TV provided a better coverage of Isle of Mann news than BBC Northwest.

So are we getting a fair deal? Well Mr. Earnshaw, Minister for Home Affairs, seems to think so. He was quoted as saying that he was 'fairly comfortable

with the status quo' but hoped that the BBC would provide more Isle of Man coverage for a wider audience. Well, hoping is not enough Mr Earnshaw. This is another example of the Isle of Man Government kneeling down and accepting the dictat of the British Establishment. It is long over due for some sustained pressure on the BBC for a better deal

BBC Local Radio costs about 3.2% of the licence fee (about £2.8 million for each local radio station) of which we get no benefit. Our Government should be demanding a large slice of that money to help run our own local but independent radio station ie a proper service without being a burden to the taxpayer.

The UK Government has been handy at withholding money and quick to renege on certain services over the years, and if a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached, then the Isle of Man Government should collect the licence fee itself and give the BBC a suitable proportion for its services. The money obtained would, not only fund Manx Radio but possibly also a local television station.

We believe that T.V. licence holders in the Isle of Man have been short-changed by the BBC for too long and it is high time that the Isle of Man Government stood up for the people it claims to represent and negotiate a fairer deal.

Public Transport still in need of vast improvement

Mec Vannin's policy is to reduce the economic drain and other undesirable impacts resulting from over dependence on private motor vehicles. To that end, the party has often advocated a free and frequent public transport system.

Since the dark days of the early 1980s when IoM Road Services (as it was) bought ex-Merseyside Transport Atlantean double deckers (someone in Liverpool City Council must have been doing somersaults when they actually got money for their scrappers instead of paying to have them towed away), the buses have improved greatly and the wisdom of investing in new vehicles was finally recognised. Punctuality improved steadily but then things started to go wrong. The past twelve months have been truly appalling and we have to seriously question who is making what decisions. Routes are erratic, often irregular, time keeping has gone out of the window and some services just don't seem to appear.

The absolute lack of planning that has resulted in sprawling housing estates that do not lend themselves to bus services has not helped, but Mec Vannin's suggestions to address this with taxi and mini-bus skipper services have been pointedly ignored.

There have been several public meetings in which the public were essentially told to like or lump the changes, which is hardly the way to encourage greater bus usage. It would seem that many drivers are equally disenchanted with the way things are being run (strike action being narrowly averted last week). Whereas there have been some areas of improvement, we feel it is time for an investigation into the management of the buses.

The one place that actually does get a regular bus service is David Cretney's constituency where from 6.30am to past 8.00pm, there are at least two buses per hour. That is over twice as many as any other housing estate route.

Mec Vannin Membership

Membership of Mec Vannin is open to all who support the aims and objectives of the party which are:

Central Aims and Objectives: To achieve national independence for Mann as a sovereign state, based on a republican form of government. To further and safeguard the interests of Mann. To protect the individual and collective rights of its people.

More information can be found at our website (see page 3).

Full membership is open to Manx residents age 18 and over and associate membership is open to all others who wish to support the party.

Rates are: £10pa (full) or £15pa for a couple living together. Associate and unwaged rate is £5pa.

The Party has the right to decline membership without stating a reason.