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PATRON: Mrs. Jillian Skinner, D.Urr
Facebook: Manx Society NSW Inc

DIARY DATES FOR 2018

Regular Meetings:	8th of November
Venue/Time:	2 Meadow Close, Beecroft. 10.30am
Christmas Luncheon	1st of December – Palm Court Bistro – Ryde/Eastwood Leagues Club. 12 noon

Hop Tu Naa



While many are preparing to celebrate Halloween and to go trick or treating at the end of October, on the Isle of Man they look forward to carving turnips (moots) and celebrating Hop tu Naa, historically considered to be the beginning of the Celtic New Year and the start of winter. It was traditionally a time when people on the Isle would celebrate the safe gathering of the harvest and was a sign that all preparations had been made for the long, cold winter ahead.

Hop Tu Naa is really a celebration of “Oie Houney”, the original New Years Eve and is a reminder of these ancient times and the words Hop Tu Naa are a corruption of Shogh ta’n Oie, meaning “this is the night”.

And, Did you know... Children born at Hop Tu Naa are believed to ‘have the mysterious faculty of perceiving and holding converse with supernatural beings’.

Is your birthday the 31st of October? Can you confirm or deny this? A. W. Moore recorded this as the popular belief held in 1891, when he published his Folklore of the Isle of Man.

Pioneer of women's suffrage is honoured

A blue plaque honouring women’s rights pioneer Sophia Goulden was unveiled on Friday, 28 September at the Douglas home where she died more than a century ago.

Douglas Mayor Jon Joughin unveiled the plaque at the house in Strathallan Crescent, to which the Manx women’s suffrage activist retired with her husband. She died in 1910.

Sophia Jane Goulden, *nee Craine, was born in Lonan in 1833. In 1853 she married Robert Goulden at Kirk Braddan and the couple moved to Manchester, where their 11 children were born, among them Emmeline Pankhurst.

Mr Joughin thanked the current house owners, Jamie Sutton and Paula McClean, and their family - teenage sons Adam and Dylan and one-year-old Emmeline - for their cooperation in allowing the public ceremony to be conducted outside their home. Aware of the house’s history, Jamie and Paula named Emmeline after Sophia’s famous daughter, who led the suffragette movement in the UK.

Sophia’s great-grandson Michael Goulden and his wife Catriona Graham were among the guests present for the ceremony, as well as councillors and MHKs, plus representatives of the Friends of Sophia Goulden movement, which is campaigning for a statue to be erected in her honour in the Isle of Man. Mr Joughin described Sophia Goulden as ‘a woman with a vision of a world where women could enjoy equal political rights’. Her influence helped to advance the campaign for women’s suffrage and inspired her daughter Emmeline to become leader of the British suffragette movement. He added: ‘That this is only the fourth blue plaque the council has commissioned shows the level of importance the council places on Sophia Goulden’s contribution to advancing women’s rights.’ The plaque would accord Sophia lasting recognition and serve as a ‘beacon to inspire others to continue her pioneering work.’

Emmeline Pankhurst's passion for women's rights was sealed when, at 14, her mother took her to her first public suffrage meeting to hear Lydia Becker, founder of the Women's Suffrage Journal who also joined a campaign for the right of women to vote in the House of Keys.

In 1881 Tynwald became the first national parliament to give some women the right to vote in a general election. In 1918 Westminster passed an Act of Parliament according women similar rights.

Sketches of Sophia Goulden statue unveiled



Plans for the first Manx female statue will include not one, but two women. **Sculpture will feature daughter Emmeline**
Designs for the Sophia Goulden figure in Laxey set to become the first of its kind on the Island, will also include her daughter.
It has been revealed Suffolk-based artist Sean Hedges-Quinn, will incorporate women's suffrage icon Emmeline Pankhurst as a child into the sculpture.
Mrs Goulden is responsible for taking her then 14-year-old daughter to her first women's suffrage meeting, from which she became a 'committed suffragist.'

The charity behind the project has a target of £70,000 and has currently raised £7,500.

To donate to Friends of Sophia Goulden go

to: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/friendsofsophiagoulden/statue>

The BattleOfLargs – Culture Vannin

The **BattleOfLargs** happened 755 years ago today.



On this day in 1263 the combined Norse forces of Scandinavia, the Isle of Man & the Scottish Islands together tried to expand their control into mainland Scotland. Naturally the #manx King, Magnus Olafsson, was there, sort of... He was actually off raiding up the Scottish lochs, in order to distract the Scottish forces from the main attack. Sadly, the Chronicles of Mann offer no juicy details of what this sort of raiding consisted in, recording only the following: "In the year of our Lord 1263, Haakon, King of Norway came to Scotland, but effecting nothing returned to the Orkneys"

... but perhaps Norse raiding is best left to the imagination!

The Scottish did not forget the Manx involvement in Largs, and it was probably with great glee that Alexander III of Scotland absorbed the Island into his Scottish Kingdom upon Magnus' death in 1265. This was a key point in Manx history, by the way, as it marked the end of Norse rule on the Isle of Man, and the start of the association of the Isle of Man with the British Isles to the East which

has existed ever since.

More about King Magnus and his life can be found here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magn%C3%BAs_%C3%93%C3%A1lfsson

[Image is a detail from William Hole's painting The Battle of Largs, from 1899]

Island at War Event Attracts Visitors to Vintage Steam Railway Stations

With the summer season drawing to a close, Isle of Man Railways once again organised the annual Island at War weekend, which attracted visitors to the steam railway – with events held at stations in Douglas, Castletown and Port Erin.

Including live acts such as the fabulous D-Day Darlings (as seen on Britain's Got Talent) and the popular, Island based Southern Belles, there were plenty of opportunities to absorb the 1940s atmosphere along the route. There were also additional events including guided bus tours of war sites in Douglas with Charles Guard and two evening concerts with the aforementioned D-Day Darlings. Visitors were encouraged to dress up and join in the fun. Each station offered something a little different, with a display of restored World War II military and period vehicles stationed in Douglas, together with the Glampervan, offering a 1940s make-up and hair transformation. Here too was an evocative display of military uniforms and period costumes loaned courtesy of the Manx Amateur Drama

Federation and curated by local artist Michael Starkey. And there was a treat for animal lovers with an opportunity to meet one of the Douglas Bay tram horses, who assisted in telling the wartime history of horses on the Isle of Man. Meanwhile, in Castletown, southern based scout troops set up a wartime camp and field hospital, as well as providing activities and cooking demonstrations. There was also chance to see a traction engine and steam roller and tuck into some home-made cake and light refreshments.

At the end of the line in Port Erin there were plenty of goods from the WI stall and the Manx Craft Guild and a further opportunity to cast an eye over a selection of vintage vehicles. The Memorial Hall in Port Erin was transformed into a NAFFI café with exhibitions including an RAF 100 display. - Valerie Caine



Some of the photos that were taken during the weekend activities

REVELATIONS by Mona Douglas



The hills are grey and quiet now;
Behind them sunset flames and dies;
From the dim fields faint vapours rise,
Cooling with dew earth's weary brow.
The seabirds sweep towards the west,
Their white wings beat the woven air –
And suddenly a cry is there
That shakes earth's peace with wild unrest:
And in the twilight sky afar
Quivers and burns the faery star.

Grey mist is over all the land;
It clings about the sombre hills,
And sweeps across the brooghs, and fills
Wide glens, and lies on rock and sand.
And then, high up the grey-lit glen,
A glory breaks upon the sight,
And in its glow of tangled light
The crystal gates stand wide again:
We hear the winds of faery sing,
And hidden rivers murmuring.

The waves leap shoreward swift and strong;
The wind blows in from far away,
And in the noise of surf and spray
Rings out their ancient, mournful song.
But now they raise their gleaming heads;
From far seas where Manannan dwells
A sudden splendour bursts and swells,
And over them its radiance sheds:
And through the seas we call our own
Shine faery oceans, vast, unknown.

(source: by Mona Douglas from Mychurachan (1917); wallpaper photograph bit.ly/2ham7Tt)

A 100ft triskelion to go on North Barrule? - Community News

A Ramsey resident is hoping to start a community project to create a Manx version of the Uffington White Horse and Long Man of Wilmington hill figures.



Bryan Callister, aged 70, has long had a great view of North Barrule from his house in Ramsey. However he thinks something could be added to turn the heads of those living in - and visiting - the north of the island. The retired builder says he will be submitting planning permission this week for a 100ft Three Legs of Man emblem to be made on the upper slopes of the hill.

He said: 'Directly below the summit lie hundreds of flat stones.' If they were rearranged they could be laid on the ground to create a large sculpture of a Three

Legs of Man. 'As they are already up there they blend in with the hillside so they would have to be painted white or red to be visible from the northern plain. 'It would have to be set out to scale and would be done by like-minded people in a voluntary capacity, like rugby clubs, young farmers and any other energetic volunteers.'

Mr Callister believes the hill sculpture would not only be a 'tourist novelty', but will encourage residents to 'get off their backsides' by exploring the site where they can also 'enjoy the views over the whole north of the island'. The proposed sculpture would appear parallel to a stile he has already made on a stone wall between Guthries and Joeys on the mountain section of the TT course, which is coming out of Ramsey. He has specially chosen this spot after walking 'many different routes' which has led to him discovering a ravine that is the 'shortest and easiest route' for people to reach the summit of North Barrule.

Mr Callister explained that he has received a positive response to his idea from architects and was encouraged to send in a detailed proposal when speaking to those at the planning applications service. He added: 'Obviously some folk will think I've lost the plot, but it's only an idea which I think is achievable and it's for our future generations to enjoy and feel very proud to be Manx.'

He says that even if the idea was to 'fall flat' talking about it may 'inspire people to get out in the fresh air and walk up a wonderful mountain'. 'So not all will be lost,' he said. Mr Callister's appreciation of North Barrule began long ago. He said: 'My childhood was in Maughold at the base of Barrule, so many trips were done in my first 18 years. 'However, my passion grew when I bought a home in Spain in 2003 - again on the base of a mountain - five kilometres above Benidorm. 'It is totally different as it's dry, warm and has unbelievable views 20 miles each way.'

A musical about the Isle of Man TT Races



Having already provided the basis for an award-winning documentary, the TT races have now inspired a rock musical, which is due to have its first test showcase performance in a London theatre, tomorrow.

'Twist and Turn-The Musical' has been created by theatre producer Tony Gibbs, who is the former chief executive of the National Operatic and Drama Association, and who is highly familiar with the Isle of Man and the TT.

Featuring a talented cast of recognised theatre actors and a soundtrack written by Graeme Duffin, a former member of Wet Wet Wet, the play is based around the fortunes of a Manx champion motorbike racer who returns home to tackle the mountain course, and also to face

up to his personal demons.

"'Twist and Turn - The Musical' has been a labour of love for me, said Tony. 'I was a frequent visitor over several years with my role in NODA, and curated the first TheatreFest celebration of new work for musical theatre in 2015. 'While I was at a function hosted by the Isle of Man Arts Council, I casually said to a member, "Isn't it odd that there's never been a musical about the TT races?", to which the answer was, "Why don't you write one?"

'It's a character-driven story about the importance of family values set against the backdrop of the Isle of Man TT races. 'I have based it loosely around the famous Dunlop racing dynasty. Robbie Skelton is a Manxman and the reigning World Superbike racer. He returns to his island home after a long absence of eight years, which then re-opens wounds between family and friends and uncovers some dark secrets. 'There is a secondary storyline running through the production about female empowerment, where the women in the story take it on themselves to form their own team and enter the race,' said Tony. 'It is a play about infidelity, dark secrets, and reconciliation.'

The lead role is played by Simon Gordon, who has some previous form on singing rock songs whilst astride a motorbike. He sang the lead in the touring production of 'Bat Out Of Hell' in theatres in London and Toronto. The cast is also headed up by Erin Caldwell, who stars as Simon's former girlfriend Jen, who Tony said has taken the songs of the show, including 'Should I Stay?', 'Go Go AhAh' and 'When We Were Young' and made them her own, views of which have already topped 100,000 on Youtube.

'It was a "no brainer" for me to ask Erin, and you only have to listen to her to appreciate how great she is,' said Tony. 'I'm totally convinced that Erin Caldwell is going to be a major musical theatre star and so I'm thrilled that we've got her in our show.'

Also joining the cast is Georgina Castle, the daughter of the former tennis star and commentator Andrew Castle.

She stars as Robbie's sister and Jen's friend, Charlotte. Georgina joined the cast straight after finishing performing as the lead role in 'Mamma Mia', on London's West End

'It's a contemporary rock musical which takes the audience on an emotional roller coaster,' said Tony. 'It's one that will have laughter and tears along the way, a fantastic collection of memorable high octane songs.'

Tony and his team are applying the final touches to the show, and is preparing to hold two showcase performances, essentially test runs, at the Other Palace Theatre, Palace Road, London on Monday and Tuesday, October 1 and 2.

'There is already a lot of interest from the press in "Twist and Turn", and we are hoping to have some great crowds in to see the show, and to get some good reviews and positive feedback.

'Then, we will fine tune the show and hopefully take it on from there. 'Of course, my dream is to bring the show to the Isle of Man at some point. I have been in contact with the Gaiety Theatre, and ideally I would like to bring the show there before taking on tour, possibly around 2020.

'My dream would be to have the actual premier of "Twist And Turn" on the island, during race week. That would be perfect.' More details and background about the show can be found at twistandturnmusical.com

by Mike Wade

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Island Travel's Bethany is top UK travel agent



An island teenager has been named as the best young travel agent in the British Isles.

Bethany Cooper, 18, a travel consultant and foreign exchange expert at Island Travel beat more than 100 other nominees at the industry awards in London. Bethany was praised by judges for her work ethic 'and her commitment to providing excellent customer service'.

Rikki Dunnage and Edward Cox, owners of Island Travel said they are both 'so proud' of Bethany. Rikki added: 'The category Bethany won looks at how contribution to the company and how she's developed as a young agent. 'For us as a company, the recognition has been fantastic, we've had people contacting us saying how well Bethany has done. 'But more than anything, we're just really proud of her. We've seen her grow since she started and from there to now, that difference is massive.'

Bethany said that she'd been left speechless by her win and how, despite the enormity of the occasion, she didn't feel nervous on the night. 'I didn't expect to win it, so I wasn't nervous and then when they announced it, I was just so happy. 'The support from Rikki and Ed has been great and they're really easy to get on with.'

Bethany has also recently been promoted at Island Travel to becoming a supervisor with Rikki saying the company is taking on more staff. He explained: 'It's kind of gone full circle now, with people coming back to the high street. When the internet got bigger, everyone was doing holidays and foreign exchange online. 'But then with online holiday companies going bankrupt, people want that peace of mind and everything we sell is financially protected, so that's why I think people have come back to the high street.'

Given the fact that Island Travel has been going for only five years and that Bethany has only been in the industry for just over two years, her UK wide recognition is even more remarkable.

A part of the island's transport history is to be displayed permanently



A part of the capital's history has been restored and will be displayed permanently as a reminder of the past.

As we have reported previously, Douglas Council has saved the sole surviving piece of machinery from the Douglas Cable Tramway, a cable tram flywheel dating from 1894. Now it has been restored and is to be installed in the Bottleneck car park on Loch Promenade. The mechanism was used for manoeuvring tram cars around Douglas on the tramway which operated from 1895 until its closure in 1929 and ran from Loch Promenade, through to Victoria Street, then Buck's Road, Woodbourne Road, York Road and Ballaquayle Road

before returning via Broadway.

The wheel was uncovered during excavation works carried out by the former Water Authority in 2000 for the IRIS sewer scheme when a long-buried cable tram chamber was unearthed.

After early restoration work by volunteers from Jurby Transport Museum, a team from the council carried out the wheel's full restoration with engineering and fabrication support from BB Consulting Engineers and Gallas Foundry.

Environmental services committee chairman Councillor Ritchie McNicholl said: 'The council is as committed to celebrating Douglas's past as it is to advancing schemes to create a brighter future for the town. 'The Isle of Man is internationally renowned for its vintage transport systems and the council is proud to be contributing to the island's heritage by preserving this unique example of Victorian engineering for future generations. 'It is all the more appropriate that the council should be delivering this attraction in 2018, the Year of Our Island, which provides an opportunity to shine a light on all the features that combine to make the Isle of Man the very special place that it is.'

Once the project is completed, in collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure, Douglas Council will arrange an official unveiling.

Novels from Isle of Mans Norse history - Eglin R. R. Moe



This is the jacket info on the four Kingship novels to be published on Amazon

Eglin R. R. Moe is an established author. KINGSHIP is his first historical novel series, and what a novel it is, packed with thrills and intrigue from start to finish! Based on historical events from medieval times in Scandinavia and the Kingdom of the Isles, it introduces us to real historical figures. Egil's enthusiasm for his subject and his in-depth knowledge of the period are unequalled. He has even personally participated in jousts – including the Olav's Celebrations in Trondheim, 2003.

Kingship part one and two.

The Norse settlers in the Sudreys have enjoyed good times for a few years. But change is in the air. In a dramatic shipwreck, the king, the queen, the bishops and the flower of the nobility all lose their lives. The island kingdom finds itself all at once without government or leaders. Young Torleif is thrown into a conflict he is ill-prepared for. His father's overweening ambition thrusts the clan into a bloody feud. Torleif needs to dig deep to find the courage to face his enemies sword in hand, but he has no weapon against his father's hatred. Matters come to a head when the King of Scots decides to take back the Sudreys, which have been under Norse rule for 300 years. Torleif is drawn into the conflict over the island kingdom. His blade running with the blood of his foes, he discovers that he has no fear of death. But can he win back the throne, as his father had desired?

Kingship part 3 and 4.

Life on the islet of Rushen is proving a trial for Torleif. He is oppressed by his father's lust for power, and the people of Man resent Harald's influence over his son. They demand their rights, as they have done so many times before throughout history, and this time it is Torleif's uncle, Ivar, who must step into the breach when the Manx rebel. Will he oppose his brother and nephew and strip them of power, taking the throne for himself?

Fenella, meanwhile, continues to fight desperately to win the birthright for her sons. Luckily, her knowledge of herbs and healing is unequalled. She does her best to influence Torleif to acknowledge her sons, but will her strategy succeed before he gets Magnhild with child?

Alexander, King of Scots, has not forgotten his plans to seized power over the Sudreys. At last he manages to persuade the King of Norway, Magnus Haakonsson, to sell him the kingdom for a pittance, but will this prove acceptable to the Norwegian settlers and the Manx, or will it lead to conflict?

The Norse, the Scots and English all have claims to the throne of Man, and this turbulent time sees the birth of Hallstein, son of Torleif, son of Harald, King of the Sudreys.

We have a new favourite set of stamps...



A new set of stamps celebrating Manx Folk Traditions was launched by [Isle of Man Stamps and Coins](#).

Beautifully designed by the staggeringly successful #manx graphic artist, [Jay Cover](#), this beautiful set of six images cover some of the best Manx customs, including:

* Hop tu Naa * Hunt the Wren * The Quaaltagh

* The Mheillea * Old Christmas Eve * Yn Unnysup

If you want to know more about any of these, a great place to start would be

Valerie Caine's lovely descriptions for them on the issue's page:

<https://www.iompost.com/stamps-coi.../.../manx-folk-traditions-/>

Jeant dy mie, [Isle of Man Post Office](#), for this wonderful new issue, and Jay Cover for realising the traditions so perfectly in graphic form. ... We'll be looking forward to receiving letters even more now - feel free to write to us!

More about Jay Cover and his incredible work can be found here: <http://jaycover.com/>

More information about some of the traditions (which we're honoured to be told by Jay that he consulted for inspiration) can be found here: https://www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_468995.html

Issue Information

Valerie Caine writes...

Manx folk traditions have been recorded by both local and visiting collectors, including scholars of international reputation, and although some traditions may well have fallen by the wayside, several continue to be practised, or revived. You'll find tangible links with our close neighbours, who have influenced the Island's folklore and traditional beliefs through migration, evolving into a unique blend of Celtic, Norse, Scottish and English celebrations.

Historically crofting and fishing provided employment for many Manx people, but the work could be strenuous and un-abating. It was a difficult life, with little time for leisure, so these spasmodic celebrations were a welcome distraction from daily demands.

Celebrating the mheillea is typically found elsewhere, but on the Isle of Man it can be traced back to the goddess Luan - the spirit of the corn. Its meaning has changed over time, but many associate the word with the last sheaf to be cut, decorated with ribbons and presented to the Queen of the Mheillea; or the baban ny mheillea (doll of the harvest) which sat on the farmhouse kitchen chimney-piece. In recent times the word mheillea has become associated with a harvest supper and auction of produce.

Hop tu Naa, (old style New Year's Eve) is a pumpkin free zone, with locals favouring the turnip. Divination was widely practiced, with particular emphasis on how womenfolk may discover the name of the man they would marry. The dumb cake (Soddag Valloo), which consisted of some unlikely ingredients such as egg shells and soot, was prominent. Each woman helped to mix the cake, and when baked and eaten would retire to bed backwards without speaking, hoping to see the image of their future spouse overnight. Also known as Oie Houney (Hollandtide Eve) youngsters would have fun with simple games, the more mischievous disturbing their neighbours by banging on doors with hard-hearted cabbage heads! And then there's the mysterious figure of Jinny the Witch, who flies over the house but once a year, with variations of a curious rhyme in her wake.

Despite its connotations, Hunt the Wren is another tradition which has remained popular across the Island.

Originally they were hunted down, killed, and fastened to a pole, before processing in the neighbourhood, their feathers thought to ward off evil in the coming year. It's staunchly linked to St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) but nowadays revellers use an imitation bird and sell coloured ribbons to those they meet en route.

Celebrations for New Year's Eve tend to merge with the first day of the new year, but it was important to abide by a few rules if you wanted peace of mind. You might be woken by a local fiddler, bringing good cheer, but ill luck would attend anyone meeting a cat first thing in the morning and you would be advised not to lend anything on this day, for fear of doing so all year. The curious housewife would rake the fire and spread the ashes across the floor and in the morning look for a mysterious footprint. A death in the family during the year was indicated if the toes pointed towards the door, and a new arrival if they were turned towards the fire. But perhaps the most popular visitor to any household would be the quaaltagh, or first-footer in Scotland, who would bring gifts to a welcoming household and receive food and drink in return. Although descriptions might vary across the Island, it was considered that the quaaltagh should be a dark-haired man who was not splay-footed.

But there was something magical about the eve of old Christmas Day when the bees were said to emerge from their hives at midnight, bullocks fall down on their knees in unison and the myrrh (Sweet Cicely) is reported to come into

bloom. Manx collector, Dr Clague, cast a more practical eye upon such wonders, but what better way to enjoy this time of year than believing in miracles.

The Witch of Slieu Whallian



It was Midsummer Day, and the Peel Herring Fleet, with sails half set, was ready for sea. The men had their barley sown, and their potatoes down, and now their boats were rigged and nets stowed on board and they were ready for the harvest of the sea.

It was a fine day, the sky was clear and the wind was in the right airt, being from the north. But, as they say, 'If custom will not get custom, custom will weep.' A basinful of water was brought from the Holy Well and given to the Wise Woman that sold fair winds, as she stood on the harbour-side with the women and children to watch the boats off. They told her to look

and tell of the luck of the Herring Fleet. She bent over the water and, as she looked, her face grew pale with fear, and she gasped: "Hurroose, hurroose! An' do ye know what I'm seeing?"

"Let us hear," said they.

"I'm seeing the wild waves lashed to foam away by great Bradda Head...

...I'm seeing the surge round the Chicken's Rock an' the breaker's lip is red...

...I'm seeing where corpses toss in the Sound, with nets an' gear an' spars...

...An' never a one of the Fishing Fleet is riding under the stars."

There was a dead hush, and the men gathered close together, muttering, till Gorty, the Admiral of the Fishing Fleet, stepped forward, caught the basin out of her hands and flung it out to sea, growling:

"Sure as I'm alive, sure as I'm alive, woman! I've more than half a mind to heave you in after it. If I had my way, the like of you an' your crew would be run into the sea. Boys, are we goin' to lose a shot for that bleb? Come on, let's go an' chance it with the help of God."

"Aye, no herring, no wedding. Let's go an' chance it," said young Cashen.

So hoisting sails they left the port and when the land was fairly opened out, so that they could see the Calf, they headed for the south and stood out for the Shoulder.

Soon a fine breeze put them in the fishing ground, and every man was looking out for signs of herring-perkins, gannets, fish playing on the surface, oily water, and such like. When the sun was set and the evening was too dark to see the Admiral's Flag, the skipper of each lugger held his arm out at full length, and when he could no longer see the black in his thumb-nail he ordered the men to shoot their nets. And as they lay their trains it all fell out as the witch had said.

Soon the sea put on another face, the wind from westward blew a sudden gale and swelled up the waves with foam. The boats were driven hither and thither, and the anchors dragged quickly behind them. Then the men hoisted sail before the wind and struggled to get back to land, and the lightning was all the light they had. It was so black dark that they could see no hill, and above the uproar of the sea they could hear the stirges pounding on the rocky coast. The waves were rising like mountains, breaking over the boats and harrying them from stem to stern. They were dashed to pieces on the rocks of the Calf, and only two men escaped with their lives.

But there was one boat that had got safe back to port before the storm, and that was the boat of the Seven Boys. She was a Dalby boat and belonged to seven young men who were all unmarried. They were always good to the Dooiney Marrey, the Merman, and when they were hauling their nets they would throw him a dishful of herring, and in return they had always good luck with their fishing. This night, after the Fleet had shot their nets sometime, the night being still fine and calm, the Seven Boys heard the voice of the Merman hailing them and saying:

"It is calm and fine now, there will be storm enough soon!"

When the Skipper heard this he said: "Every herring must hang by its own gills," and he and his crew at once put their nets on board and gained the harbour.

And it was given for law ever after, that no crew was to be made up of single men only; there was to be at least one married man on board and no man was bound by his hiring to fish in this same south sea, which was called 'The Sea of Blood' from that day.

As for the witch, they said she had raised the storm by her spells and they took her to the top of the great mountain Slieu Whallian, put her into a spiked barrel and rolled her from the top to the bottom, where the barrel sank into the bog.

For many and many a long year there was a bare track down the steep mountain-side, where grass would never grow, nor ling, nor gorse. They called it 'The Witch's Way,' and they say that her screams are heard in the air every year on the day she was put to death. (source: Manx Fairy Tales by Sophia Morrison (1911); artwork is 'The Herring Net' by Winslow Homer <http://bit.ly/1POVZRP>)