

NAMA

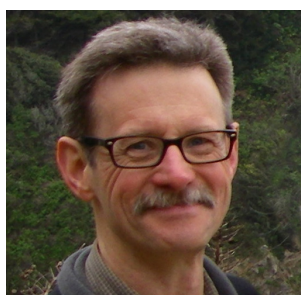


NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION

VOL 87, No.3 To preserve "Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage." T.E. Brown Fall 2016



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

We in the Greater Washington Area Manx Society are finally catching our breath after the preparations for the convention in Annapolis. Tote boxes of Manx stuff are being packed away until 2018. Evenings have

transitioned from processing registrations, to tinkering in the workshop. Long neglected gardens are getting needed attention, and are rewarding our efforts with the first Manx Marvel tomatoes.

For those that joined us in Annapolis, we hope that you had an enjoyable visit. You probably need to catch your breath as well. This was not a sedentary convention. Taking a cue from our friends at the US Naval Academy, we got up and got moving. Whether it was heaving in unison to raise the sails on a schooner, walking through historical Annapolis, or just hoisting a notorious "Painkiller" at Pusser's Caribbean Grille along the waterfront.

I would like to thank some key people who were involved with organizing the convention: Kelly McCarthy for keeping me on track with not-so-gentle nudging. I bounced many ideas off of her via email, and avoided doing some dumb things as a result. Thanks to Illiam Cassidy for organizing the fantastic Saturday afternoon seminar sessions, and Margie Martinson-Brezina who organized the fun craft sessions in the adjacent room. To Kearsley Waggoner for her outstanding table arrangements and the Virginia raffle basket. Thanks to Brent and Cris Warner for creating the Maryland and Washington D.C. baskets. Also, John Prendergast for handing the financial arrangements, and Brad Prendergast for making the transport work.

Some may have noticed that we did not contract the services of a professional photographer for the group photo. There

were several reasons for this: The photographers that I contacted required substantial sitting fees, were far more interested in taking wedding pictures, and retained the copyright to the photos. Reprinting in our newsletter or webpage would not be permitted without substantial additional charges to purchase the copyright. The purpose in having the photo is so that everyone will have a memento of their time, so we elected to go with the DIY approach, and give each family that attended a photo without charging extra for it. If you would like a larger photo, I will be happy to send you the image or make arrangements for an online photo printer to get you one.

During the board meeting on the Thursday prior to the convention, we were quibbling about something inconsequential, when our Chaplain Stephen Schaitberger asked us what our mission was as an organization. Good question. The T.E. Brown quote at the top of the newsletter: "To preserve Whatever is left to us of our ancient heritage" states the goal, but the way of achieving that is to spread an appreciation of Manx culture to our families and others with a Manx connection. One way of doing that is to represent the Isle of Man with a booth at local Celtic Festivals.

Those of us who are part of a regional society with dues can often draw from that for the display materials and the \$50 or so for the booth. However, most NAMA members are spread out, or part of more informal societies with no funding. We decided that we will fund the booth fees and put together a "kit" of display materials, banners and such. Contact us if you want to represent the Manx at one of your area Celtic festivals. You might come across some new friends who didn't know there were other Manx in the area.

Jim Kneale

Please look at the cover of this newsletter, above your name and address; if it says "please pay" and either \$15 or \$20, make your check payable to NAMA and mail it to John Prendergast NAMA Treasurer, 10251 S. Bell Ave., Chicago, IL 60643-1901 (The form is on page 4)



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NEWS ROUND-UP

SATELLITE CONFERENCE

Isle of Man satellite firm ManSat Ltd played a leading role at a groundbreaking satellite business and finance conference in California. The SmallSat Symposium was the first of its kind in Silicon Valley, which is home to many of the world's largest high-tech corporations.

A range of speakers and panel discussions explored the technologies, business aspects and the financial and legal knowledge that is leading the rapid growth in the small satellite market. ManSat was one of the symposium's sponsors, with CEO Chris Stott moderating a panel discussion and taking the opportunity to showcase the Isle of Man.

TB-FREE STATUS

The Isle of Man's cattle herd has been granted official tuberculosis-free status by the EU Commission after years of rigorous scrutiny. The announcement further enhances the reputation of the Island's breeding cattle and is an endorsement of the Island's strict disease control measures. The criteria for official TB-free status is six years with no outbreaks from a local source.

UNESCO

The Island has been awarded Biosphere Reserve status by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Man and the Biosphere program. Biosphere Reserves are 'special places for people and nature'. The recognition is awarded to areas that demonstrate a successful balance between the two. The Isle of Man is the first entire jurisdiction in the world to be awarded the accolade.



CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

The NAMA convention in Annapolis featured something new: A series of workshops on Manx and local history, culture, music and crafts. Nearly 30 people gathered on Saturday afternoon, including a few newcomers from the Washington area, to enjoy the workshops and relax after two days exploring Maryland's capital city. Workshop leaders included NAMA members Kelly McCarthy, Margie Martinson-Brezina and Bill Cassidy, as well as special guests Ed Bradshaw and Dr. Ellen Lawler, who also was our keynote speaker and guest at the NAMA dinner.

The goal of the workshops was to create a fun and educational program that would not only interest current NAMA mem-

bers but attract new people, and potential new members, to the convention and the association. And we did in fact gain two new members that day. We also wanted to offer a variety of topics and fun activities, from learning phrases and a song in Manx Gaelic to making Manx Cottage birdhouses and fairy lanterns in Margie's crafts workshop.



Handmade Manx "cottage" bird feeder

Kelly McCarthy kicked the program off with an introduction to Manx Worthies, the definitive Who's Who of Manx history. The latest edition of the book was edited by her father, Dollin Kelly. Bill ("Illiam") Cassidy gave a talk on the Norse-Gaelic Kingdom of Man and the Isles and the island's Viking heritage in a broad regional context. He followed that up with the first Manx language class taught at a NAMA convention, at least in living memory, and a Manx song class. We had strong singers belting out the chorus to the rowing song Bir-linn Ghorree Chrovan!



Ed Bradshaw entertains with his banjo

A highlight of the convention was the presentation by Dr. Ellen Lawler, professor emeritus at Salisbury University in Maryland, on the life and career of Henry Callister, a Manx emigrant to Maryland's Eastern Shore in the 1740s and a Colonial American naturalist. Callister left behind hundreds of letters, including some to relations on the Isle of Man, that still survive today — highly unusual for someone of his so-

cial rank (he rose from being an indentured servant to managing warehouses and stores for his Liverpool employers) and time.

Margie Martison-Brezina's craft workshop took a room of its own and two hours, and people still wanted more time! Margie has her own craft-based business, Owl Post Greetings. Finally, Ed Bradshaw and Bill Cassidy gave a workshop on Manx music, playing some tunes and discussing different types of tunes. "I'm very glad we held these workshops and people really enjoyed them," Cassidy said. "It's important that we make Manx culture and heritage a part of our events and do our best to draw new people to NAMA and the Isle of Man."



Claire Purnell and Kearsley Waggoner with their Fairy Lanterns



MANX IN SAN ANTONIO?

NAMA trustee Bill Cassidy spends a lot of time attending Gaelic cultural events, be they Scottish, Irish or Manx, but he was pleasantly surprised when he was approached at a Scottish Gaelic event this summer and asked "Kany's ta shiu?" The questioner was Ron Crowe of San Antonio, who came to the event when he heard a Manx speaker (Cassidy) was there.

Ron has deep Manx roots, and he's very enthusiastic about learning Manx Gaelic. He and "Illiam" are now getting together regularly on Google Hangouts to practice together, using the new SaySomethingIn.com course in Manx. And Ron plans to join NAMA as well.

NAMA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

PROMOTE AND PROTECT OUR MANX HERITAGE

Join now and make sure you keep receiving your newsletter and don't forget to mail us if you change your address!

Please print your information and mail with your check to John Prendergast at the address below.

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____ Phone _____

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Individual Membership	Dues	Amount	Family Membership	Dues	Amount
Annual	\$15	_____	Annual	\$20	_____
LIFE MEMBERSHIP			LIFE MEMBERSHIP		
Under age 50	\$250	_____	Under age 50	\$325	_____
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Junior (age 1-18 yrs, no bulletin)	\$2	_____			

Total Remittance

(in U.S. Dollar or equivalent amount) _____

Please advise John if you change your address.

ONLY SEND MONEY TO: **John Prendergast**

NAMA Treasurer
10251 South Bell Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643-1901 USA

To become a NAMA member, or to renew your membership, please send this form and your check made out to North American Manx Association or money order to John Prendergast.

..... Detach Here

vention. Guest authors from the Isle of Man make regular additions. You should visit often!

Regional societies take note, you need to keep your content updated, so either learn how to use WordPress and get Log-in credentials from Jim, or email us your information and we will post it for you.



We're on Facebook at North American Manx Association.

WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US?

If you have news you'd like to share with the members of the North American Manx Association, please email Kelly McCarthy at Kelly@mustgoto.com.



HOLLIE JAQUES WINS THE 2016 ELLA OLESEN SCHOLARSHIP



Former Ramsey Grammar School student Hollie Jaques is the winner of the 2016 Ella Olesen Scholarship.

Hollie will follow a long line of local students in spending nine months at the University of Idaho in the USA. The scholarship is named after a former registrar of the university who died in 1985.

Hollie's Manx ancestry – her mother Margaret Teare was born in Ballaugh and emigrated to America in 1890 – led her to gift the scholarship in 1971.

It is awarded annually to a female degree student who has been supported through her studies by the Department of Education and Children. Hollie, 21, is studying politics and geography at the University of Glasgow and plays an active part in many aspects of university life, not least sharing her passion for Manx dancing with fellow students.

She has represented the Island at numerous Celtic festivals, including the Festival Interceltique de Lorient, where, in 2015, she participated in events for dignitaries and was interviewed for French TV. She has won two North American Manx Awards for her contribution to culture.

Hollie said: 'I am keen to continue to endorse Manx culture abroad and promote the Island internationally. I am also keen to see more of the world and meet new people.'

'The scholarship, which brings with it the opportunity to fly the Manx flag, is the perfect next step in my life.'



OLYMPICS

We sent four guys to the Olympics this year. Manxman Tim Kneale made his Olympic debut at Rio 2016 and came up just two points short in his battle for Bronze in the Double Trap against a fellow Team GB member. The Isle of Man competes as a part of the entire British team which includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the three Crown dependencies (Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey), and all but three of the British overseas territories (Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands and Bermuda having their own Olympic teams). Irish athletes can play for North or South, whichever they prefer.



Other Manx competitors included cyclists Peter Kennaugh MBE and Ben Swift, as well as our 2016 medal winner, Mark Cavendish, who bagged a Silver in the men's omnium race. He finished behind the Italian Elia Viviani overall while the reigning Olympic champion, Lasse Norman Hansen, from Denmark won bronze.



Cavendish, 31, won the medal in a controversial fashion after he caused a collision in the points race. With 109 laps remaining, the Manxman appeared to swing across the South Korean rider Park Sang Hoon who fell off his bike along with two others, including the leader, Viviani. The Italian recovered to win, but Park was carried away in a stretcher...



LOCAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Northern California Manx finally held their pre-Con-vention Cooish on July 31, 2016. As usual, the 'Chruinnacht' (gathering) was held at our 'home away from home' – the comfortable abode of Kim Parker and Peter Herrera. They really know how to make us feel welcome.

We had a good turnout, especially in light of summer vacation plans and that is due to the energetic efforts of our Social Director, Una Reed. As is our custom, we began by singing 'Ellan Vannin' and 'O Land of Our Birth.' That was followed by a new custom, a lesson in Manx, based on the teaching materials given out at the Annapolis Convention.

Those of us present at Annapolis, Lois Gordon, Larry Fargher, and Jack Cormode, gave an enthusiastic report of what the others had missed. In addition to Convention activities, food was a major point of interest. Discussion of the upcoming 2018 Convention (Victoria, BC) and 2020 Convention (Plymouth, MA) brought out a lot of interest.

Everyone is aware of the continuing program to get more young people involved with NAMA. The change to a 'one stop' NAMA web page was eagerly embraced.

Our next Cooish is scheduled for January 15, 2017. Jack Cormode, NorCal Manx, (650) 961-6117

The Rocky Mountain Manx Society attended a performance of the musical "ONCE" in lieu of a Spring 2016 meeting. The May performance was at the DCPA in downtown Denver. Seven members attended. They were Vicky and Gary Reynolds, Linda, Leanne, Charles, Sandy and Jim Corlett. The Reverend Al Scarff had to withdraw at the last moment and missed the evening. A wonderful time was had by all watching the musical about multiple Irish musicians, two of which almost had a love affair.



It is planned that for the Fall 2016 meeting the RMMS will return to its Sunday afternoon pot luck.

Jim Corlett



SECTION TITLE?

The week following the Convention was National Week on the Isle of Man. It's during this time that the Department of Education presents the North American Manx Association Youth Awards. There are two sets of NAMA Youth Awards.

USA-IOM

The North American Manx Awards are sponsored by the North American Manx Association and presented annually to young Manx people. Recipients receive a specially minted silver medallion. The Department of Education and Children receives nominations that recognize the achievements of young people under the age of eighteen, as well as two awards that are open to older recipients. The categories are: Manx music, Arts and Crafts that portray Manx life or culture, Manx language, an outstanding contribution to Manx culture by an individual or group, an outstanding contribution to the Manx Community in general, and overcoming a disability. This year Kelly McCarthy was on the island and presented the awards as Immediate Past President. Another Past President, Laurence Skelly, was also in attendance in his capacity as Minister for Economic Development. Our dear friend, Clare Christian, President of Tynwald was also there in one of her final official functions before retiring later in July.



Add names of winners.

LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

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Leslie Hanson, President World Manx Association

Immediate Past-President

Kelly McCarthy

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Jack Cormode
Norm Standish
Brad Prendergast
Laurence Skelly, MHK
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Brad Prendergast to organize 2022 Convention

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Trustees

Dorothy Gawne, Niles, IL
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Melanie "Mim" Blower, Alexandria, VA

IOM-USA

The North American Youth Award came about in 2002 when the Isle of Man Department of Education announced that it created an award to be given every two years at the North American Manx Association Convention. The award recognizes young people living in North America for their contribution in maintaining an awareness of the Isle of Man and its culture. The Department of Education and Children aims to encourage young people with Manx connections growing up in North America to perform Manx Music, learn the Manx language, or learn some other aspect of Manx culture and history.

This year's prize, and engraved slab of Manx slate, went to Nicole Wozny from Chicago. Nicole Wozny is 15 years old. She attends Jones College Prep, a selective enrollment High School in Chicago, Illinois. Nicole has attended the last five NAMA conventions, in Minneapolis, Denver, Platteville, IOM, and Annapolis. As you can see from the letter from Myrra Johnson, she performed a very useful task for Manx heritage in the United States.



North American Manx Association

John Prendergast
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The Isle of Man is situated in the middle of the Irish Sea at the centre of the British Isles. It is 33 miles (53km) long and 13 miles (22km) wide at its broadest point, with a resident population of 84,497.

The Island has a distinct cultural and political identity. It is not, and never has been, a part of the United Kingdom. Nor is it part of the European Union, with which it has a special and limited relationship allowing for free trade in agricultural and manufactured products. The Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown Dependency with its own government and laws, made in Tynwald, which was founded more than 1,000 years ago and is the world's oldest continuous parliament.