

# Pobble

[Pobble, n. People, community, folk]

supporting Manx Gaelic as a community asset



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help us:

- increase the number of children who receive a bilingual education
- establish a language and cultural centre
- support innovative and exciting publications in Manx

To find out more, or to get involved with the work of Pobble:

Email [post@pobble.im](mailto:post@pobble.im), phone 632965 or write to

The Secretary  
Pobble  
The Chambers  
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# Constitution

Believing that the Language offers real cultural, social and economic benefits

## **Pobble aims to achieve:**

- A language that is open to all regardless of background
- An appreciation that the language adds to positive national identity
- Improved access to the language for children in all Isle of Man schools
- An acceptance that bilingual education offers substantial linguistic, educational and economic benefits

## Pobble will...

- In the first 12 months work to ensure that the language has a very visible presence in the Isle of Man Year of Culture.
- In the first 24 months work towards establishing a Manx Gaelic unit in a Primary school.
- In the first 36 months work towards establishing a language and cultural centre.





## **Manx Gaelic: an Island success story**

The last twenty years have seen a remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of Manx Gaelic. Many people who worked tirelessly for the language in the 1950s and 1960s would now be amazed to see:

- The Manx Gaelic Primary School, Bunscoill Ghaelgagh – an integral part of the Manx education system – teaching and learning through the medium of Manx
- A team of teachers working for the Dept. of Education with 1000 children receiving some instruction in the language
- Children studying the language to A-Level standard
- A network of playgroups that use the language
- Wide-ranging bilingual signage
- A vibrant presence for Manx in social media and on-line

**Pobble recognises these achievements as something that the whole Island can be proud of and share in.**



## **Manx Gaelic offers real cultural, social and economic benefits to the Isle of Man**

As a consequence of the revival of interest in the language the Island has received a remarkable amount of good press internationally.

An increasing number of people and language groups visit the Island to either learn or find out more about the language and its revitalisation.

Manx Gaelic distinguishes the Island from other jurisdictions.

The language revival success story is an achievement rarely achieved elsewhere.

Those who learn and speak the language – regardless of background – are proud to call the Island their home and proud to support the Island.

The linguistic, educational and social benefits of learning through another language are well attested.

**Pobble will work towards ensuring that the language plays its part in making the Island a prosperous, culturally vibrant place that we can be proud to live in.**



## Business and language: a real dynamic

“Pobble's work is so much more than the simple preservation of a language, it is bringing Manx to the forefront of global culture and modern life. We are only just beginning to discover the benefits of reviving our language.”

[Chris Stott Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ManSat LLC.](#)

“It has been a pleasure to work with the whole Manx Language team in order to produce the World's first Manx Language animation dub. We've learned so much about the importance of the Isle of Man's Celtic Language – it is interwoven with the history, faith, culture and social development of this wonderful Island nation.”

[David Dorricott, Managing Director, Friends and Heroes](#)

“It's a real privilege and very exciting to be involved in the launch of such a great book for children. Keeping alive the Manx language, that has been here much longer than we have, is so important. It enriches our identity as a nation and allows a unique insight into the origins of our language.”

“*The Gruffalo* not only proves the Manx language is alive and kicking but also in its own right is a great read. We hope in some small way the book will inspire parents and schools to ensure the traditions of our great Island are passed on to future generations.”

[Peter Reid, Island Director of Lloyds Bank](#)

“...Our clients are typically international, individual and entrepreneurial. They understand the concepts of culture, identity and language. They see the Isle of Man as possessing a very special pedigree and regard the Manx language as a natural part of that gift....”

Eammon Harkin, IM9 Ltd

"Patchwork loves hosting weekly Manx Gaelic lessons because they bring friendly people from many different sections of our local community together to learn Manx over a slice of cake and a cup of coffee. We have become a wee cultural hub for people and also help to maintain the vibrancy of the language and we like that, so that's what we do! As a bonus, many people have now become regular customers as well!"

Richard Ashcroft, Patchwork Cafe, Port St Mary

"It was a pleasure and a privilege to be able to support the Manx Language Community in a merger between 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology and our Manx Gaelic language with origins dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Whether we use the Manx Language App for fun or serious learning it keeps our language very much alive."

Andy Bridson, Sure Isle of Man





## **A language that is open to all regardless of background**

The Isle of Man has changed greatly over the last 30 years and Pobble recognises the important role these changes have had in providing economic and political support for the language.

We firmly believe that the language should be accessible to anyone regardless of where they were born.

Anyone who calls this Island their home should feel that the language can be part of their identity.

Opportunities to learn and use the language should be made available to all regardless of income, age or background.

**Pobble will work towards increasing the opportunities for all to share and be part of this Island success story.**



## The language adds to positive national identity

A positive national identity can help bind society together.

Pobble believes that an understanding and awareness of the language can foster a positive sense of place.

Learning Manx requires commitment and hard work.

Those who learn the language are people who are likely to:

- Vote in Manx elections
- Buy Manx produce
- Have an interest in community affairs
- Care about the Island
- Encourage others to visit the Island

**Pobble will work towards strengthening the awareness that the language has much to offer this Island community.**



## **Improved access to the language for children in schools**

Pobble believes that support for the language from the Manx Government and people reflects well on the priorities of our small Island nation.

It is up to us here on the Island to support and develop Manx Gaelic.

Those children who learn some Manx at school are likely to have a strong sense of place and identity.

We fully believe that greater support and encouragement needs to be given to young people to learn more of the Island's own language and become confident in using it.

**Pobble will work towards both improving access for young people to the language and increasing their opportunities to use it.**

## **An acceptance that bilingual education offers substantial linguistic, educational and economic benefits**

Children at the Manx Gaelic School, the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, receive their lessons through the medium of Manx.

Pobble is of the opinion that the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh is one of the most significant cultural achievements in the Island in the last 50 years.

Given the nature of their education, the children at the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, not only have excellent Manx but a clear understanding of Manx history and culture.

Such an understanding will result in students having strong roots in the Island: they are likely to see the Island as their home even after University or working overseas.

Parents who have sent their children to the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh have shown a commitment, not only to the language and bilingualism, but also to the Island itself.

The advantages of bilingualism are very well attested and include:

- Improved attainment in students' first language
- Greater intellectual flexibility
- A higher propensity to learn other languages
- Increased ability in other subjects such as Maths

**Pobble believes that similar schools to the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh would result in improved educational benefits for children and a greater likelihood of learning other languages.**

# Statement of support

*Dr. Tadhg Ó hlfearnáin, Senior Lecturer in Irish, University of Limerick*

The Isle of Man has shown the world what a dynamic voluntary sector working in tandem with intelligent, targeted Government support can achieve in developing and nurturing a language that had been marginalised for several generations.

Manx is a unique asset that belongs to the people of the Isle of Man; however, the regeneration of interest in the language, the creation of the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, teaching Manx in the island's schools, and the expanding number of learners and fluent speakers are phenomena of international importance that have inspired the many individuals, communities, organisations and government agencies abroad that are concerned with minority languages.

The Isle of Man Government deserves to be applauded for its commitment; however, the revitalisation of Manx has always depended most on the dedication of individuals and small groups of enthusiasts, who have worked hard not simply to preserve Manx, but to cultivate the language, especially during times when there was often little support in the wider community.

**Pobble** brings a new energy to the vitality of Manx, and together with enlightened actions from Government and the support of the people of the Isle of Man - regardless of their backgrounds - will ensure that the Isle of Man continues to play an important role in setting the international agenda for language revitalisation.