

Beealeraght

Bilingual Manx column - January 2013

Christopher Lewin

S'goan ta Laa ny Nollick ec kione tra ta rour sleih 'sy traa t'ayn jiu gra cre cha maynrey as t'ad dy vel eh harrish son blein elley: ta'n 'hype' er ve goll rish mee ny ghaa as nish fy-yerrey hoal foddee ad çhyndaa reesht gys nyn mea chadjin. Agh ayns firriny's ta'n Nollick goaill toshiaght er yn wheiggoo laa as feed jeh Mee veanagh y yeuree, as roish shen she yn Advent t'ayn as ayns y traa shen lhisagh shin ve goaill ain hene ny kiare reddyn s'jerree: baase, briwnys, niau as niurin!

Ayns traa nagh vel foddey er-dy-henney cha row jesheenyn y Nollick currit seose derrey Oie Nollick, as ta paart cummal seose yn cliaghtey shen dys y laa jiu. Mannagh vel oo goaill toshiaght lesh y Nollick derrey Laa Nollick, cha jean oo gaase skee jee cha tappee shen.

Er-lheh ayns Mannin ta oyr ain dy hoiaghey mooar jeh ny laghyn Nollick lurg y laa mooar. Ta ram jeh ny cliaghtaghyn ashoonagh ain, chammah shenn as noa, çheet mygeayrt ayns y 'Chegeesh Ommijagh'—myr boallagh ny shenn Vanninee gra rish—eddyr y Nollick as Laa'l Çhibbyrt Ushtey. Ga dy row yn fliaghey ayn, gyn dooyt va ymmodee dy leih mooie Laa'l Steoain jannoo Shelg y Drean as cloie cammag ayns Balley Keeill Eoin. Y laa er-giyn va caa ec sleih goaill soylley jeh 'Mollag Yennal' ayns Doolish.

Dy hickyraghey dooin myr dy beagh nagh vel yn Nollick ec kione, va ny shenn Vanninee gra 'Nollick veg' rish Laa yn Vlein Noa, as dy jarroo ry foddey dy hraa v'ad cummal seose yn wheiggoo laa jeh'n chided vee jeh'n vlein myr Shenn Nollick, as dy chowraghey shen ta shirveish Ghaelgagh goll er cummal mleeaney ayns Keeill ny Saasilee ayns Purt ny Hinshey ec three er y chlag Jedoonee 600.

'Sy chegeesh shoh neesht ta shin dagh blein cooinaghtyn er baase Illiam Dhone er y nah laa jeh Mee s'jerree yn yeuree, as mleeaney she yn three cheeadoo vlein as jeih as daeed neayr's v'eh currit dy baase. As er y çhiaghtoo laa as feed jeh Mee veanagh y yeuree hooar Ned Maddrell baase—as Gaelg myr çhengey ny mayrey marish.

Myr shen ta ram ain dy yannoo as dy smooinghtyn er ec y Nollick as cha nel ee ec kione foast. Nollick reagh as blein vie noa diu ooilley!

Christmas Day is no sooner over than too many people these days are saying how relieved they are that it is finished for another year: the 'hype' has been going for a month or two and now at long last they can return to normal. But in truth Christmas begins on 25th December and before that it's Advent when we should be contemplating the four last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell.

Not so long ago Christmas decoration weren't put up until Christmas Eve, and some keep up this traditional today. If you don't start Christmas until Christmas Day, you won't get tired of it so fast.

Especially in the Isle of Man we have reason to value the days of Christmas after the big day. Many of our national customs, both old and new, happen in the 'Foolish Fortnight'—as the old Manx used to call it—between Christmas and Epiphany. Though it was raining, no doubt many people were out on St Stephen's Day doing Hunt the Wren and playing cammag in St John's. On the 27th there was a chance to enjoy 'Mollag Yennal' in Douglas.

To make clear to us as it were that Christmas is not over, the old Manx called New Year's Day 'little Christmas', as indeed for a long time they kept up 5th January as Old Christmas Day, and to mark this a Manx service is being held this year in Peel Methodist Church at 3pm on Sunday 6th.

In this fortnight too we remember the death of Illiam Dhone on the 2nd January, and this year is the 350th anniversary. Also in the Christmas fortnight the 27th December is the anniversary of the death of Ned Maddrell, and the death of traditional Manx as a mother tongue.

So there is a lot for us to do and think about at Christmas and it isn't over yet. Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all!