

Ta aghin er ve currit da ard-whaiyl Nalbin shirrey orroo jannoo 'Flower of Scotland' ny arrane ashoonagh oikoil. Choud shoh, ta shiartanse dy arraneyn er ve streeu noi-ry-hoi son yn onner shoh. Foddee dy vel eh traa dooinyn ayns Mannin jeeaghyn er yn arrane ashoonagh ain hene ass-y-noa. Ga dy row yn arrane liorish Illiam Gill as soit er car 'Mylecharaine' jeant ny arrane ashoonagh oikoil paart dy vleeantyn er-dy-henney, t'eh baghtal da sleih Gaelgagh nagh vel yn çhyndaa ayns Gaelg liorish J. J. Kneen ooilley-cooidjagh cooie. Ta aymyn jeh raad nagh vel yn grammeydys jannoo keeall erbee. Myr sampleyr, ayns y chield ronney, O Chliejeen ny s'bwaaie / Ry gheddyn er ooir aalin Yee – ta'n cliejeen ny s'bwaaie na c'red? As ayns y ronney s'jerree, cha vel keeall erbee ry gheddyn ayns Lhig dooin boggoil bee! Cha nel eh kiart dy vel lheid y red shassoo myr symbol jeh'n ashoon ain, as ghow mish yn arrane Baarlagh ec cooinaghtyn Illiam Dhone mleeaney, son nagh dod mee cur orrym pene goaill focklyn ta jannoo braghtan glen jeh'n ghlare ain.

Ta red ny ghaa oddagh ve jeant dy chur er focklyn yn arrane gobbragh. Shoh çhyndaa ta tannaghtyn faggys dy liooar da ny focklyn Baarle:

O Vannin nyn gree,  
O Chliejeen y Chiarn Jee,  
O Ellan cha stoamey 's cha feeu;  
Myr Barrool soit dy mie,  
Dt'ard-stoyl dy reill thie,  
Nee shin seyr myr aer millish y clieau.

Cha nel mee ooilley-cooidjagh ayns foayr jeh 'cliejeen' as 'aer millish y clieau', my ta. Ta smooingaghtyn jeh'n sorçh shen bentyn da sou-ennaghtyn meeley millish yn eash tra va'n arrane screeut. Shoh vershoon ta red beg s'Manninee, foddee (as geiyrt er sampleyr Kneen ayns aymn):

O Vannin nyn ghraih,  
Ayns yn aarkey ny lhie,  
O Ellan veg aalin nyn gree;  
Cha trean as Barrool,  
V'ou soit er-dy-rieau,  
Dyn vreyll shin ayns seyrnys as shee.

As son yn ronney s'jerree:

Lhig dooin boggey 'ghoail,  
Lesh creeaghyn gerjoil,  
Cur barrant er gialdyn y Çhiarn;  
Dy vodmayd dagh oor,  
Treishteil er e phooar,  
Dagh olk ass nyn annym dy hayrn.

Ta ny ronaghyn elley jeant aym nish, my ta peiagh erbee laccal fakin ad. Foddee dy bee smooingaghtyn ec feallagh elley neesht kys dy lhiasaghey focklyn Gaelgagh yn arrane ashoonagh.

A petition was presented recently to the Scottish parliament asking that 'Flower of Scotland' be made an official national anthem. Up to now, a number of songs have been in competition for the honour. Perhaps it is time for us in the Isle of Man to have a fresh look at our national anthem. Though the song by William Gill, based on the tune of Mylecharaine, was made our official national anthem a few years ago, it is clear to Manx speakers that the existing Manx translation by J. J. Kneen is not entirely suitable. Parts of it are simply ungrammatical. For example, in the first verse, (literal translation back to English) 'O gem more fair to be found on God's beautiful earth' – more fair than what? And in the last verse, 'let us joyful will be' makes no sense. It cannot be right that this should stand as a symbol of our nation, and I sang the anthem in English at the Illiam Dhone commemoration this year, as I could not bring myself to utter this distortion of our language.

A couple of changes would make the lyrics work. Here is a translation which stays close quite to the English original:

(literal translation:)

O Man of our heart,  
O gem of the Lord God,  
O Island so fair and so worthy;  
As Barrule set well,  
Thy high seat of home rule,  
Will make us free as the sweet air of the mountain.

I am not sure I like 'gem' and 'sweet mountain air', though. This sort of imagery reflects the drawing-room sentimentalism of the era when the song was written. Here is a version that is perhaps simpler and a bit more Manx (and also follows Kneen to some extent):

O Man of our love,  
In the sea lying,  
O little beautiful island of our heart;  
As strong as Barrule,  
You were set ever,  
Keeping us in freedom and peace.

As for the last verse:

Let us rejoice,  
With joyful hearts,  
Relying on the Lord's promise;  
That we may each hour  
Trust in his power,  
To draw every evil out of our soul.

I have done the rest of the verses as well, if anyone is interested. Perhaps others will have their own suggestions as to how the Manx words of our national anthem might be revised?