**O Land of Our Birth**

Issue date: 29th July 2020

Isle of Man Post Office, in collaboration with the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company and Biosphere IOM, is pleased to present twelve winning photographs selected from a recent competition titled ‘O Land of Our Birth’. The final choice of images references the words of our national anthem which have stood us in good stead during the past few months and will continue to do so long into the future.

The national anthem of the Isle of Man was written and composed by William Henry Gill (1839–1923), with the Manx translation by John J Kneen (1873–1939). It is often referred to by its incipit, O Land of Our Birth.

It is sung to an adaptation of the traditional Manx melody of Mylecharaine’s March, which had been described as the “Manx national melody” long before Gill’s composition.

First performed at the Manx Music Festival on 21st March 1907, there are eight verses in the modern anthem, but only the first verse is usually sung.

The anthem was given official status by the Isle of Man’s legislature, Tynwald, on 22nd January 2003, with God Save the Queen being designated as the royal anthem.

**Port St Mary** “My picture captures the relaxed pace of life in this once busy commercial port now focused on leisure activities. It retains its traditional charm and reminds us of what can be achieved in a changing world.” John Jones

**Peel** “A glorious sunny day in Peel, showing the crystal clear waters of Fenella beach. Taken on our first family holiday, returning to not only our honeymoon island, but the land of my birth.” Terence Meadmore

**Peel** “Long walks on the beach, fish and chips, a street so pretty I couldn’t resist, grabbing my camera, salty air damp, to capture this moment, now printed on a stamp” Sarah Elliot

**The Sound** “The Sound sunset overlooked by Thousla Cross as the fishing boat hits the sunset’s reflection. Sat there I think how lucky I am to live on such a beautiful island...” Liz Lillis-Ingram

**Calf of Mann** “Loaghtan sheep on the Calf of Man in July 2019. Startled by our approach, they were momentarily posed on a rocky outcrop against the skyline before vanishing into the bracken and heather.” Colin Gill

**Peel** “Peel Marina in the sunshine, with its colourful fishing boats and historic castle. I wander around Peel, enjoying the atmosphere and greeting locals I know in this small community, taking my camera whatever the weather.” Sue Furner

**Ballaglass Glen** “Took a stop in an enchanting place and went home calm and at peace. A beautiful and serene destination where you can live like in a fairy tale.” Marionette Espinosa

**Tholt-Y-Will** “A vantage point from conquering Snaefell. An image of a split second to appreciate all we have at our touch on the Isle of Man on a beautiful summer’s afternoon.” William Hale

**Cregneash** “I think that this photo, taken in Cregneash, captures the essence of Manx farming from yesteryear, with “ye sons of the soil, in hardship and toil, that plough both the land and the sea”. Tim Norton

**Douglas** “Taken while visiting the Isle of Man for the Manx Grand Prix in 2017, I felt this spectacular sculpture evoked the Viking heritage of the Island against a stunning blue Manx sky.” Hilary Denison

**Douglas** “I took the photo of the Ben one early morning before I started work, it was very calm that morning and the vessel glided in the bay without disturbing all the little boats. I ended up being late for work but it was really worth it.” Craig Harriman

**Glen Maye** “I’ve been a regular visitor since childhood and Glen Maye is one of my favourite glens with this lovely beach at the bottom. Taken on a quick walk before catching the ferry home” Gareth Caley

***Renee Caley****, Isle of Man Steam Packet Company writes…*

The wonderful variety of photos submitted showcases the spectacular beauty of the Island and brings its unique personality and quirky character to life.

***Jo Overty,*** *Biosphere Project Officer writes…*

These photos perfectly encapsulate life in our UNESCO Biosphere.

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the production of this collection and, in particular, the numerous members of the public who shared their own images. They all showed a varied and deep appreciation of what our Island means to them personally.

Images: Various

Design: Isle of Man Advertising

Text: Isle of Man Post Office, Renee Caley and Jo Overty

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