



Born to be Bard

In a slight departure from her normal job, the junior partner has been booted into the limelight for her poetry. She has been raised to the position of Manx Bard. It's a huge honour; see below.

As easy as ABC

There's such a lot to see on the Isle of Man that visitors are often a bit spoilt for choice. We thought it might be helpful to put together a small book giving brief information about some of the often lesser known attractions. But how should we choose what to include?

Then the junior partner had the idea of having one attraction for each letter of the alphabet, twenty-six in all. So, A is for Albert's Tower, B for the Bride bunkers, etc. - X was a challenge! - and *A Manx A-B-C-Dery* was born as an alphabetical tour of the island. The picture to the right is one we *didn't* use. It shows Spooyt Vane (letter S), a magical waterfall said to have been favoured by druids.

Then the senior partner improved things further by suggesting that the numbers get a look in as well. One wildlife park, two castles, three legs, four long-distance paths, etc. It works well.

And for those of you who are confused about the title, the 'dery' at the end is to turn the A-B-C into a noun - like embroidery or bravery or forgery. It's merely there to help with pronunciation. We thought it would make things easier, but we've been wrong before...



Overheard on the tram...

Her: I bought a book recently and the author was there so I got him to sign it.

Him: How do you know it was the author? It could have been a member of staff.

Her: Well, it doesn't really matter if it wasn't the author does it? No-one could tell.

From Bard to Verse

The junior partner in Loaghtan Books has recently been honoured by being elevated to Manx Bard. Unlike the UK's Poet Laureate, Manx Bard is an annual appointment. The Bard's role includes writing poetry to celebrate significant events, and acting as ambassador for Manx culture and heritage.

The appointment came as a huge shock, and the junior partner is in a flat spin. Pictures of the inauguration of the Bard make her look as though she's drunk or had been hit on the head with a spade. Neither is true! The post is partly what the incumbent makes it, but does come complete with robes, hat, chair and bardic staff. Watch this space!

In the meantime, if you want to see an example of the new Bard's poetry, *Legends or Leg-ends?* appears on page 4 of *Three Legs Good*. Not Bard at all.

Best wishes
Sara

Quote of the day

The island has a fully-qualified mountain search dog, part of the Isle of Man Search & Rescue Group... Female collie, Star, and handler Jim MacGregor qualified in 2012 and since then have been called out many times, not only on Mann but also in England and Wales.