



TYNWALD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Second Report for the Session 2025-26

**Tynwald Honours:
Peter Kelly MBE CP RBV**

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There shall be a Standing Committee of the Court on Management of the Clerk of Tynwald's Office.

The Committee shall be chaired by the Speaker of the House of Keys, the Vice-Chairman shall be the President of Tynwald and it shall further be composed of two Members of the House of Keys and a Member of the Legislative Council.

The Committee shall –

- (i) oversee the management of the secretariat of the Office of the Clerk of Tynwald;
- (ii) ensure that necessary services are provided for Members of Tynwald, that appropriate resources are made available to allow for such services and that such resources are properly used;
- (iii) oversee the efficient and effective use of resources by the Clerk of Tynwald, who shall be the Accounting Officer for the Tynwald budget;
- (iv) provide authority for setting staffing levels and overall terms and conditions of service of the staff of the Office of the Clerk of Tynwald;
- (v) for the purposes of the Public Records Act 1999 be the Committee authorized to make decisions in relation to Tynwald papers;
- (vi) be the Tynwald Management Committee referred to in section 3 of the Tynwald Auditor General Act 2011, with the relevant powers and responsibilities in relation to the Tynwald Auditor General; and
- (vii) be the Tynwald Management Committee referred to in section 3 of the Tynwald Commissioner for Administration Act 2011, with the relevant powers and responsibilities in relation to the Tynwald Commissioner for Administration.

The Committee shall consider nominations of deceased persons for inclusion in the Manx Patriots' Roll of Honour and may recommend to Tynwald the award of honours by the Court to living persons; and in relation to these duties –

- (i) the Committee shall report to Tynwald at least once during the life of each House of Keys, but not necessarily to make a recommendation;
- (ii) any recommendation made by the Committee shall be subject to the approval of a majority of the whole of Tynwald sitting in public and voting as one body;

- (iii) the Committee shall be responsible for the erection and continuing maintenance of the Manx Patriots' Roll of Honour, which shall be maintained in a prominent position in the public part of the Precincts of Tynwald;
- (iv) a plaque shall be placed in a prominent position at a site in the Island appropriate to each person admitted to the Roll and the Committee may consider presenting a suitable memento to the family of the person concerned.

The Committee shall –

- (i) carry out its consultative functions under section 6(3) of the Payment of Members' Expenses Act 1989 as the body designated by the Payment of Members' Expenses (Designation of Consultative Body) Order 2022 (SD 2022/0324);
- (ii) consider and report to Tynwald on the emoluments of the Clerk of Tynwald;
- (iii) own the records of the Emoluments Committee established on 20th April 2010 and its predecessor Joint Committee.

The powers, privileges and immunities relating to the work of a committee of Tynwald include those conferred by the Tynwald Proceedings Act 1876, the Privileges of Tynwald (Publications) Act 1973, the Tynwald Proceedings Act 1984 and by the Standing Orders of Tynwald Court.

Committee Membership

The Hon J P Watterson SHK ex officio (Chair) (Rushen)

The Hon L D Skelly MLC ex officio (Vice-Chair)

Mr R Callister MHK (Onchan)

Mrs S L Maltby MHK (Douglas South)

Mrs K Morphet MLC

Copies of this Report may be obtained from the Tynwald Library, Office of the Clerk of Tynwald, Finch Road, Douglas, IM1 3PW (Tel: 01624 685500) or may be consulted at www.tynwald.org.im.

All correspondence with regard to this Report should be addressed to the Clerk of Tynwald, Legislative Buildings, Finch Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3PW.

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To: The Hon. Laurence David Skelly MLC, President of Tynwald,
and the Hon. Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled

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I. Function of the Committee

1. The Tynwald Honours Committee was established in December 1998, following recommendations made by the Select Committee on Manx Patriots, to propose names to Tynwald for inclusion in a Manx Patriots' Roll of Honour for deceased persons.
2. In December 2002 the Committee's remit was extended to recommend to Tynwald the awarding of honours to living Manx persons: the Tynwald Honour.
3. At the May 2018 sitting, Tynwald Court considered the 'First Report of the Tynwald Standing Orders Committee for the Session 2017-2018 – Suspension of Members; Organization of Committees; Other Matters' [PP No 2018/0074] and agreed to the recommendation that the functions of the Tynwald Honours Committee be added to the remit of the Tynwald Management Committee.

II. The Tynwald Honour

4. The awarding of the Tynwald Honour is for living persons who have made an outstanding contribution to Manx life over a significant period of time and

have demonstrated a selfless commitment in doing so. The names of recipients are listed in Annex A.

5. The Committee is aware that it is not required to make an award.
6. The agreed criteria for receiving the Tynwald Honour are as follows:
 - (a) The recipient does not need to be Manx born but must have spent a significant portion of his or her life in the Island;
 - (b) The recipient must have made an outstanding contribution to one or more areas of Manx life. The Committee does not see the award as being purely for those who have made a contribution in politics and Government;
 - (c) The recipient should have made this contribution over a significant period of time and demonstrated a selfless commitment in so doing;
 - (d) The recipient must be motivated by the aim of promoting the quality of life in the Island and/or the wellbeing of its population;
 - (e) Normally a recipient would have to make an outstanding contribution in an area of life which is not necessarily his or her normal area of employment. It is recognised, however, that in exceptional circumstances it may be appropriate for someone to be considered for the award because of their contribution made through their normal means of employment; and
 - (f) Because this award is to be a very high Honour there should be no expectation that it would be made annually. It would be made when someone is deemed to have met the criteria.

III. Method of Commemoration

7. In June 2016 Tynwald approved the creation of a prominently located Manx Patriots' Roll of Honour Board and a Tynwald Honour Board. The Boards were made by the Manx Workshop for the Disabled and are located at St John's Chapel.
8. A dedicated section of the Tynwald website holds information about each recipient of the Tynwald Honour.¹

¹ <https://www.tynwald.org.im/TD/tynwald-honour>

IV. Nomination for the Tynwald Honour

9. The Committee considered nominations in light of the agreed criteria and has proposed Peter Kelly MBE CP RBV in recognition of his public service to the Isle of Man, particularly in the areas of Manx heritage, architectural conservation and community service. Mr Kelly is a proud Manxman who has contributed in many and varied ways to the Island.
10. The Committee is of the view in proposing Mr Kelly that he would be a very worthy recipient of the Tynwald Honour.

Biography

11. Peter Kelly MBE CP RBV was born on 28 December 1947, the son of Robert Henry and Winifred Kelly. He is widely recognised as one of the Island's foremost champions of Manx heritage, architectural conservation, and community service.

Education

12. Even at an early age, Peter Kelly developed an enduring interest in Manx history and the built environment. Mr Kelly was educated at Onchan Primary School where he gained an interest in Manx history at the age of nine thanks to teacher Miss Peggy Peddar. Following that, his interest in history was heightened by teacher Robert Curphey at the Douglas High School for Boys.
13. At the end of the third form, he persuaded the Headmaster to let him study and take Art at GCE instead of Latin which was compulsory for the top stream. The Art course included a written section on 'The history of architecture'. This involved the copying up of notes prepared by the art master who unfortunately moved to England after only one term. The replacement teacher did not follow on with the architecture part of the course, so Mr Kelly obtained permission to spend one lesson a week making his own notes from the same source as the previous art master. He was the only pupil in the school to study the subject for the next five terms and take the exam. He passed with a good grade.

Career

14. After being articled to a local architect in 1965, he spent more than twenty years working in architectural practice, specialising in vernacular buildings and the conservation and adaptation of historic structures. In 1985 he was seconded to coordinate Manx Heritage Year, a role that led to two decades of

service to the Manx Heritage Foundation (now Culture Vannin), where he later served as Honorary Heritage Consultant.

Voluntary & Community Work

15. Throughout his life, Mr Kelly has played a prominent role in civic and voluntary life. He was a founder and the first Chairman of the Isle of Man Victorian Society in 1976 and a joint founder of SAVE Mann's Heritage. He has been an active caseworker on built heritage for many decades, and a frequent contributor to journals, newspapers, and radio—including more than 1,000 editions over 20 years of his Manx Radio programme Kelly's Eye. His authoritative work on the Island's architectural history, including his recognised expertise on Baillie Scott, has earned him international regard.
16. Mr Kelly has served the community across a range of organisations. He has given more than 60 years of service to Manx Scouting, from Assistant Cub Master, Island (County) Chairman for 34 years and then to Appointed Island (County) President (2011 to date). His public duties have included service as an elected Commissioner for Onchan, membership of the Advisory Council on Planning and the Environment, and leadership roles in the World Manx Association and the Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside and Environment. All of his community work has been undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Honours

17. Mr Kelly's contributions to Manx culture and heritage have been recognised through numerous awards. He received the MBE in 1998 for 'Services to conservation and the people of the Isle of Man'. He was appointed Captain of Onchan Parish in 2010. In 2021 he was awarded the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan, the Island's highest cultural honour. In June 2025 he was presented with the Silver Wolf, the highest award in Scouting and the personal gift of the World Chief Scout, for outstanding service to the movement.
18. His dedication to the preservation, understanding, and celebration of Manx heritage—together with his decades of voluntary commitment—has made Mr Kelly a respected and highly regarded figure within the Island's cultural and civic life.

Recommendation

That Tynwald approves Peter Kelly MBE CP RBV be awarded the Tynwald Honour in recognition of his public service to the Isle of Man, particularly in the areas of Manx heritage, architectural conservation and community service, on 6th July 2026.

J P Watterson (Chair)

L D Skelly (Vice-Chair)

R Callister

S L Maltby

K Morphet

April 2026

V. Annex A: RECIPIENTS OF THE TYNWALD HONOUR

Norman Alexander Sayle RI TH	2007	Artist and Teacher
Harvey Briggs TH	2008	Farmer and Journalist
Ian Qualtrough JP TH	2009	Businessman and Entertainer
Dr Brian Stowell RBV TH	2010	Manx Gaelic Teacher and Broadcaster
His Honour Thomas William Cain CBE QC TH	2011	Conservationist and Constitutionalist
His Honour John William Corrin CBE QC TH	2012	Charitable work and Constitutionalist
Nadine Crowther MBE TH	2013	Charitable work with Hospice
Hector Duff MM BEM TH	2014	Public Service and Charitable work
Geoff Karran MBE TH	2015	Public Service and Charitable work
Bill Dale BEM TH	2018	Public Service and Charitable Work
A. L. Ian Cottier TH	2021	Public Service and Charitable work

Appendix 1:
Peter Kelly MBE CP RBV - Research Paper
by the Tynwald Research and Scrutiny
Support Team



Peter Kelly – For consideration for Tynwald Honour

Confidential

Issued 01/07/2025

For: Tynwald Management Committee
From: Naomi Corlett

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1. Summary

The [Culture Vannin Website](#) says that:

Peter is a well-known figure not only within Manx antiquarian and heritage circles, but also within the wider community. He is recognised far and wide for his research, writing and case-work for the Isle of Man Victorian Society, for his tireless support for the protection and preservation of the architectural heritage of the Island, and he is in great demand for his entertaining and knowledgeable talks.

Peter Kelly's experience and achievements, roughly in chronological order, are as follows:

- At age 15 he wrote the history of Ballakermeen School and St. Ninian's School for his school magazine.
- At age 16 he became a junior member of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society.
- In 1972, he became a Member of the then recently formed Manx Conservation Council.
- In 1975, he was contacted by the Victorian Society of London, who asked him to assist them with a visit to the Isle of Man. He agreed and began providing guided tours.
- In 1975 he became an elected member of Onchan Village Commissioners and was later part-time Clerk to Onchan Parish Commissioners (1978-1986), then Clerk to Braddan Parish Commissioners for six months.
- In 1976, he formed and became the founding Chairman of the [Isle of Man Victorian Society](#), which continues to this day.

- In 1978, he became Chairman of the Isle of Man Scout Association.
- In 1985, he was appointed Secretary of the Manx Heritage Foundation (now trading as Culture Vannin). When he retired as Secretary, he was appointed Honorary Heritage Consultant until his final retirement from the Foundation after 20 years of continuous service. His contributions in this role were described by James Cain SHK as 'substantial'.
- He had his own private practice as architect and surveyor until Heritage Year 1986, when he took a sabbatical and ran Heritage Year for the Government.
- In 1994, he crossed the bar of Tynwald and addressed the Court to mark the centenary of the use of Tynwald Chamber about the history and architecture of the Legislative Buildings. This was followed by an illustrated version of the talk for the public at the Manx Museum lecture theatre.
- In 1997, he was appointed by Tynwald as a member to the Advisory Council on Planning and the Environment until it was removed by the 1999 Planning Act but his involvement continued until 2002 until all applications were exhausted. This involved writing up to one thousand letters per year on planning applications, as well as attending Reviews and Appeals.
- In 1997, he jointly founded Save Mann's Heritage.
- He has previously been Chairman and President of the World Manx Association and also a past President of the Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside and Environment.
- He received an MBE for services to conservation in 1998.
- He received the *Reih Bleeaney Vanannan* award in 2021 for services to conservation.

In addition to the above, Peter has authored booklets on Old Kirk Braddan, St Mary of the Isle, St Thomas' Murals and two on Onchan. He has written various articles and series for newspapers and journals over the years, including the weekly 'Victorian Where is It?' column in the *Manx Star*, 'The Streets, Roads and Squares of Douglas' in the *Isle of Man Examiner* (1999), articles on architectural subjects in *Manx Life*, *The Manxman*, *The Manx Church Leader* and *Context*, the journal of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation. More recently, through his work for the Alliance of Building Conservation, he has contributed to the '[Buildings at Risk](#)' series, launched in 2016.

He is known internationally as an expert on [Baillie Scott's work](#) in the Isle of Man, and has lectured both here and in the UK on Scott's designs.

He was also founder member of the Vagabonds Rugby Club and Secretary of the Isle of Man Municipal Association for seven years.

He [featured on Manx Radio](#) for over 20 years with his show 'Kelly's Eye' which covered buildings and areas of architectural and historical interest on the Isle of Man. All 1,000 recordings are retained by the station thanks to the forethought of the late David Callister.

He spoke at the bar of Tynwald as part-time Clerk of Onchan Parish Commissioners against Douglas Borough Council's petition to extend the boundaries of the town into Onchan Parish (at Tromode) and into Braddan. Although the Council were successful in gaining the residential area along Ballanard Road and the Highton Wood Hill estate, the industrial/commercial area of Onchan Parish around the former Clucas' Laundry was saved.

During the tenure of office of three Lieutenant Governors, he was happy to oblige requests to give guided tours of Government House to groups.

2. Tynwald Speech: The Address of Mr P Kelly on the Centenary of the use of Tynwald Chamber

Peter Kelly was invited to address Tynwald to mark the centenary of the use of Tynwald Chamber on 20th December 1994. Mr Kelly's full speech can be found [here](#).

The Speaker said of Mr Kelly before his address:

He is no doubt well-known to you all, if not in person then by reputation, because his terrific contribution to the maintenance, preservation and indeed the spread of knowledge about the architectural beauty of this Island and in particular all matters Victorian is well-known. I have grown to know him over the last year or two since I was appointed to the Manx Heritage Foundation, to which body he acts in a consultative capacity. His contribution to that organization since it was created in 1982 has been substantial. In this regard I would particularly mention his very substantial contribution to Manx Heritage Year in 1986. I would also be remiss if I did not mention his involvement in a very busy and active life in the following organisations: firstly, the Isle of Man Scout Association of which I understand he is chairman; secondly, his involvement with local government, particularly in the Onchan area over very many years; and thirdly, and perhaps most importantly in terms of today's events, his involvement with buildings as a practising architect for over 20 years. Today he is perhaps best known for the undoubted contribution that he

continues to make to the affairs of the Victorian Society of which he was the founding chairman.

3. Appointment to the Planning and the Environment Advisory Council

On 18th February 1997, Tynwald approved the appointment of Peter Kelly to the Advisory Council on Planning and the Environment.

4. Nomination of Peter Kelly for Member of the Legislative Council (Not elected)

On 30th January 2007, Mr Cretney MHK nominated Peter Kelly for Member of the Legislative Council. In his speech he said of Peter Kelly:

Peter Kelly is perhaps best known as an architectural historian. After leaving school, he was articled in 1965 to a local architect and surveyor and, over the next 20 years, worked for Douglas Corporation and then in his own practice. In November 1985 he was asked by the Government to take on the role of co-ordinator for Manx Heritage Year, but Peter Kelly's interests are much wider than that. He became Chairman of the Isle of Man Scout Association in 1978, a position he still holds. He was a founder member of the Vagabonds Rugby Club and Secretary of the Isle of Man Municipal Association for seven years. He has significant experience of local government. In 1975 at the age of 27 he was an elected member of Onchan Village Commissioners and across the boardroom table has served as clerk to Onchan Commissioners at a time of forward-thinking amalgamations. He has been Clerk to Braddan Parish Commissioners: in total, 27 years of political experience. Peter was the founding Chairman of

the Isle of Man Victorian Society, an organisation which most recently have voluntarily operated the Great Union Camera Obscura for Government, an organisation that is now over 30 years old. He was co-founder of Save Mann's Heritage and a past Chairman of the World Manx Association and the Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside, serving as President from 2002, amongst many other positions held. Amongst his sporting and voluntary organisations, whilst serving as either Chairman or President in the case of five different societies, he has successfully steered through new and updated constitutions. He is known for his ability as a gentle reformer and his logical approach to issues. He has spoken on three occasions in Tynwald, twice on behalf of his local authority and, significantly, in December 1994 he was invited by the Hon. Court to cross the bar and address Tynwald on the centenary of the Chamber. His reputation as an orator with an ability to put matters into plain language travels well before him. Peter was awarded the MBE in June 1998 for services to conservation and community on the Isle of Man.

5. Evidence Given to Tynwald

Peter Kelly has appeared as a witness to give oral evidence to Tynwald Committees on two occasions:

- On 9th December 2016 to the Select Committee of Tynwald on the Organization and Operation of the General Election 2016, appearing in his capacity as the Captain of the Parish of Onchan.
- On 21st November 2022 to the Select Committee of Tynwald on Built Heritage, appearing as representative of the Building Conservation Forum.

When asked by the Committee on Built Heritage to outline his experience, Peter Kelly said:

My first experience with the Built Heritage in the Isle of Man goes back to the age of 14 – which is some time ago – when I researched and wrote a history of a complex of buildings in Onchan. This was followed at 15 by writing the history of Ballakermeen School and St Ninian's School for the school magazine. At 16, I became a junior member, as they had in those days, of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society. In 1972, I became a member of the then recently formed Manx Conservation Council. In 1976, I formed and became the founding Chairman of the Isle of Man Victorian Society. Twenty-five years ago, I was joint founder of Save Mann's Heritage. I have been a member and still am of the Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside and have over a time been Chairman and President. I received an MBE for services to conservation in 1998 and the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan award two years ago for the same thing. I did some of my articles with a local architect and surveyor and obviously I gained a practical knowledge there. For a while I had my own private practice until Heritage Year 1986, when I took a sabbatical and ran Heritage Year for the Government. I was subsequently made a member of the Advisory Council on Planning and the Environment, which was a Tynwald appointee and was the last one standing when it was removed by the 1999 Planning Act. But in actual fact I remained as a member until the last planning application that we had made submissions on had been heard, so there was another three years before I was executed.

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