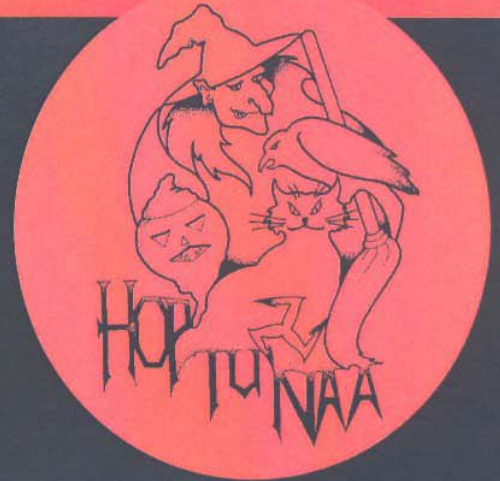


Hop tu naa: A guide to a Manx tradition

Your Hop tu naa pack includes:

Some background notes
Themed pictures for you to use
Hop tu naa banners
Gingerbread recipe
Recordings of Hop tu naa rhymes
Hampton Creer narrating the real story of Jinny the Witch



Some History:

The origins of Hop tu naa are unclear but celebrations at this time of year have always played an important role in the Island.

In days gone by people recognised the need to prepare for the onset of winter. This meant not only getting their domestic provisions sorted out but also having a good time. In the Island these celebrations are known as Hop tu naa.

The customs at this time of year included:

Setting fires to the gorse to ward off bad fairies

Having fun - children would make toffee and bobbing apples

Predicting the future - girls would bake what was known as a 'dumb cake' (Soddag Valloo). Once this had been cooked and eaten the young girls on going to bed (backwards) would see a sign of their future husband in a dream

Going around the houses singing rhymes and asking for rewards



Up until very recently in the Island early November was a time for letting land, payment of rent and for hiring workers.

At this time Hollantide Fairs would be held in many areas in which there would be stalls selling a variety of produce: one such product would be Hollantide Gingerbread

Laa Souney - Hollantide Day

Oie Houney - Hollantide Night

*Hop tu naa Put in the pot
Hop tu naa Scald my throat
Hop tu naa I met an ole woman
Hop tu naa She was baking bonnags
Hop tu naa I asked her for a bit
Hop tu naa She gave me a bit, as big
as my toe*

*Hop tu naa She dipped it in milk
Hop tu naa She wrapped it in silk
Hop tu naa Are you going to give us
anything before we run away by the
light of the moon.*



Hop tu Naa...tra la laa

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The real Jinny the Witch!

A copy of an interview of Hampton Creer explaining who Jinny the Witch really was is available on your CD. There is also a transcript of the interview with this pack.

Key points:

Jinny's real name was Joney Lowney

She lived in Braddan on the Mount Murray back road

She was tried at Bishop's Court for witchcraft in 1715 and 1716

Joney's greatest crime was stopping the Ballaughton Corn Mill, infuriated as she was, by the poor quality of the grain

She was sentenced to 14 day imprisonment, fined £3 and made to stand at the 4 market crosses dressed in sackcloth

In England or Scotland she would have been burned at the stake

She died in January 1725 and is buried at Old Kirk Braddan

In Joney's first trial she was accused of vanishing one evening and did not return 'until the following morning with plenty of fishes'

In many rhymes the following is a common refrain and is likely to refer to the evidence given in court:

*Jinny the witch went over the house
To get the stick to lather the mouse
Hop tu naa, my mother's gone away
and wont be back until the morning*



Why we should celebrate Hop tu naa

It's a great story

It's a key part of Manx history

It tells us a lot about Manx traditions

It is a very old custom

The rhymes are good fun

Making turnip lanterns takes real skill and bravery!

It is our way of acknowledging the onset of winter

It's Manx!

Hop tu naa...tra la laa
