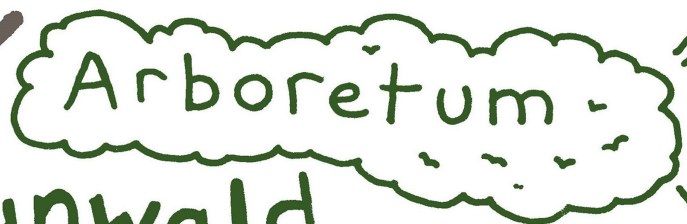


To Tynwald Mills



Giant's Grave

# Tynwald Hill



To Douglas & East  
Doolish & Shiar



to Peel



Purt ny-hinshey



Pinfold & mesolithic stones

Culture Vannin  
Cultural Centre

Bunscoill Manx Gaelic  
Ghaelgagh medium School

Old railway line  
walk to Peel (4.5km)



Old railway line  
walk to Douglas  
(13km)

## ST Johns & TYNWALD HILL

by Alice Quayle

Slieau Whallian

Produced for  
**Culture VANNIN**

[www.culturevannin.im](http://www.culturevannin.im)

# EXPLORE ST JOHNS

**Arboretum:** the Tynwald National Park and Arboretum was created in 1979 to commemorate the Manx Millennium. Its 25 acres include a wide range of ornamental trees and shrubs, a large duck pond and a children's playground. A panoramic shelter sits at the top of the hill.

**Asruth's Cross:** located in the porch of the Royal Chapel, this broken slab decorated with Borre ring chain pattern dates to the second half of the 10th century. A runic inscription gives the name of the carver. It was recovered when the previous church was demolished in the 1840s.

**Bollan Bane** (*artemisia vulgaris*) translates literally from Manx as 'white wort', but is known more commonly in English as mugwort. Worn on Tynwald Day to ward off evil spirits, it is also takes the name of St John's plant in the Isle of Man.

**Bunscoill Ghaelgagh** is the world's only Manx medium primary school. Established in 2001 as a unit within Ballacottier School, it moved to occupy the present site in 2003. The school was presented with the annual Reih Bleeaney Vanannan award in January 2006 for its work in preserving and promoting Manx language, culture and heritage.

**Cooil y Ree** 'Nook of the King' was opened on Tynwald Day 2001 by Sir Charles Kerruish, first President of Tynwald. Within the sunken park, the Avenue of Time stretches out to the Millennium Point and finally to the Circle of Infinity, representing the Island's long history and its links to many countries beyond the Irish Sea. Look out for the common spotted orchid at the eastern end of the site.

**Culture Vannin Tynwald exhibition and cultural centre:** explore Manx culture, a Lego model of Tynwald, find out about the Manx language, music and dance, and watch some films – all for free.

Book and gift shop, free wifi and accessible toilet.

**Giant's Grave:** a Bronze Age burial mound located on the west side of the minor road to Tynwald Mills, the Giant's Grave is the legendary burial place of Godred Crovan, one of the kings of Man.

**Knockaloe:** nearby Patrick Village sees the site of a WW1 internment camp where Joseph Pilates was detained. See [knockaloe.im](http://knockaloe.im) for more information and opening hours of the visitor centre.

# BALLEY KEEILL EOIN

**Pinfold:** the village pinfold was under the care of the Shimmin family for several generations, and was the place to return animals that had strayed. The pinfold also contains Mesolithic stones excavated nearby.

**Royal Chapel:** there has been a church on this site from 1429 according to historical records, and archaeologists think that there could have been a keeill and cemetery originally. The present church was designed by Richard Lane and was consecrated in 1849. The wide aisle allows for the Tynwald processions each year.

**Rushes** are strewn on the path between the hill and the chapel in accordance with the old tribute paid to Manannan, legendary first ruler of the Isle of Man.

**Slieau Whallian** rises to 900 feet with fabulous views of the village. Folk-tales claim it as a place where women accused of witchcraft were put into a barrel with sharp iron spikes inside to prove or disprove their powers – thankfully there is no evidence that this actually happened!

**Tynwald Hill:** the four-tiered hill is the site of an open-air meeting of the Island's parliament, Tynwald, each year. The 'thing' or gathering site dates back to Viking times and the word Tynwald comes from 'thing vollr' meaning 'assembly field'. The hill that you can see today measures around 12 feet high and is said to be made from piles of stones bonded together with soil from all of the Island's 17 ancient parishes.

**War Memorial:** designed by P M C Kermode - expert on Manx crosses and first curator of the Manx Museum - and carved by T. H. Royston, the memorial was unveiled in 1923.