

Postcard and Stamp Design Competition: Information Pack

As part of the Year of the Manx Language and the 35th anniversary of Yn Skimmee Gaelgagh, we are delighted to launch our 2026 Postcard and Stamp Design Competition in conjunction with the Isle of Man Post Office.

This Island-wide competition invites children and young people to creatively reimagine traditional Manx myths and legends for today - combining art, imagination and the Manx language. **All entries must include some Manx language** (see useful Manx vocabulary and phrase sheet).

Students are asked to put their own modern twist on characters from Manx mythology and legends.

- You could consider how these characters might live in today's world.
- What would the Moddey Dhoo do?
- What might the Glashtyn or Fynoderee look like in 2026?
- What would Manannan say in Manx today?
- How would the characters appear in your school, your town, or your future?

Who Can Enter?

The competition is open to all pupils in Isle of Man schools and home educated students.

What to Design

- Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6): Design a postcard. One winning design will be chosen from KS2 to be professionally printed.
- Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9): Design a postcard. One winning design will be chosen from KS3 to be professionally printed.
- Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11) and Key Stage 5 (Years 12–13): Design a postcard AND a stamp. One winning postcard design will be chosen from KS4 and 5 combined to be professionally printed. One winning stamp design will also be selected, and the winning pre-paid stamp will be printed on all 2026 project postcards for pre-paid postage worldwide!

Your competition pack provides:

- Useful Manx vocabulary and phrases.
- Resource links to information about Manx myths and legends.
- Printable postcard template and printable stamp design template (where applicable).



Important Dates

Closing date for entries: 15th May 2026.

Judging: June 2026.

Skimmee Gaelgagh Postcard Project: The Skimmee Gaelgagh will run their popular postcard project during the Cooish Vooar in September 2026. The printed postcards will be used in the popular postcard project between schools, and also Manx public figures, Celtic organisations, and assemblies.

Prizes

- Winning designs will be professionally printed in conjunction with the IOM Post Office and artists will receive a personal prize of art supplies.
- Winning designs will be featured in the 2026 Skimmee Gaelgagh Postcard Project during Cooish Vooar.
- A voucher for the complete set of Isle of Man Stamps issued in the Year of the Manx Language 2026 will be presented to the overall winning school.

The Postcard Project – What Happens Next?

In September 2026, the postcards will be used as part of the Skimmee Gaelgagh project. As part of this, Keystage 2 Manx students will send postcards to Keystage 2 Manx students at other schools, Keystage 3 Manx students will exchange postcards, and Keystage 4 & 5 students will write to Manx public figures, Celtic organisations, and assemblies (templates will include space for return addresses so recipients can reply).

How to Submit Your Entry

Entries must be received by 15th May 2026.

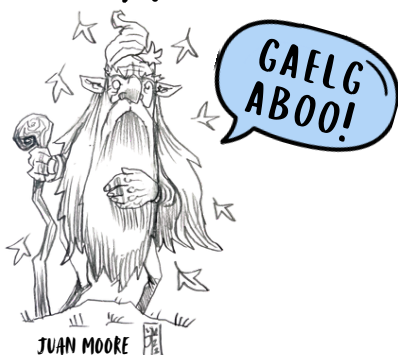
You can submit your entry by giving your design to your school's Skimmee Gaelgagh teacher or by posting your design to: Yn Skimmee Gaelgagh, Old Church Road, Crosby, Isle of Man, IM4 2HA. You can also email your entry in digital format (digital specifications included in the pack) to manx_language_staff@sch.im

Why Take Part?

- Showcase your creativity.
- See your design printed and shared across the Island.
- Contribute to a project connecting young people through Manx.
- Be part of Blein ny Gaelgey, the Year of the Manx Language.
- Celebrate 35 years of Yn Skimmee Gaelgagh.



BRING MANX MYTHS AND LEGENDS INTO TODAY – THROUGH ART AND GAELG!



AIGH VIE! GOOD LUCK!



Useful Manx vocabulary and phrases



- All entries must include some Manx language.
- You can use the Manx you already know, ask your Manx teacher or research phrases (although we suggest that you avoid using AI or Google Translate as it currently doesn't provide reliable translations).

The following phrases can be a good starting point:

Moghrey mie	Good morning
Fastyr mie	Good afternoon
Kys t'ou?	How are you?
Ta mee goll as gaccan	I'm going and grumbling
Gaelg aboo!	Hooray for Manx!
Vel oo toiggal Gaelg?	Do you understand Manx?
Ta mee toiggal Gaelg.	I understand Manx
Laik lhiat / Mie lhiat Gaelg?	Do you like Manx?
S'laik lhiam / S'mie lhiam Gaelg!	I like Manx!
Vel Gaelg ayd?	Do you speak Manx?
Ta Gaelg aym.	I speak Manx.



Manx myths and legends characters

Below are some ideas for famous Manx legends and characters, but feel free to feature any characters that capture your imagination!

Manannan - the first ruler of the Island, Manannan can shape shift and cloak the Island in mist to protect it.

Taroo ushtey - the water bull, quite a dangerous creature!

Glashtyn - a shape shifting creature, sometimes portrayed as a water bull or horse.

Buggane - a hairy creature, which might look similar to a troll or an ogre.

Mooijer Veggey - small creatures that look like people. I'm sure you wish them 'moghrey mie' or 'fastyr mie' at a particular bridge! They are mischievous and can be unkind.

Moddey Dhoo - the black dog that haunts Peel Castle, often described as having red eyes.

Fynoderee - this hairy creature often helped farmers, but didn't like clothes!

Kayt Manninagh (Manx cat) - not a myth but still a classic Manx character.



Manx myths and legends by local artists



Juan Moore has created many characterful illustrations of Mooinjer Veggey and Vikings. He has two books, *Themselves* (showing Mooinjer Veggey) and *Vikings of Mann*.

https://www.instagram.com/juanmoore_art/



Adam Berry has created graphic art inspired by Manx stories and legends, like this jacket depicting the story of Jinny the witch or Joney Lowney. <https://adamberry.net/>



Glashtyn Art has a series of lino prints inspired by the Glashtyn, Odin's Ravens, and the Moddey Dhoo and more mystical art to explore at https://www.instagram.com/glashtyn_art/



Little Moot Studio has lots of illustrations inspired by traditional customs such as Hunt the Wren, Hop tu naa and other Manx folktales and traditions.

<https://www.instagram.com/littlemootstudio/>



Magical realism artist Lisa Lennon draws on the nature and rich folklore of the Isle of Man in her mystical art, like this Phynodderree and Manannán Mac Lir.

<https://www.lisalennonart.com/manx-collection>



Julia Ashby Smyth is an artist and illustrator that creates magical images from the realm of Manx fairy tales, myths and legends. <https://juliaashbysmyth.com/prints>



BEE DUNNAL. BEE KIADDAGH
Be Bold Be Creative

Design a postcard



YOUR TASK

Design a postcard using landscape (sideways) format.

SIZE

Your design area is 154mm wide × 111mm high

IMPORTANT:

The postcard will be cut down to 148mm × 105mm

Do NOT draw or write anything important near the edges (It might get cut off!)

WHAT TO INCLUDE

A picture or drawing in the middle
Bright colours that stand out
A simple message or title if you like
Make sure words are big and easy to read

WHAT TO AVOID

- Writing right at the edges
- Very small writing
- Light colours that are hard to see

TOP TIPS



Keep your design neat and bold
Be creative and have fun!

HOW TO SUPPLY YOUR PICTURE

You can draw your picture on a piece of thick paper or card which can be handed in.

You can also supply your picture in digital format. It must be supplied at actual size (minimum) at a minimum of 300dpi resolution.

Design a stamp

 <p>Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, IOM Post Office, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM99 1PB (01624) 698430 • stamps@iompost.com • iomstamps.com</p>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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Your picture will go onto the postage paid stamp on the reverse of the postcard.
Draw your picture in the rectangle directly above (right to the edges).