

**BUMPER
SUBARU
SUMMER
EDITION**



GORSE LEA MARSHALS' REPORT 2013

Titanium Knees and Other Stories

In the words of the esteemed Manx philosopher, Roy Moore, "The racing has been like Crufts - nose to tail".

We finally managed to extract ourselves from the pile of road-chippings dumped on the Gorse Lea Shelter by Michael Dunlop and the pursuing posse. The supersonic arrival of each fresh road chip brought the predictable pun-ishing comments from the jovial band and, yes, one did land on my shoulder.

"A chip on the shoulder indicates wood higher up."

MD caught resurfacing the Gorse Lea Marshals during evening practice.



thestudiocolby.com

Copies of Dave Silvester's superb print are available **FREE** from www.thestudiocolby.com

Dave states, "(but you need to make a donation). Cash will be split between Help for Heroes and IOM Hospice. £10-ish for a 10 inch print ... just send payment or show receipt of donation to above charity.... OR, a worthwhile charity of your own choice. I find it very difficult to make money out of the racers, who risk life and limb out there. And we're able to watch the greatest show on earth, for **FREE !**"

Dave Silvester (The Pheasant Molester?) – Ace 001
Photographer

Charlie Williams has been much missed at TT2013, not least for his ability to cope with broadcasting the many trials and testing tongue-twisters that I have thoroughly and teasingly thrown at him throughout the past ten to twelve years.

We arrived at the **Gateway to the Wild West** to find that **Langness Property Maintenance Services** www.langnessmaintenance.com had provided us with perfect perches. The comfortable seating and associated landscaping of the neighbouring arboreal environment had considerably improved the working panorama for the squad. Additionally we were able to enjoy a fresh and unobstructed view of the plain grey back of the new Gorse Lea corner sign which, following close analysis, was found to carry a fitting tribute to our **Paint the Kerbs Campaign**, in the form of a chequered stripe along its bottom. The strategic positioning of the stripe and the **subtlety of the nearby kerb-paint** did not go unnoticed.



A GORSE LEA PAINT THE KERBS BANDANA

In case you missed it, there was a

TT2013 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

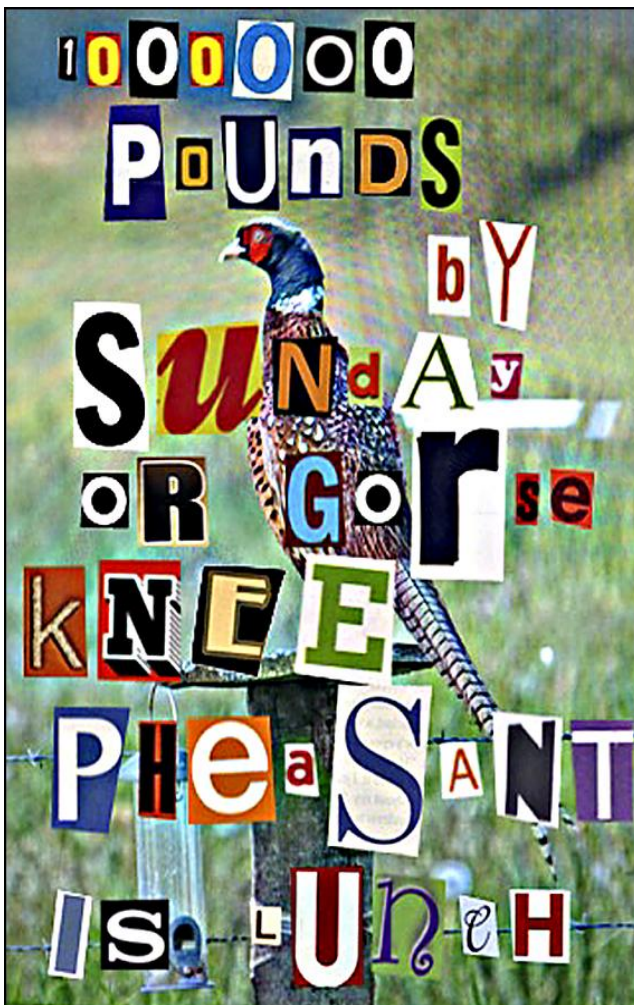
“For the duration of Senior Race Day Gorse Lea Corner will be known as Gorse Knee Corner, to celebrate Reginald Robert Berrie DSM's recent knee replacements.

The Gorse Knee Knational Anthem, "De-knees, De-knees" by Blondie, is to be played throughout the day, at any excuse, on Manx Radio Knee Knee.”

<http://youtu.be/WSa1fG4rlQM>



We are not to tell anyone that Carol Voderman was the guest knee-inspector at Gorse Knee Day. Kneedless to say Reg was less than impressed when I called out, "Give us a knee please, Carol." I'll be in deeper trouble if Kath reads this to discover that he was in company with a loose woman.



NATURE NOTES Early in our evening vigils it was realised that the **Gorse Lea Pheasant** was not making his usual ornithological announcements from the debateable lands around the Ballagarraghyn Everglades. More worryingly 7.20pm came and went with not a sight of **GLP** making his head-high fly-past across the Course near the 7-Mile Marker. We received reports of sightings at the Wildlife Park and a hoax-call from Glencrutchery Road. After sleepless nights and with baited breath we approached the GL Suite one race morning to find a sinister package of custard creams wrapped in a wretched ransom note. But it was too late to red-flag the race and, fearing the worst for our hero, we soldiered on with heavy hearts (and knees). The deadline passed and we received no further information or demands. This has cast an unpheasant shadow over our TT2013.

Thank you **Mr Neil Hanson**, former CoC and regular welcome visitor to the Gorse Lea Post, for the innovative advice on keeping the midges at bay. We left brown sugar out in copious quantities around the shelter, but noted little if any reduction in the ferocity of the

wee beasties. We are confident of longer term success and that the Gorse Lea Midges' teeth will have rotted before the MGP.

Sharp-eyed, visiting **Ace 001 Photographer, Paul “Woody” Woodlock** spotted a **Barn Owl** (Tyto Alba) as it skimmed silently across the Course to the west of GL, superbly silhouetted against a stunning sunset.

The Gorse Lea Geese were regularly seen and heard practising their formation flying over our post, announcing the sad demise of several spectators sinking slowly (on their hazardous trek from Ballacraigne to Harold’s) into the Ballagarraghyn Everglades morass.

A Goldcrest or Kinglet (Regulus regulus) caused a surprise interruption to discussions at **The Round T Bale**, during a break in one evening practice session, when he hopped down to a twig close to us and gave us a thorough reprimand. Obviously the sight of us devouring slices of delicious Apple Jumble Crumble Cake from **Mrs Berrie’s 5-Star Gold, Aaron House, Port St Mary** establishment (appointed supplier of high-class gateaux and beverages to the Gorse Lea Marshals) had become too much for the insectivore, as this had followed a customary, mouth-watering main course provided by **Mrs Holland of Ballakilpheric**.

Another Plucky Encounter. Following a tip-off from a spectator, plucky, romper-suited **Chris Hare** successfully charmed a young bird (this was definitely not *any old crow* as some of his less discerning colleagues were suggesting over-loudly at the time) from a branch overhanging the Course only minutes before racing began. The bird was released unharmed into the safety of Harold’s field where it was last seen receiving counselling and being interviewed by a no-win-no-fee solicitor.

PRACTICE REPORT Brazilian Rafael Paschoalin had a close shave when his chain broke as he entered the Gorse Lea Section. Rafael Paschoalin flew in from Sao Paulo, bought a brand new bike and rode it just seven miles for the opportunity to spend two hours of valuable practising time relaxing on the garden lounge at Gorse Lea House. The man from Brazil is pictured below left with a few nutters.



ERIC – 60 YEARS OF MARSHALLING

A Gorse Lea Marshal won the Spirit of the MGP Award in 2012

Another Gorse Lea Marshal won the Spirit of the TT Award in 2013

Well done Stephen Cargo Carr and Eric Alexander! The Gorse Lea Hedge Lurkers are proud to be associated with you both.

From GL to G8

London Bureau Chief for *The New York Times* and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist John Fisher Burns is the longest-serving foreign correspondent in *The New York Times*’ history, having worked for more than 30 years on assignments in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. He has won two Pulitzer

prizes, in 1993 for his coverage of the siege and destruction of the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, and again in 1997 for his coverage of the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

On Friday 7th June, Gorse Knee Day, John accomplished what must surely rank as the pinnacle of his professional career by reporting from the Gorse Lea Front Line on Senior Race Day. In what he must consider a bit of an anticlimax, John left the heady, star-studded limelight of Gorse Knee hedge to go and interview the world leaders at the Lough Erne Resort.

Hopefully he was given the opportunity to share the brave new world philosophies of the Gorse Lea Crew with the great world leaders.

From Last of the Summer Wine Country to Last of the Summer Whinge Country via California

It was great to see our old friend **Jamie Robinson** (Holmfirth's finest) and his colleague **Nik Wogen** on Gorse Knee Day. They took away some great footage, some of which can be seen via the link below or by Googling **Motogeo.com** :

Jamie and Nik do it again! Gorse Knee - interspersed with Charlie Boorman.

<http://youtu.be/3wBsIXG5QkY>



JOEY DUNLOP FOUNDATION

Thank you to all the great spectators at GL for donations to the Joey Dunlop Foundation collection. This year's collection came to £506.34. Even if we missed you when we limped round with our buckets you can still make a contribution here:

<http://www.joeydunlopfoundation.com/>

