

HOP-TU-NAA RECIPES

The ancient festival of All Hallowe'en was held on 11th November - the last year of the Celtic New Year [now the 31st October]. The traditional Hollantide Eve supper was potatoes, parsnips and fish mashed together with butter. The left-overs of the meal were not removed from the table in case the fairies were hungry, and crocks of fresh water were put out for them.

Dumb Cake [Soddag Valloo] was baked and eaten in silence by young ladies on Hollantide Eve. It was made from flour and water, without leaven, and baked in the hot turf ashes. A piece was to be eaten while walking backwards towards the bed. The young lady's future husband was supposed to appear in her dreams that night.

HOLLANTIDE FAIRINGS

12th November [in the old calendar] was the general day for letting lands, payment of rent, and for farm workers to take up their places for the year. Hollantide Fairs were held in various parts of the Island, and there would always be stalls selling Hollantide Fairings.

3oz. margarine or butter
2 tablespoons golden syrup
2oz. sugar
6oz. plain flour
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons ground ginger
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon mixed spice
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
A little water

- Melt the fat, syrup and sugar together in a saucepan over a low heat.
- Sieve the flour and spices into a bowl.
- Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in a little water and add to the ingredients in the saucepan, then mix in with the dry ingredients to form a dough.
- Cover the bowl and leave for at least one hour.
- Roll out thinly and cut into fancy patterns (traditionally men on horse-back) using a cardboard pattern.
- Bake in a moderate oven for about fifteen minutes.
- When the biscuits are cold, decorate with lemon peel, icing and currants.

Quoted from *My Grandmother's Cookery Book - 50 Manx Recipes* compiled by Suzanne Woolley © 1975.

Hollantide Gingerbread Fairings



Such baked figures are Norse in character:

The Man figure is **Thor**;

The Woman is **Frigga**;

The Horse is **Sleipnir** – Odin's steed;

The Cock is **Goldcomb**