

## Arrane son Mannin - winners 2016/7

Arrane son Mannin got underway with a full hall in Peel on January 7th. As compere David Fisher remarked, it was 'following the cammag tradition' of having three halves - concert, competition and concert.

The first half commenced with Clare Kilgallon singing a solo lullaby by Sharon Christian which had two years previously won the Pan-Celtic competition for a new song in traditional style, and Clare, John Kilgallon and Fiona McArdle singing 'Invocation to St. Bridget', looking forward to St Bridget's day at the beginning of February. Mera Royle took the stage next with her lovely harp playing. Matt Kelly gave us some of his new songs, accompanying himself on guitar and John Kilgallon danced the Men's Jig and Gorse Sticks. The great young band Scrán followed with some of their lively arrangements.

Then it was competition time with four entries from which adjudicators Phil Gawne, Clare Kilgallon and Laura Rowles had to come to a decision for one to go forward to represent the Island at the International New Song competition at the Pan-Celtic Festival in Carlow, Ireland during Easter week 18th to 23rd April against new songs from Brittany, Cornwall, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, each in their country's native Celtic language.

Of Christa McCartney's 'Rainbow Dancer', James Franklin and Cory Phillips's 'Arrane Cadlee', Biskee Brisht's 'Nagh Abbyr Smoo' and the Matt Creer Band's 'Yn Boayl Shoh', Biskee Brisht emerged as the winner of the £300 Arrane son Mannin prize sponsored by Culture Vannin, and will go to Ireland. Matt Creer's lovely song was awarded a prize for the New Song in Traditional Style and the band will also go to Carlow to take part in that competition. 'Aigh vie' to all in Carlow! And 'jeant dy mie' to all competition participants.

In the third half the Matt Creer Band entertained the audience further with a selection of their songs; Phil Gawne gave a dialect recitation from T.E. Brown to great applause and Gaelic choir Caarjyn Coodjagh sang a resounding finale to an excellent evening's entertainment, free to the audience thanks to generous sponsorship from Culture Vannin and the Pan-Celtic International Committee, Mannin Branch.

**To find out more about the 46th Pan-Celtic Festival visit: [www.panceltic.ie](http://www.panceltic.ie)**

Article by Fiona McArdle/photo by Bob Fennell

**LISTEN TO THE SONG HERE:** <https://soundcloud.com/davidrowles/ny-arrey-smoo-biskee-brisht>



### **Celtivision Here we come**

Article by Mike Wade:!

[www.iomtoday.co.im/news/isle-of-man-news/celtivision-here-we-come-1-8328560](http://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/isle-of-man-news/celtivision-here-we-come-1-8328560)

#### ***In this month's edition...***

- *Chips, Cheese & Gravy!*
- *New album from Imar*
- *Working Guides to Manx Ballads & Music*

**Culture  
VANNIN**



## BREE FILMS ONLINE

2016 marked the 10th anniversary of Bree, celebrated at their Big Bree Workshop Weekend in November at the Youth Arts Centre in Douglas.

The weekend was filmed by Ron Corkish and now there are some mini films to enjoy:

[www.culturevannin.im/video\\_story\\_464712.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/video_story_464712.html)

See *Transcription of the Month* for the tune "Chips, Cheese & Gravy" written by the students!!



## Call for Music and dance acts

Castletown Commissioners are keen to have more cultural events in the town, so if you are interested in performing, teaching or leading a workshop in one of the lovely venues or public spaces, then get in touch with commissioner Jimmy Cubbon:

[jimmy.cubbon@castletown.gov.im](mailto:jimmy.cubbon@castletown.gov.im)

## LAA'L BRESHEY - ST BRIDGET'S DAY - 1 FEBRUARY

Listen to Caarjyn Cooidjagh performing an arrangement of Invocation to St Bridget:

<https://vimeo.com/201681754>

Download the sheet music by Frank Woolley for free:

[http://manxmusic.com/learn\\_page\\_407801.html](http://manxmusic.com/learn_page_407801.html)



## GUILD DEADLINE

Closing date for entries to the Manx Music, Speech and Dance Festival [Guild] is the **4th of February**:

[www.manxmusicfestival.org](http://www.manxmusicfestival.org)

COMPETITIONS: 21st-29th April 2017

As well as many classical and popular music classes, there are competitions for folk dance, folk song and instruments, whistle, Gaelic song and the set songs for children this year are Manx songs from *Manx National Songs*. You can buy direct from Culture Vannin: [enquiries@culturevannin.im](mailto:enquiries@culturevannin.im) or from local bookshops.

## MFA DEADLINE

Closing date for Manx Folk Awards is the **17th February**

COMPETITIONS: 2nd - 5th April 2017

<http://manxfolkawards.weebly.com/>

Sunday 2nd April: Secondary

Monday 3rd April: Keystage 1 - All competitions

Tuesday 4th April: Keystage 2 -  
Song and Recitations/Readings

Wednesday 5th April: Keystage 2 -  
Dance and Instrumental

## Report - Special Oie'll Voirrey at Kerrowkeil Chapel

Rushen Silver Band took part in the annual Oie'll Voirrey service at Kerrowkeil Chapel on Wednesday 4 January. The event is held on the old Manx Christmas Eve, and is always very well attended. According to some records, the chapel at Kerrowkeil is the oldest on the Island still in regular use as a place of worship, and 2017 marked the seventieth occasion on which the band (Surby Silver Band until they changed our name to Rushen Silver in 1949) have performed at the Oie'll Voirrey.

Photos thanks: Tom Sinden



## MANX SONGS IN WESTERN SWIMMING POOL!!

Manx Gaelic choir Caarjyn Coojdjagh will be part of the Isle of Architecture 'gigs in unusual spaces' series, and this poolside performance in Peel will see the choir deliver a selection of water inspired pieces to complement the building and its unique acoustics. Not to be missed! Bring your armbands ;)

Doors from 3.30pm. Performance 4pm-5pm.  
Sat, February 18, 2017  
Western Swimming Pool, Derby Road, IM5 1SW Peel

£5 Tickets: <http://isleofarchitecture.com/event/caarjyn-cooidjagh-from-the-baths/>





## The Celtic Media Festival is coming to the Isle of Man this May!

The Celtic Media Festival is an annual 3 day event that promotes the languages and cultures of the Celtic Nations and Regions in media. It combines a major conference of seminars and master classes with presentation of coveted prizes in an international competition across

all the main content genres in TV, radio, film and digital media. 100s of delegates from the likes of BBC, RTE, Alba and SC4 will be meeting at the Villa Marina in Douglas from 3rd-5th May and many of the delegates will be exploring the Isle of Man for the first time.

If you are interested in being a volunteer helper at the festival or fancy putting on a fringe event or exhibition that delegates can visit, email: [info@celticmediafestival.co.uk](mailto:info@celticmediafestival.co.uk)

[www.celticmediafestival.co.uk](http://www.celticmediafestival.co.uk)



## SHENNAGHYS JIU CELTIC FESTIVAL 2017

**HOT OFF THE PRESS!** Acts announced for the 20th anniversary of the Ramsey based Celtic youth festival, Shennaghys Jiu.

**Antón Davila & Xosé Liz de Cea**

**Mec Lir**

**Trip**

**Splann**

**The Kerry Dancers**

**Becky J Hurst**

**Greta Curtin**

*Provisional Programme*

**Monday 3rd – Monday 10th April**

Schools Art Exhibition, Ramsey Town Hall

**Friday 7th April**

Visiting groups to perform at local schools

6.00 pm Family Concert – Bunscoill Rhumsaa

8.00 pm Family Celtic Ceilidh – Bunscoill Rhumsaa

**Saturday 8th April**

10.30 am Music and Dance Displays – Courthouse, Ramsey

12.00 pm 'Food & Folk' music in the Pub, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey

2.30 pm Music Workshops Mitre Hotel, Ramsey

3.00 pm Irish Dance Workshops Masonic Hall, Ramsey

7.30 pm Concert & Celtic Ceilidh: Masonic Hall, Ramsey

**Sunday 8th April**

3.00 pm Concert: Centenary Centre, Peel

8.00 pm Ceilidh: Masonic Hall, Ramsey

**Monday 9th April**

2.00 pm Music in the Mitre, Ramsey

8.00 pm Bands Night, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey

<http://shennaghysjiu.com/>

## EVENTS COMING SOON...

"Just because it's Valentines" 

We are having a Folk Dance with a  
Chocolate Fountain. Mmmmm



Onchan Methodist Hall  
Saturday  
11th February 2017  
8pm  
Everyone welcome  
£2.50 Members £1

Event: Manx Folk Dance Society  
[www.manxfolkdance.org.uk](http://www.manxfolkdance.org.uk)





JonnoPromotions  
NORTHERN IRISH  
SINGER-SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE

STEPHEN  
MACARTNEY

PETER  
MCVEIGH

KATIE  
RICHARDSON

WARREN  
ATTWELL




PEEL CENTENARY CENTRE  
SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2017 SHOW 8pm  
Tickets £12 online [www.eTickets.im/jp](http://www.eTickets.im/jp)  
Celtic Gold, Peter Norris Music, Shakti Man, Thompson Travel  
Songwriting Workshop 2-4pm, tickets £10 only from [eTickets.im/jp](http://eTickets.im/jp)

 design by Bruno Cavellac 

**ALY & PHIL**

*'simply the best traditional  
musicians you are ever  
likely to hear!'*  
Mike Russell, Glasgow Herald



**PHIL CUNNINGHAM & ALY BAIN**  
Two virtuoso musicians and some gripping humour... unbeatable!

**Centenary Centre - Peel**  
**THURSDAY 23rd March 2017**  
starting at 8.00pm

Tickets £17 - available from: Celtic Gold - Peel • Shakti Man - Ramsey • Peter Norris Music - Douglas  
Thompson Travel - Port Erin and online at [www.centenarycentre.com](http://www.centenarycentre.com)

[www.philandaly.com](http://www.philandaly.com)



ARTS  
COUNCIL

[www.ad Astra-music.co.uk](http://www.ad Astra-music.co.uk)

### The Braaid Eisteddfod

Saturday 4th March at the Braaid Hall,  
with a start time of 7pm (which is earlier  
than previous years).

While the organisers have a programme  
for musical and literary competitions,  
they are always happy to accommodate  
anybody who wants to take part and  
there's often a special class created on  
the night.

Traditional events like the Braaid  
Eisteddfod only continue because artists  
come along and take part and it's a great  
opportunity for those who aren't used to  
competing to take to the stage.

The full programme for the evening is on  
the Braaid Hall facebook page.

Admission is a bargain at £5 including  
supper.



## Will Pound - Harmonica Virtuoso & Melodeon Magician

6th February from 7:30pm ~ King William's College £10

One of the finest harmonica players of his generation, Will Pound has pushed the boundaries of the instrument within traditional music and his own compositions. Will is also a magician of the melodeon and combined with harmonica he creates a sound truly of his own.

Will has been nominated 3 times for the BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician Of The Year Award in 2012, 2014 and 2015. Guaranteed to transfix an audience with astonishing virtuosity & knowledge of material ranging from Swedish Polksa's, English Hornpipe's & Balkan dances.

He has appeared on TV & Radio many times including appearances on BBC Breakfast, BBC2, Radio 2, BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, MTV, Radio 1extra to name a few and has recently recorded on Robbie Williams new album Heavy Entertainment show. To purchase tickets: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/331769](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/331769)



**Session in Laxey this Sunday 5th Feb  
12.30 - 3pm**

All welcome. Family friendly. Tel. Mary for more details: 493365

## Commemoration Events for Sophia Morrison



The centenary of the death of Manx cultural champion, Sophia Morrison, was commemorated with a number of events organised by Roy Kennaugh, including local organisations Mec Vannin, the Celtic League, Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh (Manx Language Society) and the local branch of the Celtic Congress.

First off was a small gathering at the Morrison family plot within Peel Cemetery, where Sophia was laid to rest at the age of fifty seven. A number of speeches pre-empted a wreath-laying ceremony by her grand-nephew Thomas Crellin Morrison Frost, before returning to the Methodist Church in Atholl Street in Peel for a well attended talk about Sophia Morrison's life by Dr Breesha Maddrell. This was followed by a 'Manx tay' in the Guild Room next door.

During the evening a packed Centenary Centre enjoyed a Manks Concert, which brought the day's commemorations

to a close. Many of the groups and individuals performing here represented much of the work adopted by Sophia, including recitation, music, poetry, dialect and the Manx language.

Involving entertainers of all ages, this included a final opportunity to see the Manx dialect play The Charm, initially performed at what was originally the Centenary Hall in 1912 by the Peel Players. But there's also a chance to look at a small exhibition about Sophia Morrison from a local perspective, at the newly refurbished exhibition room within the Leece Museum on East Quay in Peel. It's a perfect introduction to her life and work in a relaxed setting and continues until the 18th February - 10.00am until 4.00pm Tuesday to Saturday.

Valerie Caine © January 2017

**SEE OVER for photos from the Manks Concert >>**



Manks Concert (14th Jan) PHOTO THANKS: Val Caine & Jiri Podobsky



# Manx / Irish Cultural Exchange Programme - Easter Weekend

## *Calling all harpers & musicians! Can you help?*

by Peddyr Cubberley

Back in September 2015, Irish Harper Fiana Ní Chonaill visited the Island by invitation of Manx trad band Mactullagh Vannin. During her visit she toured several schools, and gave workshops and concerts throughout the Island and was very encouraging to our own musicians, and in particular, our young harpers.



In return, her visit was reciprocated by a group of young musicians "Croan Yn Tead", who travelled to Ireland in the spring of last year, playing concerts and giving workshops in the Limerick and Tipperary areas, including the University of Limerick's Irish World Academy.

At Easter this year, Fiana is returning to the Island with a group of harpers, "The Lissenhall Harp Ensemble" as part of the cultural exchange programme initiated in 2015.

We are looking for people to partner with us to help make their visit an enjoyable and successful one. *Can you help?*

Although the members and families of Croan Yn Tead [pictured below] will be actively involved in the forthcoming exchange and will be providing accommodation for the visiting group at their own homes by providing beds, meals, transport to & from venues, and for days out around the Island etc., we still presently, have a shortfall of hosts and the provision of beds, meals, and assistance with transport etc.

We would all be extremely grateful for as much help as anyone can give, and we are positive that the exchange experience will be greatly rewarding and successful for all involved.

Croan Yn Tead and The Lissenhall Harp Ensemble would like to take this opportunity to reach out and extend an invitation to all harpers, music students, and musicians of all ages, to partner with us, by getting involved in any way possible.

We think this is a valuable opportunity to be a part of the cultural exchange programme in a meaningful and hands-on way and we are sure that those who are willing to partner with us will benefit greatly as the benefits of cultural exchanges are manifold, resulting in educational opportunities and enriching experiences for both the visiting group and local community groups in the areas visited.

If you'd be willing to partner with us or would just like to know more about ways you can help, please email us at **Claarsee@manx.net** and we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Info on Croan Yn Tead:

[www.facebook.com/pg/Croan-Yn-Tead-Crann-An-Téad-494673533991186/about](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Croan-Yn-Tead-Crann-An-Téad-494673533991186/about)



### CLIVE KNEALE

Sad news that local musician Clive Kneale has recently passed away. Our condolences go to his wife Leila. Clive played with Leila in the popular Manx band, Phynnodderee.

Obituary <http://announce.jpress.co.uk/isle-of-man-today/obituary/clive-kneale/49052381>



## ***Candle-lit Concert Boosts Funds for Knockaloe Project***

A local charity, challenged with the task of establishing a new project in the village of Patrick, recently held a special candle-lit musical evening to help raise funds for their vision regarding the World War I internment camp previously based at Knockaloe Moar Farm.

Holy Trinity Church, at the heart of the village's community, became the venue for a concert of music performed by the local, early music group Hartes Ease, who delighted everyone with a range of songs and tunes.

The programme of music reflected the many international links with the camp, which included almost twenty four thousand so-called 'enemy aliens' inside twenty three compounds, which were guarded by four thousand soldiers. The concert was intersected by English, Dutch and Manx compositions, with members of the audience enjoying glasses of gluhwein and bite-sized confectionery associated with some of the internees' countries of origin.

The charity's aims are to re-tell the multitude of human stories connected to the camp, which became an important part of the Island's history, but was almost entirely stripped bare upon the cessation of what was known as the Great War.

It's a long term project which will encompass other matters such as village life, and provide descendants with assistance as they attempt to seek details about either internees, guards, or villagers.

The old school rooms, situated opposite the entrance to Knockaloe Moar Farm, have been ear-marked as the focal point for this project. Built in 1877, but relinquished as an educational facility during the mid 1980s, the building is, however, still utilised for a variety of community activities.

A great deal of information has already been collected, but organisers would be delighted to hear from anyone who can add to their database. Although this information is currently offline, it is possible to request a search on a one-to-one basis, but may take some time to process.

Members of the project can be contacted at [info@knockaloe.im](mailto:info@knockaloe.im)

Alternatively, you can view some of their current work at [www.knockaloe.im](http://www.knockaloe.im), or read about their activities on their Facebook page.

Valerie Caine © January 2017 (Courtesy of the North Western Chronicle)



### **ROGER LEECE**

A former member of the Mollag Ghennal, Pigs on the Wing and other popular Manx bands passed away last month.

Roger Leece [pic below the pirate flag on the Mollag's album cover <<] was an incredibly talented drummer and very well-known on the Isle of Man music scene. He will be remembered fondly by the Island's music community.

#### **Obituary:**

<http://announce.jpress.co.uk/isle-of-man-today/obituary/roger-leece/49026143>

# KIAULL NOA ~ NEW MUSIC

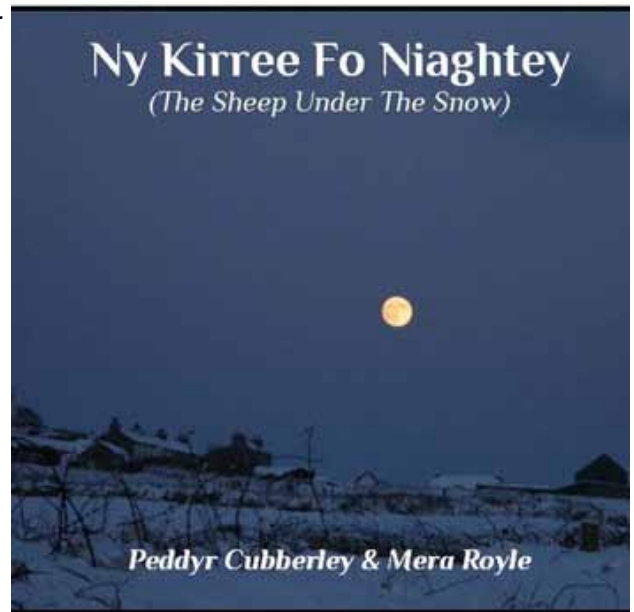
Here is a lovely new track recorded by whistle/flute player Peddyr Cubberley and Mera Royle on harp.

Peddyr Cubberley, well known on the Manx traditional music scene, has been active since the Manx revival of the 1970s. He is a founding member of Mactullagh Vannin and has composed a great number of tunes in the Manx idiom.

Harpist Mera is a student of Rachel Hair and a member of youth trad group, Scran. She attends Ramsey Grammar School and hopes to pursue a career in music.

Have a listen to "Kirree Fo Niaghtey" here:

<https://peddyrcubberley.bandcamp.com/>



## Frankie May

Talented Manx singer-songwriter Frankie was interviewed on BBC Introducing Radio Lancashire recently.

Frankie recorded her debut EP last year at Ballagrove Studios, and is now LIPA Lth form:

<https://soundcloud.com/peddyr-1/frankie-may-interview-bbc-radio-lancs-07012017>

## ~ Thalloo as Keayn ~ Land & Sea

Manx artists **Ruth Blindell and Laura Espinosa** currently have an exhibition at the Sayle Gallery in Douglas. Their paintings depict the 'land and sea' or 'Thalloo as Keayn' as depicted on Ruth's design for the IOM Women's Institute Choir CD >>

The CD, which features 'Ellan Vannin' in Manx Gaelic, is still available to buy, with funds going to the WI Choir.



2/7

*Mraane ayns Arrane*



Queensland Manx Society have created a handy online audio resource of dance music files to accompany the Rinkaghyn Vannin and Leighton Stowell Manx Dance books:

<http://queenslandmanx.org.au/cultural-heritage/folk-dance-and-folk-music/>



# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

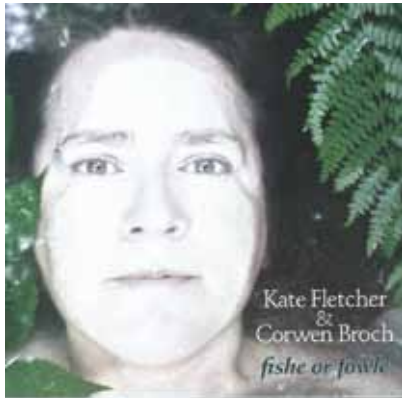
## Manx song "Song of the Travelling Fairies"

on new album *Fishe or Fowle* by Kate Fletcher & Corwen Broch

Stylistically straddling Traditional Folk, Dark Folk and Psych Folk, *Fishe or Fowle* features a stripped down instrumentation of ancient and historical instruments including lyre, bowed lyre, gusli, kantele, pedal harmonium and sundry pipes, horns and percussion.

Manx lullaby, "Song of the Travelling Fairies", calls upon the birds to protect the infant from the faeries.

Collected in 1930 by Mona Douglas from Caesar Cashin, on the Isle of Man, who said that after each verse there used to be a little dance imitating the movements of the particular bird named.



<https://katecorwen.bandcamp.com/track/song-of-the-travelling-fairies>



**TRIP** are a new band based in Glasgow featuring Manx fiddle player, Isla Callister. Younger sister of Tom Callister (Barrule, Mec Lir, Imar) Isla is currently studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and was a member of Manx groups Tree Cassin, Bree Supergroup and others.

Check them out! <https://www.facebook.com/TRIPceol/>

## << Manx organ book goes international!

Thanks to a Bree student, *Celebration & Contemplation* has made its way onto the music stand of one of Europe's largest organs - Wielkie Organy Bazyliki Licheńskiej in Poland!!

The new book from Culture Vannin has also been shipped to organ enthusiasts in New Zealand and Norway!

## Youtube/video corner

Enjoy a new video of Arrane y Chlean arranged for mountain dulcimer by Carol L Walker.

<https://www.facebook.com/carol.l.walker.39/videos/10210705756712647/>

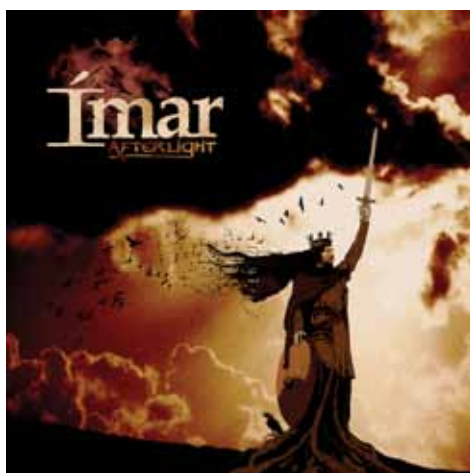


## IMAR – ALBUM LAUNCH AND TOUR

One of the most hotly-tipped bands in the trad-folk world are set to release their debut album next week. Ímar are a Glasgow-based trad folk group and are causing waves and generating huge amounts of interest in the run up to the unveiling of their album, *Afterlight*. What makes it even more special is that, at their core are two supremely gifted Manx musicians, Tomas Callister and Adam Rhodes, and that traditional Manx music makes up a large part of their sound. 'The album is called *Afterlight*,' said an excited Tomas Callister, speaking during a mammoth CD-signing session in



Glasgow. 'There are 10 songs on there, and the tunes come from all over. There's Irish and Scots stuff, but there is loads of Manx tunes too, both trad tunes and ones that I've written. That makes them Manx, I reckon.' Since the band launched, roughly a year ago, they have amassed a staggering amount of online interest, reaching 10,000 'likes' of their Facebook page and 80,000 views of their version of a Canadian tune, *L'air Mignonne*. Tomas and Adam are joined by an array of award winning musical talent. Piper Ryan Murphy, accordion player Mohsen Amini and bodhrán player Adam Brown have played with many award winning acts, such as RURA and Talisk. Tomas and Adam have themselves been members of Mabon and Mec Lir and played on the Radio 2 folk show with Barrule last year. 'The lads from the band hadn't really heard much Manx music before' said Tomas. 'It was good to see how they reacted to it. These guys are the best in the world at what they do. There is some amazing talent sat in the room with me now. You know you have to be on top of your game just to come into a practice. We all push each other along. 'But its the album I've always wanted to make,' he said. 'They are a mix of traditional and original tunes, written by ourselves. There are tunes from all over, and loads of Manx stuff.' It features in songs like *Firebird*, which Tomas said was written around one his tunes, and is about a favourite bar in Glasgow, where there is always a welcome and the beer never stops, or 'The Speckled heifer', which is



based around the trad Manx tune 'Colbagh Breck'. They took their name from an ancient Viking ruler who was once king of parts of Ireland, the Western Isles, Scotland and the Isle of Man. 'It's a good name for us, said Tomas. 'It represents us all as a group. Ryan is Irish, Mohnin is Scottish and Adam is from Suffolk, alongside me and Adam who are Manx. The name 'Ímar' really ties us all in together.' They are to release 'Afterlight' at the Celtic Connections festival next weekend. They will be supporting the internationally renowned folk group 'Four Men and a Dog', something Tomas is looking forward to. 'It's special for me as their fiddle player is a guy called Cathal Hayden, who is one of my heroes. It's a privilege and a thrill to play with them. 'But it is great to be promoting and spreading Manx music with this band.' Ímar will also be playing in Peel, on Friday, April 14, as part of their UK tour.

**Article by Mike Wade from:**

[www.iomtoday.co.im/news/isle-of-man-news/hotly-tipped-folk-group-prepares-to-release-debut-album-1-8344189](http://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/isle-of-man-news/hotly-tipped-folk-group-prepares-to-release-debut-album-1-8344189)

**IMAR CONCERT AT THE CENTENARY CENTRE, PEEL Fri 14th April. Tickets £14**

**[www.imarband.com/shop/isle-man-concert-ticket](http://www.imarband.com/shop/isle-man-concert-ticket)**

**Ímar trivia...** the band hit the Israeli album charts over the launch weekend, getting to no. 10 briefly!

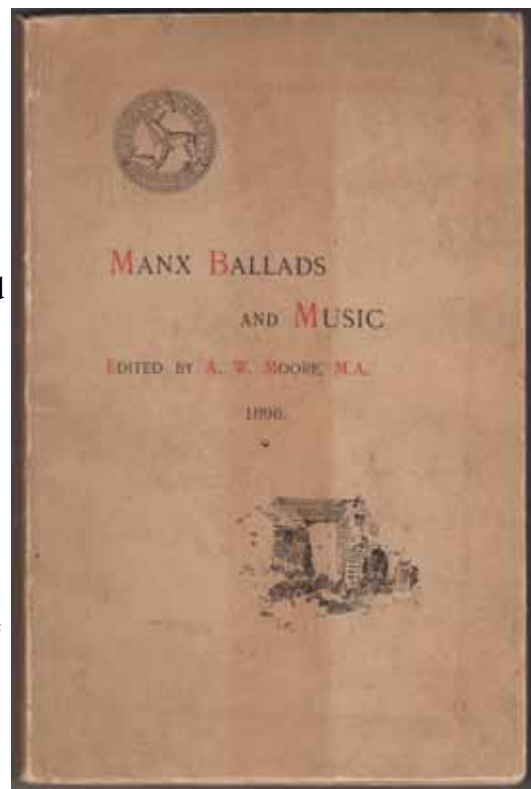
CD cover – design by Bruno Cavellec



# RESEARCH NEWS

## "Mr A.W. Moore's collection is less altered than Mr Gill."

So wrote Dr John Clague to Sophia Morrison in 1908, and yet A.W. Moore and his *Manx Ballads and Music* from 1896 seems now to be somewhat forgotten in the whirl of pieces here in KMJ about the Gill brothers, Dr John Clague, Sophia Morrison, Mona Douglas and other collectors active in the Island in the 1890s and afterwards. *Manx Ballads and Music* had a slow gestation due to the incompetency (as Moore saw it) of the Johnson Brothers of Douglas entrusted with its printing, and so inconsistencies seemed to have crept into the text and there are also a number of puzzles as such within its pages. For example, Moore lists his helpers in collecting the tunes and the number they each collected, and he gives the names of the singers and the tunes taken down from each one of them. One is then left to try and match the singers to the collectors to figure out oneself which singers were visited by Harry Bridson and Moore's other helpers. But at least Moore did provide the basic information in the first place, it must be said. Then there is the lack of any alphabetical listing of either the texts or tunes that appear in the book, nor an index of first lines. This makes the work difficult to work with and one must produce indexes of one's own to overcome this lack.



Returning to Clague, he was referring to *Manx National Songs*, edited—and devised it must be said—by W.H. Gill, that appeared the same year and which was unabashed in how the material was presented there. Harmonised for the pianoforte, with lyrics in English that bore little—if any—connection to the original texts (which were never collected in the first place it seems), it was destined for the parlour and drawing room and there it was indeed a success. *Manx Ballads and Music* was produced in a limited print run and never saw a second impression, nor did Moore ever return to the topic of folk song. Bar one manuscript, the material behind the work is now lost.

T.E. Brown, for one, was charmed by *Manx National Songs*, spending all day the 26 June 1896 with Gill himself, as he later wrote to Egbert Rydings: "We spent the whole of Friday 'from morn to dewy eve,' over his Song-book, and a most enjoyable time we had." He went on to add that "Mr Moore will have to entrench himself within his antiquarian position, which is a true one and teneable, but hardly popular." Yet it remains still to be seen just what was entailed by Moore's "antiquarian position" and both then and now, whether it was and remains "a true one and teneable." To this end, presented here are a number of guides—working ones it must be stressed—to aid in that work of re-assessment. This will in no way diminish the achievement of *Manx Ballads and Music*, but rather allow a better understanding of the work. It is indeed "less altered than Mr Gill," but it remains to be seen how much that is so.

### ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO MANX BALLADS AND MUSIC by Stephen Miller:

[http://manxmusic.com/bio\\_page\\_183097.html](http://manxmusic.com/bio_page_183097.html)

INDEX to text

INDEX to tunes,

TUNES

### Working Guides to Manx Ballads and Music:

MBM1 Sources of Texts

MBM2 The Tunes

MBM3 The Correspondence

## Mr New's Band

The Isle of Man's uneasy relationship with German bands has been examined in two previous articles, but whereas groups of itinerant German musicians were generally regarded as a nuisance, along with hurdy-gurdy players and minstrel troupes, Herr Simon Wurm's Imperial Viennese Orchestra was highly successful at the Villa Marina Kursaal between 1912 and 1914 when it became a victim of anti-German feeling immediately after the start of World War I. Mr New's band, however, enjoyed a much longer and closer relationship with the town of Ramsey and became something of a popular local institution until it, too, was forced to leave the Island in August 1914.

Mr New's band was often referred to as a 'string band' in local newspapers, but this probably indicated that the ensemble included some stringed instruments along with woodwind, brass and percussion, in order to distinguish it from a traditional brass band, a military band or one of the much-maligned itinerant street bands. In fact New's band had more in common with the small spa orchestras found in such towns as Harrogate, Bath and Buxton.

We first hear of a 'First Class String Band' in connection with the small pleasure grounds at Glen Helen, and extensive wooded glen sometimes referred to as 'The Riviera of Manxland', in 1897, the year that the Band Committee of Ramsey Commissioners received letter from a Mr Joseph Cannell stating that the local band of which he was the conductor had 'taken steps to get instruments'. However, for whatever reason, the local band's terms for providing music in Ramsey's public areas during the summer season were not acceptable. Whether or not the Glen Helen band was indeed Mr New's band a year before it was engaged in Ramsey, it nevertheless played for dancing on the 'well-laid lawn', and 'discoursed music throughout Whit-week and the season'.

**READ THE FULL ARTICLE by Maurice Powell** [http://manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_464006.html](http://manxmusic.com/news_story_464006.html)

### MANX SOCIAL AT DERBY ROAD.

The young people (and divers of the elder folk) connected with the church of the Methodist New Connexion, situated in Derby-road, spent a most enjoyable evening on Easter Monday, their entertainment being dubbed a "Manx Social and Concert." The first portion of the programme consisted of a number of Manx songs, including "Hush, little darling," sung by Miss E. Bell; "The Maid of Port-e-Chee," Miss Horsley; "Gwendolen," Miss Spence; "Ramsey Town" and "Ellan Vannin," Mr W. L. Spence; "The Manx Weddin'," and "Mannin Veg Villish Veg Veen," Mr Williamson; and "Mylecharaine" (in the Manx language), by Mr T. Caine. Miss Fargher accompanied. Next followed a dialogue, entitled "The Haunted Room," in which it is possible that some one or other of the old Manx legends may have had part, followed by what to Manxman and Soetnagh is equally welcome, refreshments. The menu was in Manx, and comprised the proverbial pinjane and bonnag, "arran-chag" (a free translation of lemon-cheese cakes), "arran ben-y-ree" (sultana cake), "arran chapit" (soda-cake), "braghtyn" (cucumber sandwiches), "arran rass" (seed cake), and the ever-welcome "paggad of tay." Games followed for another hour, and of all the 100 persons who presented themselves everyone thoroughly enjoyed his or herself. It may be added that a number of the ladies arranging this charming little function were attired in Manx costume.



Miss R. Kelly ('Russian') and Miss R. Bird ('Hungarian').  
First for National Solo Dance (14 and over).

<< Arran-chag (1905 04 29 MxSun) Manx Social Peel



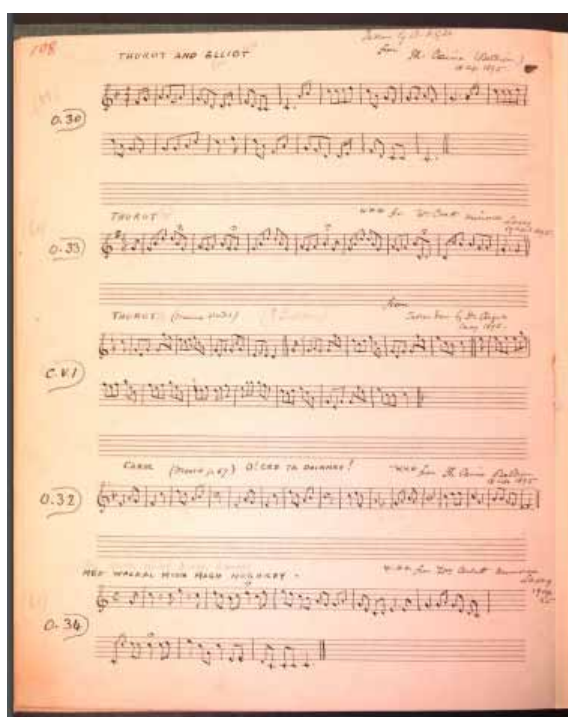
# GILL COLLECTION NOW ONLINE

The Original Collection of Manx Folk Music  
made by his honour the Deemster Gill, Mr W.H. Gill and Dr Clague Completed in 1895 & 1896.

Manx National Heritage Library MS09702 / Photographs taken by David Speers



David Speers has photographed the elusive JF Gill Collection - a large manuscript book which came to light in the Manx Museum in 2000. It is thought to be in the hand of JF Gill, bound in 1912 by his wife, and the contents more or less mirror the collection of Dr John Clague. However, the added detail contained in this manuscript proves that JF Gill's brother WH Gill actually collected many of the melodies and songs previously attributed to Clague e.g. "Bollan Bane" above.



## To view this fascinating collection:

<http://manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Gill%20Collection%20Complete%20MS09702.pdf>

Read more about WH Gill:

[http://manxmusic.com/bio\\_page\\_130254.html](http://manxmusic.com/bio_page_130254.html)

David has also photographed the entire Clague Collection and you can view the manuscript notebooks of **Dr John Clague**: [http://manxmusic.com/bio\\_page\\_129756.html](http://manxmusic.com/bio_page_129756.html)

## MANX TRADITIONAL BALLADS

David has an paper about Manx music published in the current edition of the Irish journal *Béalóideas*, which refers to the Clague/Gill Collection: **'Manx traditional ballads – the broadside connections revealed'**:

[www.itma.ie/gd/news/article/printed-materials-january-2017/](http://www.itma.ie/gd/news/article/printed-materials-january-2017/)

# Manx Dialect Play Attracts Full House at Annual Oie'll Verree

The annual Oie'll Verree held in Michael village on old Christmas Eve is a perfect opportunity to enjoy a Manx traditional, country concert; with a packed house indicative of its continuing success.

Tucked away in the old Ebenezer Hall, this much anticipated event was organised by the local branch of the Celtic Congress in latter years, but the baton has now been passed on to the Michael Heritage Trust.

Today it's a pot-pourri of acts and entertainment, adjusted a little from the original concept, which historically focused on the singing of lengthy carvals (Manx compositions typically based on Bible tracts) once the church service was finished.

The event has an uncanny ability of attracting younger performers as well as some of the more mature stalwarts, which bodes well for its future.

Compèred by the (youthful) Zoë Cannell, the first four acts reflected this successfully with a wide range of entertainment, with junior Manx dance group Skeddán Jiarg, a dialect recitation by John



Kaighin, up-and-coming music group Scran and magician Lexi Watterson.

Followed by the current Manx Bard, John 'Dog' Callister, a keen audience was treated to a Manx dialect sketch by J. Cooil, entitled The Choir Practice, before the young Field brothers introduced music on a classical theme.

But after the presentation of the annual Yn Gligyr award by Michael Commissioners for service to culture in the local community, an expectant crowd settled back to watch the main event - the much anticipated Manx dialect play.

The Michael Players have a rich collection of original plays to choose from, including The Charm, re-enacted here and written by Christopher Shimmin in 1912. It's a favourite which has been aired a number of times over the years, but never loses its popularity.

And with a number of actors deciding to hang up their bonnets and flat caps for the final time, after many years of devoted service, it was re-assuring to see that the plays had successfully attracted some younger performers.

**Article & pics by Valerie Caine © January 2017**

(Courtesy of the *North Western Chronicle*)





# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

see [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com) for more printable pieces of Manx music

During the Big Bree Workshop Weekend (Oct 2016), tutor David Kilgallon helped a group of students compose this catchy tune! David and Owen Williams performed the piece in the final concert:

<https://vimeo.com/201002035>

## Chips, Cheese & Gravy Hornpipe

Bree 2016 composers  
led by David Kilgallon



# CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

Now – May. Sophia Morrison – The First Curator, exhibition, Manx Museum, Douglas, free

Now – 18th Exhibition about Sophia Morrison in Peel, Leece Museum, free  
4th The Next Big Thing final, Villa Marina inc. Manx trad group Scrán

5th Session in Laxey 12.30-3pm tel. 493365

6th Will Pound in concert, King Williams College, 7.30pm £10

11th Northern Irish Singer-Songwriters' Circle – concert and workshop (see poster)

11th MFDS Chocolate dance party, Onchan Methodist Hall, 8pm £2.50/3

18th Caarjyn Coidjagh at the Western Swimming Pool for Isle of Architecture, 4pm, £5

18th Bogdan Vacarescu, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm £12

## MARCH

4th Braaid Eisteddfod, 7pm

4th IOM Symphony Orchestra concert, QE2 High School, 7.30pm [www.iomso.co.uk](http://www.iomso.co.uk)

5th IOM Symphony Orchestra concert, Ballakermeen Studio Theatre, 2.30pm

9th-12th Cwlwm Celtaidd festival in Wales  
<http://www.cwlwmceltaidd.org/en/>

23rd Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm £17

## APRIL

2nd-5th Manx Folk Awards <http://manxfolkawards.weebly.com/>

7th-9th Shennaghys Jiu Celtic Festival ~ Ramsey <http://shennaghysjiu.com/>

14th Imar, Centenary Centre, Peel £14 [www.imarband.com](http://www.imarband.com)

14th-17th Manx/Irish harp exchange

18th-22nd Pan Celtic Festival, Carlow, Ireland [www.panceltic.ie](http://www.panceltic.ie)

21st-29th Manx Music, Speech & Dance Festival, Villa Marina

27th-30th Mec Lir & Imar at Shetland Folk Festival [www.shetlandfolkfestival.com/](http://www.shetlandfolkfestival.com/)

## MAY

3rd-5th Celtic Media Festival, Douglas [www.celticmediafestival.co.uk](http://www.celticmediafestival.co.uk)

12th-14th IOM Cyclefest, Milntown, Ramsey [www.iomcyclefest.com](http://www.iomcyclefest.com)

20th Caarjyn Coidjagh, Isle of Architecture concert, Villa Arcade, 2pm

## JUNE

16th Clash Vooar and others, Isle of Architecture concert, Peel Lifeboat House

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online:

**[www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)**

~ SESSIONS ~

**WED** 8.30pm Session at O'Donnells, Douglas

**THURS** 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey

**FRI** 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey

**FRI** Trad session at the Crosby

Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary

Occasional **SAT** 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:  
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**[www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)**

**Call:** Chloë: 01624 694758

**or write to:** Culture Vannin, PO Box 1986, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1SR

Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin

The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space

PRESS: please feel free to pick up articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture