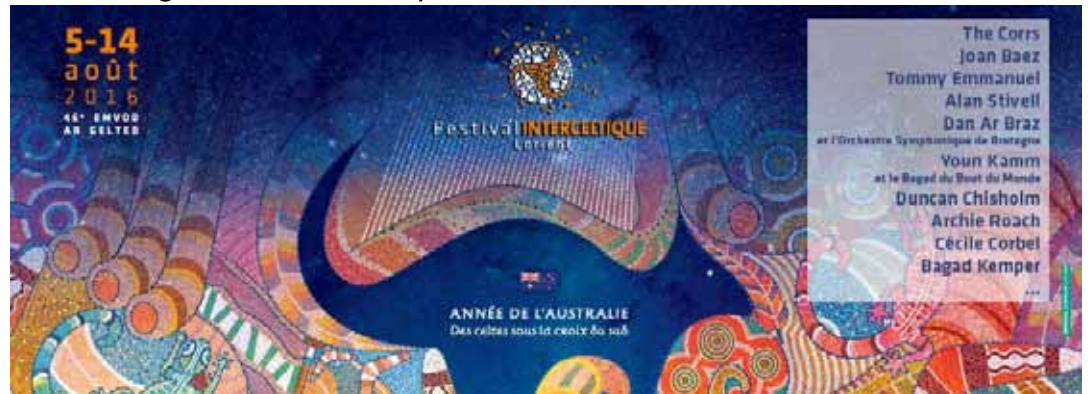


## Isle of Man returns to Festival Interceltique de Lorient

A delegation of Manx musicians, singers, dancers and artists will set off to Brittany this week to take part in Europe's largest annual Celtic gathering, Festival Interceltique de Lorient (5 – 14 August). The festival welcomes an average of 800,000 visitors over 10 days and its televised events attract over 3 million viewers. Last year, the Isle of Man joined Cornwall as the honoured nations of the festival, but for 2016, the role will be taken on by Australia, which has a significant Celtic diaspora.

Ealee Sheard is the Manx delegate for Festival Interceltique de Lorient and she has been liaising with the festival to select this year's Manx delegation. The Manx performers for FIL 2016 consist of folk group Birlinn Jiarg who are a young and innovative



quartet led by whistle and concertina player Beccy Hurst; singer-songwriter Matt Creer and cellist Josephine Evans; vocal and instrumental duo Cairistiona Dougherty and Isla Callister-Wafer; festival favourites Mec Lir; plus new dance group, Ny Manninee. Birlinn Jiarg, Cairistiona and Isla, and Jamie Smith will be playing for the dance group Manx artist Colette Gambell will also attend the festival and represent the Island with an exhibition of her ocean-inspired paintings.

Between them, the Manx dancers and musicians will perform in the Grande Parade, give concerts in the Espace Marine, Espace Parole, Espace Bretagne and Palais des Congrès, lead workshops, perform at community outreach events and provide entertainment at the Manx pavilion.

Organised by Culture Vannin, with the support of the Isle of Man Arts Council and the Department of Economic Development, the Manx pavilion will be managed by Peter Young of Event Management Solutions. It will sell Manx products, fresh food and drink, showcase cultural and tourist information, have demonstrations of traditional crafts such as bumbee cage making, and provide performances of Manx music and dance. Positioned on the busy Quai de Indes, and manned by an enthusiastic team of volunteers, the pavilion will make sure the Isle of Man continues to impress its larger Celtic cousins!



[www.festival-interceltique.bzh/](http://www.festival-interceltique.bzh/)

[photo of Isla & Cairistiona - by Jiri Podobsky]

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

- *Yn Chruinnaght & Manannan's Isle in pics*
- *Morrison to Dr Clague letters*
- *Swedish dancers to visit IOM*

**Culture**  
**VANNIN**

# Yn Chruinnaght festival hits the heights

*Review by Mike Wade (The Manx Independent)*

There was a packed line up over the weekend at the Yn Chruinnaght festival. The annual arts and culture event is usually one you can depend on to bring over a range of fabulous musicians and performers to the island.

This year, I think the organisers outdid themselves.

The festival offered a packed schedule, serving up a whole range of arts workshops, language sessions, craft and artisan fairs and much more.

The music this year was straight from the top drawer, from the opening night, which featured one of the brightest and best Welsh folk groups, to the final night which hosted probably the most hotly-tipped folk group to take on the world as the next-big-thing within folk and roots music.

Calan kick-started the long weekend of concerts at the Peel Centenary Centre, supported by family group 'The Lawrences'.



There is always a strong Breton presence at Yn Chruinnaght, and this year the crowds were treated to 'An Tri Dipop', whose easygoing blend of Gallic-tinged folk and jazz brought the dancers to their feet in a writhing line of Fez Noz dancing.

To the uninitiated, Fez Noz is the folk equivalent of the conga, and ends in a long line of people rhythmically weaving in and out of each other.

They were supported by two Manx talents: Ruth Keggin, promoting her new album 'Turrys', and new band 'Birlinn Jiarg, led by whistle player Becky Hurst.

Friday saw a bright young artist, the Cornish singer/songwriter Kezia, who played with a style which mingled blues and Cornish folk, playing alongside the legendary Manx singer Christine Collister.

And after all that, the very best was saved until last, with the Dublin band Lynched making their debut appearance in the island. They shot to prominence after an appearance on 'Later . . . with Jools Holland' earlier in the year, and they have been in the ascendant ever since.

They sang raw, uncompromising street folk songs, straight from the backstreets of Dublin, mixed with age-old dancehall numbers and original songs all done in their own unique, stripped-down style.

They left to rapturous applause, and then were hosted to some choice Manx hospitality courtesy of the traditional Yn Chruinnaght sessions, which went well on into the bleary hours.

The weekend concluded with an afternoon of music and dancing in the scorching sunshine, outside the House of Mannanan.

**Original article:** [www.iomtoday.co.im/what-s-on/manx-entertainment-news/pictures-yn-chruinnaght-festival-hits-the-heights-1-8026230](http://www.iomtoday.co.im/what-s-on/manx-entertainment-news/pictures-yn-chruinnaght-festival-hits-the-heights-1-8026230)



# YN CHRUINNAGHT 2016 IN PICTURES

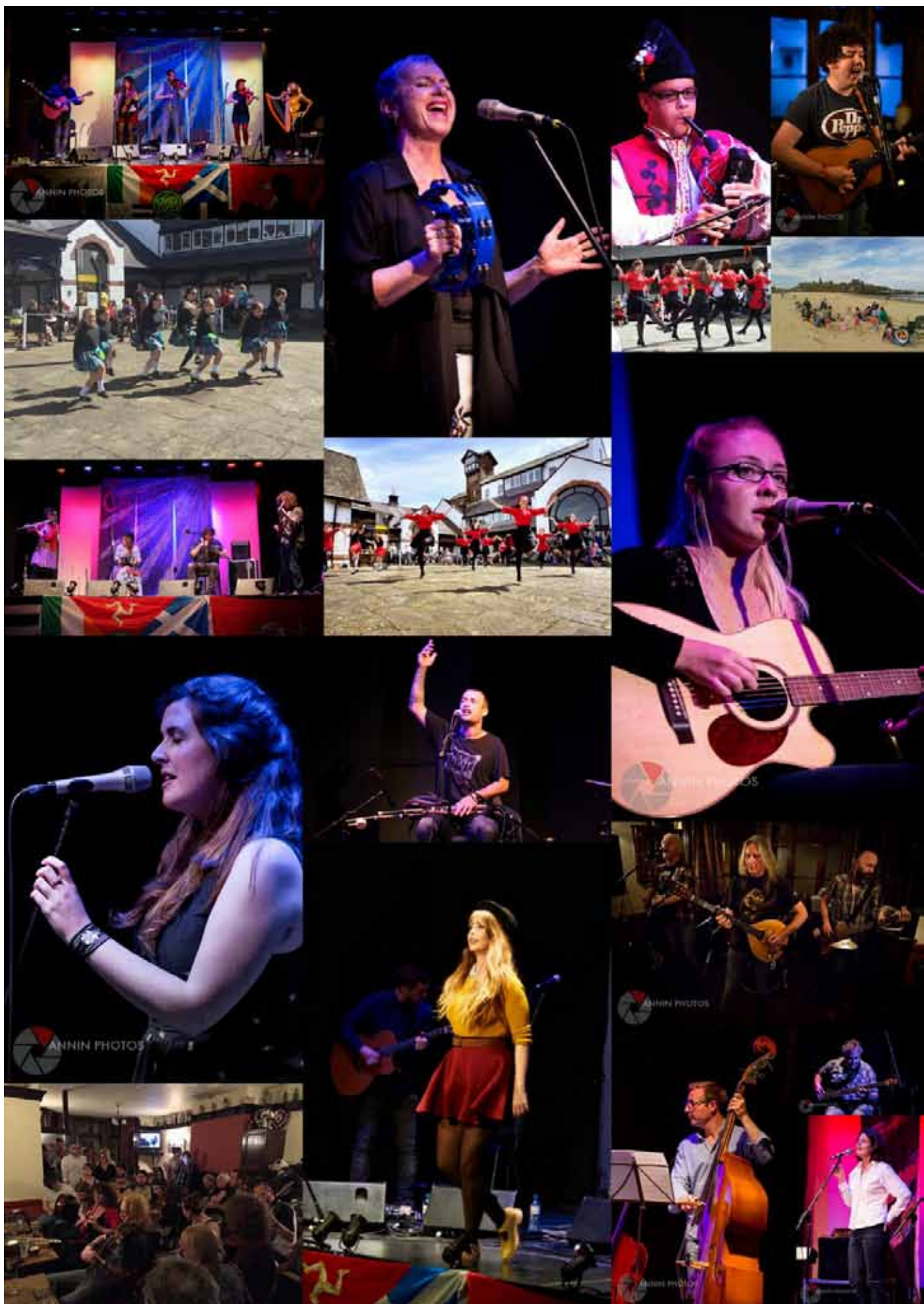






PHOTO CREDITS: Thanks to Gary Weightman from Vannin Photos, Bob Fennell, Val Caine, Mike Wade, Jiri Podobsky and the Yn Chruinnaght committee.

**NEXT YEAR'S FESTIVAL DATES: 12-16 JULY 2017**

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



# Perree Bane at the International Eisteddfod

## Report by John Dowling

After a break of several years, Perree Bane decided on a return visit to the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen. Having experienced the stress of the big white stage, 4000 spectators, live on Welsh TV and adjudicators who take no prisoners twice before we decided to offer our services in outer stage performances, the parade etc.

A rented mini-bus and the excellent Steam Packet got us to Carrog where we renewed previous friendships and were re-aquainted with the "Grouse". There was dancing and singing in Manks, English and Welsh! We were treated royally by the inhabitants of Carrog who were very kind in putting us up for the weekend, especially Paul and Christine who went to a great deal of trouble on our behalf.



Impromptu performances at the Amphitheatre stage were enjoyed by all Thursday afternoon, and an jolly time Friday morning at Carrog School with the youngsters who also sang to us so well.

Imagine our thoughts when we were asked to enter for the choreographed folk dance competition Friday afternoon. With the prospect of prize money and a free lunch Perree Bane swallowed hard and agreed. Our inspired Artistic Director Carol had come up with an 8 minute routine and with a certain trepidation we went onto the big stage. We came 3rd from 5 entries (despite some mistakes) and were complimented on how we obviously enjoyed what we were doing. At one stage we could not hear our musicians for the applause!

In contrast the Parade of Nations around the streets of Llangollen was great fun with thousands of spectators; choirs sang, dancers danced, bands played and people who hit things with sticks enthusiastically hit things with sticks.

We finished the weekend with performances in Riverside Park and the Amphitheatre; the dances went very well and were well received.

Despite offering our services Sunday morning the organisers had nothing for us so we went for a canal boat ride across the aquaduct (don't look down!) and a wander around that very attractive part of Wales.

A bit bumpy on the return crossing, most getting to bed around midnight.

A wonderful trip, and we hopefully did the Isle of Man proud.

We are extremely grateful to the Arts Council for their continuing support and to the Steam Packet Company for the group rate for our passages that they kindly made available.

[photo credit: Eagle's Nest Photography]

**"Manannan's Isle"** at the Gaiety Theatre (24 July) was a spectacular evening of entertainment from some of the Island's finest traditional musicians & dancers. Organised by Culture Vannin. *Thanks to Vannin Photos.*





# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

## Manx YAC students at Hungarian Youth Festival



The Isle of Man Youth Arts Centre recently took 16 creative young people to Hungary to participate in the annual Future of Europe International Children and Youth Meeting.

Led by Head of Youth Arts, Fiona Helleur, the group of dancers and musicians joined 3000 other young people from 31 different countries for an amazing experience and one that the members will not forget for a very long time.

The YAC students had created a drama and dance sequence which explored Manx folklore and history.

Fiona said; "Each country had to bring a performance, without words, that represented their culture... We chose to create a piece of contemporary drama that depicted the story of Manannan using dance, drama, and mime, and incorporating gymnastics and circus skills... It was a very exciting and innovative piece of work, which, together with music from members of SoundCheck, made our show very different and rather intriguing to the gathered audience" (quoted in *Manx Tails*).



As well as watching performances of traditional and contemporary music and dance from the other countries, the Manx students were taken to visit the local Museum of Peasant Life (similar to Cregneash but with dashing Cossacks on horseback!) and had a go at dragon boat racing! As part of the exchange agreement, 21 Hungarian students will visit the Isle of Man in 2017 to experience Manx cultural heritage in the same way they demonstrated theirs.



To see more photos and find out more about the festival:

[www.csipero.hu/en/csipero2016](http://www.csipero.hu/en/csipero2016)

## SWEDISH DANCERS COMING TO THE ISLE OF MAN

The Manx Folk Dance Society has ten Swedish visitors coming over to the Isle of Man from the folk dance group 'Sunnerbogillet', based in Ljungby, Sweden. The two dance groups first met over 30 years ago while dancing at a festival in Morecambe, and the friendships and exchanges have continued since then. MFDS went to Ljungby last year for a visit and now it is the turn of Sunnerbogillet to re-visit the Isle of Man.

Monday 8th August 2016  
Early evening the Visitors arrive from Manchester

Tuesday 9th August 2016  
Horse Tram to Villa Marina  
Visit Manx Museum then free time  
Evening Practice dance, Onchan Village Hall,

Wednesday 10th August 2016  
Train to Port Erin  
11.30 Dance on Quarter Deck, Port Erin  
Picnic lunch  
Bus back to Douglas  
Evening Tour of Hooded Ram Brewery (Booking Essential)



Thursday 11th August 2016  
Tram to Laxey  
11.00 Dance on Square near Station, Laxey Up Snaefell for lunch Down from Mountain & then back to Douglas Evening free

Friday 12th August 2016  
Royal Agricultural Show, Knockaloe  
Evening Music Session at Crosby Hotel from 20.00

Saturday 13th August 2016  
Visit Castle Rushen  
On to Sound Café & maybe Cregneash  
Farewell Party, Onchan Village Hall

Sunday 14th August 2016  
Early morning the Visitors leave Isle of Man

### BIRLINN JIARG TO REPRESENT ISLAND AT TREATY OF PERTH CELEBRATIONS

Perth, in Scotland, is holding a Medieval Festival on 21st August to celebrate 750 years since the signing of the Treaty of Perth - an agreement between Norway and the Isle of Man.

Beccy Hurst's Manx trad band, Birlinn Jiarg, will perform at the festival which is being organised by Perth and Kinross Council.



## ***"Arrane Cadlee" arranged for mountain dulcimer by Carol E Walker***

Following the publication of her second book of Manx arrangements *Tailless Tunes 2* for mountain dulcimer, Carol promised she would continue to share other Manx tunes on her website.

The first of these new arrangements is a lullaby called "Arrane Cadlee" written by Manx musician, Sharon Christian. Carol writes; "One of Sharon's musical gifts is her ability to write modern melodies in the ancient, traditional style. So great is this gift that this tune recently won First Prize in the Pan-Celtic festival's "New song in traditional mode" competition."

The piece is the KMJ August *Transcription of the Month* or you can download the music here:

[www.musicladycarol.com/manx-arrangements.html](http://www.musicladycarol.com/manx-arrangements.html)

And listen to Carol play Sharon's piece here:

[www.musicladycarol.com/uploads/2/3/4/0/23403060/arrane\\_cadlee\\_\\_b-minor\\_.mp3](http://www.musicladycarol.com/uploads/2/3/4/0/23403060/arrane_cadlee__b-minor_.mp3)



### **Youtube/video corner**

Hungarian musician Arany Zoltán performs music from all around the world, and here he is playing Manx tune, "Three Little Boats"

<https://youtu.be/BKC43U1xQMw>

Find out more about Arany

[www.aranyzoltan.hu/](http://www.aranyzoltan.hu/)

## **KIAULL NOA ~ NEW MUSIC**

### **SOPHIA MORRISON SONG PROJECT**

To celebrate the centenary of the death of Manx folklorist and cultural activist, Sophia Morrison, Scaanjoon (AKA Nigel Brown) has produced a set of fairy-tale inspired new songs for Culture Vannin: The Buggane, Shoh Slaynt, Enchanted Isle, The Mermaid, The Spinning Wheel Song, Little Red Bird and the already popular Creepy Folk Come Down. The sheet music will be produced later in the year and the collection of songs all have their own music videos:

[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3Hlk\\_dJ3pTK3InZjMHrrA-a6Er0Pm2VF](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3Hlk_dJ3pTK3InZjMHrrA-a6Er0Pm2VF)

Ramsey girl "Beckii Cruel" became an unlikely celebrity in Japan after a viral video shot her to fame when she was just 14 years old, but today she's a different sort of role model for teenage girls: [www.dazeddigital.com/music/article/32205/1/meet-the-british-girl-who-grew-up-as-a-japanese-idol](http://www.dazeddigital.com/music/article/32205/1/meet-the-british-girl-who-grew-up-as-a-japanese-idol)

### **HAVE A LISTEN >>**

Matt Kelly's "The Shark Song" is a 'tail';) about a girl who buys a shark on Ebay:

<https://soundcloud.com/isleofmatt/the-shark-song-demo>

The Bree Supergroup have been in the studio recording their debut album!! The group of talented teens are led by Paul Rogers and they have been wowing audiences wherever they go!

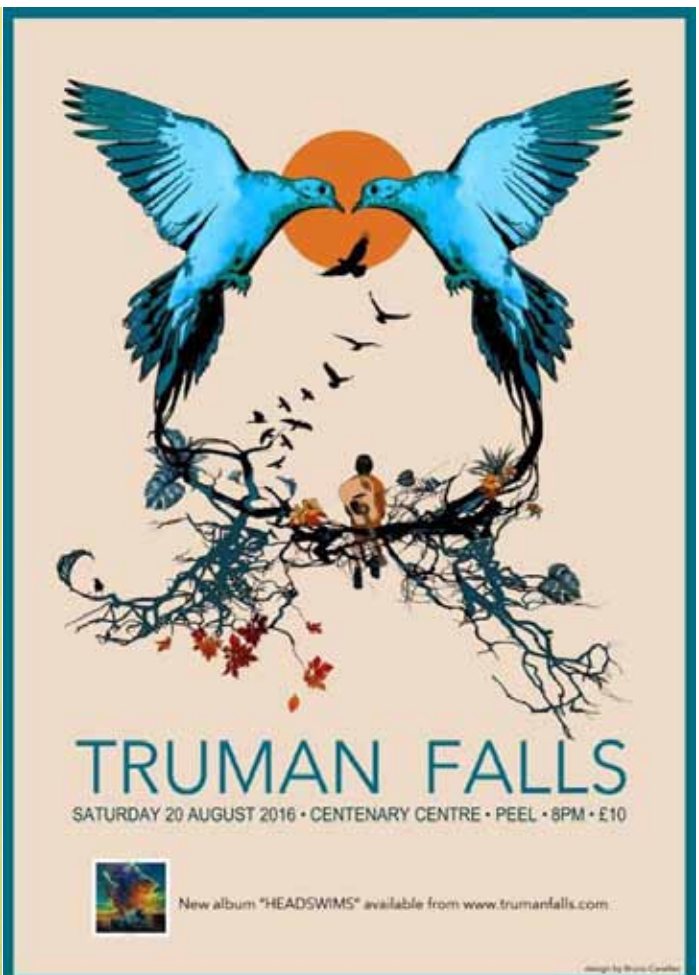




**Sunday 14th August**  
**FREE GROUDLE GLEN CLIFF-TOP CONCERTS**

- 11am – Caarjyn Coidjagh
- 12 noon – Shoh Slaynt
- 1pm – Claasagh Harp Group
- 2pm – Truman Falls
- 3pm – The Shenanigans Banned

The Groudle Glen Railway service (fare applies) and tea rooms are open from 11am to 4:30pm





# Jamie Smith's MABON

**Centenary Centre, Peel, 10th September @ 8pm**

A celebration of original, Interceltic music from an award-winning band!

An epilogue to the hugely successful release of their new album 'The Space Between' and the accompanying 40-date tour, MABON return to the Isle of Man for the first time in over two years. The band was so disappointed not to fit the Centenary Centre into their recent tour that they decided to put on this special one-off concert to make up for it! They'll be performing lots of material from the new album as well as some old favourites. It will be their first concert since accordionist and singer Jamie Smith moved to Peel and also the first with their brand new line-up, with guitarist Paul Rogers replacing Adam Rhodes. Like Jamie, Paul is a welshman living on the island and will be well known to anyone involved in Manx music and language.



One of the most highly accomplished and critically acclaimed Interceltic/ World roots bands in Britain today, MABON have built their reputation on their energy and dynamism, outstanding original compositions and virtuoso performances. They are rightly hailed as one of Britain's 'must see' live acts, their music travelling beyond borders to explore the forms and styles of the Celtic traditions and work them anew. They recently won 'Best Group' at the Spiral Earth Awards and 'Best Live Band' in Germany at the Eiserner Eversteiner Awards. Stand by for infectious, life-affirming music by the spade-full!

"If music could fuel engines, Mabon could solve the energy crisis" *Songlines*

"A truly compulsive ride" *The Independent*

"A fearsome reputation as a live band...stratospheric" *Financial Times*

Tickets £13.50 in advance and £15.00 on the door (subject to availability of course!). Available from the usual outlets except in Douglas where tickets will be at Noa Bakehouse NOT Peter Norris.



There was Manx dancing a-plenty at this year's sunny Tynwald Day (5 July). Here are Perree Bane entertaining crowds on the fairfield.

[photo: Val Caine]

## Ruth Keggin Launches New Album at the Centenary Centre

### -review-

Manx Gaelic vocalist, Ruth Keggin, shared her success in the music industry with the launch of her second album, *Turrys* (Journey) at the Centenary Centre recently.

Following on from her critically acclaimed debut, solo album *Sheear* (Westward) in 2014, Ruth has performed live sessions on both BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio Scotland, as well as at the British Museum in London and at high profile festivals such as Glasgow based Celtic Connections and the European favourite, Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany.

Together with her band, Ruth has also performed in joint concerts with major players in the folk world, including Scottish Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis, Irish vocalist Mary Black and the band Dàimh.

As well as Ruth Keggin and her full band, support was provided by talented, local fiddle player, Isla Callister, ubiquitous multi-instrumentalist David Kilgallon and expressive sean-nós singer and musician Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin, who also features in Ruth's own band.

The live studio recording of her current album highlights an eclectic mix of traditional, contemporary and original songs and melodies, arranged in a fresh and imaginative way; including a mixture of vocals, flutes, guitar, double bass and concertina. It can be purchased either through Ruth's dedicated website, or by using iTunes.

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

Valerie Caine © July 2016

Courtesy of the *North Western Chronicle*





# RESEARCH NEWS



<< The Manx Folk Dance Society in the 1950s taking part in Douglas Carnival

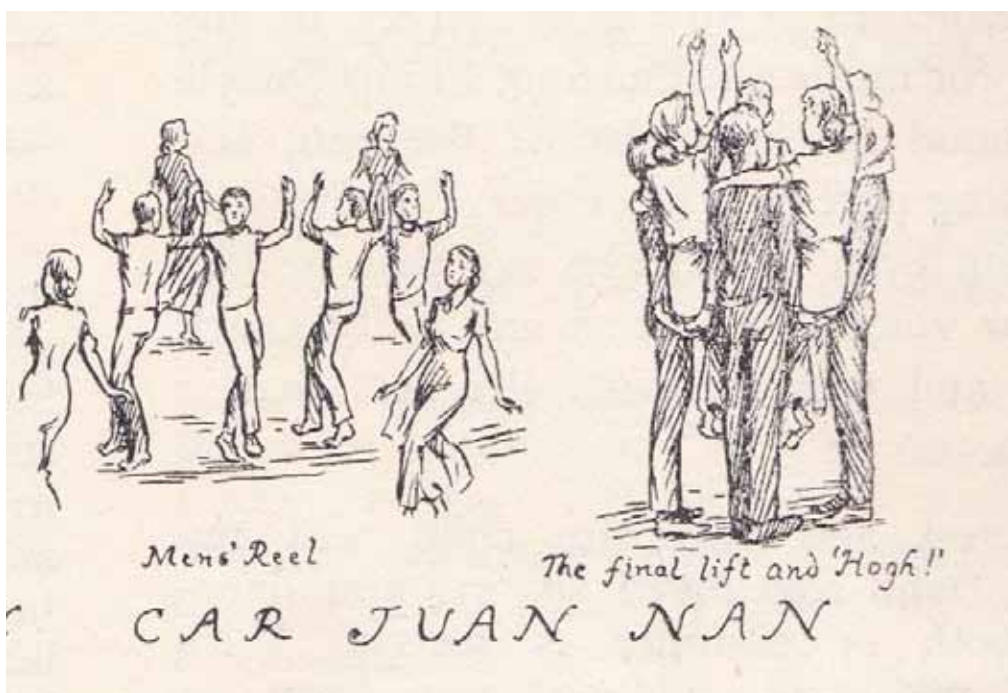
[credit: imuseum.im  
PG/4444/26 ]

## LETTERS RE- DISCOVERED

**Stephen Miller has transcribed some of the letters from folksong collector Dr John Clague and folklorist Sophia Morrison between 1899 and 1908.**

The letters reveal Dr Clague's thoughts on the publication of *Manx National Songs* of 1896:

"There has been too much "Anglicising"... It is not right or honest to modernize the old music. It should be left as it has come down to us." But, despite their differing opinions on the treatment of the Manx tunes they collected together, he refers to editor and arranger WH Gill as "a life long friend". The correspondence also shows that Morrison sent some of her folksong transcriptions to Dr Clague for his comments. READ THE LETTERS: [http://manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_440139.html](http://manxmusic.com/news_story_440139.html)



Eric Austwick's illustration of the dance "Car Juan Nan" from *The Journal of the Manx Museum*, Vol. V No. 64, June 1941. Connected to Mona Douglas' article 'The Traditional Dances of Mann'

## MANXLAND'S KING of MUSIC

Maurice Powell is currently working on a book about the life and achievements of composer Harry Wood. Brought up in the Isle of Man and brother of another famous composer, Haydn Wood, Harry was band leader at the Falcon Cliff Hotel and wrote music-hall favourites such as "The Pride of Purt-le-Moirrey". More about Harry here:

[www.manxmusic.com/  
news\\_story\\_352551.  
html](http://www.manxmusic.com/news_story_352551.html)

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Sharon Christian scooped up first prize at the Pan-Celtic festival's "New song in traditional mode" competition. Performed by Clare Kilgallon at the competition in Derry [April 2015], Sharon's Manx Gaelic lullaby "Arrane Cadlee" was written for her young nephews.

## Arrane Cadlee

*E-minor -- Capo 1*

Original Tune by Sharon Christian - Isle of Man

Arr. for Mountain Dulcimer by Carol Walker

The musical score is written for Mountain Dulcimer in E-minor mode with a capo at the first fret. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble clef staff and a six-string dulcimer staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes measure numbers 1, 6, 11, and 15. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, D, Em, Bm, Em, G, Em, Bm, Em, C, G, Em, Bm, Em, C, G, Am, Em, Bm, Em. The score ends with a coda marked with an asterisk (\*). The dulcimer staff shows fingerings (0-7) and strumming patterns.

\* Sharon's original tune actually ends here, but I've repeated measures 11-14 for use as a coda or interlude, using different chords the second time. She has not indicated any chords, so I was free to make my own choices!

This Arrangement ©2016 Carol Walker  
Original Tune ©2015 Sharon Christian - Used with Permission  
[www.MusicLadyCarol.com](http://www.MusicLadyCarol.com)



# CALENDAR

## AUGUST

5th - 14th Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Brittany  
 6th Summerland Memorial Concert, Centenary Centre, Peel 7pm, £10  
 8th - 14th Swedish dance group hosted by MFDS  
 14th Manx music concerts with Caarjyn Coidagh, Shoh Slaynt, Claasagh, Truman Falls and Shenanigans Banned at Groudle Glen Clifftop, 11-4pm  
 20th Truman Falls & Frankie May, Centenary

## Centre, Peel

21st, Birlinn Jiarg perform Treaty of Perth Festival  
 27th The Ballaghs & Matt Kelly, Bar Logo, Ramsey, FREE  
 28th Mannin Music, IOMAC summer season concert Villa Arcade, 3pm, FREE

## SEPTEMBER

10th Mabon Concert, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm £15

18th Manx music & dance at the IOM Food & Drink Festival

## OCTOBER

29th & 30th Big Bree Workshop Weekend, YAC 10-4pm



<< An emotional grand finale of "Ellan Vannin" at the Manannan's Isle show (24 July).

Thanks to John Cole for the photo

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online:  
[www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)

~ SESSIONS ~

**TUES** 8pm Monthly session at The Mitre, Kirk Michael  
**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  
 Fortnightly **SAT** 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:  
 Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Chloë Woolley**: [chloe@culturevannin.im](mailto:chloe@culturevannin.im)  
[www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)

**Call:** Chloë: 01624 676169  
**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