

Students learn about Scottish & Manx music



Last month, Scottish harpist Rachel Hair visited three Isle of Man secondary schools with her trio. Supported by the IOM Department of Education and Children and Culture Vannin, the Rachel Hair Trio gave mini performances to hundreds of students at Ramsey Grammar School, St Ninian's Lower School and Ballakermeen High School, ahead of her concert at the Centenary Centre in Peel which took place on Saturday 3rd October. During the school visits, Rachel (Celtic harp), Jenn Butterworth (guitar and voice) and Cameron Maxwell (double bass) performed a mix of Scottish and Manx music, and they told the students about their instruments and how to get involved in playing traditional music in the Isle of Man through schemes such as the 'Bree' youth movement.



Rachel Hair is already a familiar face in the Manx music scene, as she visits the Island once a month to teach the Celtic harp for Culture Vannin. She uses Manx music throughout her lessons and in 2013 produced a book for Culture Vannin called Claasagh [Manx Gaelic for harp] which has also become popular in the UK and beyond.

Rachel has 22 Manx pupils at the moment, but there is a waiting list for potential new young students - contact chloe@culturevannin.im to find out more.

Rachel and her students, who go under the group name, Claasagh, will be giving an informal concert at 4pm on Sunday 20th December in the Nunnery Chapel, Douglas. Donations on the door to Manx Cancer Help in memory of local harpist, Leo Phillips.

www.rachelhairtrio.com

In this month's edition...

- *Manx music premieres*
- *Lowender Peran fun*
- *Manx music talks coming up*
- *Sing "The Falcon's Nest"*

Culture
VANNIN

PREMIERES OF MANX WORKS

“Celebration March”

A brand new piece to mark the 150th anniversary of Ramsey Town Commissioners has been composed by Frank Woolley and arranged for brass band by Robert and Illiam Quane. “Celebration March” includes well known tunes “Ramsey Town” and “Mylecharaine’s March” and it was performed by Ramsey Town Band at the civic service in at Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Maughold’s Church last month. The service also included musical items from Mike Boulton’s Share na Veg (Bunscoill Rhumsaa), Voirrey Baker, Dilys Sowrey & Marlene Hendy. You can hear the “Celebration March” performed again on Sunday 22nd November at the Ramsey Town Band subscription concert in Bunscoill Rhumsaa [Auldyn Hall].



[Frank Woolley with chairman of Ramsey Commissioners Mr Radcliffe and his wife - Photo by Sue Jones of AB photography]

“Rest” ~ Another composition by Frank Woolley was premiered at the ‘Guild Goes South Concert’ by Musicale at the Erin Arts Centre last month. “Rest”, an unaccompanied choral piece for SATB, won the Manx music festival’s competition for the setting of a TE Brown poem to original music.

Download the score for free: www.manxmusic.com/media/Learn%20Songs/Rest%20JF%20Woolley.pdf

NEW SONGS BY PATRICIA CULLEN

Paul Costain will be singing two brand new songs by local composer, Patricia Cullen. Accompanied by Patricia on piano, the premiere of “The Shepherd’s Tale” and “The Lonely Path” will be part of Rushen Silver Band’s Christmas Concert at Rushen Primary School on Saturday 28th November at 7.30pm.



SEVEN KINGDOMS by Tim Price

During the summer (20th August 2015) there was also the premiere of ‘7 Kingdoms’, a chamber ensemble work by Ramsey based composer Tim Price [pictured left]. The 40 minute piece was commissioned for the 120th anniversary of Snaefell Mountain Railway.

www.gov.im/news/2015/jul/30/snaefells-120th-anniversary-celebrations

Hear some excerpts of Tim’s music:

<https://soundcloud.com/tim-price-music>

STEVE BURKE

The Isle of Man can also boast about a composer and sound designer called Steve Burke. Originally from the Island, Steve is a very successful composer of music for video games, and he has worked with Nintendo, Microsoft and Rare’s Games. His music has been recorded by the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra and Steve has won awards for his original soundtracks.

www.steveburkemusic.com



Perree Bane visits Lowender Peran Report by John Dowling

After an absence of several years, Perree Bane made the trip down to Cornwall in October to be the Manx representatives at Lowender Peran.

The performers made their way to the Festival by various means, some flying, with the bulk of the costumes, props etc. courtesy of the white van men (John & Brian!) This, at the new venue of the Atlantic Hotel in Newquay, with the demise later this year of the old favourite, the *Ponsmere* in Perranporth.

An innovation for the Atlantic Hotel to host a folk-dance festival, the Hotel sits on top of a headland rather than by the sea as in the Ponsmere; Newquay having an even larger surfing population than Perranporth. The staff were surprised by some of the requests by the organising team, but Jojo [Davey] and the committee were confident that they would be able to educate them into the ways of festivals.



Most of the Perree Bane group arrived Wednesday evening, and spent Thursday morning exploring the (new) environment of Newquay. The formal side of the Festival was a Manx performance that evening, with the Celtic Dance spectacular on Friday evening, followed later with a Manx ceili.

Saturday dawned fine, as was the weather uniformly over the festival, and the Grand Parade wound its way along the streets of Newquay. The Ceili On The Green in Killacourt was a great success, far more popular than the beach ceili of previous years, this was followed by street dancing for the various groups, with the Manx having great fun with the Irish contingent from Cork.

The fine Perree Bane musicians demonstrated their skills with a Manx music session, whilst the dancers hosted a special needs ceili.

The evening having a "scary" theme, a highlight was the *Great Perree Bane Chainsaw Massacre* (White Boys sword dance with chainsaws) which suitably terrified the audience!

Sunday found Perree Bane busy; a Manx dance workshop, a performance in the Tea Room during the craft fair and culminating in a family ceili.

The general opinion was a successful and enjoyable event. Maybe the Atlantic could reduce its prices somewhat for the 2016 Festival, if they choose to hold it, but they made the festival goers very welcome.

Many thanks to Carol for the excellent choreographed performance (unfortunately not with us) and to Caroline for her tireless efforts in keeping us in line and for calling the ceilis in her own inimitable style.

Thanks are also due the generous support from the Arts Council, which was greatly appreciated.

[photos by John Dowling
and Will Quale]

see picture overleaf...





Michael School raise £1000 for Nepal

Michael School played host to some fantastic Celtic music and dance last month. Local groups performed on a super stage to raise funds for the Nepal earthquake fund. The weather was stunning and all who attended had a wonderful time. Ny Fennee, Caarjyn Cooidjagh, Strengyn, the Bree Supergroup, Shoh Slaynt and Scammylt. Read more and see some pics on the school wiki: www2.sch.im/groups/michaelschool1/weblog/fd46f/Charity_Concert_for_Nepal.html

BREE NEWS

There are a couple of places left for young musicians and dancers on the Big Bree weekend on Sat 7th and 8th November. Download the form on http://manxmusic.com/news_story_392327.html and return asap!

SUCCESS FOR OWEN

Moylley as Soyley to 14 year old Manx muso and Bree member Owen Williams who has got through to the final of the Young musician of Mann playing trad music on the button accordion! The final of the competition at the Erin Arts Centre will be on Sunday the 15th November. Aigh vie Owen!

BREE GO BUSKING

Pop into the Strand Shopping Centre and support the Bree Buskers when they perform at the Christmas light switch on/late night shopping from 7-8pm on Thursday 26th November. This year, Bree will be busking in aid of the Family Library; a local charity which needs to raise funds to continue its great work! www.familylibrary.im

Harrish y Cheayn – Across the Sea

Ruth Keggin tells us what she's been up to...

On the evening of Friday 9th October, I performed with my band at the British Museum, in an event that featured musicians and dancers from across the Celtic nations in a celebration of Celtic culture today. I was told that it was the first time that a Manx artist had performed at the British Museum, so that was quite exciting in itself! Performers, including the wonderful Scottish Gàidhlig singer Gillebrìde MacMillan, were spread out over the entrance and galleries of the Museum, for a 'drop in' event that was free to the public to attend. My own band and I gave our concert in the Great Court (entrance), underneath a huge stone lion, who stared down at the audience during our performance! Thankfully he didn't frighten the concert-goers away, and we attracted a firm crowd of over 200 for the duration of the 45 minute performance. It was great to see so many people interested in Manx music and language, and I took the opportunity to give the audience some information about the Island, our language and culture during song introductions. Best of all, there were a number of Manxies in the audience, who now live in London. It was lovely to see their friendly, familiar faces!



Hungary on the horizon

I'm now gearing up to gig and deliver a lecture in Pécs, Hungary at the very beginning of November. Each year in Pécs, a concert series is held with a different theme; this one is entitled 'Islands of sea and land' (in other years well-known singers like Sam Lee have performed in Pécs: his was for a concert series exploring music from the Gypsy traveller community). I'll be gigging in Pécs as a duo with Irish musician and sean-nós singer Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin, who I sing with in Aon Teanga:Un Çhengey, and have also been asked to give a lecture on the language and culture of the Isle of Man to University students in Pécs. I'm particularly

excited about the latter – telling people about the Island is one of my favourite things to do – but how will I fit in everything there is to say about our ace homeland in only 75 minutes?! Hopefully I'll have a photo or two of the concert/lecture, & if anyone has any recommendations of Hungarian food or drink to try while I'm out there, do drop me a line!!

www.ruthkeggins.com



Manx music reaches Mexico!!

Thanks to Barrule, Manx music is now being played in Mexico.

Have a skeet at Barrule's facebook page to watch a video of Mexican band Ontofonia playing "Mylecharaine's March"!



Mec Lir at Celtic Colours

Manx band Mec Lir made a great impression at the huge annual festival in Nova Scotia. Read a review here:

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/artslife/1317164-celtic-colours-plenty-of-bras-d%E2%80%99or-bounty-along-the-winding-road>

[photo by Stephen Cooke]

www.meclir.com



Mec Lir booked for Celtic Connections

The lads have also secured a gig at another top Celtic music festival in Glasgow in the new year, sharing the bill with the Scott Wood Trio at the Oran Mòr on 16 January 2016.

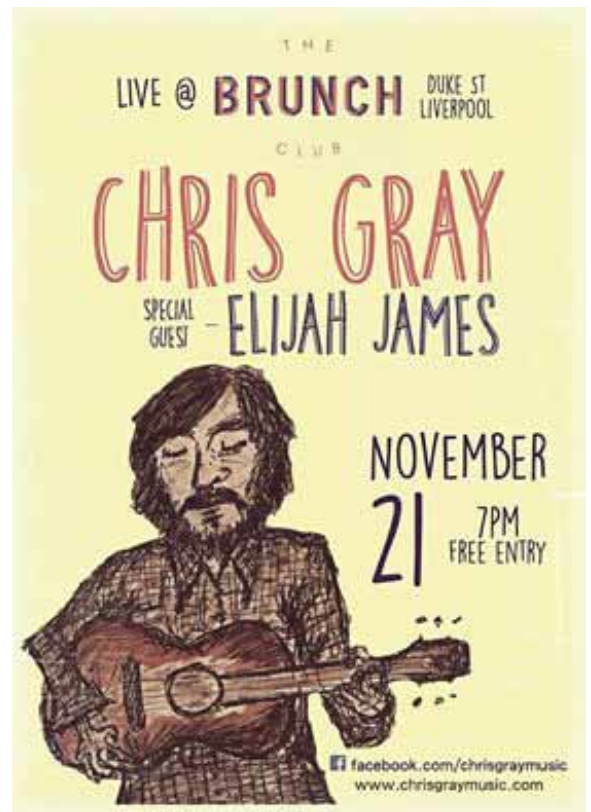
www.celticconnections.com

Call for performers – Lorient 2016!!

Manx delegate to the Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Ealee Sheard, is looking for groups (music or dance) who would like to represent the Isle of Man at the 2016 festival (5-14 August). If you're interested in applying, please send a promo pack with a recording to Ealee: E.Sheard@ug.sch.im by the end of November.

2016 will be the Year of Australia

Manx singer-songwriter Chris Gray will be playing back in Liverpool on Saturday 21st November at The Brunch Club, Duke St.



Manx singer-songwriter Matt Creer has just been interviewed by Folk Radio UK. Read all about it here: www.folkradio.co.uk/2015/10/FOLK-RADIO-UK-TALKS-TO-MATT-CREER/

Find out more about Matt's album 'Leeward Tide':

www.mattcreer.com

Matt will also be playing Jesus in the Douglas Choral Union production of Jesus Christ Superstar!



Traditional Irish Music Weekend ~ Isle of Man

Bob Fennell and Wendy Hurst sent in this photo from the recent Traditional Music Weekend - an annual event organised and funded entirely by local volunteers. As usual it attracted excellent musicians from far and wide (as well as those from the IOM) who come together for the pleasure of playing in various sessions and different venues over the weekend, as well as enjoying the 'craic' and meeting up with old friends. Many are familiar faces who have been coming over for many years (from back in the day when it was known as Andrew Knight's Irish Music Weekend!)

Sessionistas!

Take your instruments along to the weekly Friday Traditional Music Session at The Mitre session in Ramsey from 8pm [pic on right] – recently renamed to indicate that while they mainly play Irish music, they also play Manx (and occasionally Scottish, English and Welsh, depending on who's there!) All are very welcome to come and join in.

www.facebook.com/Friday-Traditional-Music-Session-at-The-Mitre-Ramsey-331478816960980/?fref=ts

There are also the weekly sessions at O'Donnells, the White House in Peel, singing session in Ramsey and monthly Tuesday tunes at the Mitre in Kirk Michael and the Friday *Kiaull as Gaelg* music and Manx language sessions at the Albert in Port St Mary. The Friday session that used to be Green's in St Johns is currently held at the Crosby.

See end of KMJ for more details...



The Young'uns - 14th November

The Young'uns are a force of nature on stage. Their irrepressible humour, infectious love for harmony singing, passion for storytelling and commitment to maintaining the tradition of social commentary have quickly made them one of the most sought after acts on the English folk scene with the rare ability to make audiences laugh and cry in equal measure.

Centenary Centre, Peel £15 www.etickets.im/jp/

NEW MUSIC ~ KIAULL NOA

Penelope Isles - DEBUT ALBUM

Manx brother and sister Jack and Lily Wolter are now based in Brighton and have just released their album, Comfortably Swell. Have a listen to some tracks here: <https://soundcloud.com/penelopeisles>

Read a review here by Steve Leach:

www.iomtoday.co.im/what-s-on/manx-entertainment-news/penelope-isles-make-a-very-strong-debut-1-7503282



Two Manx bands will be featured on BBC Lancashire later this month as part of the BBC Introducing...

CARTESIAN JETSTREAM & SCARLETT PARADE

14th November, 8pm at The Ferret, 55 Fylde Road, PR1 2XQ Preston, Lancashire [Free adm]

Any Manxies in the area, please do go along and show some support!

The Tides' new demo "MATES" is now available on soundcloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/thetidesmusic/mates-demo>

Brought to you by
PETER NORRIS MUSIC...

ACOUSTICA **LIVE!**

At the Centenary Centre, Peel.

Matt Creer
John Gregory
Mark Burrows
Jeff Jepson
Steph Joyce
Darryl Williams

November 22nd at 7.30pm.

Tickets- £10 on sale in store.

For more information check out our Facebook Page.



The first Acoustica Live Concert will be at the Centenary Centre, Peel on Sunday 22nd November at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Peter Norris Music. For more info contact Ken or Rob on 661794

Christine Collister

On Nov 6th Cherry Red Records will release a 3 CD deluxe edition of Clive Gregson and Manx

singer Christine Collister's Home and Away - including two live sets from their last shows together. pre-order here: www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0150PMB66





BATTLE OF THE BANDS – AMBER BAR

The line-up has now been finalised for the annual Battle of the Bands competition which takes place throughout November.

The competition will take place over three heats with the following acts confirmed:

Saturday 7th November:

Han FX (Live looping/Hip Hop/MC)

Ironclad (Rock and Metal covers)

Matt Kelly (Solo/Acoustic)

Saturday 14th November:

Mad Daddy (Rockabilly covers/originals)

The Fletcher Christian Mutiny (Metal originals)

Ignite The Sky (Post-Metalcore originals)

Saturday 21st November:

Armad**do (Punk covers)

Mae Challis (Singer/Songwriter, Rock originals)

Southern Audio Conspiracy (Southern Rock, Funk, Blues originals)

Teresa McNulty (Singer/Songwriter, Acoustic, reggae originals)

Saturday 28th November:

The Final! (Acts TBC)

The winner of each heat will go through to take part in a three band final on Saturday the 28th with a first prize of £750 up for grabs.

NY FENNEE ON FILM

Ben Ellis made a fantastic short film about Manx dance team Ny Fennee in Lorient:

<https://vimeo.com/137006924>



That's Entertainment!

Scoil yn Jubilee infants' topic last month was 'entertainment'!

As well as a visit from a magician, a Zumba lesson and trip to the cinema to see behind the scenes, Year 2 classes invited Chloe (Culture Vannin) and Jo Callister (DEC) in to teach them some Hop tu naa songs and the dance and play some Manx traditional tunes. The children were already well versed in some Manx Gaelic phrases and songs thanks to Bnr Dot Saunders who pops in each week.

••••• Youtube/video corner •••••

• Mera Royle (harp) and Paul Cringle (guitar) performed Paul's gorgeous tune "Auldyn River" at a concert in Sulby Isle of Man 26/09/2015: •

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDAb1saZe7o

RESEARCH NEWS

THE SOPHIA MORRISON & JOSEPHINE KERMODE COLLECTION OF MANX FOLK SONGS

A PRELIMINARY VIEW

One of the difficulties of seeing Sophia Morrison and Josephine Kermode as song collectors is that there are no notebooks full of folk songs nor, say, a bundle of sheets pinned or grouped together to conveniently stand out as being the Morrison and Kermode Collection. There is not, for instance, the four tune books that make up the Clague Collection nor the bound transcript of the Gill brothers collecting to hold reassuringly in the hand. Instead, we have loose sheets scattered amongst her personal papers, others to be found in the hands of Kermode, her close friend and it is argued her fellow-collector. Then there are the song texts published in 1905 in *Manx Proverbs and Sayings*. And then, remarkably, her sound recordings made with the phonograph of the Manx Language Society purchased in 1904, the cylinders now lost. Morrison stands out as one of the pioneers in Europe in putting the phonograph to use in recording vernacular song culture.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE by Stephen Miller here: www.manxmusic.com/media/News%20Images%202014/News%20Images%202015/The%20MorrisonKermode%20Collection.pdf

MANXLAND'S KING OF MUSIC

The life of Harry Wood will be revealed in an illustrated talk by Maurice Powell on **Tuesday 10th November at 7.30pm**, Ballaugh Bowling Club.

Maurice has written the history of the Manx Symphony Orchestra, in his book *ENCORE!*, a biography of the Manx-born violinist and teacher Kathleen Rydings, and is currently writing a book about the life and career of Harry Wood.



COLIN JERRY'S MANX MUSIC LEGACY

Bob Carswell will be giving a talk on Colin Jerry [pictured below] and the contribution he made to Manx music on **Saturday, 28th November** at 2.30pm in the Guild Room, Atholl Street, Peel.

Organised by the Celtic League/ Mec Vannin

<< PHOTO OF CRESSY DODD

Pictured on the left is one of Morrison's folksong collectors, Cressy Dodd on her wedding day in 1919 [pic provided by Valerie Caine]. She later emigrated to Australia. You

can read about Cressy Dodd as a collector in this earlier KMJ:

www.manxmusic.com/media/Newsletters/KMJ%20February%202012.pdf





Referring to last month's archive article about Ballasalla dancers going to Cornwall, Joan Cowell from the Manx Folk Dance Society has been in touch:

"The article in KMJ [October] from the IOM Examiner 6th May 1983 was about one of the fund raising events for a group of children from Ballasalla School to go to Cornwall to visit St Newlyn East School, where they stayed with some of the pupils' families, as well as taking part in the Lowender Peran Festival, in Perranporth that year.

The visit was the first of a number of exchange visits I organized. I arranged the trip, which covered about 7 days (4 nights in Cornwall), the IOMSPCo boat journeys, hire of 2 mini-buses in Heysham, staying overnight in Ross-on-Wye en route, some sight-seeing, our visit and liason with St Newlyn East School, taking part in 2 concerts for Lowender Peran, various visits in the area and the journey back with overnight stays in Wells, with more sight-seeing and Arnside. There were 4 adults/drivers and approximately 12-16 children".



Thanks to Joan for sending in these photos of the Ballasalla dancers [above] at Lowender Peran 1983.

Below is a photo from the Manx dancing archive Facebook page, featuring DayCol & Bock Yuan Fannee performing at Lowender Peran. Name that year anyone??



TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH


see www.manxmusic.com for more printable pieces of Manx music

Alan Franklin from the Manx museum library was cataloguing some entertainment programmes from the Falcon Cliff venue in the 1890s, and came across this song - words by J.H. Wicklow and music by A. Wilson Seymoure [MNLH J.62/FAL Accession number M 42400/64].

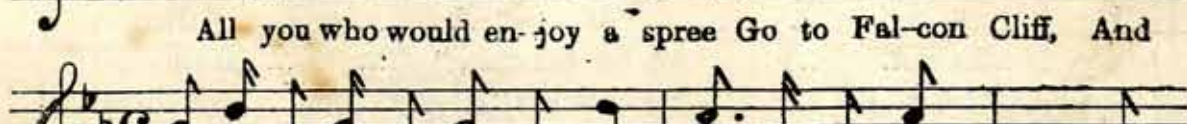
FALCON CLIFF IS THE PLACE FOR ME.

Written by J. H. WICKLOW.

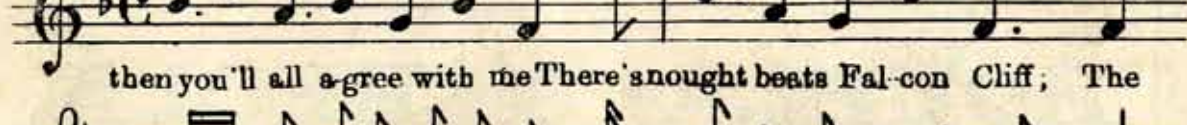
Music by A. WILSON SEYMOUR.



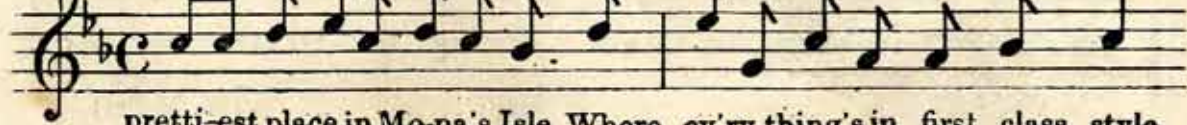
All you who would en-joy a spree Go to Fal-con Cliff, And



then you'll all a-gree with me There's nought beats Fal-con Cliff; The



pretti-est place in Mo-na's Isle, Where ev'-ry-thing's in first class style,



Youth and beau-ty on you smile, Hur-rah for Fal-con Cliff.

Chorus *Tempo de Valse*



Fal-con Cliff is the place for me, Beau-ti-ful girls each



night you will see; Come and en-joy your-selves with me, And



dance at Fal-con Cliff.

Concerts afternoon and night
You'll hear at Falcon Cliff,
Everything is gay and bright
Up at Falcon Cliff;
The best of talent they engage,
They won't have duffers on their stage,
Novelties that are the rage
You'll find at Falcon Cliff.

Chorus.

Dancing by electric light
You'll find at Falcon Cliff,
Programme chang'd both day and night
Up at Falcon Cliff;
The place is crowded day by day,
To hear their splendid string band play,
A shilling each is all you pay
To go to Falcon Cliff.

Chorus.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

5th Front Country – Progressive Bluegrass, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm £13
7th – 28th BATTLE OF THE BANDS - AMBER BAR
7th & 8th The BIG Bree weekend, Youth Arts Centre, Douglas
10th Talk about Harry Wood, Ballaugh Bowling Club, 7.30pm free
14th The Young 'Uns, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm £15 [see poster]
15th Young Musician of Mann Final, Erin Arts Centre, 2pm
22nd & 29th Free taster sessions of Manx dance - Perree Bane, Ballasalla Village Hall 7pm
22nd November – Acoustica Concert with local singer-songwriters, Centenary Centre, Peel £10
22nd Ramsey Town Band concert, Auldyn School, 7.15pm £10 in advance aliburton7@hotmail.com
26th Bree busk in aid of the Family Library at the Strand Shopping Centre, 7pm
28th Talk on Colin Jerry, Guild Room, Peel, 2.30pm [Celtic League/Mec Vannin]
28th Rushen Silver Band concert, Rushen Primary School 7.30pm
28th Caarjyn Coojdjagh at A Taste of Christmas, Dalby Church, details tbc

DECEMBER

11th "An Evening of Seasonal Music" with the Isle of Man Wind Orchestra and Caarjyn

Coojdjagh, Port St Mary Town Hall, 8pm
17th Caarjyn Coojdjagh at Port Erin Commissioners' Carol Service, St Catherine's Church
20th Claasagh student concert, St Bridget's Chapel, Nunnery 4pm. Donations
20th Perree Bane Christmas Ceili, Ballasalla Village Hall, 7pm [see poster]

JANUARY

16th Mec Lir at Celtic Connections, Oran Mor, Glasgow, 7.30pm £14



We were impressed to see Crossroads Care had a Hop tu naa window featuring some of the songs!

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online:
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
Last FRI of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
SAT 10pm Manx 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
www.manxmusic.com

Call: Chloë: 01624 695787
or write to: Music Team, Culture Vannin, The Stable Building, The University Centre, Old Castletown Road, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 1QB

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