

## Yn Chruinnaght Inter-Celtic festival ~ 13-17 July 2016

Yn Chruinnaght, the Isle of Man's biggest annual Inter-Celtic festival, is delighted to bring another superb selection of musicians, singers, dancers, poets and artists together in Peel this month. Beginning life as a one-day festival in Ramsey called Feailley Vanninagh Rhumsaa in 1977, the festival became Yn Chruinnaght (Manx for 'The Gathering') the following year, and it has continued to celebrate the cultures of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany and the Isle of Man for nearly 40 years!

The 2016 line-up and programme offers something for everyone, with the main ticketed concerts running at the Centenary Centre in Peel: Feisty young Welsh folk group Calan, on Wednesday night, bring a "stunning use of instrumentation, gorgeously crafted songs, sprightly foot-tappers, verve and raw excitement" [Belfast Telegraph], while quartet An Tri dipop, on Thursday evening, mix folk, pop and jazz styles with their traditional Breton songs and tunes. Friday night introduces Kezia to the Island; an up and coming singer-songwriter from Cornwall who performed at Glastonbury last month. Kezia joins the Island's own singing legend, Christine Collister, and Manx Gaelic singer-songwriter, Aalin Clague, for the 'Celtic Voices' concert, which promises to be a truly enchanting evening. For those who prefer to take to the dance floor, there is alternatively a ceili to enjoy on the Friday evening at Peel Golf Club, with Breton, Manx and Bulgarian dances to join in with!

Headlining the final Saturday night of Yn Chruinnaght will be Dublin folk miscreants and stars of 'Later... with Jools Holland', Lynched – a group who combine distinctive four-part vocal harmonies with arrangements of uilleann pipes, concertina, Russian accordion, fiddle and guitar. Described by The Guardian as the "most convincing folk band to come out of Ireland in years", this gig is likely to be a sell-out, so don't wait too long to get your tickets!

Other visitors include Carmen Hunt, who will lead a workshop on Cornish dance, and Welsh language expert



Aran Jones, who has been working with Culture Vannin's Manx Language Development Officer to produce an innovative new teaching method called 'Say Something in... Manx'.

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

- 10 years of KMJ!!
- NAMA winners
- Jungle Book Manx musical

**Culture**  
**VANNIN**



Add to the mix some of the Island's top talent: traditional instrumental group Birlinn Jiarg, Gaelic singer Ruth Keggin, Manx duo Isla Callister-Wafer and Cairistiona Dougherty, Katie Lawrence's Folkestra who will be premiering some of Katie's new compositions, Bulgarian singing and piping duo Ivelina and Vladimir, Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums, folk-rockers The Ballaghs, folk singers Marlene Hendy and Dilys Sowrey, Bree youth music group, singer-songwriter Matt Kelly, the Manx Bard, Stacey Astill, Manx dance groups Skeddan Jiarg and Perree Bane, Irish dance groups Scoill Daunse Yernagh Ellan Vannin and The Bailey Murray Academy of Irish Dancing and the fabulous local dance troupe, Rhythm of Bulgaria.

In addition to the ticketed concerts and ceili, there are plenty of free events, such as lunchtime concerts at the Peel Methodist Church, dance and music displays at the House of Manannan, bands' night in the White House, walking tours around Peel, children's Manx music workshops and ceili, a Manx Gaelic afternoon on the beach (Er y Traie) and a 'playing at sessions' workshop to encourage newcomers to join in with some traditional tunes at the pub! Sure are also kindly sponsoring two Inspire! concerts during the day, where local

schoolchildren will experience three fantastic Celtic bands.

Local illustrator Alice Quayle has designed the Peel-themed Yn Chruinnaght programme cover this year and she will join a medley of local artists and producers at the Artisan Craft Fair in the Corrin Hall on Saturday 16 July from 12 till 6pm. Supported by Peel Town Commissioners, the fair also features local designer Greg Joughin, who will be revealing how to draw in the ancient Pictish styles of 'ribbon interlace' and 'key pattern' - places are £10 each (£18 to attend both) and they should be booked in advance by contacting: [info@ynchruinnaght.com](mailto:info@ynchruinnaght.com).

If you can't attend the festival this year, you still don't need to miss out as Yn Chruinnaght will be taking over Manx Radio's AM service on Saturday 16 July from 12.30pm for a mix of Celtic music, chat and live coverage.

Yn Chruinnaght is a not for profit event and the committee is grateful for the generous support of Culture Vannin and the IOM Arts Council, Ramsey and Peel Town Commissioners, Department of Economic Development, Sure, Conister Bank, Shoprite and Paradise & Gell.



Just Google 'Manx Celtic festival' and you'll find Yn Chruinnaght top of the list!

TICKETS available to buy in person only from the Festival Office in Peel Centenary Centre from Wed midday.  
\*NB Paypal and shop sales have now closed\*

**Full details of the programme:**

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

**For more information, tel. 302200  
or email [info@ynchruinnaght.com](mailto:info@ynchruinnaght.com)**



## “Manannan’s Isle - An Evening of Manx Celtic Music and Dance”

Coming later this month is a special opportunity to see the show that everyone was talking about at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany last year, when the Isle of Man wowed audiences with a dazzling showcase of Manx Celtic music and dance!

Described as the Isle of Man’s “Riverdance”, this family-friendly show was created for the 2015 ‘Year of the Isle of Man’ at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient. The performers will be brought together once again for Isle of Man premiere of the show on Sunday 24th July at the Gaiety Theatre.

Produced by Culture Vannin, “Manannan’s Isle” will appeal to locals and visitors alike, and it features Manx acts including upbeat band Mec Lir, skilful dance group Ny Fennee, Rushen Silver Band, trad power trio Barrule, Gaelic singer Ruth Kegginn and choir Caarjyn Coodjagh, plus solo trumpet player Russell Gilmour, mini dancers Skeddan Jiarg, and the mighty Celtic sea-god Manannan himself!

The Isle of Man will be represented again this summer at Lorient, Europe’s largest Celtic festival, by Manx dance group Ny Manninee, bands Mec Lir and Birlinn Jiarg, singer-songwriter Matt Creer, plus duo Cairistiona Dougherty and Isla Callister. A team of eager volunteers will also be travelling to the festival to run a pavilion dedicated to promoting the Island.

Tickets are £10 (£5 for under 16s) from [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com)

For more information: [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com) and [www.culturevannin.im](http://www.culturevannin.im)

**CONGRATS to Young singer of Mann - Robyn-Mae Lawler!!**

Also nice to hear that Manx songs were performed by some of the talented young competitors including “Hush Little Darling” and “Cur dty Vainney” sung in Gaelic.

# LAA RUGGYREE SONNEY DA KMJ!! 10 YEARS OF KMJ

It's 10 years since the launch of Kiaull Manninagh Jiu, the Manx music and dance e-newsletter first created by Dr Cinzia Yates when she was Manx Music Resource Coordinator for the Manx Heritage Foundation.

In July 2006 Yn Chruinnaght waved goodbye to the marquee on Peveril Plot as it made way for the new Northern Swimming Pool; Kirsty and Katie Lawrence were preparing for the launch of their CD, Three Baatyn Beggey; Irish musicians Maire Breatnach (Fiddle/Voice) and Cormac de Barra (Harp) were on their way over to the Isle of Man to deliver workshops alongside recent new resident and Scottish guitarist Malcolm Stitt; Moot were short-listed to participate in the Liet Lavlut European minority language song contest in Sweden; and Perree Bane returned from their trip to Llangollen.

Read the July 2006 edition here: <http://manxmusic.com/media/Newsletters/July2006.pdf>



10 years later and Perree Bane are still regular participants in the International Eisteddfod of Wales in Llangollen and they have just scooped 3rd prize in the folk dance competition last week!

You can watch their performance online here: <http://llangollen.tv/>

[thanks to Caroline Helps for the photos]

<http://international-eisteddfod.co.uk/>



# Llangollen 2016





The IOM Arts Council Manx music and dance summer season has got off to a great start with a lovely concert from Caarjyn Coidjagh and Perree at the end of June, and a concert with harp group Claasagh (pictured above) and Cliogaree Twoaie last week. Others concert for July are:

14 Rushen Silver Band / Matt Creer

21 Shoh Slaynt

28 Dilys & Marlene / Manx Folk Dance Society

Free admission. Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas, 8pm

## New Harp teacher on Island

Music teacher Christa McCartney has recently returned to the Isle of Man and has joined the team at Mannin Music. As well as singing and theory, Christa offers lessons on Celtic harp.



[www.manninmusic.com/teachers/christa-mccartney/](http://www.manninmusic.com/teachers/christa-mccartney/)

### **Youtube/video corner**

“Walking the coast of the Isle of Man” is a short film with a brand new song. Enjoy highlights of the walk around the coast of the Isle of Man by Dr Joel Rookwood accompanied by music & lyrics by Sam (aged 11!), his mum Ems Hancock and her brother Joel.

<https://vimeo.com/169738522>

# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

**Barrule have recently returned from an exciting tour of the USA and Canada where they have been sharing Manx music with new ears in places such Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts and Baffin Island. They'll be heading across the Atlantic again in August to perform at several US music festivals.**

Here is a report by Will Quale who met up with the band in New York...

When thousands of Americans at a major folk festival hear Manx music for the first time ever, they get up and dance!

Barrule were among over thirty performers at the 36th Old Songs Festival (Altamont, NY, USA) whose music ranged from American old time and blues, to Newfoundland shanties and Cape Breton fiddle, to French dances, English music hall, Dutch shanties, Irish fiddle, Indian sitar & tabla, ... and now the mighty Manx. When Barrule played at the open-air Saturday evening concert, the audience -- typically quietly seated in lawn chairs and on blankets under the stars -- burst to life and many ran down to the area in front of the stage and started dancing. Elsewhere on the state fairgrounds, people walking along the paths or queued up at food vendors stopped in their tracks and started dancing, and immediately after their set there was a rush on their albums at the sales booth. Barrule CDs and tunebooks quickly sold out. Mannin aboo!!!

The lads gave a longer concert on Sunday morning, and participated in several workshops during the weekend on Manx culture, songs in unfamiliar languages, Celtic fiddle styles, and the great accordion mashup, letting them share the stage with musicians from other traditions, compare and discuss their styles, and launch into some all-star tunes and medleys that left both audience and performers alike awestruck.

Old Songs was just one weekend in a massive tour of the USA and Canada for Barrule which has also seen them play the Mystic Seaport Shanty Festival, numerous concerts around New England, and finally the Alianait Arts Festival in Iqaluit in the far north of Canada. But they got a surprise taste of the homeland mid-way through their tour -- a picnic featuring two pounds of Isle of Man cheddar following their last workshop at Old Songs!

**Read more in an article about the tour by Val Caine:**

[www.transceltic.com/blog/isle-of-man-barrule-set-out-north-american-tour](http://www.transceltic.com/blog/isle-of-man-barrule-set-out-north-american-tour)



## REVIEW BY CHARLIE JORDAN

*Barrule from the Isle of Man put on a wonderful concert tonight presented by the GNWCA at the Tillotson Center in Colebrook, N.H. The audience truly loved these guys! Tom, Jamie and Adam shared top-notch performances of songs from their homeland, as well as delighted everyone with great stories and anecdotes from the Isle of Man. I suspect that there will be a tourist influx from here headed to Barrule's spot on the globe after they conveyed the charm of their region so successfully.*

*Thanks for a great night, Barrule!*

## BLAZING A CELTIC TRAIL

Christine Collister represented the Isle of Man at Australian Celtic Festival in April.

Read about her experiences here:

[www.runningmedia.com/christine-collister/blazing-a-celtic-trail/](http://www.runningmedia.com/christine-collister/blazing-a-celtic-trail/)



**MANXIES RETURN TO CELTIC COLOURS** Barrule & Mec Lir have both been invited to join the line-up for 20th anniversary of Celtic Colours 2016 & part of the Unusual Suspects of Celtic Colours: <http://celtic-colours.com/artists/>

Promo video: [https://youtu.be/0v9inS1\\_KDU](https://youtu.be/0v9inS1_KDU)

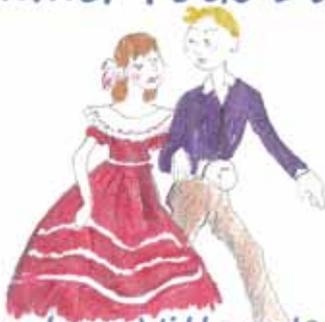
## SUCCESS for Scoil Daunse Yernagh Ellan Vannin!!

Well done to Sharon Rye's young Irish dancers who did fantastically well at the All Irelands Championships in Killarney last month, scooping a whole array of cups and medals!! Watch them perform at Yn Chruinnaght outside House of Manannan on Sun 17th July.

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



## Summer Folk Dance



Onchan Village Hall

Royal Avenue

Saturday, 9th July 2016

\*\*\* 8pm \*\*\*

\*\* Everyone welcome \*\*

No booking required-just turn up on the night

Faith Supper \*\* £2.50 (members £1)

Paul Rogers from Strengyn, Skeal and The Fecktones has been travelling around Europe recently and he tells KMJ that he's been teaching Spanish schoolchildren the "Flutter Dance"!

# Michael School produces legendary show

Manx myths and legends were the subject of a series of shows staged by pupils and staff at Michael School this week.

The 90-minute production, which took place on Wednesday afternoon and evening and yesterday (Thursday) evening, was timed to coincide with Manx national week.

Children playing Celtic god Manannan and fairy tales author Sophia Morrison guided the audience through a range of acts involving songs, sketches and dance routines, culminating in a rousing medley of the Manx national anthem and Lady Isabella.

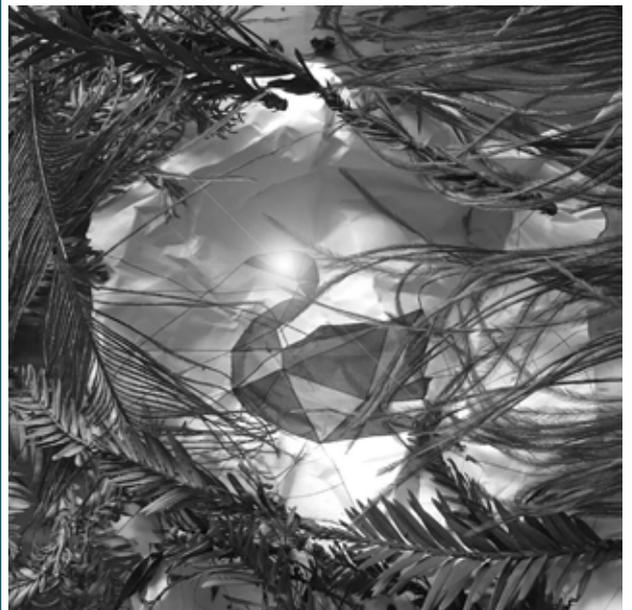
See more pictures: [www.iomtoday.co.im/news/isle-of-man-news/pictures-michael-school-produces-legendary-show-1-8002229#ixzz4DowS0db8](http://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/isle-of-man-news/pictures-michael-school-produces-legendary-show-1-8002229#ixzz4DowS0db8)



## KIAULL NOA ~ NEW MUSIC

A poster for the event 'TRUMAN FALLS'. The central illustration features two large blue birds with their wings spread, facing each other as if about to kiss. They are positioned above a large orange sun. Below the sun, several smaller black birds are flying. At the bottom of the illustration, a person is sitting on a branch of a tree. The text 'TRUMAN FALLS' is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, in smaller black text, it says 'SATURDAY 20 AUGUST 2016 • CENTENARY CENTRE • PEEL • 8PM • £10'. At the bottom left, there is a small square logo with a colorful abstract design. To the right of the logo, it says 'New album "HEADSWIMS" available from www.trumanfalls.com'. At the bottom right, in very small text, it says 'Design by Brian Corbett'.

News from the Jules Verne Theory - the duo have delivered their debut album to Ninthwave Records, and "Black Swan Events" will be released on the 29th July.



# Survey of Island's Church Organs

Culture Vannin has just completed a survey of the Island's church organs along with pipe organs installed in private houses.

Some 62 instruments have been photographed and described and these appear along with recordings of some of the instruments, played by Gareth Moore.

The Island has a particularly rich heritage of church organs, some of which date back to the early 19th century and due to the tireless work of local organ builder, Peter Jones, they are all in immaculate condition. Some of the instruments are



modest, tucked away in rural churches and chapels, but others are quite spectacular and are fronted by ornate cases, beautifully decorated pipes and are placed in commanding positions in the church.

Each instrument has been photographed in detail, with a general view of the church, as well as close-ups of the keyboards, the pipes, and often the interior mechanisms. The majority of the photography has been done by Peel photographer John Hall, with some additional photographs by Peter Hearsey.

The short history and descriptions of the instruments have been written by Peter Jones who has been maintaining and building organs on the Isle of Man for over 30 years. The Isle of Man must surely be unique in having so many instruments in such a small area, and all in such good condition.

Some of the organs were actually built on the Isle of Man by the company Morgan: Organ Builders of Athol Street, and even as the project was being completed some of the places of worship featured have closed, including Lezayre Parish Church and Croit-e-Caley Chapel, making this survey even more important as a record of a hidden part of the Island's heritage.

A number of local musicians have had pipe organs installed in their houses, and these are also featured along with the historic Wurlitzer organ in the Villa Marina arcade.

To complete the survey Gareth Moore, Head of Music at King William's College, has recorded short pieces on several of the instruments, and in some cases there are links to videos of the instruments as well.

To view the complete collection, click on the link below and select the particular instrument you would like to see: [www.culturevannin.im/special/church\\_organ/](http://www.culturevannin.im/special/church_organ/)

Photo - The magnificent pipe organ in Trinity Church in Douglas.

<http://manx.net/isle-of-man-news/79779/survey-of-island-s-church-organs>

## USHAG VARREY - THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG BY BOB CARSWELL

*Manx Gaelic singer Ruth Keggin launched her second album 'Turrys' last month and one of the songs featured on it is the beautiful song "Ushag Varrey" by Bob Carswell. Bob tells us more about the song...*

"Ushag Varrey was written in 1980, and it was to be performed at the Pan Celtic Festival in Killarney in May 1981. It was going to be sung by Jan Percival, but she found that the time she would need to take in travelling there and back wouldn't fit in with her teaching commitments.

That year, Ballasalla Primary School went to Killarney to take part. Bernard Osborne was playing fiddle for them, and Bernard drove us down in a minibus rented at Dublin airport. Alun Davies, the Director of Education at the time, wanted to stop the school attending, because it was when the IRA hunger strikes were on and he was worried about possible political activity. John Martin, the headmaster, and myself went to talk to him and assured him it would be fine, so the trip took place despite his reservations. Needless to say, Bobby Sands died on 5th May, and there was, in fact, a demonstration and march through Killarney by Republicans. Also, the window of the minibus was smashed, but since that was an Irish-registered vehicle, it was obviously just vandalism.

With Jan being unable to make it, I told Con O'Connail that the Island wouldn't have an entry in the Inter-Celtic Song Contest after all, but he and other committee members were very keen on the Island's being represented. I went along to where the Ballasalla party was staying, and we got together in a large sitting room and worked something out. They didn't feel they could learn all the tune and all the words in such a short time. I played my flute to introduce it; they sang the opening two lines as I played on; then whilst I carried on playing the tune, Fiona Baker spoke the bird's words.

Fiona was the daughter of Gordon and Nola Baker. Gordon had been Director of Education prior to Alun Davies, but had died suddenly.

Again, Fiona didn't feel she could learn the tune and fit the words to it in the short time available, but she was confident enough to at least speak them, which she proceeded to do very well.

Actually, it was quite effective. I remember I was wearing a light-coloured suit and the children wore their Manx dancing kit. A Welsh woman who had been there, Margaret Williams, was talking about our performance with some people in the hotel bar later on, before realizing I was just behind her. Fortunately, she was just saying how lovely it all looked when we appeared on stage, and how the youngsters had performed very creditably. The winner that year was Kathleen MacDonald with Oran do Cheit, but I don't think we were disgraced. The Von Trapp family image was actually rather striking and I think our hastily improvised arrangement was quite striking, too. It means, too, that somewhere in the Pan Celtic archives there may still be a copy of the words of Ushag Varrey in Manx, English and French (for the Breton adjudicator), with a sketch of the tune".

### Ushag Varrey - translation

*Seabird, come down and tell me your news,  
Happenings above and below; oh tell me, I beseech you.  
They're despoiling the air, they're destroying the beaches  
I'm shedding tears for they are knocking down our homes.  
They build new houses with no respect for the land,  
With no respect for the land, alas.*

*Tell me, sweet bird, the cause you speak of:  
Who is doing harm now, why are you crying?  
There is poison in every wave, there is death in the clouds.  
They complain about it, but it's their own fault.  
Humans in a nightmare, they pay no heed  
They pay no heed, alas.*

*Seabird, come down and tell me your news,  
Happenings above and below; oh tell me, I beseech you.  
The wind will blow over the sea,  
That will, in time, strip away the quality of the earth.  
Rise up, you who are wise, that I need not cry,  
That I need not cry, 'Alas!'*

**SEE transcription of the  
month for the song**

# Singing in the Jungle!

By Annie Kissack

Every Easter, during their holidays from work at the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, teachers Aalin Clague and Annie Kissack set themselves the task of writing a full-length musical in Manx for performance at the school. The only proviso is that it must be written in a couple of weeks, and contain as many original songs in Manx as can be fitted in- (usually in the region of 15-20 a year!) Some years they have entered into the wilder realms of Manx legend- the Norse epic, Yn Cliwe Macabuin- (The Sword Macabuin) springs to mind, and on other occasions and with input from the children, they have sent their creative instincts up into space!

But this year's musical, 'Lioar yn Doofyr', a Manx version of Kipling's the Jungle Book, has presented an unanticipated challenge with the release of a new film version over the same period. This, coupled with the fact that the rollicking tunes and English words of the original 1960s Disney version are still firmly fixed in everyone's head, gave the two teachers a conundrum. Would it be possible to present something that came anywhere near to the fun and spirit of the original music? Would the presence of 2 excellent versions in English mean that a Manx version could not hope to compete? Well, to date, practices are well underway and so far, the new tunes are going down a treat, lots of words are being learned (and forgotten) and teachers are pulling out their hair! But it will all be worth it in the final week of term, July 18th and 19th when the children get to perform on stage.

For those of us whose minds run to these things, is interesting to think about the difference between traditional Manx songs (with which Aalin and Annie are very familiar) and the sort of music written especially for singing by children who use Manx everyday, but are still very much learners. Often Manx traditional songs are extremely long, and refer to events affecting the whole community at the time of singing or not long after; stories of misadventures at sea seem to comprise a large part of the ballads we still have. Many would seem to suggest a soloist-not a group. Words, and their contexts are sometimes difficult to understand with the passage of time. Choruses are unusual with the few honourable exceptions. And of course the tunes themselves are used again and again in different contexts, secular and religious.

In these new Manx school songs, tradition is there too but you have to look for it and perhaps some of the tradition is only a tradition within the school community. For example, each year the audiences are expected to join in a rousing chorus of Smie lhiam cappan dy hey! (I like a cup of tea) whether we're on a distant planet, a Viking tea party, or down the rabbit hole with Ealish! Yes, tragic narratives do appear but they are short, often tongue-in-cheek and with an appropriately lugubrious tune! The criteria for including certain lyrics is often a linguistic one; as lots of children misuse a particular phrase, let's put the correct version in the play and sing it rather a lot! Sometimes the lyrics direct the action, portray a character or merely comment on a situation. As for tunes, children will not sing what they do not enjoy, so although adaptations of traditional tunes pop up here and there, and everyone at the Bunscoil loves a minor key, nonetheless, catchy music is what it's all about. This year there's a strong jazz feel for obvious reasons! And whereas there are some wonderfully moving solo performances each year, choruses and two and three-part songs are becoming the norm. Traditional? Well maybe not from a purist point of view, but worthwhile, certainly!

When the excitement is over and the children have sung their hearts out, some of the songs do survive past their yearly expiry date and may surface in different guises in the future. And in that, they are certainly continuing in 'the tradition'!

**Performances are on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July**  
**- contact the school for more information: [BunscoilEnquiries@sch.im](mailto:BunscoilEnquiries@sch.im)**

# RESEARCH NEWS

*Manx National Songs* ed. WH Gill celebrates 120 years this year!!  
Peel City Guardian; 26 Dec 1896

## INTERESTING LECTURE BY MR W. H. GILL.

The issue of the volume of Manx songs by his Honour Deemster Gill, Mr W. H. Gill, of London, and Dr Clague, of Castletown, has done a very great deal during the last few months to create an interest in Manx music.

In view of the forthcoming concert in the Grand Theatre, on January 7th, when the programme will entirely consist of Manx music, we give a brief summary of a lecture given in London on Saturday last before the members of the Irish Literary Society.

Mr Hall Caine, who it was expected would have taken the chair, wrote that he must "reluctantly, most reluctantly, forego the honour," his recent story-telling tour in Scotland having resulted in great exhaustion.

Mr Gill, in the course of his address, said that to give anything like an intelligent account of the subject one ought to prepare the ground by describing the people who had produced the music, and the country which had produced the people. The romantic scenery, deeply interesting history, picturesque language, ancient manners and customs, and many other things constituted factors in the evolution of this national music. Although Manx music was very ancient, its discovery was almost as recent as the last voyage to the North Pole. It was almost incredible that, until a few months ago, people generally in the Isle of Man only knew of the existence of some 13 tunes, which were published in 1820, and of these less than half were known to the Manxman of to-day. As a result of recent effort, 260 tunes had been rescued from oblivion. Where did they find these fragments of a national minstrelsy? Not in the libraries and museums, nor in the modern Manx drawing-

**“THERE OCCUR SEVERAL ERRORS”**  
***TWELVE MANX FOLK SONGS***  
**MONA DOUGLAS IN DISPUTE WITH**  
**THE MANX LANGUAGE SOCIETY (1928)**

In 1928, Margaret Creer of the Manx Language Society sent a letter to Mona Douglas, the full text of which reads as follows:

Baldwin Schoolhouse

May 1th 1928

Dear Miss Douglas,

The Executive C'tee desire me to draw your attention to the song in Manx recently published by you, and in which there occur several errors. They request that you submit the text to an authority via the Executive so that the errors may be avoided in your future editions.

With best wishes for your success in your new sphere.

Yours sincerely, | Margaret Creer

The “new sphere” refers to her *Twelve Manx Folk Songs with Manx Gaelic and English Words*, the first number (or Set as it was so designated) which had appeared that same year published in London by Stainer & Bell. There was a further issue of another twelve songs the next year. The trilogy of titles as it became was completed only as late as 1957, with a final batch of twelve songs.

**READ the full article by Stephen Miller:** [http://manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_437509.html](http://manxmusic.com/news_story_437509.html)



## North American Manx Awards 2016 - the winners!

Congratulations to all of the recipients of the NAMA awards - annual prizes for young people who have contributed to Manx culture. The winner of the Manx music prize was Abbigail Radcliffe (middle of picture above), a talented young fiddle player from the Dhoon School. Manx dancer and CRHS student Ailish Williams was awarded a medal for her outstanding contribution to Manx culture, and her brother, musician Owen Williams, won an award for his progress in Manx Gaelic. Representatives from the Bree Manx music youth group (pictured above with former NAMA President Kelly McCarthy) received the award for outstanding contribution by a group of under 25 year olds.

Watch coverage of the awards: <http://manx.net/tv/mt-tv/watch/79866/north-american-manx-awards>

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Here is Bob Carswell's "Ushag Varrey" [Manx for Seabird] which is published in *Kiaull yn Theay 3*

## Ushag varrey

Arraneyn 'sy Ghailck (1996)

Robert Corteen Carswell

1. Ushag varrey, tar neose, as insh dou dty naight -  
Reddyn heese as reddyn heese - o insh dou ta briaght.  
T'ad mhillley yn aer, t'ad mhillley ny traieyn.  
Ta mish shillej jeir - t'ad lhiggey nyn dhielyn.  
Thieyn noa t'ad troggal seose gyn scansh da'n cheer, Gyn scansh da'n cheer, atreih.
2. Insh dou, ushag villish, yn chooish t'ou cheet er.  
Quoi ta jannoo jeill nish, yn oyr t'ou keayney?  
Ta nieu ayns dagh tonn, ta baase ayns ny bodjallyn.  
Ta'd gaccan my-e-chione. She eiyrtys nyn voiljyn.  
Deiney ayns drogh-ashlish, cah nel ad cur geill, Cha nel ad cur geill, atreih.
3. Ushag varrey, tar neose, as insh dou dty naight -  
Reddyn heese as reddyn heese - o insh dou ta briaght.  
Sheidee yn gheay harrish y voir  
Nee lomman ayns traa dooghys ny hooirey.  
Irree shiuish creeney, nagh nhegin dou gra, Nagh nhegin dou gra, "Atreih".

# CALENDAR

## JULY

3rd Yn Chruinnaght music & dance displays,  
Mooragh Park, Ramsey, 2pm FREE

5th Tynwald Day [and Manx National Week]

7th Yn Chruinnaght Lecture - Colin Jerry  
- Cornerstone of the Manx Music Revival,  
Ramsey Town Hall, 7.30pm FREE

7th Claasagh & Cliogaree Twoaie, IOMAC  
Manx music & dance summer season concert,  
as above

9th MFDS Social Evening, St Peters Village Hall,  
Onchan

13th-17th Yn Chruinnaght, Peel & Ramsey [www.ynchruinnaght.com](http://www.ynchruinnaght.com)

14th Rushen Silver Band & Matt Creer, IOMAC  
summer season concert as above

21st Shoh Slaynt, IOMAC summer season  
concert as above

24th Manannan's Isle – An Evening of Manx  
Celtic Music & Dance, Gaiety Theatre, 7.30pm  
£10/£5

28th Marlene & Dilys, Manx Folk Dance Society,  
IOMAC summer season concert as above

## AUGUST

5th-14th Festival Interceltique de Lorient,  
Brittany

28th Mannin Music, IOMAC summer season  
concert Villa Arcade, 3pm, FREE



YC2016: Bob Carswell gave a lecture about Colin Jerry  
last week and Skeddán Jiarg danced at Mooragh Park.



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

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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