

## The Isle of Man is the shining light at Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany

Manx music, dance, art, literature, food and drink, crafts, cultural and tourist information have been shared with over 800,000 people already at Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany. The good news is they can't get enough of everything and anything related to the Isle of Man! Whether it's Manx queenies or bumbee cages, traditional dance or singer-songwriters, the 'heart of the Celtic world' has taken centre stage and shown that, as a nation, the Isle of Man can punch above its weight.

Over 100 musicians and dancers featured in two amazing gala nights at the Grand Theatre and the Espace Marine - the latter a dazzling show centring on Manannan and the sea. Carefully choreographed to showcase the very finest Manx dance, music and song within a tight timescale, the show received a standing ovation - and this was only the first half before jointly honoured nation, Cornwall, took to the stage. It is hoped that the show will be performed again in the Isle of Man in the not too distant future.

In a fantastic finale to this special year, the Isle of Man was also top of the pops in the prestigious Trophée Loic Raison band competition, where Barrule took first place, with the Ruth Keggin Band in close second!

Manx food and drink have proved incredibly popular at the IOM-Cornwall pavilion, which caters for thousands of people each day. Artisan products and souvenirs form the centre of a busy shop where tourist and cultural information is also handed out each day.

A joint art exhibition with Cornwall has broken festival records in terms of footfall and popularity.

This year's presentation represents a working partnership between festival organisers, Culture Vannin, the Isle of Man Arts Council, DEFA, DED, Manx National Heritage and local businesses, in conjunction with Cornwall Council and the Cornish Language Partnership. Sponsorship was also received from the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company.

### **GET MORE OF A FLAVOUR...**

See pictures, video links, press cuttings, and much more: [www.facebook.com/manxlorient?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/manxlorient?fref=ts)

**Article about the Manx double victory at Trophée Loic Raison:** <http://namanx.blogspot.com/2015/08/manx-bands-clinch-double-victory-at.html>

#### **MTTV videos**

Paul Moulton from MTTV joined the Manx delegation to report back daily to the Island. You can find 18 videos at manx.net, including this one about Cairistiona Dougherty who sang in Alain Pennac's new score for Hitchcock's iconic silent movie *The Manxman*: [www.manx.net/tv/mt-tv/watch/73639/interceltique-lorient-cairistiona-dougherty](http://www.manx.net/tv/mt-tv/watch/73639/interceltique-lorient-cairistiona-dougherty)

Ben Ellis also made this fabulous video about Ny Fennee in Lorient:

<https://vimeo.com/137006924>

#### **OFFICIAL FIL videos**

Soirée d'ouverture Cornouailles Île de Man- Festival Interceltique Lorient 2015

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOE6Dqf6CRw&feature=youtu.be&list=PLqGLXcPhzXlc\\_8Tu5xUIQICZ5AHoKPQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOE6Dqf6CRw&feature=youtu.be&list=PLqGLXcPhzXlc_8Tu5xUIQICZ5AHoKPQ)

Grande Nuit de la Cornouailles et de l'Île de Man - Festival Interceltique Lorient 2015 [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jr\\_JeXLmo1o&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jr_JeXLmo1o&feature=youtu.be)

**Listen again** to this special feature with Amy Griffiths who was correspondent for Manx Radio: [www.manxradio.com/radioplayer/od/1962/](http://www.manxradio.com/radioplayer/od/1962/)

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

- Celtic Harp weekend
- Aon Teanga in concert
- Autoharp workshops
- Manx Folk Dance Society in Sweden
- Play - "Ta Cashen Ersooyl"

**Culture**  
**VANNIN**



# Unique Musical Collaboration Brings Three Gaelic Nations Together at the Centenary Centre

Later this month there's an opportunity to celebrate the linguistic, musical and cultural Gaelic links as one language between the sister nations at a special Manx launch at the Centenary Centre in Peel.

This unique collaboration, bringing together expressive vocals from three of the Gaelic nations as one voice, re-unites the Scottish, Irish and Manx Gaels for the first time in centuries.

It was a chance encounter during 2013 at the legendary Watercolour Music Studios in Ardgour (co-owned by one of Scotland's most influential musicians and broadcasters - Mary Ann Kennedy) which prompted this revolutionary expression.

Meeting the dynamic, young Manx Gaelic singer, Ruth Keggins, who had arrived to record her debut album, Sheear, Mary Ann Kennedy was introduced to the acclaimed sean-nós singer, Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin, from Connemara in Ireland. In a joint effort between the Isle of Man Arts Council's Island of Culture 2014 and PRS for Music Foundation's Beyond Borders commissioning programme for new music, Comar and Watercolour Music have teamed up with Belfast's Gaelic Arts Centre and Culture Vannin to assist these young singers in their quest.

The project has developed into an album and an extensive tour, embracing both traditional and newly composed songs, with music in all three languages.

They will be joined by Clare fiddler Ultan O' Brien, guitarist David Pearce and double bassist Vanessa Hutchinson.

Earlier in the summer, members of Aon Teanga: Un Chengey embarked on two tours of Scotland and Ireland, playing in Dublin, Galway, Belfast, Donegal, Perthshire, and Tobermory in the Isle of Mull.

After performing at the celebrated Lorient Interceltique Festival, they headed back up to Scotland to perform in Argyllshire, including the islands of Mull and Iona.

The forthcoming concert at the Centenary Centre in Peel will hold a special significance, as it will double as the official launch of their much-anticipated debut album.

It will also be Mary Ann Kennedy's first visit to the Isle of Man, when she hopes to meet up with traditional singers and musicians from the Island, including Manx harpist and musician, Charles Guard; both of whom were former members of the long-standing folk group The Whistlebinkies.

The combined concert and album launch starts at 8.00pm on Friday 18 September, with tickets purchased in advance priced at £8 available from Celtic Gold, Shakti Man and Thompson Travel, or £10 on the door if not sold out. Alternatively, they can be bought directly from Ruth Keggins ([info@ruthkeggins.com](mailto:info@ruthkeggins.com)).

Those involved with Aon Teanga: Un Chengey would also like to thank Enterprise Music Scotland and Columcille (The Columba Project) for their continued support.

Valerie Caine © August 2015

(Photo courtesy of Sean Purser)



**AON TEANGA: UN CHENGEY**  
A GAELIC REUNION

*Three superbly expressive voices from the three Gaelic nations as one voice, reuniting the Scottish, Irish and Manx Gaels. Aon Teanga: Un Chengey celebrates the linguistic, musical and cultural connections of Gaelic as one language between the sister-nations for the first time in centuries*

Ruth Keggins Mannin Mary Ann Kennedy Alba Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin Éire

**DEBUT ALBUM LAUNCH**  
Friday 18th September – 8pm  
Peel Centenary Centre  
Tickets £10 on the door / £8 in advance  
(Available from: Thompson Travel, Celtic Gold and Shakti Man)

Comar Culture Vannin ISLE OF MAN Arts Council ENTERPRISE MUSIC SCOTLAND COLUMCILLE CULTUR LANN MANNIN O' Brien

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

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

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

# ALL-IRELAND HARP CHAMPION FIANA NÍ CHONAILL MANX VISIT

Mactullagh Vannin is proud to present All Ireland Harp Champion Fiana Ní Chonail in concert on Friday 25th September at St Paul's Church, Ramsey at 7:30pm. The concert ~ Kiaull Cruitçeraght will also feature a whole host of local young musicians including Share na Veg, and Amy Stoutt & Mera Royle. The majority of the concert will feature Manx and Irish Traditional music on the Celtic harp (Claarsagh), so harp lovers will be in for a real treat!

Tickets on the door ~ Adults £5, Under 16s £3.

In addition to Friday's concert, Fiana will be visiting local schools to demonstrate the harp and the similarities between Manx and Irish traditional music. On Saturday 26th September there's a chance for local musicians to drop in on the lunchtime event Kiaull as Bee, a 'Food & Folk' traditional music session, at the Mitre Hotel, Ramsey, 12 – 2pm. All welcome. Free event, just order your food at the bar!

The 'Food & Folk' will be followed by a harp workshop ~ Keirdlann Cruitçeraght by Fiana in the function room of the Mitre Hotel from 2 – 4pm. The workshop is aimed at all levels, just bring your harp with you! Free admission but there will be an opportunity to give a donation to help cover costs.

At 7:30 – 10pm there will be a family ceili at Sulby Community Hall with the Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band and Fiana will be guesting with the band and playing her own sets also.

Tickets on the door ~ Adults £5, Under 16s £3 and bring your own refreshments. Suitable for all ages and all welcome!

## **Fiana Ní Chonail - Performer & Teacher**

Fiana hails from Castleconnell, Co Limerick. She comes from a family which has been involved in Irish music for three generations and was reared in a household immersed in the Irish music tradition. Her grandmother is an instrument maker and her aunts include two all-Ireland winning harpists and an all-Ireland winning concertina player. Fiana started learning the harp at the age of 10, then went on to Limerick school of music in 2000 under the tutelage of the renowned harper Dr. Janet Harbison.

Fiana became heavily involved with Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Éireann at the age of 15, where she competed through the years, right up to senior level. Her achievements include numerous All-Ireland medals as well as achieving first place in the Harp Slow Airs competition in 2012. Fiana has won numerous prizes at local harp festivals, including those in Keadue and Granard and the senior title at the O'Carolan Harp festival in Nobber, Co. Meath in 2009.

Her own students are now beginning to gain recognition through competition which includes the winning of All-Ireland medals at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann as well as other local competitions. She has also given workshops both in Ireland and abroad. These include workshops for the Blossom Harp School, based between Co. Clare and Co. Galway, The Transpennine Harps society and Glasgow Harp society which are both branches of the Clársach Society.

Fiana completed her BA in Irish Music and Dance in 2012 with a First Class Honours degree at the University of Limerick. She went onto graduate from Newcastle University in the UK with an Mmus in Musicology in 2013, and she is about to commence a PhD at the University of Limerick in Music and Tourism.



Highlights of her career to date include performing for former President of Ireland Mary McAleese, The Emperor and Empress of Japan and other state officials and dignitaries as well as performing in front of 50,000 people as part of the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Trafalgar Square, London in 2014. Having toured extensively throughout Europe and the US, Fiana is very much looking forward to adding the Isle of Man to her portfolio of countries, and says ~

"I want to extend a sincere thank you to Peddyr Cubberley for inviting me to visit the Isle of Man. I am excited to follow in the footsteps of some of the great harpers who have visited before me including Mary O' Hara, Gráinne Yeats, Róisín Ní Shé, Cormac de Barra, Gráinne Hambly and Máire Ní Chathasaigh. I look forward to sharing my experience of the Irish harp and Ireland's traditional music with you, through the concert, workshop, session, ceili, and school visits that are organised. Furthermore I am excited to experience and engage with the music and culture of Mann, with the hope of creating a potential ongoing link between both countries and our young harpers."

Fiana has recently completed the Comhaltas TTCT teaching Diploma as well as their Adjudicators training course. She continues to teach and perform; bringing this wealth of experience of the tradition to her own students and audiences alike.

Organiser for Mactullagh Vannin, Peddyr Cubberley says ~

"We're very excited to have Fiana agree to visit us as she brings with her a wealth of skill and experience which will benefit our own young harpers greatly, as well as being a real treat for music lovers alike, especially fans of the harp. I am in no doubt that she will compliment the sterling work already being done by others to teach and encourage our younger musicians. It is hoped that a cultural exchange can be reinstated between Mann and Ireland once again, after an absence of such a thing for far too long!"



Mactullagh Vannin is a Manx traditional music band that was founded in 1984 by Sue-Ling Jaques, Mai-Ying Lee-Ellis, David Collister, John Corlett and Peddyr Cubberley. Firmly established as one of Mann's most important traditional music ensembles, whose members hail from the cultural revival of the 1970s, Mactullagh Vannin have been hugely influential having laid down the foundations that many Manx bands have since built upon. The group have a strong ethos of loyalty to the tradition from which their music comes and yet still bring a fresh, inspiring approach to their performances.

For further information, please contact Peddyr Cubberley at [Peddyr@manx.net](mailto:Peddyr@manx.net)

Mactullagh Vannin ~ [www.facebook.com/groups/231299359610](https://www.facebook.com/groups/231299359610)

Fiana Ní Chonail ~ <http://www.fianaharpmusic.com>



# Kiaull Cruitçheraght



## A Concert of Celtic Harp Music

An evening of Manx & Irish traditional music featuring All-Ireland Harp Champion Fiana Ní Chonaill, Share na Veg, Amy Stoutt & Mera Royle



s c  
Market Square, Ramsey  
Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 7:30pm  
Adults £5. Under 16s £3  
Tickets on the door



Email: [Peddyr@manx.net](mailto:Peddyr@manx.net)  
Tel: 07624 241202



# Kiaull as Bee

F

Lunchtime Traditional Music Session



Mitre Hotel (Tel. 803045)  
Parliament Street, Ramsey  
Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 12 ~ 2pm  
Order you meal at the bar  
All Welcome!



Email: [Peddyr@manx.net](mailto:Peddyr@manx.net)

Tel: 07624 241202



# Keirdlann Cruitçheraght



c h w

All-Ireland Harp Champion Fiana Ní Chonaill



**Workshop Description**

Level: All ~ Beginner to Advanced

Fiana will look at the issues involved in adapting traditional music to the harp, concentrating on ornamentation, rhythm, fingering, and most importantly, on preserving the original essence of the music in the process. She'll also look at phrasing and some appropriate approaches to harmony and accompaniment.

Participants will learn by ear and imitation, though written music will be available if necessary.

If time allows, Fiana will also look at the physical aspects of harping and postural issues and other common m

The Mitre Hotel (Tel. 813045)  
Parliament Street, Ramsey  
Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 2 ~ 4pm  
Free Admission ~ Donations accepted  
All Welcome! Tel. 241202 ~ [Peddyr@manx.net](mailto:Peddyr@manx.net)



# Ceilee

With The Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band  
&  
All-Ireland Harp Champion Fiana Ní Chonaill



Sulby Community Hall  
Clenagh Road, Sulby  
Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 7:30 ~ 10pm  
Adults ~ £5, Under 16s ~ £3  
All Welcome! BYOB.



Email: [Peddyr@manx.net](mailto:Peddyr@manx.net)

Tel: 07624 241202



# AUTOHARP WORKSHOP

There will be an Autoharp Workshop at the Sailors' Shelter, East Quay, Peel this Saturday, 5th September from 10.30am-4.30pm.

Tutors will include:

- Leila Kneale (Playing along with other instruments)
- Ian Radcliffe (Manx music and how it is different from other genres - with examples of tunes to play)
- Beastie Dovey (Differences in playing by yourself at home and playing at performances).

There will be an open stage for those who choose to perform, plus opportunities for playing and singing together from the Manx Autoharpers Songbook.

There will be an introduction and warm-up session with a few simple tunes, so that beginners can join in, at the start of the workshop, plus the opportunity for absolute beginners to borrow an instrument for the day and learn the basics to get them started.

Phone Jan Brodie on 817735 or Mobile 331743 for more details, or to arrange to borrow and autoharp.

Email at [janbrodie01@gmail.com](mailto:janbrodie01@gmail.com)

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You can listen to Tony Archibald from the Manx Autoharpers performing the August KMJ's Transcription of the Month - a song called "Last Night as I Lay Sleeping":

<https://youtu.be/Z0QvZX-DbGI>

**Tarus Marroo**  
**Ceili Band**  
in conjunction with the Friends of Ballaugh School  
Presents  
'Giense Valley ny Loghey'  
Ballaugh Community Family Ceili  
Ballaugh Parish Hall  
Friday, September 11th, 2015  
7:00 - 9:30pm  
Free Admission with donations to Ballaugh School Funds  
Faith Supper - Bring a plate to share!!  
BYO  
Beejee Ayn! / All Welcome!

## 'Them Oul' Times

The Manx story in  
prose poetry and music

Presented by

**The Wandering Players**

(Judy & Sandy Cross, Dollin Kelly, Howard Caine, Ann Clarke,  
Ruth Caine, Christine Kinvig & Terry Qualtrough)

**Saturday 12th September**  
**7.30pm**

**All Saints Church Hall**

**Tickets £10 incl a Manx supper**

Please ring 626097

email [cath.neil31@gmail.com](mailto:cath.neil31@gmail.com)



**Parish of Saint George and All Saints  
Douglas**

# NEW MUSIC ~ KIAULL NOA

## Scarlett Parade

Formed in 2011 by songwriters Geoffrey Tinkler and Adam Jones, Scarlett Parade's music combines powerful melodies with introspective lyrics that are inspired by authors and poets such as Tolkien, W.B. Yeats, and Edgar Allen Poe. With Tinkler on vocals, piano, and drums, and Jones on lead guitar and bass, the multi-instrumentalist duo enlisted top engineers for their

new EP "Wildwoods," including Cenzo Townshend (Snow Patrol, Florence + The Machine), Tim Palmer (Blue October, Polyphonic Spree), and Steve Orchard (U2, Coldplay). [www.scarlettparade.com](http://www.scarlettparade.com)

Watch the fantastic 'Game of Thrones' type animation to their new EP Wildwoods:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1DBK\\_n9YCw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1DBK_n9YCw)



SCARLETT PARADE  
WILDWOODS • EP

THE DEBUT EP

OUT NOW



## Jeff Jepson – New album

Local fella Jeff Jepson is described as "a musician's musician, a master song spinning teller of tales, gifted producer, with a voice that traverses the landscape of the listener's heart."

*Songwriters' Marketplace.*

Check out his new album: [www.jeffjepson.co.uk](http://www.jeffjepson.co.uk)

<https://jeffjepson.bandcamp.com/album/coastlines>

## Jules Verne Theory

Jules Verne Theory brings together the talents and experience of Richard Slee and Arron Clague. This electro-pop duo are based in the Isle of Man and have recently released "No Ghosts":

<https://youtu.be/pF6W-OovFWo>

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

## NEW SINGLE - Clara Barker & Arron Clague

ALSO, check out the new single "GPS Club" by Barker/Clague: [https://youtu.be/OqARL\\_-His](https://youtu.be/OqARL_-His)



## Scaanjoon - new video

The perfect song for Hop Tu Naa - a brand new video for Creepy Folk Come Down with animation by Origimedia. Music and words by Scaanjoon, plus 12" knife percussion and singing by Nigel Brown: <https://youtu.be/SCKiUnMN0Ks>

The song will be available as an arrangement for children's choir soon...

# MFDS VISIT SWEDEN

MFDS visit to Ljungby from 5th to 11th August 2015 It was a very early start - getting up around 4 - 4.30am, for 10 of the 12 members of the Manx Folk Dance Society who went to Sweden to visit their good friends in the Sunnerbogillet Dance Group. 2 members had taken their camper van to have more of a holiday as well. The plane left Ronaldsway at 6.30am on a grey, damp morning, but the weather improved as they flew to Manchester, then Copenhagen, before changing to the train to travel across the Öresund Bridge to Älmhult, where they were met by 2 of their Swedish dancing friends, who helped them change to the bus for the last bit of their journey to Ljungby. (The 2 groups first met over 30 years ago while dancing at a Festival in Morecambe and the friendship and exchanges have continued since then.) The Manx group was then taken to their hosts' homes to stay as their guests for the visit.

On Thursday morning they visited a very old but delightful small village called Piggaboda. Many of the houses were at least 200 years old, and they saw the exterior of the Village Shop - which sold everything! - from a nail to a length of material, from soap to wallpaper! They then visited the old Flour and Saw Mills, still in working order, before sitting outside by the pond to have coffee and delicious open sandwiches. The groups moved to Linnés Råshult to see the area where



Carl von Linné was born. They had a look at the gardens and meadows still laid-out as they would have been in his day when he worked on the classification of plants. After lunch in IKEA, there was the chance to have a look around the big modern store, before going to look at the IKEA Museum, which gave the history of the company and how it grew as well as a chance to reminisce as they looked at the old furniture and changing styles. That evening the 2 groups got together for a shared evening of learning each other's dances.

On Friday 7th August the two group went by coach to the Europeade Festivities , which were being held in Helsingborg, on the coast, and Parade of the 6000 participants in about 250 groups - dancers, musicians and singers. It was a really sunny, hot day and MFDS saw a number of their foreign friends from Malmö, Visby on Gotland and Besse from Germany, taking part in the activities - in fact many of these friends left the afternoon Parade briefly to come across to exchange greetings. It was a pity that about an hour into the approximately 4 hour parade it began to rain quite heavily for about 30 minutes, but it soon cleared up again. It was amazing, that to begin with the parade walked along one of the four lanes for 2-way traffic, without the road being closed! Later they moved it onto the edge of the pavement. Earlier in the day various European groups had been performing half hour spots at a number of designated areas in the city. In the early evening MFDS were taken to the impressive Restaurant Kavalleristen on the outskirts of the city for their evening meal. It was MFDS member, Emma's 18th birthday, so 18th balloons, confetti and a luxury gateau accompanied by a dish of 18 floating lighted tea lights finished the meal, with Emma managing to blow all the lights out! - a memorable, significant birthday for her!

Saturday was the day the MFDS had two performances at local events. In the morning they were taken to Torpa for the Village Festival held in the Motor Museum grounds. It began to rain so the performance, with their hosts, Sunnerbogillet, was inside the Bus Museum on a small area just within the doors. They were well received and were lucky enough to have their music provided by an old friend, Robert Smythe, who now lives nearby in Växjö. There were many old cars, buses dating back to 1930, steam engines and an old Russian Tank on display. After being entertained to coffee and waffles, some of the Manx people went on a short tour of the village on the 1930 bus and just a few were luck enough to get a very bumpy ride on the Russian Tank! They then moved on to the Hamneda Village Festival, which apparently ALWAYS has sunny weather - and so it was again. The event was held in a field behind the Old Country Store Museum. A stage area was provided and the two groups danced to a very appreciative audience, MFDS having to provide their own music this time from within the dancers, by their talented and well practiced - but still learning musicians. There was plenty of time to look at and buy at the many stalls - they could even buy more waffles if they were feeling peckish! There was a short conducted tour of the Old Country Store before travelling back home. Later there was an opportunity to exchange dances again.

On Sunday 9th August, they went to Markaryd, first for coffee and waffles and then to travel by Trolley Train around the Elk and Bison areas, with short branches being provided to feed the Elk and American Bison that came up alongside the carriages. It was a wonderful experience! After lunch the group was split into two to take a leisurely Horse-drawn Carriage ride around the lake and surrounding area in Tänneryd, before having a bite to eat and drink at the Old Mill at Knäred, before enjoying a good look



around the buildings - the owners were very generous and hospitable. Then some dancing and singing took place alongside the old mill building and river - it was a most enjoyable, relaxed evening.

The group went into Ljungby town on Monday - some to 'hit' the shops, some to visit the Funeral Museum and local ruins & sites of interest. 2 of the dancers were later invited to one of

their new friend's farm to see her bee hives and how she made honey, before they enjoyed a delicious cooked evening meal sitting out in her garden in the sunshine. At about 6.30pm everyone gathered back in Ljungby for the Ljungby Music School Concert, which started at 7pm - everyone sitting on hard, bench seats. The music was very varied - modern, percussion, guitar, orchestral and singing. At 8.30pm the 2 groups went back to the local dance practice hall for more shared dancing, some fruit, cake & coffee, then thanks and an exchange of gifts. MFDS also gave small 'thank you' gifts to the musicians to show they appreciated their talented efforts. An invitation was extended to Sunnerbogillet to come to the Isle of Man next year, 2016.

On Tuesday 11th August after a very short sleep the dancers were down at the bus station in Ljungby by 7.30am to say their final farewells and to catch the bus to Växjö, where Robert met them to direct them onto the correct train and to say his goodbyes, train to Copenhagen Airport, plane to Manchester and then the plane to Ronaldsway, Isle of Man by about 8pm, very tired but happy after a memorable few days with their Swedish friends from Ljungby.

**Joan Cowell August 2015**

# RESEARCH NEWS

by Stephen Miller, Vienna

## “CATCHY” MANX JIG TUNES AND LILTS

In 1956, Thomas Quayle sent a letter in to the *Mona's Herald* from Veneta, Oregon in the USA where he wrote:

My great grandfather left the Isle of Man about a hundred years ago, and we've been American ever since, but as a boy I learned by ear a number of “catchy” Manx jig tunes and lilt, some of which I remember and play on my fiddle or accordion. These came from the Island, and were passed on to me.

I would very much like to know whether Manx folk are interested in “visiting” around among the elderly Manx and collecting old snatches of folk-songs or tunes which could easily be edited into a volume of the nation's music. Probably such work has already been done, and, if so, I would like to know where copies or books of such songs and dances can be obtained.

Why not publish a “request” column for such tunes to be collected? I believe many of your readers would be glad to contribute everything possible to build up a library of Manx native music.

One would of course like to know just what these tunes were—but they are clearly now lost to us at this date—and just how many others of the Manx diaspora learned and maintained a repertoire of Manx tunes. By the time Quayle was writing the Manx Museum Folk-Life Survey was in full swing—the main fieldworker being incidentally a Manx American from Oregon—but little in the way of vernacular song appears to have been collected. It remains to be seen if he was ever contacted and his repertoire recorded. In any case, with the erasure of the vernacular tradition from Island life it is figures such as Thomas Quayle who were likely the last tradition bearers of Manx music and song.

## “MYLECHRAINE”

### 1. THE WESLEYAN MUTUAL SOIREE SPELLING BEE (1901)

[*To the Editor of the Peel Guardian.*]

Sir,—Please allow me to offer an apology to several ladies and gentlemen who took part in the spelling “bee” held at the Wesleyan Mutual Soiree, on the evening of January 2nd. Acting as judge I pronounced them to be wrong in the spelling of the word “Mylecharane.” As, however, it was afterwards discovered that the word could be spelled correctly in several ways it was decided to repeat the contest, but the lateness of the hour prevented this arrangement being carried out.—Yours, etc., J.B. SHIMMIN.

[J.B. Shimmin, “[To the Editor of the Peel Guardian].” *Peel City Guardian* 12 January 1901: 2g.]

### 2. “HE GOT ‘NAWTHIN’” (1937)

All the Mylecharaines lived in the parishes adjoining the Curragh—Ballaugh, Jurby, Lezayre—and in the ballad there is reference to diggings in the Curragh and finding treasure. And here is another piece of romance. A Mylecharaine family possessed a curious silver cross, supposed to have been handed down for countless generations. It was shown to the Manx Society's editor at some date before 1873, and is illustrated in one of the Society's volumes. It was unquestionably very ancient, and was regarded as something mystical.

Let us lighten the burden of this antiquarian lore with a humorous story. A concert was held in a schoolroom or chapel in the Curragh district, and a lady sang the Mylecharaine song. The chairman introduced her, and explained that the song was about her, and explained that the song was about old Mylecharaine, who was the first man in the Isle of Man to give his daughter a marriage portion. “But,” he added, “it doesn't run in the family. My wife was a Mylecharaine, and I got nawthin' with her!”

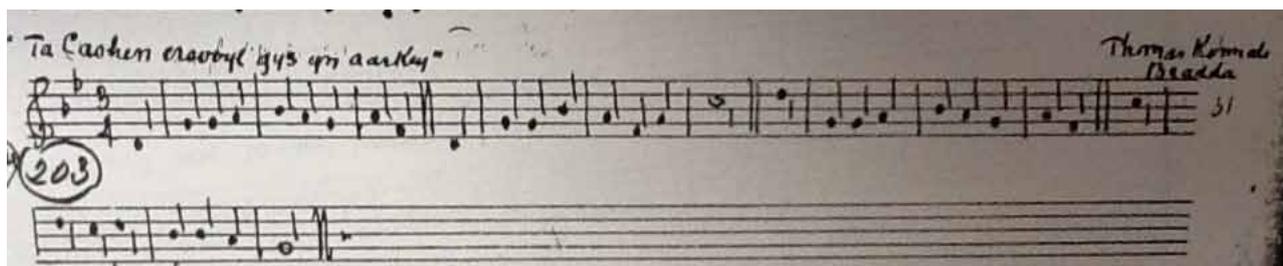
[“[At Random] He Got ‘Nawthin’.” *Isle of Man Times* 4 September 1937: 10g.]

For further on the twists and turns of “Mylecharaine” (or, for that matter, “Mylecharane”) in the life and times of the Island, see Fenella Bazin, “‘Mylecharaine’: A Forgotten Call to Nationhood,” pp. 336–48 in *Folk Song: Tradition, Revival, and Re-Creation*, eds. Ian Russell and David Atkinson (Aberdeen: The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, 2004).

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

"Ta Cashen ersooyl dys yn aarkey" (Cashen has gone to the sea) is an ever-changing Manx tune! It was originally collected by Dr Clague from Tom Kermode of Bradda in the 1890s as a 3/4 song with 3 bar phrases (see below & *Kiaull Vannin* no. 124). WH Gill then arranged the tune into a slow 6/8 for his piano book *Manx National Music* (Boosey Publications) in 1898. In the 1970s, the tune was sped up during sessions by Manx musicians and given a new B tune - it has since become a very popular slip jig. Rachel Hair recently recorded the tune as part of set "Jigs for Mann" on her new album 'Tri'.



Transcribed from  
*Kiaull yn Theay 1*,  
2nd Edition, page 39

Clague Coll.

## Ta Cashen ersooyl dys yn Aarkey

Nah Ayrn Iiorish  
Cristl Jerry 1976

A musical score for guitar in treble clef, 6/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into four lines of music. Above each line are guitar chords: Bm, A, Bm, A; Bm, A, Bm, F#m, Bm; D, Bm, A, D, Bm, A; D, Bm, A, Bm, F#m, Bm. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

~ GUITARFEST ~  
2/3 OCTOBER

[www.isleofman.com/News/details/73547/star-studded-line-up-for-guitarfest-2015](http://www.isleofman.com/News/details/73547/star-studded-line-up-for-guitarfest-2015)

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

### Youtube/video corner

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS YET?

This short video of Mec Lir's clever antics has gone totally viral with over a million views!! Filmed by one of the journalists at a Lorient festival press launch.

[www.facebook.com/valoche.thomassin/videos/10207190020730352/](https://www.facebook.com/valoche.thomassin/videos/10207190020730352/)

# CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

5th Autoharp workshop, Peel (see article)

11th Ballaugh Community ceili with Tarroo Marroo [see poster], Ballaugh Parish Hall, 7 – 9.30pm, Free (donations welcome)

18th Aon Teanga concert, Centenary Centre, Peel 8pm £10 (£8 in adv)

19th & 20th Manx music on stage at Isle of Man Food and drink Festival, Villa Marina Gardens, 10am – 9pm on Saturday and 10am – 5pm on Sunday. Entry from £3 (U16 free)

25th The Unthanks, Gaiety Theatre, 8pm

[www.jonnopromotions.com/events](http://www.jonnopromotions.com/events)

25th Kiaull Cruitçheraght – Celtic harp concert with Fiana Ní Chonaill & young Manx harpists, St Paul's Church, Ramsey, 7:30pm £5/U16s £3 on door

26th Kiaull as Bee - 'Food & Folk' traditional music session, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey, 12 – 2pm. All welcome. Free event, just order your food at the bar!

26th Keirdlann Cruitçheraght - Harp workshop with Fiana Ní Chonaill, Mitre Hotel from 2 – 4pm. Free (donations welcome)

26th Family ceili at Sulby Community Hall with the Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band and Fiana Ní Chonaill, 7.30pm, £5/£3 on door. BYO

27th Celtic Festival at Michael School to raise funds for Nepal, afternoon to evening.

## OCTOBER

2nd & 3rd Guitarfest [www.isleofman.com/News/details/73547/star-studded-line-up-for-guitarfest-2015](http://www.isleofman.com/News/details/73547/star-studded-line-up-for-guitarfest-2015)

3rd Jenn Butterworth Guitarfest workshop, Villa Arcade, Douglas 2-4pm

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

3rd Rachel Hair Trio, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm

2nd-4th IOM Trad music weekend, various venues

9th Ruth Keggin & Dave Pearce perform in "A Celebration of Celtic Culture Now", Great Court, British Museum, London, 6pm FREE

14-18th Lowender Peran – Cornwall's International Celtic Festival featuring Manxies Perree Bane and Cinzia Yates

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

31st Hop-tu-naa all over the Island and beyond!

## NOVEMBER

7th & 8th The BIG Bree weekend, Youth Arts Centre, Douglas [see Oct KMJ]

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 8.30-11pm Green's Tea Rooms, St Johns\* tbc  
FRI 9pm Irish 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:

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