



Manx are a *tour de force* in Lorient!!

report by Ruth Keggin

This year, the Festival Interceltique de Lorient was hit by the biggest Manx delegation yet, where a multitude of Manx talent stormed the city and made sure that the Bretons wouldn't forget us in a hurry. And rightly so: in 2015 the Isle of Man and Cornwall will celebrate their very own year at the Festival, which demonstrates the strength and recognition of Manx culture in recent years. With 800,000 festival goers over 10 days, this is a huge opportunity to display the culture of the Island.

The bands and artists who performed at the 2014 festival were (alphabetically): Mec Lir (feat. Davy Knowles); The Mollag Band; Norwegian-Manx Collaboration; Ny Fennee and the Ruth Keggin Quartet. The featured visual Manx artist was Nicola Dixon.

The Manx and the Cornish shared a prominent corner of the Quay des Indes – where you can find the pavilions of all the Celtic countries. The Manx dished out hundreds of servings of succulent queenies and Bushy's beer while John 'Dog' Callister demonstrated the art of making Bumbee Cages to delighted Bretons. Undoubtedly the best area of the two pavilions was a shared stage. A full programme of free performances from all Manx and Cornish groups participating in the festival led to an electric atmosphere with thousands of people crowding round the tent, eager to hear vibrant live music.



The newly formed band Mec Lir (Greg Barry; Tomas Callister; David Kilgallon; Adam Rhodes) performed a multitude of gigs to unwaveringly enthusiastic crowds, the highlight surely being the Espace Bretagne where, I would estimate, a thousand audience members were whipped up into a frenzy by the energy and virtuosic playing of the group. They were joined by talented bluesman Davy Knowles for a number of tunes and songs. Christy De Haven and Dave Armstrong from DAM productions filmed some of the performances given by the Manx delegation and interviewed artists, and these will feature in the upcoming documentary 'Island Bound' funded by Island of Culture and Culture Vannin.

The Mollag Band played a number of gigs to very appreciative audiences; notably at the Espace Paroles, Palais de Congres and the Espace Marine. They were selling their new CD 'Afloat' with artwork by the wonderful Nicola Dixon.

Nicola's exhibition showcased much of her new work, including a set of nine gorgeous original triskel paintings, each of them representing a line from the 'Deer's Cry'. The exhibition was displayed at the Hotel Gabriel. www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0KNCGxvhrE&feature=youtu.be

In this month's edition...

- *Lorient 2014 photos*
- *Manx music in the USA*
- *"Auldyn River" - a lovely new air to learn*

Culture
VANNIN

The Norwegian-Manx Collaboration (Erlend Apneseth, Tomas Callister, Ruth Keggins, David Kilgallon and Margit Myhr) performed a special gig at the Palais de Congress. We performed our collaborative material to an audience of around 500 people, and Margit and Erlend were impressed by the Manx presence at the festival. Keep your eyes peeled for our reunion in Mannin this winter... that's all I'll say for now! Ny Fennee always deliver polished, professional performances with flair and verve, and this year was no different. They performed for the Mayor of Lorient and performed twice at the colossal Espace Marine where they generated tumultuous applause.

On Thursday evening, I (Ruth Keggins) performed with my band in a 'Femmes Gaeliques' concert with Julie Fowles and Mary Black to an audience of around 2,000 people. Five dancers from Ny Fennee joined me on stage for my final song and danced brilliant solo jigs – thanks girls for helping to make that experience so special! www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxhWE3Xpvlk [1 min 30]



I was delighted to come third in the final of the Trophee Loic Raison on Saturday with my band, and it was wonderful to see Ny Fennee flying the Manx flags!

Lastly and most importantly, our huge thanks must go to Ealee Sheard. As the delegate for the Island, Ealee did a stellar job of organising everyone and was always smiling, even when things were incredibly busy and stressful! Ealee won the most promising delegate in a prize giving ceremony for the countries – a well-deserved honour.

Jeant dy mie Ealee!

Hard-working pavilion staff promoted Manx produce and tourism – what a great team!!

Culture Vannin summer school

Inspired by the motto of 'try something new for Island of Culture', Culture Vannin held its first summer school at the Youth Arts Centre in Douglas last month. During the five days, students aged 10-18 took part in a wide range of activities relating to Manx culture led by Culture Vannin staff and guest tutors.

Of course Manx music and dance played a major part in the summer school. Culture Vannin's Manx music specialist Chloe Woolley and Acting Director Breesha Maddrell led sessions on music hall songs, folk group work and beginners' whistle, as well as assisting students to compose new tunes and songs. Guest tutor Ali Carroon taught the dance "Shooyl Inneeny", a version performed by her team Perree T, and a couple of the girls chose to spend their creative session time choreographing a new dance to Erika Kelly's song "Better I Try". Clare Kilgallon RBV and Annie Kissack also joined the team to help the students create a hilarious short play which featured a motley crew of Victorian holiday-makers and music-hall favourite "Flanagan"!

Beginners learnt plenty of Manx during the week from Culture Vannin's Manx language development officer, Adrian Cain, and they used their skills to produce mini films for use on Culture Vannin's social media sites, as well as providing voice-overs for a new Manx iPad game developed by Elly Cretney as a teaching aid in primary schools. Visiting tutor from Oregon, Brian Hart, also taught the students some basic Irish using American sign language, which demonstrated that there is potential for using the method to teach Manx.

The students also spent a wonderful afternoon with John 'Dog' Callister learning how to make traditional bumbie cages and St Bridget's Crosses from locally-sourced rushes. They were also lucky enough to have a session with professional illustrator and animator, Gary Myers, who inspired the youngsters to bring Manx folklore characters such as the Dooiney Oie and Tehi Tegi to life on paper.

History was an important part of the week's activities, with themes centring on WWI and the tourism boom in the Isle of Man. Culture Vannin's Charles Guard led a guided tour of Douglas Promenade where students learnt about the age of tourism and the role of boarding houses as internment camps during WWII, followed by a fascinating trip to the Camera Obscura. Some students extended their historical interests with a visit to the WWI exhibition at the Manx museum, and they later presented short studies about some of the Manx people involved in the Great War, including Mona Douglas, Tommy Cain and Archibald Knox.

The summer school ended with a fantastic hour-long concert and exhibition for family and friends, which showcased the work of the students.

To see photos and short video clips from the Summer School check out the Culture Vannin Facebook page or the website:

www.culturevannin.im

Bree Manx music & dance movement will be holding their workshop weekend at YAC on 1 & 2 November. Watch out for details in October KMJ



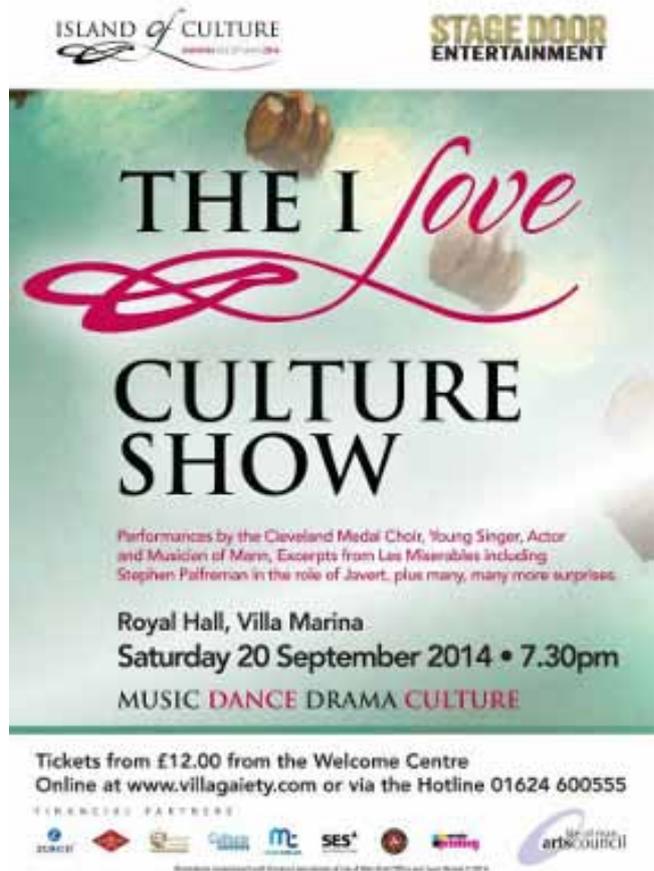
The I Love Culture show

A spectacular celebration for Island of Culture 2014 will take place next month featuring some of the finest Manx talent, including David Kilgallon, Ruth Keggin and Caarjyn Coidjagh.

The 'I Love Culture' show at the Villa Marina on 20th September is being organised by Stage Door Entertainment, who describe it as "a cultural fusion; a mix of traditional but re-imagined Manx themes, legends and myths, combined with all kind of dance - street, tap, folk, funk and contemporary funk - and of course, music - some of which had been specially commissioned.... The music, the dancing, the palette of costumes chosen for the costumes, every element of the show reflects some aspect of Manx heritage."

Expect a fairy ballet, a new and eerily dramatic take in Manannan, trumpets, strings, jazz and jigs, choirs, excerpts from Les Miserables...

Organiser Alex Toohey said: "This is a show that's not just music, not just dance and not just song... it's a spectacular in every sense. And it's our hope that when the show's over people will leave feeling patriotic and proud to be part of the Isle of Man and be sharing in the Island of Culture celebrations".



EXCLUSIVE ~ Island Bound

WEDNESDAY 10th September: – Exclusive first look at Davy Knowles' documentary "Island Bound".

Venue: Gaiety Theatre. Tickets will be priced from £10 upwards, with concessions available.

Made for Island of Culture 2014, this feature length documentary is being produced by DAM Productions. It charts Davy's quest to investigate his musical roots, tracing the history and following the journey of Manx 'traditional' music to and from the Island, speaking with and learning from local musicians and also interviewing some of his peers (Martin Simpson, Peter Frampton, Richard Thompson) about their own musical roots. Davy also traces the music as far as the mountains of



Appalachia in the heart of Tennessee where he interviews some of the musicians who still play Celtic music out there today, before heading over to Nashville to see how music from this side of the world has travelled and morphed over the years and remains alive today. This event will screen the first clips from the film, with Davy and the film makers discussing the experience, and will also see Davy and band playing a set after the screening.

Rachel Hair takes Manx harp music to the USA – report

I was thrilled to be invited to perform and teach at the "Somerset Folk Harp Festival" in New Jersey, USA. It's the biggest gathering of folk harpers in the Americas, so it was an honour to be one of only 3 European harpers invited to attend this year.

The festival this year had a real "Celtic" element to it as they had courses in Irish, Scottish, Breton, Cornish music, and thanks to my attendance, Manx music. As soon as I arrived I realised people were hungry for Manx music. Many had come across Charles Guard's playing and book, and this had led them to want to know more.



For years, the festival has had workshops in Irish, Scottish and Breton harp, but this was the first time that there was a course in music of the Isle of Man. As a result, within 20 minutes of the opening concert finishing, all 20 copies of my Manx harp book "Claasagh" were snapped up, and I had a class of 26 the next day for my first workshop in Manx harp.

I had two Manx harp workshops over the festival weekend, but later in the week I managed to teach a further two Manx harp workshops in Vermont and Connecticut in Manx music during my travels. This means that around 80 people have learnt some Manx tunes and have also learnt a little more about Manx music, culture, and the island itself, that we all love. I was grateful to Culture Vannin for supplying me with lots of "I love Manx music" badges and I also brought over several tubs of Manx Knobs meaning people came away with lots of goodies as well as new tunes from the workshops.

While at the Somerset Folk Harp festival I also managed to have a natter with fellow Manx music enthusiast and mountain dulcimer player, Carol Walker.



It's always great to connect with people over the pond!

"The educational history of the island and the music of the island makes the tunes come to life. I feel I own a little piece of the island now. Thank you!" - Somerset Folk Harp Festival attendee

Thanks to the August edition of KMJ, Carol Walker, author of "Tailless Tunes", read that Rachel was teaching at this festival just 10 minutes away from her house in New Jersey. Carol jumped in the car and went to meet her!!

It's a small world!!

Scoil Daunse Yernagh Ellan Vannin awarded Manx Inspirations trophy 2014

During a pre-festival event during Manx National week, Yn Chruinnaght presented Sharon Rye and her Irish dance school 'Scoil Daunse Yernagh Ellan Vannin' with a special award for their contribution towards culture on the Island. The talented young dancers performed before a packed crowd in Mooragh Park on Sun 6 July.

Local company Manx Inspirations and Yn Chruinnaght award the glass trophy each year to deserving groups or individuals. Past recipients include Nish as Rish, Mo Chara, Rincooiri an Chlair and Isla Callister-Wafer.

To find out more about Sharon's Irish dance classes visit www.rsdio.com



Bree's monthly Manx music sessions are moving to an earlier time of 2 – 3.30pm in the basement of Youth Arts Centre. The next sessions will be on Sat 13 Sep and Sat 11 October. After that, it will be the big Bree workshop weekend – 1 & 2 November. Look out for the application form in next month's KMJ!

MANNIN MUSIC

Laura Rowles from Mannin Music has recently qualified as a 'Colour Strings' teacher; a Kodaly-based method of teaching music to early years. Laura plans to use Manx songs in her lessons, so check out their website for more details of classes near you. You can also watch excerpts from the Mannin Music concert at the IOM Arts Council summer season, where their students performed Manx music: www.manninmusic.com

Laa ruggyree sonney da Cliogaree Twoaie!!

Cliogaree Twoaie are holding a 30th..... YES !..... 30th anniversary concert in St Paul's Church on Friday 26th September at 7.30pm. As well as songs from the well-loved Gaelic choir, there will be entertainment from Onchan Silver Band, David Kilgallon on organ, plus folk songs from Marlene Hendy and Dilys Sowrey. Free admission and refreshments. Retiring collection for the church.



Manx Dance in the Czech Republic

Here is some news from Stony Stratford in Buckinghamshire, the far-flung outpost of Manx dance, where the Old Mother Redcaps continue to develop their repertoire of Manx dances!



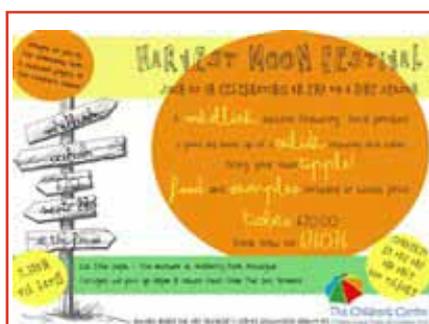
The dance group, which includes a number of members with Manx connections, recently made a visit to the Prague International Folklore Festival. Between 24th and 28th July, a group of 12 dancers and musicians from Old Mother Redcaps participated in the Festival, which drew 45 groups of dancers, musicians and choirs from all across Europe and beyond.



There were Brazilian dancers who keep alive the traditional German style of their forebears, and also a group of dancers from Belgium who showcased their Irish dance. Old Mother Redcaps displayed their garland and their Manx dances, and these were very warmly received by the audiences gathered in the main squares of the city.

OMRs were very inspired and encouraged by our visit to the MFDS for the anniversary festival in 2011, and are hoping they will be able to visit us in Buckinghamshire in the near future.

PHOTOS: Squire Catherine and musician Don at the presentation of the certificate of participation / OMRs pose with their local guide following their performance in the Old Fruit Market in Prague . Thanks to Val Lefrere for the update.



Harvest Moon Festival

A magnificent evening of Manx music, dance and food is being lined up at the Community Farm next month. Organisers of the Harvest Moon Festival on September 27th want to hear from local food producers, musicians and dance groups that want to take part.

Chrissy Cannell, Community Farm Team Leader, said: "The Harvest Moon Festival will feature a good old-fashioned ceilidh featuring Manx artists, a mhelliah auction of local produce, and a hog roast which are all included in the £20 ticket price... The traditional ceilidh will also be a great opportunity to showcase the talents of Manx bands and dance groups, so we would also like to hear from anyone who wants to take part in what will be a great evening of entertainment."

Compere for the night will be Dot Tilbury MBE and the festival will take place in a marquee at the Community Farm, which is on the Wallberry Farm on the Carnane Estate off the Old Castletown Road in Douglas. It runs from 7.30pm until late in the evening. All of the funds raised will go to towards projects run at the Community Farm, which is a charitable project of The Children's Centre. Find out more at the farm blog at <http://thecommunityfarm.wordpress.com>. If you want to take part in the Harvest Moon Festival – or book tickets – phone 676076.

RESEARCH NEWS

“MANX FOLKORE ON THE WIRELESS.

DR JAMES LYON BROADCASTS”

(1930)

In 1930, the Isle of Man Examiner for 26 December carried the following piece (quoted here in full):

One of the finest broadcasts which it has been our pleasure to listen to came over from Birmingham (Midland Regional) Station on Saturday night, when Dr James Lyon, of Liverpool, gave an hour's talk on “Manx Folk Songs,” with pianoforte illustrations by himself and vocal illustrations by a quartette.

Dr Lyon, who has published several arrangements of Manx airs, has been studying Manx music for 36 years, and the best pickings from his vast experience were given to the public on this occasion. He dealt in an interesting fashion with the influence of insular history on the native music, and after stating that he had judged at competitions here (some years ago he was the adjudicator at the Cruinnaght), he paid tribute to Manx singers for their fine enunciation.

The quartettists assisting Dr Lyon were Misses Emily Walden (soprano) and Winifred Payne (contralto) and Messrs Geoffrey Dams (tenor) and Harold Howes (bass), and the numbers they rendered included “Love's Flight” (from W.H. Gill's Manx National Songs), “Arrane Sooree” (Dr Lyon's four-part arrangement), “Bollan Bane,” an unnamed carol tune, and “Mylecharaine” (Dr Lyon's solo arrangement), “The Sheep under the Snow” (Dr Lyon's arrangement for solo and quartette refrain), an unnamed ballad tune which is understood to be unrecorded, “Mannin Veen” (Dr Vaughan Williams' four-part arrangement), “Marry me, Mary Veen” (Dr Lyon's arrangement of the air known as “Berrey Dhone”), “The Ploughman's Song” (from “Manx National Songs”) and “Carval Drogh Vraane,” which Dr Lyon specially recommended as a more suitable tune for a Manx National anthem than the present one.

James Lyon (1872–1949) is a figure of who little is still known about his involvement with Manx song: he was a judge at the Guild in 1909, and once again at the Third Cruinnaght in 1926, a somewhat wide gap in appearances. He said in 1909 that he had been a regular visitor to the Island for twenty-five years and claimed to have collected on each occasion. He had lectured previously on the topic in 1907, and that year in a letter to William Cubbon he was contemplating publishing a selection of those collected. This never came to fruition. Here in 1930, Lyon is still claiming a long standing engagement with Manx song, some thirty-six years though it was twenty-five in 1909; the 1930 account would make the year to 1896, the date of the appearance of both Manx National Songs and Manx Ballads and Music and so more likely the correct date of the start of his interest. But what of his putative collection? No personal papers are known to have survived and so its size cannot be determined. The report of the 1930 broadcast has the intriguing mention that amongst the musical illustrations was “an unnamed ballad tune which is understood to be unrecorded.” At last, firm evidence that Lyon was indeed a collector of Manx vernacular song.

Stephen Miller, Vienna

Histories and Mysteries 7– the secret life of traditional music in the Isle of Man

Read about “The Green Linnet” by David Speers: <http://manxmusic.com/media/News%20Images%202014/Histories%20&%20Mysteries%207%20Green%20Linnet.pdf>

“Nine Vignettes on a Manx Carvel Tune”

When composer and organist Andrew Beaizley from Hove in the south of England, heard Caarjyn Coidjagh singing the carval “She Shoh yn Laa” on the BBC *Songs of Praise* last December, he enjoyed it so much, he decided to track down the choir and the tune. After eventually making contact with Annie Kissack, the choir’s musical director, he asked Annie for the tune in order to use as the basis of an organ piece. Six months later and “Nine Vignettes on a Manx Carvel Tune, She Shoh yn Laa” [sic.] was given its first performance in a Recital at St Mary’s Church, Upper Rock Gardens, Brighton on Saturday 26 July. The piece is dedicated to Annie and to Caarjyn Coidjagh and we can look forward to hearing it being played in Mannin at Christmas.

Copies may be obtained from The Wynnstay Press, Flat 2, 18 Portland Road, Hove BN3 5DJ Tel +44(0) 1273 273686 (£6.60 + P&P).

In another *Songs of Praise* spin-off, as a result of the Caarjyn’s performance of Bannaght Columb Killey during the second *Songs of Praise* broadcast last March, Annie has also been contacted by the director of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office choir in London, this time with a request to include this arrangement in their own repertoire, a request happily granted! So Manx music continues to spread far and wide into the most unlikely corners!

Galeforce learn Manx songs and dances

Chloe & Breesha joined the annual Galeforce summer school to teach about Manx music and dance last month. As well as having a lesson on playing the tin whistle, Barbara Gale and her young students learnt Manx dances “Step Dance” and “Cutting the Turf,” songs “Shiaull y Cheayn” and “S’mie lhiam cappan dy hey,” and discussed the Isle of Man’s role in WWI and the knock-on effect on Manx culture.



Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band
(in conjunction with the Friends of Ballaugh School)



Present:

'Giense Valley ny Loghey'
Ballaugh Community Family Ceili

Ballaugh Parish Hall
Saturday, September 13th, 2014
7:00 – 9:30pm



Free Admission!
Donations to 'Friends of Ballaugh School'

Refreshments / Raffle / BYOB
Beejee Ayn! / All Welcome!



FAMILY CEILI

Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band are holding a community family ceili at Ballaugh Parish Hall on Saturday, September 13th, 7pm sharp start. It's free admission but donations towards the 'Friends of Ballaugh School' will be welcomed.

Refreshments are available (again by donation), or bring your own bottle. There will be a raffle. All welcome, especially families with children, hence the early start and finish times.



A sneak preview of some of the recording antics for the forthcoming Mona Douglas Song Project album!!
Pictured L-R: Aalin Clague, Breesha Maddrell, Chloe Woolley & Bob Carswell.

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Auldyn River

Paul Cringle
Isle of Man

The musical score for 'Auldyn River' is written in E major (three sharps) and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. Above the notes are chord symbols: E, A, E, B, A, E, B, A, E, A, E, B, A, E, A, E, B, A, E. There are also triplets marked with a '3' above the notes.

This lovely new air is by guitarist Paul Cringle, and it is rapidly becoming popular with Manx musicians. Sent in by Wendy Hurst from the Mitre session in Ramsey, Chloe transcribed Paul's tune from a recording, passed it onto Rachel Hair, who promptly taught it to her harp students, and the journey came full circle a few days later when Rachel popped into the Mitre session and performed it with Paul!!

~ The Auldyn River runs through the beautiful Glen Auldyn in Ramsey. Paul plays it in E major, but if you'd like the tune in the key of D or G, email Chloe: manxmusic@culturevannin.im

~ SESSIONS ~

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
FRI 9pm Irish at The Mitre, Ramsey
Shoh Slaynt (1st/2nd Fri of month), 8.30pm, Highwayman, Peel
Last FRI of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
SAT 10pm Manx at The White House, Peel

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

5th Shoh Slaynt at The Tynwald Inn, 8.30pm
10th Premiere of film "Island Bound", Gaiety Theatre, time tbc, from £10

www.isleofmanfilmfestival.com

13th Bree Manx music session for young musicians, Youth Arts Centre, Douglas 2 - 3.30pm www.manxmusic.com

13th Community Family Ceili, Ballaugh Parish Hall, 7pm, FREE

19th SMILE - a tribute to Katherine Crowe, Gaiety Theatre, 8pm, £18.50

www.villagaiety.com

20th The I Love Culture Show, Villa Marina, 7.30pm, £12 www.villagaiety.com

20th-21st Manx music & dance acts at the IOM Food & Drink Fest, Villa Gardens

21st Mec Lir album launch, Noa Bakehouse, 8pm

26th Cliogaree Twoaie 30th anniversary concert, St Paul's Church 7.30pm, FREE (retiring collection) inc. refreshments

OCTOBER

3rd The Maughold Show - a celebration of the people, poetry, music and mysticism of Maughold Parish [more details in Oct KMJ]

3rd Martin Simpson, & Strengyn, Villa Marina Arcade, 7.30pm, £15 Part of IOM GuitarFest, tickets: www.villagaiety.com

4th Trad guitar accompaniment workshop with Paul Rogers - part of IOM GuitarFest, details tbc

6th "Mona Douglas' Manannan", talk by Breesha Maddrell to Erin Arts Centre lunch club

11th Bree Manx music session for young players, Youth Arts Centre, Douglas 2 - 3.30pm.

18th IOM Wind Orchestra & Caarjyn Coodjagh joint concert, St Marys, 8pm.

31st HOP TU NAA celebrations all over the Isle of Man - check out this educational wiki for some fun ideas:

www2.sch.im/groups/manxcurriculum/wiki/2779a/Hop_tu_Naa_Resources.html

NOVEMBER

1st & 2nd The Big Bree Workshop Weekend, Youth Arts Centre, Douglas FREE [form in Oct KMJ/contact Chloe]

29th Norwegian-Manx Project Concert, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm £tbc

29th Caarjyn Coodjagh at "A Taste of Christmas", St James, Dalby. Tickets in advance

30th Norwegian dance workshop, details tbc

DECEMBER

5th Caarjyn Coodjagh, St Catherine's Church, Port Erin, 7.30pm

18th Caarjyn Coodjagh, Carol Service, St Catherine's Church, 7pm

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

www.manxmusic.com

We welcome your stories, photos, reports, musings - all on Manx music and dance, of course. Just send something in if you want to share it with hundreds of direct KMJ readers worldwide and thousands more online!

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

Manx Music Specialist **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