

Opening of new Manx Cultural Centre

Culture Vannin has opened its doors to a new exhibition and cultural centre in St Johns.

Inside, locals and tourists can find out about 'thing sites' like Tynwald around the world, look at old photos of St John's, learn about calendar customs, music, dance and language, Manx cultural heroes, see how Tynwald works, and check out the Lego model of Tynwald Day.

Visitors can also watch videos of Manx dancing, listen to songs and tunes, and flick through reference books in the library area. Younger visitors can choose from colouring-in, dressing up (including mini Manx dance costumes!) and playing with Lego which can be added to the Tynwald model - there are even some mini lego Manx dancers customised by Caroline Helps from Perree Bane! >>

As well as having an iPad/listening bench, the language, music and dance room features an amazing mural by Manx artist, Adam Berry, and this area will be used for harp lessons, lending library, conversational Manx, etc. Culture Vannin also has a shop selling their books and CDs, many of which relate to music and Manx language.

The cultural centre would not have been possible without a generous legacy linked to the Manx language from Professor Brian Kaneen of Canada. The exhibition space has been developed through the additional assistance of the Elizabeth Clucas Charitable Trust and Isle of Man Tourism. Culture Vannin is incredibly proud to share the talents of Manx creatives within the exhibition space.

Visit Us! - Cur shillee orrin! Culture Vannin, Fairfield House, Main Road, St. John's IM4 3NA

Opening times: 9.30am-4.30pm weekdays / Free admission



Watch the lego Tynwald being built to the soundtrack of Flitter Rock Ballad by Strengyn:

<https://vimeo.com/223440032>

more pics >>

In this month's edition...

- YC Celfest round-up
- Report - Hamish Napier & Scran
- Crofton on South Barrule
- NAMA results

Culture VANNIN



Tynwald Day 2017

Everyone had a fantastic time at the Manx national day, 5th July, and the fun continued into the evening at TynwaldFest with entertainment from Birlinn Jiarg, Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums and other acts. You can watch a short film of the 'Grand Manx Dance' here:

<https://vimeo.com/225255161>

[Thanks to Jiri Podobsky for the photos below]



What amazing audiences at Celtfest IOM

Yn Chruinnaght presents Celtfest IOM had an outstanding festival thanks to amazing audiences. As members of the volunteer festival committee, we were delighted by the response from both familiar and new faces to our packed programme of events.

This year, we were determined to take Manx and Celtic culture to new audiences, so we extended our schools outreach, set up shop in Noa Bakehouse for lunchtime sessions, and offered a new, family friendly afternoon event in the form of The Gathering in and around Cathedral IOM. Taking those risks paid off – we reached more people than ever before, and we had a real sense of breaking new ground.

Festival highlights are too many to mention, with everyone involved working so hard to make it a success. We were delighted to have Professor Alice Roberts speak some Manx for us after her sold-out lecture, we were inspired by Hamish Napier's work with Scran, we were thrilled by Talisk's rowdy encores, we were moved and entertained by Rioghnach Connolly's beautiful songs and funny stories, and we were more than happy to finish the festival with a gorgeous performance from Connla. What was not surprising to us – but may have been to others – was the exceptional quality of all of our Manx performers and participants – musicians, singers, dancers, artisan producers. We left the festival wondering when new recordings would be made, when we could hear new groups live again.

As ever, the festival wouldn't be possible without the support of our public funding bodies, Culture Vannin and IOM Arts Council, and our wonderful event sponsors, Conister Bank, IOM Steam Packet Company, Malcolm Scott Dickinson Charitable Trust, Paradise and Gell, Shoprite, Thornton Chartered Financial Planners. To our wonderful volunteer-run venues and festival partners the Bridge Bookshop, we say a huge gura mie eu – many thanks!

We're starting to think about next year's festival already, so do get in touch via Facebook if you have any ideas for acts you'd like to see.

Gura mie mooar eu!

Bing Yn Chruinnaght – Yn Chruinnaght festival committee





PHOTOS - Gura mie moar eu: Vannin Photos, Mike Wade, Marc Falconer, Jiri Podobsky, Val Caine

Visit to Isle of Man by Hembygdsgillet, Malmö Sweden

On the evening of Tuesday 4th July, 19 dancers and musicians from the group, Hembygdsgillet from Malmö, Sweden arrived at Ronaldsway Airport, to be welcomed by their hosts from the Manx Folk Dance Society (MFDS) and taken to their homes.

As Wednesday 5th July was Tynwald Day, in pleasant weather, both groups headed off very early for MFDS to dance as usual on Front Green, at Tynwald, St Johns, before the arrival of the Governor. After a picnic lunch, at about 2.30pm, Hembygdsgillet danced for 30 minutes on the limited space on the stage at the Global Village in the Arboretum, St Johns.

A visit to the Wild Life Park was made on Thursday 6th July. Everyone arrived at about 11.30am, for a wander around the park in small groups. It was a gloriously sunny day and lunch was eaten at the Café, mainly sitting outside, enjoying the surroundings. After watching some of the animals being fed, everyone went home to get changed. Later they had a meal at the 'Italian Job', before both groups took part in a most entertaining and enjoyable Arts Council Concert in the Villa Arcade between 7.30pm and 9.30pm, along with the Gaelic Choir, Cliogaree Twoaie,

At 11.00am on Friday 7th July, Hembygdsgillet and the MFDS, busked by dancing in Regent Street, Douglas, to an interested and fascinated but transient audience. Again it was back home for some to get changed out of costume, while others went for a picnic/sandwiches on the Promenade, before the Musicians and younger visitor visited a local School, while the rest visited the Manx Museum, or went sight-seeing. That evening a Music Session was held at the Crosby Pub.

Saturday 8th July was a relaxing day, with a morning visit to Laxey, where some impromptu dancing took place on the Electric Tram Station, near the Church, with visits to the Tynwald Mills and some of the churches taking part in the Flower Festival. A Farewell Party was held at Onchan Parish Hall during the evening with a 'fish and Chip' style supper, with Coffee and Cake a little later. There was an exchange of gifts, along with thanks to everyone involved in making the visit such a success, especially the dancers and musicians as well as the hosts and helpers. The invitation for 10 MFDS members to visit Hembygdsgillet for their 100th Anniversary next year was re-issued.

Both groups boarded early Steam Trains to Ballasalla on Sunday 9th July, where they had a wonderfully leisurely visit to Rushen Abbey, again in glorious sunshine. Most had their picnic there in the grounds before going to the Sound Café to enjoy the views and Coffee, before going up the road to see Cregneash. Then it was home for an evening meal and to pack.

Hembygdsgillet Folk Dancers and Musicians departed early on Monday 10th July for an early flight to Gatwick, before their flight to Copenhagen and train back to Malmö, tired, but happy after enjoying a few busy days with their Manx friends.

Report by Joan Cowell



Ballacottier – Manx Folk Awards concert

During the last week of the school year, the organisers of the Manx Folk Awards visited Ballacottier Primary School to listen to all three KS1 classes sing the songs that they had prepared for the Folk Awards this year. Some of you may be aware that the school was hit by a virus just before Easter, which meant that the school had to close. This therefore meant that the infants were sadly unable to take part in this year's Folk Awards. (Luckily, the KS2 choir managed to attend the awards later in the week and came away with first place in the choir songs in English class!) Chloe and Jo Callister very kindly visited school and after a rousing rendition of the Manx National Anthem, they listened to all the infants singing 'The Fairies Dance' together, as well as a recitation of the Moddey Dhoo poem. Each class then performed their other song that they had prepared and we heard some excellent renditions of 'The Foxdale Miner', 'Busfare to Laxey' and 'Flanagan'. The infant choir then performed 'Ushag Veg Ruy' and 'Traa dy Gholl dy Valley'. It was a lovely half hour of singing and Chloe and Jo very kindly gave the infants some really useful feedback.

Report by Katie Lawrence

(And a huge well done to Katie herself, who does a fantastic job teaching music and all things Manx at Ballacottier School!)

Sniaghtey Bane Bunscoil Ghaelgagh outdid themselves in their end of term summer show, with a fantastic adaption of Snow White in Manx. Songs, music and dance played a major part of the production, and as well as familiar traditional melodies, the score included lots of original Gaelic songs composed by teacher, Annie Kissack. And, as is now tradition in all of the Bunscoil shows, the big crowd pleaser, S'mie Lhiam Cappan dy Hey (I like a cup of tea) was included!

S'mie Lhiam Cappan dy Hey

Tune: Scottish trad

Words: Annie Kissack, Bunscoil Ghaelgagh

O s'mie lhiam cap-pan dy hey my chaar-jyn, s'mie lhiam cap-pan dy hey. O

s'mie lhiam cap-pan dy hey my chaar-jyn, s'mie lhiam cap-pan dy hey!

Iu seose my chaar-jyn, seose my chaar-jyn, s'mie lhiam cap-pan dy hey, Iu

seose my chaar-jyn, seose my chaar-jyn, s'mie lhiam cap-pan dy hey!

Scran and Hamish Napier – *Ned Maddrell's Whispers*

Report by Owen Williams, member of Scran (Bree Supergroup)

Two weeks ago, we in Scran were honoured to share the stage with one of Scotland's most prominent trad musicians: Hamish Napier.

Taking a weekend out of his busy schedule of teaching at the Royal Conservatoire of Glasgow as well as touring the country, Hamish came to the Island at the invitation of Culture Vannin to bring an exciting new project to life in partnership with the members of Scran.

Having been commissioned by Culture Vannin to write a piece of music to commemorate Ned Maddrell - the last native speaker of Manx - Hamish brought the freshly composed "Ned Maddrell's Whispers" with him across the sea to St John's, where he and Scran enjoyed a

weekend-long session of building musicianship and working on the music in preparation for the world premiere the next month at the Peel Centenary Centre during Celfest/Yn Chruinnaght.

On the 7th of July, Hamish returned to the Island, this time accompanied by his full band of experienced Scottish musicians to play the music live for the first time, but first, we sat down with Hamish for a final run-through on the day before the gig, joined by ex-Scran member Isla Callister playing fiddle in the Corrin Hall in Peel.

The next evening at the Centenary Centre, Hamish and his entire band began the night by performing his brand-new concept album, "The River" which comprised the first half of the full-packed evening.

After taking a much-deserved break, Hamish returned to the stage with Isla to play some tunes before the next half of The River was played, which drew the gig to the finale: Ned Maddrell's Whispers.

With Hamish's full band as well as us in Scran, the dynamic music sounded incredible in the Centenary Centre and it was without a doubt a very fitting tribute to Neddy Beg Hom Ruy.

Scran feel very honoured and privileged to have had the opportunity to work with Hamish; he taught us a great deal of useful and important techniques to improve our musicianship and it was a fantastic chance to meet many great musicians and to make links for the future.

Photo above & article about Hamish's visit to the Isle of Man by Mike Wade:

www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=34654&headline=Creating%20folk%20for%20the%20future§ionIs=NEWS&searchyear=2017

Photo below: thanks to Val Caine



NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Young achievers who make a valuable contribution to Manx culture and society were honoured by the North American Association (NAMA). Each year, NAMA presents awards to under 25-year-olds nominated by the public and schools for their creativity, community involvement and commitment to learning.

Judges this year were Aimee Corlett, President of the World Manx Association, Anne Minay, Life Member of NAMA, and Professor Ronald Barr, Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Education and Children.

Graham Cregeen MHK, Minister for Education and Children, welcomed guests to the presentation ceremony at the Tynwald building.



The Minister said: 'The Island's young people continually demonstrate their talent, hard work and willingness to help others.' The young people rewarded here today are a credit to Manx society. I'd like to thank NAMA for its long-standing commitment to rewarding and recognising our young achievers.' The award winners received specially minted silver medallions from NAMA life member David Holmes – were. President of Tynwald the Hon Steve Rodan MLC gave the vote of thanks.

Winners relating to Manx music and dance:

Outstanding achievement in Manx music: Mera Royle, 17, Ramsey Grammar School

Mera is described by her nominator as 'breathing, sleeping and eating' Manx music. An accomplished harpist and violinist, Mera has performed both as a soloist and in ensembles across the Island and in the UK. Performing with Scran (part of the Bree Manx music group), Mera came second in 'The Next Big Thing' competition at the Gaiety Theatre. She has been heard on Manx Radio alongside Peddyr Cubberley and Pullyman and has participated in the National Theatre Competition. She plans to study music at university.

Outstanding contribution to Manx culture by a group of young people under the age of 25: Skeddan Jiarg

This young Manx dance group, led by dance tutor Grainne Joughin, practices every Sunday in Peel. Formed just two years ago, Skeddan Jiarg has grown rapidly and inspires new generations to get involved in Manx dance. The group have performed at various community events and festivals: Cwlwm Celtaidd (Wales), Yn Chruinnaght Celfest, Shennaghys Jiu, the Celtic Congress and Cyclefest. This autumn, the group will represent the Isle of Man at Celtic festival Lowender Peran in Cornwall. The group is working with Culture Vannin and the Department of Education and Children to create online Manx dancing video tutorials to inspire more to learn Manx dancing.

Find out about all the other winners here:

www.gov.im/news/2017/jul/07/young-people-honoured-at-awards/

Watch MTTV feature: www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9Zf8GdlrxQ&feature=youtu.be

Young Musician of Mann 2017

Open to all musicians under the age of 19, this year's competition has been scheduled for the Autumn.
Deadline for entries: 6th October

1st round: Sunday 22 October 2017 @ 2.00pm
Final: Sunday 12 November 2017 @ 2.00pm
Closing date for entries: Friday 6 October 2017 5.00pm

More info and form: http://manxmusic.com/event_detail_486834.html



Claire Jones

International Harp School

Saturday, 16th September
2.30pm - 4.30pm

St Paul's Church, Market Square,
Ramsey, Isle of Man

An unique and exciting opportunity to study with international solo harpist Claire Jones. As former Official Harpist to HRH The Prince of Wales, she performed at the Royal Wedding in 2011, and has reached the top of the classical charts with her albums. Claire will deliver a workshop to inspire and encourage harpists of all ages and standards. Participants will perform alongside Claire during her evening recital at the church at 7.00pm.

Cost: £10 per person

For bookings please contact
Ella Slack.

Tel no: 01624 81 2896

Email: ebs@manx.net



Claire Jones

Former harpist to HRH Prince of
Wales

International Soloist
www.clairejones.co.uk



Chris Marshall - Percussionist/
Composer

Recording Artist
West End Percussionist

MARSHALL
JONES MUSIC
LIMITED



Sunday Session in Laxey 12.30 - 4pm 6th August

Lots of food, lots of fun, fantastic place to spend a Sunday afternoon!!

Tel. Mary for more details: 493365

All ages welcome... just check out this lovely photo of harpists Christa and Aalish!



Castletown Chamber of Commerce are holding their final Summer Market on Bank Holiday Mon 28th August. It was a lovely event when they had the market on May bank holiday, despite the terrible weather! They'd love to have dancers and bands again. Buskers are welcome, but busking licences must be in place to collect £.

Contact Ali for more info:
alinfyn@gmail.com



The Celtic League

are having their meeting in the Isle of Man and the Mannin branch are hosting a get-together at The Whitehouse / Thie Bane on Saturday 29th July.

They'd love some musicians to come along for a session, so if you fancy a tune and bit of pasty, head there for 9pm.

Contact Roy for more details:
celticmann2@gmail.com

Tourist and locals alike can enjoy a summer season of free concerts organised by the IOM Arts Council and Culture Vannin, and held in the Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas.

From Gaelic acapella choirs and funky new sounds in the Manx language to massed harp ensemble and bagpipes; from colourful dance displays to contemporary songs and lively tunes, there is a something for everyone! The season is launched this Thursday evening at 7.30pm with Manx choir Cliogaree Twoaie and the Manx Folk Dance Society, who will be joined by some visiting Swedish dancers.

More information: www.manxmusic.com

The Arts Council Presents in association with the Villa Marina

FREE

Manx Music & Dance Season 2017

Thursdays @ 7.30 pm, Villa Marina Arcade



July 2017

THURSDAY 6 TH	CLIOGAREE TWOAIE (GAELIC CHOIR)	MANX FOLK DANCE SOCIETY + Swedish guests HEMBYGDSGILLET
THURSDAY 20 TH	SCRAN	CLASH VOOAR (GAELIC BAND)
THURSDAY 27 TH	CAARJYN COOIDJAGH (GAELIC CHOIR)	PERREE BANE (MANX DANCERS)

August 2017

THURSDAY 3 RD	SKEDDAN JIARG (MANX DANCERS)	MANX MUSIC
THURSDAY 10 TH	CHRISTA MCCARTNEY (HARPIST/SINGER)	BISKEE BRISHT (GAELIC BAND)
THURSDAY 17 TH	CLAASAGH (CELTIC HARP GROUP)	ELLAN VANNIN PIPES & DRUMS
THURSDAY 24 TH	PERREE BANE (MANX DANCERS)	MATT CREER BAND

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

The Celtic Congress

celebrated 100 years last month in Perth. The theme of the congress was 'musical traditions of the Celtic Nations', and there were presentations from each country by a variety of guests. Archeomusicologist Dr John Purser spoke about Scottish music, followed by a talk on the Welsh tradition by triple harp player, Robin Huw Bowen. Brittany was represented by young Fest-nos singer Marine Lavigne, and members of Dalla, Jen Dyer and Neil Davey spoke about Cornish dance music. Maire Breatnach, a well-known singer and fiddle player, gave a presentation on Irish music, and Chloe Woolley, represented the Isle of Man with a talk on the 1970s revival of Manx music, folk music collectors and calendar customs. An inter-Celtic concert marked the end of the congress, and Chloe and family performed a selection of Manx traditional songs, tunes and dances.

<http://ccheilteach.ie/>



Photo credit: Rachel Bruce

Ethno Estonia Thanks to Daniel Quayle, dozens of amazing young musicians from around the world played Three Little Boats.

Check out the video on their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/EthnoEstonia/

Hungarian students visiting the Isle of Man on an exchange trip with the Youth Arts Centre were treated to a night of Manx culture last month.

Under the expert tuition of the Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band, the Hungarian and Manx students had a tremendous time trying out some Manx dances!

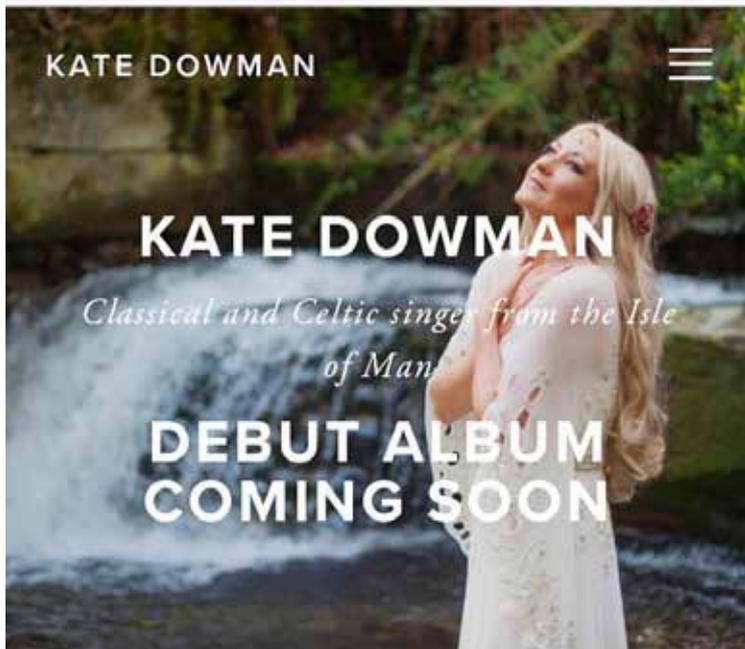
Birlinn Jiarg are playing at Warwick Folk Festival this weekend. If you're there, they are performing on Saturday at 3pm - Bridge House Theatre and again at 10:45 pm - New Pavilion Stage. The band are leading a Manx music workshop at 4pm as well. www.warwickfolkfestival.co.uk



Good luck to the Manx delegation going out to Lorient next week! Birlinn Jiarg, Annyrn, Rushen Silver Band and a bunch of eager volunteers will be flying the Manx flag at Europe's largest Celtic festival in Brittany.

www.festival-interceltique.bzh/

kiaul1 noa



Kate Dowman has given us a sneak preview of her forthcoming album - a collection of Manx Gaelic songs.

The Manx singer is based in London where she works as a professional singer. She was taught Manx songs when she was at primary school by Pat Burgess. Have a listen to her showreel:

https://soundcloud.com/kate-dowman/kate-dowman-debut-album-showreel?utm_source=soundcloud&utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=facebook

ISLE OF MY HEART

Madeline Kelly gave a stunning premiere performance of her 'Isle of My Heart' piano suite in St German's Cathedral at YC Celfest last month. Now, you can also hear the pieces as played by the composer:

<https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/sets/isle-of-my-heart>

The book is available to buy from Culture Vannin and other local shops £6.99 RRP



Singer and harpist, Christa McCartney has released another atmospheric Manx Gaelic song ; She Lhong Honnick Mee – A Ship I did see. Listen here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEf11aQ7h-Q&feature=youtu.be



Youtube/video corner

Fiddle player, Isla Callister-Wafer, who is currently studying traditional music in Glasgow, was filmed playing a favourite Manx tune 'Creg Willy Syl' while she was back home for Yn Chruinnaght's Celfest:

<https://vimeo.com/224623407>

RESEARCH NEWS



<< *Breasha Maddrell, George Broderick and David Speers will be delivering papers on Manx songs at this forthcoming Gaelic song conference in Cork.*

A Conference on Gaelic Song
25th and 26th Aug 2017

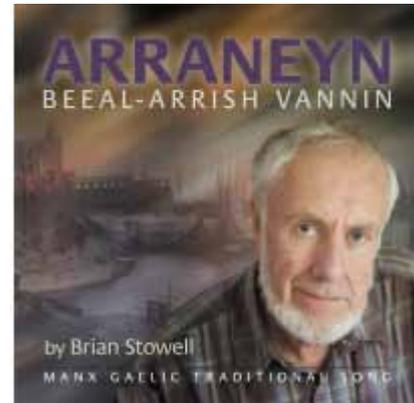
AMHRÁN ARRANE ÓRAN

Confirmed Speakers:
Virginia Blankenhorn,
George Broderick,
Margaret Callan,
Anne Frater,
Anne Lorne Gillies,
Iain Mac a' Phearsain,
Gilbert MacMillan,
Breasha Maddrell,
Thomas McKean,
Triona Ní Shiocháin,
Róisín Nic Dhonncha,
Sorcha Nic Lochlainn,
Ciarán Ó Gealbháin,
John Shaw.

UCC - ADMISSION FREE www.ucc.ie/en/modern-irish | sorcha.niclochlainn@ucc.ie

ARRANEYN BEEAL-ARRISH VANNIN

Manx Traditional Songs sung in Manx Gaelic by Brian Stowell (LP 1973). The sleeve notes to this iconic recording have been recently updated by George Broderick and you can access the lyrics, translations and the extensive notes: [http://manxmusic.com/media/Publications/Revised%20Arraneyn%20Beeal-Arrish%20Vannin%20PDF%20for%20CD%20\(1\).pdf](http://manxmusic.com/media/Publications/Revised%20Arraneyn%20Beeal-Arrish%20Vannin%20PDF%20for%20CD%20(1).pdf)



The digitised CD (released 2010) is available from Culture Vannin and other local shops for £12.00

Talented musicians from the Manx scene snapped back in the 1980s.

And they're now in the iMuseum!

<< Sharon Corlett & Mai Ying Lee

“KANEEN’S ADVENTURES IN FOLKLAND”

(1960)

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much indeed for the excellent “write-up” you gave the “Ballads and Blues Club” in Teenland. I hope you like the club.

Unfortunately, though being president of it. I am afraid that with being over here in “the Pool,” I am not able to do as much for the club as I should like to.

I am trying to get the Liverpool group the Spinners to come over to the Island sometime about Easter, but, as yet there is nothing concrete, but I am hopeful.

The “Spinners” are very popular over here; they run a club in London Road on a Friday night and, if you saw the *Melody Maker* last Saturday, you will have seen that they recently presented their 1,000th member with a record; so you can see that it really is a thriving club. Last Saturday, the 11th, they were singing in the newly founded “Celler” in Cecil Sharp House (headquarters of the English Folk Dance and Song Society) in London, prior to making a 12 in. L.P. of folk songs for H.M.V. on the Sunday.

I went down to London on Friday midnight so as to give the “Spinners” moral support and it was a most entertaining evening. I was talking to Peter Kennedy, son of the director of the E.F.D.S.S., while I was down there, and he expressed interest in the Manx folk club. The evening was compered by John Pearse whose L.P. *Songs Miss Pringle Never Taught Us*, in conjunction with Frank Purslow, is selling very well in the London area, where it is only available from Dobell’s record shop. John introduced Martin Carthy, a young folk singer with a dazzling guitar style; Martin was followed by the “Spinners” and soon after the interval yours truly managed to get his “plug” in by singing T.E. Brown’s “The Manxman and the King,” which went down very well. About 10 o’clock some of the better known folk singers began to do their stuff, notably Robin Hall who, although he wouldn’t sing, gave us a reading of “Tam O’Shanter” by Burns, which he read exceedingly well. Also I noticed in the audience three members of the “Thames-side Four,” who you will probably have heard on either the Light Programme’s *Thursday Roundabout* or *Easybeat*.

Well, I think that’s about enough of Kaneen’s adventures in Folkland, so I’ll say so-long for now, and once again, thanks for printing the article about the folk-club.

Sincerely.

JOHN KANEEN.

15. Western Drive, | Cressington, | Liverpool 19.

13-2-61.

Manks Songs and Ballads.

ON SALE, AT THE "HERALD" OFFICE,

Mannin-veg-Veen,
Arrane er Innenyn Irrinee,
Thurot and Elliott
Arrane mysh ny Baatyn-Skeddan,
Arrane y Skeddan,
Yn Jurkagh Meshtyllagh,
Illiam as Ysbal,
Ny Kirree Fo Sniaghtey,
Aarey Yacob,
Mylechraine.

One Penny Each, or the Lot for Six Penny Stamps.

Henry Jenner in his paper on "The Manx Language" published in the *Transactions of the Philological Society* (1877) mentions seeing, or picking up, a number of Manx ballads printed on a single sheet or as a leaflet. He specifically mentions "Ny Kirree fo Sniaghtey," "Mannin Veg Veen," and "Mylecharaine." As can be seen from the advert here they were in fact part of a series of ten, priced at one penny a piece or just six pence in postal stamps for the set. The advert first appeared in the *Mona's Herald* for 30 October 1872 running until 14 May 1873.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

References: Henry Jenner, "The Manx Language: Its Grammar, Literature, and Present State," *Transactions of the Philological Society* 1875-76 (1877): 172-97, see 184.

Traditional Tunes and Popular Airs conference

CECIL SHARP HOUSE in London are delighted to be hosting their first conference exploring 'traditional' and 'popular' tunes, their history and transmission.

This conference, taking place on Friday 6-Saturday 7 October at Cecil Sharp House, brings together those working on these tunes across multiple contexts, delivering a wide-ranging weekend of papers and discussion. Among the broad selection of topics covered, the weekend will delve into:

tunebooks / composers / arrangers and collectors / song tunes in performance / melodic traditions
dance tunes

The conference is organised by the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library (VWML), the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) and the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen.

Ticket prices £45 full weekend & £30 one day

www.cecilsharpshouse.org



TYNWALD DAY — DISTURBING RESTRICTIONS

The problem for dancers and musicians at Tynwald Fair continues. . . .

In February, Sleih Gyn Thie first heard that the Tynwald Arrangements Committee was going to refuse to allocate plots, for the purpose of playing music and dancing at St John's Fair on the National Day. Since then, much correspondence ensued in an attempt to discover the Committee's reason for wanting to stop these harmless activities and to persuade them to change their minds. Had there been complaints? If not, why had the Committee made such a decision? None of the questions was properly answered, and the excuse trumped up, was that music and dance would interfere with the Ceremony.

Despite assurances that all performances would stop as usual during the actual ceremony from Tynwald Hill (the Fair is in any case cut off from the Ceremony and each is oblivious to the other . . . see Carn 58); there was no change of heart. Another supposed reason for denying space was, that it would deprive other traders. Observers on the day claimed that not all plots were in use.

Eventually, the Committee, not wishing to back down in the face of reasoned argument against their actions, gave permission for Sleih Gyn Thie to use a piece of ground completely



Photo: taken from current Tourist Board literature! featuring dancing at Tynwald Fair.

out of the way of the activities of the Fair. Realising that this amounted to the same thing as being banished, S.G.T. applied for plots to sell music books and tapes, and a committee decision was taken by them, to perform nearby. The place they had been given permission to use proved totally useless, due to interference from the P.A. system, broadcasting Manx Radio's commentary of the proceedings.

Mr. Robert Quayle, former Clerk of Tynwald (he no longer has any official connection within government or with Boards of Tynwald) seems to be carrying out some

sort of personal vendetta against dancers and musicians, by assuming powers he does not, and in fact never did, possess. He was said to be very annoyed that dance and music had been performed at the Fair and has sent a letter from the Clerk of Tynwald's Office, to a representative of S.G.T., who also happens to be a civil servant, requesting an answer to the charge of deception by S.G.T. and also whether this sort of action is compatible with that of an employee of the civil service. *It is doubtful if he would have the right to issue veiled threats of this nature even were he still Clerk to Tynwald.*

It would not be unreasonable to suppose that Mr. Quayle's vendetta against S.G.T., derives from a row over refusal to provide proper payment (agreed verbally) for entertaining delegates of a conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, some three years ago.

In many countries of the world, governments recognise the national asset of their traditional artists, and accord them high status. A dangerous precedent will be set if the Tynwald Arrangements Committee is allowed to succeed in preventing those who wish to contribute a cultural dimension to the proceedings on our National Day from so doing. It should stop acting in this absurdly officious and unreasonable way. Mr. Quayle is now no longer involved and should have no influence on those responsible for organising Tynwald Day.

C.J.K.

KIAULL VANNIN

A source book for Manx tunes, transcribed from the collections of Dr. J. Clague and others. By C.W.P. Jerry. £5.00 plus 50p postage.

This is the most complete collection of traditional music collected in the Isle of Mann, both previously published and hitherto unpublished. Over 400 tunes and variants have been transcribed into a restricted number of simple keys to assist comparison, from the Clague manuscripts and other collections, including Manx Ballads and Music published by A.W. Moore, those published and unpublished by Miss Mona Douglas and other isolated tunes.

1987 Carn (above)

- a report of how Manx dancing was effectively barred from Tynwald Day!

- An advert from 30 years ago for Colin Jerry's new source book, *Kiaull Vannin*

TYNWALD.

Since those wild days when Celt and
Norseman met
Tynwald has been the throne of all our
kings,
The nation's centre—O her glory rings
Down through dim centuries, and stirs
us yet!
But now our children wander and forget
The enduring beauty of old, hallowed
things;
A race of strangers throngs our land,
and brings
The mocking cry that Tynwald's star has
set.

Yet shall her ancient power return again,
Springing, immortal, from a dying past.
She shall not die! Unheld by bar or chain
Deep in the nation's heart her place is
fast:
Through mists of cold neglect and bitter
pain
Our Tynwald shall rise glorious at last!
—Mona Douglas.

Tynwald - poem by Mona Douglas, 1916

Laa Luanys

 offers a Manx tradition stretching back to Celtic times on the Isle of Man.

At the start of August, Manx people would climb the hills of the Isle of Man in an act of homage and tradition which lasted for centuries and bridged great breaks in belief and religion.

Starting as a Celtic act of faith for the god, Lug, the practice of ascending places such as Snaefell and South Barrule was transferred into the Christian tradition in the 18th Century. The practice of holding an act of devotion on the hill-tops continued into modern times, most famously through a service held in Manx Gaelic on South Barrule and led by the great Tom Taggart on his 'fiddle' (actually a cello).

Regardless of the particular reason why you might climb a hill on the Isle of Man at the start of August, you will be continuing an ancient Manx tradition if you do so...

In this mini film by Culture Vannin, cellist Josephine Evans and singer/guitarist Matt Creer perform Dr John Clague's "Crofton", which, according to Mona Douglas, was Tom Taggart's favourite hymn melody.

http://culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_485941.html

<https://youtu.be/eOXWGWU9H3g>

Mona's article about Tom Taggart, Crofton & the trip up South Barrule was featured in this past KMJ:

www.manxmusic.com/media//Newsletters/KMJ%20April%202016.pdf

See next page - Transcription of the Month for "Crofton" >>



TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

More info on Dr John Clague www.manxmusic.com/bio_page_129756.html

CROFTON L.M

Attributed to Dr J. Clague

1.

Glory to Thee, my God, this night
For all the blessings of the light;
Keep me, Oh keep me, King of Kings,
Beneath Thy own almighty wings.

2.

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

3.

Teach me to live, that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed;
Teach me to die, that so I may
Rise glorious at the awful day.

4.

Oh may my soul on Thee repose,
And with sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
Sleep that may me more vigorous make
To serve my God when I awake:

5.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Bishop T. Ken

Although this tune is always attributed to Dr J. Clague, it is probably one that he collected and arranged. It is popularly sung to the words 'Glory to Thee my God this night' and is one of a large number of variants found throughout the British Isles of the tune known as 'Tallis' Canon'. In 'Hymns and Carols' Gill uses the text 'O Love, how deep, how broad, how high'.

"Crofton" by Dr J Clague - published in *The Everlasting Hills - Hymns from the Isle of Man* by Fenella Bazin 2006

CALENDAR

JULY

29th Celtic League party/music session, White House, Peel 9pm
29th Summerland Memorial Concert, Centenary Centre, Peel 7.30pm, £10

AUGUST

3rd Skeddan Jiarg & Staa, IOMAC concert, Villa Arcade, 7.30pm FREE
4-13th Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Brittany
5th The Legend Of Luke Kelly – Dubliner, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm, £18 www.centenarycentre.com
6th Laxey trad session, 12.30pm. See inside KMJ for more info
10th Christa McCartney & Biskee Brisht, IOMAC concert, Villa Arcade, 7.30pm FREE
13th Groudle Cliff-top Concerts, inc. Truman Falls
17th Claasagh & Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums, IOMAC concert, Villa Arcade, 7.30pm FREE
24th Perree Bane & Matt Creer, IOMAC concert, Villa Arcade, 7.30pm FREE
28th Castletown Summer Send off Market, 10-4pm

SEPTEMBER

16th Claire Jones harp workshop and concert, St Paul's Ramsey
29th – 3rd Oct Isle of Man Traditional Irish Music Weekend



Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online:
www.manxmusic.com

Above: Perree Bane & Swedish dancers performing in the Villa Arcade last month

~ SESSIONS ~

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas
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
Occasional **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