

Biskee Brisht retain top title as winners of Arrane son Mannin!

A full Hall (Peel Masonic) was a welcome setting for the annual Arrane son Mannin new song competition (6th January) when three groups performed their new songs in Manx for prize money of £300.00 sponsored by Culture Vannin. There was a Manx concert either side of this highlight, with an excellent range of local talent.



Triskellion (or ¾ of it as illness had struck) featured Owen Williams (composer) with Lukas Hayhurst and singer Sarah James. Aeron Roberts would have been the second singer, but bronchitis had

stolen her voice. Owen's song was 'Arrane ny Deiney G'obbragh' – 'Song of the Working Men' and was written in Manx as Owen is already a fluent young Manx speaker and talented musician.

Jedoonee Bagoon came next with James Franklin and Cori Phillips performing their haunting 'Billey Euar ny Greg' – 'The Juniper Tree', a melody inspired by a dark fairytale of the brothers Grimm.

Biskee Brisht followed, a five piece band with composer, vocalist and ukelele player Ruby Biscoe-Taylor, David Kinley, Matt Brewster, Django Kinley and John Kaighin. Their song was 'Dty Skeealyn' – 'Your Stories' with a storyline of a family's discovery of their Manx heritage and folklore.

Adjudicators David Kilgallon, Laura Rowles (a former Pan-Celtic winner), and Peter Crellin had the usual difficult task of deciding on a winner: their choice was Biskee Brisht who will travel to Letterkenny in Ireland in Easter week to compete against new songs from the other five Celtic countries. www.panceltic.ie

The concert featured many fine Manx musicians and singers, in several ages and guises, from young cousins Josh and Ealish dancing, to grandmother Clare with Cliogaree Twoaie Gaelic choir which Clare has led for many years. Sons John and David also performed in a couple of diverse roles. Matt Kelly gave his guitar and vocal performance to an enthusiastic audience, as did talented sisters Katie and Kirsty Lawrence with fiddle, piano, cello, low whistle and vocals. Young band Scran, down to only four members together with their mentor Paul Rogers, also produced some excellent traditional music. Biskee Brisht performed too, including last year's winning Arrane son Mannin song, 'Nagh Abbyr Smoo' which earned well-deserved applause and sent everyone off home humming the tune.

All participants once more gave of their time and talent free of charge and deserve much thanks for their continuing generous support of Arrane son Mannin and their promotion of new Manx music, song and dance. Many thanks also go to Culture Vannin for its support and work in promoting Manx language, music, song and dance and the wider Manx cultural tradition.

Report by Fiona McArdle, Organiser for Pan-Celtic International Committee. Photos by Jiri Podobsky.

In this month's edition...

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- *The Manx Folk Awards*
- *Mera & Isla make Island proud*

Culture
VANNIN

BE PART OF A 'FOLKESTRA'!

Local musicians, young and old, and from any musical background, are invited to take part in one of two 'folkestra' workshops to work together on a big folk/jazz/classical/funk/world music fusion piece!

Fiddle virtuoso Joe Broughton and one of the UK's most innovative percussionists, Tom Chapman (both from the Birmingham Conservatoire Folk Ensemble, Urban Folk Quartet, Albion Band and other groups) will be coming over to the Isle of Man to lead the workshops in St Johns Methodist Hall on Saturday 10th February.

Organised by Culture Vannin, the workshops are open to anyone who can play a tune (basic to advanced level), on any instrument and from any genre, and there is no need to be able to read music. There is a morning folkestra workshop for over 16s and adult musicians, followed by a youth folkestra workshop in the afternoon, suitable for young instrumentalists aged 10 - 16.

Joe Broughton is a well-known face on the English folk music scene, and he pioneered the very popular Folk Ensemble at Birmingham Conservatoire of Music.

Check out when they recently flashmobbed Birmingham New Street Station!!

www.facebook.com/MidlandsBBC/videos/10155987822659761/

www.facebook.com/RoyalBirmCons/videos/1401091623335799/

Book your place online soon or email manxmusic@culturevannin.im if you'd like to attend:

Sat 10th Feb

FOLKESTRA WORKSHOP Adults (inc. over 16s) 11.30am - 1.30pm

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/joe-broughton-folkestra-workshop-adult-16-tickets-41239692029

FOLKESTRA WORKSHOP Young musicians (10 - 16 yrs) 2.30 - 4.30pm

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/joe-broughton-youth-folkestra-workshop-10-16-yrs-tickets-41240367048

There will be an informal performance at the end of each workshop for family and friends.

Spread the word with other musicians of any genre who may be interested in getting involved

(it's not just for folkies!)





Folk Awards galore!

Not one, but TWO young talented Manx musicians were selected for the **BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Musician 2018** residential course and concert last weekend - harpist Mera Royle plus fiddle player Isla Callister with her Glasgow-based band, TRIP.

Out of the ten competitors who took part in the weekend in Kendal, four will be chosen will go forward to the Grand Final at the Royal Albert Hall, and those finalists will be revealed on Mark Radcliffe's Folk Show on 7th February. So tune in!

The BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award has been running for 20 years. Artists who have previously taken part include Wildwood Kin, Blair Dunlop, Bella Hardy, Megan Henwood, Jim Moray, Adam Holmes, Mischa Macpherson, Jarlath Henderson and Greg Russell and Ciaran Algar.

Read about Mera and Isla here: <http://www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=38171>

Aundyryn Kiaull-Theay Vannin / Manx Folk Awards

And on this side of the Irish Sea, we have our own Folk Awards!!

CALLING SCHOOLS & TEACHERS! Organised by DESC, Culture Vannin and Manx National Heritage, the Manx Folk Awards will take place from 25 - 29 March 2018 at the Douglas Youth Arts Centre and Trinity Church.

The Manx Folk Awards are very informal competitions and organisers are always looking to encourage new schools to take part for the first time. As well as vouchers, you may win one of the Folkstastic Prizes, sponsored by the Malcolm Scotti Dickinson Charitable Trust!

Get in touch if you need help with simple dance steps, tunes and help with Manx pronunciation. So there's no excuse not to get involved! It's all about the FUN!

Closing date is 23rd February and the syllabus is here: <https://manxfolkawards.weebly.com/>

Sunday 25th March 2018

Secondary Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre)

Monday 26th March 2018

Keystage 1 Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre & Rosemount Trinity Church)

Tuesday 27th March 2018

Keystage 2 Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre & Rosemount Trinity Church)

Wednesday 28th March 2018

Keystage 2 Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre & Rosemount Trinity Church)

Thursday 29th March 2018

Keystage 1 & 2 Aaloayrtys - Manx Gaelic Readings, poetry and recitation (St Johns Methodist Hall)

FILMS OF PERFORMANCES

Thanks to Ron Corkish for capturing highlights of last year's MFA:

www.culturevannin.im/video_story_508775.html

Loss of a “Manxman through and through”

Roy Kennaugh

13-06-1949 to 27-12-2017

Manx culture, politics and heritage lost an avid supporter, activist and friend with the sudden death of Roy Kennaugh just after Christmas. Roy regularly organised Celtic Congress and Oie'll Verrey concerts, and he would often be seen out and about enjoying the festivals, sessions and cultural get-togethers. He will be sadly missed by the Manx music and dance community.

Roy had been organising a Manks Concert on behalf of the Celtic Congress and it will go ahead on Saturday 24th February at the Centenary Centre, Peel (see poster in KMJ).

Proceeds of the raffle will help raise funds for the Friends of Sophia Goulden.

Read some of the tributes to Roy:

www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=37882

www.mecvannin.im/pabyr/yps57.pdf

www.transceltic.com/blog/roy-kennaugh-sad-loss-of-truly-great-manxman

Photo from IOM newspapers >>



Sunday Session in Laxey

12.30 - 4pm on the 4th February

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

Tel. Mary for more details: 493365. All ages & abilities welcome.



Jeant dy mie Bree buskers!

Manx music youth group busked as part of the Peel Christmas market and also in the House of Manannan, and their festive tunes, songs and dances raised £60 for Manx Gaelic pre-school, Moonjer Veggey!

Easter weekend sees the 21st edition of the Shennaghys Jiu Festival

This year will see the return of festival friends, alongside some new faces to the festival. Once again the festival is indebted to Culture Vannin, Island Aggregates, Corlett's and Ramsey Town Commissioners for their continued funding of the festival.

Once again the festival will have a familiar feel, and will provide a warm welcome to visitors from Scotland, Cornwall, and the north east of England in the shape of Birlinn Jiarg. We are delighted to welcome the return of Trip, and Splann from Cornwall, both of whom provided excellent performances and displays last year.

The festival will continue to provide links to local schools with our outreach programme with the hope of visiting 12 different schools in different locations around the Island.

To help this programme Greta Curtin and Jessie Healey will make an appearance at the festival and will travel to many of the schools to give them a flavour. The festival will also hold its annual arts exhibition in Ramsey Town Hall, which provides the opportunity for local schools to showcase some of the excellent work they produce with their children.



Shennaghys Jiu will begin on **Friday 30th March** with its young persons' concert at The Masonic Hall, Ramsey. Saturday 31st March will see the return of displays outside The Ramsey Courthouse, with workshops and food and folk sessions in the Mitre during the morning and lunchtime. Dance workshops will be held in The Masonic Hall during the afternoon and during the evening a concert and ceilidh will be held in the same venue.

Sunday will see the festival return to The Peel Centenary Centre for an afternoon of music provided by Birlinn Jiarg, Kirsty and Katie Lawrence and Trip, who will be joined by local band Scran.



Sunday night will see the final concert and ceilidh and the last performance of some of our visitors from across the waves.

Monday will see the close of the festival with a chance to try out some simple conversation Manx, whilst having the chance to sample some local produce along the way. This will take the form of sampling some local beers, spirits and perhaps meats and cheeses. (S'mie lhiam jough. T'eh yindissagh!)

The final night will see the festival climax in The Mitre Hotel with its annual bands night, where favourite acts will rock the night away and provide a rousing end to the festival.

For further details visit www.shennaghysjiu.com where events will be updated as soon as acts are confirmed.

KMJ TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH p.23 learn the Shennaghys Waltz composed by Katie Lawrence.

Dancers from the island are heading off to Ireland during half term

Ny Fennee, a Manx folk dance group based in the north of the island, are heading to Killarney, in the Republic of Ireland, to team up with a team of Irish dance troupe for a cultural exchange.

They will be hosted by the Killarney School of Music, and take part in a joint Irish and Manx ceildh, hold Manx dance workshops and also perform a joint concert with the Kerry Dancers, who themselves have travelled to the island on a number of occasions. They regularly appear at the Shennaghys Jiu festival, a Ramsey-based weekend event which promotes and highlights young talent in the trad-folk world, and creates links and cultural bonds between the different Gaelic nations.

Juan Garrett, the leader of Ny Fennee, said that the aim of the trip was to give the younger members of Ny Fennee the experience of travelling abroad and performing to, and alongside, dancers from other countries.

'The trip represents an opportunity for some of our younger members to experience something new, and give them a chance to showcase their talents,' said Juan.

'There will be lots to learn about each other's cultures, to represent the Isle of Man, and hopefully it will encourage our own children to carry on developing our own traditions.

'Although some of the older members will be accompanying the group, it will be the younger members who will be given the chance to lead the dances and routines.'

Ny Fennee, which means 'The Heroes' in Manx gaelic, were formed in 1980 .

The group perform many of the traditional Manx folk dances, and also perform their own original dances, set to both old and modern folk tunes.

They frequently represent the Isle of Man at many festivals and cultural events both on and off the island.

The dance group also appeared in the grand concert at inter -celtic Lorient Festival, in Brittany, during 2015, when it was hosted jointly by the Manx and Cornish nations.

by Mike Wade, Isle of Man Newspapers

www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=38273





2018 YEAR OF OUR ISLAND

a special place to live & work

This is a year to make the most of our beautiful Island, celebrating the vast amount of things we have to see, do explore and take part in. It is about celebrating our UNESCO Biosphere status through a range of events, activities, trails and celebrations.

www.ourisland.im

- Value all that is special about living on the Isle of Man
- Explore more and discover more on our Island
- See more and do more during the year
- Get involved and help to develop our natural and built environment
- Celebrate in your own way your culture our heritage and our environment
- Share what living on the Island means to you

Organisers are looking for members of our community to work with them in 2018 as partners. They say: *Year of Our Island is all about celebrating our Island and our connection to it. We want to encourage our community to explore more of the Isle of Man and get more involved in the vast number of activities which are happening on our doorstep. Whether you are thinking of running an event or just want to find a new hobby in 2018, our team is here to help you make the most of our Island this year.*

If you need help to get an event off the ground or simply want to enhance something that's already happening you may wish to consider applying for funding through the 2018 Year of Our Island project.

Find out how to apply:

www.gov.im/media/1360165/2018-year-of-our-island-grant-application-form.pdf

Braaid Eisteddfod

will be on Saturday 3rd March starting at 7.30pm but get there early to ensure they have a seat!! (and bring a cushion as there's not a chance of it finishing early!) It's just £5 admission which includes supper. For those taking part in the Guild this is a great opportunity to practice your piece.

Pic - Madeline Kelly performing at last year's Eisteddfod (credit: IOM Newspaper)



LIVING HOPE SOUTH



Manx Ceilidh
Friday 9th February
6:30 - 9:00 pm | Living Hope Church,
Port St Mary

Free to all!

Traditional Dancing • Local Band • Food & Drinks Provided

Manx Music Festival

Closing date for entries for the Guild is this weekend, so don't delay!

The 126th Manx Music Festival will take place from 20th to 28th April 2018.

www.manxmusicfestival.org/manx-music-speech-and-dance-competitions/

CYCLEFEST 21 & 22 April 2018

Elephant Sessions and Ross & Ali headline new Festival Club

Isle of Man Cyclefest presented by Isle of Man Bank returns to the glorious grounds of Milntown Estate for its third edition in 2018 with a new Spring date and an expanded programme of family entertainment. For many visitors to Milntown, however, Cyclefest is all about the soundtrack and there's even more for music lovers in 2018, with Cyclefest's very own Festival Club.

From sundown till late, the Cyclefest HQ will bounce to the new sounds of foot stomping Trad courtesy of the returning Elephant Sessions and this year's BBC Folk Award winners, Ross and Ali.

Fusing rich folk and traditional influences with funk, rock and electronica, Elephant Sessions have become something of a musical powerhouse. Already renowned for their breathtaking live shows on home soil, the band have been taking the festival scene well and truly by storm, including a sold out headline show at Celtic Connections 2017 and a 18-show run at the Showcase Scotland Expo during Lorient 2017.

Ross Ainslie and Ali Hutton, meanwhile, are two internationally recognised multi-instrumentalists, composers and arrangers. Their individual musical journeys have led them through a long list of high profile awards, but it was their much-anticipated collaboration, Symbiosis, that confirmed the duo as true pioneers of the ever-evolving Scottish traditional music scene. Combining their love of pipes and whistles with a wider exploration of traditional music and modern studio craft, Ross and Ali's debut album is simply stunning and earned the pair an invite to BBC's Folk Awards at the Royal Albert Hall where they were named Best Duo.

Away from the Festival Club, there's much more for music fans. Heading the bill on the main stage are two brilliant breakthrough acts. Wildwood Kin, shot to prominence this year after being championed by Bob Harris, Jamie Cullum and Jo Willey amongst others. As well as a hit debut



album, the Alt-Folk and Americana trio have enjoyed a summer to remember with appearances at Glastonbury and BBC Radio 2's Festival in a Day.

One of the most exciting and intriguing singer songwriters to emerge in recent years, Jake Isaac will also be bringing his own brand of roots music to Cyclefest with his high energy 'full album experience'. Mixing acoustic sounds with elements of rock, funk and soul, festivalgoers can expect big songs and big hooks.

Another artist used to stealing festival headlines is Yola Carter. Occupying that rare ground between gospel and country, the AMA Artist of the Year has made a huge splash stateside, with Rolling Stone magazine a big fan of the former Massive Attack singer. She finds herself in good company as CC Smugglers, William the Conqueror and Worry Dolls make up a tremendous line up of roots based Americana sounds.

And there's more for fans of Trad too, as former Folk Awards winner Sam Kelly visits Cyclefest along with his band, The Lost Boys. Boasting two highly acclaimed albums and a number of award-winning band members, Sam has made headlines by remoulding the traditional tunes taught to him by his Irish grandfather. Sam will also be playing as a duo on Cyclefest's new Little Lights stage, which is set to feature more of the UK's most talented young singer songwriters.

Tickets for Cyclefest 2018 are on sale now with a 15% saving this month.

Day tickets are just £10 and weekend tickets are just £16.

(Under 16s half price, kids 4 and under go FREE)

Visit www.iomcyclefest.com to book today and see more on this year's music and entertainment.



CELTIC CONCERT WITH ALAW

ALAW, described in Songlines Magazine as a "Welsh folk supergroup" will soon play their debut concert on the Isle of Man.

ALAW (Welsh for "melody") unites the talents of three exceptional musicians: Oliver Wilson-Dickson on violin, Dylan Fowler on guitar and Jamie Smith on accordion.

Originally from South Wales – the trio draw, in particular, on their Celtic heritage. Jamie (Barrule, Mabon) now lives in the Isle of Man.

Centenary Centre, Peel

Saturday 3rd March 2018

Doors 7:30pm, starts 8:00pm

Tickets: £14.00 / £8.00 (under 18s & students)

www.etickets.im/cc/ or from Celtic Gold - Peel / Shakti Man - Ramsey
Thompson Travel - Port Erin / Noa Bakehouse - Douglas

Joan Cowell presented with a gift for her time and dedication to the MFDS

Back in October 2017 Joan Cowell decided to step down from her role as Chairman of the Manx Folk Dance Society. Joan had been the Chairman of the Society for 36 years and felt that the time had come to let someone else take on the role. Before becoming Chairman, she was on the Management Committee for many years, assisting Mildred Holgate in the position of Secretary.

When Joan returned to the Island after finishing her Teacher Training, she joined Ballasalla Primary School, where Mr Philip Leighton Stowell was Head Teacher. He was a founder member and a big influence in the Manx Folk Dance Society and our style of dancing is based on his interpretation of the dances, many of which were collected by Miss Mona Douglas. His practice sessions at Ballasalla School were extremely thorough. He would make you do the same step for maybe half an hour, or possibly the whole session. For that reason, Joan had the best teacher of Manx Dancing on the Island at that time and her dance steps are still to this day very precise and accurate.

During her time with the Manx Folk Dance Society, Joan made many contacts with other folk dance groups. Her first contact was with the Wayfarers based in Birmingham. Through them she made contact with a member of Volkstanzgruppe Besse, based in Germany. Contact was first made with Sunnerbogillet from Ljungby in Sweden at the Morecambe & Lancaster International Folklore Fiesta in 1982. We also have contacts with Hembydsgillet in Malmo, Sweden and Visby Folkdansgille on the Swedish Island of Gotland. Joan has organised many exchange visits with these groups and also with other groups in the UK, namely Mersey Morris Men and Mockbeggar Morris from the Wirral, Uttoxeter Heart of Oak from Staffordshire, Tipyn O Bopeth from Wales and Old Mother Redcap's from Milton Keynes. These links have resulted in life long friendships being made.

The success and reputation that the Manx Folk Dance Society holds has a lot to do with the time and dedication Joan has given to the Society over the past 36 years. As a token of love and appreciation for all her work, their new Chairman Rachel Clarkson at their Christmas Social presented Joan with a gift.

*Above - Joan Cowell with new Chairman Rachel Clarkson – Photo Jiri Podobsky
Report by Rachel Clarkson



A poster for a 'Beetle Drive' event. At the top left is the Manx Folk Dance Society logo, a red star with 'MFDS' inside. The title 'Beetle Drive' is in large blue letters, with 'Saturday 24th February' below it. The location 'Onchan Parish Hall, Royal Avenue' is listed. The time is 'Time: 8pm'. Ticket information: 'Adults - £2', 'Children - Free', 'Tickets* or Pay on Door'. 'Light Refreshments' are also mentioned. At the bottom, there are three cartoon beetles: a blue one on the left, a green one in the center, and an orange one on the right. The text 'Family Fun Night' is on the left and 'Prizes' is on the right. At the very bottom, it says '*For tickets contact Freda on 624858'. The entire poster is enclosed in a red dashed border.

Oie'll Verree at Kirk Michael Brings in the Crowds - report

The annual Oie'll Verree, which can still be found in a number of rural settings, takes the form of a concert and remains at the forefront of Manx life as a community event, but the occasion at Kirk Michael was tinged with sadness after the news of the sudden death of Roy Kennaugh, who was one of its most dedicated proponents and organisers.

Held as usual at the Ebenezer Hall in Michael village, the venue was packed with an expectant crowd, looking forward to a good evening of entertainment, but before proceedings got underway tributes to the late Roy Kennaugh were given by John 'Dog' Callister and a member of Michael Heritage Trust.

Local singer Dilys Sowery provided a gentle start to the evening, in partnership on this

occasion with accordionist John Kaighin. This was followed by Deborah Taubman and Mary Faragher with recitations of historical Manx poetry, including that of the legendary T. E. Brown, and a little magic from Giles Beaumont. The first half concluded with some superb music from harpist Mera Royle and a selection of traditional dances from northern based dance group Ny Fennee.

A short interval, which included the presentation of the award Yn Gliggyr to a resident for their work in the parish, was then followed by the main event, which was the eagerly awaited dialect play, presented by The Michael Players RBV and produced by the late Roy Kennaugh.

This year's play was The L'il Smook by the prolific J. J. Kneen, a comedy based on the exploits of Mrs Qualtrough's endeavours to stop her husband from smoking and was the prize winner of the

1913 Yn Çeshaght Ghailckagh play competition. Recognised as the greatest Manx linguist of his generation and one of the most important scholars of Manx subjects, J. J. Kneen was awarded a Knighthood from the King of Norway.

Proceedings closed with the singing of Arrane Oie Vie (goodnight song) and a hearty home-made supper.

Valerie Caine © January 2018
(Courtesy of the North Western Chronicle)



MANX DANCE BOOK BACK IN STOCK!!

Rinkaghyn Vannin aboo! Sleih gyn Thie has reprinted the indispensable guide to Manx dance.

First published in 1983, this book has step-by-step instructions to most of the dances collected by Mona Douglas along with the tunes and chords.

Dance ranges from Cur Shaghey yn Geurey (AKA Step Dance) to the more complicated Fathaby Jig, plus there are some plays in the back (inc. Oie'll Vreeshey/St Bridget's Eve in Manx).

Buy your copy at local bookshops or online:

http://manxmusic.com/publication_511627.html

Mark Lawrence

Local guitarist, Mark Lawrence is creating some wonderful finger picking arrangements of Manx tunes - have a listen to his arrangement of Car ny Ferrishyn & Car Juan Nan:

<https://soundcloud.com/tommylawrence09/car-ny-ferrishyncar-juan-nan>

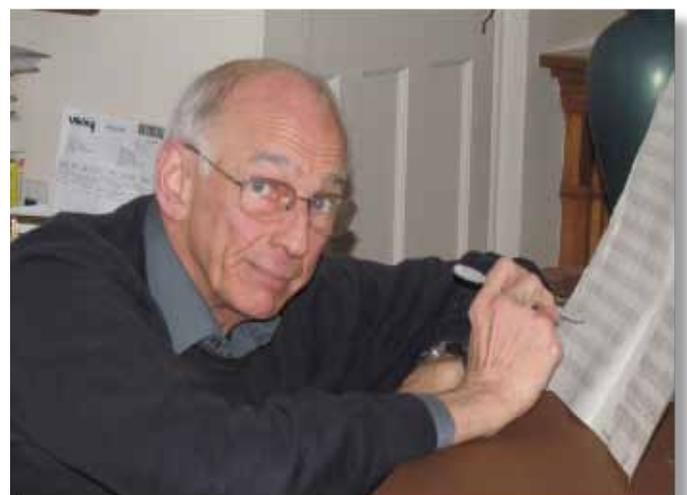
FAREWELL New song written and recorded by Nanaki. From the Small Bear Records release "Epilogue": https://youtu.be/u_cxUMwJzto



Listen out for a new release from duo Bahuki <<

www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=38279

NISH AS RISH have changed their name to A'Nish! News coming soon... www.facebook.com/anishmusic/



MANX CHOIR MUSIC

Download for free an arrangement for SATB of slumber song, "Arrane Saveenagh" by English composer Philip Thicknes >>

www.ptsheetmusic.com/page14.html

www.ptsheetmusic.com/Arrane%20Saveenagh.mp3





BALLAGROOVE RECORDS

It's amazing to see just how many recordings of local artists and original music have been created and produced by Gypo Buggane of Ballagroove records! Nick Barlow and the Bad Noise, Mr Eliminator and the Deadly Vipers, The Dub Club, Gratiz 3, Rhyssal Pheck, Cartesian Jetstream to name but a few! The studio is having a bit of a clear-out and a selection of the back catalogue of CDs are available for free to those who want them.



If you're interested, get in touch asap:

info@ballagroove.com

The studio is still busy recording new albums for musicians of various genres and is available to book through:

<https://ballagroove.com/>

New arrangements of Manx folk melodies comprise a new book of piano music by Frank Woolley

Eisht as Nish 2 (Then & Now 2) follows on from the first *Eisht as Nish* book which came out in 2007 and which has become an essential resource for pianists and keyboard players aspiring to play Manx music.

The new collection comprises 43 melodies, including airs, dances, hymns, sea songs and carvals. It includes Baase Illiam Dhone (Death of Illiam Dhone), Arrane y Chlean (Cradle Song), Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey (The Sheep under the Snow), Mylecharaine, Brig Lily, Berrey Dhone and the well-known revivalist hymn The Good Old Way.

Frank is a well-known figure on the island's music scene. He has been an official accompanist for the Manx Music Festival for 24 years and is the regular accompanist for the Cushag Choir and Ramsey Choral. He has taught piano for 35 years.

He began composing music at the age of 12, when he was a chorister at Lincoln Cathedral. Commissions have included 'A Manx Suite' for the Manx Youth Orchestra, choir test pieces for the Scottish 'Mod', and a 'Celebration March' for the 150th anniversary of Ramsey Commissioners.

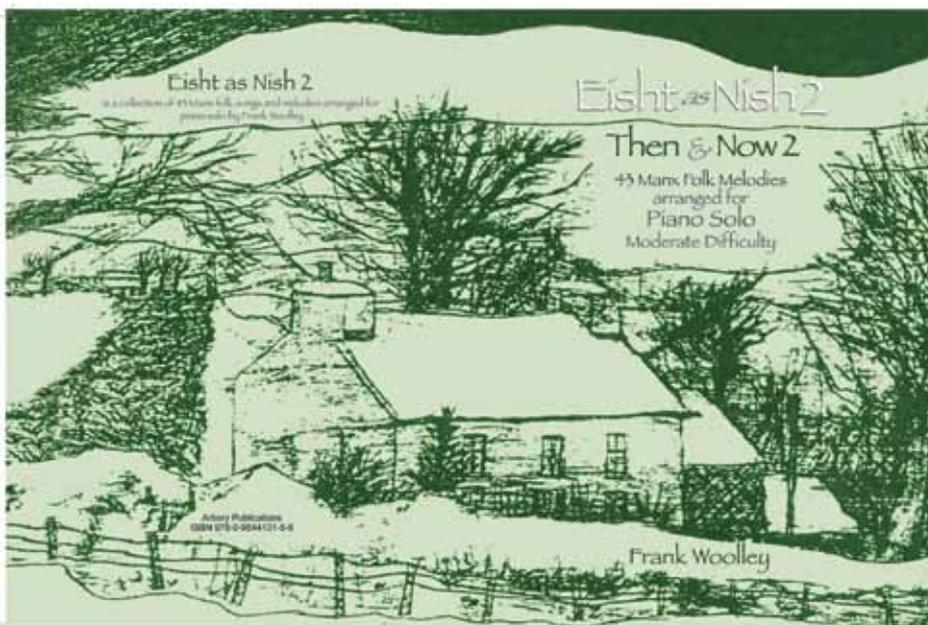
He has arranged many traditional tunes for Culture Vannin publications, most recently contributing to 'Celebration & Contemplation', Manx Traditional and Original Music for Church Organ. Two of these pieces, 'Haste to the Wedding' and 'Prelude – Manx Fishermen's Evening Hymn' were premiered at the Cathedral, Peel by Dr Peter Litman during Yn Chruinnaght, July 2017.

Of his latest collection for piano, he said: 'I hope to have brought out the individual character of each tune and presented it in a way that suits the instrument and is enjoyable to play'.

Dr Breesha Maddrell, Director of Culture Vannin said:

'This new book brings together favourites such as 'Sheep Under the Snow' and 'The Goodnight Song' and places them alongside beautiful airs and melodies rarely heard today.

'New life is breathed into the tunes, collected in the island during the 19th and 20th centuries, through these exquisite arrangements'.



Eisht as Nish 2 is available priced £12 from the Lexicon Bookshop (Douglas), Bridge Bookshop (Ramsey), Culture Vannin (St Johns) and Presence of Mann (Laxey Woollen Mills).

Festival of Returning Light comes to Port Erin

Port Erin Commissioners is launching a new annual event on Saturday 3rd February called the "Festival of Returning Light" as a celebration of St Bridget's Day and the beginning of Spring. During the day, there will be workshops for all ages at the Railway Station for participants to make St Bridget's crosses from reeds and also as a willow lantern for the parade from the station to the beach in the evening.

The evening event will see Manx folk music & dance followed by a torchlight & lantern parade down to the beach to be welcomed by a fire display on the beach to represent the returning light of Spring. This promises to be a great photo opportunity!

The workshops will be running on Saturday 3rd February between 10am and 4pm in the waiting room at the Railway Station and the evening event will start at the Railway Station at 6:30pm.



SAILORS SHELTER

"Shoh Slaynt" band
with guests **"Amore"**
Great acoustic music at the Sailors' Shelter.



Fundraising concert for the Sailors' Shelter, Peel.
Friday 16th February
8.00pm to 10.45pm -ish.
Donation - £5 to include hot drink and biscuits.
Bring your own booze. RAFFLE!

For information
Keith 842055 / Paul 842108 / Facebook - shohslaynt

Yn Cohaglym Celtiagh
Celtic Congress, Mannin

A Manks Concert
featuring
Michael Players, RBV
in J.J. Kneen's comic dialect play,
'A Lil Smook'
and music, song and recitation with
Scran, Marlene Hendy & Dilys Sowrey,
Deborah Taubman and Win Callister

Tickets : £7
Raffle for Friends of Sophia Goulden

7.30pm, Saturday
24th February 2018
Centenary Centre,
Atholl Street, Peel

Tickets available from -
Celtic Gold, Michael Street, Peel
Shakti Man, Parliament Street, Ramsey
G H Corlett, Castle Street, Douglas
Peter Norris Music, Buck's Road, Douglas

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



MANX THEME AT THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL HARP FESTIVAL

This year's prestigious harp festival (30 March - 4 April 2018) shares its Celtic focus between Cornwall and the Isle of Man. Five members of the Manx harp group Claasagh will be performing and attending courses at the festival thanks to support from the Isle of Man Arts Council and Culture Vannin. A mass harp ensemble will also perform a 10 minute set of Manx music on the last day of the festival and Manx Gaelic singer Ruth Keggin will be performing a concert with harpist Rachel Hair.

Pic above: beautiful Manx inspired artwork by Jenny Proudfoot.

www.harpfestival.co.uk



YAC MAGICAL CHOIR TO PERFORM IN HUNGARY

The Youth Arts Centre (DESC) has created a 'magical choir' of 20 young people aged 11 – 18 especially to take part in the Csipero International Youth Festival of Culture in Hungary in 2018. The trip is fully funded and is an exchange programme where young people stay with local people and next year the Hungarians students will visit the Island.



The festival will welcome 3000 young people from 33 countries to descend on the beautiful and historic town of Kecs-kemet from 1-8 July 2018. Each country is asked to bring a performance lasting up to 15 minutes without using words, so everyone can understand it.

Under the baton of conductor, singer and harpist Christa McCartney, who was actually trained at the world famous Kodaly institute in Keskemet, the choir will perform a programme of Manx traditional melodies using the solfege method.

www.csipero.hu/en/

<< Photo: YAC Magical Choir Conductor, Christa McCartney



MANX TUNES PLAYED FOR MEMORIAL IN SWITZERLAND

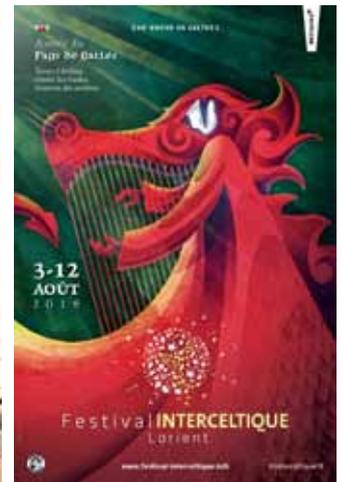
KMJ reader and local musician Alan Hess tells us that his late wife was headmistress of a special needs school in Switzerland near Zürich. She loved the Isle of Man and they had met at a friend's B&B in PSM way back in 1996, whilst she was on holiday on Mann.

On the 21st Dec 2017, a memorial bench was unveiled for the playground at the school she founded and led for over 30 years. Accordionist Alan joined music teacher and cellist Jhon Hernandez to perform 2 short Manx pieces for

the pupils and staff. Both received strong applause and the Manx Lullaby even prompted tears from a couple of staff! Alan said: "The Lullaby is approximate, as I only hummed in from memory to Jhon in the staffroom directly before the performance. However, I think it works and definitely shows his virtuosity on the Cello."

WATCH THE PERFORMANCES HERE >>

- • • • •
- **Youtube/video corner** •
- Manx lullaby •
- <https://youtu.be/93UoIKVWcEA> •
- Three Little Boats •
- <https://youtu.be/WUwS9M2OPHs> •
- • • • •



LORIENT 2018

Europe's largest Celtic festival, Festival Interceltique de

Lorient (3 - 12 Aug), has Wales as their honoured nation this summer, and news of which Manx performers have been chosen by the festival will be revealed soon by Isle of Man delegate, Ealee Sheard. There will also be free daily performances of music and dance at the Manx pavilion on the busy Quai de Pays Celtes, where the 800,000 festival goers can buy local food & drink, find out about the Island as a tourist destination and take home some souvenirs. The Manx pavilion is run by Event Management Solutions and is supported by Culture Vannin and the IOM Arts Council.

www.festival-interceltique.bzh/

RESEARCH NEWS

UNKNOWN SINGER OF OIKAN AYNS BETHLEHEM FOUND!

A singer has been identified for a 50-year-old recording discovered before Christmas.

Nothing was known about the recording other than its being made by Barone Nikolai Giovanelli at a church service somewhere in the Isle of Man during Christmas 1968. This was only deduced through a close listening to the rest of the church service in which the traditional Manx song, 'Oiken ayns Bethlehem', appeared. Nothing further could be discovered on the tape, and no further outside information was available.

The song was thought to be unidentifiable and so an appeal was put out in December 2017 to try and discover who the beautiful performance was by. Dr Chloe Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin, commented:

'This performance is something very special; it is amazing to discover it hidden here in an old recording of a church service. The piece has been performed by many of the leading musicians today, including Ruth Keggan, Caarjyn Coidjagh & Emma Christian. But this 1968 performance has something special about it. It would be wonderful to be able to attribute it to someone.'

We are now very pleased to reveal that the performance has been identified as being by Pamela Kerruish.

The recording was made at the Candlelight Carol Service at the Dhoon Church in Glen Mona in December 1968, with the Lord Bishop, Eric Gordon, in attendance along with the Speaker of the House of Keys, Sir Charles Kerruish. As an article in the Isle of Man Weekly Times of 27 December makes clear, it was Sir Charles' daughter, Pamela, who sang the solo carol in Manx.

This discovery of the newspaper article identifying the performer was made by Bob Carswell RBV and it was only this which truly convinced Pamela that it was indeed her own voice heard on the recording when it was brought to her attention.

Although not a Manx speaker, Pamela Kerruish picked up some Manx at the Dhoon School through the teaching of Frances Davidson. This was augmented by the songs selected by Jean Thornton Duesberry for the Maughold Girl Guides, who were responsible for the majority of the music at the concert in 1968. Pamela's pronunciation would also have been honed by her uncle and aunt, Bill and Constance Radcliffe, both important Manx speakers.

The beautiful voice, however, is entirely to the credit of Pamela alone:

Listen to the song: http://culturevannin.im/news_story_508445.html

HISTORICAL REFERENCE GUIDES TO CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Thanks Stephen Miller of Chiollagh Books, a PDF of all known historical White Boys scripts has been updated and shared on the Culture Vannin website:

www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_505782.html

Stephen Miller's new Hunt the Wren resources are also now on the website. They include early historical references (1731-1845), and the complete set of notes relating to the dance:

www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_469497.html

Photo of Hunt the Wren in St Johns 2017 by Val Caine >>



“THE LOCAL CHOIR WAS NOT VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE”

THE GORDON WESLEYAN CHAPEL
ANNUAL TEA MEETING AND CONCERT
(1910)

The annual tea meeting and concert in connection with the Gordon Wesleyan Sunday-school was held on Christmas Day, in accordance with long-established custom. The night was fine, and a large number of friends from the neighbouring district as well as several from outlying districts, such as Peel and Foxdale, put in an appearance and encouraged those responsible for the carrying on of Sunday-school work. The following ladies efficiently presided at the tea tables: The Misses Quirk, Cregganashen: the Misses Clucas, Glenmaye: the Misses Mylchreest, Gordon: and Misses Crellin and Lawson, Glenmaye. At the after meeting Mr Thos. Leece, ever willing to help on an occasion of this kind, presided in his usual kindly fashion. Appropriate addresses were given by Messrs Thos. Corris and Jos. Boyde, of Peel, and Mr J.T. Kissack, of Dalby. A quartette party from Peel rendered excellent service. The party consisted of Misses Shimmin and Clucas, Messrs Quayle and Watterson. Solos were rendered in pleasant style by Misses Clucas and Shimmin and Mr L. Quane. Their services were much appreciated. Mr L. Quayle accompanied. The local choir was not very much in evidence—only taking part in the opening and closing hymns, the visitors helping in the bass, tenor, and alto. Emigration, that robber of the talent of the country places, has evidently been at work among the local choir. We can remember a choir there some ten to twenty-five years ago who could always give a good account of themselves, and there is yet no reason to doubt that if the little country causes would harmoniously unite a very good choir might be produced which would serve with credit at all the local events. It only wants some one to take the initiative, some one with time to spare and a love for the work, and a supply of compressed energy and boundless patience. Let us hope such an one will be forthcoming.

“[Gordon] Annual Sunday School Tea and Concert.” *Peel City Guardian* 1
January 1910: 6b.

“The local choir was not very much in evidence” writes the correspondent here and goes on to give the reason why, not poor weather or illness, as might first be suspected given the time of the year, but the fact of continuing emigration from the Island expressed in a very telling sentence: “Emigration, that robber of the talent of the country places, has evidently been at work among the local choir.”

A.E. LAMOTHE ON MANX CHURCH CHOIRS

(1) Kirk Bride choir, now famous as containing some of the best church singers in the North of the Island, consisted in the old times, as did many another choir, of a clarionet and a bass fiddle. The “clar’net” acted as conductor, the bass being rather vague and languid—a sluggish, but full stream. The “clar’net,” in a standing position, indicated the lights and shades of the tune, by swayings of his body, more or less vigorous as occasion demanded. For crescendo he stamped his foot. For diminuendo he took the clarionet from his lips to say: “Lesh bass, Bill, bhoy! lesh bass, la!”

(2) In the days of old Baldwin Chapel, before the luxury of the harmonium was introduced, a well-known old man used to “raise the tunes” every Sunday afternoon and evening, with great success—at least, so he thought. One frosty Sabbath morning, however, he was apparently affected by the cold, and when he reached the second line of the hymn, he went wrong. Just at that moment, his son entered the chapel, and the old man, in despair, shouted out to him: “Thee catch it, Billy. It’s gone from me. Try, bhoy, to purra tune on the hymn.”

A.E. Lamothe, *Manx Yarns: Witty, Wise, and Otherwise* (Douglas: The Manx Sun, 1905) 107.

There are any number of such snippets of information on the past musical life of the Island tucked away as here.

STEPHEN MILLER

MONA DOUGLAS ~

WORKING GUIDE 1

Mona Douglas was the key figure in the reboot of Manx culture—young enough to have met Sophia Morrison and living long enough to see her years of constant activity pay off.

There is still much to be learnt about her and published with this issue of KMJ is a guide to the 1930 Easter Vacation School of the English Folk Dance Society held in Douglas when she lectured to the EFDS and presented a number of dances from her collecting.

One, the Dirk Dance, so impressed Douglas Kennedy that Billy Cain was invited to London the next year to perform it.

Read the working guide here:

<http://manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Mona%20Douglas%20Working%20Guide%201.pdf>





A wonderful photo of young folk dancers in the Villa Marina Gardens in 1961

Photo copyright Elaine Dewhirst on the Manx Nostalgia Facebook page.

KMJ reader Claire Crellin reflects on when she took part as a Manx dancer:

S'mie lhiam ny daunseyn tradishoonagh. Tra va mee ec scoil Noo Voirrey anys Doolish ayns ny bleentyn jeih as daaeed, ta cooiniaghtyn aym er daunsey dagh sourey lesh oilley ny bunscoillyn elley mygeayrt yn ellan. Va shin ayns y gharey Villa Marina. Va shin daunsey lesh lhoobyn as blaaghyn, ayns coamree tradishoonagh. Va criss lesh daah er lheh ec dagh skimmee scoil. Ga nagh mie lhiam rinkin cohirreydagh, she cooishyn mie v'ad er y fa dy row shin cho aeg as dy chur geill da yn meer cohirreydagh v'ayn. Ta cooiniaghtyn aym er Mona Douglas er y fa dy row ee er reaghey yn chruinniaght shen. Cre erbee ta ny dooytyn ayn nish mychione yn obbyr ronsaghey eck, cha ren peigh erbee elley reaghey yn lhied lesh oilley ny bunscoillyn derrey ny laaghyn Vona.

I like traditional dancing. When I was at St Mary's School in Douglas in the 1950's, I remember dancing every summer with all the other primary schools around the island. We were in the Villa Marina Gardens. We danced with hoops and flowers and wore traditional costume. Each school class team wore a different coloured band. Although I dislike competitive dancing, it was a great event and we were too young to pay much attention to the competitive element. I remember Mona Douglas because she organised these events. Whatever doubts there may be now about her research, no-one else has ever organised such huge school events since Mona's time.

This huge event involved most of the Island's primary schools. We'd love to hear your memories if you took part as a dancer! Email: manxmusic@culturevannin.im or join the Manx music and dance or Nostalgia Facebook group to add your comments.

Laa'l Breeshey

From 'As Manx as the Hills' facebook page

As Laa'l Breeshey (St Bridget's Day) approaches on 1st February, here is the Manx folksong 'Invocation to St Bridget' sung beautifully by Emma Christian: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDPDItKYkog

Vreeshey, Vreeshey, tar gys my hie,
tar gys y thie aym nocht.
Vreeshey tar o tar gys y thie aym nocht.

Bridget, Bridget,
come to my house,
come to my house tonight.

O foshil jee yn dorrys da Breeshey,
as lhig da Breeshey cheet stiagh.

Open the door to Bridget,
and let Bridget come in.

Vreeshey tar oo gys y thie aym nocht.
Tar oo gys y thie aym nocht.

Bridget, Bridget, come to my house,
come to my house tonight.

DOWNLOAD Sheet music, pronunciation sound file & piano and voice sound file:

www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_407801.html



Spotted on Manx Nostalgia FB page - a photo from 1975 of some Manx traditional musicians.

Some have been identified on the Manx music and dance Facebook page as:

Laurence Kermode, Sydney Kelly, Tom the Flute (what was his full name?), **Colin Jerry, Charles Guard. Phil Gorry, Bernard Cain, George Broderick, Cristl Jerry and Mick Kneale.**

Do KMJ readers have any more details?!

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

This lovely waltz was written especially for the 20th anniversary of Celtic festival Shennaghys Jiu in 2017. To hear the composer Katie Lawrence play the tune:

www.facebook.com/shennaghysjiu/videos/1415584488570059/

This year's Shennaghys Jiu festival runs from Friday March 30th – Monday April 2nd - see you there! <http://shennaghysjiu.com/>

The Shennaghys Waltz

Katie Lawrence

D G A(sus4) A D G

7 Em7 A D G A(sus4) A Bm6

14 F#m/A G A D Bm Em A D

21 G D/F# Em A Bm6 G

27 A D G D/F# G Bm A D

To all on the Shennaghys Jiu committee:-

Thank you for all the laughs, memories and support over the last twenty (plus!) years and for the opportunities to play music on the Island and beyond - both through Shennaghys Jiu and also further afield with Ny Fennee. It means a lot. Here's to another 20 years!

Copyright © Katie Lawrence 6th April 2017

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

1st Laa'l Breeshey

3rd The Fecktones on the beach at Port Erin
Festival of Returning Light, 7pm, free

4th Trad music session in Laxey, 12.30pm

9th Manx Ceilidh, Living Hope Church Port
St Mary, 6.30pm, free

10th Folkestra workshops with Joe
Broughton & Tom Chapman, St Johns
Methodist Hall, £10 / £5

16th Shoh Slaynt & Amore, Sailor's Shelter,
Peel, 8pm £5

24th Manks Concert inc. Marlene & Dilys &
Scran, in aid of Sophia Goulden memorial,
Centenary Centre, Peel, tickets £7

24th MFDS Beetle Drive, Onchan (see poster)

MARCH

3rd Alaw in concert, Centenary Centre,
8pm £14/£8

3rd Braaid Eisteddfod, 7.30pm, £5

16th Irish Night fundraiser, inc. Scran, Irish
dancers and the Fecktones, Douglas
Legion, 6.30pm

17th St Patrick's Night

25th – 29th Manx Folk Awards

30th – 2nd April Shennaghys Jiu Celtic
Festival <http://shennaghysjiu.com/>

30th Claasagh, Rachel Hair & Ruth Keggins
at Edinburgh International Harp Festival

APRIL

3rd-8th Pan Celtic Festival, Letterkenny

20th – 28th Manx Music Festival

21st & 22nd Cyclefest, Milntown, Ramsey



A taste of Irish 2018

Charity event in aid of
St Marys Lourdes Youth
And OFC Junior new pitch
Trinity Irish Dancers

16 March 2018
6.30pm till midnight
At the Douglas Legion club
Irish Dancers, Singers, Music
Tickets include food "Irish
Stew"

Contact Annette 457826
Adults £12.00
Children under 12's £5.00

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

www.manxmusic.com

~ 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 Manor, Willaston

Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiavull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
Occasional **SAT** 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel

Monthly **SUN** 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:
Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Chloë Woolley**: chloe@culturevannin.im
www.manxmusic.com

Call: Chloë: 01624 694758

or write to: Culture Vannin, PO Box 1986, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1SR

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