



Arrane son Mannin Concert and Song Competition

Friday 10th January 2014

Peel Masonic Hall, Stanley Road,

7.30pm start - free admission

* raffle *

Featuring: Jonee Fisher (last year's Song Competition winner), Tree Cassyn, Cliogaree Twoaie, Laura and David Rowles, - Marlene Hendy and Dilys Sowrey and song competition.

In this month's edition...

- *Hunting the Wren in Ramsey, Douglas, Port St Mary and St Johns*
- *more Manx music for the mountain dulcimer*
- *Island of Culture 2014 is launched*
- *Manx harp arrangements as set pieces in Glasgow competition*
- *Ruth Keggins album launch*
- *more Manx music, songs and drama in the Island's schools*
- *a research article by Stephen Miller*
- *photos from the Foolish Fortnight*
- *and much, much more!*



AN EXCITING PROJECT INVOLVING CULTURAL AMBASSADOR FOR ISLAND OF CULTURE, DAVY KNOWLES, STARTED AT THE END OF DECEMBER.

DAM PRODUCTIONS HAVE STARTED WORK ON 'ISLAND BOUND' WHICH SEES DAVY CONNECT WITH HIS MANX MUSICAL ROOTS.

THE MANX MUSIC TEAM AT CULTURE VANNIN HAD A LOVELY TIME CHATTING TO DAVY ABOUT ALL THINGS MANX AND MUSICAL!

(PHOTO: CHRISTY DE HAVEN)



The Manx Heritage Foundation is changing its name to Culture Vannin in 2014 to coincide with the Island of Culture celebrations - more will be revealed next month:

www.culturevannin.im

Manx themed Christmas school shows

Ballacottier Infants School staged the Christmas Story with a very Manx twist last term, with their show, *The Perfect Location*. The children took the audience and the 'film crew' on a musical tour of the Island using Manx songs and dances. Interspersed with the narration, the fishermen of Peel sang "King of the Sea", the mini miners performed "The Laxey Wheel" plus a new mining song written by teacher Katie Lawrence, and the reception year 'little people' danced and sang about the Fairy Bridge. The final scene took everyone to a stable in Cregneash where the children gave a lovely rendition of Bob Carswell's carol, "Yeeseey Creest".



Meanwhile, the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh's *Shirveish y Nollick* in St Johns demonstrated the high standard of musicianship at the school. The service took the form of a series of mini improvised scenes by individual classes which told the Christmas story. The programme included songs "Lhig Dooin goll dys Bethlehem" and "Manjoor Beg Babban ny Lhie", a funky new adaption of the Lord's Prayer by Aalin Clague, lovely arrangements of "Arrane y Chlean" by the violin club and "Yeeseey Creest" by the school's Club Kiaull, alongside congregational favourites sung in Gaelic.

And to mark the end of term, year 5 pupils at Braddan School performed *The White Boys* play! Teacher, Lisa Nelson, taught her class the mummers' play as well as the traditional sword dance. Check out some photos of them on the school wiki (and above!): https://www2.sch.im/groups/braddanschool/weblog/11adf/The_White_Boys.html Well done Braddan for keeping traditions alive!!

Chloe Woolley

Feddan update

Three more schools completed the Feddan Manx whistle course with Chloe last term. Over 6 weeks of half hour lessons, whole classes at Willaston, St Mary's and St Thomas' schools learnt to play basic tin whistle using Manx music. The course is funded by Culture Vannin and forms part of the IOM Music Service's long-term Primary Music Initiative which is managed by John Kinley. Rushen and Michael schools will receive lessons from Breesha and Chloe during the Spring term. There is also a special class in the Manx Folk Awards (7-9 April 2014) for classes who have learnt to play via the Feddan scheme of work, with a prize sponsored by Big Whistle Music.

To have a sneak peak at the Feddan scheme of work, check out: <https://www2.sch.im/groups/manxcurriculum/wiki/5a899/Feddan.html>

Hunting the Wren across the Island

Communities turned out to show off their wren bushes, play music and dance on St Stephen's Day, many of them collecting money for local charities.

With thanks to all contributors for photos, especially Jiri Podobsky (Douglas) and Valerie Caine (St Johns).



from Will Quale, Massachusetts

"How'll we cook her?"

"Pots and pans," says Risky Ron

"Bloody great cauldrons," says Jinny to Tom

"A microwave oven," says Graham-all-Along

"That's how we'll do it," says everyone





more lovely wren photos including PSM taking to the beach and times for the lesser spotted Sulby/Ballaugh/ Michael wrensters!

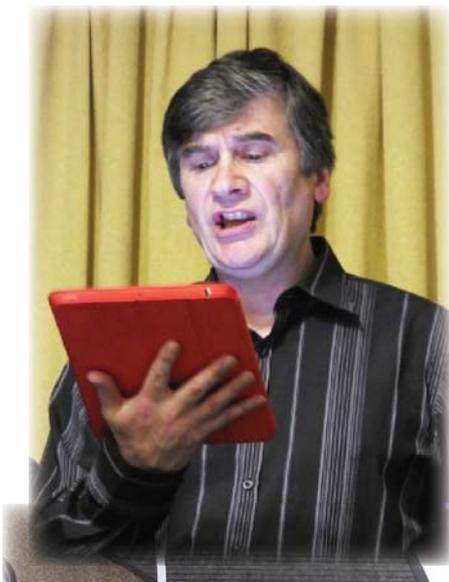
Illiam Dhone Day session, Castletown - photos: Valerie Caine



David Kilgallon, Jamie Smith & Isla Callister

Fiona Shimmin sent in this pic of Clogaree Twoaie singing round the pubs in Ramsey on 16.12.13. She says 'We sing round the local pubs to raise funds for a group of Ramsey charities. On 16.12.13 we raised approx £130! This is a Christmas tradition for the choir and great fun!'

kegeesh
ommidjagh
foolish fortnight



Some photos of Perree Bane at Castletown Farmer's Market, the mighty Mollag Ghennal and Michael Oie'll Verree - just some of the many events during the Foolish Fortnight!

Ruth Keggin heads west to launch her debut album



KMJ readers will know Ruth Keggin well - as a singer passionate about bringing Manx music and language to a wider audience, she launches her debut solo album, *Sheear* ('Westward'), on 15 February. The live studio recording features an eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary Manx Gaelic songs, arranged in a fresh and imaginative way.

On the album, Ruth (vocals, piano and flute) performs along with guitarist David Pearce and double-bassist Vanessa McWilliam. Talented Irish flautist and sean-nós singer Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin and renowned Manx fiddle player Tómas Callister also feature on several songs.

The release of the album will be marked with a launch at the Peel Centenary Centre on Saturday 15th February at 7.30pm. Support will be provided from Manx trio Tree Cassyn (Isla Callister, Doona Lambden and Paul Rogers), and Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin and multi-

instrumentalist David Kilgallon. David will also be playing fiddle in the main section of the concert.

Tickets are available from: Celtic Gold; Shakti Man; Thompson Travel; Peter Norris Music and from the Manx Heritage Foundation (email: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im). Tickets will cost £7.50 when bought in advance, or £10 on the door.

Ruth will then travel to Ireland to perform with her group. Dates include 19th February at Whelan's in Dublin, and a joint gig with the Scottish 'Gaelic supergroup' Dàimh at the Cultúrlann in Belfast on Friday 21st February. For more dates and information, visit www.ruthkeggin.com, or join her Facebook group.

MANKS CONCERT

Saturday, 1st February 2014, 8pm
Centenary Centre, Peel

An evening of Manks music, dancing and dialect poetry
Featuring the Kirk Michael Players in the
Manks dialect play, 'The Dumb Cake'

Tickets £7.50 from Celtic Gold, Peel and Shakti Man, Ramsey.

Proceeds will go to the Celtic Congress Mannin Branch to help finance the cost of taking musicians and speaker to International Congress each year.

Confirmed acts include Tree Cassyn, Ny Fennee, Katie Lawrence and friends, John and Philip Kennaugh, with rumours that two or three others will be able to make it.

This could be the last chance to hear the Manx Dialect Play stalwarts, Ann Corlett and Win Callister who will also perform a sketch, 'The Choir Practice'. Ann and Win have decided to hang up their bonnets for the foreseeable future.

~ SESSIONS ~

THURS 8pm Singing session at The Britannia, Ramsey

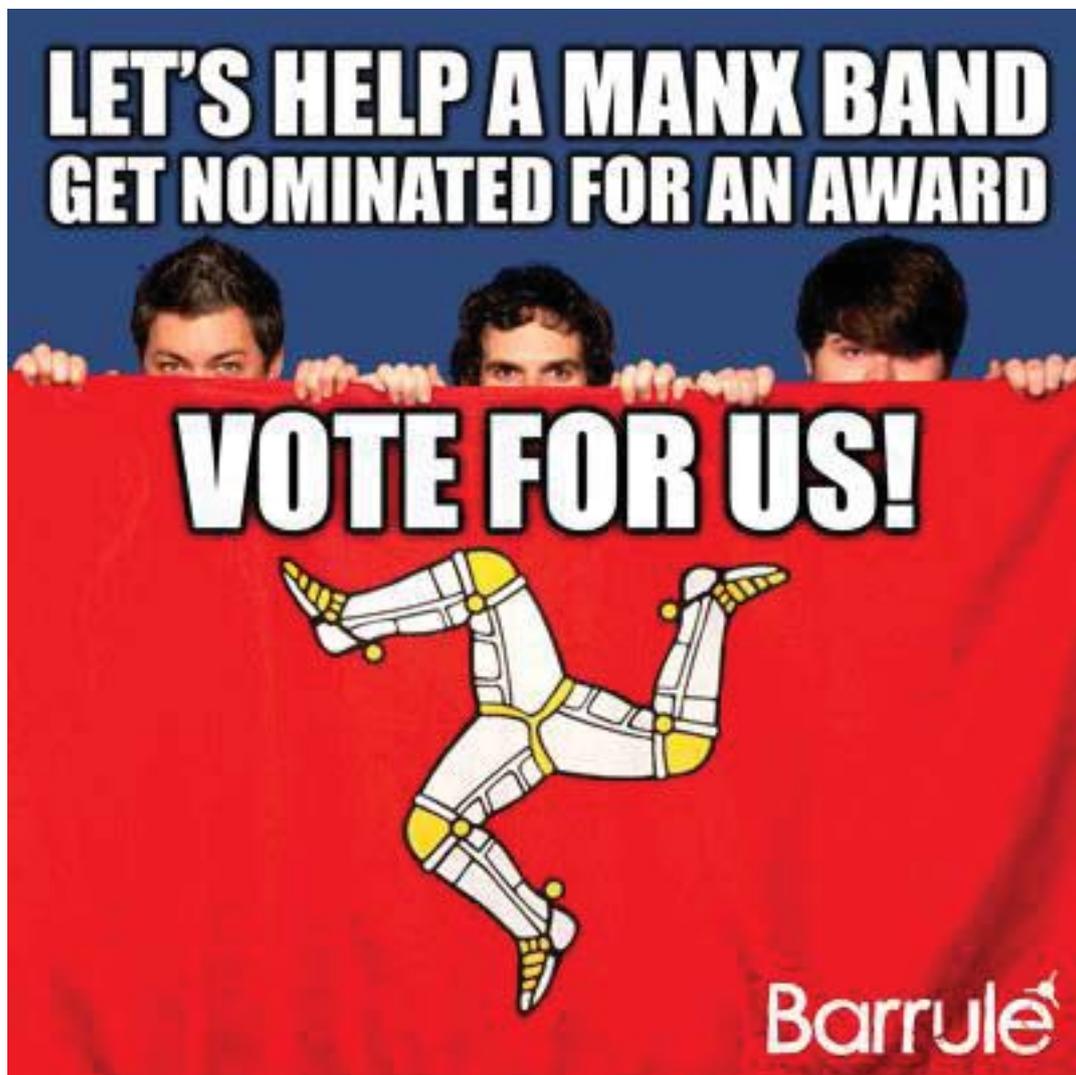
FRI 8.30-11pm Green's Tea Rooms, St Johns

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



BARRULE NEED YOUR HELP!

With the UK launch of their Manx music album earlier in 2013, Barrule were fortunate enough to get a review in the well known UK music magazine *Songlines*. This automatically placed them in the running for the magazine's prestigious 2014 music awards. Public voting for the 2014 Awards is now open in four categories: Best Artist, Best Group, Cross-Cultural Collaboration and Newcomer; and Barrule are listed as options for both the 'Best Group' and 'Newcomer' categories.

"This is where we need your help!" said Bouzouki player Adam Rhodes, "Being a public vote, we need as many people as possible to give a couple of minutes of their time to vote online. It would be fantastic if the Manx public could get behind this and help to get a Manx group in the running for an award in this well recognised UK publication - especially for the Island of Culture year!"

It's a pretty simple process: go to the website at www.songlines.co.uk/music-awards/, select an artist from the drop down list in each category, ignoring the categories that you're not sure about. You will be asked for your email address and then will be sent an email to verify your vote, but once that is done you can easily unsubscribe from any future emails should you wish.

As an added bonus, all voters will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win one of 3 pairs of tickets to the WOMAD world music festival in Charlton Park (July 24th-27th 2014) - a fantastic festival where Barrule played in 2013!

The public vote closes at midnight on January 31st, so head on over to:

www.songlines.co.uk/music-awards/ and cast your vote now!

THE BRIDE TONIC SOL-FA CLASS (1896)

by Stephen Miller, Vienna

The *Ramsey Courier* for 10 April 1896, reported that:

The great event in the parish of Bride during the Easter holidays was the concert which was given in the Parochial Schoolhouse on Easter Monday evening. The room was crowded, and many people were unable to obtain admission. That there should have been a large attendance was not surprising considering the nature of the attractions offered, chiefly in the shape of the Bride Tonic Solfa Class, which, under able direction of Mr Daniel Joughin, assisted by Miss Etta Joughin, has been brought to a high state of efficiency.

The Bride Tonic Sol-fa Class numbered over sixty members and had an organisational structure consisting of an honorary secretary, a treasurer, and a supporting committee of three.

The concert opened with "Blessed are the People," followed by "Cast thy burdens." Other pieces sung that evening by the class were "Save us O Lord," "The Village Choristers," "Laughing Chorus." Solo pieces were "Rock of Ages," "The Trysting Tree," "Loch Lomond," "Golden Love," "The Sea and the Sky," "The Storm-Fiend," "The Little Maid and her Bonnet." The concert closed with the singing of the National Anthem. To accompany the choir there was a small orchestra of seven, consisting of an organist, a pianist, three violins, a flute, and a double bass.

The organist was seemingly Etta Joughin of Ballaquark; her name is mentioned in 1895, when an organ was purchased for Bride Church. The *Ramsey Courier* piece also mentioned that some twenty-five years ago, one R. Kerruish had formed a Sol-fa class in the parish. Whether the Society had been in continuous existence since 1875 is unclear; likewise if the "Mr Kerruish" listed above is the same as "R. Kerruish."

Working through the newspaper account of the evening, some twenty-five individuals are mentioned in one way or another as being involved with the event: Rev. L. Ashworth, W. Brew, H. Butler, B. Butterworth, J. Cannell, A.E. Chrystal, Miss Corrin, J. Cottier, Miss E. Cowell, T.W.K. Cowle, Rev. D.S. Cowley, Dr Davie, Daniel Joughin, Miss Etta Joughin, J.J. Kelly, Mr Kerruish, Miss Kewley, H. Kissack, Miss Kneale, Miss Kneen, Mr Quark, W. Quark Jnr, Miss Lizzie Quarrie, D. Teare Jnr, Miss Teare, T. Vondy.

Most of these individuals (though not all) can be found in the 1891 Census: (1) the Rev. L. Ashworth was not enumerated in 1891; (2) "W. Brew" is William J[ohn?] Brew, aged 21, a farm servant living and working on Ballacregga, Bride; (3) "H. Butler" is Henry M[ichael?] Butler, 47 years old, of 4 Riverside, Ramsey, with no occupation (for some reason) recorded; (4) "B. Butterworth" is John B. Butterworth, 34 years old, living at [?Redan] Cottage, Bride, and employed as an Elementary School Teacher, born at Rochdale, Lancashire; (5) "J. Cannell" cannot be identified as there is no-one with that name recorded in Bride; (6) "A.E. Chrystal" is Alfred E[dward?] Chrystal, aged 25, auctioneer of 2 Altdale Terrace, Lezayre Road, Ramsey; (7) "Miss Corrin," surprisingly, there is no one named Corrin (or Curran for that matter) recorded in the 1891 Census; (8) "J. Cottier" is John Cottier, 55 years old, an agricultural labourer living at Ballakilley, Bride (but not working the land there); (9) "Miss E. Cowell" may well be Emily Cowell, aged 35, recorded as being a cook at the Albert Hotel, 1 Quay Street, in Ramsey; (10) "T.W.K. Cowle" is Thomas William Kneal[e?] Cowle of [?] Waterloo Road, 28 years old, and a carpenter by occupation; (11) Rev. D.S. Cowley, is the Rev. Daniel S[tephen?] Cowley, aged 38 years, Vicar of St German, Peel, living at 7 Parville Road, Peel; (12) "Dr Davie," is a mistake in print for Dr Charles Augustus Davies, 33 years old, a medical practitioner living at "Irey [sic] Lhaa," on South Promenade in Ramsey; (13) Daniel Joughin, aged 47, farmed Cronkbane, Bride, and was a member of the Setting Quest of the Lord's Lands for Bride; Miss Etta Joughin, presumably related, cannot be found; (14) "J.J. Kelly" is John [James?] Kelly, 34 years old, a joiner living at Ballagarret, Bride; (15) "Mr Kerruish" cannot be found; (16) "Miss Kewley" cannot be identified: there are no candidates in Bride though two in Andreas; (17) "H. Kissack," is Henry Kissack, a watchmaker & jeweller, aged 42, resident at 2 Market Lane, Ramsey; (18) "Miss Kneale" cannot be found; (19) "Miss Kneen" likewise; (20) "Mr Quark" is William Quark, 51 years old, who farmed Ballavarkish, Bride; (21) "W. Quark Jnr" is his son, William T[homas?] Quark, aged 19, who farmed with him; (22) "Miss Lizzie Quarrie" is Elizabeth E. Quarrie, 25 years old, living at Ballacowle, Bride; (23) "D. Teare Jnr" is Daniel J. Teare, a farmer's son aged 18, of Ballakelly, Bride, and despite his youth was a member of the Setting Quest of the Lord's Lands for Bride (his father was a member of the House of Keys which suggests pull here); (24) "Miss Teare" cannot be located;

(25) "T. Vondy" is Thomas Vondy, 45 years old, living at Orry's Mount, Bride, a farmer and a member of the House of Keys.

Two interviews from the *Manx Museum Folk-Life Survey* provide some more detail about the Bride Tonic Sol-fa Class. W.A. Kewin and Miss Kewin from Bride interviewed in 1957 recalled the following:

Bride was a great place for music when they were young men and women. A Mr Kerruish from Douglas had a class for teaching Sol-fa. The young people went on winter evenings, and even took music examinations, and were awarded certificates. A Mr Andrew Joughin held similar classes in Lamb Hill School, and anyone who liked could go. They went, glad of something to do in the Winter, as a change from sitting round the fire in the house.

This Andrew Joughin appears not to be related to the other Joughins mentioned here but seemingly his son was an informant for the Folk-Life Survey in 1968. In notes made during the interview he mentioned the following:

Choir in Bride—trained by informant's father—who used to teach Sol-fa. There was an evening class with a membership of about one hundred. The choir competed in the Guild and also gave concerts—which were held in the Bride day school and there was a packed audience—to which people came from far and wide—the choir performed music from Oratorios—works are not often attempted today.

And, further, "[a]n orchestra would be fetched from Ramsey to accompany the choir—there were many instrumentalists—violin players, trumpet players and other instruments—the elder Chrystal—Mr Alfie Chrystal used to come as a bass violinist."

The notes continue:

The newspapers of the time gave accounts of these concerts and he has himself one or two of the programmes—they are interesting in recalling the kind of music a parish choir—not a church choir—used to attempt. His father was a farmer but music was his great interest and even at a busy time on the farm, if he had choir practices to attend to, he would go and leave the farm work. This must have been around about the late 1800s and early in the 1900s—he recalls being at one concert when he was a very small child of about four. He remembers seeing the men in their top hats and frock coats.

The distinction made here between a parish and a church choir highlights that we are dealing here with an example of the new associational culture of the nineteenth century and an addition to vernacular musical making in the Island. Social status was no bar to membership it would appear from many of the occupations listed above; individuals with musical talent could be well-regarded on account of their skill alone and come to play a significant part in the musical life of the parish.

The interview concludes with the final piece of information that "Miss M.L. Wood came down to take the choir later on when his father was no longer training it." She lived in Douglas and at a time now when jokes are made about packing sandwiches when travelling to somewhere regarded as so remote as Bride (though such contemporary humour is more to do with defining a sense of Manxness than anything else) it is as well though to reflect that parishes such as Bride at the end of the nineteenth century were not isolated parts of the Island but participated not just in wider Island life but were also influenced by English metropolitan culture as well. What is now needed is further research on other such parish choirs in the Island.

REFERENCES CITED

Anon. "Harvest Services at Jurby." *Ramsey Courier* 21 October 1893: 5d.

———. "Opening of a New Organ at Bride." *Ramsey Courier* 6 September 1895: 5f.

———. "Musical Festival at Bride." *Ramsey Courier* 10 April 1896: [5]f–g.

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!

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Ooill er yn Ushtey

Cinzia Yates, 1992



A gorgeous tune from whistle player Cinzia Yates. Ooill er yn Ushtey (oil on the water) features on Paitchyn Vannin's cassette recording 'Fragments'

More Manx tunes for the mountain dulcimer!

Carol Walker's book Tailless Tunes was so popular that she is working on a follow-up. As a thank you, she is sharing a free download preview of a waltz. Here's what she writes:

"I'm very happy to offer you a free download preview of one of the traditional Manx tunes from this new book, along with an MP3 of Yours Truly playing this charming waltz entitled "December Is Fairer Than May." Simply visit this special website...

www.musicladycarolonlinestore.com/new-manx-music.html

...and click on the two links to open up your free downloads.

I send you my very best wishes for...a Happy New Year, and for many, many more years of sharing dulcimer music with each other."

Carol Walker
www.MusicLadyCarol.com

WE'RE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO SHARE ONE OF OUR SECRETS WITH YOU...RACHEL HAIR'S ARRANGEMENTS OF GRAIH FOALSEY AND EUNYSSAGH VONA FROM HER HARP BOOK **CLAASAGH** ARE SET PIECES FOR THE GLASGOW MUSIC FESTIVAL HARP COMPETITION - JEANT DY MIE, RACHEL!

Get a video a day from Culture Vannin's
Manx Language Development Officer:

www.youtube.com/user/gaelg



Island of Culture 2014 was officially launched at the Villa Marina on Monday 6 January, with speeches from Michael Lees (Event Director), Geoff Corkish MLC (IOM Arts Council Chairman), Clare Christian MLC (Patron of Island of Culture) and Adrian Cain (Manx Language Development Officer for Culture Vannin). With fabulous bilingual stamps designed by Juan Moore and music from Ballakermeen High School's Otto, directed by Nick Roberts, the event was a live broadcast on Manx Radio.



IT'S OUR ISLAND OF CULTURE!
GET INVOLVED AT
WWW.ISLANDOFCULTURE.IM



JonnoPromotions for Island of Culture

Former IOM Arts Council member, Jonathon Gollow, has embraced the Island of Culture idea with a series of gigs around the Island. He wants to share one with you now: Chris T-T is giving a free band workshop as part of Island of Culture at PSM Town Hall on Saturday 25 Jan 11 am-1pm (before Babbagroove). He's also going to do workshops with senior schools and with Soundcheck on evenings of Wed 22, Thurs 23 and Monday 27.

It would be helpful if you could register your interest on the Facebook event page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
events/589651941108721/](https://www.facebook.com/events/589651941108721/)

CHECK OUT JUAN MOORE'S
SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED IMAGE A
DAY FOR 2014

[HTTP://IMAGEADAYIOM.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://IMAGEADAYIOM.BLOGSPOT.COM/)



CALENDAR

January

3rd Shoh Slaynt and Friends, The Highwayman, Peel, 8.30pm

4th Kirk Michael Oie'll Verree, Ebenezer Hall, Michael, 7.30pm

5th Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh Old Christmas Service featuring Cliogaree Twoaie, Caarjyn Coodjagh and others, St Anthony's, Onchan, 3pm

10th Arrane son Mannin competition and concert, Peel Masonic Hall, 7.30pm FREE

19th Barrule at Celtic Connections, Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow, 8pm £16. Check out www.celticconnections.com for full details

25th Ny Fennee in the final of The Next Big Thing IOM, Gaiety Theatre, Douglas, 7.30pm

25th Free band workshop from Chris T-T (JonnoPromotions), PSM Town Hall, 11-1pm

February

1st Manks Concert organised by IOM Celtic Congress, Centenary Centre, Peel, 7.30pm, tickets £7.50 from usual outlets (see newsletter for full details of acts)

15th Ruth Keggin album launch, Centenary Centre, Peel, 7.30pm, £7.50 in advance, £10 on the door (from usual outlets)

March

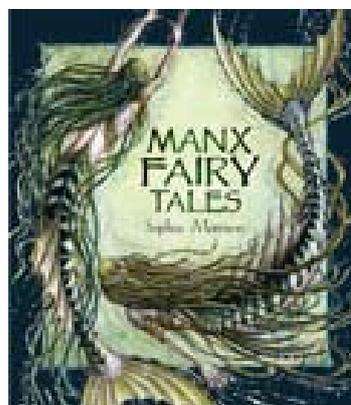
23rd JonnoPromotions presents Ewan McLennan, Jabberwocky, Douglas, 7pm, £15 see Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/608623369194051>

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

Three recent publications produced and/or funded by Culture Vannin/ Manx Heritage Foundation



The Gruffalo's Child in Manx translated by Natalie Nic Shim



Manx Fairy Tales rewritten skilfully by Bob Carswell, complete with CD (Lily Publications)



Patricia Tutt's sumptuous introduction to the Island's architecture (Lily Publications)

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

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www.manxmusic.com

Call: Breesha: 01624 695784 or 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 Breesha Maddrell 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