



# KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Jerrey Fouyir 2014 October

manx music today

***Atreih, autumn's finally here and the dark nights are drawing in... but no hibernating just yet!  
There are too many Manx music and dance events to go out and enjoy!***

## GuitarFest 2014

Whether you're a guitarist or not, there are plenty of tempting events to check out this week at GuitarFest 2014. This Thursday 2nd Oct, there will be a very useful free talk by a PRS representative on "Rights and Royalties: how songwriters can make a living from their music". On Friday evening, singer and guitar legend Martin Simpson (as recently featured in Davy Knowles' documentary 'Island Bound') will perform with guest support from popular Manx duo, Strengyn; plus there will be a solo musical extravaganza with Andy North followed by Manx music session in Amber Bar later that same evening. Saturday sees the return of Flamenco virtuoso Juan Martin and Chaparro de Malaga, and Steve Amos and friends on Sunday evening. Culture Vannin are also supporting a workshop for guitarists who would like to learn the secrets of accompanying Manx folk music.

More details in the KMJ Calendar and info at [www.iomtoday.co.im/what-s-on/manx-entertainment-news/details-of-guitarfest-are-announced-1-6847187](http://www.iomtoday.co.im/what-s-on/manx-entertainment-news/details-of-guitarfest-are-announced-1-6847187)

### Trad Guitar workshop with Paul Rogers

On Saturday 4th Oct, you can learn to accompany Manx tunes in a 'Trad guitar accompaniment techniques' workshop presented by Paul Rogers of Strengyn. Due to space constraints this event is limited to 25 people (bring your own guitar!) Tickets £5 from [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/trad-guitar-accompaniment-techniques-culture-vannin-guitarfest-2014-workshop-with-paul-rogers-tickets-12959940531?aff=es2&rank=13](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/trad-guitar-accompaniment-techniques-culture-vannin-guitarfest-2014-workshop-with-paul-rogers-tickets-12959940531?aff=es2&rank=13)



## Bree Big Workshop Weekend

Young musicians and dancers aged 10 – 18 are invited to take part in the annual **Big Bree Workshop Weekend** on 1st & 2nd November in the Youth Arts Centre. Organised by Culture Vannin, youngsters will spend the weekend with expert tutors learning Manx songs, working on instrumental technique, creating a play, writing new tunes and songs, and putting on a show at the end for family and friends. Places are free but limited, so if you are in school years 6 – 13, fill in a form (at end of KMJ) and return to Chloë before Fri 24 October.

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

- *Concerts & workshops galore!*
- *MFDS in Germany*
- *Learn to play "The Grackle"*





## The Maughold Show

There will be a celebration of the people, poetry, music and dance of Maughold parish in a concert at Dhoon School on Friday 3rd October at 7.30pm. Organised by Maughold Social Club to celebrate Island of Culture, tickets are available from Maughold Social Club Chairman, Pam Kerruish on 815933 - £5 for adults and £1 per child.

## Port Erin Lifeboat Ceili

25th October 7-10pm

Taroo Marroo Ceili Band

Port St Mary Town Hall

In aid of Port Erin Lifeboat

Tickets £5 adults £1 child from

The Rowan Tree (PE) and The Albert Hotel (PSM)

BYOB – hot drinks, etc.

will be on sale

## Traditional music workshop with Katriona Gilmore and Jamie Roberts

English folk duo Gilmore and Roberts will be leading a free workshop for adults on Monday 27th October from 6-7pm in St Bridget's Chapel, The Nunnery, Douglas.

Twice-nominated at the BBC Folk Awards, contemporary folk/acoustic duo Gilmore & Roberts combine award-winning song-writing with astounding lap-tapping guitar, fiery fiddle and their trademark harmonies, creating a powerful wall of sound [see photo below].

Organised by Culture Vannin in association with JonnoPromotions, you can come and learn some tunes and songs at this one-off workshop.

Email Chloë if you'd like to take part:

[manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)

*Bree students will have an earlier session (5-6pm)*

Find out more about this funky folk duo at:

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

They will be performing on Sunday 26 October in Jabberwocky (tickets £15):

[www.jonnopromotions.com/viewevent.php?eid=212](http://www.jonnopromotions.com/viewevent.php?eid=212)



# One World of Culture

On 11th October, the One World Centre presents "One World of Culture", a live concert featuring songs, music and dance from different cultures around the world. **Includes performance from young Manx musicians, the Bree Supergroup.**

Part of the One World Centre's 10th anniversary celebrations and an Island of Culture event, tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children.

## LEARN MANX DANCING

**Bock Yuan Fannee** dance practices have started for the winter season at St. Olave's Hall in Ramsey on Sundays at 7.30pm. New dancers (age 10+) and musicians welcome to join. Contact [fmcardle@manx.net](mailto:fmcardle@manx.net)

**Perree Bane** beginners' classes will start at Ballasalla Village Hall, Mill Road, on Sunday 9th November at 7pm for 6 weeks, with a Christmas party/ceili on Sunday 21st December. £3 a week. All levels and musicians are welcome. Phone Caroline on **833208** for more details.

**Manx Folk Dance Society** beginners' classes meet on Tuesdays 7-8pm (except the 2nd Tues of each month) in Onchan Methodist Church Hall. £20 per term. Email: [mfd@manx.net](mailto:mfd@manx.net) to find out more.



## Mec Lir launch – Not an EP

If you didn't manage to pick up a CD last week at their brilliant launch gig, they are now available in the Manx Museum, House of Manannan, Sweet Ginger & Laxey Woollen Mills. Also online: [www.meclir.com/buy/](http://www.meclir.com/buy/)

PLUS... Learn to play the "The Grackle" with the KMJ transcription of the month!!

## 'And Sometimes Y' in Canada

And Sometimes Y shared Manx dances with audiences at the Toronto Morris Ale last month, their first-ever performance in Canada! They had two magnificent days of dancing on the streets and at markets and in pubs across the city, as well as singing on the subway and in sessions at one of Canada's greatest folk clubs. They got to share their stories of travelling to the Isle of Man and learning from Perree Bane and Ny Fannee with a hundred folk dancers from all across Ontario and beyond. [photo: Will Quale]



ONE WORLD CENTRE YNNYD UN THERILL

presents

# One World of Culture

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
7pm

*The Centenary Centre, Atholl Street, Peel*

A concert featuring music, dance and song  
from cultures around the world.

Adults £5 Children £2.50

Tickets available online from Centenary Centre, in person at Peter Norris,  
Celtic Gold, Thompson Travel and Shakti Man or call 800464

ISLAND of CULTURE

Celebrating 10 years of the One World Centre on the Isle of Man

## I Love Culture Show redefines ‘spectacle’

“It had colour, music, fire, drama, surprises and sensational special effects. The I Love Culture Show at the Villa Marina on Saturday September 20th was a unique occasion... a celebration of some of the finest Manx talent in a spectacular three-hour show”.

Alongside the other performing art forms featured in this jam-packed show, Manx traditional music and dance played an important role. Caarjyn Cooidjagh, Mec Lir and the I Love Culture Orchestra accompanied Manannan (on stilts!) and Gena’s Dance Academy with the sounds of Irree ny Greiney, Hymn to Manannan and Flitter Dance. Young singer of Mann, Christian Cooper, performed the Manx favourite, Ellan Vannin, and there followed a ‘Fairy Ballet’ to Annie Kissack’s songs Vuddee Veg and Yn Grine Veg Oarn. In the second half, the ‘celebration of dance’ featured haunting contemporary dance choreographed to Ruth Keggins Tree Eeasteyryn Boghtey, followed by a dazzling tap dance performance to some old music hall classics including Kelly from the Isle of Man and Flanagan. Street dancers from Represent Dance Company then took to the stage to perform to a funky accompaniment by Mec Lir, leading into a stunning traditional dance routine from Ny Fennee. The Marina Waltz, specially arranged by Charles Guard, later accompanied ballroom dancers Ann-Marie Craine and Paul Bradford. Island of Culture youth ambassador Davy Knowles then performed one of his new ‘Island Bound’ songs and a blues number with backing from Mec Lir, before a choir consisting of most of the Cleveland medallists and finalists from the last 50 years, led the National Anthem (all 8 verses!) The crowds clapped, danced and cheered along to a fantastic finale of The Grackle played by Mec Lir [which you can now play with your KMJ transcription of the month!]

To read a review from the Island of Culture website:

<http://islandofculture.im/news/i-love-culture-show-redefinespectacle.html>



### Barrule in Belgium

Manx trio Barrule played at the Celtic Night Gelune festival in Flanders, Belgium last month, and were snapped by fellow Manxies Wendy Hurst and Bob Fennell who were holidaying in France and Belgium. Wendy said; “it was a great little festival and Barrule had the audience up on their feet – actually doing Manx-style dancing!”

Apparently the Belgians (and French) were very interested in the Isle of Man and Wendy found herself having to explain the location, scenery, history and culture over and over again!

[www.celticnight.be](http://www.celticnight.be)

### FOR SALE: Manx Violin

This fine fiddle was made by Alfred Moore of Douglas, Isle of Man, in January 1903. Restored to its former glory by David Payne, he is now looking for a buyer who will appreciate the quality and sound of this vintage violin. Enquiries via: [info@manninmusic.com](mailto:info@manninmusic.com)



# MFDS report - 50th Anniversary of Volkstanzgruppe Besse

On Wednesday 3rd September 2014, 6 members of the Manx Folk Dance Society flew on an early morning flight to Manchester, then on to Frankfurt, Germany and caught the train to meet the rest of their group, 10 others including John & Rachel's 3 year old son, Joshua, in Edermünde-Besse, near Kassel. They had been invited, along with mutual friends in the Wayfarers Folk Dance Group from Birmingham, and in Hembygdsgillet Folk Dance Group from Malmö, Sweden to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their old friends, Volkstanzgruppe Besse. Everyone was being accommodated at the houses of the local group – about 55 - 60 people in total! A group of younger dancers accompanied the Hembygdsgillet Folk Dance Group, as they knew and were friendly with the young dancers in the Besse group.

The celebrations began that evening with dinner and a get-together with social dancing in the Village Hall.

On Thursday all of the dancers were transported to the Station at Baunatal to travel by Tram into the centre of Kassel for a visit to the Orangerie Science Museum. After watching a video in the Planetarium about the local German involvement in recent space research and astronomic investigation satellites, there followed a very detailed guided tour of the rooms involved with early astronomy, telescopes, early clocks and timekeeping.



A delicious picnic lunch was provided in a sports field close-by. Then everyone had a little free time in Kassel before each group danced a short performance in Friedrichsplatz. There was just time after the Tram ride back to Baunatal to have a shower and get into 'civvies' (not costume), before heading back to the Village Hall for Dinner and more Social dancing.

There were workshops going on all day Friday, so everyone was able to try all the different styles of dancing, under the expert guidance of the relevant dance instructors and dance team. The young dancers had their own workshops in the Village Hall, while the more mature went to the Sport Hall of the nearby school. Great fun was had by all, as well as a lot of learning and chattering –catching up with each other since they had last met as individual groups!! We went to back to our Host homes to have a shower and get into our dance costumes, then back to the Village Hall for Dinner followed by an excellent concert in the adjoining Concert Room by other local and varied dancing groups from their region.

Saturday 6th September was the day of the actual 50th Anniversary. There was a very varied and interesting day planned. Luckily, after a misty start it turned into a wonderfully warm and sunny day. The Manx Folk Dance Society were taken to the church first to be told interesting facts and and shown artifacts from its history by a very knowledgeable German lady and her son – the interpreter. Then one of the Besse dancers took them around the old part of town to show and tell them about some of the buildings, their history and owners. The Wickes Family Potato Farm was where all the groups gathered for an unusual but tasty 'Potato' Lunch. The Manx Folk Dance Society were then given the guided tour of the farm, with an explanation of the workings of the commercial peeling and vacuum packing of their own home-grown potatoes – some were then ready for cooking before sale to Hospitals, Old People's Homes, Restaurants and Caterers. Around the back of the buildings was a Bio-Gas plant using the local grass clippings, potato skins and other pre-determined waste to produce Bio Gas which was used to produce electricity for the Farm and Potato machinery.

Any excess electricity was sold at a reduced price to the nearest neighbours – in compensation for any inconvenience with late night noise or less 'savory' smells that might happen occasionally!

This was followed by an opportunity for MFDS to practice on the stage for that evening's concert. After the usual quick dash 'home to wash & change it was back to the Hall for dinner before the audience started arriving for the Anniversary Concert. At about 7.10pm there was a cloud-burst with very heavy rain – part of the lower town was flooded and the Fire Brigade – housed next to the Village Hall, were called out to pump out many cellars. The road outside the Hall had what looked like a river running down it! We wondered if this would stop the audience from coming – but NO WAY! At 8pm the concert began to a packed 'house'. There were performances from all the visiting groups – including the young groups. The Manx Folk Dance Society performed a balanced programme with snippets from many Manx dances. This performance was very well received - perhaps part of the appeal was the contrast in style to the more robust dances performed by the other groups.

Sunday began with a multi-lingual Church Service in the Protestant Church on top of the hill in the Village – the Vicar conducting it mainly in German and English, with a little Swedish also thrown in! One of the highlights was the singing of 'Morning has Broken' in all three languages at the same time. Apart from the church organ, there was also a small orchestra of musicians from all the groups.

This was followed by lunch and a trip to Bad Wildungen to participate in the Parade for their Flower Festival. As they gathered with all the floats, marching bands and various sports groups the heavens opened! Soon there was a sea of umbrellas and pack-a-macs as people tried to stay dry! BUT the parade must go on! ..... so at 2pm the procession made a move up through the town. Although everyone was dripping with rain the mood of the many spectators and those in the Parade was cheerful and happy, with lots of clapping, waving and smiling as cameras and mobiles recorded the event. As the rain eased they managed to fit in some damp dancing, before, about 2/3 of the way through the 2km walk - mainly up hill, the rain stopped and the umbrellas and coats were put away. Shortly after the Parade finished they walked back about half way down the street, for a quick ice cream or coffee before taking part in a joint Dance display with each of the groups performing for about 15 minutes. Their 3 year old, Joshua stole the show, performing Return the Blow with his Mum! Then after a long walk up to the coach, it was back to Besse for a quick change of clothes before dinner at the Village Hall, followed by the Farewell Party when gifts were exchanged. MFDS gave Volkstanzgruppe Besse a large Framed Picture, which was a montage of photographs of the 2 groups taken over the last 22 years as well as photos of people on private visits. It was very well received! At the end of the evening there were emotional farewells between the individuals in all of the groups – to both new and old friends, with promises of meeting again before too long.



The next day the Swedish group left very early in their coach, the Birmingham group caught the fast ICE train to Frankfurt for their flight to Birmingham, some of MFDS left to catch the train back to Frankfurt for their flight to the Isle of Man via Manchester, while others left by car or motorhome.

Everyone agreed that it had been a wonderful few days – which felt more like a week or a fortnight! – and they would need a few days to recover from their very full programme of events and the late nights!

Hopefully Volkstanzgruppe Besse will be able to smile broadly and congratulate themselves on organizing an amazing and memorable 4 1/2 days for their 50th Anniversary!

Joan Cowell, MFDS



## Carol Walker – jeant dy mie!

Well done to Carol Walker in the USA who was placed in the Final Top Five at the National Mountain Dulcimer Contest in Winfield, Kansas last month. She performed two Manx tunes in the first round, and when she received a call-back, she played two more Manx tunes. We love the picture, Carol!!

## Shift – new work to be premiered

Commissioned by Culture Vannin, Robert Quane has composed a new work for brass band to celebrate Island of Culture. The three movement suite called “Shift” tells of the changing cultural and economic landscape in the Isle of Man during the past 30 years.

There will be more details in next month’s KMJ, but the new work will be premiered by Ramsey Town Band at their Gala Concert on 16th November at Bunscoill Rhumsaa.

<<CHANGE OF DATE>> NB: Please note the Celtic concert with choir Caarjyn Coidjagh and the IOM Wind Orchestra is now on Saturday 8th November at St Mary's, Church Hill Street in Douglas.



photos: Breesha Maddrell



## IOM Food & Drink Fest

Manx music and dance played a large part in the IOM Food and Drink Festival in the Villa Marina Gardens last month. With a stage run by Mollag Band singer Greg Joughin, food and drink lovers were treated to performances from Dilys Sowrey, Skeeal, Perree Bane, Jamie Smith, Mec Lir, Bree and others.

## LON DHOO CONCERT

Lon Dhoo, Lon Vane choirs, and harper Rachel Hair and Claasagh will perform at St. Andrew's Church. 7.30pm on Saturday 4th October, in aid of the Douglas Buxton Trust.

## Youtube/video corner

- Check out this new video from talented teenage Manx singer-songwriter Mae Challis with her self-penned song
- “Hilda”: <http://youtu.be/Rq2LxKG80pA>
- Then step back in time with “Kelly from the Isle of Man” from Ada Jones; a
- popular mezzo-soprano
- who recorded from
- 1905 to the early 1920s:
- <https://www.youtube.com/tch?v=o0PWm6a1wns>



# RESEARCH NEWS

## 'A rale Manx Concert'

by Maurice Powell

Orchestral concerts featuring music inspired by the Isle of Man, its landscape and history, and using musical material adapted from traditional Manx melodies, either written by Manx-born composers, or composers and musicians who were resident here, once immensely popular, are rare today. The Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra, of which I am the musical director, does include the popular Manx-inspired works of light classical music in its programmes whenever possible, such as Haydn Wood's Manx Rhapsody and Mylecharane, recently re-discovered orchestral works such as JE Quayle's On Maughold Head and new works by living Manx composers, such as Charles Guard's Song of the Southern Hills.

'Celtic Concerts', 'Manx Concerts' or concerts of 'Manx National Music', were popular from the late-1890s until the Second World War, and as I am presently engaged on a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the First Grand Concert of Manx National Music – which took place on Thursday January 7th, 1897, at the Grand Theatre, Douglas - a brief description of the event might be of interest.

The impetus to organise this concert of Manx National Music came from the publication of the Manx National Songbook in late 1896, and although many of the songs contained in the Manx National Songbook had been collected and arranged by W H Gill, it is certain that the overall musical director of the concert, Harry Wood, was responsible for the orchestrations. The concert was announced in December with an appetising advertisement in the Manx Sun which promised: 'Manx Songs! Manx Dances! and Manx Scenes in National costume', and a lengthy preview in the Isle of Man Times ensured that the event would attract the maximum interest. Predictably, tickets were oversold, there was 'a great crush to be present', and the theatre was full to overflowing thirty minutes before the start of the concert. Many disgruntled ticket-holders had to be turned away.

The Lt. Governor, the Lord Henniker, was indisposed, but his two daughters, the Hon. Ethel Henniker and the Hon. Cicely Henniker were present, together with Deemster Gill, his brother W H Gill and Dr Clague. The Isle of Man Times caught the mood and expectations of the audience perfectly:

'For the first time we were to have an entertainment the programme of which was made up of Manx airs, choruses, quaint old Manx customs, all given by local people, in appropriate costumes and scenery.'

And what an occasion it was, although it would require more space than is appropriate here to offer more than a snapshot of the spectacle that greeted the audience. Harry Wood's Grand Orchestra of twenty-one musicians, led by JE Quayle, accompanied the soloists and the Manx National Choir throughout. Many of the songs were performed with background scenery, and in costume, such as the opening tableau, Ramsey Town, the verses of which were sung by men's voices and the refrain by the full choir. The stage-setting represented Ramsey Bay, peopled by groups of fishermen, old men and women, children, 'hobblers', smugglers, farmers, Manx girls in the fields, an inn - the King Orry Arms - a jolly landlord, and a comical old farmer in a straw hat. 'Too many oilskins', wrote one reviewer, 'but the effect was splendid'.

The Wreck of the Herring Fleet, with Harry Wood's fine orchestration representing the storm, clearly 'suited Mr Brockbanks' declamatory style'. The Sheep under the Snow, sung by Miss Phoebe Jull, was deemed 'right enough', and Illiam Dhone performed by a chorus of girls in 'sun bonnets and aprons' was judged 'a gran' affair'. Hunt the Wren, acted out by the chorus, and a semi-chorus of six boys each carrying the traditional bush and net, was received with great amusement. The undoubted highlight of the first part of the concert was The Manx Wedding, sung by the baritone Mr Alister Proctor, the popular character - singer of many of Harry Wood's concerts - 'he was Manx propar' - which brought the house down and received many demands for encores.

The second part of the concert opened with two Manx songs, Mylecharane and Skeeyl-y- Vridey, arranged for orchestra, presumably by Harry Wood, followed by a presentation of the curious old Christmas entertainment, The White Boys, during which characters representing St. George, The King of Egypt, the Turkish Champion, a Page, a Doctor and the White boys 'go through their fearful and wonderful play'. Hop-tu-naa was sung by three 'good lusty Manx voices'; The Lament of the Duchess of Gloucester, sung by Mrs WJ Corlett, was encored, and Miss AA Turner was 'quite affecting' in Oh Hush Thee, My Babe. The grand finale opened on a beach once again, with a crowd of fisher-folk, farmers and villagers; Alister Proctor and the chorus gave The Herring is The King of the Sea, to great acclaim, which led to the final item, the closing hymn, The Harvest of the Sea, and the Manx National Anthem.

Special praise was reserved for Harry Wood – who trained the choir and supervised the rehearsals - the orchestra, the stage manager, Fred D Johnson, and his resourceful assistant, JL Killip. The net proceeds of the concert were donated to the hospital.

The publication of the Manx National Songbook – the inspiration for the concert – had met with enthusiasm and negativity in equal proportions, with some commentators much preferring the alleged 'authenticity' of the sister publication, AW Moore's Manx Ballads and Music. The Manx Concert, too, had its detractors, some of whom found the performances of some of the vocal soloists 'too Englishified,' and complained that not enough the music was truly Manx in origin. Nevertheless, the audiences were generally delighted by the spectacle, and in consideration for all those disappointed ticket-holders who were turned away, Deemster Gill announced during the interval that the concert would be repeated on January 14th. 'An unparalleled success', reported the Manx Sun, though the reviewer seemed 'surprised to learn that our little Manx nation possesses such soul stirring melodies and choruses'. Much of the programme, virtually unchanged, was re-cycled again for Harry Wood's 7th Annual Students' Concert on February 25th, and the entire programme as originally conceived appeared as Harry Wood's St Stephen's Day Grand Concert of Manx National Music on December 27th. The era of large-scale orchestral and vocal concerts of Manx National Music had begun.

Read article with footnotes: [http://manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_338695.html](http://manxmusic.com/news_story_338695.html)

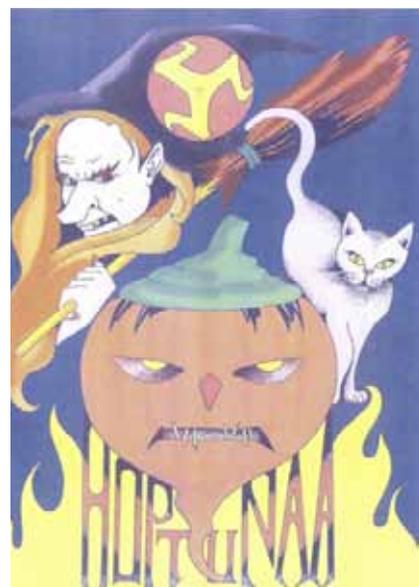
## Hop tu naa!!

Of course most Manx musicians and dancers can already distinguish their Hop tu naa from their Halloween, but here is a handy wiki guide with downloadable songs, dance instructions, stories, pictures, recipes and other fun activities to help celebrate this very old Manx custom:

[https://www2.sch.im/groups/manxcurriculum/wiki/2779a/Hop\\_tu\\_Naa\\_Resources.html](https://www2.sch.im/groups/manxcurriculum/wiki/2779a/Hop_tu_Naa_Resources.html)

### Kiaull Vannin

We have a limited number of Colin Jerry's *Kiaull Vannin* Manx music source books in the office: £8 or £10 inc. postage (IOM/UK). Email [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)



## ~ SESSIONS ~

WED 8.30pm Session at O'Donnells, Douglas  
THURS 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey  
FRI 8.30-11pm Green's Tea Rooms, St Johns

FRI 9pm Irish at The Mitre, Ramsey

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

## “OH, MANNIN VEG VEEN, TA MY CHREE STHILL LHIAT HENE”

A MANX BROADSIDE ABOUT THE “MANX FAIRY” STEAMER

by Stephen Miller, Vienna

In a talk by Robert Sim to the Crosby Wesleyan Guild in 1916, “Memories of Old Crosby, 1868–1900,” he recalled amongst other things the opening of the railway line from Douglas to Peel in 1873. “As I said, huge crowds had gathered at the station, and while waiting for the great thing to appear some cheap jacks from over the water were there selling ballads which had been written for the event and singing the tunes set to them.” He also recalled the first few lines of one of these topical ballads:

“Come all ye Lads and Lasses gay,  
Give ear a while to what I say,  
The Duke of Sutherland has come down  
To pay a visit to Douglas Town;  
So all be happy, blithe and gay,  
For the opening of the new Railway.”

And as to the popularity of these ballads: “these things were selling among the people like hot cakes.” While there is no evidence that such ballads passed over into the tradition, they were after all ephemeral in both senses of the word, they remain an aspect of musical life in the Island regardless as to what one might think either of the prose or rhyme scheme employed.

Earlier, in 1853, there had been a race (of sorts) between two rival packet companies to the Island, the “Manx Fairy” sailing from Liverpool to Ramsey and beating the “Mona’s Queen” that was sailing to Douglas from the same port by eleven minutes.

On the occasion of the Fairy’s first trip, some Manx lines were printed with an English translation, and a man was singing them ballad-fashion, when feeling a little curiosity, I gratified it by obtaining a copy, a transcript of which I annex, Manx and English; and should your pages not be better occupied, perhaps you will accord space for insertion thereof.

Space was indeed accorded and so we have an example here again of topical composition but this time in Manx and of course by someone from the Island and not from England as above. That the ballad was in Manx shows that the linguistic shift in the Island was in large part still about to come and one wonders on which other occasions such ballads were produced for sale and more importantly were sung.

[LINES ON THE MANX “FAIRY STEAMER”]

Oh, Mannin veg veen, ta my chree sthill lhiat hene,  
As bwooishal dhyt mie son dy braa;  
As tra hed ym, my annym goit voym,  
Bee’m bwooishal sthill mie da Rumsaa.  
Ta’n “Ferish” er roshtyn dy bieau voish shenn hostyn.  
Ny queelyn eek tappee chyndaa;  
As laadit dy slich va shin fakin dy v’ee,  
Ooillee bwooishal cree mie da Rumsaa.

Oh, Mona, my darling, my heart is still thine,  
My blessing upon thee I pray;  
And when I am dead, and my spirit is fled,  
Success unto Ramsey I say.  
The “Fairy” has come, and swiftly has run,  
Her paddles go quickly around;  
Well loaded she were with passengers rare,  
All wishing success to the town.

### Histories and Mysteries 8 – the secret life of traditional music in the Isle of Man

Read David Speers’ article about “Upon a Sunday morning when Spring was in its Prime” :

[http://manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_338174.html](http://manxmusic.com/news_story_338174.html)

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

## The Grackle

Malcolm Stitt  
ca. 2000



### The Grackle by Malcolm Stitt

This very catchy jig has just been recorded by Manx band Mec Lir on their 'Not an EP' CD and can also be heard on their video:

<http://youtu.be/Baoz3p4HhX4>

Malcolm Stitt composed the tune for bagpipes around 2000 when he was on tour with Boys of the Lough in California. A grackle is a bird commonly found in the USA. Malcolm is from Fort William in Scotland, but now lives in Ramsey... and is lucky enough to be married to KMJ editor and Manx music specialist, Chloë Woolley! ;)

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

2nd – 5th GuitarFest 2014 [www.jonnopromotions.com](http://www.jonnopromotions.com)

2nd PRS panel talk “Rights and Royalties”, Youth Arts Centre, 7pm. Part of IOM GuitarFest, FREE

3rd The Maughold Show, Dhooon School, 7.30pm £5/£1 kids

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

3rd Andy North musical extravaganza, Strengyn & Manx music session, Amber Bar, Douglas, 9-11pm. Part of GuitarFest, FREE

4th Trad guitar accompaniment workshop with Paul Rogers from Strengyn, 2-4pm, Youth Arts Centre, £5. Culture Vannin workshop - part of IOM GuitarFest.

4th Concert with Lon Dhoo, Lon Vane choirs, plus harper Rachel Hair and Claasagh, St. Andrew's Church, Douglas. 7.30pm. In aid of the Douglas Buxton Trust.

6th “Mona Douglas' Mananan”, talk by Dr Breesha Maddrell (Culture Vannin) to Erin Arts Centre lunch club, 12.30pm. Club Members £14, Non Members £15.

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

26th Gilmore & Roberts in concert, Jabberwocky, Douglas, £15. [www.jonnopromotions.com](http://www.jonnopromotions.com)

27th Workshop with Gilmore & Roberts 6-7pm, St Bridget's Chapel, Nunnery, Douglas. FREE. Register with [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)

**31st HOP TU NAA celebrations!!**

## NOVEMBER

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

8th IOM Wind Orchestra & Caarjyn Coodjagh joint concert, St Marys, Church Hill, Douglas, 8pm.

11th One World of Culture concert, 7pm, Centenary Centre, Peel, £5/£2.50

16th Premiere of “Shift” by Robert Quane, Ramsey Town Band Gala concert, Bunscoill Rhumsaa, Details in Nov KMJ

25th Ceili in aid of Port Erin Lifeboat, Port St Mary Town Hall £5/£1 (more details in KMJ)

29th Norwegian-Manx Project Concert, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm, £10 from usual outlets soon (or £12 on door) – MORE details in the November KMJ

29th Caarjyn Coodjagh at “A Taste of Christmas”, St James, Dalby, 7.30. Tickets in advance £15 inc. food. Tel. 844031

30th Norwegian music and dance workshops, Philip Christian Centre 2-4.15pm. £5. Details in Nov KMJ.

## DECEMBER

5th Caarjyn Coodjagh Concert in aid of ME Awareness, St Catherine's Church, Port Erin, 7.30pm

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

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

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

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

## culture vannin

*For information on Manx music & dance contact:*

Manx Music Specialist **Dr Chloë Woolley**: [chloe@culturevannin.im](mailto:chloe@culturevannin.im)

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

**Call:** Chloë: 01624 695787

**or write to:** Music Team, Culture Vannin, The Stable Building, The University Centre, Old Castletown Road, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 1QB

*Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin*

*The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space*

*PRESS: please feel free to pick up articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture*

# BREE WORKSHOP WEEKEND 2014 APPLICATION FORM

Name/Ennym \_\_\_\_\_ DOB/LR \_\_\_\_\_  
School/Scoil \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/Enmys \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel./Çhell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Email/Post-l \_\_\_\_\_

## Tell us about your interests: I enjoy (tick)...

- Playing  Singing  Dancing  Drama   
Manx Gaelic  Composing  Song-writing

**Brief info about you...** e.g. which instruments you play/how long you've been playing, singing and/or dancing/music exam grades/level of Manx Gaelic (if any)/groups you perform with \_\_\_\_\_

- Students will require their own instruments & dance shoes where applicable.
- No experience of Manx music needed, but students are expected to be competent on their instrument and must be in school years 6 - 13.
- Students will require a packed lunch or written permission to leave premises (U16). Students are expected to attend the whole weekend, unless otherwise agreed.
- Bree is a Children's University 'learning destination'.

### \* IMPORTANT \*

Students will be filmed/photographed during the Bree Weekend for promo use on the Culture Vannin website. Parents please sign here **if you object** to your child appearing on film and in photos: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this application form by Friday 24 October to:**

Bree c/o Culture Vannin,  
The Stable Building,  
The University Centre,  
Old Castletown Road,  
Douglas, IM2 1QB  
FOR MORE INFO tel: 695787  
email: [chloe@culturevannin.im](mailto:chloe@culturevannin.im)

# Bree

## Big Bree Workshop Weekend

For students aged 10-18

**free Manx music workshops  
for young singers, musicians & dancers**

**Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 November**

**10am - 4pm**

Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas

**Concert for family and friends  
at 3pm Sun 2 Nov**

Further info: [chloe@culturevannin.im](mailto:chloe@culturevannin.im) or tel. 01624 695787

