

## Manx Folk Awards 2017

The syllabus for this year's Manx Folk Awards has been released and entries are invited from the Island's schools, private teachers and music/dance groups. Classes in Manx music, dance, recitation and language are open to youngsters up to the age of 18.

Now in its sixth year, this mini festival of friendly competitions is held in the Youth Arts Centre and Trinity Church, Rosemount in Douglas from Sunday the 2nd to Wednesday the 5th of April.

### There are some additions to the syllabus this year:

- A new Absolute Beginners Folk Group class (no prizes – just fun!)
- A new dance class for pre-school and year 1 children
- Lots of links to IOM myths and legends (celebrating the centenary of the death of Sophia Morrison this year)
- Set recitations/poems
- Links to the *Manx Music, Speech and Dance Festival [Guild]* pieces in the choir classes e.g. "King of the Sea"
- A beginners & advanced Feddan whistle group class
- Two Manx Gaelic reading classes for varying abilities



*Closing date for entries is Friday 17th February 2017*

All information and syllabus: <http://manxfolkawards.weebly.com/>

Organised by the Department of Education and Children, Culture Vannin and Manx National Heritage



*Skeddan Jiarg dancers above in the Manx Folk Awards 2016*

**NB. Closing date for entries to the Manx Music, Speech and Dance Festival [Guild] is the 4th of February:**

[www.manxmusicfestival.org](http://www.manxmusicfestival.org)

**COMPETITIONS:**

21st - 29th April

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

- *HUNT THE WREN* photos
- *New Manx Organ Book*
- *Sophia Morrison* events

**Culture**  
**VANNIN**

# CELEBRATION & CONTEMPLATION

## Manx Traditional & Original Music for Church Organ

A new book of Manx music that will appeal to churches, organists, music-lovers, couples planning weddings or partnership ceremonies, and family and friends around the world has been released by Culture Vannin. Celebration and Contemplation is a collection of organ music particularly suitable for performance at weddings, church services and funerals, but with pieces that will also be enjoyed on other special occasions throughout the year.

For many years, there has been a call for a publication that brings together well-known Manx melodies such as "Ellan Vannin", "A Manx Wedding" and the "Manx Fishermen's Evening Hymn" as well as some of the traditional music associated with times of celebration and contemplation in the Isle of Man. Taking inspiration from existing Manx melodies, composers David Kilgallon, Gareth Moore, Oli King, Nicholas J Roberts and Frank Woolley have created new pieces which convey their individual style, meaning that there is something for everyone in this special collection of music.

Director of Music at King William's College, Gareth Moore, drew on a particularly personal story for one of his pieces, choosing his great-great-uncle's hymn tune 'Mary' as a starting point. William C Southward CP, MLC was a key figure in Sulby Methodist Chapel, and he and his brother owned Sulby Woollen Mills, so Gareth's reflective piece 'Remembering Mary' is a wonderful tribute to his musical family tradition. If you love the Manx National Songbook's 'A Manx Wedding' then you will be delighted to find a thoroughly modern twist on it in Nick Roberts' joyful rendition which ventures into 7/8. One of the oldest and most deeply beautiful hymns, the Kirk Christ Rushen Funeral Hymn, is set exquisitely by Frank Woolley, with the melody expanded upon to create a beautiful and powerful reverie.

Edited by Breesha Maddrell & Chloë Woolley and published by Culture Vannin, Celebration and Contemplation draws together slow airs and hymns, Gaelic songs and traditional dance tunes, in a wonderfully rich collection which reflects the strong tradition of church music in the Isle of Man.

The book has an RRP of £12 and is available to buy in many Island bookshops, or directly from Culture Vannin.

### CONTENTS:

*Mannin Vooar*

*Something for All Saintstide*

*Fantasia on Tra va Ruggit*

*Creest*

*Manx Wedding Dance - Car y*

*Phoosee*

*Haste to the Wedding*

*Celebration March*

*Ellan Vannin*

*Prelude - Manx Fishermen's*

*Evening Hymn*

*Ta mee nish Keayney*

*Scollag Aeg*

*Mish as y Keayn*

*Remembering Mary*

*Yee Reillys Niau*

*Prelude - Rushen Funeral Hymn*



### Listen to "Haste to the Wedding":

<http://manxmusic.com/media/Publications/Haste%20to%20the%20Wedding%20recording.mp3>

Pictured above - composer David Kilgallon with the new book - photo by Grainne Joughin.

# Arrane son Mannin

## New Song in Manx Competition

4 new songs, for a £300 prize, sponsored by **Culture VANNIN**



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## Manx Concert

with:-

Caarjyn Coidjagh	Scran [Superbree]
Mera Royle (Harp)	Matt Kelly (Guitar, Mandolin, Song)
John Kilgallon (Dance)	Matt Creer Band

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Peel Masonic Hall, Stanley Road  
Saturday 7th January 2017 - 7.30pm  
ADMISSION - FREE



### **This year's song contest entries are:**

Biskeeyn Brist - Nagh Abbyr Shen (Say No More)  
Matt Creer Band - Ny Boallaghyn Shoh (These Walls)  
Christa McCartney - Daunseyr Goll-twoaie (Rainbow Dancer)  
Jedoonee Bagoon - Cadley (Sleeping)

**GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!!**

# Island Celebrates St Stephen's Day!

Although other cultural pursuits may have lapsed, the annual procession of dancers, singers and musicians gathered for the traditional Hunt the Wren, travelling through the streets and lanes of some of the main towns and villages of the Island.

In the midst of the bush hung an unfortunate wren, these days not killed specifically for the purpose, but a bird who has met a natural death, or a simile.

Those donating to charity were rewarded with a choice of coloured ribbon (rather than a feather), in the hope of attracting good luck for the following year, and particularly useful in the event of shipwreck, or the presence of witchcraft.

It's all over by noon, after which a feather (or ribbon) is deemed to be worthless. Why mid-day is the subject of discussion, although E. Kermode remarked in his unfinished manuscript, Celtic Customs, that of course by this time the unfortunate bird is almost featherless.

But later everyone headed for the front green at Tynwald Hill for the start of the local game of Cammag.

Revived in recent years, this annual skirmish involves teams representing both the north and the south of the Island, but has few rules. It's a game of three halves and a singular focus on a sometimes elusive ball, known as a crick, with an historical relationship with shinty, hurling and hockey.

The game was followed by the now traditional music session at the Tynwald Hill Inn, where everyone could relive the game, discuss technique and plan next year's strategy.

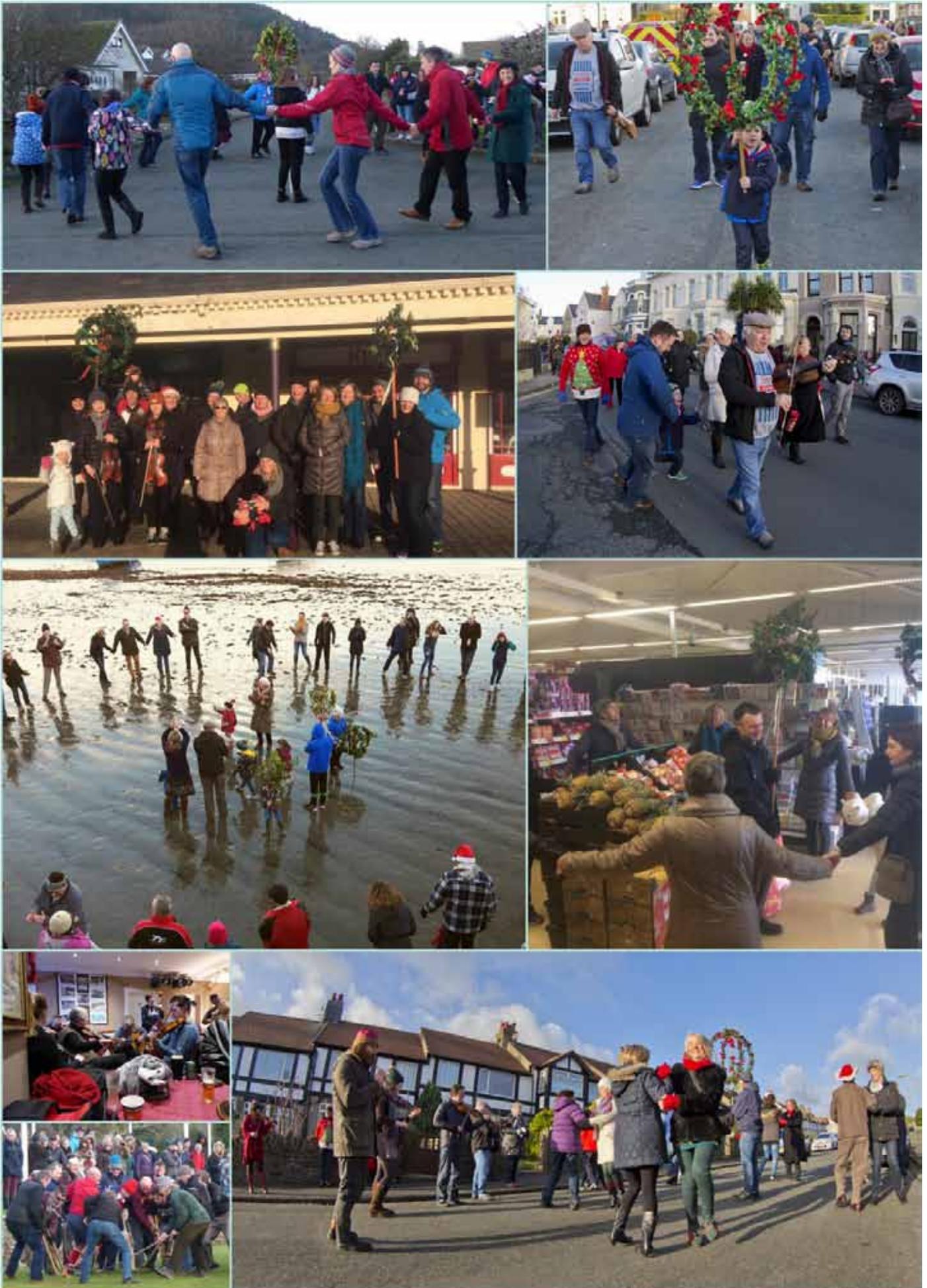
**Valerie Caine © December 2016**

[>> SEE OVER FOR PICS FROM HUNT THE WREN 2016 ALL OVER THE IOM >>](#)

*This new poem by Annie Kissack (Dec 2016) takes a philosophical look at how Sophia Morrison and Mona Douglas and their like kept Manx traditions like Hunt the Wren going. And considers how remarkable it is that today we are still looking to find, interpret and release small things which by the big world's standards are a waste of time. Whether they be dance, music, custom, language or whatever... So there must be something in it.*

## Still Hunting the Wren

I come, trembling,  
To give a small thing  
Significance:  
A small, dead thing, tiny, long hidden  
In the wreaths and whirls,  
The ivy swirls,  
Not sought now but by me.  
I come not  
With sticks and stones,  
With men and muster,  
Or with a loud voice  
And bluster,  
But only a hand, wide-open  
To an open sky.  
Rise, little wren, don't hide,  
But fly!



Hunt the Wren took place all over the IOM including these ones pictured in Ramsey, Port St Mary, Douglas and St Johns. PHOTO CREDITS: Val Caine, Jiri Podobsky, James Franklin

KEGEESH OMMIDJAGH - more photos from the Foolish Fortnight!!



<< Perree Bane young dancers joined Bree musicians to perform the White Boys sword dance at the Manx Museum's Old Christmas Concert last month.

Lukas Hayhurst parades the six-sword star to a rapturous applause!!

*There were also Manx songs, tunes, poems and drama by various performers throughout this fantastic concert.*

>> Dilys Sowrey brought together a medley of trad musicians to accompany the carols at the Bride Christmas Service.



<< Jonathan King conducts the Tynwald Choir and Ensemble for the Tynwald Carol Service. The service included several Manx numbers, including the carol "Three Kings From Out The Orient" (music by WH Gill, words by TE Brown).



## Mollag Ghennal Hits the Right Note in Peel!

The long-running Mollag Ghennal has been a favourite crowd puller at a variety of venues, but this year the annual event was held in the Masonic Hall in Peel, retaining its winning formula of providing some of the best acts in both traditional and new music.

Along with the familiar harmonies of Manx Gaelic Choir Caarjyn Coidjagh were stalwarts of the local trad music scene – Malcolm Stitt, David Kilgallon, Jamie Smith, Isla Callister, Daniel Quayle [pictured on right] and Matt Kelly, but it was also an opportunity to introduce some new ideas and innovative musical arrangements; using a fresh approach and some up and coming and talented musicians, such as new kids on the block Scran [pic below]. Usual hosts the Mollag Band also departed from their typical, distinctive style of music, singing a selection of popular songs from recent decades in Manx Gaelic, as part of their new Manx Pop Project. Additionally, new outfit Clash Vooar (Big Groove) presented some well-known faces, who picked up a selection of Manx tunes, songs and original compositions and bestowed them with a refreshing, jazzy texture.



Valerie Caine © December 2016 (Courtesy of the North Western Chronicle)

See more pics: <http://namanx.org/mollag-ghennal-hits-the-right-note-in-peel>

*photo credit: Will Quale*



## EVENTS COMING SOON...

**www.Knockaloe.im**  
Registered Charity No 1150

**"Kiaull ny Nollick Veg Knockaloe"**  
A candlelit evening of seasonal renaissance music and song to celebrate Manx Old Christmas with Hartes Ease

8.00pm on Friday 6 January 2017  
Holy Trinity Church, Patrick, Isle of Man

Tickets £10 each include complimentary interval Glühwein & sweet treats from the internees' home countries



All funds from tickets and interval raffle go towards the Knockaloe.im Registered Charity

Limited seating so early booking recommended via [www.knockaloe.im](http://www.knockaloe.im)  
Or contact: Rachael Wood on 648477 or via email [info@knockaloe.im](mailto:info@knockaloe.im)

 [Knockaloeinternmentcampisleofman](https://www.facebook.com/Knockaloeinternmentcampisleofman)

# Oie'll Verree

7.30pm

Thursday, 5th January 2017

Ebenezer Hall Kirk Michael

Traditional Manks concert featuring the Michael Players in the Manks Dialect play, The Charm, by Christopher Shimmin and supporting music and poetry acts. The evening will conclude with a hearty supper.

Tickets: £6

Available from Michael Heritage Trust Secretary, James Kennaugh 878342



## MANKS CONCERT

Celebrating the life of Sophia Morrison

An evening of Manks music, dance and poetry including the Manks Dialect play 'The Charm' performed by the Michael Players.

Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Centenary Centre, Peel

at 7.30 pm

Tickets £5 from Celtic Gold or Shaktiman

**THE CELTIC LEAGUE** 

### Saturday, 14th January 2017

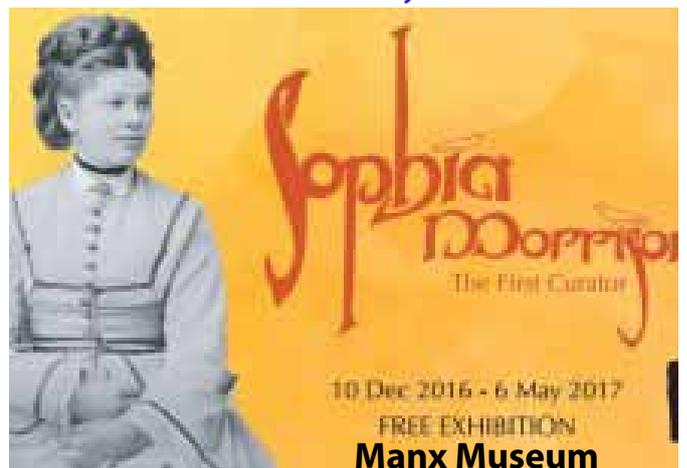
Commemoration of Sophia Morrison on the centenary of her death. Events organised by The Celtic League, Mec Vannin and Celtic Congress.

1.30 Laying of wreath at Sophia Morrison's grave (Peel Cemetery)

2.30 Talk on the Life of Sophia Morrison by Dr. Breesha Maddrell, Director of Culture Vannin, in The Guild Room, Atholl Street, Peel.

7.30 << Manks Concert at The Centenary Centre, Peel.

More info: [celticmann1@yahoo.com](mailto:celticmann1@yahoo.com)



10 Dec 2016 - 6 May 2017  
FREE EXHIBITION  
**Manx Museum**

# KIAULL NOA ~ NEW MUSIC

The latest group to take Manx music and language to another dimension is **Clash Vooar** [Big Groove] who describe themselves as a "folktastic gypsy jazz groove of a thing"!

Featuring some wellknown faces from the trad scene, Clash Vooar made their debut at Mollag Ghennal and they went down a storm.

Aalin - lead vocals/  
cornet

Anglin - keys

Breasha - flute/vocals

Danny - drums

Dave - bass

Rob - uke/samples

[photo thanks - Will Quale >>]

## Northern Irish Singer-Songwriters' Circle

**Sat 11th February, Centenary Centre, Peel**

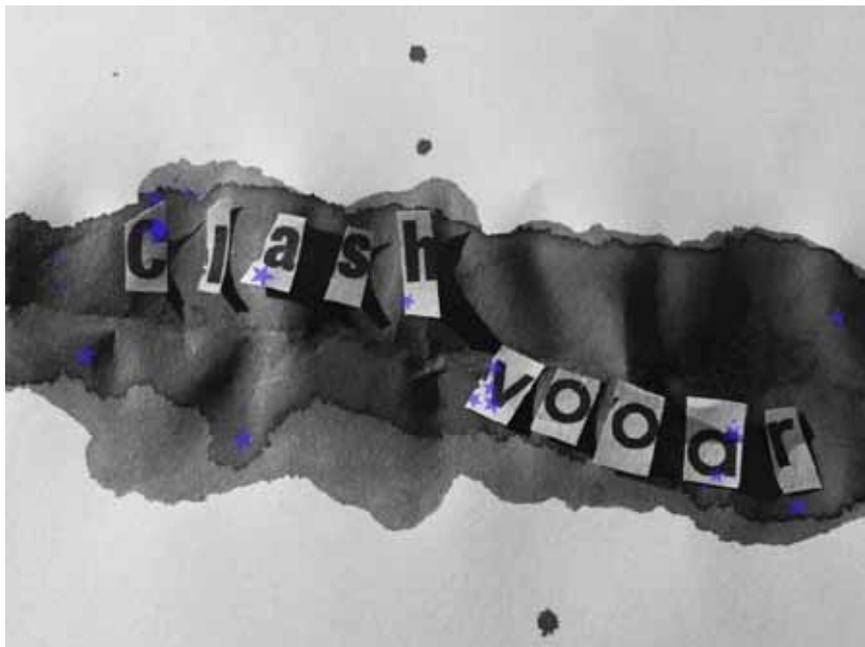
Jonno Promotions is bringing four of the brightest singer-songwriting stars from Northern Ireland to play at the Peel Centenary Centre next month. Singer-songwriters Stephen Macartney, Peter McVeigh, Warren Attwell and Katie Richardson have all been awarded accolades at the Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival and have subsequently played at the legendary Bluebird Cafe in Nashville.

**Tickets £12**

There will be a public songwriting workshop from 2-4pm on Saturday afternoon with some general songwriting tips and tricks, plus the opportunity for budding songwriters to work on their songs with the artists. *Tickets for the workshop are £10.*

The singer-songwriters will also be giving school visits, workshops and community sessions.

**Tickets & more info:** [www.jonnopromotions.com/events/songwriters-circle/](http://www.jonnopromotions.com/events/songwriters-circle/)





**Bree** students will also be treated to a song-writing workshop next month (Sat 11th February) with local musician Nigel Brown. Nigel has recently finished composing a suite of new songs based on Sophia Morrison's *Manx Fairy Tales*. They can be heard on his Scaanjoon Youtube Channel and also at the new Sophia Morrison Exhibition at the Manx Museum:

[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3Hlk\\_dJ3pTK3lnZjMHrrA-a6Er0Pm2VF](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3Hlk_dJ3pTK3lnZjMHrrA-a6Er0Pm2VF)

Bree is open to schoolchildren aged between 10 and 18, and is an informal way to learn about Manx music, play, sing and make new friends from other schools. The group meets once a month on a Saturday afternoon for sessions, busking and performing, and the Autumn workshop weekend also incorporates dance, drama and language. New members are welcome throughout the year. Contact Chloe for more details: [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)

## Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

### Birlinn Jiarg named in line-up for Warwick Folk Festival

Newcastle based Manx band Birlinn Jiarg are becoming hot news on the festival circuit!

[www.warwickfolkfestival.co.uk/birlinn-jiarg](http://www.warwickfolkfestival.co.uk/birlinn-jiarg)



**PLUS...** the new band's album **SEAMOUNT** has made it onto the Tradconnect shortlist for Traditional Album of the Year 2016!

You can vote for them here: <http://tradconnect.com/m/blogpost?id=6391199%3ABlogPost%3A224839>

This year the award is sponsored by The INEC Killarney and the winning artist will receive a cheque for €3,000, as well as the opportunity to appear at one or both of the music festivals organised each year by The INEC. These include the hugely popular The Gathering Festival that takes place on 22nd- 26th February 2017 as well as Folkfest Killarney that takes place on 7th-9th July 2017.



BUY THE CD: [www.birlinnjiargmusic.com/shop](http://www.birlinnjiargmusic.com/shop)

**HUNT THE WREN ~ BIRLINN JIARG** also got in the festive spirit and made a cool little video of themselves playing *Hunt the Wren* and *Three Little Boats*: [https://youtu.be/UFp8qw\\_8k0g](https://youtu.be/UFp8qw_8k0g)



### Youtube/video corner

Students at **Doha International School** have been learning some Manx tunes with their teacher Claudia Davies! Here is a trio busking at Christmas with "Illiam Boght" & "All the Forepart of the Night":

<https://youtu.be/Gdo7VNAZZO0>

# RESEARCH NEWS

## “KISSING GAMES AT SUNDAY SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENTS” (1886)



“We have been asked to publish the following article, and letters, which deal with the custom of indulging in kissing games at social gatherings held in connection with churches and chapels and temperance organisations. There is every reason to believe that this custom is largely followed in the Island, although we may not be so bad in this respect as they are at the other side of the water. The games chiefly indulged in in this Island are known by the following title—“Silly old man” (or “Kiss-in-the-ring”), “Drop the handkerchief,” “The jolly miller,” “The Quaker’s wedding,” “The Queen of Sheba,” “Jacob’s ladder,” &c. If dancing is looked upon with so much disapproval by some people, surely the same people cannot, or should not, approve of promiscuous kissing games. It is said that these kissing games are carried on under the very nose of the leaders of religious and temperance societies.”<sup>1</sup> (“Kissing Games at Sunday School Entertainments,” *Mona’s Herald* 17 March 1886: 9d–e.) This article went on to reproduce the editorial column from the *Christian Million*, which also quoted from correspondence on this topic, one of whose conclusions was that “Our own candid opinion is that these ‘games’ need reforming off the face of the earth.”

Vernacular culture is ever felt to be in need of reform, or rather, erasure, and this recalls Leighton Stowell’s reminscences of his teaching of folk dance in the Island: “Also a few years ago in this port, [*ie*, Port Erin] because it was suggested that I should teach Manx and Scottish dances to a chapel Youth Club, the officials of the Sunday School threatened to resign in a block!” And in the same passage, “I well remember too how a few members of my own chapel in Castletown were greatly distressed because the six little girls were going to dance “Rigs of Marlow” and “Country Gardens” at the annual Chapel Christmas Concert.”<sup>2</sup> (“Folk Dancing in the Isle of Man.” *Yn Lioran* 12 (1965): 12–16.)

Returning to the correspondence quoted in the *Christian Million*, “Band of Hope” wrote that “I have before me at this moment a programme of a *soirée* at which for nearly two hours continual kissing prevailed, the duration between each kiss probably being about two minutes. Remonstrations have no effect, be they public or private.” Of course not, when it is all such good fun, if nothing else, and that is ever the problem for many with vernacular culture.

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<sup>1</sup> {Anon, 1886 #71}

<sup>2</sup> {Stowell, 1965 #1666@14}

This gem of a news clipping from the **IOM Daily Times, 23rd October 1961** comes from **fRoots Magazine** editor Ian Anderson via Steve Hunt in Cornwall.

Pictured at the Oban Private Hotel on Loch Prom are regular artists from the **Manx Ballads and Blues Club**: Stuart Slack (composer of "The Laxey Wheel"), David Callister, John Tyrer, John Kaneen (AKA Big John!) and Mike Williams.

The journalist wrote;

"On listening to 'moust-achioed' John Kaneen, I was left wondering why he had never gone in for folk-singing full-time. He is surely a wonderful entertainer".

## The Manx Ballads and Blues Club

Subdued lighting, folk-music records decorating the wall, a friendly atmosphere. The scene was set for the second meeting of the current session of the "Manx Ballads and Blues" Club.

Held at the Oban Private Hotel, Loch Promenade, Douglas, the first thing that a person notices on entering the meeting room is the friendly, intimate atmosphere. The room itself is quite large and is lit by one lamp on the centre and two wall lamps set into the wall which give a very subdued effect. One wall of the room is decorated with Long-playing Records and, incidentally, these discs may be hired out to members at a cost of 9d per time. This must be the only club on the Island with its own record library.

On entering the club I was met by Mr David Callister, the secretary, who informed me that the club was founded over a year ago. Since then it has flourished even though its membership has hardly risen above twenty.

David told me that they hoped to promote a concert of folk-music next year and to have as "star" a leading folk singer from the mainland. This project however, is still in its initial stages.

On showing me an issue of "Spin", a new folk magazine for North West England, David pointed to an article headed "Folksong in the Isle of Man" which gave details of the formation of the club and its officials.

David showed me another article which described tapes made by John Kaneen, President of the club. The article read:

"On recent hearing of a tape by



Regular artists at the Manx Ballads and Blues Club include, from left to right, Stuart Slack, David Callister, John Tyrer, John Kaneen and Mike Williams.

John Kaneen from the Isle of Man, he must surely be one of the best folk-instrumentalists in the British Isles, performing equally well on 4 and 12 string guitars and five-string banjo. No mean singer either!"

Further down the article continued:

"Projected for next Easter in the Isle of Man — a Folk Music Festival to rival the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen. Let's hope the judges there will be more sympathetic toward living folksong than were those at Llan . . . —take note you promoters.

After hearing tapes of the Spinners—a folk group in Liverpool—

the evening at the Oban got under way with songs from John Kaneen, David Callister, Pat Murphy, Stuart Slack and Mike Williams with John Tyrer playing bass guitar.

On listening to 'mouchachioed' John Kaneen, I was left wondering why he had never gone in for folk-singing full-time. He is surely a wonderful entertainer.

Stuart Slack works wonders on guitar and harmonica — both at the same time.

Mike Williams is well known on the Island as leader of the Zephyrs Country and Western Group. Secretary Callister is quite a dab

hand at writing songs too and he gave a first performance of one on Friday.

At first I was rather surprised when told that there was no dancing. Later on however, I realised that there was no need to dance, the entertainment was such that you just were content to listen.

If you are the least bit interested in folk music, take my advice and pay a visit to the Oban. The meeting is on Thursday for this week only (otherwise Fridays) so pop along and give it a try. You may decide to join —I did.



Stuart Slack entertains at the Manx Ballads and Blues Club at the Oban Private Hotel, Loch Promenade.



**The Manx artists who have been invited to Killarney in May to demonstrate Manx folk song and folk dancing at an international festival. Left to right: Peter Kneale, Mary Verdon, Joseph Woods, Eva Ellison, Stephen Newbold. Front (kneeling): Eileen Taylor, Brenda Quayle. The team are dressed in authentic traditional Manx costume, and gave an exhibition of Manx dances on Monday before His Excellency and Lady Dundas for the students attending the British Council university vacation course, when the Manx branch of the Celtic Congress entertained the students and friends at the Castle Mona Hotel.**

*Isle of Man Times 17th April 1954*

## SOUTHERN MFDS 1950/60s

Tony Archibald has contributed some fantastic Manx dancing photos to the MANX NOSTALGIA facebook.

Check out this album of photos of the Southern Manx Folk Dance Society in the 1950s/60s: [www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.101519330291015049&type=1](http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.101519330291015049&type=1)





David Speers has painstakingly photographed the entire *Clague Collection* (MNHL MS448A). These Manx songs and tunes were collected in the 1890s by Clague and the Gill brothers and they have formed the core of the trad music repertoire we know today.

You can now see the four manuscript books for yourself on the biography page for **Dr John Clague**: [http://manxmusic.com/bio\\_page\\_129756.html](http://manxmusic.com/bio_page_129756.html)

POCHEEN

# POCHEEN

## sing 14 Folk Greats

Including: Jug Of Punch,  
Scarborough Fair, Wild Rover,  
Dirty Old Town.

## POCHEEN

### sing 14 Folk Greats

**SIDE 1:** Jug of Punch(Trad. Mann Music)/Boys of Killey Begg(Trad. Mann Music)/Scarborough Fair(Trad. Mann Music)/Santiago(Trad. Mann Music)/New York Girls(Trad. Mann Music)/Wild Mountain Thyme(Trad. Mann Music)/The Leaving of Liverpool(Trad. Mann Music).

**SIDE 2:** Whiskey In The Jar(Trad. Mann Music)/Wild Rover(Trad. Mann Music)/Coalters Candy(Trad. Mann Music)/I'll Tell Me Ma(Trad. Mann Music)/Mountain Dew(Trad. Mann Music)/Dirty Old Town(Trad. Mann Music)/Philameouria(Trad. Mann Music).

With a pleasant blend of guitar, banjo and harmonica, Pocheen have quickly made a considerable impression on the folk scene in the Isle of Man. With a relaxed style and a happy rapport with the audience, they are a very popular group.

Pocheen have four members, three of whom, Paul, Ken and Neil are schoolteachers, while the fourth member, Martin, has spent most of his life in farming.

Paul Reynolds plays various instruments including guitar. He is an accomplished mandolin player and his vocal accompaniment adds depth to many of their songs.

Martin Burns plays banjo and is the main lead singer with a fine wide range. His pronounced Manx brogue would be the envy of many a folk singer.

Ken Crellin, plays harmonica, mandolin, guitar and various types of "squeeze box". His harmonica is the key to Pocheen's individual sound.

Neil Sadler, plays guitar and mandolin. He has a strong rich voice and his guitar base lines add variety to many numbers. Neil is an extrovert which is reflected in his playing.

**SONNYS ORT**  
(Good Luck To Thee)

**JOHN J. CALLISTER**

Recording Engineer: Terry Clough.  
Cover Photograph: Image Studios, Douglas.  
Printed by: IBC Printers Ltd., Douglas.

Recorded at VIKING MANN STUDIOS  
Douglas, Isle of Man.

VM 5000C

VM 5000C

## Folk greats from 40 years ago!!

Paul Reynolds (from folk group Shoh Slaynt) says that Pocheen had only been formed for a few months before they recorded this cassette album. Up to 10,000 were manufactured and sold in the UK by Viking Mann Records.

A NEW SONG, CALLED,  
**THE SAILOR**

And Farmer's Daughter.

**A** Sailor courted a farmer's daughter,  
That lived convenient to the Isle of man,  
But mark good people what followed after,  
A long time courting against their will.

A long time courting and still discoursing,  
Of things concerning the Ocean wide!  
He says, my darling at our first meeting,  
If you'll consent I'll make you my bride.

It's as for Sailors, I don't admire them,  
Because they sail to so many parts,  
The more we court, the more they slight us,  
Leaves us behind them with broken hearts.

O never fear, my dearest dear,  
I never intend to serve you so;  
But I have once more to cross the Ocean,  
You know my darling, that I must go.

But the news being carried unto his mother,  
Before he step'd one foot on board;  
That he was courting a farmer's daughter,  
That friends or parents could not afford

Like one distracted his mother ran;  
Saying, if you don't forsake her,  
And your bride not make her,  
I shall disown you to be my son.

O mother dear your in a passion,  
And I am sorry you have spoke too late,  
For don't you remember at your first begining  
My father married you a servant maid.

So do not despise her I mean to raise her,  
Just as my father to you hath done;  
She's mine, I like her, and my bride,  
You may disown me to be your son.

But when she heard of the greivous story,  
That she to sea with her love might go;  
As for my fortune love, I pray don't mind it,  
I might have money and no one know.

Money or no my love, you are my lot my love,  
You are my friend and affectionate still,  
For I'll take you, and my bride I'll make you,  
Let my old mother say what she will.

**BROADSIDE BALLAD**

**THE SAILOR And  
Farmer's Daughter**

This ballad begins:

**A sailor courted a  
farmer's daughter /  
that lived convenient to  
the Isle of man /  
But mark good people  
what followed after /  
a long time courting  
against their will.**

This ballad tells the story of a sailor who decides to get married beneath his station to a farmer's daughter in spite of his mother's disapproval.

There is no date or place of publication, but probable period of publication: 1820-1840.

Transcription from the National Library of Scotland:

<http://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/broadside.cfm/id/16809/criteria/%22isle%20of%20man%22>

<< Thanks to Stephen Miller for sending this in

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Although the melody of **Isle of Mona** is the well known Welsh hymn "Blaenwern" by WR Rowlands (1915), these words by JW Gelling have become much-loved and particularly associated with funerals in the Isle of Man. New book *Celebration & Contemplation* (see p. 2) also brings Manx melodies appropriate for weddings and funerals together: [http://manxmusic.com/publication\\_460521.html](http://manxmusic.com/publication_460521.html)

## Isle of Mona

Words by John W. Gelling

Music by William R. Rowlands

BLAENWERN (87. 87. 87. 87.)

1. Isle of Mo - na, home be - lov - ed here we sing our praise to thee,  
2. Of thy child - ren, some have wand - ered far a - way a - cross the main,  
3. Strang - ers come to see Thy beau - ty wand - er o'er the hills so green,

5

Thank Thee for the pur - ple mount - ains, glens a - live with mel - o - dy.  
But their love of El - lan Van - nin soft - ly calls them back a - gain.  
Feel the ma - gic of Thy Spi - rit brood - ing gent - ly, calm, ser - ene.

9

Let the na - tions boast of coun - tries vast - er, might - ier, far than Thee.  
Oft at eve come long - ing mem - 'ries of the time they used to roam  
Moth - er Home - land, grant this fav - our to thy child - ren far and nigh,

13

But to us Thou hast no e - qual El - lan Van - nin, Ben my Chree.  
In the hap - py days of child - hood o'er their love - ly Is - land home.  
When life's wear - y days are o - ver in thy bo - som let us lie.

# CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2017

Now till 6 May – *Sophia Morrison – The First Curator* – exhibition, Manx Museum, Douglas, 10am-5pm, Free

5th Kirk Michael Oie'll Verree, Ebenezer Hall, £6

6th January Kiaull ny Nollick Veg - Hartes Ease concert at Patrick's Church, Knockaloe, 8pm, £10

7th Arrane son Mannin competition, Peel Masonic Hall, 7.30pm, Free

8th Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh Shirveish y Nollick, St Johns Methodist, 3pm

12th Caarjyn Coodjagh joint concert with Rushen Silver Band, St Cath's, PE

**14th Commemoration of Sophia Morrison – events organised by the Celtic League**

- 1.30pm laying of wreath

- 2.30pm talk on the Life of S Morrison

- 7.30pm Manks Concert, Centenary

Centre

27th Imar (inc. Manx musos Adam Rhodes & Tom Callister), Celtic Connections, Glasgow [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com)

## FEBRUARY

4th The Next Big Thing final, Villa Marina

11th Northern Irish Singer-Songwriters' Circle – concert and workshop

[www.jonnopromotions.com/events/songwriters-circle/](http://www.jonnopromotions.com/events/songwriters-circle/)

## MARCH

TBC ... no doubt there will be something happening...

## APRIL

2nd – 5th Manx Folk Awards <http://manxfolkawards.weebly.com/>

7th – 10th Shennaghys Jiu Celtic Festival ~ 20th anniversary, Ramsey <http://shennaghysjiu.com/>

21st - 29th Manx Music, Speech & Dance Festival, Villa Marina

[www.manxmusicfestival.org](http://www.manxmusicfestival.org)

## MAY

12th-14th IOM Cyclefest, inc. Davey Knowles, Elephant Sessions, & more...

Milntown, Ramsey [www.iomcyclefest.com/](http://www.iomcyclefest.com/)



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

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

~ SESSIONS ~

**WED** 8.30pm Session at O'Donnells, Douglas  
**THURS** 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey  
**FRI** 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey

**FRI** Trad session at the Crosby

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

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

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Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin  
The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space  
PRESS: please feel free to pick up articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture