

Yn Chruinnaght 2015 round-up

The annual Inter-Celtic festival, Yn Chruinnaght, brought colour and vibrancy to Peel during five days of music, song and dance, as visiting groups and artistes joined with local performers to provide entertainment at various venues throughout the town.



It was a great location for a varied programme, which was largely focused around the hub of the fishing port, kicking off with a concert in St German's Cathedral before heading down to a popular gig at The Creek.

Peel Methodist Church has also become a favourite acoustic setting for afternoon concerts, which this year featured a selection of singers and musicians, including a number of rising stars from the ranks of the Island's younger performers.

Out at Peel Golf Club, the award-winning Mischa Macpherson hosted a Scottish singing workshop, which was followed later by a rousing ceili, with music provided by visiting Breton and Cornish groups and the inimitable Calor Gas Ceili Band in their final performance, after thirty six years on the Manx circuit.

Meanwhile a discussion about Celtic languages took place at the Methodist Guild Room, a Cornish dance workshop at the Centenary Centre and the Corrin Hall provided a venue for a popular craft fair, which included a range of artistic talent and a varied use of local items.

And for those wishing to try something a little different, specialist carver Sharon Littlely was on hand during two workshops over the weekend to help talented individuals carve their own Welsh lovespoons.

Music sessions, one of the mainstays of the festival, took place at The Royal and at The Highwayman.

But probably the most successful events were at the Centenary Centre, with two sell-out concerts featuring the phenomenal folk band Flook with support from Greg Joughin and local duo Strengyn, followed by the magnificent premiere of The Gathering, written by David Kilgallon and commissioned by Yn Chruinnaght; with a powerful finale by Breton duo Landat-Moisson.

Other events involving Island musicians and dancers were held at The Institute in Laxey and at the Villa Marina in Douglas.

The festival concluded with an energetic display of Manx dancing by local groups and a musical interlude from some of our up and coming musicians from the Bree Supergroup outside the House of Manannan in glorious sunshine.

Valerie Caine © July 2015

See over for a medley of favourite moments from this year's festival.

Photos from Jiri Podobsky, Wendy Hurst, Bob Fennell & others.

CHECK OUT THE YN CHRUINNAGHT FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE!!!

In this month's edition...

- [YC 2015 in pictures](#)
- [Success for Michelle in Wales](#)
- [NAMA awards](#)



Bulgarian pipes and singing from Vladmir and Ivelina, Manx dance from the Manx Folk Dance Society, Breton fest noz dancing to Lors & Thomas, an enlightening lecture about PMC Kermode with Dr Peter Davey, rising stars Owen and Ailish Williams, loop guitar magic with Malcolm Stitt, harp ensemble Claasagh, Inter-Celtic dancing from Grainne & Ali, sessions suitable for pupils and teachers, and Manx music for organ and trumpet with Chronicles.



The premiere of David Kilgallon's "The Gathering" plus performances from Landat-Moisson, Mec Lir, Keskowethyans, Strengyn, Flook, Mischa Macpherson Trio, Matt Creer, Scammylt, rising stars Marc McCabe O'Kelly and Arabella Ayen and ceili dancing in Peel Golf Club.



A beautiful final day in Peel with Manx dance and music displays outside the House of Manannan: Ny Fennee, Bree Supergroup, Perree Bane and the 'Manannan Babes'! Photos by Jiri Podobsky



A wonderful afternoon in Mooragh Park with Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums, Rhythm of Bulgaria, Perree Bane & Scoill Daunse Yernagh Ellan Vannin.

For a round-up of events at YC 2015: www.ynchruinnagh.com/whats-on/programme/

LEARN GUITAR TECHNIQUES WITH JENN BUTTERWORTH

Culture Vannin are supporting a trad guitar masterclass with Scottish guitarist Jenn Butterworth as part of this year's GuitarFest (Jonno Promotions). Jenn will be over with Rachel Hair's band who will be playing at the Centenary Centre on the evening of 3rd October.

Jenn Butterworth is one of Scotland's foremost female guitarists and singers. She has toured extensively with the hugely successful award winning Anna Massie Band and has performed with artists such as Eddi Reader, duo Jeana Leslie and Siobhan Miller and Nuala Kennedy. She regularly works with The Rachel Hair Trio, and also with Phil Cunningham on an array of different projects from the sold out Glasgow Royal Concert Hall to showcases at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and appearances as part of the All Star House Band on BBC Scotland's Hogmanay Live television show.

The workshop with Jenn is £5 and is from 2-4pm at the Villa Arcade, Douglas on Sat 3rd October. Tickets are available online:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/guitarfest-2015-culture-vannin-guitar-workshop-with-jenn-butterworth-tickets-16924485592



NAMA award winners

Young people were today honoured for their exceptional contributions to Manx culture, language and the community.

The North American Manx Association (NAMA) presents awards each year to under 25-year-olds nominated for their creativity, language skills and community involvement.

The tradition dates back to 1979, the millennium of Tynwald, when NAMA established the awards.

Leslie Hanson, President of the World Manx Association, and Professor Ronald Barr, Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Education and Children, judged nominations.

Geoff Corkish MBE MLC, Member of the Education and Children, welcomed guests to the awards ceremony at the Barrool Suite.

He said: 'The young people receiving awards today should be proud of their achievements. They have achieved recognition through their talent, hard work, commitment and resilience – qualities the Island needs in abundance as it faces the future.'

'The Island is blessed to have so many young people excelling in the arts and their native language and giving so much time back to the community, all while undertaking their studies.'

The award winners received specially minted silver medallions from Anne Minay, lifetime honorary member of NAMA.



Winners:

Manx music: Daniel Quayle, Ballakermeen High School

A talented singer, musician and composer, Daniel, 17, has won numerous accolades at the Manx Music Festival, co-hosts Manx Radio's Jamys Jeheiney (James on Friday) programme with James Harrison, takes part in the Bree (Manx for 'vitality') education programme for Manx music and dance and recently taught Manx tunes to people from other nations at the International Celtic Congress. He is the organ scholar at St George's Church, Douglas, and belongs to an as-yet-unnamed Manx music group with friends.

Arts and crafts portraying Manx life/culture: Richard Gawne and Alyssa Bridson, Ballakermeen High School

For their art GCSE, the students, both 16, produced impressive work featuring Douglas's life and its quayside.

Manx language: Wilf Hewson, Queen Elizabeth II High School

Fluent in Manx since primary school, Wilf, 16, is studying for an A-level equivalent in the language. He has taught football using his native tongue via Club Spoyrt and is assisting the Department of Education and Children's Manx language unit to record material for learners. He is writing a book in Manx about local birdlife.

Manx culture (under 18): Harry Kelly, Castle Rushen High School

Harry, 14, lives at Cregneash, where he tends his own flock of Loaghtan sheep on the family farm, which employs traditional farming methods, and he helps show off the traditional Manx way of life to visitors. He has studied Manx and helps in the preparations for Hop-tu-Naa when it's celebrated annually at Cregeash.

Manx culture (over 18): No nominations

Manx culture (group of under-25s): Fraser Rowe, Callum Rowe, Owen Williams and Lukas Hayhurst, Castle Rushen High School

The four, aged 13 to 15, are involved in the school folk group, which won several categories of the Manx Folk Awards 2015 and perform separately as a folk ensemble as well as excelling individually on a wide variety of instruments. The boys are also members of the Bree 'supergroup'.

Manx community (work with voluntary organisations etc): Adele Harris, Castle Rushen High School

Adele joined the Southern Befrienders as part of a school intergenerational scheme and has been a dedicated volunteer, helping to run a basic cookery course, where she showcased her own recipes, and visiting Southlands resource centre in Port Erin weekly to chat with residents.

Manx community (overcoming disability and contributing to community): Reece Moffitt, Isle of Man College of Further and Higher Education

Despite having Duchenne muscular dystrophy and being reliant on a wheelchair for mobility, Reece, 17, is excelling on a BTEC course in information technology, has taken up power chair football, which he plays with spirit and determination, and is taking part, with friends, in a sponsored walk along the old railway line from Douglas to Peel to raise money for the Pahar Trust.

Laurence Skelly MHK, a member of NAMA, presented the awards for the most progress in Manx to Aerin Roberts and Tosh Teare, Queen Elizabeth II High School. Each received £50.

Closing the event, the Hon Clare Christian, President of Tynwald said: 'This is an exciting year for Manx culture with the Island taking the lead with Kernow (Cornwall) at the Lorient Festival and no-one can fail to be aware of the how vibrant the Manx language, music and dance scenes are at the moment, with new material being produced all the time.

'So it is wonderful in this vibrant environment to have more young people embracing these aspects of Manx culture and reaching the high standards which are required to win the NAMA awards.

'As well as these artistic expressions of our culture, recognition is given to those who contribute to our community, an equally important aspect of Manx life in a world where there is a tendency for people to communicate electronically rather than face to face.

'Congratulations to all our winners. NAMA must be delighted that they have played a part in this flourishing of interest in our heritage since they first presented these awards 35 years ago and our thanks must go to them for continuing to support and encourage our young people in this way.'

Original article: <https://www2.sch.im/groups/decnews/wiki/f6996/>

BON VOYAGE!!

Final preparations are underway for the giant Manx presence at **Festival Interceltique de Lorient** (7 - 16 August). With over 100 performers and volunteers going to Brittany to represent the Island as honoured nation at Europe's largest Celtic Festival, hundreds of hours have already been spent perfecting performances for the two gala evenings at the Grand Theatre and Espace Marine, the Nuit Interceltique stadium shows, a huge televised parade, plus almost non-stop entertainment in the Manx-Cornish pavilion.

Journalists Amy Griffiths (Manx Radio) and Paul Moulton (MTTV) will also be joining the delegation to keep everyone back home up to date on happenings. Listen and watch regular features on Manx radio and manx.net's MTTV, plus keep in the loop via Culture Vannin's Twitter & Facebook pages.

Pictured below: rehearsals for the Espace Marine gala night, which will feature Rushen Silver Band, Ny Fennee, Mec Lir, Barrule, Russell Gilmour, Greg Jougin, Ruth Keggin, Caarjyn Cooijdjagh, Grainne Joughin, Ali Carroon & John Kilgallon plus others, including Manannan himself!!



Festival Interceltique de Lorient will soon be flooded by Manxies, so here's a flashback (for French speakers/readers!) to when dancers from the Isle of Man went to Lorient back in 1977!!

Full report on FIL 2015 next month!!

LORIENT : CAPITALE CULTURELLE de la Bretagne pendant le festival

LA municipalité a reçu, hier midi, les délégations celtiques participant au festival. Cette réception a été l'occasion pour le maire de Lorient d'expliciter sa pensée et son jugement sur la manifestation.

« Faire de Lorient la capitale culturelle de la Bretagne : c'est une volonté que voici déjà trois ans, lors de ce même festival, j'ai eu l'occasion d'affirmer.

« Aujourd'hui, très concrètement, c'est bien dans ce sens que notre ville a progressé, car Lorient a su trouver une place originale parmi les hauts lieux culturels de Bretagne. Je souhaite simplement que cette volonté de Lorient soit aussi celle d'autres villes de Bretagne : chacune, en effet, suivant son contexte, son identité, sa personnalité, doit participer à la promotion de la culture bre-

tonne et devenir, à sa manière, également un centre culturel pour la Bretagne.

« Quant à Lorient elle doit, dans certains domaines de la culture bretonne, donner l'exemple de l'action, de l'animation et même de la création ».

M. Lagarde a ajouté : « A travers les nombreuses manifestations qui sont proposées par le festival interceltique des cornemuses, ce ne sont pas seulement les costumes, les chants et les sports du passé qui resplendissent à nos yeux et résonnent à nos oreilles pendant quelques jours, c'est aussi toute la créativité poétique et musicale de nos anciens et de nos jeunes qui s'appuie sur une riche tradition.

« Au surplus, et c'est notre originalité désormais reconnue,

Lorient, plus qu'aucune autre ville, peut s'enorgueillir de rassembler chaque année un grand nombre de participants venus de tous les pays et régions celtiques ».

Enfin, le maire a évoqué le problème de la charte culturelle bretonne. « Compte tenu des difficultés d'application que semble soulever l'implantation du futur Institut culturel de Bretagne dans la localité retenue, que l'on sache qu'en tout état de cause le dossier de Lorient, reconnu sur le plan technique comme incontestablement le meilleur, reste ouvert.

« D'autre part, Lorient veut, une nouvelle fois, se faire l'interprète de la nécessité et de l'urgence de la reconnaissance officielle par les pouvoirs publics de la culture bretonne : la charte culturelle récemment

proposée à Ploërmel, ne doit pas être, comme nous le craignons, un simple slogan à caractère électoral. Elle doit marquer l'acceptation par les pouvoirs publics de donner à la culture de la Bretagne dans toutes ses composantes, notamment sa langue, son histoire et sa civilisation, la place qui lui revient.

« Je dis solennellement que cette charte qui sera accompagnée, pour d'autres domaines, par une régionalisation en profondeur, doit marquer, enfin, la reconnaissance de notre identité culturelle et la prise des responsabilités par ceux qui sont concernés et non par un pouvoir lointain et centralisé.

« Notre pays, notre région et leurs populations, fatiguées par trop de renoncements, ont soif de changements authentiques ».

« Laa Vane » ou la renaissance du folklore de l'île de Man

SE terminant sur l'interprétation émouvante de « Breiz » par les « Kyal-dan », qui remportèrent le concours Celtavision à Killarney cette année, avec cette mélodie que le bagad Kemper a aussi largement contribué depuis à faire connaître, la soirée Bretagne-Ecosse et Ile de Man a comblé les deux mille spectateurs, massés, mardi soir, sur les gradins du Moustoir.

Plus familiarisés avec les imposantes parades des bagpipes écossais, ainsi qu'avec les danses typiques des Highlands, telle la danse rituelle des épées, ils ont marqué un intérêt plus sensible pour la prestation de la délégation de l'île de Man, qui, cette année, présentait pour la première fois un brillant aperçu du renouveau de la danse folklorique.

L'an dernier, la famille Jerry (dix personnes) constituait à elle seule la représentation de l'île de Man au festival, mais on nous avait annoncé un groupe plus étoffé en 1977. La série de danses présentées par les jeunes illens a donc constitué un événement et une révélation pour les habitués du festival.

Pour les exécutants, l'accueil chaleureux du public a pris le sens d'un encouragement à poursuivre l'immense travail entrepris voici deux ans seulement, pour assurer la renaissance de tous les aspects de la très ancienne culture de l'île de Man.

Facile à voir... dangereux à faire

La langue spécifique de l'île, le « manks », menacée de disparition - il ne restait plus qu'une personne à la parler, il y en a aujourd'hui quatre-cents - bénéficie des mêmes efforts que pour la musique et la danse.

« Cela paraît facile, indique Dave Fisher, l'un des membres du groupe, mais c'est au contraire très dangereux ». Il parle de la danse appelée « Laa Vane » (jument blanche), qui a été saluée par des salves d'applaudissements. « Il n'y avait plus qu'un vieillard à en connaître la technique et la chorégraphie, et j'ai personnellement mis six mois à l'apprendre, au risque de deux pouces démis, une arcade sourcilière ouverte, sans compter des côtes fêlées ».

Armés de solides bâtons, qu'ils manient avec dextérité en les frappant violemment au passage sur ceux du vis-à-vis, au cours de la danse, les danseurs ne doivent à aucun prix perdre la cadence, sinon, gare à la bastonnade.

« On a commencé il y a deux ans, nous sommes dix-huit aujourd'hui, l'an prochain une centaine ».

Plongés dans l'ambiance du festival, qui leur fait découvrir la véritable identité celtique, nos amis de l'île de Man sont optimistes sur les chances d'un renouveau.

En attendant, Dave Fisher profite au maximum du séjour : « Si le paradis était comme cela, je voudrais y aller tout de suite ».



Le final de la spectaculaire danse de la jument blanche (Laa Vane) mardi soir au Moustoir. Les danseurs de l'île de Man ont créé la surprise et recueilli les applaudissements nourris des spectateurs.

RESEARCH NEWS

“NOW THAT MR WH GILL HAS MADE OPEN CONFESSION” : AN UPDATE

Stephen Miller, Vienna

Since the last issue of KMJ, in the course of moving papers from one spot on my desk to another in the guise of research, I have come across photocopies of the T.B. Brown–Egbert Ryding correspondence (mnhl, ms 1272 a) mentioned in the piece on P.W. Caine. Several of the letters are indeed numbered and whilst lacking a copy to hand of ms 1272/45 a, which would appear now to be the letter that Caine is referring to, by chance one of the letters present contains a reference by T.E. Brown to A.W. Moore’s *Manx Ballads and Music* (1896). It now remains to be seen whether Caine has mis-referenced the letter he is seeking to once again read or if he has missed the mention in what is ms 1272/56 a, dated 15 November 1896.

Returning to W.H. Gill’s series of “Manx Minatures” that ran in *Mannin*, what specifically was it then that raised Caine’s ire? Gill had quoted from a letter sent by Brown to Sidney T. Irwin (28 June 1896):

Already he had written to his friend, Mr Irwin, at Clifton, “My time has been given largely of late to my friend’s *Manx Song Book*. He spent last Friday with me, and from ‘morn to dewy eve’ we dwelt in a perfect bower of melody. It will be a very charming book. [...] We looked at each other with a mild surmise. I can tell you, our delight was huge when we discovered a genuine Dorian Mode in our native ditties,”—and so on.

Gill chose to amplify this: “The simple fact was as follows:—It was long after ‘dewy eve’ when, the other members of the family having retired for the night, we two resumed our study....” The night then was to be one of drama. Gill produced the proof sheets of *Manx National Songs*, and banged out the pieces on the piano: “The light from a large lamp by the piano shone full on the music and on the face of my old friend as he stood and occasionally sat, behind me, turning over the proof sheets as I played, singing here, humming there, criticising this, that, and the other.”

The evening was to come to a climax:

I had reserved as a concluding piece the “*Harvest of the Sea*,” in which we both heartily joined, and then as the two voices mingled for the last time in this world, in singing the concluding line of the hymn, the master’s voice faltered, and then ceased with a sob; when the pupil, who was playing, suddenly looking round, saw—a face suffused with tears, and heard that broken whisper, never to be forgotten—“Willy! Willy! that is” and then, after a pause, as if feeling for a word adequately fitting, the speaker finished the sentence with a sigh of relief—“That is heavenly.”

Gill used this passage—clearly overwritten—to show, as he wrote, “our beloved Poet’s candid opinion of a work which he had for a time mistaken as in the light of a rival to Mr Moore’s *Book*.” But what, finally, is there in ms 1272/56 a to correct this view? It is not as I surmised in the last piece “a sustained critique” (that may lie in ms 1272/45 a) but whilst shorter perhaps harsher in its simple few words: “Have you seen W.H. Gill’s ‘*Manx Songs*?’ It is not a bad spree of a work, but, seriously, as a book, it will not compare with Arthur Moore’s.” Truly, a “candid opinion.”

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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



28

Last Night as I Lay Sleeping



Up beat/Anacrusis



1. Last night as I lay sleep - ing, I dreamed that I was ri - ding to the Isle of Skye on an



ap - ple pie and back a - gain by morn - ing, and back a - gain, my love. —

1. Last night as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed that I was riding
To the Isle of Skye on an apple pie
And back again by morning,
And back again, my love.

2. Last night as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed that I was flying
To the Isle of Mull on a herring gull
And back again by morning,
And back again, my love.

3. Last night as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed that I was sailing
To the Isle of Man in a frying pan
And back again by morning,
And back again, my love.

This lullaby is a favourite at bedtime in the Woolley-Stitt household!! It was taught to me (Chloe) by a friend in Scotland. Because of the reference to the Isle of Man, I included it in the educational resource *Gow Ayrn*. You can hear it performed here on the *Gow Ayrn* wiki [track 28]:

https://wiki1.sch.im/wiki/pages/s8g5B3w1/Gow_Ayrn.html



Youtube/video corner

- Great news from Llangollen International Musical
- Eisteddfod - Manx singer Michelle Jamieson won 3rd
- place in the Open Folk Class with Manx songs "Fin as
- Oshin" and "Yllagh Ushlagh" by Breesha Maddrell.

Watch Michelle's performance here...

<http://llangollen.tv/solos/?lang=en>



JonnoPromotions presents The Unthanks at the Gaiety Friday 25/09/2015

CALENDAR

JULY

30th Matt Creer & Scammylt, Villa Arcade 8pm FREE

AUGUST

3rd Peel Carnival - Manx bands, All day, FREE

4th – 5th Deep South Festival, Port St Mary

7th - 16th Festival Interceltique Lorient

8th Matt Creer at Groudle Glen Concert, 12pm

15th - 16th Queenie Fest, Port St Mary

16th & 23rd Shoh Slaynt, Villa Marina Arcade 3pm FREE

SEPTEMBER

25th The Unthanks, Gaiety Theatre, 8pm £23

OCTOBER

3rd Jenn Butterworth guitar masterclass £5 (see above)

3rd Rachel Hair Trio, Centenary Centre, Peel

Thanks to Val Caine for these photos of Malcolm Stitt and The Mollag Band performing at the IOM Arts Council Summer Season. Still time to catch Matt Creer, Scammylt and Shoh Slaynt :)



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

~ SESSIONS ~

TUES 8pm Monthly session at The Mitre, Kirk Michael
 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* tbc
 FRI 9pm Irish at The Mitre, Ramsey
 Last FRI of month 9pm, Kiavull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
 SAT 10pm Manx at The White House, Peel

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

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

Call: Chloë: 01624 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