

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Mean Fouyir 2022 September

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Celtic Culture Celebrated in a busy week of events

By Mike Wade. Originally printed in *Island Life*, *Manx Independent* 04/08/22

Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering made a welcome return... [25-31 July] with a jam-packed six days of events at venues around the island.

In addition to traditional concerts from choirs, folk groups, soloists and bands, artists and dance groups performed throughout the week.

The Gathering has been celebrating Manx, Irish, Cornish, Welsh, Scottish and Breton culture for more than 40 years, but this was the first full festival in several years because of covid.

It kicked off on Monday evening at the Peel Centenary Centre with the pop-folk group Mec Lir. Manx fiddle player Isla Callister then hosted a special premiere night of 'Creeaght' on Wednesday, a project she has put together, influenced and dedicated to women who have shaped the history of the Isle of Man.

Meaning 'courage' in Manx Gaelic, 'Creeaght' is a suite of music that explores the stories, lives, experiences and legacies of courageous women, such as Sophia Morrison and Angèle Kneale, the women behind the campaign for Abortion Law Modernisation and 'Handmaids IOM'.



The music for the special concert was performed by an all-female group, including Katie Lawrence, Mera Royle, Kirsty Lawrence and Ruth Keggin, with spoken word from Annie Kissack.

In this month's edition...

- Photos from Lorient
- NAMA convention 2022 report
- Two new tunes by Isla Callister



The show also featured artwork by award-winning illustrator Jo Davies.

On Thursday, visiting Irish violinist Frankie Gavin was joined by multi instrumentalist Catherine McHugh again at a packed Centenary Centre. They were supported by the stirring sounds of sea shanty harmony group, the Bryher's Boys.

Friday saw the action move to the Villa Marina for the 'Mega Manx Ceili', which featured performances from the visiting Welsh Pen y

Fai dancers in addition to Manx dance group Skeddan Jiarg and Perree Bane, the Manx Fiddle Orchestra and the Ellan Vannin Pipes and Drums. Finally, on Saturday night, reformed Scottish folk group Deaf Shepherd played their long awaited concert at the Peel Centenary Centre, supported by the Manx jazz folk group 'Tree ny Kiare'.



In addition to all of the above, there were also daily lunchtime sessions at Noa Bakehouse, in Market Hall, North Quay, Douglas, youth music sessions, talks and workshops. It was the first time the festival has been held in the school holidays and the range of activities and concerts on offer proved popular throughout the week.

Organisers have welcomed feedback on this year's event on its CelticGatheringIOM Facebook page as they look ahead to the 2022 festival.

Link to photos by Valerie Caine & Jiri Podobsky:

www.flickr.com/photos/146057732@N07/albums/72177720301236775/with/52280501918/

Glasb Voogir

THE WHITEHOUSE, PEEL
THURS 8TH SEPTEMBER
8:00 PM
JACK'S FAREWELL GIG! 😞

Live music from 3 folkling great musicians

Sound Records

LIVE @ SOUND RECORDS

AN EVENING OF ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCES BY

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Free Entry
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3 Wellington Street
Friday 9th September
Doors 7:30

RUTH KEGGIN & RACHEL HAIR
LOSSAN
ALBUM LAUNCH

7:30pm 19th September 2022
Erin Arts Centre
£17 Adults £2 under-18s

Doors open 30 min before each event Open 10am-4:30pm Tue-Fri Victoria Square, Port Erin
Tickets available online at ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre and in-person at the Box Office
835858 hello@erinartscentre.com The Erin Arts Centre is a registered charity 236A

El Festivo Pacifico

- 12.05 COLIN BREW
- 12.45 DENISE AND BRIAN
- 13.30 PERREE BANE *
- 14.00 CATE TONKS TRIO *
- 14.30 WINCHESTER ACOUSTIC SESSION *
- 15.00 THE FECKTONES*
- 16.00 SHANELA MACORKING *
- 17.00 IAN THOMPSON*
- 18.00 RELATIVE IMPACT *
- 19.00 EOIN AND LAUREN MOLYNEUX*
- 20.00 FRANTIC4QUO*
- 22.00 LOONEY AND THE VIKINGS*
- 23.45 FINISH

PLUS AN AMAZING SURPRISE GUEST!

ANTHONY NOLAN
BE A MATCH, SAVE A LIFE

SATURDAY - 10 SEPT
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
HOSPICE.ORG.IM/FESTIVO

Hospice

El Festivo Pacifico AKA The Peace Festival
Saturday 10th September - 12pm-12am
At Moaney Moar Farm, Cronk y Voddey
All proceeds raised split between Hospice Isle of Man and Anthony Nolan. £10/£5

<< Ruth Keggins & Rachel Hair
Book concert tickets:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/venueplan/RdiEJKhzXNnT

Charity Fundraiser

Ceili & Night

In support of Hospice IOM

Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band | Raffle | Hog Roast | Bar

Saturday 10th September



ADMIT ONE

Ticket £20

Babbages Bistro
Mountain View Innovation Centre
Ramsey

7.00-11.30pm

TICKET INCLUDES HOG ROAST AND CEILI

Fantastic raffle prizes generously donated by local businesses

- Cash required -

Saturday 10th September

Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band | Raffle | Hog Roast | Bar

Thank you for supporting Hospice IOM



ADMIT ONE

Ticket £20

Babbages Bistro
Mountain View Innovation Centre
Ramsey

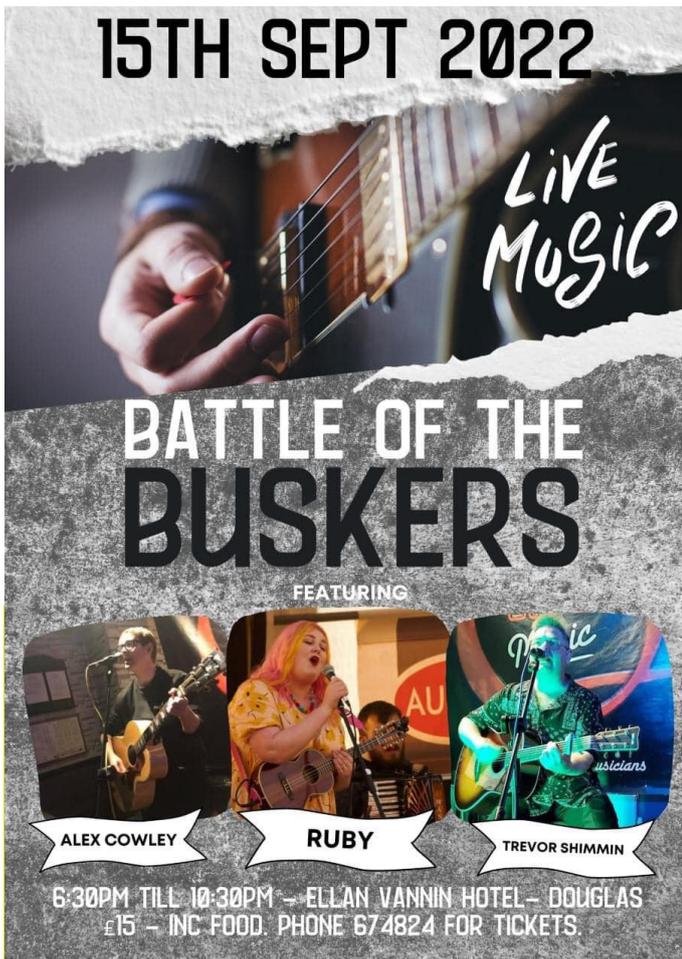
7.00-11.30pm

15TH SEPT 2022

LIVE MUSIC

BATTLE OF THE BUSKERS

FEATURING



ALEX COWLEY **RUBY** **TREVOR SHIMMIN**

6:30PM TILL 10:30PM - ELLAN VANNIN HOTEL - DOUGLAS
£15 - INC FOOD. PHONE 674824 FOR TICKETS.

Isle of Man Trad Music Weekend
21 - 23 October

Musicians from all over the world will be coming to the Isle of Man for a series of trad music sessions and workshops.

This year there will be free workshops including set dancing for adults, tunes with harmonica whizz Will Pound and Eileen O'Brien will give a lecture about her father, Paddy O'Brien.

All welcome!

www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan

IOM CHORAL SOCIETY - CALL FOR SINGERS

The 22/23 season of Isle of Man Choral Society starts again on the 8th September. Rehearsals take place fortnightly at St Ninian's School on Thursdays from 7.30-9.15pm. Our featured works this year are Elgar's The Music Makers, Finzi's For St Cecilia, and a brand new work written by Ellie Quayle with words by Zoë Cannell. New members are welcome, and we are holding an open rehearsal on the 8th for anyone who may wish to come and try. The season culminates in a concert on the afternoon of 26th March 2023 in the Royal Hall at the Villa Marina where the choir will be accompanied by the Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra.

JACKIE DERBYSHIRE HAS
TAKEN ON THE GIG GUIDE
IN THE MANX INDEPENDENT
FROM MIKE WADE.

IF YOU'VE GOT ANY GIGS
COMING UP, LET HER KNOW:

jackie.darbyshire@iomtoday.co.im

Bree/Scran student Niamh
entertained her fellow sailors with
some fiddle tunes and shanties
around the fire when she went
sailing with the Tall Ships.

Watch:

<https://tinyurl.com/mw847v69>

COOISH

Manx Language Festival

2 - 6 Mee Hounney 2022

(2 - 6 November 2022)

www.learnmanx.com/cooish

www.learnmanx.com/features/cooish-manx-language-festival-2022-dates-and-programme-731340/

Harp lessons

Mera Royle is available to teach harp (Peel). For more info, contact via:

www.facebook.com/MeraRoyleHarp

Any local bands with CDs/Vinyl - Mannin
Music would be happy to sell a limited
number in their new shop on Market
Street, Peel.

Send Mannin Music Shop a message:

www.facebook.com/manninmusicshop



mannin
MUSIC SHOP

For updates & news on Manx music & dance,
follow www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

Autumn is here, the nights are drawing in and it's the season to celebrate the harvest, known in the Isle of Man as the Mheillea – it's a time for music, feasting, and dancing and celebrating the gathering in of the crops.

The harvest was so important in the traditional Manx calendar that the Manx Gaelic for 'September' is 'Mean-fouyir' (pronounced Main Fower) meaning the middle of harvest.

Then, soon it'll be the 31st October, when children sing traditional songs and turnips lanterns are carved and the Island will bring in the Celtic New Year with Hop tu naa!

DESC and Culture Vannin have produced a resource toolkit to help schools teach about the two Manx traditions of Mheillea - the Manx harvest- and Hop tu Naa on 31st October.

You can download it here:

www.manxmusic.com/media/Education/Hop%20tu%20Naa%20&%20Mheillea%20Teaching%20resource.pdf

MHEILLEA
&
HOP TU NAA
TOOLKIT

This resource set should give you all the information you need to teach about the two Manx traditions of Mheillea - the Manx harvest- and Hop tu Naa on 31st October.

It includes dances, songs and videos all available on the Culture Vannin website.

<https://www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/>



Tunes at the Albert in Port St Mary for a post-Lorient 'kiaull as gaelg' session last month



Check out the latest shelter makeover on Mooragh Prom in Ramsey!

Ny Fennee dancers and trad musicians. Designed by Ryan Morrison.



With rave reviews and a standing ovation each night, Three Legs Productions' of "Once" stole the hearts of the Gaiety Theatre audiences earlier this month.

With the added bonus of a live Irish & Manx session pre-show and during each interval, the cast of this Dublin-based musical included local trad musicians Gráinne Joughin, David Kilgallon, Jack Mclean, Ciara Kilgallon, Chloë Woolley, Mary Molloy, Susan Coyle, Chris Franks and and other talented local musicians.

Watch a snippet: <https://fb.watch/fopaWa3EsN/>

Photo credit: Silver Tree Stage Photos

More photos: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057147862295



Visiting students from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were treated to a mini ceili organised by Culture Vannin as part of their Isle of Man 'Biosphere Day'. Members of Skeddan Jiarg called dances and performed, and some of the SVG students performed their own a capella version of Ellan Vannin.

Watch: <https://tinyurl.com/yc46z56b>

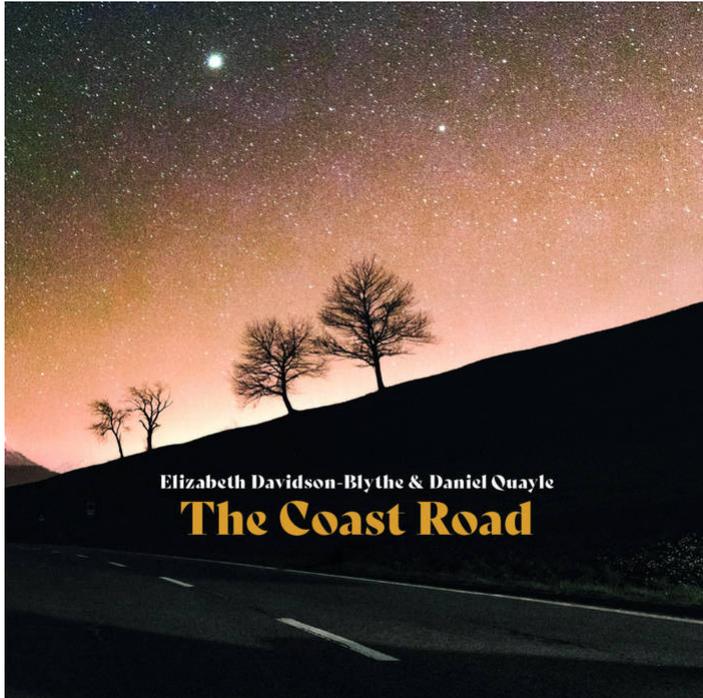
SVGCC - Isle of Man & St Vincent and the Grenadines Education Programme (ISEP)

More info: <https://mail.svgcc.vc/news/446-isep>



Perree Bane performed at Manx National Heritage's *Little People's Picnic* in Rushen Abbey last weekend.

Photo: Murat Guner



The Coast Road

by Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quayle

Pre-orders/pre-saves are now open for The Coast Road!

This fantastic fiddle/guitar duo can ship CDs anywhere in the world, and they're exclusively available on BandCamp and at their gigs right now. You'll also get access to the full digital album on the 30th September and two tracks right now.

iTunes, Spotify etc:

<https://emubands.ffm.to/thecoastroad>

BandCamp:

<https://edbdq.bandcamp.com/album/the-coast-road>

Beyond Equality

Just announced by EFDSS: young men (including trans men) aged 19–25 involved in the folk scene, book your free place for an interactive workshop about rethinking masculinities with Beyond Equality. A safe and brave space to explore important conversations that affect us all.

We're talking about mental wellbeing, sex and healthy relationships, and creating inclusive space. It's a space to discuss what you think and feel about these conversations – nothing more, nothing less. No prior knowledge base is necessary, so get involved!

Tuesday 27 September, online.

www.efdss.org/whats-on/61-conferences/11499-beyond-equality-workshop



The Fynoderee Distillery Barrel Room Sessions 2

Manx/Irish Trad Jig Set performed by Tiffany Kerruish & Peddyr Cubberley

<https://tinyurl.com/2dr9scc4>

Three Little Boats Went Out To Sea (Manx) / The Rolling Wave (Irish) played on Killarney Whistles made by Pádraig & Tadhg Buckley.

Peddyr also performed with harpist Lucy Gilmore recently at Ramsey Rocks! <<

- •
- **Youtube corner** •
- Miner of Foxdale by Stuart Slack •
- performed by Peter Crowe •
- https://youtu.be/HNZRulb1_6o •
- •

A musical retelling of a traditional piece of Manx folklore...

During Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering (July), Manx musician Isla Callister led a workshop with young Manx musicians from Bree, exploring the story of the mysterious sighting of the footsteps of the fairies in a cave one night at Niarbyl through music.

In the space of only an hour or so, Isla had weaved her magic, inspiring the children to create this beautiful musical presentation of the tale.

Enjoy! <https://tinyurl.com/2nezmn7c>

Isla Callister devised and created this workshop on the material of folklore collector and cultural activist Sophia Morrison, linked to her new composition, 'Creeaght,' performed at Celtic Gathering Isle of Man - Yn Chruinnaght. She was accompanied by Scottish pianist, Anna Garvin. Creeaght was one of the most talked-about events of the festival this year, leaving the audience moved and in awe.

More information about the piece is here: www.islacallister.com/creeaght/

More about Bree: www.manxmusic.com/education_page_92022.html

"The Little Footprints" - fairytale collected by Sophia Morrison:

<https://manxliterature.com/sort-by-genre/other/manx-fairy-tales/>



See **KMJ Transcription of the Month** for tunes, "My Dear Miss Morrison" and "Y Laair ayn" written by Isla Callister for her musical work, Creeaght.

Isla taught these jigs at a masterclass for advanced fiddle players during Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering.

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Manx dance group Ny Manninee made the Island proud when they were filmed in front of 2.4 million TV viewers at Festival Interceltique de Lorient last month!!

Watch Horizons Celtique (around 1'49"):

<https://youtu.be/SWDgbcs4uYE>

Or specific time:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWDgbcs4uYE&t=6552s

John Kaighen from Biskee Brisht won third prize in the FIL accordion competition. Jeant dy mie!

>>

A Manx delegation consisting of Ny Manninee, Clash Vooar, Biskee Brisht, Mec Lir, Neear Nesan, Mera Royle and Raygie Dolloso, artists Beth-Louella and Helen Winter and others attended Europe's largest music festival last month - Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany.



Check out more photos next page and here:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/imagearchive/lorient-interceltic-festival-2022/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146057732@N07/albums/72177720301475990>

www.facebook.com/manxlorient

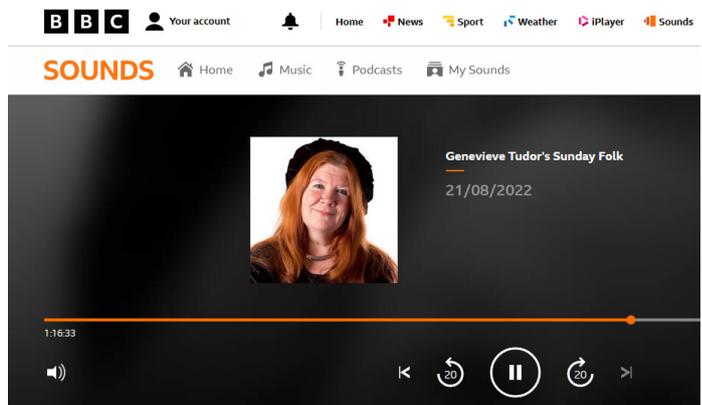


kiuill manninagh jiu 09/22 culture vannin

Genevieve Tudor featured the Isle of Man and the forthcoming Trad Music weekend (21 – 23 October 2023) on her BBC Sunday Folk radio show recently. Listen to her interview with Jo Garvin about the Isle of Man here:

www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0cqrt98

Isle of Man culture about 0.26 & the Isle of Man Trad Music Weekend – 1.06



CWLWM CELTAIDD

FESTIVAL IS BACK!

7th - 9th October 2022

Manx acts at the Welsh folk festival in Portcawl will include The Arthur Caley Giant Band <<, Jamie Smith & Frank Joughin and dancers from Perree Bane.

www.cwlwmceltaidd.org/

Other international news...

LOWENDER PERAN - 26th - 30th October 2022

The Cornish Celtic festival will be based in Redruth this year, and the programme will feature a Manx ceili: www.lowenderperan.co.uk/

There is a family run radio station in County Meath called "Yellow road Radio" who would love to feature Manx music. If you are happy for them to play your music, send your tracks to Maria: maemhic@gmail.com Listen at <https://yellow-road-radio.blogspot.com>

Stephen Horne's musical accompaniment to Alfred Hitchcox's silent film THE MANXMAN will be performed at the closing event of The Pordenone Silent Film Festival in Italy, on 8th October with a repeat show on 9th. <http://stephenhorne.co.uk/>
www.giornatedelcinemamuto.it/en/portfolio-type/serata-finale/

Gisele Campos from Brazilian dance group Danças Celtas arallec'h has been teaching Manx dance, Hop tu naa, at Balfolk in Dublin: <https://fb.watch/fluU2t5H8t/>

Originally from the Isle of Man, Stephen Hunt received his Cornish Bardic name from Grand Bard Pol Bennett Hodge at the Gorsedh Kernow ceremony in Hayle last month. Menstrel Manow (Minstrel from Man) reflects his citation "for promoting Cornish Identity and Culture through Folk Music", and also acknowledges the land of his birth!

Here is Ben Gibbs from Edinburgh, Scotland playing Gyn Ennym on the bagpipes: www.facebook.com/reel/747689683162162/?s=single_unit

NAMA CONVENTION

Report by Kelly McCarthy

<https://namanx.org/>

The North American Manx Association had been planning this event for five years. Originally scheduled for 2020 our plans were scuppered by the pandemic. We were attempting to celebrate 400 years since the Mayflower, with its manifest of pilgrims and colonists, landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts. We chose this occasion because of the Manx Connection - the Standish family of Lezayre. Captain Myles Standish, head of the militia appointed by the company seeking to develop trade with the New World, arrived here on Christmas Eve. As the settlers attempted to battle with the brutal New England weather they gradually moved from the ship to shore, building homes as they went. Myles' wife Rose Standish, a cousin, died almost immediately, along with half of the 102 people who landed that winter. Later he sent for her sister, Barbara Standish and she came over and bore him a dynasty.

This Convention was a little different from usual. We focussed on Manx language and culture as well as exploring the history around us. We were privileged to have the Manx Language Development Office and local musical artist, with Keggin Gell with us to lead workshops in all things Manx. Thanks are due to Culture Vannin for helping us to make this happen. Here's what we did!



Day One: The Manx Connection

The first full day of the long-delayed 2022 North American Manx Association Convention dawned bright and sunny and very, very hot. Off we went to Plimoth Patuxet, a stunning museum that presents the lives of the settlers and the original inhabitants, the Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans. We began with a fascinating self-guided tour highlighting some of the artifacts from the first settlers and revealing their significance to both the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims. Then Plimoth-Patuxet staff split us up into two groups for guided tours by museum docents. The groups took different routes across the outdoor parts of the historic recreation. We visited the Pilgrim village, complete with houses, re-enactors and growing crops. Then to the Wampanoag village where we learned about the Native American's practices, food,

culture and language. Then, as a special treat for our group, we got to meet Myles Standish, the soldier who commanded the militia that protected the settlers and was instrumental in the survival of this colony.

When the outdoor tours concluded we visited the workshops where artisans, schooled in the methods of the 17th century, created pottery and other useful items the settlers would have required. Following the tours, we were invited to dine in a 17th-century style lunch experience. We ate what most of us would consider a traditional style American Thanksgiving dinner with significant Native American influence – lunch for us, but to our ancestors would have been a feast. Turkey, sunflower seed dressing, onion dressing, squash and cranberries, ground corn porridge with walnuts, maple syrup and cranberries. All washed down with mint and blueberry tea. We ate with our hands and a spoon off pewter plates; it was delicious and the staff gave us the recipes to try ourselves at home.

But our day wasn't over yet! Back on the bus. And off to tour the Mayflower II. This ship is a detailed replica of the original Mayflower and is a fascinating visit all by itself. We listened to staff explaining how everything worked and where everyone lived. Honestly, it's not a very large vessel and we all marveled at the number of people (and animals) who sailed to our continent on it. And, we learned that once they got to Plymouth, they still lived on the ship until suitable housing could be built, imagine those additional months in such cramped quarters! And no visit to Plymouth would be complete without a visit to Plymouth Rock. If you've ever seen it you'll know it's a bit of a surprise! After that, it was time for a cool shower, and an evening of merriment and Manx pub trivia provided by our special guest Ruth Keggin Gell!



Day Two: Manx Workshops Shine in Plymouth

“Mie lhiat cappan dy hey?” (“Do you like a cup of tea?”)

The North American Manx Association knows that question and its answer now (S' mie! Yes!) thanks to Culture Vannin Manx Language Development Officer Ruth Keggin Gell.

On Saturday, Aug. 6, Ruth led NAMA's first-ever day-long program of Manx Language and Culture Workshops at the 2020 NAMA Convention in Plymouth, Mass. She had NAMA members young and old dancing in the corridors and speaking Manx before they knew it. Even Myles Standish was, or would have been, impressed. “I haven't heard that language in years!” Standish, or at least the actor who portrays him at the Plimouth-Patuxet living history museum, exclaimed when several NAMA members wished him a “fastyr mie” (good afternoon).

The workshops were an important component of a conference program that stressed the connections between American and Manx culture and history, 402 years after Standish, a Manxman himself, and the English now known as the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth. Ruth made Manx culture – including Manx Gaelic and traditional dances – accessible to NAMA members in a way they couldn't have experienced outside the Isle of Man otherwise. The workshop series was a tour de force performance that capped three days of activity. Those afraid cultural workshops might be too academic or “dry” were bowled over by her enthusiasm and by the depth of knowledge she had to share, ranging through Manx song, language, dance, folklore and music. One result was six new NAMA members, with four people attending the workshops and NAMA banquet as “day students” – an opportunity never offered before — and at least four people attending the convention directly because of the Manx workshops.

That's important. For NAMA to grow, the organization must promote Manx culture in North America, just as it does on the Isle of Man through our youth award program.

The popular and well-attended workshops may lead to an annual Manx language and culture event sponsored by the North American Manx Association. We'll have to examine opportunities in 2023! The popular and well-attended workshops may lead to an annual Manx language and culture event sponsored by the North American Manx Association. We'll have to examine opportunities in 2023!

RESEARCH NEWS

"Little Rhymes in the Manx": Music and the Herring Workers by Meg Hyland

A talk about the vibrant musical heritage of the women who travelled around the Irish Sea to in the herring industry as gutters, packers and kipperers from the 1850s to the 1970s.

Music, song and dance played a central part in their lives, whether it was singing at work or attending dances in the evenings on their days off. This ensured that not the musical richness of the neighbouring Celtic nations was mixed and shared.



As well as looking at the Scottish musical traditions of the workers, this talk comes to focus on the music around the industry in the Isle of Man, whether native or imported.

What emerges is a fascinating insight into an industry surprisingly rich in musical culture and tradition, from which we still owe much.

This talk is by Meg Hyland, PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh School of Celtic and Scottish Studies.

More about her current research is here: <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/s1848641/author/s1848641/>

This is the 2022 Ian O'Leary Lecture delivered in Peel on 28 July 2022.

It was delivered as a part of the Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering festival.

[photo: Manx National Heritage]

WATCH HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7mshpy>

Audio version: <https://tinyurl.com/wz3um9mt>

on both sides, they marched away, and the Cossacks gleefully demolished such of the fences as had already been put up. What occurred then is recorded in Manx Gaelic in the notebook of my great-grandfather, Phillip Quayle of Glentrammon, who was himself one of the Cossacks:

“Va boggey mooar goit ec ny Cossaghyn tra hie Madgyn y Jiass ersooyl, as va shin cosheeagh ooilley mygeayrt y voayl va'n cleighyn jeant craghey, geamagh as goaill arraneyn. Eisht hug Caley yn Cleragh er shey j'in dy hassoo seose as jannoo yn Bwoaill Baccagh, myr ren nyn Hennayryn lesh bree er oaieyn ny noidyn, choud as va'n deiney elley goaill arraneyn as bassag ny laueyn. As lurg shen hiemayd ooilley thie, as va Mheillia Mooar er nyn hon er y Claddagh, lesh shibbyr as fiddleryn as daunsyn dy-liooar goll er trooid yn oie.”

(There was great joy taken at the Cossacks when the Southsiders were away, and we marched all round the place where the fences had been destroyed, shouting and singing. Then Caley the Clerk put it on six of us to do the Hit Him Back (dance) like our forefathers did on the graves of their enemies, while the other men sang the tune and clapped hands. And after that we all went home, and there was a big Mheillea for us on the Claddagh, with supper and fiddlers and dancing, going on all night.)

As I have said, the Cossacks numbered among their supporters many officials and other persons prominent in Manx life, and one of these. Mr. W. C. Southward, Captain of the Parish and a Member of the Legislative Council, celebrated this event in some verses entitled “The Battle of Pairk-ny-Earkin”, which he set to music, and which were sung with great gusto all over the North of the Island. Here they are:

Arise! ye Sulby Cossacks,
To fight and to contend!
The Horn, its sound now calls you
Your just rights to defend.
They stole part of the Mountain,
And fenced it in as well,
The Crofters have been driven off,
Their sheep they'll have to sell.

THE DANCES - Excerpt from '...while the others did some capers': the Manx Traditional Dance revival 1929 to 1960 by Cinzia Curtis:

1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.22 Cum yn Chenn Oanrey Cheh

According to Douglas' Folklore Notebook: Dances (MNHL 09545 Box 9) the dance was collected from William Craine of Jurby from a live demonstration of the dance. Douglas also noted the tune, although later realised that it was identical to Clague's version of the tune, except each half of the tune is repeated for the dance. The dance appears to be noted exactly as it is performed today, with some very minor exceptions, which are to be expected over a 70 year period. The dance was also noted from Kelly 'Pat' from Baldrine who reportedly performed it many times for Douglas, although he missed out the distinctive clapping movement in each case. He apparently dances that movement in another jig and states that it does not belong to Cum yn Chenn Oanrey Cheh. Kermode and 'Pat Moore' also performed it in the same way as Craine. Mrs Scarffe from Maughold told Douglas that it was a very popular dance when she was a girl, men dancing it at mheilleas, weddings and in pubs, where they would be rewarded with drink. She also points out that the only men who will tell Douglas about dances will be those who like a drink. Stowell's essay on his composition of Manx dances (Manninagh: 1972) states that Douglas found the notes to the dance in a notebook given to her by her great-grandfather and taught some of it to Stowell. However, Stowell's references to this dance are very complex as he also composed a solo jig and called it Cum yn Chenn Oanrey Cheh (see Manx Jig).

The dance was evidently worked out, however, in preparation for the visit of the EFDS in 1929 or shortly afterwards. This is evidenced in correspondence between Arnold Foster and Douglas in 1931 where Foster asks for the instructions for 'the Step dance' which was performed at the Celtic congress and that resembles an Irish Reel (we shall assume he means in structure and not in time signature), the tune was subsequently sent to Kennedy in preparation for the 1932 All England Festival, although it was then rejected. In 1936 Stowell eventually performed a solo jig at the Albert Hall which would appear to most likely be that composed by himself, not that collected by Douglas. There is contemporary photographic evidence of him dancing a solo jig, although the only photograph shows him performing a 'scrape' and incorrectly at that as the back of the photograph tells us. This step begins both the collected solo jig and the dance composed by Stowell, but the photograph shows Stowell's arms extended. This is now associated with the beginning of the Manx Jig and thought to be an invention of Stowell's (Carswell: 2004) whereas Cum yn Chenn Oanrey Cheh now begins with the arms folded in front of the dancer at shoulder height.

It is worth noting that although the step is referred to as a high reel, the step now known by that name does not appear in either solo jig. In un-dated notes in the papers of Stowell held in the Manx Museum (MNHL 09683) appears a tune called 'Manx Jig (Keep the Old Petticoat Warm) P.L. Stowell.) The notes state 'first danced by PLS[towell] at Albert Hall in 1936 - International Festival' and implies that a purt-y-beeayl should be used. Douglas does not at any time mention a purt-y-beeayl from her collection and no words appear anywhere. It is also worth noting that the tune given is not the tune collected by Douglas, but that published by Stowell alongside his solo jig, now more often known as Girl's Jig. In Stowell's article written for Manninagh in 1972 he states that it was his jig that he performed at the Royal Albert Hall. He goes on to say that as he was only taught a small bit of Douglas' dance and no more, he made up his set of figures to the same tune.

In 1937 the dance is categorised as complete in Douglas' paper on the notation and revival of Manx dances and is described as a step dance performed by one or two men on a springboard in public houses and it is pointed out that the dance is not ritual. Further confusion is caused in 1953 when in a newspaper report (Ramsey Courier and Northern Advertiser: 18/09/53) it can be seen that at a Celtic concert at Ramsey Keep the Old Petticoat Warm, the English translation of Cum yn Chenn Oanrey Cheh, a well established favourite, was performed by Miss Vera Burns. Douglas already stated that the dance she collected was performed by men and it is possible that this was a performance by the MFDS, who were led by Stowell, and was actually

a performance of Stowell's version of the dance. The same year Douglas' collected dance was published in *Seven Manx Folk Dances: Set II*, described only as a solo jig with notes indicating the same dance as is performed today. Stowell, however, in his manuscript of 1972 writes that the published dance is in a different form, but then this is crossed out. It would imply that this was different to what he had been taught, but 20 to 25 years had passed and he admitted having only been taught a small portion of the dance. His retraction may mean that there is no truth in this later assertion.

After being requested by letter to attend a meeting in 1955 on the notation of Stowell's dances *Car ny Ferrishyn* and *The Manx Jig*, Douglas replies requesting that they use different names and tunes for the dances composed by Stowell, rather than using those collected by herself, and that they be treated as composed dances, not as those collected (MNHL 09545 Box 19). It would appear that the tune as discussed earlier came to be used for the other dance. Stowell later states, however, that he did not want to interfere with Douglas' dance so found another tune of the same name (Manninagh: 1972) (See notes on *Manx Jig*).

It would seem likely then that the dance referred to on the sleeve notes of the LP *Daunsey Vannin* (1973) refer to Douglas' jig as it describes high leaps, none of which are found in Stowell's jig. The jig as collected by Douglas was then republished in 1983 in *Rinkaghyn Vannin* with no additional information other than citing Douglas as the collector.

READ THE FULL THESIS:

www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf



JOHN MATT MYLCHREEST (1841-1934)

"Car Juan Nan" tune and dance was collected by Mona Douglas from John Matt [pic above], a Laxey miner who lost his arm in 1896.

Bob Carswell has been delving into the history of this interesting man. Read the article here: www.manxmusic.com/bio_page_737299.html

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Here are two tunes from Isla Callister's Creeaght. The 2nd tune is adapted from an old melody found in the Sophia Morrison papers. Isla turned it into a hop jig and wrote a B part!

My dear miss morrison

Isla Callister



Y laair aym



© Isla Callister - from "Creeaght" commissioned by Culture Vannin 2022

You can access all of the KMJ Transcriptions from the first edition to the present day:
https://manxmusic.com/learn_page_467456.html

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

8 Clash Vooar at the White House, Peel
9 Live @Sound Records, Douglas. Acoustic performances, free, BYOB, 7.30pm
10 El Festivo Pacifico, Cronk y Voddey www.hospice.org.im.festivo, £10/£5, 12pm
10 Hospice IOM Ceili with Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band, Mountain View Innovation Centre, Ramsey, £20, 7pm
15 Battle of the Buskers, Ellan Vannin Hotel, Douglas, £15 inc. food, 6.30pm
19 Ruth Keggins & Rachel Hair in concert, Erin Arts Centre, 7.30pm £17/£2
21 Children of the World in Mann, One Day One Choir / International World Peace Day St Johns

OCTOBER

7-9 Cwlwm Celtaidd >>

21 – 23 Isle of Man Trad Weekend - sessions and workshops, Douglas

<https://www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan>

23 - 24 Big Bree workshop 'weekend' see www.manxmusic.com

26 - 30 Lowender Peran, Cornwall
31 Hop tu naa!! Island-wide

NOVEMBER

2nd - 6th Cooish Manx Language Festival

WWW.CWLWMCELTAIDD.ORG

7-9TH OCT

WEEKEND TICKETS £45

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

www.manxmusic.com

~ SESSIONS ~

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas
WED 8.30pm Trad Session at O'Donnell's, Douglas
THURS 8pm Singing session at R.A.O.B. (Buffs) Club, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at the Colby Glen
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
First **SUN** of month 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club
Third **SUN** of month 12.30pm Trad session in Ginger Hall, Sulby
Stay up to date: www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan

~ 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