

jerrey geuree - january 2012



## Hunt the Wren 2011

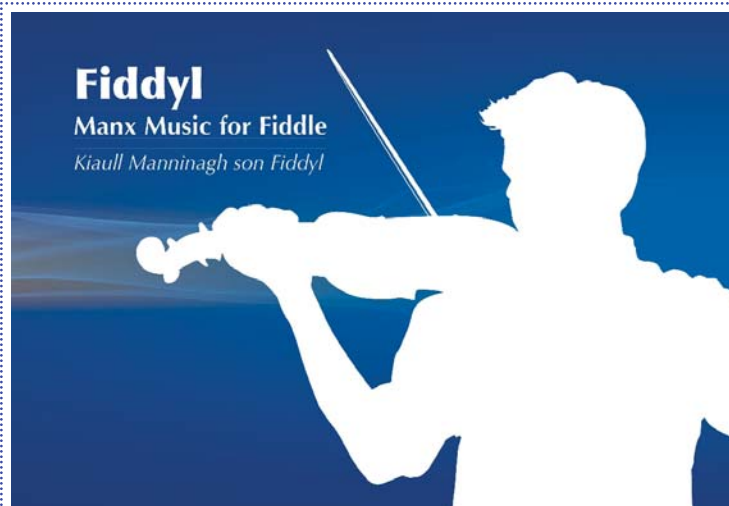
Thanks to a wonderful article in IOM Newspapers detailing where the dancing would take place around the Island, turn-outs for Hunt the Wren were greater than normal. A photo from Castletown even made the front page of the *Courier* - a new departure for the town as they had dancing and music as well as the usual drinking and singing! Northern 'wren boys' performed around the streets of Ramsey and finished with refreshments at Quayle's Hall provided by Ramsey Heritage Trust (photos Chloë Woolley). The top two photos here are from St Johns (Valerie Caine).

Peter Hayhurst and family have created a fab little animation here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=a72yTjW11Gk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a72yTjW11Gk)



**Manx Folk Dance Society beginners' classes start 17th January for 10 weeks at the Methodist Hall on Main Road in Onchan (our usual practice hall), from 6.45pm to 8pm. The cost will be £2 per session or £20 for all 10 sessions.**





Music teacher Laura Rowles has produced a wonderful new Manx music resource for violin players and teachers for the Manx Heritage Foundation. Primarily designed for use by pupils of the Isle of Man Music Service, *Fiddyl* introduces Manx music through a range of solo pieces, duets and arrangements for fiddle groups, along with background information on Manx music, scales and exercises, and ideas for composing.

Graded from beginner to Grade 3 level, Laura coordinated with peripatetic violin teachers Tom Field and Melvyn Booth to select Manx melodies which follow elements of the

standard classical violin syllabus and which can also be performed in the internal exams organised by the Isle of Man Music Service. All of the tunes are in the *Fiddyl* pupil book, but an additional *Fiddyl* teacher's book contains chords, piano accompaniments for the specific exam pieces and notes on traditional fiddle ornamentation.

Pupils who receive lessons through the Isle of Man Music Service will receive a *Fiddyl* book via their teacher, but copies are also available to buy direct from Chloë or Breesha at the Manx Heritage Foundation:

*Fiddyl* pupil book £5 each

*Fiddyl* teacher's book £10 each

*Fiddyl* teaching pack £30 (special offer of 1 x teacher's book + 5 x pupil's books)

Email Chloë on: [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) or send a cheque made payable to Manx Heritage Foundation to the address at the end of the newsletter.

# The DEC Manx Folk Awards

The Department of Education and Children Manx Folk Awards will be replacing the previous Cruinnaght Aeg competitions.

Jo Callister has created a wiki page which provides support for all who are interested in entering the competitions.

Two half day CPD sessions planned to support Manx music will be taking place on Tuesday 31st January (primary singing) and Wednesday 8th February (primary instrumental).

The syllabus and programme for competitions will be available online from Monday 9th January 2012 and resources to support each of the competitions will follow. All competitions will be held centrally in Douglas 26th-28th March and there will be the opportunity to share transport with other schools which the DEC will organise and hopefully provide subsidies for.

[https://www2.sch.im/groups/manxcurriculum/wiki/48619/The\\_DEC\\_Manx\\_Folk\\_Awards\\_2012\\_.html](https://www2.sch.im/groups/manxcurriculum/wiki/48619/The_DEC_Manx_Folk_Awards_2012_.html)

## ~ SESSIONS ~

THURS 9pm Singing session at The Brit, Ramsey  
 FRI 8.30pm Tynwald Inn, St. Johns      FRI 9pm Irish at The Mitre, Ramsey  
 Folk at the Club (1st or 2nd Fri of month), 8pm, Peel Golf Club  
 Last FRI of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary  
 SAT 10pm Manx at The White House, Peel

# Another Mighty Mollag Ghennal

*Photos: Valerie Caine*

Organised by The Mollag Band and the Joughin clan, the Mollag Ghennal always sells out quickly. If you were lucky enough to find a ticket for a very modest tenner you will have been treated to more acts than pounds spent and refreshments to boot. The evening started with a new string quartet led by Cesar Joughin - Fellowship of the String's excellent playing of well-known carols set the mood for the evening perfectly. MC for the evening, Annie Kissack, was up next with her unaccompanied choir, Caarjyn Cooidjagh, singing four Christmas songs in Manx and English.

Now that Adam Rhodes is living in Edinburgh, we don't get to hear too much of King Chiaullee, more's the pity. The lads treated the audience to not one but three medleys of Christmas music - a mix of familiar carols and Manx Christmas tunes like Three Little Boats and Oikan ayns Bethlehem. A waiting list for the new CD has secretly been started...

Guitar, mandolin and banjo duo Strengyn showed off their sparkle and a fabulously festive jumper courtesy of Matty Kelly, Katie Lawrence's trio Scammylt displayed some sophisticated European sounds and the Mollag Band treated us all to a new a capella song about Hango Hill which had the hairs on the back of many a neck standing up AND another relatively new and groovy song seemingly called Mr Mole.

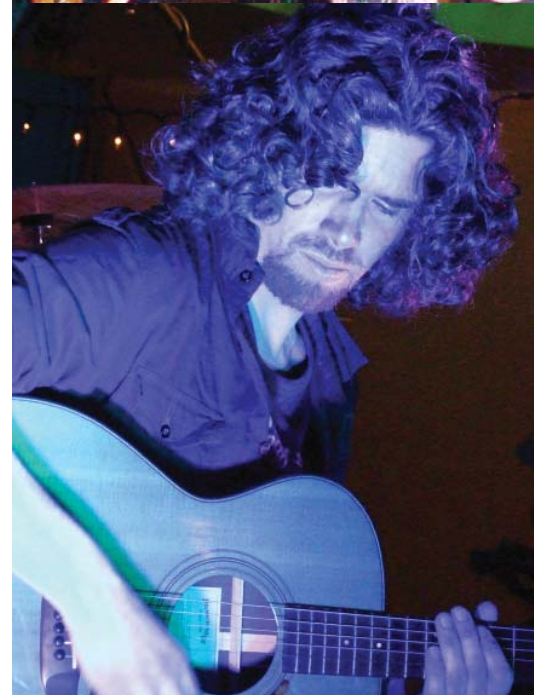
Harpist Rachel Hair showed just what a wonderful guiding influence she is going to be on the host of young players she is teaching on the Island with a fab Shetland tune and another set played at lightning speed in spite of rapidly changing coloured lights which normally send harp players into panic.

Two new acts involved leading young fiddle player, Tom Callister, back on the Island from studies on Benbecula before another move to Scotland very shortly to launch his music career. First to the stage was a new duo - Tom and fellow Reeling Stoner, Luke Melvin. Paring the music back to a specially re-tuned fiddle and bodhran, they somehow managed to show the very bones of the music, a rare talent in ones so young.

Tom returned to the stage alongside Jamie Joughin and Adam Rhodes for an exciting new trio called Barrule - the three have plans to make a CD and push Manx music at a professional level over the next few years - watch this space! As well as the expected high quality mix of tunes, Jamie performed a very nice cover of his father-in-law's song, Langness. Mollags around the room were seen singing along.

Anglin Buttimore's Bar Toads rounded off the evening with some great songs which had people up dancing - a perfect end to a mighty evening.

Many thanks to the organisers for another fabulously festive occasion with a beautifully constructed and decorated sparkly grotto of a stage and a whole host of gems within it.





# New organ works based on Manx tunes commissioned by the Manx Heritage Foundation

Earlier this year, the Manx Heritage Foundation Manx Music Development Team commissioned David Kilgallon to produce two works for organ based on Manx traditional music. The idea behind the commission was to create new pieces which can be downloaded freely from the MHF website so that organists in the Isle of Man and around the world can access Manx music. There are two separate pieces to suit two different moods, celebratory and contemplative. Mannin Vooar, based on the traditional song Mannin Veg Veen would be suitable for weddings and other joyful celebrations. Around three minutes in length, it is an upbeat composition inspired by a song about the Island and its sea heritage. The second piece, Scollag Aeg, is slightly longer and has a much more wistful mood and would be suitable for times of contemplation or even for memorial or funeral services. The song on which it is based is one of the few in the repertoire which is sung from the woman's perspective, collected by Mona Douglas from Mrs Shimmin in Foxdale. The beautiful minor melody has been teased apart in the new composition, making something fresh and new out of something old.

David Kilgallon is one of the Island's most highly respected multi-instrumentalists and singers. He is one of the driving forces behind award-winning traditional band King Chiallee, a member of Cliogaree Twoaie Manx Gaelic choir and a keen composer of new tunes. But his interests are not confined to traditional music – he is a classically trained on violin, piano, organ and composition, holding two degrees in music.

David commented: "This project has given me an exciting opportunity to arrange two traditional Manx songs that I believe both themes will be familiar to many musicians in the Isle of Man; Mannin Veg & Scollag Aeg. 'Mannin Vooar' has been composed as a short voluntary, with an optional fanfare introduction. I intended to write in a style that could easily suit a number of different celebratory events. It may also serve as a party piece for any organist looking for a piece of music with high spirit that leaves plenty of room for imagination and expression. 'Yn Scollag Aeg' is a more of solemn piece, and I attempted to capture a much more passionate and sonorous side to the melody, reflected with much intensity in places."

Manx Music Development Officer for the Foundation, Dr Breesha Maddrell, commented: 'David's new compositions have taken Manx traditional songs as their starting point, teasing new life out of the twists and turns of their melodies. We have two original and accessible new works for organ which are highly playable and yet interesting enough to make excellent concert pieces.'

The two new works are available for free download on the LEARN page of

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

where you can also listen to sound files.

The compositions are royalty free for non-commercial live performances so that as many people as possible can enjoy them for many years to come.

JUST ONE OF THE  
MANY MUSIC SESSIONS  
OF THE FOOLISH  
FORTNIGHT - THIS ONE  
WAS CAPTURED BY  
VALERIE CAINE AFTER  
THE CAMMAG MATCH  
AT WHICH THE SOUTH  
TRIUMPHED!



# Jock McGraw steps out

by Chloë Woolley

The simple but catchy little tune of 'Step Dance' was collected in the Isle of Man by Clague and Gill in the 1890s (*Kiaull Vannin* 41) but it goes under various guises around the Celtic world. Here it is used for the dance 'Cur Shaghey yn Geurey', but in Ireland it is known as a reel under many titles including 'Farewell to Whisky', 'John McKenna's', 'My Love Is But A Lassie' and 'Too Young to Marry'. In Scotland the tune is from the song; 'Jock McGraw' or 'The Stoutest Man in the Forty-Twa'. Thanks to the Footstompin' Scottish music website the lyrics have been tracked down!

## Jock McGraw or The Stoutest Man in the Forty-Twa..

Behold, I am a soldier bold,  
And only twenty five years old,  
A braver warrior never was seen,  
Frae Inverness tae Gretna Green.

When I was young, my father said,  
He'd apprentice me in decent trade,  
But I did na' like the job at a',  
So I went and joined the Forty-Twa.

*The wind may blaw, the cock may craw,  
The rain may rain and the snaw may snaw,  
But you wid'na frighten Jock MacGraw,  
The stoutest man in the Forty-Twa*

The sergeant, when he listed me,  
He winked his e'e and then says he:  
A man like you sae stout and tall,  
Can ne'er be killed by a cannonball

The captain then, when he cam round,  
He looked me up and looked me down,  
Then turning to the sergeant, "Why you scamp,  
You've 'listed the bleachfield, oot 'n' tramp."

*The wind may blaw, the cock may craw,  
The rain may rain and the snaw may snaw,  
But you wid'na frighten Jock MacGraw,  
The stoutest man in the Forty-Twa*

At our last fecht, across the sea,  
The general he sends after me,  
When I get there and my big gun,  
Of course the battle, it was won.

The enemy all run awa',  
They were feared at the likes o' Jock MacGraw,  
A man like me sae tall and neat,  
Ye ken yoursel' he could never be beat.

*The wind may blaw, the cock may craw,  
The rain may rain and the snaw may snaw,  
But you wid'na frighten Jock MacGraw,  
The stoutest man in the Forty-Twa*

The King then held a grand review,  
We numbered a thousand and sixty two,  
The Kilty lads cam marchin' past,  
And Jock MacGraw cam marchin' last.

The royal party grab their sticks,  
And then began to stretch their necks,  
Cries the king to the colonel, "Upon my soul,  
I took that man for a telegraph pole."

*The wind may blaw, the cock may craw,  
The rain may rain and the snaw may snaw,  
But you wid'na frighten Jock MacGraw,  
The stoutest man in the Forty-Twa*

There are several versions on YouTube if you want to have a listen:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaWExv0KQ74](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaWExv0KQ74)

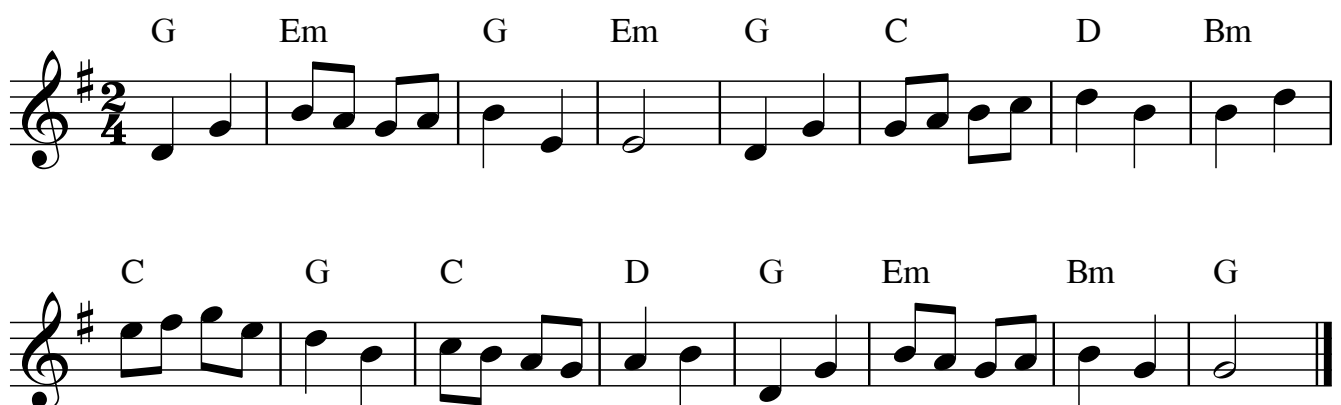
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gHGNw6CLM0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gHGNw6CLM0)  
*sung by Robin Hall and Jimmy MacGregor*

Transcribed from  
*Kiaull yn Theay* 1,  
2nd Edition, page 34

Clague Coll.

## Step Dance

John Cubbon  
Painter, Castletown



# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

## One moonlit night

David Speers Collection

trad, new B tune by Joyce Monroe

Em D C Em G

Em D C D Em

Em G C Am

C G Em Bm Em

This is a traditional tune with a new second half by fiddle player, Joyce Munroe. It was written down by David Speers and features in *Kiaull yn Theay* 4.

**US** Manx Music champion, Carol Walker has been invited to teach at a week-long music festival in Kentucky in June - this is a hugely important festival, and her first time there. She'll be spreading Manx tunes far and wide as a result of her appearance there. They've asked Carol to teach a harp class as well her mountain dulcimer material. And in August she'll be going to a festival in Vermont -- another new location for her. Slowly but surely Carol is taking Manx music around North America - jeant dy mie!

### New radio programme on Manx music

Join Bob Carswell on Wednesdays from 6:30pm for a new programme: **MANX MUSIC**. The best in music from our own fair isle...and if you miss it, you can always download the programme from the Manx Radio website in the Listen Again section: [www.manxradio.com](http://www.manxradio.com)

### NEW BREE WEBSITE

Bree members Daniel Quayle and Isla Callister-Wafer have created a new website for the youth trad music movement: [www.breeiom.tk](http://www.breeiom.tk)

# FLOUTYN ER VOOINJER GHELBY

by Stephen Miller

"Floutyn er Vooijer Ghelby" was a satire sung by the fishermen of Port St Mary on those of Peel collected by Sophia Morrison from William Cashen. Fortunately, the story behind the song was recorded:

The gallows were once swept off Hango Hill by the sea and, and washed up on the Niarbyl shore, after which Southside men returned the taunts of their fellows in the West by saying that when the very gallows went round West to hang them it showed how bad they were.

The words run as follows:

*"Hie yn chriy mygeayrt sheear un laa,  
As haink eh stiagh er Niarbyl traie  
Dy chroghey mooijer Ghelby,  
Dy chroghey mooijer Ghelby.*

*Va eirey mooar ayns Rhaby mooar,  
As eirey mooar ayns Balleby,  
Ny sodjey sheear ny smessey sthill,  
Pyht, pyht, pyht, er vooijer Ghelby."*

Morrison also valuably noted the performance context of this satire:

When this was sung, the thumbs were snapped at "Pyht." A Peel man would say it in the same circumstances as an Irishman would invite one "to stand on his coat." It was a challenge to a fight, and the finger-snapping expressed derision. It was sung to a dance tune.

Just what tune was used is not known.

The Peel fishermen did not take too kindly to this satire and responded with their own (and lengthier) one, "Madgeyn y Gliass," which appeared in *Manx Ballads and Music*:

The curious Madgeyn y Gliass, "Madges of the South," is a satire by the Peel fishermen on their fellows of Port Erin and Port St Mary. They designate them as Madges, i.e., as effeminate creatures, and they declare that they are shiftless and impecunious, and quite under the dominion of their wives. I am told by Mr Cashen that the Port St. Mary and Port Erin men had also their satire on the men of Peel, but I have been unable to procure it.

As seen, he certainly knew it but as Morrison wrote: "Cashen gave me the satire which loyalty to Peel forbade him giving to Mr A.W. Moore."

As seen in KMJ (August 2011), Cressy Dodd collected "a skit on some man who burnt someone's haystacks," *A Vocabularly of the Anglo-Manx Dialect* (1924) has another one in its pages (quoted in the same piece) and one wonders how widespread these were in Manx vernacular song culture. For example, this from Karl Roeder's "Manx Notes and Queries" column in the Isle of Man Examiner under the confusing title of "Christmas Song":

*"Darrey dy Graase Vorgaig,  
Cha vaik mee rieu dty lheid;  
Fiddler ayns Bradda, as piver s'yn Howe,  
As shen Hommy gonnagh ec y thie cloie er yn clon."*

*'Dorothy Grace Margaret,  
Never saw I the like of you;  
A fiddler in Bradda, and piper in the Howe,  
And old sore Tommy at home, playing with the tongs.'*

Quite how Christmas is involved here is difficult to see, but more interestingly this does appear to have the form of a skit on someone. Given that it was openly published in a newspaper, "Dorothy Grace Margaret" cannot refer to an actual person of that name either living or dead. Instead, the name acts instead as a "placeholder," the community knowing just who is being skitted here behind the name. With such a feature, the song can be sung without change as occasion demanded.

Roeder also has another example, titled by him "Song (Fragment)":

*"Mooijir yn jiass ta bunnys roit ass,  
Lesh gleck noi geay as tidey,  
Ta'n jough cheet stiagh, yn argid goll magh,  
As Neddy Gawne yn eirey."*

*'The men of the South are nearly driven out,  
With striving against wind and tide,  
Ale comes in and money goes out,  
And Ned Gawne is the heir.'*

This may not indeed be a "fragment": if it is taken as a skit on Edward Gawne of Kentraugh then one verse is enough to make its point.



Moving away from skits, Thomas Kinrade in his *Notes on the Lhane Mooar & Largagh Districts of Kirk Andreas* (1945), has two accounts of local song creation:

A house once stood on the north end of Gat-e-whing not far from [159]. Mrs Ann Gawne said a woman known as "Kate Yane" lived there and had money stolen from the house while she was visiting relatives at Kirk Bride. Enquiry was made and when matters began to look serious Kate was advised to go to Kirk Bride again and perhaps the money would be returned. She went, and sure enough found a part of the money in the house and she came back. A topical song in Manx was made about the incident. Mrs Gawne repeated a verse, the last line being "Yn argid mooar Kate Yane."

William Wade, who lived at the corner of the road by the Largagh had been a farmer, and about 1890 had reached a fairly advanced age. His son, Mr John Wade lived with him. He was said to have possessed some skill in butchers' work earlier in life. A bottlenose whale was washed ashore near Gob ny Rue and Mr Wade spent some time removing fat from the carcass. A topical song written about the whale said that "Billy Wade the butcher swore a solemn oath | That if he had a butcher's knife he'd stab the bottlenose." Referenced here are songs in both Manx and English and it is unlikely that such activities were restricted to this part of Andreas and then just Andreas alone. Being created around a specific event, such material is not likely to have lasted and will have been dropped when another such occasion arises that needs a song.

Here we have two genres of Manx vernacular song that have been little considered and poorly recorded: the skit and the topical song (to use Kinrade's own words). Both point to a level of vitality of Island song culture and one not captured by the folk song collectors of the 1890s. Before deciding what are taken to be either fragments or partial texts of songs as such, closer attention needs to be paid as to whether they better fall into one of the genres mentioned here.

*Stephen Miller is External Lecturer in the Department of German at Vienna University*

## HARP-TASTIC!

Another tranche of young Manx students are now receiving monthly harp lessons with professional Celtic harpist Rachel Hair. Encouraged by the success of her monthly Saturday lessons which started last May, as well as the unprecedented waiting list of pupils, the Manx Heritage Foundation decided to extend the lessons to Friday afternoons as well. There are now 14 students learning the harp through the medium of Manx music!

Although Rachel is based in Glasgow, she is already a familiar face on the Manx music scene and no doubt there will be a full house when she performs with her trio here in the Island later this year.

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



## Book of songs in English

I'm currently putting together a book of Manx songs in English for the Manx Heritage Foundation, to be published in March 2012. I'm looking for donations of songs from any genre really, as long as they're strong enough to stand up just as melody, chords and lyrics. We try to keep the cost of the final publication low and there's no profit on sales.

So far we have donations from bands like Scaanjoon, The Mollag Band, Moot, various

individuals and suggestions that we try to get permission to include songs from the music hall era, from The Tholtan Builders and Stuart Slack.

If you think you have something you'd like to share with people, then email me as soon as you can on [mhfmusic@mhf.org.im](mailto:mhfmusic@mhf.org.im) I'm happy to transcribe from recordings, accept hand-written music and words or have all the work done for me as you send in a Sibelius file!

The finished book should come out in late Spring 2012.  
*Breesha Maddrell*



# CALENDAR

## January

2nd Illiam Dhone Day - ceremony on hill (usually 2pm) followed by service at Malew Parish Church/session at Viking pub, Castletown - see press for details

5th Oie'll Verree, Ebenezer Hall, Kirk Michael, 7.30pm, tickets on the door (if not sold out)

6th Ny Fennee Ceili featuring Ny Fennee, Juan Hendy & Mactullagh Vannin, Ramsey Masonic, 7.30pm, tickets on the door.

7th Ballabeg Oie'll Verree featuring the Michael Players, Caarjyn Cooidjagh and a whole host of acts, Arbory Commissioners' Hall, Ballabeg, 7.30pm, tickets on the door

8th YnCG Christmas service in Manx, Port Erin Methodist Chapel, Port Erin, 3pm

13th Reih Bleeaney Vanannan award ceremony

14th Bree trad youth music session, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas, 3pm

26th Show Willing, The Creek Inn, Peel, 8.30pm FREE

## February

4th Closing date for entries to the Manx Music Festival (no late entries!)

18th Bree Fiddle and Workshop Day-school, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas, 10am-4pm email Chloë on [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) for details

## March

10th & 11th Adult Trad Music & Dance workshop weekend including Bree at 3pm, MHF offices and Nunnery Chapel, Douglas.

24th Manx Youth Orchestra Reunion workshop morning, St Ninian's High School, 10am

26th-28th Manx Folk Awards: see newsletter for details

29th Shennaghys Jiu festival starts  
[www.shennaghys.org](http://www.shennaghys.org)

## April

27th Manx Music Festival (The Guild) starts  
[www.manxmusicfestival.org](http://www.manxmusicfestival.org)

## May

12th & 13th Bree workshop weekend, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas, 10am-4pm email Chloë on [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) for full details.

## July

14th Yn Chruinnaght Inter-Celtic Festival starts  
[www.ynchruinnaght.com](http://www.ynchruinnaght.com)

## October

8th Cooish Inter-Gaelic Festival starts  
[http://cowag.org](http://http://cowag.org)  
[www.myspace.com/cooish](http://www.myspace.com/cooish)

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

Alex Brindley is looking for acts for his Cliff Top Concerts at Groudle Railway - is anyone free on **Sunday 12th August 2012**? There will be a small fee! If you're available, please contact him on: [alexbrindley@manxradio.com](mailto:alexbrindley@manxradio.com)

## manx heritage foundation ~ undinys eiraght vannin

*For information on Manx music & dance contact:*

Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Breesha Maddrell**: [mhfmusic@mhf.org.im](mailto:mhfmusic@mhf.org.im)

Manx Music Specialist **Dr Chloë Woolley**: [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im)

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

**Call:** Breesha: 01624 695784 or Chloë: 01624 695787  
**or write to:** MHF Music Team, The Stable Building, The University Centre,  
Old Castletown Road, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 1QB



*Written and edited by Breesha Maddrell for the Manx Heritage Foundation*

*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*