

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Mee ny Nollick 2022 December

MANX MUSIC TODAY

MANX DANCE WITH ME by Joan Cowell

At last, I have done it!

For many years, I have been creating dances, while a Member, since 1971 and Chairman of the Manx Folk Dance Society (MFDS), from 1981 until 2017. Luckily, I had put them on to my computer so they would not get lost. Along with the other dancers, I created many new dances based on Traditional steps and figures. Yn Chruinnaght Festival was a good 'push' for us, as there was a class for a new dance. We tried to come up with an entry for this each year for many years, – with the occasional success! Sometimes our inspiration was an imminent event or celebration.

For a while I had contemplated putting these new dances into a book, but wondered if anyone would be interested, especially as many had never even seen the light of day or been tried.

After the decision to end the Manx Folk Dance Society, it seemed appropriate to record some of our dances. Luckily, when I discussed this with my friend, Tricia, a friend and past dancer, she encouraged me to progress the thought! Culture Vannin were also very encouraging – and so here we are! Now my new book, "Manx Dance With Me", is published.

Some of these dances in the book were performed by the Manx Folk Dance Society – some many times, some only one in a Yn Chruinnaght competition. The rest, I throw

out as ideas for people to use and/or adapt as they see fit, I do hope some of them will get 'performed! The only thing I ask is that if they are danced or if they have influenced a dance, that some credit is given to me and/or the Manx Folk Dance Society.

Something I should perhaps explain is that when writing the instructions, I inverted the sets, so the 'TOP' of the set is at the base of the diagram. This may seem strange to some people, but talking to other dance teachers, they said that this way, when they stand at the 'Top' of the Set, they see on paper what they see in front of them, without having to turn the instructions around (either mentally or physically) to check.

I also highlighted many words with an Initial Capital Letter, as I know that, when reading instructions, it is easy to become 'bogged-down' in words and it can take a while to get to the 'nitty-gritty' – so I hope this will help to get a quick look at the important, real content of the instructions.



In this month's edition...

- *Christmas gift ideas!*
- *Blasstal Podcast series on Manx food*
- *Apply to perform at Lorient 2023*

Culture
VANNIN

I am humbled by the financial support I am receiving from Culture Vannin and hope the book lives up to expectations!



I also want to thank the Staff at Culture Vannin, for their advice and verbal support. I must also thank Quine & Cubbon Printers for their help and advice in preparing and printing the Book. Thanks go to Tricia Craig for her support, advice and especially her endless encouragement, which she thinks was nagging, but it wasn't - it was the "push" that I needed. And finally, a big thank you to the members of the Manx Folk Dance Society for all the collaboration, support, travels, enjoyment and fun they have given me over the years.



The book is now available to buy from the Manx Museum, House of Manannan, as well as the Bridge Bookshops – both Port Erin & Ramsey, for £10.

Joan Cowell

Photos from the book launch in St Johns 29/11/22

A series of new Lecker food podcasts hosted and produced by Lucy Dearlove and Katie Callin feature Manx music and song throughout. As well as theme music composed by Mera Royle, enjoy snippets of Caarjyn Coidjagh, the Manx Folk Dance Society, Lowenna Joughin, Peel Hop tu naaers and Ballacottier School while you learn all about some traditional Manx foods!

Blasstal is a podcast series by Lecker about food and folklore on the Isle of Man, supported by Culture Vannin.

www.leckerpodcast.com



Moots (Blasstal #1)

<https://tinyurl.com/yc6mk6wr>

In episode 1 of Blasstal, Katie introduces Lucy to the vegetable at the heart of Hop-tu-Naa traditions of the Isle of Man. They explore the island's folklore with poet and folklore expert Annie Kissack, attend a Hop-tu-Naa celebration at Cregneash, carve their own moots, and finally head out Hop-tu-Naa-ing around Peel.



Skeddan (Blasstal #2)

<https://tinyurl.com/4ey3uvcm>

Katie and Lucy take a deep dive to the heart of the Manx fishing industry to meet a true Isle of Man legend: the herring (skeddan in Manx).

Loaghtan (Blasstal #3)

<https://tinyurl.com/4c26evmk>

A mythical-looking beast to be found on the hills of the Isle of Man; the loaghtan is a fascinating heritage breed sheep whose story is intertwined with Manx culture and history.

Time to think about your Guild entries - deadline is Saturday 4th February 2023!

Lots of Manx Gaelic song and recitation classes, folk dance and folk music opportunities and a musical composition prize for all ages:

To maintain a link with our cultural heritage, the challenge is to compose a piece of music for a maximum of five performers on a Manx theme. Performers are required to arrange a performance of their piece which will follow the adjudication.

The Manx Music Festival (The Manx Competitive Music, Speech and Dance Festival to give it its full name) or "The Guild" as it is affectionately known on the Island will take place from 22nd to 29th April 2023 ~ Online syllabus:

www.manxmusicfestival.org/assets/24d90866c9/4358-Manx-Music-Festival-2023-Syllabus.pdf

CAARJYN COOIDJAGH

and
UN CHORAA
Manx choirs



Christmas Concert

for ME SUPPORT (IOM)

FRIDAY, 2nd DECEMBER

7.30 pm

at Peel Methodist Church



ENTRANCE FREE

ALL WELCOME

Light refreshments

Donations to ME SUPPORT (IOM) and the church



ISLE OF MAN
Symphony
ORCHESTRA



Patron : Charles Guard MBE

Gala Concert

'Journey into Melody'

from the Golden Age of
British light music



Conductor
Maurice Powell

Leader
Victoria Hope

with vocal soloists
Karen Elliott & Mandy Griffin
and compère Charles Guard

Tickets on sale
from 1st October
Tel : 600555
www.villagaiety.com



SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2022

VILLA MARINA 2.30PM

www.iomso.im

The Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra is a Manx registered charity no: 970

Featuring Haydn Wood's *Mannin Veen*

WINTER GIG GUIDE

THE BLACK DOG QUIZ

DEC 1ST	ISLE OF PLAY CHRISTMAS QUIZ
DEC 2ND	IDEAL FORGERY
DEC 3RD	CHRIS WINCHESTER BAND
DEC 4TH	PAUL REYNOLDS
DEC 9TH	PENNY PRODUCTIONS: REBEL POETS
DEC 10TH	THIRD ABOVE
DEC 11TH	LAUREN GRAY
DEC 15TH	OPEN MIC NIGHT from 7pm
DEC 16TH	EOIN MOLYNEAUX
DEC 17TH	TRAD.MANXI White Boys, Skedden Jiarg Manx Dancers GAZ SMITH
DEC 18TH	CLASH VOORAR <i>The Dog's Nollack!!</i>
DEC 22ND	JO & JUAN UKE EXTRAVAGANZA THE REVELLETTES
DEC 23RD	BISKEE BRISHT

WOOD-FIRED PIZZA - LICENSED BAR - FAMILIES WELCOME (TIL 9PM) - DOG FRIENDLY

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



Entertainers wanted

Northern Laa Meanagh day centre, Gardeners Lane in Ramsey is planning their Christmas activities and they're looking for some musical entertainment for the day service users.

If you can spare the time to pop in to entertain them, please contact the manager, Lauren:

Lauren.walls@gov.im

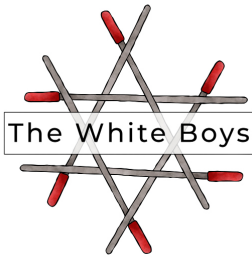
WFT ^ includes Manx Gaelic songs, a new Christmas song composed by Jeff Jepson & Manx dance and trad tunes.

< Un Chorraa will be performing at the Mooijer Veggey Winter Fair at 11.30am

Laxey Working Men's Institute
Friday 9th December starts 8.00pm



PIC-COLLAGE



The White Boys



Peel White Boys

Saturday 17th December

- 10am Kirk Michael, outside Cannon Court
- 11am Ramsey, outside the Courthouse
- 2pm Peel, Michael Street
- 5pm Peel, Black Dog Pizza

Southern White Boys in aid of Moonjer Veggey

Saturday 3rd December

□ 12.45pm at Port Erin Railway Station. Part of PE Traders Christmas event.

Sunday 4th December

□ 1.15pm at St Johns Methodist Hall.

Part of the Moonjer Veggey Winter Fair from 11am to 4pm

Friday 9th December

□ 6pm Arbory Christmas Do -

Father Christmas Arrives at Arbory Parish Hall, Ballabeg to meet children and light Christmas Tree, 6pm

Young People's Concert led by Arbory School Choir, Arbory Brownies, Cubs & Scouts 6.45 pm

Ballabeg W.I.'s Carols with Castletown Metropolitan Youth Band 7.30 pm

Mince Pies and Refreshments served by Ballabeg W.I. Raffle. Free Entry – Donations for performers and our chosen charities welcome. Whiteboys appearing 8/8.30 ish.

Saturday 17th December

Whiteboys big day out! - subject to some changes only Douglas confirmed so far.

- 10am Port St Mary opposite the Coop
- 10.30am Port Erin on the street near the Railway Station
- 11am Castletown square
- 12 noon Noa Bakehouse Douglas
- 1pm Strand Centre Douglas
- 1.30pm Noa Bakehouse Douglas
- 3 - 4pm Regent Street Douglas
- 4.30 - 5.30pm various venues in Douglas to be confirmed based on the stamina of the players!

Learn all about The White Boys:

<https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/the-white-boys-505782/>

O I O W
**OUR ISLAND
 OUR WORLD**
Cool Yule
28TH DEC 7:30PM
ERIN ARTS CENTRE

**BRIAN BROUGH
 CLASH VOOR
 LAVA LATINA
 LUNA & VIRGIL
 WHITE BOYS**

TICKETS £10 ON SALE NOW
TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/ERINARTSCENTRE

Erin Arts Centre

OIOW, Our Island Our World, are delighted to bring you an evening of fabulous musical variety to help celebrate Christmas!

Brian Brough, local musical legend, plays a mixture of original songs and covers.

Clash Voar play a mixture of jazz, folk, funk and electronica songs in English and Manx Gaelic.

Lava Latina, are drawn from popular function band Lava, but now playing Latin hits

Luna and Virgil are the wonderful Andy North and wife Luna playing a more mellow set than Andy normally plays with the Fecktones.

The White Boys need no introduction but bring their usual Yuletide Manx madness to the evening!

We are also delighted to feature music from Mablanig, the new project from local artist Bruno Cavellec! All in all a wildly diverse evening of great music and all for the silly price of £10 (plus EAC booking fee).

www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre

LESH SHEE AS GRAIH

THE REVEILLETES
 JEFF JEPSON
 TRUMAN FALLS

From 7pm
 Tickets £10
 Reserve
 jj@jeffjepson.co.uk

ST NINIANS CHURCH
FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER

**Shennaghys Jiu
 2023**

**April 6th - 9th
 April**

<< In aid of the Isle of Man Foodbank

Film Screening: Isle of Man from the Air

The Isle of Man has one of the world's most fascinating landscapes - shaped by the last Ice Age, weathered by time and coloured by human history. But much of this beautiful and dramatic scenery is rarely seen to its full advantage and can only be hinted at from a ground-level view.

In this unique film on the Manx Museum big screen, we give you a rare opportunity to savour the entire Island from the air, screened by kind permission of Duke Video as presenter Charles Guard leads you through the story of the Isle of Man's landscape set against a specially-composed musical soundtrack.

Free admission, Manx Museum, Douglas.

www.facebook.com/events/819187012634001/819187022634000?ref=newsfeed

11am – 12.30pm

Sundays and Mondays:

27, 28 Nov, 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 December



Photos from the Inter-Celtic Bree weekend are now online:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/imagearchive/bree-workshop-weekend-2022/>

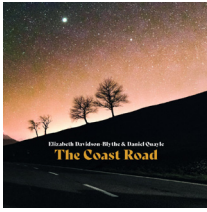
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146057732@N07/albums/72177720303380820>

PLUS a video of the whole concert! Enjoy!! <https://vimeo.com/766991049>

See **Transcription of the month** for a brand new tune written by the Bree composers this year, and **Kiaull Noa** section for the lyrics of 'The Making of Mann' by the Bree Songwriters.



Giootyn y Nollick ~ Christmas gift ideas



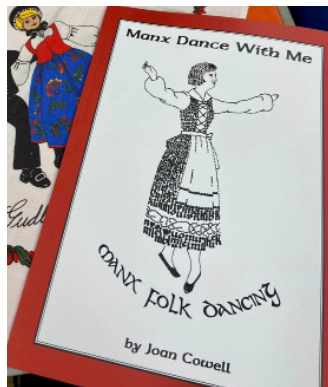
The Coast Road - debut album by Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quayle. From £8 - £12

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

Beautiful Manx song and harp duets from Ruth Keggins Gell & Rachel Hair on their new album, *Lossan*.

<https://ruthandrachel.bandcamp.com/album/lossan>

£7.99 digital or available in local shops.



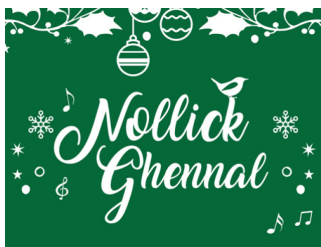
Joan Cowell's new book, *Manx Dance with Me*

£10 local bookshops & museum shops (see main story)

Little Moot Studio's Hunt the Wren print.

Details of *where, oh where* to buy:

www.facebook.com/littlemootstudio



Nollick Ghennal

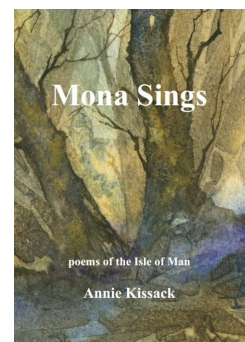
40 Christmas songs in Manx Gaelic.

£8 from Bridge Bookshop

<https://tinyurl.com/233ks479>

Mona Sings - the new poetry book by Annie Kissack, £7.99

www.bridge-bookshop.com/store/p1199/Mona-Sings.html



Gorgeous *Manannan's Winterfest* t-shirts £20 & hoodies £42, designed by Julia Ashby-Smyth.

Buy at the Manannan's Winterfest concert (Gaiety Theatre, Fri 9th December) www.villagaiety.com or from:

<https://fynoderee.com/collections/gifts>



Lots of Manx themed Christmas gifts and decorations from Manx Inspirations

<https://tinyurl.com/mr35n47f>





MANX GAELIC SONG GALORE!

02/12/22 Caarjyn Coidjagh and Un Chorraa at Peel Methodist Church, 7.30pm

03/12/22 Caarjyn Coidjagh and friends busking carols, Tynwald Mills, 2pm

04/12/22 Un Chorraa sing at Moonjer Veggey Winter Fair, St Johns, 11.30am

11/12/22 Cliogaree Twoaie and friends busking carols, start Ramsey Shoprite, 12.15pm

11/12/22 Caarjyn Coidjagh perform at Malew Church Carol Service, 3pm

18/12/22 Clash Vooar at Black Dog Oven, Peel, 7.30ish

28/12/22 Clash Vooar, The White Boys and others at *Cool Yule*, Erin Arts Centre, 7.30pm, £10 [see OIOW poster]

06/1/23 Clash Vooar at Peel Folk Club, Atholl Room, Centenary Centre, 7.30pm

photo below: Caarjyn Coidjagh at the Christmas at Dalby last weekend





The Celtic Congress held a Manks Concert in 2014, and some of the performances are on Youtube, including these sets from dance group, Ny Fennee:

Dooraght: https://youtu.be/lSk3_hhT6VA

Three Little Boats: <https://youtu.be/B5sMrN8aLN8>

Clare's Jig & Men's Jig: <https://youtu.be/jRcgXtXQdN0>

Manx dialect poems with the late Laurence Kermodé: <https://youtu.be/1b5Jw5HWGWI>



MANX FOLK DANCE SOCIETY on film

New online is The Manx Folk Dance Society's full performance of Manx dance at Tynwald Day 2021. This was their 70th anniversary performance and their last ever at the Manx National Day.

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-folk-dance-society---tynwald-day-2021-749083/>

The dances performed here are:

- * Tree Cassyn Vannin
- * Car ny Rankee
- * A Manx Jig
- * Hunt the Wren
- * Eunyssagh Vona
- * Smuggler's
- * Daunse son Troor
- * Lesh Bree Gys Phurt Chiarn (aka The Train Dance)



Celebrating Creativity Together in the Isle of Man

The 'Celebrating Creativity Together' project, shared at the British-Irish Council, highlights how creativity can bring together and support our communities.

The project was created as part of the social inclusion work stream of the British-Irish Council, which met recently to discuss the importance of social enterprises within our communities, and how to reduce social isolation through inclusion.

'Celebrating Creativity Together' allowed the Islands creative businesses and individuals to collaborate on a set of community art exhibitions, and look at the social value of creativity and place-based community engagement.

As part of the project a booklet and a video were created to showcase the diverse mediums that make up our creative community – from music to art, to spoken word and video, and to share the different meanings attributed to creativity. John-Rhys Davies and others bring to life the inspirational beauty of the Manx environment and culture.

Watch the film: <https://youtu.be/CAip7eOXq0c> Booklet: <https://tinyurl.com/hrt9fkt9>



Roz Kelly bursary

16–21-year-olds encouraged to apply

Aspiring musicians are encouraged to apply for a music bursary enabling them to attend a music summer school of their choice in the UK. Set up in 2018, the *Roz Kelly Music Bursary* offers help to two students from the Island up to £1,000 each.

Roz Kelly was a singer from the Island that wanted to provide young musicians here with an opportunity to pursue their love for music. More info:

www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/applications-open-for-roz-kelly-music-bursary/

The Manx Folk Awards (Aundyryn Kiaull Theay Vannin) 26 - 30 March 2023

Dates are below and the syllabus will be out after Christmas:

Sunday 26th March (Kensington Arts) Secondary competitions

Monday 27th March (Kensington Arts & Rosemount Church) Preschool & KS1 competitions

Tuesday 28th & Weds 29th March (Kensington Arts & Rosemount Church) KS2 competitions

Thursday 30th March (St John's Methodist Hall) KS1 & 2 Manx Language competitions



Organised by DESC & Culture Vannin, the Manx Folk Awards are held in the Spring term. The Manx Folk Awards are informal competitions for children in Manx music, song, dance and language with friendly adjudicators.



Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh hits the right note again!

Yn Chruinnaght delivered a smash-hit of an evening at the COOISH last month with 'Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh' (meaning Manx National Gathering, a traditional name given to a similar event over one hundred years ago!) building on the success and popularity of the first event held last year. Children and adults alike could form part of the audience, or take part in very informal, fun mini competitions from song to stump speeches, all celebrating the Manx language.

Full review of the Cooish Manx language festival:

<https://tinyurl.com/rhwd3yfy>

Hunt the Wren is one of the most popular and yet more unusual Manx traditions in practice today. On St. Stephen's Day (the 26th of December) communities come together across the Isle of Man to dance and sing around the streets. The practice, dating back to pre-Christian times, is centred on a wren, "the king of all birds," which is hunted and then danced through the streets on a special pole. (In case it needs stating, the bird in the wren pole today is just a replica!)

<https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/hunt-the-wren-469497/>

HUNT THE WREN 2023

Where oh where?

PORT St. MARY: 10am meet Scoill Phurt-le-Moirrey car park

DOUGLAS: 10.15am meet (for 10.30am start) outside the Woodbourne Hotel

RAMSEY: 10.30am meet at the side of St Paul's Church

St. JOHN'S: 10.30am meet in the Arboretum car park

KIRK MICHAEL: 11am outside the Mitre pub (going on to Ballaugh) > BALLAUGH: 11.20am outside The Raven (going on to Sulby) > SULBY: 11.40am at the Sulby Glen Pub

TBC WILLASTON: 10.45am meet in Willaston School Car Park

Little Moot Studio's latest addition to the 'Celtic Calendar Customs' collection is 'Shelg y Drean' (Hunt the Wren). These and more Lino prints will be available to buy at the Moonjer Veggey Winter Fair 11am - 4pm on Sunday 4th December in St Johns. Un Chorra Gaelic choir will be performing there at 11.30am >>



kiauli noa



The Lost Wife - an award winning short film which is based on a Manx fairy tale and produced by *Dark Avenue* features a film score composed by harpist Mera Royle, plus violin playing by David Kilgallon. Watch it for free!

<https://youtu.be/czm7-UFQNm4>



Mia Kaneen, a singer from Colorado in the USA, has included a Manx song "Ushag Veg Ruy" [Little Red Bird] on her new EP, *The Mountain's Daughter*. Mia, whose Manx family emigrated to the States a long time ago, was in touch with Culture Vannin during the lockdown as part of her research for her world music studies.

Listen here: <https://miakaneen.bandcamp.com/track/ushag-veg-ruy-2>

Mera Royle guests on *Catch The Sparrow's* new song, *Farewell / Here's The Tender Coming*. Check it out here:

<https://catchthesparrow.bandcamp.com/track/farewell-heres-the-tender-coming>

To celebrate Uilleann Piping Day, Peddyr Cubberley recorded a couple of self-penned tunes on the pipes (Blair Digital Chanter) along with Tiffany Kerruish on low whistle. Watch a video of *The Buzy Dizzy / Tivee Troailtagh*:

www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance/permalink/10160497270012417/



Francesca May has a brand new single 'Red Light':

<https://youtu.be/SWuopSDCwsk>

Find this song and her other music/social media pages here:

<https://linktr.ee/francescamay>

The Making of Mann

By the Bree songwriters 2022

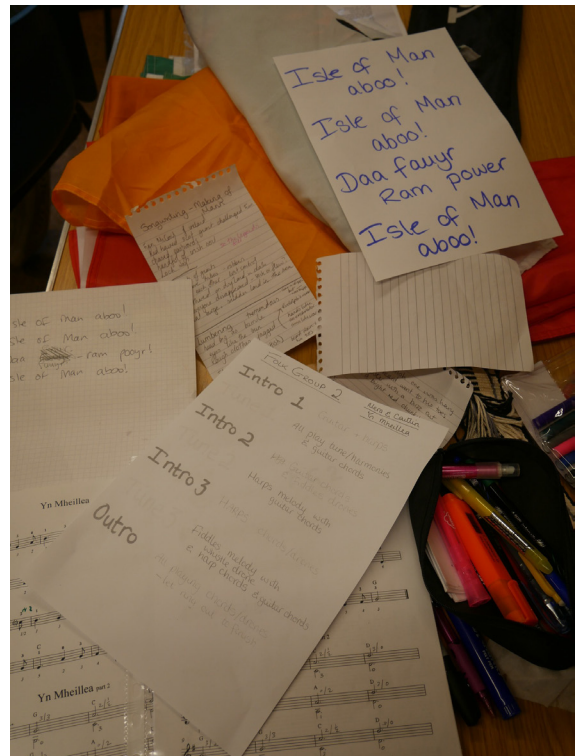
1. A story of two giants
or so the legends tell
The making of the Isle of Man
A chunk of dirt that fell
The two were tall as Sniatull
Their hands just like a digger
The Scottish one was JCB
But Finn McCooil was bigger!

CHORUS
Isle of Man aboo [clap]
Isle of Man aboo [clap]
Daa fouyr, ram power
Isle of Man aboo! [clap]

2. With legs as thick as tree trunks
Their footsteps shook the ground
The Scotsman challenged Finn McCooil
The strongest one around
A fight broke out between them
It soon got out of hand
We don't what began it
But it made the Isle of Man!

CHORUS

3. Finn McCooil was angry
His head was like the moon
His eyes glowed like the burning sun
His voice was out of tune
The Scottish one was hairy
His beard went to his toes
A hipster with a buzz cut
And a bright red chunky nose.



Download lyrics:

[https://culturevannin.im/media/PDF/The%20Making%20of%20Mann%20\[Bree%20Songwriters%202022\].pdf](https://culturevannin.im/media/PDF/The%20Making%20of%20Mann%20[Bree%20Songwriters%202022].pdf)

This song was written by a group of young songwriters at the Bree weekend (Oct 2022). Based on the Manx fairy tale of the same name, the students were guided by Greg Joughin & Jo Callister.

• • • • •
Youtube corner
 Watch Bree perform "The Making of Mann":
<https://vimeo.com/766991049>
 [from 19'29"]

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Invite to performers to fly the flag for the Isle of Man in Brittany!

Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany is the biggest Celtic festival in the world, and for over 40 years, the Isle of Man has been involved in showcasing Manx music, dance and culture to the rest of Europe. Next year's festival will run from 4 - 13 August 2023. The festival's Isle of Man delegate, Grainney Sheard, is now inviting musicians and dancers to apply if they'd like to be considered for next year. The festival favours acts who perform traditional music and/or dance from the Isle of Man, or artists who perform in the Manx Gaelic language.

FIL is a wonderful experience and opportunity for performers. Travel, dorm accommodation and catering are provided by the festival, and performers are normally expected to stay for the full 10 days of the festival.

If you or your group are interested in representing the Island at next year's festival, contact Grainney (mannin@interceltique-orient.com) along with your promo pack (biog, photos, recordings, website, etc.) which will be passed onto the festival committee for consideration. Likewise, if you are interested in creating a new Manx trad band or dance group to perform at both Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering (24 - 30 July) and Festival Interceltique de Lorient, get in touch with Grainney and Chloe (manxmusic@culturevannin.im) with your proposal or for advice on how to proceed.

www.festival-interceltique.bzh/



Ny Manninee represented the IOM at Cornish festival **Lowender Peran** last month. Watch videos of Caitlin Allinson teaching Flitter Dance:

https://fb.watch/g-klnb_u21/
and Maeve & Grainney [pictured] performing Sharon's Jig:
<https://fb.watch/g-kS2aixiW/>

It's the 30th Anniversary of Glasgow based festival, *Celtic Connections* in January and there's a good scutch of Manxies involved. Look out for gigs from Mec Lir, Tom Callister & Adam Rhodes in the Celtic Odyssée, and Isla Callister with her band, TRIP.

<https://celticconnections.com/>



RESEARCH NEWS



A celebration of 100 years of the Manx Museum, featuring a kaleidoscope of treasures from the collections, many of which will be on public display for the first time.

- Date 22/10/2022 — 02/10/2023
- Time 9.30am - 4.30pm daily
- Location Manx Museum
- Price Free

An exhibition celebrating the centenary of the Manx Museum, home to an extraordinary collection of artefacts and archives that help tell the story of the Isle of Man and its people.

Gems in the iMuseum archive!!

- **A Christmas service in Manx held in St Matthew's Church, Douglas on Old Manx Christmas Day 6 January 1952.**

Listen: <https://tinyurl.com/55bzy8hj>

- **A fascinating interview with Annie Kissack about Mona Douglas and Aeglagh Vannin recorded in 1992:**

Listen: <https://tinyurl.com/4fpu23kr>

Annie Kissack talks to Phil Gawne about first meeting Mona Douglas when she joined Aeglagh Vannin; how she came to be involved with Aeglagh Vannin; No. 1 Mount Havelock where Aeglagh Vannin was held, the unsafe electrics and leaking roof and the people involved including Bernard Caine and Brian Stowell; Aeglagh Vannin performing around the island; anecdotes about performers; fencing at Aeglagh Vannin with Baron Giovanelli and Jack Irving.

Annie sings the start of "Children of Her Northern Isle". They talk about what children learnt at Aeglagh Vannin; inviting people from Celtic nations to the Isle of Man; Mona Douglas's

house in Ballaragh; Aeglagh Vannin phasing out and Manx traditions taught at schools; Mona's optimism about people's interest in the Manx language; Mona's involvement with Aeglagh Vannin; Mona's attitude towards children, her character, political views, patriotism and ideals; Mona's influences; early years of Yn Chruinnaght; dialect plays and casting choices; meeting Lewis Crellin and hearing him telling stories. Annie and Phil conclude the interview in Manx.



<< Manx Gaelic singer Joan Owen in Manx costume 1962
photo credit: www.imuseum.com

A Ramsey Christmas, 1949

This piece was prompted by research into the history of Ramsey Town Band which I hope develops into a modest book in due course. Ramsey, in common with all towns and villages on the Island, was enduring a seemingly endless period of post-war austerity and everybody was making the best of things. Ramsey Town Band had been re-formed after the war in 1948, had resumed rehearsals in the room above the fire station under their conductor T. J. Mullineux, and was looking forward to playing in the town at Christmas.

The Ramsey Courier of December 30th reported that Christmas in Ramsey 'had been observed in traditional fashion and as usual it was mainly a fireside festival' with family reunions being the main feature. Although there seemed to be fewer carol singers in the town 'it was nice to hear Ramsey Town Band playing seasonal airs in the streets, not only on Christmas Eve but at other times'. Indeed, the band enjoyed a busy Christmas that year and played outside the Court House, on the South Promenade, on St. Stephen's Day at the Cronk Ruagh Sanatorium whose patients 'were delighted by their visit', and at the Ramsey Rest Home on Christmas morning which was regarded as 'a special treat' by the residents who 'had a marvellous time', and were most appreciative.

At the Children's Homes 'there was a great sense of gaiety and fun' over the weekend; the children attended the service at Waterloo Road Methodist Church followed by Christmas dinner at Dalmeny. On Monday there was a children's concert; on Tuesday a film show and on Thursday the pantomime Red Riding Hood. The Ramsey Order of Buffaloes hired six 'charas' to take 116 children from the town to Douglas to see the pantomime Aladdin at the Gaiety Theatre; each child also received a bag of sweets. Upon their return they were given 'a first class meal at the Peveril Hotel on Mooragh Promenade' followed by a non-stop programme of games.

The shops had a greater variety of 'good things on view' and although there was no shortage of turkeys, people were spending less on gifts and there was no last minute rush to find presents. The customary distribution of 'hot-pots' from Messrs Harrison Bros. Bakehouse on Christmas morning meant that 68 residents received a hot meal and a loaf of bread. As Christmas Day fell on a Sunday, the churches witnessed the largest congregations since 1938, with over one hundred attending the 'watch-night' service at St. Paul's Church, and large congregations at St. Maughold's R.C. Church, Waterloo Road Methodist Church and St. Olave's. St. Paul's mounted a performance of the Christmas Section of John S. Witty's sacred cantata Manger to Cross (1908) on New Year's day with an augmented choir and local vocal soloists. The festive season ended with ship's sirens in the harbour and the bells of St. Paul's Church heralding the arrival of 1950.

Maurice Powell, December 2022

"MANX BROADCAST" (1932)

A talk on Manx folksongs was broadcast from the North Regional Station on Friday evening, the speaker being Mr Ramsey B. Moore. H.M. Attorney-General, who in a very charming manner told the story of how the Manx airs were collected and preserved from dying out by the quiet researches of Dr John Clague, of Castletown. He described how Dr Clague, going on his rounds as a physician, would chat with old cottagers, and persuade them to sing the old scraps of songs remembered from an old-style Manx childhood, or would "yarn" with the fishermen and sailors aboard their smacks and schooners. Songs were rendered by Misses Nora Gell and Margaret Christian, Messrs John Christian and Alan Quirk, with Mrs H. Towler at the piano.

"Manx Broadcast." *Ramsey Courier* 24 June 1932: 3d.

As to whether or not Clague went among the Island so collecting folk songs, a familiar conceit, see *Manx Notes* 147 (2013).

STEPHEN MILLER, RBV

Strong grassroots: Culture is more accessible than ever

Each month, Breesha Maddrell, director of Culture Vannin, looks at the journey of Manx culture and its importance to our sense of identity and belonging.

Manx culture wouldn't exist without strong grassroots, I can say that without any hesitation or doubt, and from personal experience.

I have been involved in grassroots activity as a musician, Manx speaker and festival organiser for many decades now. It's helped me find lots of ways to connect with the Isle of Man and it's been a great way to meet many amazing and talented people, both here and around the world.

One definition of grassroots is 'the very foundation or source'.

When we talk about grassroots in culture, we mean the things people 'do themselves' rather than have organised for them.

For Manx culture, that's everything from researching and writing

talks or books about Manx history, folklore, and archaeology, to the Manx language, music and dance, and more besides.

When we considered how best to celebrate 40 years of the Manx Heritage Foundation and Culture Vannin, we knew that it would be important to recognise those grassroots as the very reason the organisation came into being.

If people hadn't been excited about Manx culture, about practising and performing and enjoying it, Sheila Tarr would have had no reason to put a petition to Tynwald.

Everything we do is a partnership with the community – without the grassroots, there would be no Culture Vannin. It's only right that what we have done over four decades has adapted and changed in response to the needs of the cultural community – for many years we focused on publishing books, but were able partly to take a step back as the Manx book scene strengthened. At one time, we helped extensively with research into Manx Studies so that we could all understand more about this island. At other times, we've put the focus on materials for schools, on producing short films, on recording CDs.

Nowadays, we have three dedicated development officers who support Manx music and dance, Manx language, and online and educational resources. Their focus is on partnering with the community, on supporting and facilitating projects and ideas. There's so much that needs to be done for Manx culture that they couldn't hope to deliver it all themselves, and they would be the first to acknowledge the breadth and depth of talent in our cultural communities.

Our grants support grassroots community initiatives and ideas, and ensure that we help what is a very broad definition of Manx culture. You can find out more online at www.culturevannin.im

You can imagine my frustration when people suggest that things aren't what they used to be – of course they're not!

Life is about change, it's about that delicious tension between innovation and conservatism, it's about what we keep, what we adopt, what we create, and how we mix those influences together. And Manx culture is no different.

That doesn't mean that the grassroots have disappeared, in fact today they occupy more spaces than they ever did.

Becoming part of the story that is Manx culture is more accessible now than it ever has been.

Original article in *The Manx Independent* <https://tinyurl.com/56urwkje>



Sweet Charity

Charles Guard has released a new film about 'Sweet Charity'; a 62 key fairground organ which resides in the Isle of Man. It got its name from one of its owners who named it after his favourite musical.

It dates from the 1890s and by 1914 it was entertaining British troops at the Western Front. Music books from that period, made by Northern European suppliers, have survived with the instrument.

In the 1920s the organ was in south Belgium and in the late 30s it turned up in Holland and had been adapted for use as a street organ – a glockenspiel was

added to create a Nazi military sound and a new decorative front was added. The glockenspiel was later removed. In the 1960s the organ was rebuilt by a Dutchman who owned a dance organ rental business and in 1970 it was installed in a café named 'Rust Wat' (Rest-a-While) at Berg-en-Dal, near Nijmegen, Netherland.

In 1974 it was sold to a British owner and first performed in public in 1975. It played at organ grinding competitions, steam rallies and agricultural shows throughout England, including the famous Dorset Steam Fair. In 1992 it was sold to the Kneale family of Ramsey in the Isle of Man and appeared at various events on the Island. It was acquired by the present owner in 2011 and after 10 years of restoration is now kept in tune by Peter Jones of St Johns. Thanks to the organ's owner and to organ builder Peter Jones for making this video possible. WATCH HERE: <https://youtu.be/d6TkkM9LHLk>



Douglas, Mona. "Two Girls Afoot in Galloway." *Isle of Man Examiner* 19 October 1923: 9c–f.

[9c] My wandering habits were formed long ago, when my parents, wise in their generation, took a small girl of eight years ago gypsing through England with them instead of sending her to school. We three travelled awheel in those days, behind a stout and intelligent pony of blessed memory, and not afoot as I do it now; but it was then that the peaks and valleys, the lure of unfolding country and unwinding road and stretching skies, did their quick and easy work with me. Never since have I felt entirely at home and happy for long in houses and cities, and always the open world tempts me to escape from the little busy life that we are all so careful about now-a-days, and go out among the wind and waters and wilderness of the land.

I have never been far afield, or gone on tramp for long periods, but I have lived the nomadic lite at intervals when and where I could, usually alone; sometimes in my home Island, sometimes in England, and once in Wales; and it is always a keen delight to pack up and start for a tramp through unknown country.

MANX FOLK SONGS.

A HAPPY inspiration came to the organisers of this year's Cruinnaght of asking Mr. James Lyon, Mus.D., a well-known student of folk-song, to adjudicate in the musical classes, the test-piece in each of which was one of the recognised Manx folk airs. Dr. Lyon adjudicated in the Manx Music Guild competitions seventeen or eighteen years ago, and acquired a perfect passion for the melodies native to the Isle of Man. several of which he provided with appropriate harmonic arrangements, and caused to be published. On the evening preceding the Cruinnaght, Dr. Lyon gave a lecture in the Douglas Town Hall. Mr. Ramsey B. Moore, Attorney-General, presided over a very respectable-sized gathering.

Dr. Lyon claimed that music was the most expressive of the arts, and reflected the inner soul of those who made it. Folk-song was not "composed," as ordinary music was; it gradually came into existence, it spoke from the heart, telling of joy, love, sorrow, or any other overpowering emotion. Three great influences played a great part in the making of a nation's folk-song—the national geography, the national history, and the national temperament. Discussing the influence of the Norse invasion, Dr. Lyon thought it extraordinary that the strong rhythmic element which was so pronounced a feature of Norwegian music had left no trace in the folk-songs of the Isle of Man. Perhaps this might be due to the next generation being born of Norse fathers but Manx mothers, so that the children would be likely to sing the songs learnt from their mothers.

As for the Manx temperament, Dr. Lyons described it as a mixture of optimism and pessimism. If you asked a Manxman a question, he would not give a definite "yes" or "no," but would answer with qualifications, such as "Oh, like enough," or "maybe." The Manx proverbs showed what sort of folk the Manx were — take, for example, the proverb, "Traa dy liooar," "Time enough." He could suggest a proverb to complete that—"There's always plenty of time, until it's too late." They had thought they had plenty of time to collect their folk-song, but they had left it till it was nearly too late. He hoped he was not hurting anybody's feelings by not speaking too flatteringly of hitherto published collections, but a collection could be made which would be of infinite value, not only to this part of the world, but to the world at large. They had a genuine heritage of song, of which they had a right to be proud—a heritage which compared well with those of nations which boasted of the beauty of their folk-song. It was a sacred trust committed to them, and they were not doing much with it. Nearly twenty years ago he had advocated the use of the phonograph as a means of recording the folk-songs of the Island, and he wondered whether that idea had been carried into effect.

It would be very foolish, continued Dr. Lyon, to publish a book of folk-tunes which contained the melodies only.. Such a book would have purely an academic interest. There must be some kind of accompaniment, either for voices or instrument. Personally, he preferred the accompaniment of voices, though he saw that it was necessary to have instrumental accompaniments. It was necessary that the mode of the tune should be carefully noted, but one must never sacrifice the feeling of the song. for the mere slavish carrying-out of a particular mode. To add a feeble, obvious, banal harrnonisation to these old songs was desecration. Folk-songs were worthy of the tenderest care and the most conscientious thought, for, after all, was not a folk-song the spirit of the past speaking to the spirit of the present?

The only way to preserve the old songs in a worthy form, Dr. Lyons was convinced, was to teach them to the children. If you gave a child the choice of good music or bad, he would almost invariably choose the good. How often was he given the bad ! If they were going to feed the coming generation on what he might call "such as was so common in the present day, then God help the national tunes of the future. But if they decided to have a collection of the best of their national tunes — for they had several downright bad ones; still, they had fifteen or sixteen very fine tunes, and very few nations had more — and if they published these fine tunes in small parcels, say, four in each, and issued them to the schools, then the children would grow up upon them, and they would become part and parcel of the children's being. There would be very little difficulty about getting their tunes into the schools, he thought, because he happened to be adviser to a publishing firm, and was in a position to say, "We will publish this, or this." There might be

opportunities for arranging some airs as choruses and quartettes, and he could not see why a good piano suite, suitable for instruction to the children, could not be prepared. But school music was expensive to publish, and so long as they could show the publishers that they would at least not be out of pocket over it, he was convinced they would have no difficulty in getting the matter through. But they must think things out seriously, and ask themselves whether they were going to undertake this work with all the enthusiasm of which they were capable, and do it without hope of reward, or whether they were going to let their national music die out. They had to decide; "there's always plenty of time, until it's too late."

Dr. Lyon gave as illustrations of how to do it and how not to do it, in the "arranging" of folk-songs, the children's song known as "The Straw Cradle," adapted from a Manx air by the late Mr. W. H. Gill, and a four-part chorus which was the same air harmonised by a man who really understood his craft, Dr. Vaughan Williams. At his request, Mr. John Christian sang "Kirree fo Niaghtey," to a pianoforte accompaniment by Mr. J. E. Quayle, Mus.Bac., played on this occasion by Mrs. H. Towler, L.R.A.M. "Kirree fo Niaghtey" was described by the lecturer as being equal to the best folk-song of any country. Dr. Lyons also played, by way of illustrating his lecture, "Marry me, Mary Veen," an air which he himself had arranged, and which is set to words by "Cushag"; his own arrangement of "Arrane Sooree" ("The Courting Song"); the frolicking "Mummers' Song," to be found in A. W. Moore's "Manx Ballads" and W. H. Gill's "Manx National Music"; and a common-metre hymn submitted in this year's Cruinnaght—which, we may add, has already been published in "Manx National Music" (No. XII., Part II.), and, more recently, in No. XXIX. of "The Journal of the Folk-Song Society." This tune was sung to the Carol of John the Baptist.

Dr. Lyons concluded by urging the adoption of another Manx National Anthem, instead of the adaptation of "Mylecharaine," published by Mr. W. H. Gill a few years ago. He described it as the worst national anthem in the world, sloppy, banal, and something that ought never to have found its way into the hearts of the Manx people. It was a corruption of a beautiful old tune, harmonised in a mid-Victorian manner that was a disgrace to the composer. If they were going to sing a national anthem, for Heaven's sake let them sing one of the tunes of their ancestors, and not a dished-up affair that was nobody's. He suggested the air known as "Carval Drogh Vraane," which has been set by Mr. W.H. Gill to words commemorating the death of Illiam Dhoan. Dr. Lyon described this as a very fine tune, full of dignity, and said that, if they could only get the right words for this purpose, this was a national anthem which they could be proud of, as the French were of theirs. At his suggestion the audience tried the effect of it, singing the air to the "Illiam Dhoan" words alluded to above.

P.W. CAINE.

from *Ellan Vannin* vol 2 #7 p284/287 Jan 1927.

NB. W.H. Gill's single example of what the Manx National Anthem could be was in fact adopted as such in 1907 without any further discussion.

"MANX SOLO FOR JUNIORS" (1913)

MANX SOLO FOR JUNIORS.
 Subject—"Illiam Dhone" (A. W. Moore's Ballads —p. 226).
 First prize, 15s; second, 7s 6d; presented by Archdeacon Kewley, 10s 6d; Mr R. Keruish, M.H.K., 10s; and the Manx Language Society.

1. Hazel Crellin, Port St Mary.
2. Willie Crinnan, Peel.
3. Douglas Corlett, Port St Mary.
4. Ruby Taggart, Douglas.
5. Harold Corlett, Port St Mary.
6. Violet Craine, Peel.
7. Connie Cain, Peel.
8. Doris Harrison, Peel.
9. Doris Callister, Peel.
10. Florrie Cowley, Peel.
11. Willie Callow, Peel.
12. Clive Crellin, Port St Mary.
13. Lucy Kelly, Peel.
14. Marjory Kermodie, Douglas.
15. Addie Macdonald, Peel.

1st.—Willie Crinnan.
 2nd.—Doris Callister.

This class was part of the Manx Music Festival, known to all as "The Guild." Here there is a list of the fifteen competitors who all need to be followed up in the census to form a idea of just who was interested in the Manx Language Revival to participate. As regards the winners, "Willie Crinnan" is William Crinian in the 1911 census, aged ten, living at 3 Church Lane in Peel. Doris Callister was eleven years old in the census, residing at 5 West View, Peel. None of the families had any Manx speakers enumerated. Notice that of those competing, two were from Douglas, four from Port St Mary, and nine from Peel.

STEPHEN MILLER, RBV

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

1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.25 Bwoaill Baccagh

This is an unusual dance involving the use of short knives. Modern dancers have been heard to say that it is the most ancient of all the Manx dances, by way of explaining its peculiar nature, but also that the dance was created in the later twentieth century based on a very vague description; popular opinion today on the provenance of this dance is widely varied.

As seen previously in the notes on Chyndaa yn Bwoailley a tune named the Frog dance is confused with the tune for the couples dance in the 1924 edition of the JFSS and the tune is then also identified as called 'Bouill Backer' in Clague's original notes. In Douglas' Folklore Notebook: Dances the dance appears as a complete dance for six men under the title Frog Dance. Here states the tune 'Hi Juan Jiggison' is given as the correct tune to the dance but Chyndaa yn Bwoailley and Creg Willy Syl are offered as alternatives. The 'squatting' figure was still performed at the time of collection from Mr Corlett, a grocer from Ramsey, and Kelly Baldwin (possibly John Kelly from Baldrine in accordance with Douglas' paper of 1958) gave further descriptions, if a little vague, of other movements. Seemingly the squatting figure was seen just as a solo performance of a repeated step, now commonly known as the 'Frog Step', similar to the Cossack step in which the dance crouches out throws his feet out to each side alternately.

The notes are expanded later with descriptions offered up by James Quine of Peel and Mrs Bridson of Glen Maye, the latter of whom provided the tune, and these are given below in a dance notation format, unlike the prose of previous notes. The date of this addition is not known, but it likely to be post 1937. In Manx Dances: Their notation and revival Douglas notes that although many people were asked and could lilt the tune, twice as Chyndaa yn Bwoailley, no demonstration or description other than the single Frog Step had been obtained. It is also suggested that the dance used sticks, although the finished dance uses knives. This is possibly due to descriptions and recollections being muddled with Mylecharane's march which is also for six men and has some movements in common. This seems even more likely as the dance is associated with the Boat Suppers according to Douglas' paper of 1957 in the Folklorist. It is possible that this was the dance Mylecharane's March took the place of when it ceased to be regularly performed. The frog step is compared with steps from the Cobbler's jig, Lancashire.

The dance is then published in Rinkaghyn Vannin in 1983 alongside a tune with a different rhythmic structure to Chyndaa yn Bwoailley, but with some similarities in melodic patterns. A full notation of the dance is given although the accompanying notes cite Caesar Cashen, James Quine and William Quane of Peel as the informants.

READ THE FULL THESIS:

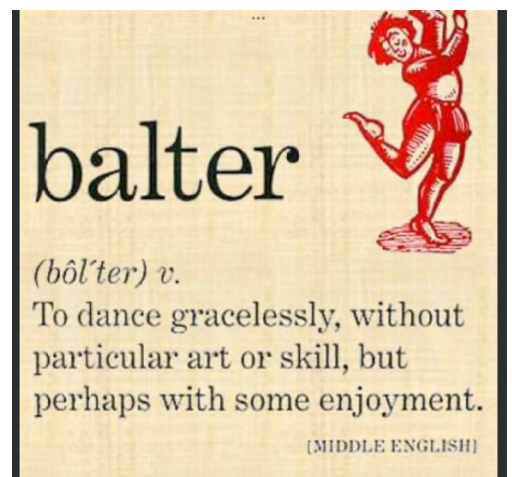
www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf

'A Description of the Isle of Man, George Waldron', first edition 1726. Manx Society 11 (1864).

In their sports they [the Manx people] retain something of the Arcadian simplicity. Dancing, if I may call it so, jumping and turning around at least, to the fiddle and base-viol, is their great diversion [...]

(Waldron 1726: 48).

A bit of fun sent in by Caroline Helps from Perree Bane! >>



TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Bee-shiu er nyn dwoaie!

Manx for 'beware!', the Bree composers were given one of the Kiaull Cooyl backing tracks composed by David Kilgallon and then challenged with improvising a new tune over the top. They came up with this fab tune. Watch <https://vimeo.com/766991049> [15'03"]

Played to backing track "Jig in Bm" by David Kilgallon – *Kiaull Cooyl* (Treisht project)

<https://culturevannin.bandcamp.com/track/jig-backing-track-in-bmin>

Bee-shiu er nyn dwoaie!

By the Bree 2022 composers
tutored by Paul Rogers
to fit *Kiaull Cooyl* jig backing track
by David Kilgallon

6

12

18

23

Backing track - Jig backing track in Bmin

<https://culturevannin.bandcamp.com/track/jig-backing-track-in-bmi>



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

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

NOLICK GHENNAL!!

- 2 Caarjyn Coidjagh Manx Christmas concert with Un Chorraa for ME Support (IOM) Peel Methodist Church at 7.30pm.
- 3 Caarjyn Coidjagh General carol singing for everyone. Tynwald Mills 2pm.
- 4 Un Chorraa Manx choir sing at Mooninjer Veggey Winter Fair, St Johns Methodist Hall, 11am-4pm
- 4 IOM Symphony Orchestra - Gala Concert 'Journey into Melody' in the Villa Marina, 2.30pm. Features Mannin Veg Veen by Haydn Wood. Tickets www.villagaiety.com
- 9 Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre, Douglas, 7.30pm £16 - £27 www.villagaiety.com
- 9 The Shenanigan's Banned, The Institute, Laxey, 8pm £6 BYOB
- 11 Cliogaree Twoaie and friends busking carols, start Ramsey Shoprite, 12.15pm
- 11 Caarjyn Coidjagh Carols by Candlelight, Malew Church at 3pm
- 15 Tynwald Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Douglas, 1.10pm featuring 'Shine Star Shine' by Breesha Maddrell & Frank Woolley.

16 Lesh Shee as Graih, concert, St Ninians Church 7pm, £10

16 Biskee Brist, The Monkey House, Castletown, 8pm

17 White Boys - Island-wide

18 Clash Vooar at Black Dog Oven, 7.30pm

18 Perree Bane Christmas Party, 7pm

26 Hunt the Wren – Island-wide

28 December OIOW Cool Yule concert featuring Clash Vooar & others, Erin Art Centre, 7.30pm £10

[/www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinartcentre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinartcentre)

JANUARY 2023

6 Clash Vooar at Peel Folk Club, Atholl Room, Centenary Centre, 7.30/8pm

19 – 5 Feb Celtic Connections, Glasgow, Scotland <https://celticconnections.com/>



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

For information on Manx music & dance contact:
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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