

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Jerree Geuree 2025 January

MANX MUSIC TODAY



AUNDYRYN KIAULL-THEAY VANNIN / MANX FOLK AWARDS 2025 SYLLABUS RELEASED

The 2025 Manx Folk Awards syllabus is now out and Isle of Man schools and singing, music, dance & Manx teachers are invited to enter their groups, choirs and individual students:

www.manxmusic.com/schools/manx-folk-awards/

Organised by DESC & Culture Vannin, this year's overall theme is '**Farming & the Manx Countryside**' with the set pieces for choirs and recitations/poetry here:

www.manxmusic.com/learn/songs/manx-folk-awards-2025-set-pieces/

* Please note some date and day changes for 2025*

Thursday 20th March KS1&2 Recitation/Manx language (St Johns)

Friday 21st March KS1 & Preschool (Douglas Kensington Arts)

Sunday 23rd March Secondary (Douglas Kensington Arts)

Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th March KS2 (Douglas Kensington Arts & Rosemount Church)

Closing date for entries is February 7th

Enjoy videos from previous Manx Folk Awards:

https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/video_archive_index/

In this month's edition...

- *New Manx Jig by Jamie Smith*
- *Photos of the Kegeesh Ommidjagh & other festivities*
- *Oral History with Eleanor Shimmin BEM*

Culture
VANNIN



FREE 2 hour, fun and easy singing workshop on Friday 10th January! Culture Vannin will be running a free workshop on the evening of Friday 10th January, between 6.30pm – 8.30pm, at Trinity Methodist Church in Douglas. The workshop will be taught by Manx Language Development Officer, and Manx Gaelic singer, Ruth Keggins Gell, and will teach Manx translations of Taizé chants (largely by ear).

Taizé chants are beautiful meditative chants that are easy to pick up by ear due to only containing two or three lines of text. Ruth has translated some chants into Manx, along with fellow Manx teacher Paul Rogers, and will teach these in a fun and friendly workshop. No experience in speaking or singing in Manx is necessary, just a willingness to have a go and enjoy singing together!

We will break half way through the session to enjoy a cup of tea and biscuits together.

The workshop is completely free to attend, but donations to support Culture Vannin, or Trinity Methodist Church would be gratefully received.

You can book your place via SurveyMonkey [NB. Very limited places left]:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBJVV2G or by messaging the Learn Manx or Culture Vannin Facebook pages.

The Manx Music, Speech & Dance festival

Pick up a free syllabus all over the IOM: www.manxmusicfestival.org/syllabus/

Entries closing date 1st Feb 2025



Manx folk classes at the 'Guild' include Manx dancing, Gaelic solo and choral singing, folk groups and ensembles, harp, whistle and violin, original composition, readings in Manx, etc.

Villa Marina, Douglas from 26th April - 3rd May

www.facebook.com/ManxMusicFestival

**Peel Centenary Centre
Atholl Room Concerts**



Jon Lightfield



“Folkish” (Manx Voices)

Mark Lawrence



Free entry

(donations gratefully received)

The Atholl Room and Bar

Friday 10th January 8pm

@evergreenmusic

**ARRANE
SON MANNIN**



COMPETITION FOR AN
ORIGINAL SONG IN MANX

18 JANUARY / JERREY-GEUREE 2025

WINNER TO BE ENTERED INTO THE PAN CELTIC FESTIVAL IN
CARLOW, IRELAND 22ND- 26TH APRIL 2025



CUR STIAGH ROISH:
20 MEE NY NOLLICK 2024



ENTRY DEADLINE:
20TH DECEMBER 2024

Halley ny Masoonee, Purt ny h-Inshey | Dorrysynn 7pm | Entrellys nasteey
Masonic Hall, Peel | Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start | Free Entry

Milntown

BURNS NIGHT

£70 7pm

**SATURDAY
25th JANUARY 2025**

With the Tarroo Marroo Ceilidh Band!!

Tickets:

Call Milntown Events on 812321
or email events@milntown.org

On the occasion of OIE'LL VREESHEY
Friday 31st January at 7.30pm, The
Mollag Band and friends will gather
together in celebration at the Masonic
Hall, Peel.

You are invited to come along and join
in music, song and dance to welcome
the coming of SPRING!



**EXTRA
ORDINARY
EVENTS**



sixty years of arts, culture and creativity for everyone.

**60
years**

2025
£100,000

to fund new and exciting events on island in 2025



applications for the fund close on Friday 17th January



launched to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Isle of Man Arts Council

all island

we are looking to fund events all over the Isle of Man



arts and creativity in unusual locations to create an unmissable experience

what can you apply for?



- new events only
- to take place in 2025
- to a live audience
- inclusive and accessible
- environmentally sustainable
- fair pay for those involved

pitch to council

applying for over 10k? pitch your project in person (on Teams) via a presentation to members of the Arts Council



any income from your event can be kept and re-invested into your creative practice

3 tiers of funding

Tier 1	£1,000 - £4,999
Tier 2	£5,000 - £9,999
Tier 3	£10,000+



dare to do something different! We are looking for original events that disrupt the everyday



*Yn Cheshaght
Eghailckagh*

SHIRVEISH Y NOLLICK

NEW DATE

Shirveish y Nollack - Old Manx Christmas

Christ Church Laxey, Sunday 12th January
3pm <https://fb.me/e/5FN1ZxIGq>

**Folk and Roots Music
at The Institute 2025**
The Big Wheel Blues and Roots Club

MARCH

9TH



**KRIS DREVER &
CHRIS STOUT**

Two icons of Scottish roots culture in concert in Laxey!

The Institute, Laxey

Sunday March 9th 2025
Doors open 7:30pm.

Tickets just £15 from
www.etickets.im/et

**YOUNG
SINGER
OF MANN**



- + JUNIORS (7-12 YEARS)
- + SENIORS (13-18 YEARS)
- + PRIZES £150 / £100 / £50

ERIN ARTS CENTRE
SAT 25TH - SUN 26TH
JANUARY 2025

APPLICATIONS OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 2024

CALL 835858 OR EMAIL HELLO@ERINARTSCENTRE.COM FOR MORE INFO





Laa ruggyree sonney dhyt!

Peel based Manx dance group **Skeddan Jiarg** [Red Herring] celebrated its 10th birthday with a silver fancy dress-themed party on 30th November 2024 featuring long-term and new members.

Highlights of the evening held in Peel Masonic Hall included the premiere of a new jig tune called "Purt y Skeddan Jiarg" composed by Jamie Smith [see *Transcription of the Month*] which worked very well with "Dance for Three"; a reunion performance from singing quartet *Little Manx* (who aren't so little any more!); and "Dooraght" played on kazoos by the dancers (You can imagine that this caused great amusement!)

Founder and leader Gráinne Joughin was presented with gifts for her decade of dedication to the intergenerational dance group, as well as a new set of gorse sticks from Southern dance team Perree Bane!





Two spectacular nights of **Manannan's Winterfest** directed by David Kilgallon (12/13 Dec 2024) included loads of Manx culture & folk music, song and dance, with performances from Scran, The Deemsters, the MWF House Band, Cristl Stitt, Gená's Dance Academy, Breeshey Kelsey, Gráinne Joughin & Robin Higgins in the film premiere of 'The Glashtyn', Alexandra Slater with Douglas Town Band, a new play about the Quaaltagh by Zoe Cannell, & much more... Photos by www.facebook.com/Dkphotographyiom



Clash Voar at Peel Centenary Centre (27.12.24)

More photos by Martin Critchley: www.facebook.com/share/12EbQy62wGd/



Bree Manx music group busking at Tynwald Mills in aid of Isle Listen (10.12.24)



Skeddan Jiarg performing "Shooyl Inneenyn" at Peel Christmas Light Switch On (30.11.24)

Photo: Val Caine



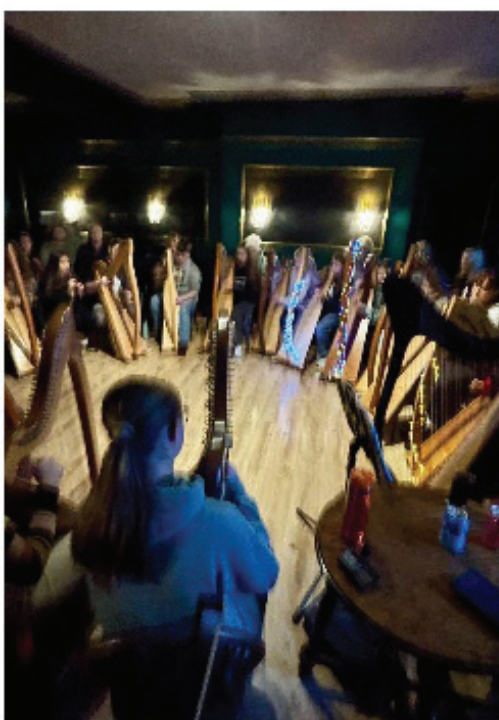
Two sets of lairy White Boys hit the streets of the Isle of Man on 21st December!
(Photo credit: Sue Jones)



On St Stephen's Day - 26th December 2024, **Hunt the Wren** took place in Ramsey, St Johns, Willaston & Douglas, Castletown, Port St Mary, Kirk Michael, Ballaugh & Sulby!

Watch the Ramsey revellers 'Hunting the Wren': www.facebook.com/share/v/15WL6pmBjA/

(photo credits: Culture Vannin, Ben Harris, Michael Gerrity, Chloe Woolley, RNLI, Michael Gerrity)



There were tonnes of music sessions over the Kegeesh Ommidjagh (Foolish Fortnight)!
 Top Left - clockwise: Fyn Bar in Ramsey; Iliam Dhone session at the Sidings, Castletown; 25th anniversary Mitre session in Ramsey; youth trad session at the Mitre and Cammag session in the Tynwald Inn.

PHOTOS: James Franklin, Chloe Woolley, Val Caine & Carl Joughin



Top Left - clockwise: Black Dog Oven; Cammag Session in the Tynwald Inn, St Johns & Skeddan Jiarg musicians in Peel. PHOTOS: James Franklin, Chloe Woolley, Val Caine & Carl Joughin

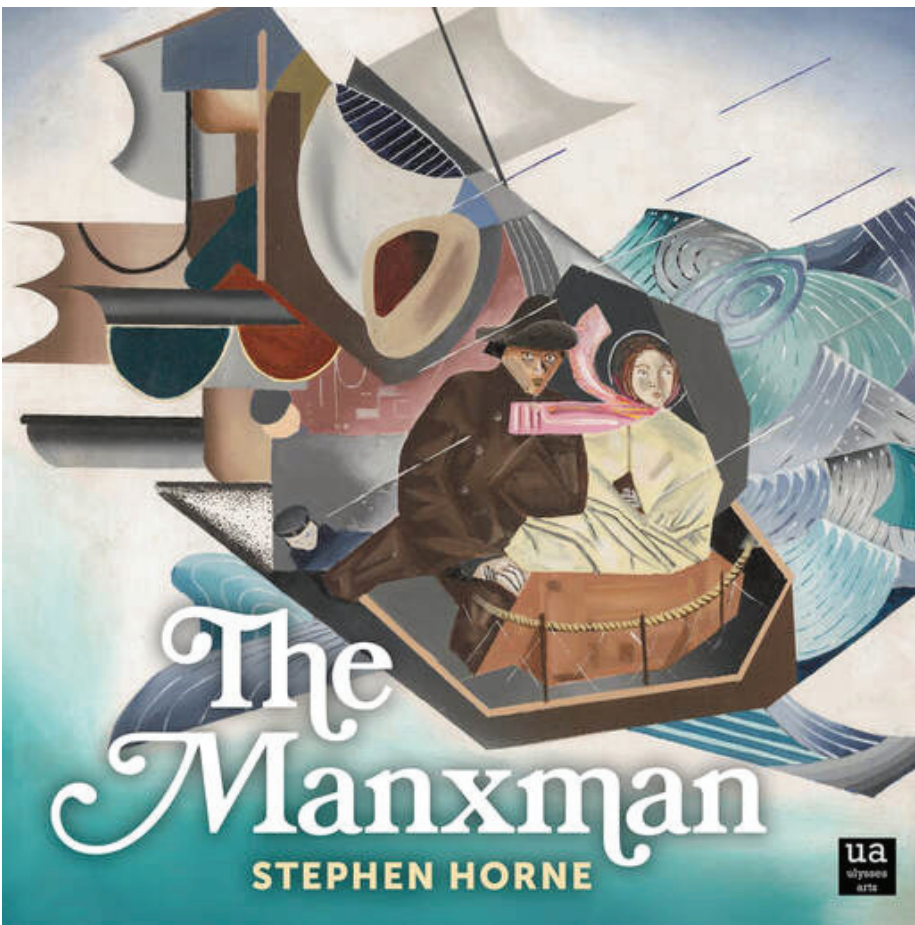
ULYSSES ARTS RELEASES STEPHEN HORNE SOUNDTRACK TO HITCHCOCK'S THE MANXMAN

Ulysses Arts releases Stephen Horne's soundtrack to Alfred Hitchcock's 1929 silent film The Manxman, orchestrated and conducted by Ben Palmer with the Orchestra da Camera di Pordenone and soloists Louise Hayter, oboe, and Jeff Moore, violin, on 10 January 2025 (UA240130). The Manxman will be screened live during the 2025 San Francisco Silent Film Festival on 11 January at Grace Cathedral [sold out!]

Find out more: www.ulyssesarts.com/ua-press-centre/stephen-horne-manxman-10-jan-2025

Stephen had consulted Culture Vannin for ideas and Manx music fans will definitely recognise some of the melodies:

<https://music.apple.com/gb/album/the-manxman/1771686684>



<https://stephenhorne.co.uk/>

<https://silentfilm.org/event/the-manxman/>

Spotify Manx Music Playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4FuL5heugMH5ua8zzxxQIM?si=81fbbdb6a8724e34>

Youtube corner

Jigs: Three Little Boats Went Out to Sea/Tim Avalon's/Jimmy Ward's
by The Poor Clares

<https://tinyurl.com/22w9j9ky>

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

Celtic Connections 2025

Good luck to all the Manxies performing in Scotland's top winter music festival this month!

Mec Lir (17th Jan):

<https://www.celticconnections.com/event/1/mec-lir-kinnaris-quintet-four-men-and-a-dog/>

TRIP (25th & 30th Jan):

www.celticconnections.com/event/1/moving-cloud-trip-brghde-chaimbeul-with-scottish-dance-theatre/

www.celticconnections.com/event/1/trip-big-band-and-niall-mccabe/



Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle (25th Jan):

www.celticconnections.com/event/1/elizabeth-davidson-blythe-daniel-quayle-with-eleanor-dunsdon-gregor-black/

Imar (25th Jan):

www.celticconnections.com/event/1/mar-and-malin-lewis/

Festival Interceltique de Lorient 2025

Salas • Alan Stivell • Le Vent du Nord & l'ONB
Calum Stewart & Celtic Odyssey #4 • Talisk

Niamh Dunne • Red Hot Chili Pipers • The Kilkenny's • Startjean • Lónada
Mary Bergin • Red Cordell • Xabier Diaz • Homan-Martin Quintet
Molwenn Kerbell • Flock • Alixandra • Annie Baylis • Héloïse • Élodie Jeffré
YTB • Gwlad • Soirée Bouge (ou Celle!) • Astro Blue • TRIP • Kathleen MacLennan
Batain Batain • Bati • Toxic Frogs • Brieg Guernoni • Taff Ropéin • Al Harbin & ...

RESEARCH NEWS

INVOCATION TO ST BRIDGET

The belief on the Isle of Man was that St. Bridget ("Breeshey" in Manx Gaelic) could be found seeking for a place to sleep on the 31st of January, the day before her Feast Day. So you must be prepared for her to stay - with food and a bed ready.

If you do everything right, you might be lucky enough to have her stay, after which things would certainly go right for you in the year to come.

Find out more: <https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/laal-breeshey-469776/>

"Invocation to St Bridget" is a popular Manx song, collected by Mona Douglas, and the Gaelic lyrics invite Breeshey into your home. Additional verses were composed by Greg Joughin and Julie Matthews last year, and the song is available to download and learn on www.manxmusic.com/learn/songs/invocation-to-st-bridget/

Victorian Manx folk music collector, WH Gill, also composed a song called "St Bridget's Day" which was discovered as an unpublished manuscript in the library archives of the Manx Museum and transcribed in a back issue of KMJ:

<https://manxmusic.com//media/Newsletters/February2010.pdf>

MS. 1347C (o)
J.66 7250
Transcribed from
unpublished MS.

St. Bridget's Day
Laa'l Vridey Lyrics & Music by W.H. Gill

1. See the moon-light soft-ly sleep-ing. On the lap of Doug-las Bay, While the
nuns their watch are keep-ing, Turn-ing mid- night in - to day. In the
clois-ter meek-ly kneel-ing, Brid-get all a-lone doth pray, While the
sol- emn hymn is peal-ing "Glo-ria Ti-bi Do-mi-ne!"

2. 'Tis the night of Bridget's coming!
Open every cottage door;
Back to earth once more she's roaming,
Spread green rushes on the floor.
Rushes, emblems meek and lowly,
For her carpet and her bed;
Lilies, emblems pure and holy,
For a crown upon her head.

3. Welcome, Bridget to our dwelling!
At one open door we stand;
Filled with hope our hearts are swelling,
Filled with flowers in every hand.
Stores of blessing thou art bringing
To our Island folk, and they
Long to hear thy sweet voice singing
"Gloria Tibi, Domine!"



Join Greg, Julie and The Mollag Band on Friday 31st January at 7.30pm in Peel Masonic Hall to welcome St Bridget and the coming of spring with an evening of Manx music, song and dance.

Eleanor Shimmin BEM

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/oralhistory/eleanor-shimmin-880049/>

A conversation with Eleanor Shimmin BEM about her long life involved in music in the Isle of Man.



Now in her early 90s, Mrs Shimmin speaks about her early life in Pulrose and Douglas, hampered by a life-threatening combination of double pneumonia, pleurisy and whooping cough.

Despite these health issues, young Eleanor Clarke's musical gifts soon emerged and the family invested in piano lessons and a second-hand piano, leading to her winning the Baume Scholarship in 1951 to study singing and piano at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Eleanor's teachers included Miss Bell, Emily Christian and George Tootell.

Upon graduating, she returned to the Isle of Man to build up her musical teaching practice. Over the course of the rest of her working life she taught many of the Isle of Man's leading Manx singers and musicians.

She also led choirs, including Aeg Threshlyn, who occupied an important place in the history of Manx music, through their early adoption of Manx Gaelic song into their repertoire, and their representation of the Isle of Man at the enormous Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany.

Mrs Shimmin also led a highly successful performing career, with three Cleveland medals to her name, won in 1965, 67 and 69.

Interviewed by her former piano and singing pupil, Dr Chloe Woolley, this conversation is full of happy memories of so many people and events spanning nearly a century of music making in the Isle of Man.



“ELVIS (‘PELVIS’) PRESLEY” (1957)

Elvis (“Pelvis”) Presley has been aiding a big publicity stunt for the Isle of Man.

Sponsored by the *Yorkshire Evening News*, a competition offering as first prize a holiday for two in the Isle of Man, has been run in connection with the film “Love Me Tender.”

The competition—one of the judges was Sir Joseph Qualtrough—was to name nine of Elvis’s records in the order the competitors thought best. They also had to write a slogan on “Why I would like to spend a holiday in the Isle of Man.”

Every one of the 7,000 entries received an autographed photograph of the “Pelvis.”

The prize of the holiday along with £10, which was donated by the Tourist Board, was won by the slogan:

“I would like to spend a holiday in the Isle of Man because it’s as near a Continental holiday as any place in the British Isles, without all the trouble of expense and travel.”

“[Teen-Land!] Holiday Slogan Competition.” *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 15 March 1957: 6d.

Even the Isle of Man could not avoid the charms of Elvis Presley....

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

“ROSE TO THE OCCASION AND LED THE CONGREGATIONAL SINGING” (1952)

When the electricity supply failed on Sunday morning and the lights went out in the Waterloo Road Church the organ, dependent on an electric blower, also faded out. The officiating minister (Rev. W.S. Baker) rose to the occasion and led the congregational singing and thereafter raised the tunes of all the remaining hymns, one of which included the words:

Let your lamps be bright

And trim the golden flame.

Basing his sermon on the single-word text “Preaching,” the occasion being Local Preachers’ Sunday, the reverend gentleman said there were 4,650 ministers in the Methodist Church. and 22,500 lay preachers. In that circuit of 25 places of worship he was grateful for the services given willingly and sacrificially by the local preachers though he was often at his wits’ end to find 25 preachers on Sunday. There were only two whole-time ministers who could not be everywhere. They stood in need of the services of more local preachers in the circuit and, indeed, throughout Methodism.

“Often at His Wits’ End. Supt. Minister’s Problem—Filling Pulpits.” *Ramsey Courier* 8 February 1952: 4g.

It was the Rev. W.S. Baker who “rose to the occasion and led the congregational singing” by raising the tunes of the hymns to be sung due to the failure of the organ. This was a return to the common practice in church and chapel before the advent of the harmonium and the organ.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

Page 6 ISLE OF MAN COURIER MARCH 1 1985

Christine lands American tour with top British rock band

TALENTED local singer Christine Collister, who quit the Island in a bid to make the big time has been chosen to do the backing vocals for a British band’s three months tour of America.

Christine, 23, who left the Island 15 months ago, will travel extensively across the States with the Richard Thompson Band and will also visit Ireland, Europe and do several “gigs” in London.

Richard Thompson was previously with one of the world’s best known groups, Fairport Convention.

Christine made a name for herself in the Isle of Man performing folk songs and since living and working in the Manchester area has regularly sung live on Piccadilly Radio’s Nightbeat pro-

gramme and has made appearances at Jasper Carrott’s club and hopes that an invitation to appear on the BBC TV programme *Pebble Mill* will still be available when she returns from the States.

David Sayle of the Douglas Folk Club helped Christine appear at Poynton Folk Club in Stockport. Piccadilly engineer Gary Bridges heard her and recommended her to the station.

Clive Gregson, now her manager, also heard Christine at Poynton and he arranged for her to do the backing vocals for The Richard Thompson Band’s new LP “Across A Crowded Room” which will be released this month.



Christine leaves for America with the band on March 6.

Her singing career began at a tender age when she performed solos at Salisbury Street Sunday School anniversaries.

She sang and played guitar in the “Sunrise Group” at Murray’s Road School and after that took to entering the talent competitions at Summerland.

Christine eventually joined the local group “Splinter” and also “Shy Talk”, but determined to pursue a full-time singing career, she decided to leave the Island and take her chances in England.

40 years on and Manx singer Christine Collister is still gigging internationally and producing new music:

<https://fledglingrecords.co.uk/product/christine-collister-children-of-the-sea-fled-3115/>

An article for *The Manx Independent* (Thursday 18th December 2024) written by Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin. <https://tinyurl.com/3vy799u3>

The history of Manx music and dance at Christmas

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Purt y Skeddan Jiarg

Jig of the Red Herring

Jamie Smith

B(omit3)

7 G A B(omit3)

13 G A D A/D

19 D G/D D A/D D A/D D/F# G A

25 D A/D D G/D D A/D

29 D/F# Em7 Bm7 A

Carr noa son daunse Vannin va scruit dy 'eaillaghey jeih blein jeh Skeddan Jiarg,
y possan dy ghaunseyderyn Vannin.

A new Manx dance tune written to celebrate ten years of Skeddan Jiarg Manx dancers.

L-R >

Frank Joughin;
Russell Cowin;
Jamie Smith;
David Kilgallon;
Malcolm Stitt



Download
& listen here:

www.manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/purt-y-skeddan-by-jamie-smith/

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2025

10 Manx Taize workshop, Trinity Methodist Church, Douglas 6.30pm

10 Folk Night at Atholl Room, Peel Centenary Centre, 9pm, donations

12 Shirveish y Nolluck, Christ Church Laxey, 3pm <https://fb.me/e/5FN1ZxlGq>

16 Jan - 2 Feb Celtic Connections www.celticconnections.com

18 Arrane song Mannin, Peel Masonic, 7.30pm, free

25 Burns Night with ceilidh, Milntown, Ramsey, 7pm £70 events@milntown.org

25 – 26 Young Singer of Mann, Erin Arts Centre, 2pm, £6

31 Oie'll Vreeshey with The Mollag Band, Peel Masonic Hall, 7.30pm

FEBRUARY

Watch this space for some Breton-Manx news...

MARCH

9 Kris Drever & Chris Stout, The Institute, Laxey, £15 www.etickets.im/et

20 – 25 Aundyryn Kiavull-Theay Vannin / Manx Folk Awards, St Johns & Douglas

APRIL

3 - 6 Shennaghys Jiu, Ramsey <https://shennaghysjiu.com/>

26 – 3 May The Manx Music, Speech & Dance festival [Guild]

www.manxmusicfestival.org/

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

www.manxmusic.com & keep in touch at
www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

~ SESSIONS ~

MON 8pm Trad session at The George Hotel, Castletown
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. (Bufs) Club, Ramsey
FRI 8.30pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiavull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary

Each **SUN** 12.30-4 Trad session:
1st Sunday of Month Laxey Sailing Club
2nd Sunday – Douglas Venue
3rd Sunday – Blackdog Oven, Peel
4th Sunday Woodbourne Pub, Douglas – Slow session 4pm – 6pm
Stay up to date: www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Chloë Woolley:**
manxmusic@culturevannin.im

www.manxmusic.com

MANX MUSIC .IM .COM

Music office: 01624 694758 / Culture Vannin, PO Box 1986, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1SR

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