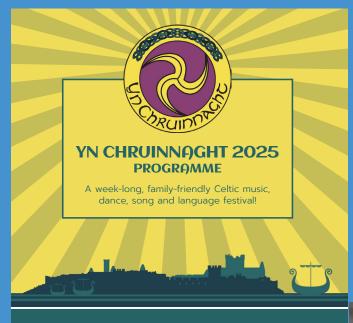


Jerrey Souree 2025 July

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering Announces Dynamic 2025 Line-Up



JELUNE 21 - JEDOONEE 27 JERREY SOUREE MONDAY 21 - SUNDAY 27 JULY

The **Calum Stewart Trio** join forces with renowned step dancer **Sophie Stephenson**. With support from innovative Manx group **Smooinaght Mie** this event promises to be a compelling blend of tradition and innovation. **Annie Baylis Band** and **The Brim Ceilidh Band** (Cornwall), delivering raw, poetic songwriting and energetic ceilidh tunes across a series of concerts, ceilis, and community events. The Isle of Man's summer festival of Celtic culture returns this July with a powerhouse line-up of artists from across the Celtic nations. Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering 2025, running from Monday 21st to Sunday 27th July, promises an unforgettable week of music, dance, workshops and community spirit.

Opening the festival is Scottish folk sensation **RURA**, one of the most in-demand acts on the Celtic music circuit. Their gripping blend of Highland pipes, fiddle, flute, guitar and bodhrán has earned international acclaim – and their headline concert on Monday 21st July at Peel Centenary Centre promises to be a show-stopping start to the week.



The McGoldrick Family, rising stars of the Irish-Manchester folk scene, will perform throughout the week – including concerts, sessions, and workshops. From Wales, **AVANC** – a dynamic youth folk ensemble – bring a fusion of traditional music and clog dancing, celebrating the energy of Welsh cultural heritage. Acclaimed Scottish harp and guitar duo **Rachel Hair & Ron Jappy** return with their expressive arrangements and musical finesse. **The Barleyshakes** (Ireland/Australia) will appear throughout the week, blending Irish spirit with global influences.

In this month's edition ..

- Manx Musical Worthy Philip Gelling the Manx Baritone
- Tynwald Day... the song!
- Scran follow in footsteps of Paitchyn Vannin 30 years on!





An Yn Chruinnaght Committee member said: "We are really excited to announce this incredible line up for 2025, and what promises to be a brilliant festival for music lovers of all ages."

"Alongside these headline acts we have top draw performances from local Manx bands, dancers

and singers. Alongside song nights, sessions, workshops, concerts and ceilis, there will be a special 160th anniversary of Art Nouveau and Celtic Revival artist Archibald Knox, a celebratory concert of Celtic 'myths and legends', and the now infamous 'Mega Manx Ceili'!"

They went on to say that: "It would not be possible without the support of our generous funders, sponsors, and the many



individuals and organisations who contribute time, expertise, and resources to bring this festival to life every summer."

More information, details of the 2025 festival supporters and to buy tickets visit:

https://ynchruinnaght.com/ or www.celticgathering.im

Check out the full programme here: https://ynchruinnaght.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Yn-Chruinnaght-Festival-Programme-2025.pdf



Manx band Scran to perform at Music for Youth festival in Birmingham

Manx folk group Scran have been invited to perform at the UK's prestigious 'Music for Youth' National Festival in Birmingham next month!

The Music for Youth National Festival is a three-day feast of live music where 12,000 talented young groups, choirs and orchestras from all over the UK (and the Isle of Man!), representing all kinds of styles, instruments and genres of music, gather to perform in world-class venues around Birmingham.

https://mfy.org.uk/get-involved/national-festival-2025/



Billed as 'music from around the globe in one spectacular showcase of world, folk, and roots', Scran will represent Manx music in the festival's 'Root & Rhythms' concert in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra concert hall on Thursday 10th July. They will share the stage with youth groups who play Japanese, English, Caribbean and Indian folk music. Ranging in age from 13 to 17 and coming from various Island schools, Scran's talented members play a variety of instruments, sing and dance.

An off-shoot of Culture Vannin's Bree Manx music group, the current line-up includes Frank (fiddle), Resa (harp), Fraser (keyboard), Alyth (harp), Daniel (guitar) & Aalish (vocals, cajon & dance) and the band is mentored by well-known fiddle and keyboard player David Kilgallon (Mec Lir).

After submitting a videoed performance [https://youtu.be/Qu9nuX0Q7Us] to Music for Youth's online Mentor Scheme, they were matched with leading folk percussionist, Tom Chapman, from the Urban Folk Quartet. In his mentor feedback, he wrote;

"It's fantastic to see a Manx entry! This is a rousing set of three tunes, tightly arranged, and clearly known inside-out by everyone involved.... a very impressive display of band cohesion... fab repertoire!"

By coincidence, it is 30 years since Ramsey Grammar School's Manx folk group, Paitchyn Vannin took part in the Music for Youth national festival which earned them a spot in the Youth Proms in the Royal Albert Hall!

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, said;

"It's such an exciting opportunity for Scran. It will also be so good for the band members to meet, watch and listen to other young musicians from around the British Isles. They may even get talent-spotted along the way!"

The band represented the Isle of Man at Festival Interceltique de Lorient in 2024 performing in front of thousands of spectators, and they came fourth in the final of the prestigious Trophée Loïc Raison band competition. They were also finalists in Media Isle of Man's Awards for Excellence 2024.

www.manxmusic.com/performers/manx-bands/scran/

Paid performance opportunity: 'Cree' Manx language & song project

Culture Vannin is seeking performers for a summer project that will bring Manx language, music and song to elderly residents in care and nursing homes across the Isle of Man.

We're looking for engaging duos, or solo musicians who would be willing to pair up, to lead interactive (where possible) sessions featuring simple Manx songs and phrases.

Clear communication and enthusiasm are key; the ability to speak good Manx is a bonus, but not essential. Performers will receive a competitive rate of pay and reimbursement for mileage.

To find out more and/or express your interest in being involved, please contact Ruth Keggin Gell (Yn Greinneyder, Culture Vannin): gaelg@culturevannin.im

This project has been made possible through funding from Elizabeth Clucas Charitable Trust.



Manx Gaelic choir Caarjyn Cooidjagh performing in the Ellan Vannin residential home in 2019.



TREISHT - FUNDING FOR CREATIVE MANX LANGUAGE PROJECTS ANNOUNCED



Whether you're an artist, musician, teacher, content creator, storyteller or just someone with a passion for Manx — Culture Vannin is offering up to 30 project grants of £500 to celebrate the Manx language in exciting new ways ahead of the 2026 Year of the Manx Language.

No fluency is required, just creativity!

Whether you know a few Manx words or speak it every day, Culture Vannin is inviting you to explore and celebrate the language through your own creative lens.

The first deadline for applications is Friday 25 July 2025 and project ideas include creating new artwork, arranging songs for schools, organising concerts or workshops, taking Manx lessons to new audiences, using recorded samples of Manx speech in new electronic music tracks, and you can even suggest your own idea...

Full details & a full list of suggested projects here: https://tinyurl.com/2vtd22v4

There are plenty of opportunities for musicians, singers and dancers e.g.

- Songs for school choirs
- Create new songs for dancing
- Reinterpret a traditional Manx song
- Produce a new Manx song from a set Manx song text
- Pop song translations
- Choreograph and film a new Manx dance to Manx language song
- Produce music video of a Manx song in any genre
- Spoken Manx language in new electronic music tracks
- New Manx song tutorial films
- Ellan Vannin song video

Further info:

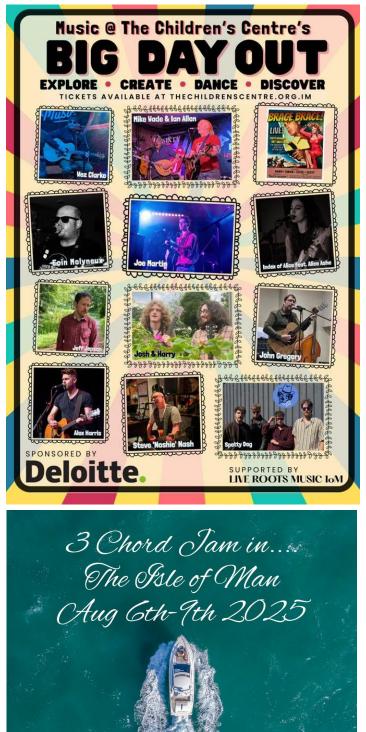
https://culturevannin.im/media//PDF/Grant%20info/Treisht26%20Projects%20Information.pdf

[Gura mie mooar ayd, Beth Louella Fine Art, for permission to use her beautiful image]



Check out TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH for a song dedicated to Tynwald Day!

kiaull manninagh jiu 07/25 culture vannin

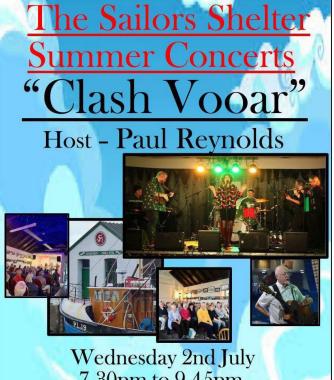


3 Chord Jam are off to the Isle of Man! hosting live music sessions & guitar/song workshops

6 - 9th August - various venues

They are looking forward to meeting local musicians & new jamming buddies!

www.facebook.com/3ChordJam



7.30pm to 9.45pm Free entry Tea and coffee available (£1). Bring your own bottle. Donations for Sailors Shelter upkeep.



COME & HAVE A PICNIC IN ONE OF THE STUNNING SCENIC SPOTS DURING THE DAY

JOIN US FOR A CEILI FAMILY NIGHT

WITH THE KIPPER CEILI BAND BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINK

TOWN HALL, PORT ST MARY AT 7.30PM FOOD AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE PORT

EMAIL: COMMISSIONERS@PORTSTMARY.GOV.IM

TICKETS FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OFFICE, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED – CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED



SUPPORTED BY



Arbory School Manx dancers drew a huge crowd at Laa Columb Killey (27 June), Biskee Brisht and lots of other Manx bands entertained at the Full Moon festival (29 June) and Scran got the kiddies up dancing at Hello Little People's 'Go Wild' festival in Milntown, Ramsey (22 June).

kiaull noa



Yindyssyn

A Manx Gaelic musical of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland adapted from the translation by Brian Stowell by Annie Kissack and Aalin Clague.



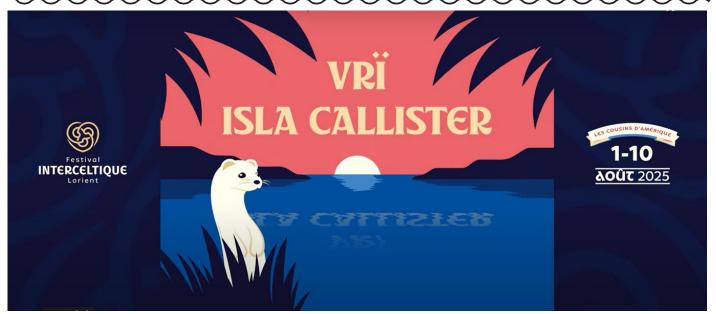
10th & 11th July Centenary Centre, Peel Doors open 6:30 pm Show starts 7:00 pm

Tickets £6 / £3 children: https://tinyurl.com/567eaxze



Guild Gaelic choir winners Skeealyn Vannin will be representing the Isle of Man in Lorient this August. Check them out first at the MYB/MCB gala concert, at Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering and online: https://manxmusic.com/performers/gaelic-choirs-and-singers/platform-vocal-ensemble/

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Fiddle player Isla Callister joins Manx acts Skeealyn Vannin, TRIP, Jamie Smith & Frank Joughin and Smooinaght Mie at this summer's Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany. Watch the teaser video here: https://youtu.be/W_1gvC54Aog

https://www.festival-interceltique.bzh/programmation-par-nation/



Manx dance group **Perree Bane** will be representing the Island in Wales next week [8 - 13 July] at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod: https://international-eisteddfod.co.uk/



Spotify Manx Music Playlist https://tinyurl.com/yckzsa79



RESEARCH NEWS

Philip Gelling The Manx Baritone

by Maurice Powell

Opera singer, pianist and organist.

Born: 11th May 1944, Douglas; died: 30th November 2009, London, NW3. Father: John (Jack) Richard Gelling, born 1918; died August 1999.

Mother: Phyllis Ena, née Clague, born 27th March 1919; died January 2001.

Married: Yvonne Jacqueline Grenville; Josepha (Jo) Pointner.

John Philip Gelling - henceforth referred to as 'Philip' - was one of only two Manx-born singers who became professional opera singers, as opposed to concert artistes.* He was born at the Jane Crookall Maternity Home in Douglas but spent the first three years of his life in Port St. Mary where his father, a well-respected police constable, was stationed. Jack Gelling was also a tenor and baritone who enjoyed success at the Manx Music Festival. Philip's mother Ena came from a wellknown musical family and was



one of the finest singers the Island ever produced, 'whose glorious mezzo-soprano voice (was) placed unstintingly at the disposal of good causes'. She was a three times Cleveland medallist at the Manx Music Festival.**

* The other was Margaret Curphey (1938-2024), renowned for her Wagnerian roles. See Maurice Powell, Margaret Curphey, Kiaull Manninagh Jiu, manxmusic.com, and New Manx Worthies ed. Sue Woolley.

** Inaugurated in 1922 and first awarded to Allan Quirk, bass, in 1923. Ena Gelling won the Cleveland Medal in 1951, 1958 - when she enjoyed a triple success in performances where she sang 'from the heart to the heart' in performances that were 'most musical and artistic' - including the F. M. Cubbon Lieder Rose Bowl and the Billown Rose Bowl in the vocal duet class - and in 1972. On 'the Isle of mezzos', as one adjudicator described the Island, her star shone brighter than most.

Jack Gelling was transferred to Ramsey in 1947 until his retirement from the police service and Philip attended Albert Road Junior School and Ramsey Grammar School. Although already passionately devoted to music he was not happy at school because he struggled with undiagnosed dyslexia, although this affliction would yield an unexpected dividend later in life. He left school at the age of fifteen and worked in furniture stores in Ramsey and later Douglas. Philip's first singing lessons were from his mother, but his principal vocal teacher was Douglas Buxton, one of the most highly respected voice and choir trainers on the Island.

The young performer takes a bow

The earliest reference to Philip in the local newspapers is found in the Ramsey Courier of 3rd August 1951 when, aged seven, he sang Maytime at a Waterloo Road Methodist Church service supported by 'the lovely singing' of the Sunday School Children's Choir directed and trained by Ena Gelling.* The following year he appeared at the Ramsey June Effort Committee's 3rd Annual Carnival as a crown bearer for the Carnival Queen attired in blue velvet trousers and white satin shirt, and for the next three years either performed a vocal solo at the Waterloo Road Methodist Church or took a role in a play or musical production including the Northern Arts Pantomime Babes in the Wood at the Ramsey Pavilion and the Parent and Teachers' Association's production of Robin Hood at Albert Road Junior School. When the Waterloo Road Methodist Church welcomed its new minister with a concert in 1955 Philip performed Angels ever bright and fair from Handel's Theodora at a sacred recital Sulby Methodist Church.

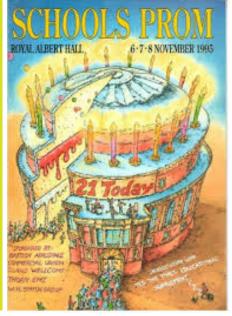
* Probably Frederick Jackson's Children's Hymn Sing a Song of Maytime. Other pieces in his repertoire at this time included Baby Jesus is Asleep - probably Alice M. Pullen's The Baby Jesus is Asleep - and William J. Griffiths hymn Jesus, Friend of Little Children.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE: www.manxmusic.com/history/biographies/gelling-philip-1944---2009/

Young Manx folk group Scran are off to Birmingham next week to take part in the Music for Youth National Festival, but it also happens to be 30 years since Paitchyn Vannin starred in the Youth Proms in the Royal Albert Hall in London!

The youth group from Ramsey Grammar School performed 'Kiaull ny Marrey' [Music of the Sea].

Check out the 1995 Youth Proms programme: https://issuu.com/musicforyouth/docs/programme-1995





See p.23 - 25 for Paitchyn Vannin >>

MR. EDWARD CORTEEN, late Surveyor-General of Highways, recently retired after 50 years'

service. He is a thorough Manxman, hailing from Ballasholague, Maughold. He has carried out many important works, particularly the Snaefell Mountain Road to Ramsey.

He is a keen musician, and assisted the late Dr. Clague and Mr. William H. Gill in compiling the Manx National Song Book.

On his retirement Mr. Corteen was made a suitable presentation by the staff of the Highway Board.

www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/exans/prt_1910.htm

Full Manx Worthy by Bob Carswell RBV:

www.manxmusic.com/history/biographies/corteen-edward-1827-1913/



Mollag Band slays the dragon

From the Isle of Man Examiner 21-11-1995

MANX folk outfit the Mollag Band has written a song promoting recycling rather than incineration.

The song, entitled Hungry Dragon, will be premiered as part of an anti-incinerator concert at Green's Restaurant, Douglas, on Friday, November 24 at 8.30pm.

Band member Greg Joughin said: 'Even conservative estimates have placed incineration as the most expensive form of waste disposal. After the initial millions of pounds required to construct the furnacing plant, it will need to be kept fed, which means decades of over production of waste and decades of high running and maintenance costs.

'The process will produce toxic fumes for those unfortunate enough to be forced to live in its smokescreen. It will also produce toxic ash.'

He said recycling was only a small scale operation in the Island and the political will was needed to accept recycling as a viable option for waste management.

The song contains lines such as: 'The smoke turns light and burns the sky when the hungry dragon roars... and urges: 'Tease the hypocritical away from their back yards and teach them of the cyclical.'

Tickets for the concert are £3, which includes supper, and can be bought from Green's Restaurant, Kerruish's Chemist in Prospect Terrace, Douglas, and Cowley Pharmacy in Peel.

Some Faery Encounters in Manx Song and Rhyme

NEW FILM FROM CULTURE VANNIN: A talk about some of the many of the traditional Manx songs and tunes which come from encounters with the faeries and their kind. Annie Kissack RBV reflects on the intersections of song and written word with Manx faery lore, and how it's been interpreted by various writers and musicians, over the years. With the help of Phil Gawne, this talk features musical examples of songs, tunes and rhymes, illustrating Annie's reflections on music, poems and stories, and ways in which they link and feed into each other.



This talk was delivered to Michael Heritage Trust on 16 June 2025 in Kirk Michael. It was recorded by Culture Vannin and released here with thanks to all involved. Enjoy the whole talk and excerpts here:

https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/some-faery-encounters-in-manx-song--rhyme-903439/ www.youtube.com/@culturevannin8486/videos



Fairy music heard in Douglas in the 1720s



The Wandescope



Bollan Bane: The Kirk Michael version of 1896



Yn Bollan Bane (song)



Phillie the Desert's Fairy Tune



The story of 'Arrane Ghelbee'

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH see www.manxmusic.com for more printable pieces of Manx music

"Tynwald Day" by WH Gill was one of three songs in the lesser known Part III of the series *Songs* of my Fatherland - A collection of Manx Music (Ancient & Modern), published in 1908.

A scan of the full song with all the verses can be located here:

www.manxmusic.com/learn/songs/tynwald-day/

And the whole book is available to view here:

www.manxmusic.com/learn/songs/songs-of-my-fatherland-iii/

WH Gill was the composer of the National Anthem, "O Land of our Birth" (1907) - you can hear a reference to it in this song!! - and editor of Manx National Songs (1896). Along with his brother Deemster JF Gill and friend Dr John Clague, he collected hundreds of Manx melodies. Biography: www.manxmusic.com/history/biographies/gill-william-henry-1839-1923/



Tynwald Day

kiaull manninagh jiu 07/25 culture vannin

CALENDAR

JULY

SESSIONS

2 Clash Vooar at the Sailor's Shelter, 7.30pm

30 June – 5 Mananan Festival

5 Port St Mary National Day with ceili

7 Tynwald Day - all day

7 Clash Vooar in the Global Village 12.30 and main tent 6.30pm (Tynwald)

10 – 11 Yindyssyn – Manx Gaelic musical, Centenary Centre, Peel, £6 / £3 7pm

12 – 13 Port Erin Beach Festival – all day

12 MYB & MCB Gala Concert with Skeealyn Vannin, Villa Marina, Douglas

19 Josh & Harry support Joe Martin, The Institute, Laxey

21 – 27 Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering www.celticgathering.im 24 - 27 Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle at Viljandi Folk Music Festival, Estonia

AUGUST

1 – 10 Festival Interceltique de Lorient

22 Skeddan Jiarg ceili, Peel

28 Caarjyn Cooidjagh at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin

SEPTEMBER

5-7 Caarjyn Cooidjagh in Midsummer Night's Dream

23 European Folk Day

www.europeanfolkday.eu/

OCTOBER

22 Caarjyn Cooidjagh sing for Peel Pensioners, Philip Christian Centre

IANX MU

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online: www.manxmusic.com & keep in touch at www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

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. (Buffs) Club, Ramsey FRI 8.30pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey Last FRI of month 9pm, Kiaull 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

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

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

www.manxmusic.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

SESSO