



## Bree's Winter Palace

Last weekend (26/27 Oct) saw the 13th annual *Big Bree Workshop Weekend* at the Youth Arts Centre in Douglas, which brought together an enthusiastic bunch of young musicians, singers and dancers to work with a host of experts in Manx music, song and dance and volunteers from the older Bree band, *Scran*.

The overall theme of the weekend was 'Bree's Winter Palace'; an adaptation of Sophia Morrison's Manx fairytale, *The Wizard's Palace*. Scripted by Jo Callister, the final show was more like a pantomime than previous Bree workshop weekend concerts, with all the students having a part to play.

The Bree songwriting group set the scene at the start of the show with their new song, while the composing group provided atmospheric background music throughout. Narrated by tutor Caroline Helps, the story followed an evil wizard who lived in a palace on a mountain, where anyone who came to the door was frozen to stone! A beggar who was searching for shelter during a winter storm one night met several well-known characters from Manx folklore; Berrey Dhone the cunning witch from Maughold, a rather excitable Ushag Veg Ruy (Little Red Bird) and the Isle of Man's mythical ruler, Manannan, who was en route to a Saga holiday on the Calf of Man! Of course, all of these characters had their own musical soundtracks, taken straight from the Manx tradition and played or sung by the Bree students.

While the beggar continued his travels during the snow storm, he hummed the tune of the "Dead Sheep Song" (AKA Kirree fo Niaghtey!) and witnessed pairs of dancing sheep performing Greg Joughin's dance, "Loddy Doddle Dagh".

Of course, the hero beggar man chose not to touch the door of the palace, and with a pinch of salt on his final lump of bread, broke the wizard's spell and the palace exploded. Everyone who had been frozen to stone, came back to life and the village nearby celebrated by dancing "Eunyssagh Vona" mixed in with "Ding Dong Merrily on High"! In true panto-style, there was a repetitive chorus throughout, and the audience were encouraged to join in with, "Has anybody here seen the wizard?", a take on the well-known music-hall song, "Has anybody here seen Kelly?"

### *In this month's edition...*

- *The Celton-Manx project*
- *RBV nominations invited*
- *New Hop tu naa song*

**Culture**  
VANNIN

The whole Bree weekend was filmed and photographed by the wonderful husband and wife-team known as 'Ronita', and the film footage will be available later in the year.

Bree is a group for any musical youngsters aged 10-16. Organised by Culture Vannin, they meet once a month and it is free to join. Contact Dr Chloe Woolley for more details: [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)



# Claare y Chooish 2019

## Jeheiney 1 Mee Houney

11am-1pm Pop-up Gaeltagh ayns M&S, Doolish. Gaelg, caffee as sconnag

After the successful Pop-Up at M&S last year Pobble are returning to the M&S Caffee.

Please note: If the boats have not been running for a couple of days scones might not be available.

2-3pm – Nicola as caarjyn ec yn lioarlann ayns Doolish

5-6pm Jamys Jeheiney 'special'

7.30pm: Leaght y Ghaae: Bee Adrian Cain loayrt bit beg mychione skeel Nerin. Ayns Leaght enmyssit 'yn politickeyr jarroodit' bee Adrian ginsh bea mychione ashooneyder ta bunnys jarroodit ain ny laghyn shoh. Boayl: Bunscoil Ghaelgagh

## Jesarn 2 mee Houney

Moghrey Caffee ec y Halley Saasilagh ayns Balley Keeill Eoin

Jeebin, The Manx Language Network, will be hosting a coffee and information morning at the Methodist Hall in St Johns. Participants will include:

Jeebin: Find out about the Network, its strategy and work

Culture Vannin: James Harrison will be available to answer questions about classes for beginner learners of Manx. A great opportunity to meet Culture Vannin's most experienced adult language teacher and get to know the man behind the faasaag

Mooijer Veggy: Bilingual education and language instruction through Manx at the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh. An opportunity to find out about how bilingual education can benefit your child. They will also have a play corner for paitchyn.

Pobble: Pobble will be at hand to tell more about their 'buddy system' for learners and explain how you can sign up.

From class to conversation:

Adrian Cain, The Manx language Development Officer, for Culture Vannin will be on hand to provide tips on how to make the transition from class based Manx to speaking it in the wild.

Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh: Books stall  
Giense y Cooish

## Booise da'n Chruinnaght

### Peel Sailing & Cruise Club

7.30pm (Donations on door)



YN CHRUINNAGHT & THE COOISH  
PRESENT A GIENSE (PARTY)  
CELEBRATING MANX GAELIC

# Giense!

## PARTY NIGHT

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER  
JESARN 2 MEE HOUNEY  
7.30 PM  
SAILING & CRUISE CLUB PEEL  
DURT NY HINSHEY

QUIZ

KIAULL/MUSIC: AALIN CLAGUE & PETE WOODMAN,  
JACK MCLEAN  
BARDAGHT/POETRY: ANNIE KISSACK  
QUISS/QUIZ IN MANX  
FILLYM/FILM "LAA TINVAAL" BY CHILDREN FROM  
BUNSCOILL GHAELGAGH  
JOUGH/DRINKS AVAILABLE TO BUY AT THE BAR!  
CRONCHOR/RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
ENTRY BY DONATION - ALL WELCOME!

The poster features a dark background with a green filmstrip graphic. It includes icons for a microphone, a musical note, and a glass. The text is in various colors (white, orange, yellow) and fonts.

# Culture Vannin strikes right note with Celton Manx

Older people in day centres and care homes across the Island are benefiting from therapeutic live Manx musical entertainment after Culture Vannin received a Recognition award from Celton Manx. The award has provided Culture Vannin with the funds to develop its outreach programme and arrange live performances by local musicians in some 15 centres and residential homes.

Culture Vannin music development officer Dr Chloe Woolley said: 'The Recognition award from Celton Manx has enabled Culture Vannin to engage the services of a variety of talented Manx musicians and dancers to perform "mini concerts", which have not only been really well received by the residents and staff but are also proving to be a rewarding experience for the artists themselves.'



Celton Manx executive director Bill Mummery, second left with Culture Vannin music development officer Dr Chloe Woolley, extreme left, Salisbury Street nursing home activities manager Marc Steffan-Cowell, Paul Reynolds and Ken Crellin of Shoh Slaynt and John Struthers are pictured with residents Sheila Locking and Muriel Presho. Photo Matt Mosur

'Visiting performers so far have included young musicians from Bree and folk dancers from Skeddan Jiarg, as well as singers, pipers, harpists and a Gaelic choir. Residents have sung along with Ellan Vannin and clapped along to Hop tu Naa!

'The funding from Celton Manx has been invaluable in kick-starting this new project that we hope will continue in the future when new connections are made and an element of Manx culture is brought into the homes.'

One of the residential homes most recently to benefit was Salisbury Street nursing home in Douglas where entertainment was provided by Paul Reynolds and Ken Crellin of Shoh Slaynt and John Struthers on smallpipes.

Dr Woolley said: 'The concert went very well and it was clear the residents enjoyed it. There was a singalong to old favourites Ellan Vannin and Danny Boy and one lady remembered singing Smuggler's Lullaby when she was in her school choir, which led to her telling John Struthers the story behind the song.'

Celton Manx executive director Bill Mummery said: 'All of us have a deep connection with music in



one way or another. This new venture is a prime example of the beneficial effects music can offer older people – its power to rekindle memories, combat loneliness and create a sense of community. ‘Celton Manx is pleased to support Culture Vannin with a Recognition award and applauds Chloe and her colleagues for their work in encouraging and promoting Manx culture across all generations.’ Recognition is the corporate social responsibility programme of Celton Manx and, in 2019, is benefiting 22 local good causes.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE: <http://celtonmanx.com/index.php/culture-vannin-strikes-right-note-with-celton-manx/>

*Pictured are just some of the Manx music and dance groups who have been involved in this project this Autumn.*



## Culture Vannin have re-released an essential album of Manx Gaelic song for online download

Sollys - which means 'light' - gathers together 30 songs in Manx Gaelic. Mainly unaccompanied, they show the wide range of material being sung in the Manx language - old words to new tunes, new words to new tunes, and traditional material from the manuscript collections.

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin said; "As well as being an enjoyable album to listen to which has captured many of our best Gaelic singers, Sollys is also a handy resource for those wishing to learn the old Manx songs and for scholars interested in the Gaelic language."

Featuring fourteen well-known singers: Bob Carswell, Aalin Clague, Bill Corlett, Cairistiona Dougherty, David Fisher, Jonee Fisher, Hillary Gale, Phil Gawne, Sarah Hewson, Greg Joughin, Ruth Keggins, Clare Kilgallon, Annie Kissack and Julie Matthews, the album has a selection of solos, duets and trios, plus a choral piece from Gaelic choir, Caarjyn Coidjagh.

Originally released in 2012, the album contains well-loved Manx songs such as Ushag Veg Ruy, Arrane ny Niece and Graih Foalsey, but also some lesser known songs, including Va Billey Beg Gaase, Vuddee Veg and the Bulgham Sea Song.

The whole album can be downloaded for £5 from: <https://culturevannin.bandcamp.com/album/sollys-gaelic-songs-from-the-isle-of-man>, streamed via the Culture Vannin Soundcloud or bought as a CD album from Culture Vannin and other bookshops.

More information and sleeve-notes to Sollys: [http://www.manxmusic.com/learn\\_page\\_266863.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_266863.html)

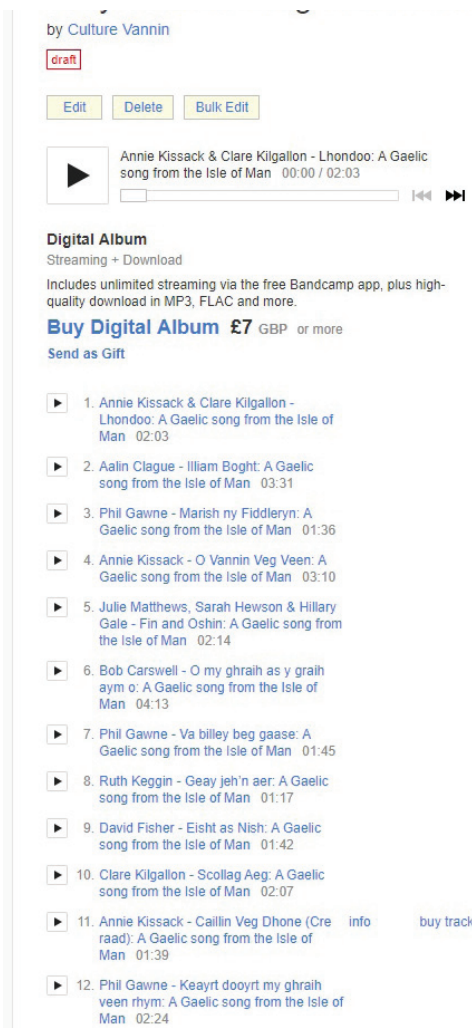
[photos - Manx Gaelic singer Aalin Clague & Sollys album cover]

\* Aalin Clague and guitarist Pete Woodman performed some of their Manx Gaelic blues on Manx Radio's Saturday Live Lounge:

**LISTEN AGAIN**

<https://www.manxradio.com/radioplayer/od/items/5051/>


And catch them live this coming weekend at the Yn Chruinnaght / Cooish Giense in Peel Sailing and Cruise Club (see poster).



by Culture Vannin

[Draft](#)

[Edit](#) [Delete](#) [Bulk Edit](#)

 Annie Kissack & Clare Kilgallon - Lhondoo: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 00:00 / 02:03

**Digital Album**  
Streaming + Download

Includes unlimited streaming via the free Bandcamp app, plus high-quality download in MP3, FLAC and more.

[Buy Digital Album](#) £7 GBP or more

[Send as Gift](#)

- ▶ 1. Annie Kissack & Clare Kilgallon - Lhondoo: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 02:03
- ▶ 2. Aalin Clague - Illiam Boght: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 03:31
- ▶ 3. Phil Gawne - Marish ny Fiddleryn: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 01:36
- ▶ 4. Annie Kissack - O Vannin Veg Veen: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 03:10
- ▶ 5. Julie Matthews, Sarah Hewson & Hillary Gale - Fin and Oshin: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 02:14
- ▶ 6. Bob Carswell - O my ghraih as y graih aym o: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 04:13
- ▶ 7. Phil Gawne - Va billey beg gaase: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 01:45
- ▶ 8. Ruth Keggins - Geay jeh'n aer: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 01:17
- ▶ 9. David Fisher - Eisht as Nish: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 01:42
- ▶ 10. Clare Kilgallon - Scollag Aeg: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 02:07
- ▶ 11. Annie Kissack - Cailin Veg Dhone (Cre raad): A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 01:39 [info](#) [buy track](#)
- ▶ 12. Phil Gawne - Keayrt dooyrt my ghraih veen rhy: A Gaelic song from the Isle of Man 02:24



# Manannan's Winterfest

A Magical Manx Christmas!

**MUSIC & SONG FROM**  
 KATE DOWMAN | ALEXANDRA SLATER  
 MAE CHALLIS | RACHEL HAIR  
 MANX YOUTH BAND & MANX CONCERT BRASS  
 BALLACOTTIER SCHOOL CHOIR  
 GARETH MOORE

**WITH MANANNAN'S HOUSE BAND**  
 DAVID KILGALLON, MALCOLM STITT  
 KIRSTY & KÁTIE LAWRENCE

**AND FEATURING**  
 DOT TILBURY &  
 THE MICHAEL PLAYERS &  
 REBECCA COOIL &  
 MANX TRINITY ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE

THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup>  
 DECEMBER 2019  
 GAIETY THEATRE

ONE NIGHT ONLY

ARTS COUNCIL TICKETS: £20/£24 | CALL: 600555 | VILLAGAIETY.COM Culture VANNIN



*Manannan's Winterfest* ~ Preview and video footage from last year's magical show.

Web: [www.culturevannin.im/video\\_story\\_597416.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/video_story_597416.html) Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/6343555>

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB95FuN2S6jNv2GAwI-G7aCGs0cQ-eCTT](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB95FuN2S6jNv2GAwI-G7aCGs0cQ-eCTT)

Tickets: [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com)



## Who will you choose as your Manx cultural hero?

November is the time to get your nominations together for the 'Reih Bleeaney Vanannan' Manx cultural award. Named after the seagod Manannan, this annual award is made to an individual or group who has made the greatest contribution to the Island's culture. A small group of judges from various Manx cultural organisations gather together in December to make the decision, with the winner usually announced in January.

But who could you think of proposing? You may want to nominate someone who works to promote and support an aspect of Manx culture such as art, dance, folklore, language, literature, music, history, education or the environment, or a group or society. Last year, Manx musician, singer and broadcaster, John Kaneen, was awarded the title. Previous winners include Phil Kelly (Manx language), the Michael Players (dialect theatre), William Cain (wildlife and environment), Clare Kilgallon (music, song and dance), the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh (language and culture), Allan Skillan (field-walking and prehistory), and Maureen Costain Richards (Manx artistic heritage, particularly Manx crosses); the award embraces diverse aspects of Manx culture.

Nomination forms are available online on [www.culturevannin.im](http://www.culturevannin.im) or by emailing [enquiries@culturevannin.im](mailto:enquiries@culturevannin.im) – your nomination should assume that the reader knows nothing about the individual or group and should show how they have made an impact on the Island's culture. If they have been active in one or more areas, or have achieved something remarkable, make sure you detail this – all aspects are considered by the judges.

The winner of the award receives a donation of £500 and is invited to name a Manx cultural cause which will receive an additional donation of £500 from Culture Vannin.

Recipients are also entitled to use the letters RBV after their name.

It was Mona Douglas who championed Manannan as the patron of Manx culture, developing the original 'Mananan Trophy' together with Stephen Quayle. Later reincarnated as the RBV, the trophy was designed by the late Eric Austwick, and consists of the figure of Manannan standing on a piece of Poolvaash marble. Although the trophy is only held for a year, each recipient of the RBV is awarded a medal designed by Jenny Kissack and reproduced by Celtic Gold.

Full details of the award, downloadable nomination forms and rules are available on Culture Vannin's website – just follow links for RBV Cultural Award on the homepage: [www.culturevannin.im](http://www.culturevannin.im) or email [enquiries@culturevannin.im](mailto:enquiries@culturevannin.im) or phone 676169.

Like all friendly sea gods, Manannan takes care to listen to the people, so it's up to you to propose Manannan's Choice of the Year by the closing date and time of 12 noon on Friday 29 November 2019.





# Hop tu naa and Yn Mheillea in schools



During the last two weeks, over 500 school children have been learning about the Autumn customs of Hop tu Naa and the Yn Mheillea.

Chloe Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin and Jo Callister, Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum at DESC, have been on a cultural roadshow, teaching children the songs, stories, dances and folklore associated with these two unique Manx customs.

Schools have been offered these bespoke visits for the last five years, but this year in particular, Jo and Chloe were inundated with requests. Schools who were unable to receive a visit this year are still able to access the many resources on the Culture Vannin website, as are the public, and as a result of Jo and Chloe's roadshow, more Hop tu naa song resources have been added this week.

Chloe said:

"There has been a definite shift in attitudes and awareness of Hop tu naa amongst the schools visited and it's encouraging to see how proud the children are of their own unique traditions. We have noticed a steady increase in the number of children and teachers who already know Hop tu naa songs, and we were delighted this year to hear yet another different version from a child at St John's school: Hop tu Naa! Hop tu Naa! Jinny the Witch fell into the ditch, she found a penny and thought she was rich!"

Jo said:

"Through the Babban ny Mheillea story and dance, we were able to teach the children about the Mheillea (or Mhelliah), which is Manx Gaelic for harvest, in the context of modern times as many schools have links with the food banks and have their own harvest assemblies. We talked about the foods which are grown locally – including the moots! - and how we shouldn't take it for granted that we are able to shop for all kinds of foods from around the world at supermarkets today."

Due to the success of this roadshow Jo and Chloe have plans for future visits focusing on other less well known Manx calendar customs, and they are sure that these will be equally as successful.

To find out more about Hop tu naa and Yn Mheillea visit: [www.culturevannin.im/manx\\_year.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/manx_year.html)

And to watch some new videos of some of the less well known Hop tu naa songs:

Castletown Version: [youtu.be/YHvsbqLLI2A](https://youtu.be/YHvsbqLLI2A)

Ramsey Version: [youtu.be/5iwgnHc8lUI](https://youtu.be/5iwgnHc8lUI)

"My Mother's Gone Away": [youtu.be/wKNhnQ7tH3Q](https://youtu.be/wKNhnQ7tH3Q)

*So when children come to YOUR door on Hop tu Naa night, with their turnip lanterns, make sure you ask them to sing you a Hop tu Naa song!*



## MANX MUSIC WORKSHOP IN PEEL CATHEDRAL

On Monday 21st October, 84 Key Stage 2 children from 3 Primary Schools (Peel, St Johns, and Cronk Y Berry) visited the Cathedral in Peel for a workshop of Manx Music and Movement, led by Ruth Keggin-Gell.

Ruth's inspirational workshop took the children through the cycle of a day, starting with a sunrise pastiche to music composed by Robert Carswell titled *Irree ny Greiney*. The day progressed with a ride to market singing *Lhigey, Lhigey* which included the children singing in 2 parts and perfecting a clapping game. Predictably, the rain then came before turning to the *Little Red Bird*, who put in an appearance enabling the children to sing long beautiful sustained lines, and Ruth ended the session with Annie Kissack's gentle *S'feayr yn Oie*. The workshop contributed to each school's music literacy, movement, and with basic Manx which ties into the current curriculum, as well as giving children the experience of singing in the Cathedral. Ruth was ably supported on the piano by Dr Peter Litman (the Cathedral Organist) who also facilitated the workshop. The event was hosted by the St German's Cathedral Foundation for Music and the Arts and is among a number of events aimed to engage with Island's school children and Manx Culture.

*[Thanks to Dr Litman for the article]*



Wonderful to hear that primary school children from the Dhoon visited their neighbouring school in Laxey to share the Hop tu naa traditional dance and play them some Manx music!

Whether you are thinking about moving to the Island, in the process of relocating, considering visiting, a part of the Manx diaspora or are even a local - LOCATE ISLE OF MAN want to share with you the joys of Isle of Man Living!



<https://www.locate.im/>

Subscribe to their newsletter:

<https://locate.us19.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=84fbc3add417c0c96295a6fcb&id=2321e3f4f8>

## ARRANE SON MANNIN Competition for a new song in Manx

### Win a trip to Ireland and cash prize with your new song in Manx Gaelic!

The International Pan Celtic Festival will take place in Carlow, Ireland 14-19 April 2020, but before that, an original song in Manx Gaelic will be chosen to represent the Isle of Man. This heat will take place in Peel Masonic Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 11th of January 2020, so start penning a new ditty or translate your original song now! Cash prize of £300!!

#### RULES & INFO

- Your song can be rock, pop, folk, traditional - any type, as long as it's in Manx!
- Both lyrics and tune must be new and original, and not performed previously in a public competition
- Live group performance can include up to 6 people with no pre-recorded music or effects
- The adjudication is based on:
  - 30 marks – lyrics (English translation or transliteration required)
  - 30 marks – music
  - 40 marks – performance (which doesn't need to include the composer)

Judges will also be looking for good Manx pronunciation and phrasing in the performance.

Translation and pronunciation help is available, so don't be afraid of singing in Manx for the first time!

Contact Manx delegate, Fiona McArdle, for more info and entry form: [fmcardle@manx.net](mailto:fmcardle@manx.net)

**Deadline for entry form:** 1st December 2019

Deadline for song lyrics in Manx, English translation & music: 28th Dec 2019.

#### APPLICATION FORM:

[www.manxmusic.com/media/New%20Images%202019/2020%20Arrane%20son%20Mannin%20entry%20form.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/New%20Images%202019/2020%20Arrane%20son%20Mannin%20entry%20form.pdf)



**Mini Musicians** will be holding a free session teaching Manx songs for children at Henry Bloom Noble Library. Come and learn some fun action songs in Manx. Suitable for any age as long as you join in and have fun!

Parents must stay to supervise children.

Friday, 1 November 2019 2-3pm  
The Henry Bloom Noble Library  
8 Duke Street, IM1 2AY Douglas

## MANX DANCE CLASSES FOR EVERYONE

Starting on Wednesday November 6th  
6.00pm – 6.45pm  
at Bunscoil Rhumsaa Hall (Ree Gorree)  
for a 5 week session.  
Cost is £2 per adult or child.  
Reductions for families.

**LESH SHEE AS GRAIH**



**ST NINIANS CHURCH**  
**FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER**

*MAE CHALLIS*  
*JEFF JEPSON BAND*  
*TRUMAN FALLS*

**FROM 7.30PM**  
**TICKETS £10**

*ALL PROCEEDS GO TO [WWW.GRAIH.ORG.IM](http://WWW.GRAIH.ORG.IM)*

**CLASH**  
**VOOAR**

@ THE SECRET PIZZA CO.  
 FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER


**Manannan's**  
**Winterfest**  
 A Magical Manx Christmas!

**THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER 2019**

ARTS COUNCIL TICKETS: £20/£24 | CALL: 600555 | [VILLAGAIETY.COM](http://VILLAGAIETY.COM) Culture VANNIN

**“Paul and Annie”**

Special guests  
 Adrian Cowin / Peter Corkhill




*Peel Centenary Centre*  
*The Atholl Room Concerts*

Free entry  
 (donations gratefully received)  
**The Atholl Room and Bar**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – 8pm to 10.00pm**  
 Proceeds to procure occasional professional guests from UK etc.

**SAILORS SHELTER**

**Peel and Western**  
**Anti Cancer Association**

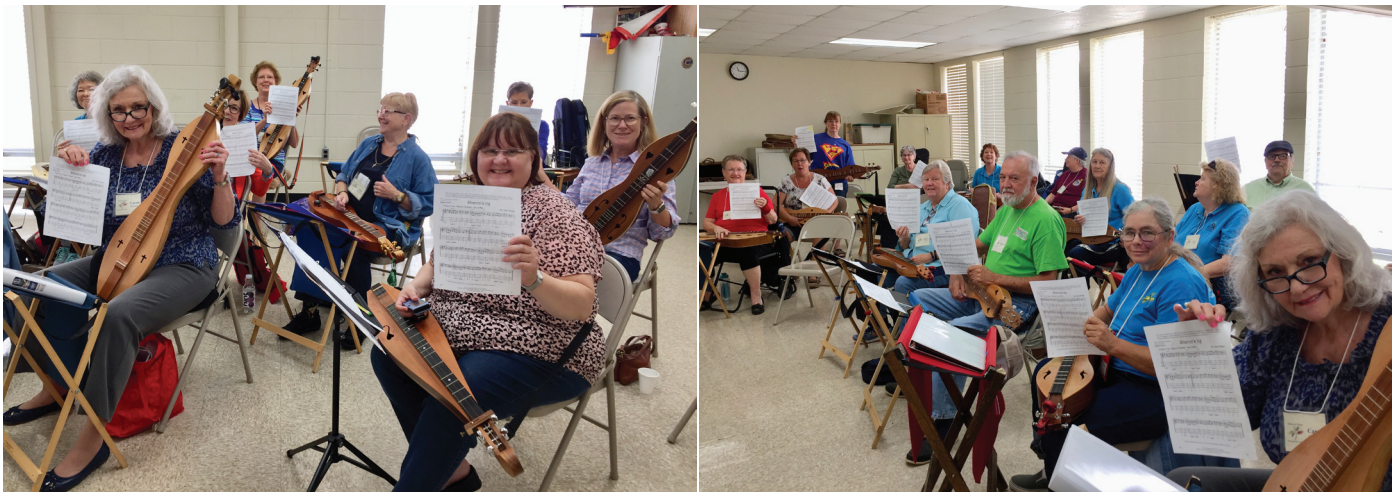
*“Shoh Slaynt” folk rock band*  
 -guest *Rob Middleton*



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
 8.00pm to 10.00pm.  
 Suggested donation **£5** for  
 Peel and Western Anti Cancer Association

Tea , coffee and sandwiches included.  
 Bring Your Own Bottle and glass.  
 (Also a cushion)

# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Carol Walker from New Jersey, USA taught about Manx music at a dulcimer festival in Alabama recently. Around 25 advanced dulcimer players attended the workshop, which met for three 75-minute sessions. You can see Carol at the back of the right hand photo wearing her Super-Manx t-shirt! Author of "Tailless Tunes" Carol told KMJ:

*We were working on my arrangement of Sharon Christian's jig at that point.*

*I was first invited to this festival back in 2014, when I gave just a one-hour overview of Manx music - I hadn't even written my second Manx book at that point - and they were so enthralled by the music that they requested a full round of workshops on the topic this year.*

*Day One started with laments, ballads, and lullabies, Day Two included jigs, reels, and work songs, and Day Three wrapped things up with songs about love and marriage, and some novelty songs.*

*I sold a lot of books and CDs to this group as well.*

*The festival is called Melodies & Musings - Our Appalachian Legacy, and is held every September in Guntersville, Alabama.*

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

Timothy Cummings from Vermont, USA, and his bandmate, Alex Kehler, performed Manx tune, Ny Kirree Fo Niaghtey at the Celtic Harmonies festival in Québec. They paired it with a happier sheep-themed slip jig from South Uist: 'Donald, Willie and his Dog'.

Timothy plays low whistle and Scottish smallpipes, and Alex plays nyckelharpa, and they were keen to offer something Manx at the festival; a genre Timothy says is not often heard across on their side of the pond.

<https://timothycummings.com/>

## White Boys safer sword lift!

This was English dance team Southern Star's first try at the "White Boys Dance" danced to the tune of "Oyster Girl".

Group leader Judith Proctor says it was experimental and not intended as an accurate version of the dance (nor tune), but they hope they did something close in spirit to the traditional ending of the Manx dance and made it a safer lift at the end. Watch here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmL7S10Rgk0&t=13s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmL7S10Rgk0&t=13s)

The humour felt appropriate for something that would have followed a mumming play!

**Youtube/ video corner**

- Dance for Three to Three Little
- Boats in Brazil:
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/B3H1g0lhShS/?igshid=1t4bnqhtqeo51>

# kiauli noa

## Call out to musicians with upcoming gigs and new releases

Manx Radio have a new show with Christy De Haven: The Saturday Live Lounge - every Saturday between 5pm and 7pm.

As well as great music and the weekly gig guide, Christy invites musical guests to chat or perform live in the studio and her playlist covers every kind of genre and era.

Christy would like to encourage local musicians to pop in to play a few songs ahead of their gig that same night / weekend and also find out about new 'Manx-made' music for potential airplay

If you'd like to be featured, send your mp3s or links via WeTransfer – Christy will try and tie live sessions and guest spots in with release dates. Contact [live@manxradio.com](mailto:live@manxradio.com)

Tune in every Saturday to hear the latest Manx-made music! [www.manxradio.com](http://www.manxradio.com)

## HOP TU NAA TALES..

Listen to a brand new, original Manx radio drama: Alex Duncan's "Whistle for Jinny" exclusive to Manx Radio, with musical soundtrack by Manx singer Ruth Keggin. Tune in... if you dare on Friday 1st November at 9pm. #manxradio

[www.manxradio.com/on-air/manx-features-pages/jinny/](http://www.manxradio.com/on-air/manx-features-pages/jinny/)



*Biskee Bright*

HOP-TU-NAA PARTY & 'THE FALL' SINGLE LAUNCH!  
COOIL BAR & VENUE  
8PM START  
NOVEMBER 1ST  
WITH SUPPORT FROM RHIANNON JADE  
£2 ENTRY

COOIL BAR & VENUE

## TRIP's brand new single 'The Sweetheart Reels' is OUT NOW

Manx fiddle player Isla Callister and her band Trip in Glasgow are excited to reveal their new single, The Sweetheart Reels!

Find out more here:

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

Meanwhile, Isla's big brother Tom Callister and bandmates, Adam Rhodes, David Kilgallon and Greg Barry from Manx/Celtic band MEC LIR performed at the Andra Mari Dantza Taldea festival in the Basque Country last week.



# MERA - A Short Documentary by Dark Avenue

On 4th April 2018, Manx harpist Mera Royle won the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award. This is her story.

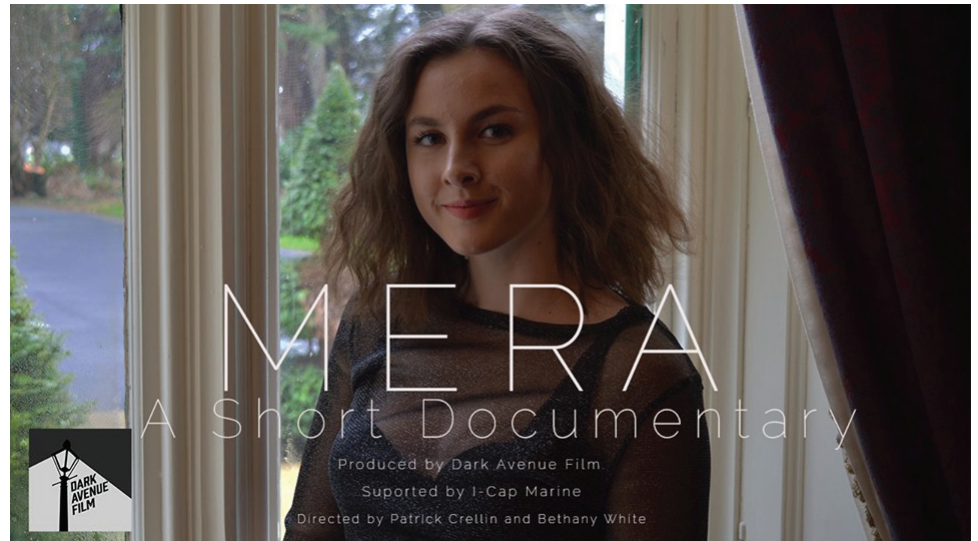
<https://youtu.be/kXzpfZE9fQA>

Manx musician Mera Royle started playing the harp when she was only nine. Another nine years later, she was collecting the Young Folk Award at BBC Radio 2's Folk Awards ceremony in Belfast.

This film explores Mera's journey with music, from playing the penny whistle as a child, to harp playing in young Manx folk band Scran, to winning the award and beyond.

Mera's music is part of the Manx folk and traditional music scenes which has grown significantly over the past decade. Hear from Dr Breesha Maddrell of Culture Vannin, an organisation with Manx culture at its heart, and Rachel Hair, Mera's harp teacher of eight years, about how Manx folk music has grown and the significance of Mera's contributions.

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



## ***New book - Sophia Morrison, Mona Douglas and Their Enchanted Isle***

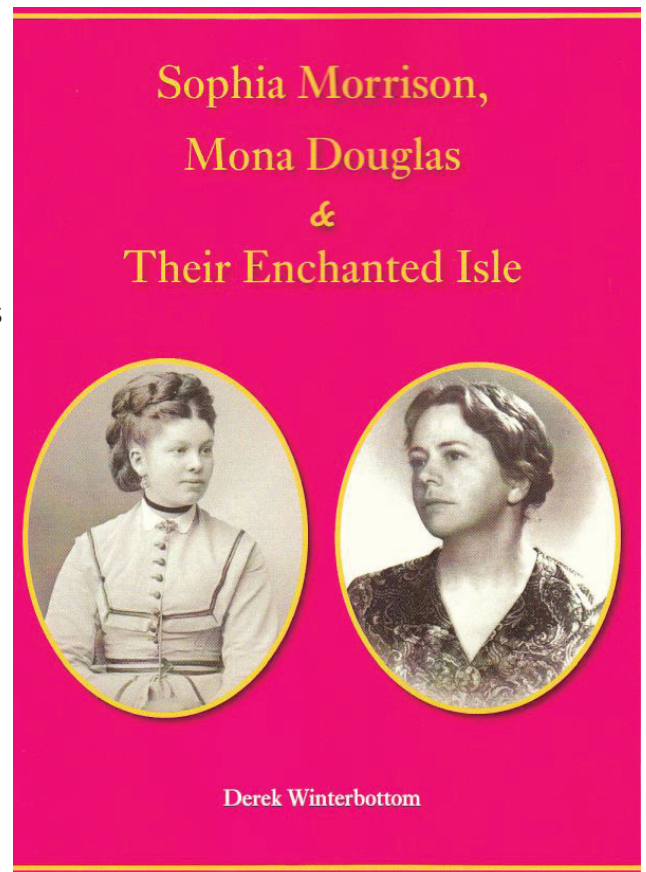
Author: Derek Winterbottom

Sophia Morrison and Mona Douglas devoted their lives to the preservation of the Manx Gaelic language and traditional Manx life, especially the Island's folklore. Sophia's Manx Fairy Tales is still a famous book while Mona Douglas was an outstanding poet from an early age and throughout her long life also made an impact as a prolific journalist, a novelist, a collector of folklore, folk music and folk dancing and a producer of pageants and plays and organiser of many Celtic congresses and festivals. She was also a lifelong buttress of the Manx language and flag-bearer for the Manx nation. On top of all of this she found time to be a hill farmer and to conduct a long romance with a handsome Italian former internee.

This book is a short biography of Sophia and a longer one of Mona, who it claims to be the most influential Manx woman of the twentieth century.

£12.50

*Available in the Culture Vannin shop and other Isle of Man bookshops*



# RESEARCH NEWS

## “JENNY THE WITCH” (1902 & 1903)

(1)

The 12th passed very quietly. “Hiring” at the fair is little thought of now, arrangements being made privately, particularly in the case of married men. The fearful rain completely quenched the ardour of the few—if any—who thought of going on the Hop-tu-naa. Still, many a grey head was shaken reflectively, and many a smile accompanied the memory of the day when, armed with a creel to receive the potatoes and herrings doled out by the kind hearted, boys sang from door to door of “Jenny the Witch,” and kindred subjects.

“[Arbory] The 12th passed ....” *Isle of Man Examiner* 15 November 1902: 8c.

(2)

Hollantide passed here almost unnoticed, and movements among cottagers have been few. In the villages an odd attempt or two was made to revive the ancient harmony regarding “Jenny the Witch,” but the hurried flight of the choristers from the doors they visited indicated that their efforts were not appreciated.

“[Arbory] Hollantide passed here ....” *Isle of Man Examiner* 14 November 1903: 7b.

These are the earliest references to “Jenny the Witch” at present and both as can be seen are from Arbory. Note, however, Hop-tu-Naa being celebrated on Hollantide and thereby on the 12 November (New Style).

Stephen Miller, 2019



“HOP-TU-NAA MEMORIES RECALLED AT BALLAUGH” (1946)

I was amused by the Hop-tu-Naa rhyme in last Friday’s “Examiner” which conjured up many pleasant memories. These old customs have died in the country districts, but I recall the time, over 50 years ago, when Hop-tu-Naa was an outstanding night in Ballaugh and district, and young men, as well as boys, indulged in the fun.

I recall one night when we were met by a man who was highly strung. He warned us to keep away from his home as “the gun was ready and plenty of powder and shot.” Being in high fettle, we were not the least alarmed and his door was our first target. Bang went the turnips and he gave chase shouting “I’ll shoot—I’ll knock the wind out of some of you....” Lucky we knew that his gun was a brush.

There was a couple who gave us great sport. The woman was in a furious temper and was shouting “I’ll tell the policeman—I know you all you vagabonds.” The door was open and bang—in went the turnips and rolled down the stairs. The man had a sense of humour and shouted—“Fire away boys, the mare’ll dale wi’ all the tarnips.” The village policeman was lying low that night—not a button was seen, but his door, too, was getting a few hangings.

There was also a terrible lot of hot air that night. I mean cussing as the doors were banging.

Hillside, Ballaugh.

DAVID CORLETT

David Corlett, “[Letter to the Editor] [Letter Box] Hop-tu-Naa Memories recalled at Ballaugh,” *Isle of Man Examiner*, 22 November 1946, 5c.

David Corlett in the 1901 census was 20 years old, a butcher, and living at Cronkould, Ballaugh, with his parents and siblings. No mention here in his account of either turnip lanterns or songs on the night.

Stephen Miller, 2019



“ROMPING’” ON HALLOWEEN”

(1873)

(1)

THOMAS RADCLIFFE *v.* MARY ANN MCGREGOR, ALFRED GOLDSMITH, MARGARET KENNAUGH, JAMES DUGDALE, and THOMAS QUAYLE.—Suit brought for unlawfully and wilfully damaging real and personal property, *viz.*, the walls, doors, and windows of a certain dwelling house belonging to complainant, in the village of Andreas, on the 11th of Nov. last contrary to the 6th clause of the 3rd section of the Summary Jurisdiction Act. Mr Cruickshank for plaintiff, and Mr LaMothe for defendants. This case appeared a very paltry one, and forcibly reminded us of Burn’s “Halloween”:

Some merry friendly countra folks,  
Together did convene,  
To turn their nits, an’ pon their stocks,  
An’ haud their Halloween;  
Fu’ blythe that night.

From what we could gather from the evidence (a host of witnesses) it appeared that the cottage belonged to Mr Thomas Radcliffe, of Ballaradcliffe, and that it was getting cleaned down and repaired preparatory to being occupied by Mr John Sayle, whose wife, Sarah, was inside at the time, when these young women, seeing a light in, struck the door; not with a cabbage head (as it should be, and always has been) but with a turnip, which caused great consternation and alarm to those inside. Mrs Sayle informed her husband (who had not been in at the time) of the circumstance, and whilst doing so another bang came on the door. Mr Sayle at once went in pursuit, and captured Mary Ann McGregor, who at once confessed to her guilt. John Sayle stated how he had got hold of the runaway, the terrible blow the door received, and that Alfred Goldsmith and Mary Kennaugh were in the company. Thomas Radcliffe, owner of the cottage, considered the door, &c, had been damaged, which concluded the plaintiffs case.—Mr LaMothe called Benjamin Radcliffe, who had been the last occupier of the cottage, and asked him if he had seen the door since he left. He replied that he had seen it to-day and examined it minutely, and he could not see any more damage than when he left it, except a crack in one of the panels, which might be a little longer, and that might be caused by it being hard to open and shut. The hinges and catch were bad. I don’t think it is a farthing less than when I left it.—Wm. Skinner was called, and said he was in the smithy yesterday, and John Sayle was there when he stated that the girls did no harm, but he thought they should not be allowed to go romping about, as they were so near the church and chapel.—We believe there were other witnesses, who were not examined.—Mr Cruickshank very ably reminded the Bench that a breach of the law had been committed. Mr LaMothe, on the other hand, contended that there was no damage done; and even it so it being an old custom, it no doubt could have been made up again without bringing it in this form.—Their Worships, after a brief consultation, *non press’d* as to defendant Quayle, and dismissed without costs as to Dugdale. The other defendants were fined one farthing and costs.

“[Ramsey and District] Magistrates’ Court: Saturday, Nov. 29, 1873.” *Mona’s Herald* 3 December 1873: 2f.

(2)

The time of the magistrates Colonel Thelluson and E.C. Farrant, Esq., was for a long period occupied in trying a suit brought by Thomas Radcliffe, of Andreas, against four or five young persons for throwing turnips instead of cabbages (which are the customary missiles on such occasions) against his house door on Halloween. Nothing nor anybody seem to have been injured, but complainant objected to girls “romping near a church or chapel,” and took this method of explaining the wickedness of such conduct. He did not, however, receive such assistance from the magistrates, who considered a farthing and costs a sufficient punishment for so grave an offence. It is positively shocking to hear that young people could be guilty of “romping” on Halloween, and we hope Mr Radcliffe will give a public lecture on the impropriety of such conduct. No doubt, the lecture would be well attended.

“[Ramsey and the North] Petty Sessions.” *Isle of Man Times* 13 December 1873: 5e.

“Romping’ on Halloween” were James Dugdale, Alfred Goldsmith, Margaret Kennaugh, Mary Ann McGregor, and Thomas Quayle and the object of their turnips was the door of John and Sarah Sayle’s cottage, owned by Thomas Radcliffe, of Ballaradcliffe. McGregor was not as able as the others it seems to make a speedy getaway and was caught by Sayle who appears also to have recognised Goldsmith and Kennaugh as being with her. The names of Dugdale and Quayle were later added as being party to the evening’s proceedings. In court, Radcliffe was less concerned about the damage to the door than to the impropriety—as he saw it—of “girls ‘romping near a church or chapel.’” The correspondents for the newspapers were more struck by the use of a turnip instead of a cabbage—“not with a cabbage head (as it should be, and always has been)” —than the “romping” about aspect of the case. This is not Hop-tu-Naa as the evening is now known—but “Thump the Door Night,” when cabbages were the weapon of choice and mischief the object.

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

A brand new song and a very old song to celebrate the Island's ancient festival, Hop tu naa (31st Oct).

Ny Buitchyn was written recently by a young singer, and basically warns you that when the witches come here, it's very, very spooky. But when they're not here, it's very good!

[\* Disclaimer: the Manx Gaelic may not be entirely correct]

The second song is verse one of the Gaelic dance tune. It is Hollantide Night, and the moon shines bright! Hop tu naa as trol-la-laa!

## Ny Buitchyn

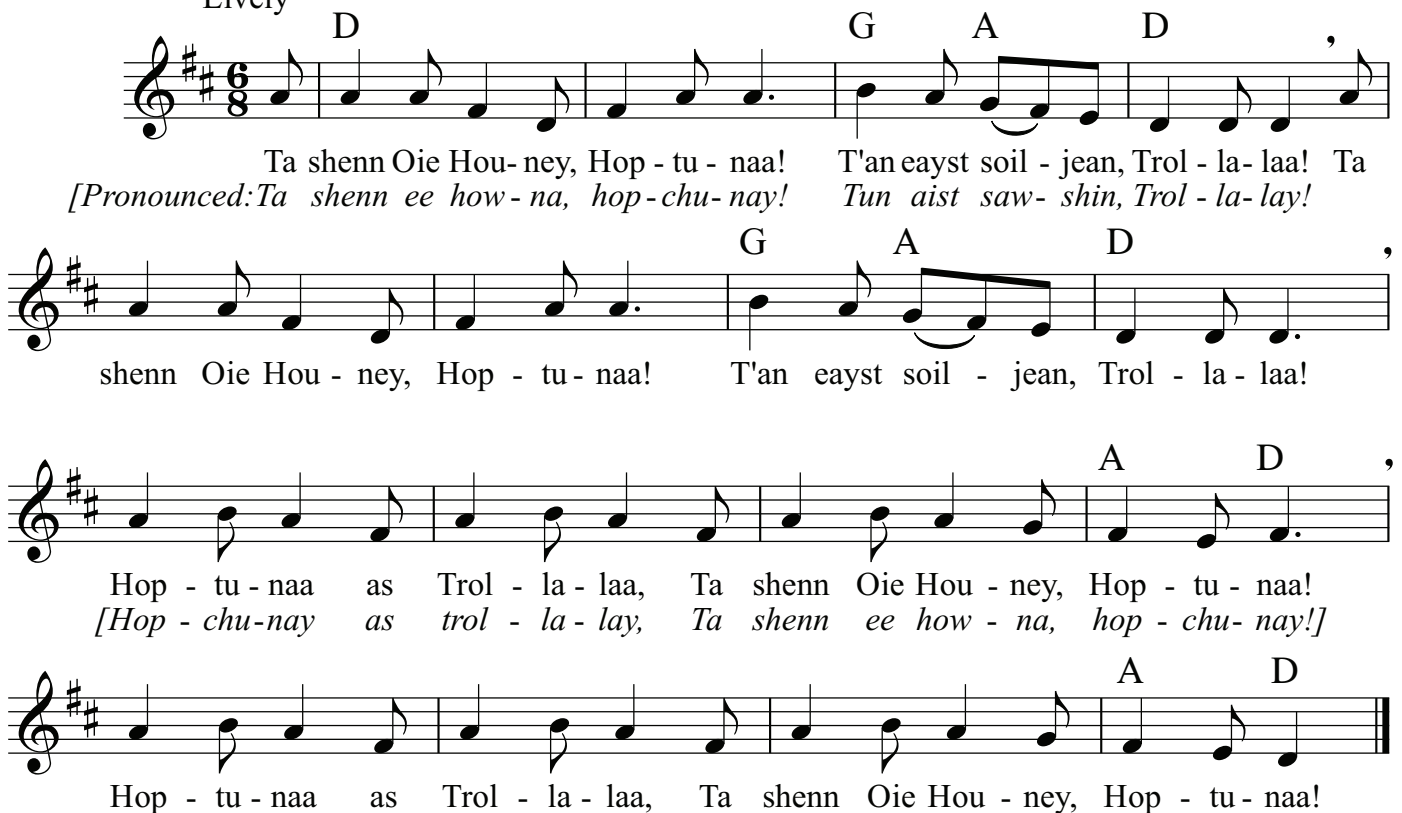
by Cristl Stitt



Musical notation for 'Ny Buitchyn' in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: Hop-tu-naa! Hop-tu-naa! Tra ta ny buitch-yn cheet ayns shoh, T'eh fe - er fe - er scaa-nagh. Agh tra cha - nel ad ayn t'eh fe - er vie.

## Hop tu Naa

Lively



Musical notation for 'Hop tu Naa' in 6/8 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single staff. Chords D, G, A, and D are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: Ta shenn Oie Hou-ney, Hop - tu - naa! T'an eayst soil - jean, Trol - la - laa! Ta [Pronounced: Ta shenn ee how - na, hop - chu - nay!] Tun aist saw - shin, Trol - la - lay! shenn Oie Hou - ney, Hop - tu - naa! T'an eayst soil - jean, Trol - la - laa! Hop - tu - naa as Trol - la - laa, Ta shenn Oie Hou - ney, Hop - tu - naa! [Hop - chu - nay as trol - la - lay, Ta shenn ee how - na, hop - chu - nay!] Hop - tu - naa as Trol - la - laa, Ta shenn Oie Hou - ney, Hop - tu - naa!

# CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

1st – 3rd Cooish Manx Language Festival

1st Mini Musicians Manx song workshop,  
Henry Bloom Noble Library, 2-3pm

1st Clash Vooar at The Secret Pizza,  
Castletown

1st Biskee Bristh single launch, Cool Bar,  
Ramsey, 8pm

2nd Yn Chruinnaght & Cooish Giense, Peel  
Sailing Club, 7.30pm Donations on door

6th Manx Dance classes in Ramsey start,  
6pm, Bunscoil Rhumsaa

8th Paul and Annie, Atholl Room, Peel  
Centenary Centre, 8pm

15th Shoh Slaynt, Sailors Shelter, 8pm

## DECEMBER

5th Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre,  
7.30pm

13th Lesh Shee as Graih concert, St Ninian's  
Church, 7.30pm

26th HUNT THE WREN!

## JANUARY

11th Arrane son Mannin, Peel Masonic Hall,  
free, 7.30pm



2020  
The International  
**Pan  
Celtic  
Festival**  
14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> April  
CEATHARLACH,  
CO. CARLOW, IRELAND  
[www.panceltic.ie](http://www.panceltic.ie)

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

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

~ SESSIONS ~

**TUES** 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas  
**WED** 8.30pm Session at O'Donnells, Douglas  
**THURS** 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey  
**FRI** 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey  
**FRI** Trad session at the Manor, Willaston  
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary  
Occasional **SAT** 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel  
Monthly **SUN** 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:  
Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Chloë Woolley**: [chloe@culturevannin.im](mailto:chloe@culturevannin.im)  
[www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)

**Call:** Chloë: 01624 694758  
**or write to:** 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