

# KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Mee Houney 2022 November

MANX MUSIC TODAY

## SIX INTER-CELTIC NATIONS 'BREEZED' INTO THE BIG BREE WORKSHOP WEEKEND!

Over 20 children enjoyed this year's Bree workshops in Manx music, song, dance and drama in St Johns last weekend (Sun 23 - Mon 24 October). Organised by Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, and tutored by fellow musicians and dancers Jo Callister, Caroline Helps, Paul Rogers, Greg Joughin, Mera Royle, Caitlin Bennett and student helper Hannah Hayhurst, this was the 16th annual Bree weekend.

There was an 'Inter-Celtic' theme this year, celebrating the Isle of Man (Mannin) and its relationship with the other Celtic nations; Scotland (Alba), Ireland (Éire), Wales Cymru), Brittany (Breizh) and Cornwall (Kernow); culminating in a showcase concert for family and friends.



The 12 strong dance team opened with the "Six Nations Dance". Featuring distinctive steps and movements from each Celtic country, this dance was choreographed by Manx dancer Grainne Joughin in 2018 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Cornish Celtic festival Lowender Peran, with music composed by her Welsh husband Jamie Smith.

Folk group *Dusty Strings & Whistles* took to the stage next with a beautiful slow arrangement of "Y Mheillea" (The Harvest); a Manx tune also known as the song "Bacach Buidhe Na Leige" (The Yellow Beggar of the League) in Ireland, played on harps, whistles, violins and guitars.

They were followed by *The Bree Singers* who performed the Manx/Hebridean song "Birlinn

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

- *Cooish Manx language & music events*
- *Review of the IOM Trad Music Weekend*
- *Breton variant of Car ny Rankee!*



Ghorree Chrovan", then "My Island, My Home". This song is an adaptation of a Cornish favourite often performed by shanty choirs called "Cornwall, My Home". The new Isle of Man themed lyrics had been composed by Keith Horne for the Peel-based choir, *Gobbag Groove*.

Some of the musicians then performed a new jig called "Bee-shiu er nyn dwoaie" (basically meaning 'beware!') which they'd composed over a 'Kiaull Cooyl' backing track created by David Kilgallon for a Culture Vannin 'Treisht' lockdown project. They were followed by a folk group called *Gaelg Aboo* who performed the Manx lullaby "Bee dty Host".

The songwriters then entertained everyone with "The Making of Mann"; a new song inspired by the story of a battle between two giants, where the Irish giant threw a clump of soil after the retreating Scottish giant, and the Isle of Man was formed when it fell into the middle of the Irish Sea!

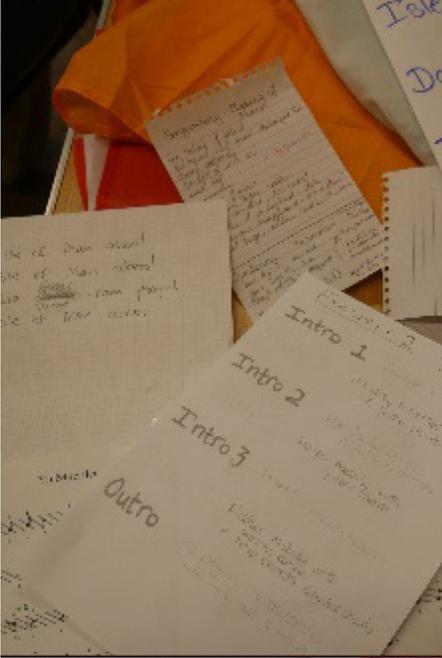
A nod to our Celtic cousins in Brittany came next, with the use of a Breton polka to accompany the Manx dance "Car ny Rankee". The un-named tune (see *KMJ transcription of the month*) is very similar to the Manx tune, so the Bree dance band made an arrangement using both versions and added a minor version too! A third folk group called *The Breegles* then took to the stage to play a set of variants of the Manx washing song; "Arrane ny Niece". In Ireland and Scotland, this melody is known as "The Eagle's Whistle" and "Gol Na MBan Ar - The Women's Lament in Battle".

The drama group then performed "A Celtic Extravaganza" - an alternative version of the ancient White Boys' Play, but instead starring the Celtic Saints; St Maughold (IOM), St Patrick (Ireland), St David (Wales), St Andrew (Scotland), St Piran (Cornwall) and St Corentin (Brittany)! Penned by Jo Callister, this amusing play was followed by the dancers performing the traditional "White Boys Dance" (tune: "Creg Willy Syl") but with a very impressive 12 sword star at the end! All of the Bree students and tutors then performed an adaptation of "The White Boys' Carol", but with the chorus: "And we wish you a merry Bree weekend, we're glad you here...!"

Chloë said: "This year's Bree weekend was fantastic - we had children from all over the Island and of various abilities taking part, and the audience of family and friends were amazed at how much they'd achieved in such a short time. It's great to watch the children be inspired by Manx culture, whilst having a good time and making new friends. And it was particularly special that some of our tutors had been Bree students themselves once upon a time".

Bree meet once a month for informal sessions and workshops, and is open to musicians aged 10 - 18. More info: [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)









# Dauunse Hop tu Naa

NEW! A Manx language instruction video on how to dance the "Hop tu Naa" dance!

<https://vimeo.com/760988502>

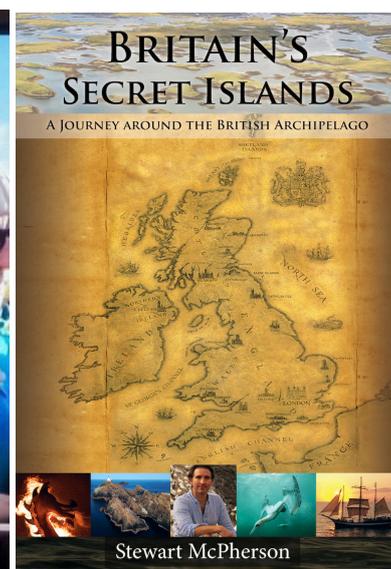
This short film is presented and created by the young speakers at the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh (October 2021). More information about the school is available here:

[www.bunscoilghaelgagh.sch.im/](http://www.bunscoilghaelgagh.sch.im/)

Hop tu Naa info here: [www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/hop-tu-naa-468995/](http://www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/hop-tu-naa-468995/)

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Join Perree Bane on Saturday 29th & Skeddan Jiarg on Sunday 30th October for some Hop tu Naa dancing at Cregneash: <https://tinyurl.com/2p89f2bm>



Moot lanterns and Hop tu naa dancing by Skeddan Jiarg at Cregneash last year featured recently on Sky History Channel's *Britain's Secret Islands*. (Chloë Woolley, Kirsty Lawrence & Russell Cowin were spotted by an eagle-eyed viewer in the UK!) Find out more or watch episode #1.3 again on Sky History Channel:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc2sjfv2>

*Britain's Secret Islands* is presented and produced by explorer Stewart MacPherson. More info and accompanying book: [www.redfernnaturalhistory.com](http://www.redfernnaturalhistory.com)

## New - Hop tu naa divination song!

Hop tu Naa offers the chance to find out what the future has in store for you. There are many ways to do this, but an old Scottish song has just been rediscovered that relates to one of our Manx customs...

*Secretly go out to the barn at midnight, making sure no one knows you're going. Twist one end of a ball of wool around your hand and throw the ball out as far as you can into the darkness. Wait a short while, then begin to wind in the wool. If the wool is held at the other end, call out; "Quoi ta cummal shoh?" ("Who is holding this?") You should hear back the name of your future spouse, but if no one answers, there's no hope of you ever getting married!*

This is a custom also known in Scotland, as are many Hop tu Naa divination customs. In 1950 a song was half-remembered and recorded from South Uist which concerns itself with this tradition.

The song, with its chorus of vocables, has just been translated from the Scottish Gaelic original into a new Manx version by Bob Carswell RBV:

Ill iù ill ò, Ill a ro ho, Ill a ro ho a, Ill iù ill ò

Quoi shid hoal er kione y choyrd aym? Ta mish, aeg-lagh y folt bwee ayn.

### ENGLISH TRANS:

Who is there at the end of my rope?

It is me, the fair-haired youth.

Ill iù ill ò, ill a ro ho,

Ill a ro ho a, ill iù ill ò.

Sad am I at this time of winter.

It is Hop tu Naa and I have no eggs.

Ill iù ill ò, ill a ro ho,

Ill a ro ho a, ill iù ill ò.

### MANX:

Quoi shid hoal er kione y choyrd aym?

Ta mish, aeglagh y folt bwee, ayn.

Ill iù ill ò, ill a ro ho,

Ill a ro ho a, ill iù ill ò.

S'trimshagh mish ayns traay gheuree,

Shenn Oie Houney, 's mish gyn oohyn.

Ill iù ill ò, ill a ro ho,

Ill a ro ho a, ill iù ill ò.

Listen to original Scottish Gaelic version, collected in 1950: [www.tobarandualchais.co.uk/track/26811?l=en](http://www.tobarandualchais.co.uk/track/26811?l=en)  
 Manx translation and musical notation: <https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/hop-tu-naa-468995/>

*Hop Tu Naa goings on....*

Thurs: hop tu naa quiz

Fri: Witch-crafts  
Peel fireworks

8pm Semi-Ballaghs

Sat: guitar-a-thon

Sun: 5pm ghost story-telling  
6pm session with Peter Crowe

FRIDAY

OPEN FROM NOON

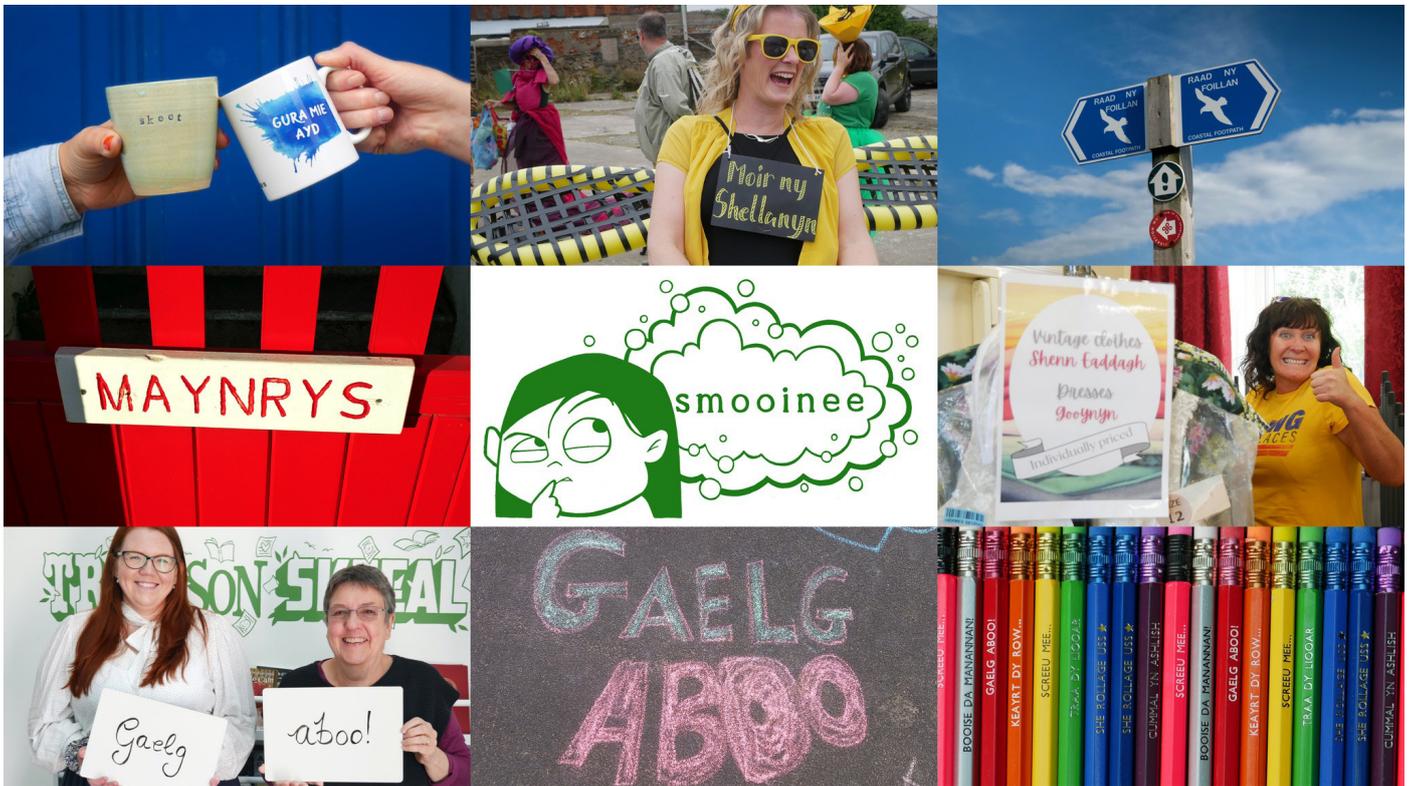
THE BLACK DOG DEN

1pm HOP TU NAA CRAFTS with Janice Moss

7pm PEEL BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

8pm-ish THE Ballaghs ACOUSTIC

Turnip carving and conker crafts all day



## Cooish - A Manx language festival for everyone

*Talks, walks, fairs, classes, songs and more...*

It doesn't matter whether you're a speaker, a learner or just a supporter of Manx - there will be something for you coming up at the Cooish at the start of November. Some of the things just announced include:

- An evening of musical brilliance, pulled from 25 years of songs from Mooinjer Veggey and the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh
- Guided walk in Manx around Ramsey
- 'From Peel to Fleshwick from the Sea' An illustrated talk in Manx on landmarks, history, fishing, marine life & more, by Adam Horne + Jo Callister
- Pop-up beginner lunchtime lessons
- 'Lunchtime Listens: Unlocking the Manx language Sound Archives' - event hosted by Nicola Tooms and Manx National Heritage
- An evening of fun games & competitions for Manx speakers of all ages to show off their skills – the Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh
- Craft fair, book & resources stalls, & meet the language heroes at the Cooish, Cappan as Croo event in Laxey
- Manx Christmas songs workshops >>
- Conversational groups and more!



**COOISH 25**



**FREE WORKSHOPS!**

**MANX GAELIC CHRISTMAS SONGS**

**SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2022:**

**11AM - 12PM - HOUSE OF MANANNAN, PEEL**  
(SUITABLE FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS)

**2PM - 3PM - CULTURE VANNIN, ST. JOHN'S**  
(SUITABLE FOR MORE CONFIDENT LEARNERS)

Join Ruth Keggan Gell, from Culture Vannin, for these friendly, fun, festive song workshops

Part of the Cooish Manx language festival 2022  
[www.learnmanx.com/cooish](http://www.learnmanx.com/cooish)



Booking essential:  
✉ [gaelg@culturevannin.im](mailto:gaelg@culturevannin.im) ☎ 694753

**Culture VANNIN**



All information (including access to booking where required) is available on the Learn Manx site:

[www.learnmanx.com/cooish](http://www.learnmanx.com/cooish)

Cooish is organised by Jeebin, the Manx Language Network, of which Culture Vannin is proud to be one of the members.

TAR GYS

# ARRANEYN CLOIEYN-KIAULLEE



NY

AS RO-SCOILLYN



HALLEY NY SAASILEE  
BALLEY KEEILL EOIN

7PM-9PM  
3RD NOV

WWW.LEARNMANX.COM/COOISH

## MANX SING-A-LONG NIGHT!

Wallow in nostalgia with this opportunity to relive twenty-five years of rhymes and songs from Mooinjer Veggey and the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh. Former and current pupils, parents and Gaelgeyrn can relive the inspired performances of shows gone by, and their first steps at nursery. Cup of tea anyone?

Hosted by Mooinjer Veggey and the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh.

Venue: Methodist Hall, St John's. No need to book - just come along!

Gow soylley jeh'n traa chaie reesht liorish geaishtagh rish ny draneyn as arraneyn croit ayns Mooinjer Veggey as y Vunscoil Ghaelgagh car ny queig bleaney as feed chaie. B'laik lesh peiagh erbee cappan dy hey?

Reaghit liorish Mooinjer Veggey as y Vunscoil Ghaelgagh.

Ynnyd: Halley ny Saasilee, Balley Keeill Eoin.

<https://tinyurl.com/7hpy47me>

Gura mie eu, Coosh, Learn Manx as Culture Vannin



## The 2023 Manx Music Festival / Guild syllabus is out!

Now available at:

DOUGLAS Wessex Garage, Villa Marina, Welcome Centre (Sea Terminal), Morrison's Photos, Newsbeat, Ballakermeen Stores, Howard's Convenience BALLASALLA Ballasalla Stores CASTLETOWN S&S Motors, Library PORT ST MARY Torden Stores PORT ERIN Bridge Bookshop, Erin News, Manton's, Library FOXDALE Foxdale Stores ST JOHN'S Culture Vannin PEEL Peel City News, IJ Mitchell's, Mannin Music KIRK MICHAEL Quayle's Stores SULBY Sulby Stores - Sulby Glen Hotel ANDREAS Andreas Stores RAMSEY Library, Bridge Bookshop ONCHAN EVF Garage / Corkill's... More to follow!

Yn Chruinnaght presents



# CRUINNAGHT VANNINAGH ASHOONAGH

PART OF COOISH 2022



JEHEINEY 4<sup>o</sup> MEE HOUNEY

FRIDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

19:00 HALLEY CORRIN, PURT NY HINSHEY

19:00 CORRIN HALL, PEEL



AN EVENING OF (VERY!) INFORMAL FUN  
MANX LANGUAGE COMPETITIONS INCLUDING  
MUSIC, SONG, DIALECT RECITATION, SPELLING  
BEE, JOKE TELLING & MORE...

**BYOB!** TEA, COFFEE & LIGHT BUFFET WILL BE SERVED  
IN THE INTERVAL.

ADMISSION £5 / £2 UNDER 14

Yn Chruinnaght presents



# CRUINNAGHT VANNINAGH ASHOONAGH



PART OF COOISH 2022

CLAARE / PROGRAMME

OPEN TO ALL: A PLATE OF YOUR BEST MANX BUFFET ITEMS (SWEET OR SAVOURY) - LOCAL PRODUCE TO BE USED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE -  
TO BE JUDGED AT 6.30PM AND SERVED AS REFRESHMENTS AT HALF TIME!!

UNDER 14: SPELLING BEE IN MANX - ANY OF THESE WORDS FROM 1000 WORDS IN MANX (NEW EDITION YELLOW COVER) 'BEE' PAGES 36-37, CONDAIGYSSYN PAGE 44-45, 'BEIYN-THIE' (BIGGINYN) PAGE 49, DAAGHYN PAGE 52, EARROONN PAGE 53.

ADULT / 14+: STUMP SPEECH - TALK FOR 2 MINUTES IN MANX ON A GIVEN TOPIC

UNDER 14: ANY SONG IN MANX GAELIC - UNACCOMPANIED

ADULT / 14+: SHORT SIGHT READING PASSAGE IN MANX  
~INTERVAL~

ALL: ANY MANX DIALECT POEM RECITATION

ADULTS/14+: ANY SONG IN MANX GAELIC - UNACCOMPANIED

ALL: ORIGINAL MANX JOKE CLASS - IN MANX GAELIC OR ON A MANX THEME (THE SPOTCH-O-METER WILL BE BACK!)

ALL: PERFORMANCE OF ANY ORIGINAL MANX GAELIC SONG, POEM OR (SHORT!) STORY

ALL LEVELS OF MANX SPEAKERS WELCOME! IT'S A FUN EVENING!  
MORE CLASSES MAY BE ADDED IF TIME PERMITS.  
DOORS OPEN 6.25PM SO YOU CAN DROP OFF YOUR BUFFET ITEMS.  
BYOB!! TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE AT HALF TIME



## Christine Collister & Friends



Centenary Centre Peel

8pm Saturday November 12th

Tickets £15

available online & Celtic Gold

FRI, 11 NOVEMBER 7.30 PM

BRIDE CHAPEL HALL



TICKETS £10 INC SUPPER

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM DILYS SOWREY OR CLAIRE QUAYLE

For updates & news on Manx music & dance,  
follow [www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance](https://www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance)

## WEEKEND FILLED WITH TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND CRAIC

Pubs around Douglas were filled with the sound of traditional music over the weekend as visitors and residents met to play together. The Isle of Man Traditional Music Weekend saw the musicians and their supporters - some of whom had come from as far afield as the United States - enjoy five days of sessions, workshops as well as a CD launch.

The weekend kicked off with a 'fringe' event at the Black Dog Oven, in Peel [pic >>] on Thursday before the weekend got officially under way the following night at The Manor and The Bridge. Saturday saw sessions at O'Donnells and Rover's Return as well as 1886, which was used for the first time this year to accommodate everyone.

A set dancing workshop led by Joe McGorin and a tune workshop by renowned fiddle player Eileen O'Brien, were held at Tower House, which was also

the venue for the launch of a CD celebrating the life and music of composer and accordion player Paddy O'Brien. The Prospect [pic below] was the venue for an afternoon and night of music on Sunday. And finally, a 'survivors' session' was held at Quids Inn, on Monday.

Noreen Lydon, a New York accordion player, attended the event for the first time with her sister. She said it had been a 'fantastic weekend' and said she had 'never been anywhere I've been treated so well'. Tom Hanson, who has been coming to the event for years, described the weekend as 'the best Isle of Man trad weekend ever'. Isle of Man fiddle player Katie Lawrence said it was the most sessions she had played in a long time - five sessions in five days, with some of the most accomplished musicians she has seen.

Katie said she particularly enjoyed playing with fiddle-playing aristocrat Benny McHugh, from Glasgow, who she described as being like a jukebox of tunes. Benny, a regular at the Isle of Man Trad weekend and visiting with his brothers and friends, is the son of the famous fiddle player, composer and collector of tunes Jimmy McHugh.

Organisers include Mary Molloy, Chris Woodrow and Susan Coyle. They thanked all the venues, The Welbeck Hotel where the visitors stayed, Culture Vannin, the Isle of Man Arts Council and Visit Isle of Man for their support.



They thanked the Manx dancers and musicians who went out and supported the workshop events and weekend sessions. And they thanked everyone who went along to listen and participate throughout the weekend, saying: 'Engaged audience support is essential to create the atmosphere for the success and fun of the weekend.'

Original article:

*Manx Independent*  
27/10/22

<< photo by Rog Peppe



## The Star of India musical

A new musical about an iron hulled sailing ship which was built in Ramsey in 1863 was premiered last month in St Paul's Church Hall in Ramsey.

The Star of India sailed from Britain, to India and New Zealand, before retiring in 1926. It was then restored as

a museum ship in the 1960s and it's now at the San Diego Maritime Museum.

The musical was written by Heather Ruffino, with over a dozen songs written by Marilyn Cannell, and Heather told Manx Radio that the planning began back in 2013:

<https://tinyurl.com/pyvzrjxk>

Performed by community theatre group, *Cloideryn*, the musical also starred Ramsey MHK and Minister for Enterprise, Dr Alex Allinson.

The musical was filmed, so look out for news of its release. Or contact Cloideryn via their Facebook page to order a copy of the DVD: [www.facebook.com/cloideryn](http://www.facebook.com/cloideryn)

Composer and piano accompanist: Marilyn Cannell >>

Article about the musical on the BBC Isle of Man website:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8vzv8n>



# Who will you nominate for this year's RBV cultural award?

It's time to think about who should be awarded the Isle of Man's top cultural award, the 'Reih Bleeaney Vanannan', known as the RBV for short.

Last year, Nigel Crowe was chosen for his outstanding contribution to Manx Studies in relation to genealogy, land records and historical landscape. But the award covers the broad sweep of Manx culture, represented by previous winners who include John Kaneen (music, collecting, and broadcasting), Phil Kelly (Manx language), the Michael Players (dialect theatre), William Cain (wildlife and environment), Clare Kilgallon (music, song and dance), the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh (language and culture), Allan Skillan (field-walking and prehistory), and Maureen Costain Richards (Manx artistic heritage, particularly Manx crosses).

The nomination process couldn't be easier – there's a simple form to fill in, but the main thing to do is to write about why an individual or a group should receive the honour.

The award recognises Manannan as patron of Manx culture, and comprises a trophy designed by Eric Austwick, a medal designed by Jenny Kissack, together with donations to the recipient and to a Manx cultural cause of their choosing. Nominations from the public are reviewed by a small group of judges from various Manx cultural organisations, with the winner usually announced in January as a Manx 'New Year's Honour'.

Nomination forms, rules and guidance notes are available <https://tinyurl.com/33p8jd6> – 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 in the past year or over their lifetime, make sure you detail this – all aspects are considered by the judges.

Nominations close at 12 noon on Thursday 1 December 2022.

Form: <https://tinyurl.com/33p8jd6>

*Who will be Manannan's Choice of the Year? Make your nomination and play your part in celebrating Manx culture.*

Pictured on the right is the original *Mananan Trophy* which was an award organised annually by Elllynyn ny Gael (the Arts of the Gaels), and presented to people who had made outstanding contributions to Manx and Celtic culture.

Designed by Eric Austwick, the trophy lists the winners from 1961-1978, which include Manx dancer Leighton Stowell, composer George Tootell and cultural icon Mona Douglas.

Made in 1972 by Eric Austwick, this award was the pre-cursor and inspiration for the *Reih Bleeaney Vanannan*, still awarded today.

It is on display now as part of Manx National Heritage's 100th anniversary exhibition.

Read all about the Mananan Trophy and its awardees here: <https://tinyurl.com/mpfmyrc>





Manannan's Winterfest returns to the Gaiety Theatre in a unique concert celebrating Manx Christmas traditions through a collaboration of the Island's finest exponents of classical, folk, brass and choral music, with a sprinkle of local humour and drama added to the mix!

The mighty sea-god Manannan invites you to get into the Manx festive spirit and join him for this very special evening of entertainment!

VIP Stalls include: Fynoderee & Tonic (or 2 soft drinks) served in the Matcham Suite pre-show or during the interval. Preferred seating at the front of the stalls.

Kindly sponsored by Fynoderee & Culture Vannin.

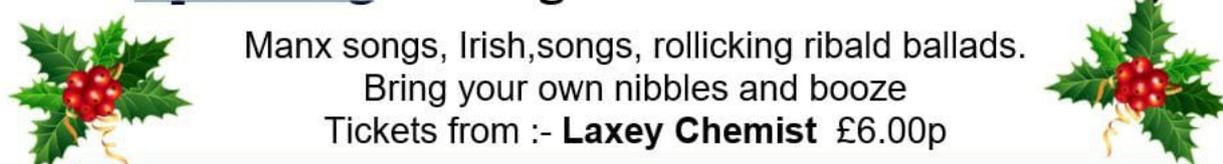
**7.30PM, FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER ~ Gaiety Theatre, Douglas**

Tickets: [www.villagaiety.com/whats-on/manannans-winterfest-5/](http://www.villagaiety.com/whats-on/manannans-winterfest-5/)  
[www.facebook.com/manannanswinterfest](https://www.facebook.com/manannanswinterfest)

VIP STALLS £27 ADULT STALLS £21 UNDER 16 STALLS £16 CIRCLE £25 BOX £100



**"A rip roaring evening of festive fun and frivolity"**



Manx songs, Irish, songs, rollicking ribald ballads.  
 Bring your own nibbles and booze  
 Tickets from :- **Laxey Chemist** £6.00p

**Laxey Working Men's Institute  
 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December starts 8.00pm**



*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*

In aid of the Isle of Man Foodbank

*Hunt* THE *Wren*

☚ SHELG YN DREAN ☚

St Stephen's Day - 26th December

Meet here  
?

www.culturevannin.im

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/>

Where, O Where will you be dancing?!

[www.manxmusic.com/event\\_detail\\_701678.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/event_detail_701678.html)

If you're thinking of starting your own Hunt the Wren celebration, let Culture Vannin know the details, and we'll help promote it!



Crossroads Charity are thrilled to announce our 2023 calendar, 'O Dear Little Isle of Man', and this year's Christmas cards are now available to purchase! 'O Dear Little Isle of Man' is a beautifully illustrated calendar for 2023 by Felicity Wood Designs depicting a collection of images inspired by Manx songs and music including 'She Moghrey Laa Boaldyn' and 'Ushtey Millish 'sy Garee'.

The image for this year's Christmas card is also a Felicity Wood design and features a lovely trio of mice in a Mollag Band. A Manx Christmastime tradition, Mollag Bands would roam the Island making 'a rare din' with their singing, dancing and loud homemade instruments!

This year, they have two sizes of calendar available to purchase; the usual A4 size which is £6, and a new larger square size (perfect for planning) which is £8. Each calendar comes sealed in a cellophane bag and includes an envelope. This year's Christmas cards are £4 and come in a pack of 10 with envelopes included.

The calendars and Christmas cards can be purchased from any of the Crossroads Charity Shops or our Main Office at Eden Business Park. Or you can contact Megan on [mfaragher@crossroadsiom.org](mailto:mfaragher@crossroadsiom.org) to place an order.

If you would like to check out more of Felicity's work then please visit her website [www.felicitywooddesigns.com](http://www.felicitywooddesigns.com).

You can access all of the KMJ Transcriptions from the first edition to the present day: [https://manxmusic.com/learn\\_page\\_467456.html](https://manxmusic.com/learn_page_467456.html)



## Christy D original songs

To mark the 10 year anniversary of *Girl Undone*, **Christy DeHaven** is uploading all the songs from her 2012 album as lyric videos to Youtube, one a week. You'll find the first, freshly loaded one here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObRHfpz\\_PGc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObRHfpz_PGc)

<< Album cover by Bruno Cavellec



John Barker had Daniel Quayle and Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe joined John Barker on The Folk Show last week (25 Oct) to talk about their new album, *The Coast Road*. Listen again:

[www.manxradio.com/radioplayer/od/items/the-folk-show-25th-october/](http://www.manxradio.com/radioplayer/od/items/the-folk-show-25th-october/)

## Posthumous album raises money for bereaved families **'Whispicity' by Cody Atzori features all original music**

Last year the Island lost a bright musical talent, when Cody Atzori died suddenly. Cody was a self-taught musician and he left behind hundreds of raw recordings. This year, on what would have been his 19th birthday, his family released an album of his original music. All proceeds from the album have been donated to Compassionate Friends, a charity based in the UK that helps bereaved parents and siblings. Manx Radio article: <https://tinyurl.com/2httrc2s>

Listen to Cody's music: <https://codyatzori.bandcamp.com/album/whispicity>

Otherworld - Poetry film by Janet Lees set to music and lyrics by Cody:

<https://youtu.be/lly3MfaLzVI>

## Youtube corner

Watch part of a *Christine Collister & Friends* concert held earlier this year at the Erin Arts Centre.

The set includes Manx song "Ellan Vannin".

Folk singer Christine's next gig is Saturday November 12th at Peel Centenary Centre, IOM

[https://youtu.be/E\\_ZikR8O18w](https://youtu.be/E_ZikR8O18w)

<https://www.christinecollister.com/>

## MONA SINGS

Annie Kissack has published her debut collection of poetry, *Mona Sings*.

The title poem refers to the Manx folklorist and music and dance collector Mona Douglas, who was a huge influence on Annie Kissack's life and work.

Former teacher at the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, Annie is a fluent Manx speaker, the fifth Manx Bard, President of Yn Chruinnaght, a singer, musician, composer and the conductor of Gaelic choir Caarjyn Coidjagh!

This new collection of Manx poems (in English and Manx) is available from the Bridge Bookshop for £7.99.

Some of the themes covered include Manx calendar customs (such as Hop tu naa and Hunt the Wren), a personal folklore story from within the Kissack family, and the traditional Manx folklore figure of the Glashtin.

Listen to Annie recite some of her poems here: <https://tinyurl.com/hd23sfsm>



Musician and artist, Bruno Cavellec AKA Mablanig has released his debut EP, *The Calling*.

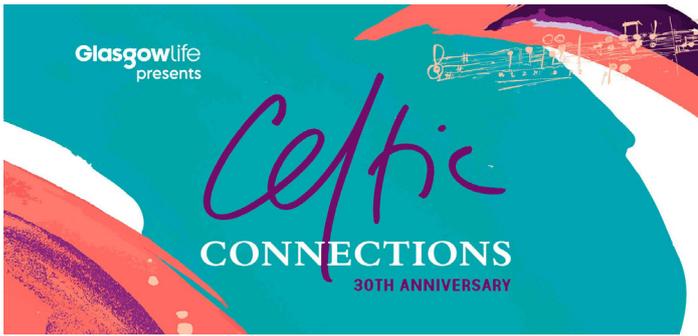
Have a listen here:

[https://open.spotify.com/artist/4GP8WkiZxc5ENcSSyAjUWo?si=hHEqyAuMRku\\_gCLmxQA-Zg](https://open.spotify.com/artist/4GP8WkiZxc5ENcSSyAjUWo?si=hHEqyAuMRku_gCLmxQA-Zg)

'Have I seen you Before?' has a music video made by Tom Mulchinock:

<https://youtu.be/zzFunqIAi8g>

# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Manx/Scottish band Mec Lir are playing a double header with the Peatbog Faeries on Friday 3rd Feb in the Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow! Mec Lir musicians Tom Callister & Adam Rhodes will also appear in Celtic Odyssee which was premiered at this year's Festival Interceltique de Lorient. Isla Callister and her band TRIP will be part of Celtic Connections 30th Anniversary Gala Concert and will also be joining Scottish

dancers for 'Moving Cloud'. Mec Lir will be on the bill with the Peatbog Faeries at the Fruitmarket. Tickets now on sale: <https://celticconnections.com/>

## The Phoenix Irish Folk Band

After their singer Rory Dunne enquired with Culture Vannin about including some Manx songs in their repertoire, Copenhagen-based Phoenix Folk Band have added Stuart Slack's song "The Foxdale Miner" to their set-list:

<https://fb.watch/goPV64OYyz/>



## Y Vunscoil Ghaelgagh ayns Nerin!

Students from the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh acted as mini ambassadors for the Island last month when they visited the Gaeltacht area in Ennis, County Clare where they linked up with an Irish speaking school, Gaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosóg. During their trip, they performed some Manx dances and songs, and taught their new friends some Manx dances!

Watch the class perform Y Mheillea:

<https://fb.watch/gqgSMU7ugE/>

And the Girls' Jig: <https://fb.watch/gqgRGGeC6c/>

## THE MANX AT LOWENDER PERAN

Manx dance group, Ny Manninee, are representing the Island this weekend (26 - 30th Oct) at Cornwall's music and dance festival, Lowender Peran in Redruth.



[www.lowenderperan.co.uk](http://www.lowenderperan.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/lowenderperan](https://www.facebook.com/lowenderperan)



## The Manxman - silent movie

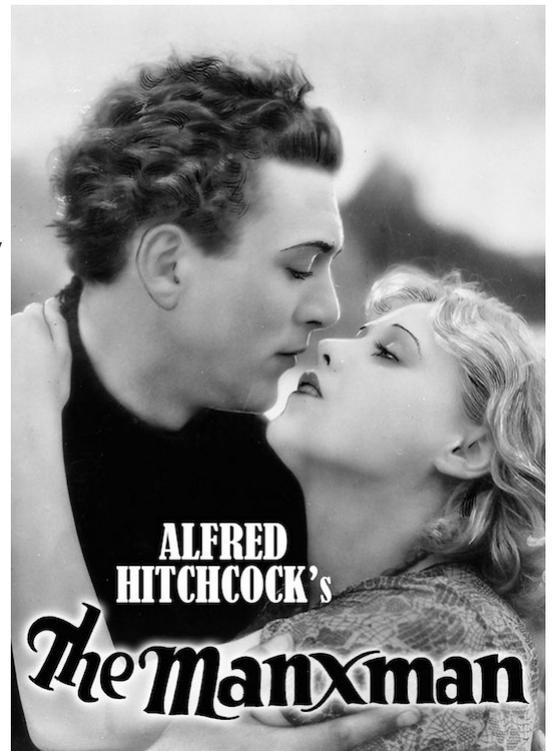
Alfred Hitchcox's 1929 silent film adaptation of Sir Hall Caine's book *The Manxman* was shown with a live orchestral accompaniment at the world's leading international silent-film festival, **Le Giornate del Cinema Muto** in Pordenone, Italy last month, with original score by Stephen Horne:

[www.giornatedelcinemamuto.it/en/the-manxman/](http://www.giornatedelcinemamuto.it/en/the-manxman/)  
<http://stephenhorne.co.uk/>

Hall Caine's story of *The Manxman* was set on the Isle of Man, but the movie was actually filmed in Cornwall!

When the original Hitchcock film was restored by the British Film Institute in 2012, Stephen Horne was commissioned to write a new score for quintet (piano, fiddle, viola, oboe percussion and folk harp).

Stephen consulted Culture Vannin at that time on how to incorporate elements of the traditional music of the Island, and so the listener may recognise echoes of old hymns and dance tunes. It was premiered at the London Film Festival in 2012 and Stephen then performed it as soloist on piano, flute and accordion at the Erin Arts Centre, Isle of Man in 2014. And now in 2022 it has been performed with a full orchestra in Italy.



"Stephen Horne's newly expanded score, from quintet to chamber orchestra, sees his original, already inspired, vision fully realised. This time around, it was commissioned for the closing night gala screening of the 2022 Pordenone Silent Film Festival, and performed again for the general public the following day. His original score "had some improvisation, because it's more free when [I'm] leading from the piano... but was about 70% composed." To bring it up to 100%, he wrote additional music and interpolated excerpts of traditional Manx folk tunes. It was then orchestrated and conducted by Ben Palmer, and performed by Orchestra San Marco with British soloists Louise Hayter and Jeff Moore."\*

Listen to Stephen Horne talk about the score: <https://youtu.be/zFHtvAmv1kl>

Conductor and orchestrator Ben Palmer discusses his role: [https://youtu.be/ZI\\_s5JBZLvc](https://youtu.be/ZI_s5JBZLvc)

A reviewer wrote: *As I exited the final screening, Mark Fuller (Penfold on NitrateVille) said of this Hitchcock film, one of the last of his silents I had not seen, "That's the score this film has been waiting for." Indeed, it was a masterful piece written by Stephen Horne and played by the Orchestra San Marco, bits of Celtic color but, as the story grows grimmer and more intense, matching it every step of the way.*

\* Taken from A Collectors' guide to *The Manxman*:

<https://www.brentonfilm.com/alfred-hitchcock-collectors-guide-the-manxman-1929>

The reviewer also refers to the Festival Interceltique de Lorient 2015 showing which featured Manx singer and whistle player, Cairistiona Dougherty alongside Breton traditional musicians:

<https://youtu.be/8iDArmUbrQk>

# RESEARCH NEWS



## MUSEUM 100

Celebrating 100 years of the Manx Museum



manxnationalheritage.im  
Registered charity 603

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.

\*\*

You can also take a look at some of the wonderful images added to the [www.imuseum.im](http://www.imuseum.im) #MM100\*

<< Nuggets in the archives include this poster of a Manx Language Service which took place in St Barnabas, Douglas in 1941. It reads:

*Preacher Rev C A Cannon, Vicar of Michael 'assisted by many from all parts. A student choir will lead in old Manx favourites. Collection in aid of the Language Movement. Organised by the Manx Society.'*

Graphics and production by E. Freeman, Poster Writer, John St, Douglas.

Annotated in ink '1941' on poster by William Cubbon (Librarian).

## "How do you say 'Hop tu Naa'?"

It might seem simple today, but 120+ years ago it was probably said very differently all over the Island...

Before 1900 you can see 'Hop tu Naa' being written in various ways, suggesting different pronunciations:

- Hop-th-nay [1844 'Manx Liberal']
- Hop-dy-naw [1845 Joseph Train, 'An Historical and Statistical Account of the Isle of Man']
- Hog-unnaa [1866 John Kelly, 'Manks Dictionary']

These could be showing a change over time, or they could show regional differences in pronunciation. We can test this possibility by looking at an article from Karl Roeder in 1897, where he gives versions of the song from different places around the Island:

### **Ballaugh:**

Noght oie houney, Hoptunaa

### **Ramsey:**

Hop-tu-na, this is old Hollantide night

### **Glen Meay:**

I went to the rock, trollalla.

The rock gave me cold, Hopdynay

### **Surby:**

Noght oie Houney, Hopd yn ay!

### **Port Erin:**

Kellagh ny giark, chibber ny gauin, Hopd yn ay!

### **Meayll:**

Noght oie Hauiney, Hopd yn ay!

Are there regional variations shown in here...?

This is only a very small sample, so we should be wary of drawing any hard conclusions.

However, it is probably important to open up the possibility of the word being said differently around the Island, just as the song varies all over the Island. 100+ years ago, when there were distinctive regional accents, this would almost have been expected. [From Culture Vannin Facebook]

For more about Hop tu Naa: <https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/hop-tu-naa-468995/>



## Celtic Students Conference 2023

The Association of Celtic Students (formerly: of Ireland and Britain) will be holding its tenth annual conference from the **30th March to the 1st April 2023**. We welcome presentations in English and in any of the Celtic languages.

We accept papers from current students and recent graduates on any aspect of Celtic Studies, as well as any topic associated with any of the Celtic languages, peoples, literatures, histories, and/or cultures. Conference papers should be between 15-20 minutes in length.

Abstract submissions of no more than 200 words should be submitted below by **1st November 2022**:  
<https://linktr.ee/celticstudentsconference>

For more information, please contact us at [celticstudents.conference@gmail.com](mailto:celticstudents.conference@gmail.com).



@CelticStudents  

Article about Hop tu naa on the **History Channel**:

[www.history.co.uk/articles/hop-tu-naa-the-celtic-festival-celebrated-every-halloween-on-the-isle-of-man](http://www.history.co.uk/articles/hop-tu-naa-the-celtic-festival-celebrated-every-halloween-on-the-isle-of-man)

## Archie Cuckoo, 'Fiddler of Fiddlers'.

by Maurice Powell

This article was prompted by the news that a violin, thought to have belonged to Archie Cuckoo, one of the most colourful street musicians in Douglas during the mid-nineteenth century, may be returning to the Island to find a home in the Manx Museum.

Next to nothing is known about the life of Archie Cuckoo, real name Archibald Collins, the son of 'Collins the bruiser', except through brief references to him in the local newspapers and scant few official documents. These glimpses into his life reveal that he was a 'well-known character in the history of Douglas', and a street fiddler renowned for his 'magic touch on the violin (which) cheered the heart and exercised the legs of many a swain alike, in country hamlet and in town tavern in bygone days'. It was said that even Paganini could not have made the fiddle speak like Archie Cuckoo.

He was born in Ireland around 1817, and in February 1843 married Catherine McBray, also from Ireland. The 1851 Census reveals that Archie and Catherine and a daughter Mary Anne were living at number 5 Water Lane, Douglas, one of the 'slumming parts of Douglas . . . with their utter want of sanitary methods', according to J. A. Brown, and nearby 'Little Ireland' which was known locally as 'Little Hell'.\*

\* See Douglas Nearly 100 Years Ago, Ellan Vannin Vol 1, number 2, June 1924.

The 1861 Census reveals that he was living in James Street, near Lord Street, with his wife and daughter Mary Anne and two further daughters and three sons, together with a Charles Collins (presumably a relative), described as an agricultural worker, together with his wife, son and three daughters.

A self-taught musician, 'not deeply skilled in the mysteries of music', he earned the nickname 'Cuckoo' because of the prowess he displayed in playing The Cuckoo Galop.\* When the young boys called out 'Cuckoo, Cuckoo!' 'Archie would pop his fiddle to his shoulder and give a scratch or two leading some to imagine he could even make his violin swear'.

\* Possibly The Cuckoo or May Day Galop by Josef Gung'l, the Austrian composer of waltzes, polkas etc.

Other well-known fiddlers in Douglas included Tommy Cringle, Neddy Bell, and 'Old Murphey' who was described as 'an apt reader of notes' whose 'violent physical contortions' contrasted wildly with 'the sweet sounds which he discoursed on the violin'.\*

\* Mona's Herald, 09.12.1863

### The Christmas Callers

There is a reference to Archie Cuckoo as a member of the Choral Society Band along with other fiddlers 'of great power' including (Old) Murphey and Tommy Cringle, known as Nichol or and possibly Tommy the Wad, one of the 'old fiddlers at Christmas time', 'who perambulated the town after midnight' to announce the approach of the festive season with their traditional greeting:

*Good morning, Mr So-and so, good morning, Mrs So-and-so, and all the rest of your family, just gone half-past two o'clock on a fine, frosty morning.*

in December 1898\* the Ramsey Weekly News recalled the Christmas 'Fiddlers' or 'Callers' in an article entitled 'A reminiscence of Fifty Years Ago: a description of an old Manx custom'. According to the article groups of musicians would go 'night marauding' (collecting money or begging) in the streets from the end of November until Christmas Day, with a 'few twinges on the fiddle as proof of their bona-fides'.

\* Ramsey Weekly News, 31.12.1898

On one occasion the 'callers' rudely roused from his slumbers the 'Manx Burns', John Gell, who penned the following rebuke in verse:

*Cease, catgut scraper, cease your trade, my ears no longer tickle; for the Devil he once a fiddler made, and called him Tommy Nichol.\**

The musicians would congregate at the old quayside customs hut - near the present-day Swing

Bridge – before setting out on their perambulations, and ‘sample’ the rum and whiskey being examined for alcoholic strength by the customs officers there.\*\*

\* See ‘Old Douglas’ in the Mona’s Herald, 29.01.1930, and ‘Christmas 70 years Ago: The Fiddlers’ in the Mona’s Herald, 24.12.1935.

\*\* Mona’s Herald, 29.07.1896.

The Manx Sun of December 1845 contains a report of the event known as the ‘Liberation of the would-be Martyr’ from the ‘dismal dungeons of Castle Rushen’, and the Grand National March which followed. Archie Cuckoo joined the ‘Tag-rag’ crowds after they departed the George Hotel and passed a field at Ballaughton where they disturbed some quietly grazing ‘porkers’.\*

\* A lengthy description of this strange old custom – the ‘Martyr’s Liberation Farce’ - may be found in the Manx Sun, 20.12.1845.

Archie Cuckoo, ‘the widely-celebrated, exquisite and graceful fiddler’, died in 1863 in conditions amounting to squalor – ‘with neither fire, nor candle, nor bread, nor food of any description’ – possibly in Old Post Office Lane or James Street; he may even have been living to an extent ‘off the grid’, and it is likely that drink had much to do with his death. His wife died the following year, virtually destitute and in wretched circumstances, after a long period of ill-health in which excessive drinking played a part.\*

\* Mona’s Herald, 09.12.1863; Mona’s Herald, 23.11.1864.

## Epilogue

Archie Cuckoo was remembered affectionately long after his death, because he was often represented as a stock character in local entertainments. ‘Oul’ Archie Cuckoo was recalled in August 1897 when ‘Old Tommy Kinrade’ representing ‘the Castletown Fiddler’, led a bridal procession ‘down to the tumultuous and happy mob beg’ at a Ramsey Cricket Club concert,\* and again in September 1898 in a report of a concert given by the parishioners of St. Paul’s Church, Ramsey, in the Ramsey Pavilion, when Kinrade once again assumed the role of ‘the indispensable fiddler’ Archie Cuckoo, and led ‘a score of young damsels’, in a jolly country dance.

\* Ramsey Weekly News, 28.08.1897 and 03.09.1898.

A letter in Anglo-Manx dialect to the editor of the Examiner in January 1898, being a review of the Manx concert in Douglas, was signed ‘ARCHIE CUCKOO’, and was possibly from the Manx National Poet by T. E. Brown.\*

\* Isle of Man Examiner, 08.01.1898; see also A rare Manx concert, Maurice Powell, manxmusic.com.

At the Juvenile Fete of the Church Band of Hope in Kirk Michael in February 1903, one master J. Halsall portrayed him in a performance of an ‘original operetta’ based on The Manx Wedding from Manx National Songs\* arranged by Mr Ambrose Kelly of Peel, and at the Carnival, Gymkhana and Sale of Work in the grounds of Whitehouse in the same village in August 1905, when the same entertainment was performed and Mr Ambrose Kelly himself took the role of ‘the Castletown Fiddler’. In August 1907, a Mr R. Miller played ‘a merry air’ as ‘oul’ Archie Cuckoo’ at a Manx Concert in Ramsey, and the following year, a dance named after him was performed at the end of season Mhelliah at the Derby Castle.

\* A line in The Manx Wedding goes: ‘Karran the Cornet just come from Malew and the Castletown Fiddler old Archie Cuckoo’. ‘Karran the Cornet’ was a retired military bandsman from Castletown who trained the Ballabeg Band.

In November 1911\* Archie Cuckoo was named as one of the ‘guests’ at an evocation of a Manx wedding of from a hundred years earlier along with ‘Karran the Cornet’, ‘Phillie the Desert’, ‘Tommy the Mate’ and ‘Mrs Cregeen’, which was by all accounts ‘excruciatingly funny’.

\* Isle of Man Examiner, 18.11.1911

Archie Cuckoo was last mentioned in the local newspapers in the Ramsey Courier in June 1936 when a Mr J. Fick portrayed him at a ‘Rale Manx Tae Party’ given by the Liverpool Manx Society which concluded with The Manx Wedding.

**Ramsey, May 2022.**

“(YOU’LL UNDERSTAND WHICH PART ARNOLD HAS DICTATED)”  
ARNOLD AND ROBERTA FOSTER WRITE TO MONA DOUGLAS (1930)

*Headed notepaper:*

2, Grove Hill Road, | Denmark Hill, | London. S.E.5.

28.12.30.

My dear Mona,

How very nice of you to send me that Christmas present. You really should not have spent your money, Nevertheless, thanks very much indeed. The tin is very useful. I shall keep coffee in it (not the dandelion variety). I think it is a charming gift and was a lovely surprise.

We are very disappointed not to see you this Christmas or at any rate your Dad. I do wish you could have managed it.

They have decided today to perform one or two movements from Arnold’s suite for strings on English Folk Airs and he is to conduct it at the two performances at the Albert Hall. Rather nice, isn’t it?

I hope you are getting time for writing and have finished the volume of short stories. I am sure you ought to find a market for them as the two you read to us were so very good.

Trusting you are all keeping well and with much love and many thanks again for your present,

Bobbie.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Arnold says “Stainer & Bell asked me to listen in a week last Saturday to “Folk Songs of the Manx introduced and arranged by Dr. James Lyon” with a quartet of soloists illustrating. We listened in and, without saying anything definite he conveyed the impression he had wandered round the Island collecting folk tunes. He acknowledged the work of Gill and Moore and the illustrations he gave were “Love’s Flight” Gill collection, “Sooree” with a translation or rather a rendering into English by Cushag. “Drima Duddle,” “Drog Veraane,” “Mylecharane” and “Sheep under the Snow” sung by solo voice with piano and S.A.T.B. unaccompanied chorus. I did not recognise the version of the words but it was the version of the sharpened 7th of the tune. The most comic thing he said was “I omitted to say that the original words of these old Manx tunes are untranslatable” He finished up by giving “Manin Veen”, R.V.W. arrgt. “Marry Me Mary Veen” Dr. Lyon’s arrgt. (distortion) and the “Ploughman’s Song” from Gill.

Can’t you get somebody to write up to the B.B.C. paper “The Listener” contradicting the statement quoted above and pointing out that “Mary me Mary Veen” is a complete distortion of “Berrey Dhone”? Also point out what we have done together. Someone surely ought to try and arrange with the B.B.C. for you to talk on the songs and Ada Mylchareest to sing the songs in Manx and perhaps the B.B.C. singers do the unaccompanied arrangements.”

(You’ll understand which part Arnold has dictated).

\*

Mona Douglas (1898–1987) needs no introduction here, but Arnold Foster (1898–1963) is a lesser-known figure to many, a name that appears in connection with her published collections of folk song and dance, where he was responsible for their arrangements. Her personal papers are extensive and whilst now deposited in the Manx National Heritage Library they represent only a small part of what once she had in her hands. Whilst she lived in the same place for most of her adult life, there was considerable discarding of correspondence and manuscripts and such like along the way. That said, the one correspondent whose letters are there in number is Arnold Foster, along with Roberta (“Bobbie”), his partner. The first letter is from 1927, and the last piece is a Christmas card from Roberta to Mona in 1985, wishing her all the best for the coming year of 1986. This letter, reproduced as in the original with obvious typos left to stand, with its acknowledgment of a Christmas present, and wishes for the coming New Year, shows the warmth of the friendship between the three of them. The surviving correspondence is an extensive one and calls for further study. Like most, it is one-sided, as there are no copy letters from Douglas. The letters can be found in Box 21 of the Mona Douglas Papers, MNHL, MS 09545.

STEPHEN MILLER, RBV

**FURTHER READING:** “MANX FOLKLORE ON THE WIRELESS. DR JAMES LYON BROADCASTS” (1930)

2014 article by Stephen Miller about that particular Dr Lyon radio broadcast:

<https://chiollaghbooks.com/manxnotes/MN192.pdf>

Radio Times listing: <https://genome.ch.bbc.co.uk/page/94ac7ba89c9645ddb9083cc074cfe329>

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

## 1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.24 Mylecharane's March

References to this dance can be found as far back as Waldron's descriptions of the Isle of Man in 1726. A full description of the dance appears in Douglas' Folklore Notebook: Dances (MNHL 09545 Box 9) with seven informants named, 'Granny', Mrs Callow of Cardle Veg, Mrs Olivia from Agneash, Tom Kermode from the Lag, Philip Moore and William Quine of Peel, and Kelly 'Pat' from Baldrine.



In the first description by 'Granny' it is ostensibly a collation of many descriptions offered to Douglas by her grandmother. These descriptions are based on many observations of the dance when Douglas' grandmother was a young girl, most likely to be from the mid nineteenth century. The tune is described as a variant of the song tune and was played by a fiddler in Lezayre, who was also familiar with the song tune. The dance was said to be performed for New Year and the Boat Supper, although it is thought that it was only used at the latter to replace the correct dance that had been lost over time and it was rightfully only performed at the former. The description is basic at best, is written out in prose and involves terms such as 'capers'. However the use of the term 'Sand step' appears and had been described to Douglas' grandmother by her father as the hardest of all the Manx steps and so was not taught to his children along with the simpler steps they learnt from him. Evidently these descriptions get a little muddled and Douglas describes them as 'approximately correct.' The description draws on 'Pancakes and Flitters' to describe one move and so was evidently collected after this dance/ game. Although often lacking in detail, the description is very much as the dance is now performed today. The cutting off of the fiddler's head is described although the description of the involvement of the Laare Vane is very cursory and implies prior knowledge of both the practice and definition of the Laare Vane, an element of the dance that will be fully discussed later.

**READ the rest of the section about *Mylecharane's March* p. 180 xxxiii & FULL THESIS:**

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf)

[pic: Mylecharane's March showing the hey and Laare Vane. Albert Road Dance Team c. 1935 (MNHL PG3652/3)]

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

## Car ny Rankee variant from Brittany

When accordionist Thomas Moisson from Lorient came over to the IOM for the Near-Nesan concert/fest-noz & Make Music Day in June '22, he spent a bit of time in Culture Vannin looking at Manx music resources. He came across Manx dance tune "Car ny Rankee" which ironically translates as 'Song of the Frenchman/Foreigner' and commented that it sounded like a Breton tune. Chloe jotted down his version, and then included it in the recent Big Bree Workshop Weekend which had an inter-Celtic theme this year. The Breton tune works perfectly with the Manx dance. *If you happen to know the Breton name of the tune, let us know!*

## Car ny Rankee [Breton version!]

Name unknown.  
Transcribed from playing  
of Thomas Moisson 2022

5

10

16

21

## Car ny Rankee [Manx version]

Manx trad.  
Collected by Mona Douglas  
from Mrs Shimmin, Foxdale.

5

9

13

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

31 Hop tu naa!! Island-wide  
28-30 Hop tu naa events at Black Dog  
29-30 Hop tu naa turnips and dancing at Cregneash  
31 Hop tu naa - Island-wide under the light of the moon!

## NOVEMBER

2 - 6 Cooish Manx Language Festival, various venues [www.learnmanx.com](http://www.learnmanx.com)  
3 Tar gys Arraneyn ny Cloieyn-kiaullee / Manx sing-a-long night, St Johns Methodist Hall, 7pm, free  
4 Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh, 7pm, Corrin Hall, Peel £5/£2 U14  
6 Manx Gaelic Christmas songs workshop, 11am House of Manannan & 2pm Culture Vannin, St Johns, free – booking essential [gaelg@culturevannin.im](mailto:gaelg@culturevannin.im)  
11 Ayres & Braces folk musical, Bride Chapel Hall, 7.30pm, £10 inc. supper  
12 Christine Collister and Friends, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm £15

## DECEMBER

9 Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre, Douglas, £16 - £27  
9 The Shenanigan's Banned, The Institute, Laxey, 8pm £6 BYOB  
16 Lesh Shee as Graih, concert, St Ninians Church 7pm, £10  
26 Hunt the Wren – Island-wide

## JANUARY 2023

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



Manx Language Festival  
2 - 6 Mee Houny 2022  
(2 - 6 November 2022)  
[www.learnmanx.com/cooish](http://www.learnmanx.com/cooish)

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 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, Kiavull 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](http://www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan)

~ 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 (answerphone)  
**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