

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Boaldyn 2022 May

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Culture VANNIN



2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the Manx Heritage Foundation Act, which created the Manx Heritage Foundation charity that is known as Culture Vannin today. We've always been proud to support, promote and celebrate contemporary Manx culture, drawing on our cultural heritage to help shape an exciting future. Throughout the year we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary with a series of special releases, projects and events.

January saw the launch of a **special 40th anniversary grants scheme**, which will award an additional £40,000 in grants for larger projects in Manx culture, history, architecture, ecology, etc. More info about the recipients:

<https://culturevannin.im/news/40th-anniversary-grant-recipients-announced-721588/>

During the year, more archive films will be released, offering a window onto often secret worlds. We'll be setting a 40 Manx things challenge, collecting 40 voices from the 1980s through oral history interviews, and launching events, projects and exciting new awards.

One special event will be **A Manx Celebration - a concert of Manx music, dance and more**, celebrating the vibrant state of Manx culture today. This free public concert is presented as a part of the of Culture Vannin's 40th anniversary celebrations. This concert offers the chance to celebrate not just the wonderful performers of today, but many of the individuals, organisations and initiatives which have brought us here over the past 40 years and more. It is hosted by the *St. German's Cathedral Foundation for Music & the Arts* as a part of their ongoing Concert Series. (see poster) *PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE - 21st May*

The recently launched **40 Manx Things!** is a fun way to discover Manx culture - Sing a song in Manx, bake a bonnag, immerse yourself in Manx fairy tales, visit a nature reserve, say 'gura mie ayd' in shops, etc.! <https://culturevannin.im/resources/40-manx-things-718787/>

In this month's edition...

- Oie Voaldyn returns
- 40 Manx Things
- Guild successes





 The St German's Cathedral
Foundation for Music & the Arts

Concert Series 2022

A Manx Celebration

Hosted by Culture Vannin



featuring...

The Manx Fiddle Orchestra
Claasagh Manx harpists
Scran
and other performers

Saturday 21st May

St. German's Cathedral, Peel

Free Admission **7.30pm**

www.cathedral.im/music

Other performers: Caarjyn Coidjagh and Annie Kissack, young singers from the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh accompanied by Fraser McKenna, Madeline Kelly on piano, May themed music and dance from Frank and Lowenna Joughin, and Manx brass music taken from the 'Prash' resources.



Connect
with
Manx
music

Learn
a little
Manx



Listen
to stories from the
Island's past

Check out
interesting people in
Manx history

Bake
a
bonnag



Snap
a lighthouse

Spot
five Manx
house names and find
out what they mean

Sing
a song in
Manx 

Say
"Gura mie ayd"
(Thank you)
to a stranger

Make
a crosh cuirn
to protect your
household

Discover
the great
Manx poets



Enjoy
one of the
Island's many
museums

Celebrate
our unique
heritage
transport



Immerse
yourself in some
Manx
Fairy Tales

Pay
Manannan's rent
at
South
Barrule

Have fun
learning a
Manx
Dance

Take
a real or virtual trip to the
Calf of Man



Join in
with a
Manx
Ceili

Watch
the National Anthem
performed
in Manx



Wear
some Bollan Bane
for
Tynwald Day

Climb

a hill and celebrate
Laa Luanys

Enjoy

watching some
traditional
Manx dancing

Sing

a regional version of
Hop Tu Naa



Find out

what some local
place names mean

Raise

a glass and say
“Slaynt vie”
(good health)

Carve a Moot



Discover

Manx
archaeological sites

Join

in the celebrations
of our national
language festival

Nominate your cultural hero

Find out

something you didn't
know about
our Island's
historical
places



Watch

a street performance of
“The White Boys”

Explore

the Isle of Man's
landscape through
poetry

Visit

a glen or
beach
you haven't
been to before



Include

some Manx Gaelic
in your
Christmas cards

See

where you can spot
Archibald Knox
works



Learn

a Christmas song in
Manx



Take part in ‘Hunt the Wren’



Check out

what ‘having a
cooish’ is all about



Cheer on

your side at
Cammag

Visit
a Manx
nature
reserve



Let us know what you get up to by using **#40manxthings**

<https://culturevannin.im/resources/40-manx-things-718787/>

OIE VOALDYN

Oievoaldyn.com

MANX MAY DAY AND EVENING FIRE FESTIVAL

01.05.2022

1ST MAY 2022 - PEEL - ISLE OF MAN

OIE VOALDYN SUNDAY 1ST MAY

WHAT, WHERE, WHEN...

AFTERNOON from 2pm

Live music on the Culture Vannin stage on the Tongue (approx. times)

2pm	David Castro
3pm	Aaron Harwood
4pm	Skeddan Jiarg
4.40pm	Owen Atkinson - the Manx bard
5.15pm	Island Maiden
6.15pm	Briskee Brisht
7.15pm	Mae Challis

Eat, drink and be merry! Food and drinks stalls serving all day

Cod & Castle Craft Tent on the Tongue - Make an Oie Voaldyn Rune Pendant (small charge); Make a Summer Flower Headdress (small charge); Summer & Winter Face Decoration (small charge) Colouring Competition

On the Shore - Games of skill, strength and stamina with the Vikings of Mann; Make a traditional Crosh Cuirn with John Dog Callister; Story Telling in the Tipi

At the Oie Voaldyn Stand on Spit Corner - Make a wish or send a message of goodwill at the Oie Voaldyn Tree; Buy your fire torch to carry in the evening procession; Souvenir programs on SALE

At the House of Manannan - Magical herbs of Oie Voaldyn with Jane Prescott, the Manx Herbalist (fee payable, bookable on Eventbrite)

Walking Tour of Old Peel - From the Sailor's Shelter at 3pm, in Manx and English with Stuart Bennett

EVENING

6pm – 8pm THE OIE VOALDYN CHARACTERS WILL BE ON WALKABOUT

9pm – 10.10pm FIRE SHOW & FIREWORKS



www.facebook.com/oievoaldyn and <https://oievoaldyn.com/>

Watch a music video of the **Oie Voaldyn** set to a new Gaelic song written and performed by Paul Rogers: <https://youtu.be/FwNNCpDBCfw> Learn in *Transcription of the Month*

Stony Redcaps

Women's Morris Dancing Group

Together with their friends Manx Folk Dance Society
Will perform Garland and Manx Dance



Laxey (Village Square) Saturday, 30th April 2022 at 11am
Ramsey (Court House) Saturday, 30th April 2022 at 2pm
Castletown Square Sunday 1st May 2022 at 11am

Monday May
2nd 2022
Cregneash.
Dancing at 12pm
& 2pm.



May Day music
and dancing

Let's do it again
this year!

PIC-COLLAGES

Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering



Kiaull as Caffee



Music & Coffee

Saturday 7th May • 10 - 12pm
Ebenezer Hall • Kirk Michael

Come and listen to Manx music and songs
from choir Un Chorraa & harpist Resa Brown
~ Cake stall and raffle ~

£1 entry fee which includes a cup of tea or coffee.

All proceeds go to supporting
the Yn Chruinnaght festival
for 2022 & the visiting artists.

More info on the website below:

www.celticgathering.com



Post Guild Concert



**METHODIST
CHURCH HALL**

Wednesday 11th May

Start: 7.30 p.m.
Compere: Judith Ley
Accompanist: Gareth Moore

Admission £8 including country supper
All Welcome – Pay on the Door

STAR OF INDIA DATES

REHEARSALS START ON SUNDAYS FROM 1¹²th JUNE AT 2pm IN ST. PAULS HALL RAMSEY WHICH FOR THE FIRST NUMBER OF WEEKS WILL BE CONCENTRATED ON THE SONGS.

EXTRA REHEARSAL DATES

TUESDAY 4th & THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 7pm

SUNDAY 9th IS THE TECHNICAL REHEARSAL WHICH IS TO PRACTICE SOUND & LIGHTING WITH CAST. THIS REQUIRES PATIENCE WITH EVERYONE & WILL HAVE STOPS & STARTS AS WE WORK IN THE SOUND & LIGHTING WHEN & WHERE ETC.

REST UP ON MONDAY

TUESDAY 11th FULL REHEARSAL FROM 6pm

WEDNESDAY 12th SEMI DRESS REHEARSAL

THURSDAY 13th MAIN DRESS REHEARSAL ----THIS WILL BE RUN AS A SHOW WITH START AT 7.30pm. I WON'T STOP THIS BUT CHAT WITH YOU AFTER OVER ANY ISSUES.

PERFORMANCES

FOR EVENINGS YOU CAN GET IN FROM 5.30pm ONWARDS AS LONG AS YOU ARE BEHIND SCENES BEFORE AUDIENCE STARTS TO ARRIVE & GIVING TIME TO GET READY

FRIDAY 14th EVENING START 7.30pm

SATURDAY 15th MATINEE START 2.00pm (CAN GET IN FROM 12.00am)

EVENING START 7.30pm

TUESDAY 18th QUICK REFRESHER TOP & TAIL & SORT ANY ISSUES

FRIDAY 21st SHOW START 7.30pm

SATURDAY 22nd MATINEE START 2.00pm & EVENING START 7.30pm

ANYONE ABLE TO HELP WITH CLEAR UP SUNDAY AFTERNOON FROM 12.30 WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED



From April - September, hold your own Biosphere Bee community picnic
Download pack here: www.biosphere.im/our-projects/biosphere-bee

Heads Up! A Great May Bank Holiday Afternoon in Laxey!

The Great Laxey Brass Band Festival is back for 2022 on Sunday May 1st! Slap bang in the middle of the Bank Holiday weekend! And all taking place in the great outdoors - in and amongst Laxey's fine cafes and pubs. Have a pint, a meal, and a wander whilst experiencing the thrills (and spills!), the drama, and the spectacle of Brass Band Music being played loud and free across the upper Village.

Between 1.00 and 5.00 pm, six fine bands (Ramsey Town Band, Douglas Town Band, Castletown Metropolitan, Manx Concert Brass, Rushen Silver Band & Onchan Silver Band) will be playing in rotation in three locations (The Mines Tavern, Glen Gardens Pavilion, and the Miner's Statue) All followed by a big blast off in the Village Square from 4.00 pm when all six bands take to the stage!

The postponed Breton-Manx concert with Nnear Nesin and Fest Noz with Thomas Moisson and Lors Landat has been re-scheduled for the weekend of 17-18 June. Exact details TBC.

YN CHRUINNAGHT

FÀILT ERRIU
ALL WELCOME!

Celtic

GATHERING 2022

25 - 31 JULY | JERREY SOUREE 2022

CELTIC MUSIC, SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL

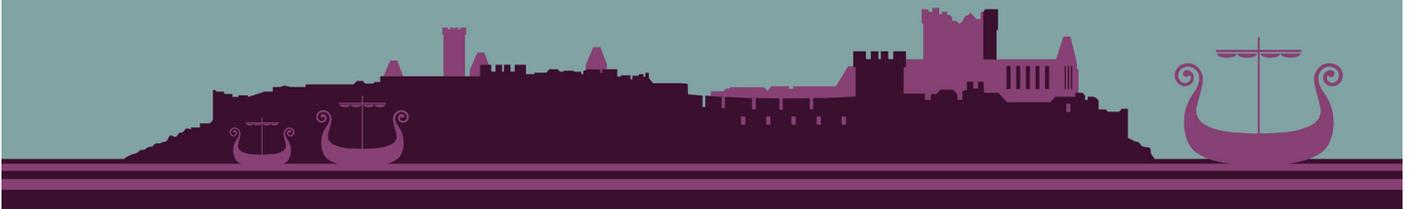
CONCERTS | WORKSHOPS | CEILIS | CRAFT FAIR

PEEL & DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN

- MEC LIR • FRANKIE GAVIN • DEAF SHEPHERD •
- BRYHER'S BOYS • PEN Y FAI WELSH DANCERS •
- ISLA CALLISTER • THE MEGA MANX CEILI! •

SUPPORTED BY

CULTURE VANNIN | IOM ARTS COUNCIL | IFGL | VISIT ISLE OF MAN
DIGITAL GROUP | THORNTON CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS | CULTURE IRELAND |
IOM STEAM PACKET | SOUNDCHECK CHARITY
MALCOLM SCOTT DICKINSON CHARITABLE TRUST



WWW.CELTICGATHERING.IM TEL. 07624 302200

Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering 2022 launches this weekend with programme announcements and the 'early bird' limited-edition festival pass (e-ticket) available to buy for just £50!! www.etickets.im/cc/

(saving £12.50!)



kiavll manninagh jiu 05/22 culture vannin

Shennaghys Jiu 2022 photos by Val Caine
 More by Vannin Photos:
www.flickr.com/photos/ellan_vannin/sets/72177720297834129/



Guild results so far...

Manx musicians and dancers have had a great week at the 130th Manx Music Festival AKA The Guild! Kicking off the week of competitions in the Villa Marina, Douglas, were the Manx dance classes judged by Rachel Clarkson last Saturday. Perree Bane and Skeddan Jiarg both went home with trophies from various dance classes.

Caroline Helps from Perree Bane said: "We really enjoyed our morning at The Guild with Skeddan Jiarg. It's always a joy to hone our dances and learn new ones from our friends...the amazing Perree Bane 'Wheal Honey' side who won the Leighton Stowell cup for the highest marks in FD1-FD5 received this message from a group from Cornwall who we watched on YouTube to learn it: "Well done from Catseye Morris from Cornwall. In full kit too! Great that you're still doing our dances." Congratulations to Jim for beating the team into shape!"

Perree Bane had a grant from the Lottery Trust in 2021 for new jackets for the ladies. So far they have managed to get 5 made by the fabulous Karen at The Sewing Studio in Port St Mary [3 modelled here by Sarah, Sharon and Marie >>]



Other Manx folk successes this week were harpist twins Aristeia and Arthur Owenson in the plucked string classes, Yn Queig (minus one!) as a piping ensemble, Marown folk group playing Manx tunes, Ballacottier Choir and Share na Veg from Bunscoill Rhumsaa. [Plus Chloe & Jo from the Manx Folk Awards scooped first prize in the adult piano duet class playing non-Manx tunes!] This weekend there will be Gaelic solos and choirs!

FULL RESULTS: www.manxmusicfestival.org/results-2/2022/



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

30 APR SAT

- 10:30 BUMBEE CAGE AND ST BRIDGETS CROSS WORKSHOP, CRANKY'S COFFEE, MICHAEL ST
- 11:00 HIMALAYAN BALSAM WALK - FRIENDS OF THE NEB, THE RAGGATT
- 12:00-23:00 THE BLACK DOG, EAST QUAY
- 14:30 IN FULL COLOUR (ADULTS PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP), ARTREACH STUDIO

01 MAY SUN

- 10:30 BEACH BUDDIES BEACH CLEANING, PEEL BEACH, FENELLA BEACH, PEEL CASTLE
- 12:00-23:00 THE BLACK DOG, EAST QUAY
- 13:00 PAINTING AND ABUNDANCE WORKSHOP, MOMMA MOON'S ART STUDIO
- 14:00 MAGICAL HEALING HERBS OF OIE VOALDYN, HOUSE OF MANANNAN
- COD & CASTLE CRAFT TENT, THE TONGUE
- VIKINGS OF MANN - SKILL, STRENGTH AND STAMINA, PEEL BEACH
- OIE VOALDYN STAND: BUY YOUR FIRE TORCH & SOUVENIR, SPIT CORNER
- 15:00 WALKING TOUR OF OLD PEEL, SAILOR'S SHELTER, EAST QUAY
- 16:00 DAVID CASTRO
- 16:00 AARON HARWOOD
- 16:00 SKEDDAN JIARG
- 16:40 OWEN ATKINSON - THE MANX BARD
- 17:15 ISLAND MAIDEN
- 18:15 BRISKEE BRISHT
- 18:15 MAE CHALLIS
- 18:00 CHARACTERS ON WALKABOUT, PEEL PROMENADE
- 21:00 FIRE SHOW, PEEL BEACH
- 22:00 FIREWORKS, PEEL BEACH

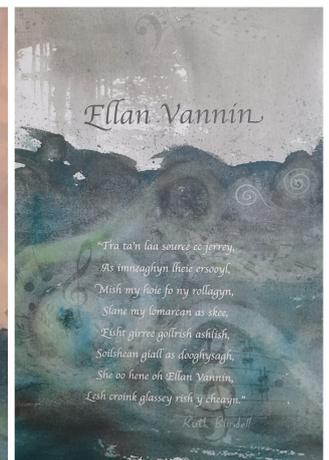
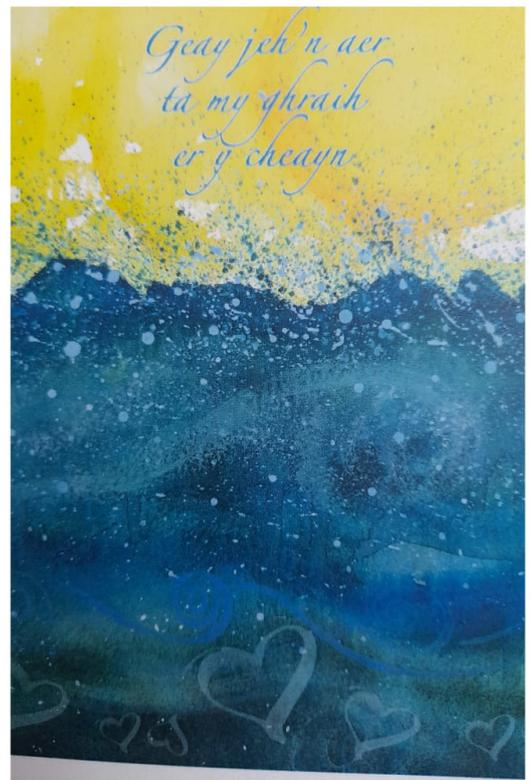
02 MAY MON

- 10:00-16:00 CRAZY GOLF, SUNSET LAKES
- 12:00-23:00 THE BLACK DOG, EAST QUAY

OIE VOALDYN

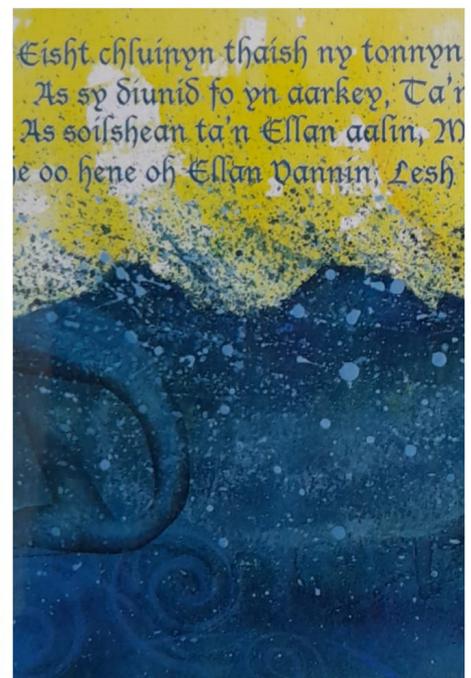
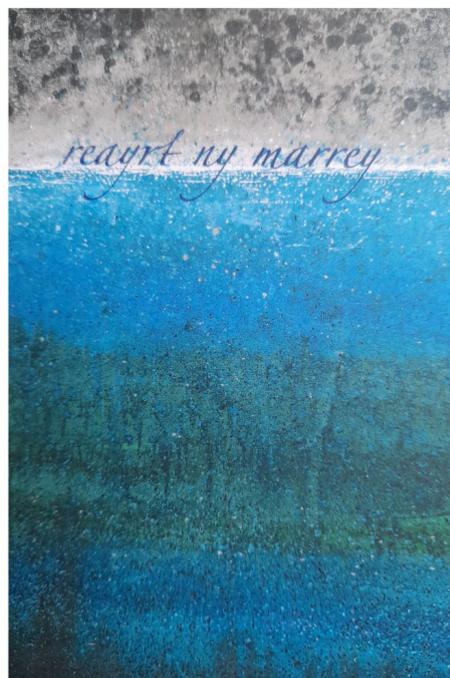
Visit Peel ISLE OF MAN

*EVENTS AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



MANX GAELIC GREETINGS CARDS
 Many of Ruth's beautiful cards are influenced by Manx language and references to traditional songs of the Island:

www.facebook.com/Manx-Gaelic-Greeting-Cards-106354255385797



kiauli noa

Manx muso Owen Williams (Lochtan, Troor and formerly Scran) is currently studying in the UK, but he's still finding time to produce some fab Manx music:

Follow: www.instagram.com/owen_williams_music/

https://linktr.ee/owen_williams_music

Youtube Channel

www.youtube.com/channel/UCCH45PicUpEwu2Z2xTHUGdA

e.g. Cur dty Vainney: <https://youtu.be/kGDE7LWNEk8>

Caillin veg Dhone <https://youtu.be/U1TM4S-bLwl>

She Lhong Honnick Mee <https://youtu.be/V4g6-adt7gs>

The Manx Mountain Marathon saw its 50th anniversary last month, organised by the Manx Fell Runners. The special event was captured by fell runner and YouTube vlogger Claire Maxted AKA 'Wild Ginger Running', and her film includes the introduction in Manx by the inventor of the Manx Mountain Marathon, Dr George Broderick, and the soundtrack is provided by Scran from their album, Nane [Culture Vannin].

<https://youtu.be/Y0tnCclH-Rl>

www.wildgingerrunning.co.uk

Hollie Jaques teaches some Manx dance steps and tells the world about Manx culture:

<https://youtu.be/JcF66sUdxv4?t=183>

Hollie & the Glasgow Student Dance Company (2017) with some Manx dance choreography: <https://youtu.be/I9o3QnxEgpY> <https://youtu.be/gF33WY71kqM>

A new book has been gifted to every primary school in the Island to help young people learn about Manx traditions. The book is themed around ancient Good Friday customs in the Isle of Man and it is beautifully illustrated by internationally acclaimed Manx artist and illustrator, Jay Cover.

Over the past few weeks 100s of copies of 'Flitter Dance: A Manx Colouring Book' have been given to each of the Isle of Man's 32 primary schools.

These have been provided for free thanks to Culture Vannin, who have been working with Jay Cover and the Department of Education, Sport and Culture.



Youtube corner

Boston born fiddler Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle of Onchan, Isle of Man were brought together in 2020 by Edinburgh's rich traditional music scene.

As well as gigging and recording, they have also been teaching

Manx music to young players in Estonia:

Here is "Three Little Boats": <https://youtu.be/t1fLWuiNEA8>

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

The Manx national anthem and information about the Island is featured in a new German educational website:

<https://www.abhaengige-gebiete.de/gebiete-insel-man-hymne/>

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION AWARDS

It's time to nominate a worthy young person who has contributed considerably to Manx culture.

In the case of awards for category 1. Manx Music and category 2. Arts and Crafts which portray any aspect of Manx life or culture, a soundbite or sample of work should be submitted with your nomination for judging purposes.

Nomination form: www.gov.im/media/1355438/nama-nomination-form-2022.pdf

Please complete in full and either email to cpd.bookings@sch.im or send to the address below. Outstanding achievement in:

1. Manx Music
2. Arts and Crafts which portray any aspect of Manx life or culture
3. Manx Language
4. Outstanding contribution to Manx Culture
 - a) By a student under the age of 18
 - b) By a student over the age of 18
 - c) By a group of young people under the age of 25
5. The Manx Community
 - a) An award to be made to young people who have made an outstanding contribution to the Manx community in general, either by their work for voluntary organisations or by their involvement with, and assistance to, people or groups of people who need special help such as the elderly or infirm and/or;
 - b) An award to be made to a youngster with special educational needs or disability in recognition of his or her outstanding efforts in overcoming personal challenges, with the criteria here being a determination to contribute to the Isle of Man community, not for the triumph but for the struggle.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 6 May 2022.

Selected winner awardees should be able to attend the award ceremony at the Barrool Suite on Friday 8th July 2022 at 2pm.

More info about NAMA and how to join if you live in the USA: <https://namanx.org/>

Daniel Quayle & Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe will be back in Estonia next week to record their debut album, as well as to play these two gigs.

06 May - Pajusi Mõisa Kultuuriait, Põltsamaa vald
07 May - VARSTU KEVADLAAT, Rõuge vald

RESEARCH NEWS

How the Manx Heritage Foundation Act came into being

Forty years ago, Manx culture was full of excitement and energy, but was perhaps somewhat disparate – people were speaking and teaching Manx, musicians were discovering old tunes and songs in the archives, dance groups were representing the Island internationally at festivals, books were being published, and artists, writers and historians were hard at work. In many ways, though, Manx culture didn't have a home or a central focus, and, it certainly didn't have the support it deserved and now demanded.

Former art teacher and crafts expert, Sheila Tarr, recognised all this and more. She was well-known for her work in organising the arts and crafts displays and competition alongside Janet Craine as part of Yn Chruinnaght, doing so much to encourage young people and their families to become part of the festival. She knew first-hand what talent and dedication volunteer-driven organisations and groups displayed, and had seen the benefit of cultural centres in other countries. She felt that those involved in Manx culture deserved more support and recognition as they told the story of the Isle of Man nationally and internationally.

In July 1980, she presented a petition for redress to Tynwald, calling for a permanent centre for the Island's art, culture, craft, language, literature, festivals, and so much more. She had a vision for a space which could be used by different cultural groups for conferences, meetings, performances, archives, and even to be used as a youth hostel. The petition received support in principle from Tynwald, a Select Committee was appointed with Clare Christian MHK as Chair, and their report recommended that the Manx Heritage Foundation be established, with the Manx Heritage Foundation Act 1982 agreed by Tynwald.

Under the name of the Manx Heritage Foundation for many decades, or the more recent trading name of Culture Vannin, the organisation has worked to support and promote Manx culture by partnering with the community, Government agencies and business in order to fulfil the objects of the founding legislation. Communication, education and accessibility are key to this remit, and development work for Manx language, Manx music and dance, and online and educational resources makes sure that is possible. The charity also supports grassroots projects through an annual grants scheme, knowing that the time, knowledge, skill and enthusiasm of those involved with Manx culture applies a multiplier effect to what are often modest awards.

<https://culturevannin.im/resources/culture-vannin-40-704193/>

THE DANGERS OF MUSIC REHERSALS (1851)

On Wednesday evening as the Rechabite band was practising on their way through Athol-street, a horse look fright in a spring-van belonging to Mr Bower, and ran off, knocked down a lad named Daniel Fargher, the wheel of the van went over his head and fractured his jaw-bone. He was immediately conveyed to Dr Ring's surgery, when assistance was immediately rendered.

Anon. "Accident." *Mona's Herald* 4 June 1851: [3]d.

The Rechabites were a temperance society but it would be a Friendly Society that Daniel Fargher would need to call upon to pay his medical bills. Fargher was a sixteen year old, an apprentice cabinet maker, living at 2 John Street in Douglas, with his mother and father, a shoemaker, along with Thomas Quiggin, his nephew, a tailor. In the nineteenth century, music was an integral part of associational culture, though one can be certain that its impact here was not a welcome one, an assault on the jaw and not on the ears.

Dr Elgar visits Manxland

by

Maurice Powell

The following announcement appeared in *Isle of Man Examiner*, 19th July 1913:

‘Sir Edward Elgar is coming’.

‘For the 23rd (annual) Manx Music Festival, March 31st, April 1st & 2nd, 1914, the services of Sir Edward Elgar, O.M., Prof. Granville Bantock and Mr Frederick Dawson* have been secured as adjudicators’.

The same newspaper provided a few more details concerning the illustrious figures in the 18th of October edition: Sir Edward Elgar, O.M., Mus. Doc.; LL.D., M.A. (London); Mr Granville Bantock, M.A., the Peyton Professor of Music, Birmingham University; Mr Frederick Dawson (solo Pianist), who would introduce a ‘Quick-study Pianoforte’ demonstration that year. I do not believe that at any other Manx Music Festival were two such great English composers engaged to adjudicate and participate in the Festival Concert.**

* Yorkshireman Frederick Dawson (1868-1940) was a child prodigy. A pupil of Anton Rubenstein and Sir Charles Halle, he gave recitals in Manchester, taught at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Royal College of Music, London, with a repertoire that encompassed Renaissance English to modern French keyboard works. A Steinway grand piano was specially sent from London for him to play.

** Elgar had earlier adjudicated at the music festival in Morecambe in 1903. Vaughan Williams was an adjudicator in Douglas in 1912.

Lady Raglan, the wife of the Lieutenant Governor, and an enthusiastic supporter of the arts on the Island, contributed the following in the Music Festival syllabus:

‘I now wish “Good Luck to you all”; and I am sure that . . . having secured the services of Sir Edward Elgar and Mr Granville Bantock as adjudicators, everyone will plunge into the work with enthusiasm, energy and determination’. Sir Edward and Lady Elgar were guests of Lord and Lady Raglan at Government House during their stay in Douglas.

‘A time when Britain strode the world at the head of a vast Empire’.

The Ballad for Chorus and Orchestra, the *Banner of St. George*, op. 33, was commissioned by music publishers Novello & Co. in 1896, together with the *Imperial March*, for a fee of £70, as part of the celebrations for Queen Victoria’s Jubilee, and composed between January and March 1897. Lasting approximately thirty minutes, the ballad’s uninspiring, dull and turgid text is by Shapcott Wensley (Henry Shapcott Bunce, 1854-1917), deriving from supposed events in the life of that most obscure of saints, St. George of Cappadocia* (central Anatolia, present day Turkey), one of four possible ‘historical’ St. Georges, transformed into the heroic soldier-saint of England. Written to have a broad appeal

among amateur choral societies, it was performed by a combined choir of some two hundred and forty drawn from the larger choral societies competing in the festival, accompanied by Harry Wood's Palace Orchestra and conducted by the composer at the Festival Concert on Thursday 2nd April in the Palace Ballroom. The optional solo soprano role for Princess Sabra was taken by a fine local singer, May Clague. The other guest artistes who took part in the concert were mezzo-soprano May Purcell (the Island's second Baume Scholar), the violinist Hilton Cullerne (the nephew of Harry and Haydn Wood), then studying at the Royal College of Music, and Frederick Dawson. The *Banner of St. George* is not at the same level as *King Olaf* and *The Light of Life* of 1896, but as Lady Elgar observed, the music 'rises above his material', and in part is saved from oblivion by Elgar's brilliant orchestration.** Lady Elgar noted in her diary that the orchestra was 'extraordinary'.

* According to one version of his life, the historical George was an Arian Christian gruesomely martyred in 361. He certainly was not the twelfth century knight who supposedly killed a dragon on the flat top of Dragon Hill, Uffington, Berkshire, 'where to this day no grass grows'.

** Harry Wood may have used or adapted Elgar's reduced orchestra version for string quintet, one of each of flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon, two horns, two trumpets and timpani.

Sir Edward addresses the audience

In a speech delivered before the prize-giving, Elgar praised the local choral trainers and conductors and admired the 'simple and dignified way' they secured their results, remarking that conductors were not 'great' because of their eccentricities and 'antics' which he had painfully witnessed at other Festivals. The audience burst into laughter when he stated that he refused to penalise choirs whose pitch occasionally fell during performance, as certain opera singers, who were paid £600 each night, did the same 'unblushingly many a time'. They applauded loudly when he noted that a suggestion to form a Manx National Choir had been made and suggested that it 'should be formed and compete with the world's large choirs'. His next comment, before a mainly Manx audience, was perhaps more controversial:

'Do not run Manx music to death. It does not amount to very much, and although very pleasing for the home gathering, it was scarcely fitted for the concert room'.

In other words, Manx traditional music was all very well in its traditional local settings, but in relation to modern music he considered it as Alchemy was to Chemistry or Astrology was to Astronomy. '. . . if a Manx National Choir were formed, let it be out in the world, and not narrowed down to anything of that kind'.*

* A Manx national choir was not formed until Alan Pickard, music director at the then Board of Education, formed the Isle of Man Teachers' Choir in 1979, known as the Isle of Man Choral Society since 2006.

The Lieutenant Governor's response was somewhat garbled but, after admitting that he knew nothing about music, he thoroughly endorsed Elgar's support for a Manx Choir and looked forward to seeing what such a choir 'could do against the picked choirs' of Britain.

Ramsey, February 2022

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

1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.18 Moirrey ny Cainle

Again there are few references to this dance before its publication in Rinkaghyn Vannin in 1983 and there is no mention of its collection or collector. In an undated essay in Douglas' notes 'Song and Dance in the Pattern of Old Life' (MNHL 09545 Box 1) it is described as being danced before entering the church to place the candles on the alter rail at Candlemas, a description also found in Rinkaghyn Vannin. It is noteworthy that amongst Douglas' papers involving the collation of dances for Rinkaghyn Vannin (MNHL 09545 Box 19) two typed versions of the notes to the dance can be found, both differing from one another distinctly.

READ FULL THESIS:

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

Watch the dance performed by Perree Bane: www.manxmusic.com/video_window_130882.html

Learn the tune from harpist, Mera Royle: <https://youtu.be/MEBkRdJfqis>



RGS Girls Sword Dancing Team 1948 – photo from Gill Skinner on Manx Music and Dance facebook group

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Arrane Oie Voaldyn

Welcome in the summer with Paul Rogers' original song about May Eve!

Watch and listen here: <https://youtu.be/FwNNCpDBCfw>

Arrane Oie Voaldyn

Paul Rogers

B⁵ [Final verse:E5add9] [F#sus4] [Gmaj7]

6 [A6] F#⁵ B⁵ Cochiaull B⁵ E(add9)/B

12 Gmaj7/B A⁶ B⁵

MANX:

1.
Aileyn lostey ayns dagh ayn
Cruink as coanyn, mullagh Varrule,
Bwoaill-jee dollan, sheid-jee cayrn,
Geiyrt dagh buitch as scaan ersooyl.

Cochiaull:
Noght Oie Voaldyn, aile syn oie,
Daunse-jee marin, nane, jees, three,
Ta'n vadran çheet as ver ee lhee,
Yn Sourey as blughtyn bwee.

2.
Druight y voghree son aigh vie,
Yiow mayd eh ec brishey yn laa,
Ver mayd blaaghyn roish y thie,
Croshyn keirn er famman ny baa.

3.
Yn ven saaley reih mayd ee,
Son Benrein y Touree ain,
As ayns attey nee mayd fee,
Blaaghyn baney'n villey drine.

4.
Hig yn Çheshaght Yeuree magh,
Caggey mooar as keoi vees eh,
Yiow yn Sourey barriaght,
Nee Ree Geuree roie er çhea.

ENGLISH (translation):

1.
Fires burning in every part,
Hills and valleys, the summit of Barrule,
Beat drum, blow horn,
Driving away every witch and spectre.

Chorus:
Tonight is May Eve, fire in the night,
Dance with us, one, two, three,
The dawn is coming and it will bring,
The Summer and yellow May flowers.

2.
Morning dew for good luck,
We will gather it at daybreak,
We will lay flowers before the house,
Rowan crosses on the cow's tail.

3.
The fairest woman we shall choose,
For our Summer Queen,
And in a crown we shall weave,
The white flowers of the thorn tree.

4.
The Winter Host will come out,
A great and crazy battle it will be,
The Summer will be victorious,
The Winter King will flee.

CALENDAR

APRIL

30th Stony Redcaps & MFDS in Laxey
Village Square, 11am, Ramsey Court House
2pm

30th Biskee Brisht at Secret Pizza,
Castletown

MAY

1st Great Laxey Brass Band Festival, 1 –
5pm, Laxey

1st Oie Voaldyn – lots of Manx music &
dance <https://oievoaldyn.com/>

1st Stony Redcaps & MFDS in Castletown
Square, 11am

2nd Perree Bane at MNH Laa Voaldynm
Cregneash, 12pm & 2pm

6th NAMA nominations deadline

7th Yn Chruinnaght Kiaull as Caffee / Music
& Coffee, Ebenezer Hall, Kirsk Michael,
10am – 12pm, £1

11th Post-Guild Concert, St John's
Methodist, 7.30pm, £8 inc. supper.

21st A Manx Celebration - concert with
Culture Vannin in collaboration with
Cathedral IOM, 7.30pm, free (donations)

JUNE

17th/18th Re-scheduled Breton-Manx
concert & Fest Noz with Neear Nesan
21st Laa Jannoo Kiaull / Make Music Day
-worldwide!

JULY

5th Tynwald Day

9th Clash Vooar at Deep South stage,
outside Port Erin Bay Hotel

25th – 31st Yn Chruinnaght Celtic
Gathering

www.celticgathering.im

AUGUST

31st - 4th SEP Once, Gaiety Theatre



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

www.manxmusic.com

~ SESSIONS ~

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas
WED 8.30pm Trad Session at O'Donnell's, Douglas
THURS 8pm Singing session at R.A.O.B. (Bufs) Club, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at the Colby Glen
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
First **SUN** of month 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club
Third **SUN** of month 12.30pm Trad session in Ginger Hall, Sulby

Stay up to date: www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

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Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin
The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space
PRESS: please feel free to pick up articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture