

Mee Houney 2023 November

MANX MUSIC TODAY

A rather fishy Big Bree Weekend!

Nearly 30 youngsters took part in the annual Big Bree Workshop Weekend during the October half term. Organised by Culture Vannin's Manx Music Development Officer Dr Chloë Woolley, with the help of an experienced team of tutors, this was the 17th edition of the Bree weekend, and this year had an overall theme of 'fishing'!



Once one of the most important trades in the Isle of Man, fishing is reflected throughout the Island's history and up to the present day in the songs, tunes, stories, crafts, sayings and superstitious customs. It's the reason Manx people can't say the word "R**", as it was very bad luck to have those four legged creatures on board!!

As an ice-breaker, the students were tasked with a 'Which fish am I?' challenge where they had to figure out which 'shoal' they belong to using facts about callig (pollock), herring, mackerel and sand eels. They then had to find the rest of their shoal, which turned out to be the group they had been selected to play music, act or dance with!

As well as learning traditional songs, tunes and dances, the students all got the chance to try net-mending with real-life fisherman Adam Horne, write a shipping forecast in Manx Gaelic, construct a play telling the story of *The Witch of Slieau Whallian* with atmospheric accompanying music, make origami fish and take part in a fun multiple choice quiz – which was, of course, all about fishing in the Isle of Man! [you can try this quiz too further on in KMJ!]

With a mix of ages and musical abilities and children from all over the Island, everyone had two fun days of Manx culture, culminating in a concert for family and friends.

In this month's edition...

- *Get prepared for the Arrane son Mannin*
- *Learn a new Manx Hop tu naa slip jig*
- *Manx dancing in Brisbane*

Culture
VANNIN

Everyone can now enjoy moments from the weekend on film, with a short promo video featuring interviews with some of the students, and the full concert.

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/bree-weekend-2023-803426/>

YouTube promo: <https://youtu.be/-tgqgVvEW7Y>

YouTube concert: https://youtu.be/YqnDZYct_Eg

Running order of the concert:

Harp group - *Arrane Ghelby* and *Flitter Dance* (with solo verse of the Flitter Dance Song sang by tutor Caitlin Bennett)

Dance group 1 – *Moirrey ny Cainle* performed to the song, *Birlinn Ghorree Chrovan*

Singers – *Sea Invocation*, *King of the Sea* and *The Fishermen's Song* (written by Marilyn Cannell & Heather Ruffino as part of Cloderyn's Star of India musical)

Drama group – *The Witch of Slieau Whallian*

Folk Group 1 – *Smuggler's Lullaby* and *The Cormorant & The Crabish*

Folk Group 2 – *Ta Cashen Ersooyl dys yn Aarkey* and *Three Little Boats*

On behalf of Culture Vannin, Chloë would like to thank the tutors; Jo Callister, Paul Rogers, Caroline Helps, Caitlin Bennett, Greg Joughin, Adam Horne and Clare Kilgallon for their time and expertise.



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

FORTHCOMING BREE SESSIONS for 10 - 18 year old musicians and singers:

2 - 3.30pm Saturday 18th November & Saturday 16th December 2023

Email Chloë for more information: manxmusic@culturevannin.im





Bree's Manx fishing quiz!

Circle the correct answer:

1. According to the song, who is "the King of the Sea"?

Manannan

The Herring

Alf Cannan

The Manxman

2. What are "silver darlings"?

Herrings

Flitters

The Lil' People

Peel Pensioners

3. What is traditionally eaten with 'priddhas'?

Cheese

Gravy

Herring

Chocolate sauce

4. According to the old Manx saying, "No '_____', no wedding?"

Husband

Herring

Wife

Money

5. To tell your future at Hop tu naa in the olden days, what must you steal from your neighbour, and eat, bones and all?

Roast Chicken

Gingerbread man

Manx cat

Salted herring

6. What is still mentioned in the Manx Deemsters' oath when they are sworn in?

Herring back-bone

Kipper pate

Catch of the day

Queenie shell

7. It's 2023 - What can Manx fishermen catch for the first time in 25 years?

Langoustines

Pirates

Mackerel

Herring

8. What does 'Skeddan Jiarg' mean?

Whistle group

Road of the Gull

Red Herring

White Jackets

9. What is a traditional Manx sandwich?

Barley bread, with
butter & fresh herring

Queenie wrap

Noa bagel with Manx cheese

Chip bap

10. Which of these are NOT a Manx traditional dance?

The Herring Reel

The Salmon Leap

Fathaby Jig

Flitter Dance

Answers at the back of KMJ

Marks _____ / 10

More information on / Tooilley fysseree er:
www.learnmanx.com/cooish

Wednesday 1 November

Jecrean 1 Mee Houney

9.15am – 10am	Learn numbers in Manx! Ynsee earrooy n ayns Gaelg	Free Nastee	Greens Café, St. John's Thie Bee Glass, Balley Keeill Eoin
12pm – 1pm	Cozy lunchtime Cooish Cooish as Kirbyl	Free Nastee	Atrium, Tower House, Douglas Atrium, Thie yn Toor, Doolish
12.20pm – 12.50pm	Come and try Manx! Tar as cur eab er y Ghaelg!	Free Nastee	Santander Work Café, Douglas Café Obbyr Santander, Doolish
1.20pm – 1.50pm	Come and try Manx! Tar as cur eab er y Ghaelg!	Free Nastee	Santander Work Café, Douglas Café Obbyr Santander, Doolish
7pm	Bunscoil Ghaelgagh – Film night Oie ny Filmyn – Bunscoil Ghaelgagh	See / jeeagh er learnmanx.com	Methodist Hall, St. John's Halley ny Saasilee, Balley Keeill Eoin

Thursday 2 November

Jerdein 2 Mee Houney

9.15am – 10am	Learn useful Manx phrases Ynsee raaghyn Gaelgagh ymmydoil	Free Nastee	Greens Café, St. John's Thie Bee Glass, Balley Keeill Eoin
11am – 11.45am	Learn numbers in Manx! Ynsee earrooy n ayns Gaelg!	Free Nastee	Greens Café, St. John's Thie Bee Glass, Balley Keeill Eoin
12pm – 1pm	Cozy lunchtime Cooish Cooish as Kirbyl	Free Nastee	Greens Café, St. John's Thie Bee Glass, Balley Keeill Eoin
6pm – 9pm	Make bonnag, cream & jam in Manx! Jean bonnag, eeym & jingan ayns Gaelg!	£30	Juliette's, 2 Michael Street, Peel Juliette's, 2 Straid Vaayl, Purt ny Hinshey
8pm →	Manx conversation Coloayrtys Gaelgagh	Free Nastee	Whitehouse Pub, Peel Y Thie Bane, Purt ny Hinshey

Friday 3 November

Jeheiney 3 Mee Houney

10am – 10.45am	Manx songs and rhymes for children Arraney n as draney n son paitchyn	£2	Mannin Music Studio, Pulrose Studio Mannin Music, Poyll Roish
10am – 11am	Manx conversation Coloayrtys Gaelgagh	Free Nastee	Mad Hatter's Café, Ramsey Thie-bee yn Eddyder Keoie, Rhumsaa
11am – 12pm	Guided walk in Manx around Ramsey Turrys shooyl mygeayrt Rhumsaa	Free Nastee	Meet at the green on East Street, opposite Penny Farthing, Ramsey
12pm – 1pm	Cozy lunchtime Cooish Cooish as Kirbyl	Free Nastee	Rowany Golf Club, Port Erin Club Golf Rowanee, Purt Chiarn
7pm – 9pm	Mooijer Veggey song night Oie dy Arraney n Vooijer Veggey	Free Nastee	Royal Chapel Hall, St. John's Halley yn Chabbal Reoill

Saturday 4 November

Jesarn 4 Mee Houney

10am – 3pm	Fun, family-friendly outreach event 'Cooish, Cappan as Croo'	Free Nastee	Civic Hall, Art Squared, The George Castletown – Balley Chashtal
4.30pm – 6pm	Cocktail making in Manx (age 18+ only) Keirdlann er jannoo cocktailyn (18+ ynrican)	£28	Fynoderee Distillery, Ramsey Thie-sheelee Fynoderee, Rhumsaa
7.30pm – 8pm	Fireworks! Chentagyn!	Free Nastee	Mooragh Park, Ramsey Pairk y Vooiragh, Rhumsaa
8.30pm →	Music and Manx – session Kiaull as Gailck – seshoon	Free Nastee	The Fyn Bar, Ramsey Yn Fyn Bar, Rhumsaa

Sunday 5 November

Jedoonee 5 Mee Houney

1pm – 2pm	Ned Maddrell Lecture (in English) Leaght Ned Maddrell (ayns Baarle)	Free Nastee	iMuseum, Douglas / online iMuseum, Doolish / er-linney
2pm – 4pm	Panel Discussion about Manx research Resooney Pannyl mychione ronsaghey Gaelgagh	Free Nastee	iMuseum, Douglas / online iMuseum, Doolish / er-linney
6.30pm – 9pm	Manx bingo night – family-friendly Oie Vingo	£5 / £2	Corrin Hall, Peel Halley Corrin, Purt ny Hinshey

MANX MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS AT COOISH 2023



The annual Manx language festival takes place from 1st - 5th November and includes lots of events for music lovers including song workshops, choir performances and expert help for singer-songwriters who might like to enter the Arrane son Mannin contest in January 2024.

- Friday 3rd November, 10am – 10.45am – **Manx songs and rhymes for children.** Fun for children aged 0-4 years old (with a parent/carer). £2 per child. Booking essential: www.manninmusic.shop Hosted by Mini Musicians by Mannin Music. Venue: Mannin Music Studio, Pulrose



- Friday 3rd November, 7pm – 9pm – **Mooijer Veggey song night** « Wallow in nostalgia with this opportunity to relive twenty-five years of rhymes and songs from Mooijer Veggey and the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh. Cup of tea anyone? Hosted by Mooijer Veggey. Venue: Royal Chapel Hall, St. John's

- Saturday 4th November, 10am – 3pm – **Cooish, Cappan as Croo.** Christmas song workshops, a special Arrane son Mannin lyrics workshop, and musical performances form part of this family-

friendly outreach day in Castletown, celebrating the Manx language.

Venues for the whole event: Civic Hall, Art Squared, The George – Castletown.

Workshops:

* 10am – 11.30am: Drop-in lyrics workshop with Bob Carswell. Get ready for Arrane son Mannin with your original song! Bring your completed English lyrics to this drop-in event, and receive one-to-one expertise from the brilliant Bob Carswell. Just turn up (but you might like to email gaelg@culturevannin.im to RSVP, if you definitely would like a spot with Bob!) Venue: The George Pub, Castletown

* 11am – 11.45am: Manx language Christmas songs workshop with Ruth Keggin Gell. All welcome – perfect for beginners! For adults, and accompanied children (aged 7+). Booking is essential for this popular workshop:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/726675314427?aff=oddtcreator>

Venue: The George Pub, Castletown

* 2pm – 2.45pm: Manx language Christmas songs workshop with Ruth Keggin Gell. All welcome – perfect for beginners! For adults, and accompanied children (aged 7+). Booking is essential for this popular workshop:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/726690610177?aff=oddtcreator>

Venue: The George Pub, Castletown

- Saturday 4th November, 8.30pm onwards: **Kiaull as Gailck** in the Fyn Bar, Ramsey. Manx chat, tunes, and cocktails! Bring your instrument and/or your voice, and join in!

table booking advised due to limited space Venue: The Fyn Bar, Ramsey

RBV nominations invited

Did you know the Isle of Man has its own 'January honours' for Manx culture? Well, it's time to think about who should be awarded the 'Reih Bleeaney Vanannan' – or RBV for short – for 2024.

Nominations are open throughout November and the process couldn't be easier – there's a simple form to fill in, and all you have to do is write about why an individual or a group should be recognised, whether they've achieved something incredible for Manx culture recently, or have been involved for many years.

Reih Bleeaney Vanannan means Manannan's Choice of the Year, and last year it was Fiona McArdle whose outstanding contribution to so many aspects of Manx culture meant that she was chosen. Fiona's work in promoting and developing the Manx language, Manx music, song and dance, Manx history, and so much more, meant that she was a worthy winner.



The award covers the broad sweep of Manx culture, represented by previous winners who include Nigel Crowe (genealogy, land division, history), 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 Bunscoill Ghaelgagh (language and culture), Allan Skillan (field-walking and prehistory), and Maureen Costain Richards (Manx artistic heritage and Manx crosses).

The award recognises Manannan as the 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.

Nomination forms, rules and guidance notes are available on our website here or by emailing us – 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 Friday 1 December 2023.

<https://culturevannin.im/news/who-should-win-the-islands-top-award-for-manx-culture-802562/>

More info:

<https://culturevannin.im/fundingawards/reih-bleeaneey-vanannan/>



Chloë Woolley [Culture Vannin] and Jo Callister [DESC] have been on their annual Hop tu naa tour teaching the songs, dance and customs associated with the ancient Manx tradition. The tour included visits to Henry Bloom Noble, St John's, Scoill Purt le Moirrey and Jurby schools, the University College of the Isle of Man and the day centre at Hospice IOM.



Biskee Bristh re-launched their catchy Hop tu naa single, which they performed in spooky costume at their gig in the Black Dog Oven in Peel.

HOP TU NAA HITS! Last month saw several new interpretations and compositions from Biskee Brisht, Ben Walker, Heisk and David Kilgallon & Tom Callister which all celebrate the ancient Manx custom of Hop tu naa.



<https://ingrv.es/tehi-tegi-z4a-3?>

Tehi-Tegi was an enchantress whose tale is told in stories collected by Sophia Morrison and others, which normally has her responsible for the death of hundreds of Manxmen through when she drowned them in a trick to rid herself of her admirers, from which the tradition of going out to Hunt the Wren is often credited.

But Isla's take on the story is wonderfully different, questioning the perspective through which it is told and what the actual truth might be.

You'll hear this in her composition, now recorded at last by Heisk.

Listen to the track here:

<https://ingrv.es/tehi-tegi-z4a-3?>

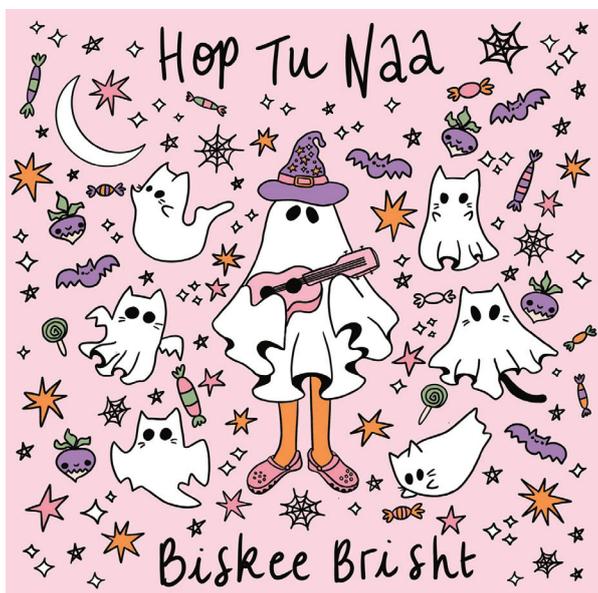
More about Heisk here:

www.heisk.co.uk/

More about Isla Callister here: <https://www.islacallister.com/>

New Manx music!

The great Manx enchantress, Tehi-Tegi, is amongst the Isle of Man's most important female figures of folklore, and now she has a tune in her honour, thanks to the mighty Isla Callister Music and her band, HEISK:



Biskee Brisht re-released their popular *Hop tu naa* song with a new music video.

Check it out!

<https://tinyurl.com/jcxmcmzs>

Youtube corner

Harpist Carla Bos plays Charles Guard's arrangement of Arrane Ghelby (AKA Song of the Water Kelpie)

<https://youtu.be/L-98VOPTJZc?si=4236p6Fjdt9H-WCn>

**DAVID KILGALLON AND TOMAS CALLISTER UNVEIL POPULAR MANX TUNES :
A CAPTIVATING TRIBUTE TO ISLE OF MAN'S MUSICAL HERITAGE**

Accomplished musicians David Kilgallon and Tomas Callister have joined forces to release their highly anticipated album, Popular Manx Tunes. This remarkable collection pays homage to their shared upbringing on the Isle of Man, presenting a captivating blend of popular Manx melodies that have shaped their musical journeys. Both artists, known for their contributions to esteemed groups such as Mec Lir, Imar, Barrule & King Chiaullee, combine their talents to deliver a heartfelt and authentic tribute to the rich cultural heritage of their homeland. Popular Manx Tunes showcases Kilgallon's exceptional piano skills and Callister's virtuosity on the fiddle, creating a harmonious fusion of instruments that brings these cherished melodies to life. Drawing inspiration from their upbringing on the Isle of Man, they infuse each track with their personal experiences and deep connection to the island's musical traditions. The album captures the essence of their upbringing, offering a heartfelt and contemporary perspective on the beloved Manx tunes that have resonated with generations. Listeners can be transported to the enchanting landscapes and vibrant cultural tapestry of the Isle of Man.

As integral members of the renowned music band Mec Lir, Kilgallon and Callister bring their wealth of experience and expertise to Popular Manx Tunes. Their collaboration highlights the shared musical journey they have embarked on together, infusing their performances with a seamless blend of talent and passion. Popular Manx Tunes is a testament to their commitment to preserving and celebrating the musical heritage of the Isle of Man. By sharing their lifelong connection to these tunes, they invite listeners to immerse themselves in the captivating beauty and timeless appeal of Manx music. For more information, interviews, or review copies, contact David at kilgallon@me.com.

Album: <https://davidkilgallon.bandcamp.com/album/popular-manx-tunes-d-edition>

One of Dave and Tom's choices on Popular Manx Tunes is Hop Tu Naa - it will feature amongst others in a new Popular Manx Tunes Tunebook out this December!

<https://davidkilgallon.bandcamp.com/merch/popular-manx-tunes-tunebook-ships-december>

If you like to learn tunes, then head over over to soundslice where you can learn at your own pace! www.soundslice.com/store/popular-manx-tunes/ e.g. Hop tu naa

www.instagram.com/davekilgallon/

Popular Manx Tunes
Tune Book

With 11
Track Audio
Download!

Scan QR to order your Copy!

By Tomas Callister & David Kilgallon

Polkas
Marches
Breeshey
Hop Jigs
Jigs
Graih Foalsey
Slip Jigs
Reels
Cheayll Mee
Slides
Ellan Vannin

Culture
VANNIN

© & © Tomas Callister & David Kilgallon
All rights reserved 2023

COMING SOON... Mona's Isle

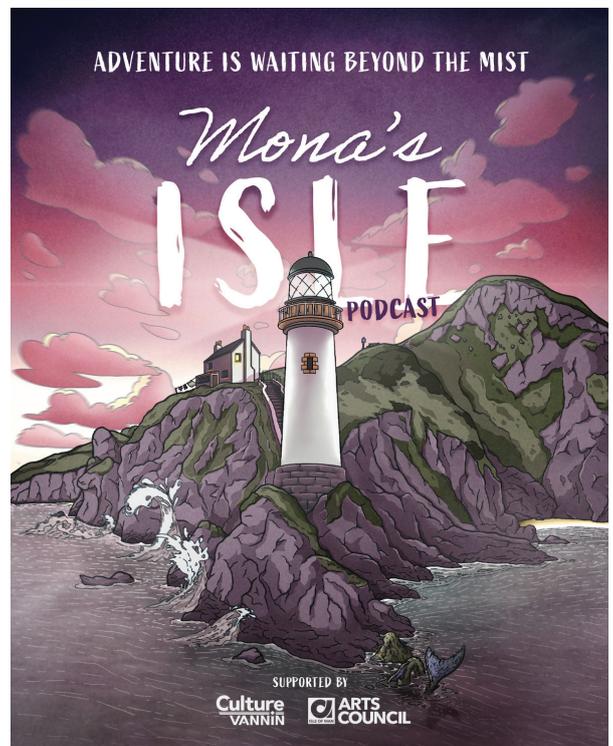
Welcome to the enchanting world of Mona's Isle, a podcast and story which weaves a new seam through the rich tapestry of folklore of the Isle of Man. Thanks to the support of the Isle of Man Arts Council and Culture Vannin, you can enjoy listening to this new tale unfold episode by episode, told by familiar Manx voices, and set to a mystical, original score composed by David Kilgallon.

- First episode (The Cloak of Mist) will be released on Weds 8th November.
- Podcast should be available to listen on both Spotify and Apple Podcasts, and a 'Listen' page on www.monasisle.im

<https://monasisle.im/about>

<https://www.instagram.com/monasisle>

Listen out for the theme tune - Bryony Grant's rendition of 'Ushag Veg Ruy,' set to an enchanting arrangement by David Kilgallon.



INTRODUCING OUR TEAM

series created by

KYLE WITHINGTON

music by **DAVID KILGALLON**

with the voices of

ALICE SMITH JOSEPH JENNINGS

TONY ECCLES SONIA CALLIN

CHRIS CAINE DAVID ARTUS

BRYONY GRANT JACK DIVERS

and also featuring

SPECIAL GUESTS

(TO BE ANNOUNCED)

**Culture
VANNIN**

**ARTS
COUNCIL**



Grovemount Residential Home in Ramsey are seeking Manx entertainment and cultural activities. If you can help and offer a visit, contact the Manager, Jovie Brown on grovemounthome@gmail.com or tel. 812173

Nobles Hospital

are looking for some Christmas entertainment in the foyer too. Contact Amanda Mills on 468696, or aiom50@icloud.com to find out more.

Super talented local singer-songwriter Jeff Jepson has released a new album of his songs called Meaning Waves: Listen here:

<https://spotify.link/mLBUh8icRDb>

Manannan's
Winterfest
A Magical Manx Christmas!

MUSIC & SONG FROM
KIRK MICHAEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
COOIL HAND FLUKE | PLATFORM VOCAL ENSEMBLE
CLEVELAND MEDAL WINNER - DEBBIE GOODING
ORRY WILSON | EVE PUZZAR
& A CAST FROM 'ELF'

AND FEATURING
DOT TILBURY & GEOFF CORKISH
SIMON CLARKE
CHRIS & HOWARD CAINE
GARETH MOORE
DAVID KILGALLON &
MANANNAN'S HOUSE BAND

ONE NIGHT ONLY

FRIDAY 8th
DECEMBER 2023
GAIETY THEATRE

ARTS COUNCIL Culture VANNIN CALL: 600555 | VILLAGAIETY.COM THE FYNODEREE DISTILLERY

Cliogaree Twoaie

Manx Gaelic Choir
Christmas Concert

Lezayre Church &
Arts Centre

Sunday 10
December
3pm

Star of India

The cast and 'crew' of the Star of India musical are setting off to San Diego, soon to perform at the 160th anniversary of the Manx-made ship.

With songs by Heather Ruffino and Marilyn Cannell, Cloideryn theatre company tell the tale of the ship's passage from Ramsey harbour to the USA.

Video about the show:

<https://tinyurl.com/wda25sju>
more info:

<https://tinyurl.com/25h4vr4c>

Arrane son Mannin - Song for Mann

The search is on for a new Manx Gaelic song to represent the Isle of Man at the Pan-Celtic festival in Ireland next year!

Entries need to be in by 1st December, with lyrics (with English translation) by 21st December.

Competitors then perform their piece at a concert in Peel on Friday 12th January 2024.

Form at the end of KMJ >>

There is help at hand for non-Manx speakers - a workshop tomorrow (Saturday as part of the Coosh) or contact the Manx delegate Fiona McArdle for assistance.

Pan-Celtic festival 2-4 April 2024
Co. Carlow www.panceltic.ie

LESH SHEE AS GRAIH

ST NINIANS CHURCH
FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER

Tickets £10 Doors 7pm

Rachel Wild's Performance Choir. Jeff Jepson. Truman Falls

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Claasagh, a talented Manx harp ensemble of seven young harp aged 13-16, are bound for Ireland this weekend. They'll be participating in Music Generation Tionól, a celebration of harp and uilleann pipes hosted by Music Generation Laois in Port Laois. Led by their Culture Vannin harp teacher Rachel Hair and alongside Manx harp teacher Mera Royle, Claasagh will join 160 young harp players and pipers as they take part in workshops and rehearsals with some of Ireland's best tutors in traditional music.

A highlight of the trip will be their performance of Manx music in Saturday's concert (live streamed from Music Generation Laois's facebook page at 7pm <https://www.facebook.com/MusicGenerationLaois>) where they'll also join the other musicians and perform in a mass harp and pipes ensemble, performing the music they've learnt during the Tionól

Claasagh are grateful to Culture Vannin and the Isle of Man Arts Council for helping fund their trip to Ireland.

www.musicgenerationlaois.ie/tionol-2023/



KMJ readers might like to take a look at the tutor award nominations at Scottish awards '**Na Trads**', open from 6th Nov. They may recognize a familiar name that they would like to vote for... <https://projects.handsupfortrad.scot/scotstradmusicawards/>

The Manxies will be flying the flag at Glasgow's Celtic Connections in January 2024.

<< Fiddle player Isla Callister will be playing with both HEISK and TRIP. RUTH KEGGIN will be singing in the Celtic Odysee and MEC LIR will be raising the roof of St Luke's! Tickets available now:

www.celticconnections.com/what-s-on/calendar/

Manx dancers bring magic to Moorlands

The opening of the Celtic Nations Standing Stones in Moorlands Park, Brisbane, featured a festival of talent from all the Celtic nations. Among the crowd favourites were The Manx Dancers of Brisbane. Their leader, Dr Heather Clarke tells us about the history of Manx dancing.

The Isle of Man's dance culture seems to be a fascinating mix of influences. Can you tell us more about how what has shaped local traditions?

"The Isle of Man has a distinctive dance culture with Celtic, Norse and English influences. The Manx-Gaelic name for the island is Ellan Vannin (or Manin). It is a relatively small island measuring 48km long and 16km wide, situated in the Irish Sea between Cumbria in Britain and County Down in Northern Ireland. The location of the island, being roughly equidistant from Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland, has led to the development of a fascinating amalgam of traditions in music, song, poetry, and dance."

Have the people of the Isle of Man always practiced these folk dances?

"The local culture has not always been appreciated; by the 1890s it was in danger of being forgotten. The folk dances were regarded as inferior to the modern dances of the time, and had largely fallen out of favour.

It was only at this time that a number of individuals travelled the island and identified surviving dances. The efforts of these collectors saved the dances from vanishing altogether. It was through the enthusiasm of (Manx cultural activist) Mona Douglas that these dances were introduced to schools



The Manx Dancers of Brisbane



Manx dancing at Moorlands Park



Performing Return the Blow

in the 1920s. As the century progressed, traditional music and dance were included in the school curriculum, a key factor in keeping the culture alive."

What efforts are being made on the island to keep its culture alive now?

"A highlight each year is the week-long Manx Folk Awards, a celebration of the culture where 1,000 children gather to learn, perform, and create new works in the traditional style.

Another major influence in keeping the dances alive is The Manx Dance Society. This group was formed in 1951, celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2021, and continues to teach and perform on the island and abroad.

There are now an impressive number of other groups in the island: Skeddan Jiarg (Manx Gaelic for Red Herring), Perree Bane (White Jackets) Ny Fennee (The Heroes), Bock Yuan Fannee (Juan's Flayed Horse, ie Shanks' Pony)."

What resources have been made to help preserve Manx culture abroad?

"The Manx Government is keen to preserve and promote the traditions of the island, providing resources through the Culture Vannin website covering every aspect of the culture. The videos are especially useful for learning the dances and watching the performances."

What distinct features does Manx dance have that sets it apart from others?

"Manx dances have a distinctive character: the arms are often held in a raised position, the Manx reel step features in most dances, and many include the cross-step motif – a series of movements repeated throughout the dance. They are fun, easy to learn, and usually quite lively! Certain dances are linked to the Manx calendar and celebrated on specific days: The Flutter



Dance for Three performed by The Brisbane Manx Dancers at the opening of The Celtic Nations Standing Stones, with Dr Heather Clarke, far right.

Dance on Good Friday, at Harvest time the Babban ny Mheillea, Hop tu Naa on 31st October, The White Boys Dance in the Christmas period, and Hunt the Wren on 26th December. Other dances are purely social, and a favourite of ours is the courting dance Hyndaa Yn Bwoailley (Return the Blow)."

The Manx Dancers of Brisbane have a diverse repertoire. Can you share some insights into the different dances you perform?

"The performance repertoire of the Manx Dancers of Brisbane includes the Ladies Jig, Dance of the Yellow Flowers, Return the Blow, and the Dance for Three.

We have two performance costumes: one represents the colours of the Manx flag - a red shirt and black skirt or trousers; the other costume is a white dress with a Laxey blue shawl and Celtic brooch, our men wear a white shirt, black trousers, and blue sash. Blue is the dominant colour in the Manx tartan, misty blue for the seas that surround the island. We have performed for the Manx Society in

Brisbane, and recently at the unveiling of the Celtic Council's Standing Stones in Moorlands Park. We hope to perform at the Glen Innes Celtic Festival in 2024 where the Isle of Man is one of the featured nations."

Your role as the leader of the Brisbane Manx Dancers is quite impressive. Can you share your personal connection to the Isle of Man and how this heritage has influenced your interest in dance and culture?

"I am a dance historian with Manx ancestors - my great-grandparents (Carphey and Clucas) came from the Isle of Man and settled in Australia in the early 1900s.

"I have a background in Scottish, Irish, English and Australian dance traditions, and training in classical ballet. I have always had a keen interest in my Manx heritage and I have visited the island several times."

Dr Heather Clarke's website presents many aspects of dance heritage in Australia, you'll find it at <https://www.historicaldance.au/>



Dr Heather Clarke watching the dancers perform. Pic: Anglo&Celtic

RESEARCH NEWS

“ROARING DISCORDANT CATCHES” (1784)

The town of Ramsay is famous for its bay, which is so extensive and commodious that the largest fleets may safely lie in it during the most severe storm. The inn here is but an uncomfortable house; and the company I was last night obliged to associate with, upon my arrival, was but ill suited to those enthusiastic ideas raised in my mind by the various beauties of my ride. Think how great was my dissatisfaction when, after having travelled through a country filled with some of the most delightful objects in nature, and with a mind elevated to the highest degree of romance by those objects, I was crammed into a nasty little parlour, darkened with clouds of smoke from tobacco, and deafened with half a hundred harsh voices roaring discordant catches. My romantic ideas immediately vanished. But these merry Manks were not wholly engaged in singing: some conversation passed, among the various topics of which, that of their being but little known to the world by their national title was introduced.

Anon [but “Albert”]. “Account of a Tour through the Isle of Man.” *Universal Magazine* 76 (1785): 22–25.

*

“Albert,” as the author of this account wished to be known, visited the Island from 1–7 May 1784. He sailed from Liverpool where “[t]wo little Manks Misses, just let loose from a Liverpool school, were the only passengers beside myself,” showing Manx children of the Insular élité clearly being educated off Island. After landing at Douglas, he visited Castletown, followed by Peel, and then Ramsey, before returning to Douglas. Kirk Michael he wrote, “particularly attracted my notice,” being sufficiently primitive and picturesque for him, but his “romantic ideas immediately vanished” as seen when he met the locals in Ramsey.... The interest here is in the singing that was going on in the inn of an evening, “half a hundred harsh voices roaring discordant catches” as he put it, giving us an insight into the musical life of an evening in the inn when singing was the norm.

Stephen Miller, RBV

“THE MUSICAL PORTION WAS IN THE HANDS OF MR A.E. CORLETT”

A MANX FOLK SONG CONCERT IN LINCOLNSHIRE (1929)

A very interesting lecture, “Beautiful Manxland,” was given on Monday, in the School, where a large number of people listened with great interest to the lecturer, the Rev. J.E. Callister, M.A., L.Th., Vicar of Sutton St James. The Rev. Canon Hutchinson, M.A., occupied the chair. The lecturer dealt with his subject in a very thorough manner, and was very interesting, since he is a native of the Isle of Man. Ninety-two slides were used to illustrate the lecture, and the lanternist, Mr. C. Hotchkin, manipulated the lantern in a very satisfactory manner. The musical items from the *Manx National Songs*, were rendered by the children, and soloists from Holbeach. They were as follows: “The Sheep under the Snow,” Mr Cecil Watson; “Ramsey Town,” Mr S. Loweth; “Fair Maids of Man,” Miss M. Beddin; “Manx Fisherman’s Evening Hymn,” Mrs J.E. Callister; and the schoolchildren sang “Hush, Little Darling,” “Fairies’ Dance,” and the Manx National Anthem, “O Land of our Birth.” The musical portion was in the hands of Mr A.E. Corlett, who officiated at the piano. The proceeds, which were very satisfactory, were in aid of the District Nursing Fund. Our best thanks are tendered to Mr Corlett for arranging the lecture, and to all who so kindly helped in any way for the success of the lecture. The same lecture was given the following evening at Whaplode, when the lecturer and vocalists took part, with Mr Frank Dring in the chair.

“Saracen’s Head.” *Spalding Guardian* 19 March 1928: 18e–f.

Saracen’s Head, known also as Holbeach Clough, is a village in Lincolnshire, close to Holbeach in the Fens. Whilst the Rev. Callister was Manx, it is clear that there was another Manxman present, A.E. Corlett, the surname a clear giveaway. One wonders what the audience made of the songs and especially when singing the Manx National Anthem. Behind all of this lies *Manx National Songs*, and whilst we might be surprised to hear of a Manx concert in the Fens, one feels that W.H. Gill would regard it as being vindication of what he wished to achieve, that songs from the book would be sung anywhere there were Manx people to sing them.

Stephen Miller, RBV

Recent Discoveries from the Golden Age of the Manx Tourist Industry

by Maurice Powell

Earlier this month a colleague from the Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra, the 'cellist Roselle Reynolds, asked me to cast my eyes over a collection of old music left to her by her mother, local schoolteacher and piano teacher Joan Bradley née Cretney, after her death. Some of pieces bear a pencilled reference e.g. MCB 45, which is thought to be a catalogue number and could mean Music Catalogue (or Collection) Bradley followed by a number. Here is a selection of the most interesting items.

Items specifically relating to the Isle of Man

A first edition of ***Manx National Songs*** (Boosey & Co., 1896) inscribed on the inside cover 'To Grace Kelly by the Baldwin Glee Choir for her services as an accompanist', dated May 8th 1897. This copy was still in use as late as September 1998 as a letter from an M. Ford, of Mona Cottage, Queens Promenade, Douglas, tucked between the covers, shows. The letter is addressed to young pianist named Simon complimenting him on his 'special accomplishment' in accompanying the singers at concert at St. Andrew's Church. Simon is Simon Bradley who recalls being presented with *Manx National Songs* when, aged fifteen, he accompanied the Lhon Dhoo Choir at a concert in St. Andrew's Church, Douglas.

There are no references to the Baldwin Glee Choir as such in the local newspapers of the time, but there are several references to Miss Grace Kelly who is named as one of the accompanists at a concert 'in the big barn at Larkhill' when the 'boys and girls' from Baldwin were joined by the 'Abbey Lands great singers'.* Grace Kelly also sang a song, *Ora pro nobis*, which was encored.

* *Isle of Man Examiner*, 20.05.1897.

Grace Kelly 'of Zephyr Villa, Strang' is mentioned frequently in the local newspapers during the 1890s in connection with the West Baldwin Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday School where she was the regular accompanist on the harmonium and the trainer of the children's choir. Other reports of her as an accompanist place her at the Dalrymple Chapel, Union Mills, when her 'excellent performance on the organ was much admired', and at Tea Festivals and Concerts there.

Amongst editions of waltzes, piano and song compilations is a ***Valse, Villa Marina*** by Felix Godin, published by Francis, Day & Hunter in 1919. For five seasons between 1920-24 Godin, the composer of the popular *Valse Septembre* (1909), was the musical director at the Villa Marina.* The front cover shows a photograph of the Villa Marina Gardens with a large crowd seated on deckchairs and on the grass listening to an orchestra playing on the small, covered stage that once stood there. The waltz is dedicated to Norman W. Wild Esquire and consists of an introduction and waltz (Eb major), a trio (in Ab major) and concluding coda.

* See Maurice Powell, *Valse Septembre*, Felix Godin at the Villa Marina, manxmusic.com.

Songs of my Fatherland, a collection of Manx Music (Ancient and Modern), Selected, Adapted and Composed by W. H. Gill, Part 1, published by 'Ye Angmering Press', Sussex, 1908, and available from The Manx Sun Stationary Stores, Douglas. This collection of three Manx Songs: *Ode to Song*, *Traa-dy-Liooar!* and *The Phynodderee* is dedicated to The Isle of Man Fine Arts and Industrial Guild.

Ellan Vannin by M. L. Wood, ARCO, published by Blakemore & Sons, of Douglas. A well-known simple four-part harmony version of the most famous Manx song by Miss M. L. Wood, the 'Mother of Manx Music'.

Farewell to Mona, the words revised and music composed by J. E. Webster, published by J. Craine, 19 Parliament Street, Ramsey.* The sentiment is reminiscent of *Come Back to Mona* and *Mona I'm Coming Back* written in 1912 and 1913 by the famous entertainer Fred Buxton. The back cover of the song advertises another of Webster's Manx songs: *The Old Smuggler (of Port Soderick)*, 'inscribed to Major J. Senhouse Goldie-Taubman, SHK, the Nunnery, Isle of Man, Sung by the Composer and Mr G. H. Snazelle.'**

* John Craine, advocate, journalist, church organist, pianist and dealer in pianos, was the composer of the Manx oratorio *The Story of the Cross* (1895). See Maurice Powell, *Mr. Craine's Oratorio*, manxmusic.com.

** George Henry Snazel was a bank clerk turned singer and a popular all-round summer entertainer in Douglas, baritone and raconteur, famed for his monologues and yarns. He often billed himself as 'the world's greatest baritone'; Sir Thomas Beecham referred to him as 'that inveterate old joker'. His persona and style may have introduced the term 'Snazzy' into the English language. See Maurice Powell, *Manxland's King of Music*, Lily Publications, 2018.

The full article will be available to read online soon...

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

2. The Leighton Stowell Book of Manx Dances

2.8 Madolcogh

First performed in 1948 by Tony Archibald and Aileen Hall in Dublin, Cork and Kilkenny (MNHL 09683), this dance was again composed for Maisie Allison and Daphne Corlett after the success of *Gathering in the Barley*. The dance specifically uses the siding step as shown to Stowell by Bella Garrett while in Ramsey as part of *Flutter Dance*, but also by Mrs Armour, a Navy WREN who also knew Irish and Scottish dances. This time the dance was written but no tune could be found. Inspired by the sound of a boat in the bay, a kind of 'chig-a-chig' noise, a tune was composed and in 1972 (Stowell: 1972) Stowell was trying to compose a purt y beayll. The dance was named after Maisie and Daphne by mixing their names together.

READ THE FULL THESIS:

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

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

New Hop tu naa slip jig by Ben Walker

Ben Walker has composed a new Hop tu naa tune, after being challenged by a friend! Kathy Tipping, whose Manx grandmother was from Peel, sent him Culture Vannin's Hop tu naa resources for inspiration, and Ben, who hails from Lancashire wrote this slip jig.

As well as tin whistle, Ben plays the uilleann pipes and Irish flute, and he teaches and composes original music.

Hear him play the tune here: <https://fb.watch/n-u2xC2SF6/>

Listen to more of Ben's music: www.benwalker.org

Hop Tu Naa

Ben Walker October 2023

5

9

13

18

Discover all of the *Transcriptions of the Month* songs & tunes here:
www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_467456.html

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

1-5 Cooish Manx Language Festival

9-11 Songs from the musical "The Star of India", San Diego Maritime Museum, California, USA

25 Skeddán Jiarg dance at Peel
Christmas Lights switch on

DECEMBER

8 Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre, 7.30pm

10 Cliogaree Twoaie concert, Lezayre Church and Arts Centre

14 Tynwald Carol Service, St George's Church, Douglas

15 Lesh Shee as Graih concert, St Ninian's Church, Douglas, 7pm

26 Hunt the Wren - Island-wide!!

JANUARY 2024

Blein Vie Noa!

12 Arrane son Mannin - Song for Mannin ~ concert and competition, Peel

THE OLDEST SHIP IN THE WORLD
THAT STILL SAILS
WAS BUILT IN RAMSEY IN 1863

CATCH US LIVE
CONCERTS
ISLE OF MAN

ST PAUL'S HALL RAMSEY SAT 7TH OCTOBER 2023 7.30PM £6
CALIFORNIA, USA

SAN DIEGO MARITIME MUSEUM 9TH - 11TH NOVEMBER 2023

POP-UP GIGS RAMSEY, ISLE OF MAN
RAMSEY COURTHOUSE SAT 2ND SEPT 11AM & 2PM
ON THE QUEENS PIER SUNDAY 3RD SEPT 3PM
AND MORE...
ON THE QUAYSIDE NEAR THE TRAFALGAR
ON DATES TO BE ADVISED

180TH ANNIVERSARY
STAR OF INDIA
RAMSEY - SAN DIEGO
SONGS FROM THE MUSICAL

BREE FISHY QUIZ!
ALL OF THE ANSWERS WERE...
HERRING!!

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. (Buffs) Club, Ramsey
FRI 8.30pm 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 1-4 Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club
Third **SUN** of month 1-4 Trad session in The Mitre, Kirk Michael

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

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:
Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Chloë Woolley**: chloe@culturevannin.im
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

Arrane son Mannin – Song for Mann 2023-24

Ferrym Entreil – Competition Entry Form

Co-hirrey 12 Jerrey Gheuree – Competition 12 January 2024

LEEDEILAGH/ CONTACT

ENNYM/ NAME _____

ENMYS/ADDRESS _____

POSSAN/GROUP _____

(ENNYM/NAME)

**ENNYM YN ARRANE/
TITLE OF SONG** _____

**FOCKLEYN LIORISH/
WORDS BY** _____

**KIAULL LIORISH/
MUSIC BY** _____

Cur-jee coip hym, Fiona McArdle, jeh ny fockleyn ayns Gaelg as ayns Baarle, as coip jeh'n chiaull neesht, roish 21 Mee ny Nollick 2023, my sailliu.

Please send a copy of the lyrics in Manx, with an English translation, and a copy of the music to me, Fiona McArdle, by 21 December 2023

Ta mee/ shin ayns cordailys dy vel ny fockleyn as kiaull crooit dy noa as bunneydagh as ta mee/ shin soiaghey jeh reillyn yn cho-hirrey.

I/we agree that the music and lyrics are newly composed and original and accept the rules of the competition.

Ennym/signed: _____

Post L/ E-mail: fmcardle@manx.net
manxtourguide@gmail.com

Chell./ Tel.: 471543

Ferrym Entreil roish 01 Mee ny Nollick/ Entry Form by 01 December 2023