



## SCRAN LAUNCH DEBUT ALBUM!!

**Vibrant young band Scran have released their debut CD of Manx traditional music**

Their new album 'Nane' (Manx Gaelic for the number one) is a blend of lively Manx jigs and reels, beautiful airs such as "Dooraght" by Katie Lawrence, Gaelic song, new melodies by members of Scran and a few tunes from the other Celtic nations thrown into the mix.

Scran consists of some of the most talented young traditional musicians in the Isle of Man, and the band has grown out of Culture Vannin's Manx music youth movement, Bree. Guided by mentor, Paul Rogers (Mabon, Strengyn & The Fecktones), Scran members are



aged between 13 and 18 and the group includes BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Musician of the Year 2018, Mera Royle on harp. Scran clinched second place in the Next Big Thing 2017 and they received glowing reviews when they performed along with Mera at the Crobredy Folk Festival this summer. Past members of Scran who feature on the Nane album include fiddle player Isla Callister, who is now studying traditional music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and is finding musical success with her Celtic band, TRIP.

Scran launched the CD with a live gig at the Mitre Hotel in Ramsey last week.

The CD is £10.00 and is now available to buy from Culture Vannin and other local shops, or it can be downloaded as a digital album for £7.00 from bandcamp.

More info about Scran and Bree: [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)



*In this month's edition...*

- *25th Mollag Ghennal*
- *MFDS summer visits*
- *New Christmas songbook*
- *Latest album releases*

**Culture  
VANNIN**

# Manannan's Winterfest – A Magical Manx Christmas!

There's something new on the Christmas calendar this year with the introduction of a sparkling new event at the Gaiety Theatre under the title of Manannan's Winterfest – A Magical Manx Christmas!

Billed as a unique concert celebrating Manx Christmas traditions, the event will be a collaboration of the Island's finest exponents of classical, folk, brass and choral music – topped with local humour and drama.

The brainchild of local musicians David Kilgallon and Malcolm Stitt, their aim is to combine both the old and the new and fix Manannan's Winterfest firmly on the Manx calendar. It's an idea which grew synergistically from several conversations between them as they reminisced about traditional, childhood memories and their shared love of performing Christmas music. The Year of Our Island initiative proved to be the catalyst for the event, and with the help of friends and families the show promises to be an exciting, new experience for anyone looking for a great night out at the beautiful and historic Gaiety Theatre. Hosted by the inimitable Dot Tilbury, the list of entertainers will include the BBC Radio 2 award-winning folk harpist Mera Royle, Alexandra Slater and the legendary Michael Players. Also within the musical mix will be some rousing festive sounds from Ramsey Town Band, well-known carols from the choir Manx Voices and Gareth Moore on the piano: as well as a world renowned collective of Celtic musicians including David Kilgallon, Malcolm Stitt, Jamie Smith and the Lawrence sisters. It's also hoped to include the stunning Whiteboys during the evening, which reflects an old Manx custom including drama and comedy.

Sponsored by Year of Our Island 2018, Culture Vannin, the Isle of Man Arts Council and the Malcolm Dickinson Charitable Trust, tickets priced at £24/£20 are available from [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com)

Valerie Caine © November 2018 (Courtesy of Manx Life)





# 25th Anniversary Mollag Ghennal

Fri 28th December ~ The Manx Legion Club, Douglas

*The history of the annual Manx Christmas knees up began in The Garden Room of the old Villa Marina. The Mollag Band took over the spot from the Calor Gas Band Xmas ceili in 1993. The event was continued for a couple of years by Yn Chruinnaght, but it was returned to the able hands of the mighty Mollags and remains a popular date in the cultural calendar.*

## 2018 LINE UP:

Sel Edwards - Welsh fiddle player with a family association with Mann.

Matt Kelly - Local singer-song writer

Imbolc - Celtic band fresh from their performances in Belgium

Scran - Talented young trad band with their brand new album "Nane"

Skeddan Jiarg - a small dance group of small people!

Frank and Jamie Joughin - Father and son duet

And of course, The Mollags who have been experimenting with the musical equivalent of modern art. Where groups of lyrics are connected only by vague association. Creating an abstract image formed through the ears of the listener. Like a sort of melodic Matisse...

We will also try some community singing with a mix of Victorian music hall and 70's Manx folk classics!

Supper from the Mollag kitchens

Tickets: £15.00 from Thomson Travel, Celtic Gold, Shaktiman, Peter Norris.

[photo of organiser, Greg Joughin from MG 2017 by Val Caine]



## **Chronicles Trumpet & Organ Duo** Concert - organised by Ramsey Music Society



St Paul's Church  
Friday, 28  
December 2018  
at 19:30

Russell Gilmour  
(trumpet) &  
David Kilgallon  
(organ)

Tickets and more info  
about their programme,  
which includes many  
arrangements of Manx  
melodies:

[www.  
ramseymusicsociety.  
org/gilmour.html](http://www.ramseymusicsociety.org/gilmour.html)

# Arrane son Mannin

## New Song in Manx Competition

New Song in Manx Competition

Prize money sponsored by **Culture VANNIN**



## Includes a Manx Concert

with:-

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Biskee Brisht     | Bree          |
| Caarjyn Cooijagh  | Matt Creer    |
| Mera Royle (Harp) | Owen Williams |
| Peddyr as Paayl   | and more...   |

Peel Masonic Hall, Stanley Road  
Saturday 12th January 2019 - 7.30pm  
FREE ADMISSION - RAFFLE

A few days left to enter...

## ARRANE SON MANNIN New Song in Manx

The International Pan Celtic Festival will take place in Letterkenny 23 - 28 April 2019, but before that, an original song in Manx Gaelic will be chosen to represent the Isle of Man. This heat will take place on Saturday 12th January, 7.30pm in Peel Masonic Hall, so start penning a new ditty or translate your original song now.

### More info here:

[www.manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_548534.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/news_story_548534.html)

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

**Deadline: 7th December 2018**

Contact Manx delegate, Fiona McArdle, for more info and entry form:

[fmcardle@manx.net](mailto:fmcardle@manx.net)

**Culture  
VANNIN**



## Hartes Ease concert "Er Yn Oie Nollick" ~ On Christmas Night", falls on Old Christmas Night

Our programme includes music from Britain and Europe from the 16th - 18th centuries. We have selected some beautiful vocal and instrumental music from composers including pieces from Altenburg, Ebeling, Rameau, Praetorius and Purcell.

Book early as tickets sell out fast!

[http://www.knockaloe.im/page\\_556356.html](http://www.knockaloe.im/page_556356.html)

## www.knockaloe.im "Er yn Oie Nollick" "On Christmas Night"

*We are delighted to welcome back by very popular demand*

A candlelit evening of seasonal renaissance and baroque music and song to celebrate  
Manx Old Christmas Night with local group:

### "Hartes Ease"



Original 100 year old postcard from the charity's own collection

**8.00pm on Old Christmas Night**  
(doors open at 7.15pm)

**Sunday 6th January 2019**

Holy Trinity Church, Patrick, Isle of Man

Tickets £10 each include complimentary  
interval mulled wine and homemade sweet treats

Limited seating so early booking recommended via Eventbrite for further  
information please E-mail [events@knockaloe.im](mailto:events@knockaloe.im)

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

Registered Charity No. 1150





## Christmas Concert

16 December  
2pm

Manx Museum Theatre

Tickets - Adults, £10, Children £5, 10% discount for Members



This year's theme is 'The Good Old Days', think Victorian and Edwardian style Music Hall with a heavy dose of laughter. Traditional Manx tea break included. Fancy dress encouraged!

manxnationalheritage.im 

As well as the Cracking Christmas Concert at the Manx Museum, Perree Bane will be dancing on Saturday 22nd December at Port Erin Railway Station at 10.30am and 11.15am in between performances by Rushen Silver Band.

You're also welcome to join them for their Christmas Party in Ballasalla Village Hall on Sunday 16th December, from 6pm for children's games, followed by dancing from 7pm. Bring something to eat and share.

## Manx Folk Dance Society

*Christmas Social*

**Dancing & Carols**

Teas/Coffees & Mince Pies

Onchan Methodist Hall

Tues 4th December - 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME

**Have you heard ?**

**About Perree Bane's Christmas party ?**

**When?**  
Its on Sunday 16th December from 6pm. Children's games then dancing for all from 7pm.

**Where?** Taking place at Ballasalla Village Hall

**Who?** All musicians and dancers, old and new, welcome

**Why?** Because you will love it ! Bring your dancing feet and something to eat & share and a friend or two.

PIC-COLLAGE

ISLE OF MAN  
*Symphony*  
ORCHESTRA

## GALA CONCERT

**SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2018**

**VILLA MARINA : 2.30pm**

*Brahms : Academic Festival Overture*

*Schumann : Konzertstück for 4 Horns*

*Charles Guard : The Legend of St. Maughold*

*Dvořák : 'New World' Symphony*

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



# SHENNAGHYS JIU



## MANX DANCE COURSE FOR FAMILIES AND BEGINNERS.

Shennaghys Jiu is holding a new Manx Dancing Class offering a short series of workshops in Manx Dance to be held in Ramsey at Bunscoill Rhumsaa at 6.00 - 6.45 p.m. on Wednesday nights.

The class will offer families and beginners the chance to learn some traditional Manx dancing steps and traditional dances.

Classes will begin on Wednesday 14th November.

For Further details contact:

Juan Garrett on 452653 or

Sue Jaques on 303722

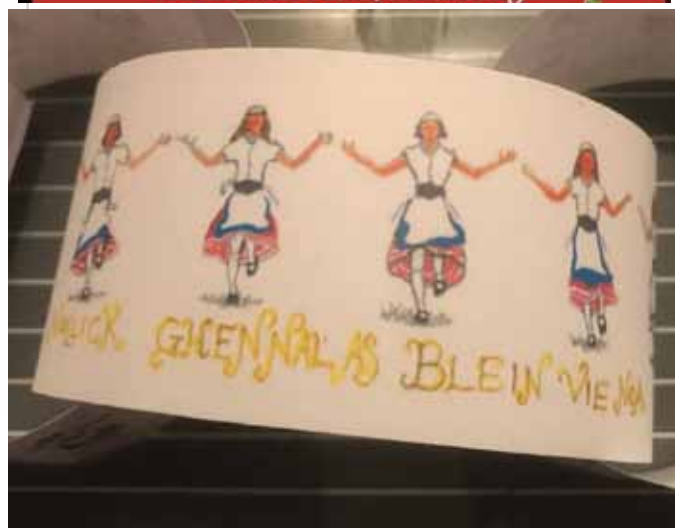


**Shennaghys Jiu Celtic Festival** have entered the Christmas Festival of Trees with a giant festive version of their distinctive logo, but committee member, Rob MacKenzie has also designed this fab Manx dance Christmas paper chain. Have a look at the Festival of Trees in Ramsey Town Hall.

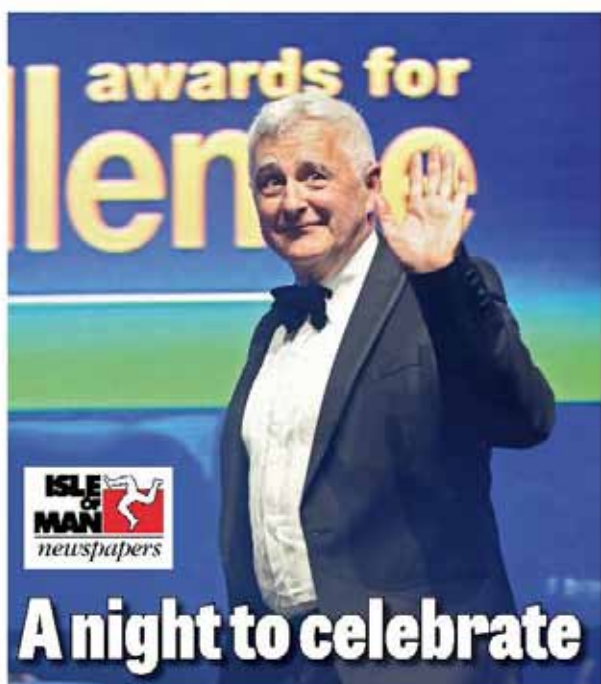
## Family Bingo Night



Thursday 6th December  
Masonic Hall, Ramsey



## AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE



**Charles Guard** – Manx composer, harpist, broadcaster, author, film and music producer and former director of Culture Vannin (Manx Heritage Foundation), was recognised for his long-term contribution to Manx life and culture at this year's Isle of Man Newspapers' Awards for Excellence (Thurs 15th Nov).

[www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/lifetime-achievement-award-for-charles-guard/](http://www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/lifetime-achievement-award-for-charles-guard/)

The premiere of a new work by Charles called "The Legend of St Maughold", and narrated by Charles himself, is part of the IOM Symphony Orchestra concert on Sunday 2nd December in the Villa Marina at 2.30pm. [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com)  
About Charles:

<https://celticlife.com/charles-guard/>





*PHOTO: Caarjyn Cooidjagh & Rachel Hair entertained a packed out audience at the annual Dalby a Taste of Christmas concert.*

## CLAASAGH HARP CONCERT ON FILM

Highlights from the 2018 Claasagh concert, featuring the young Manx harp students who learn from the inter-Celtic harp specialist, Rachel Hair have been captured on film. Filmed by young filmmakers Dark Avenue for Culture Vannin, the films feature the group performing Paul Cringle's lovely melody, Auldryn River and a medley of other Manx melodies from the concert:

[www.culturevannin.im/video\\_story\\_556374.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/video_story_556374.html)

More information about Claasagh and Manx harp lessons with Rachel for Culture Vannin can be found on the Manx Music website: [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)



*Manx speakers, young and old, beginner and advanced, enjoyed a fantastic night of Gaelic entertainment courtesy of Yn Chruinnaght who organised a 'giense' as part of the Cooish Manx language festival last month. Performers included Clash Vooar, Kipperceili & the Manx Bard Annie Kissack [Photo thanks: Val Caine]*

## HUNT THE WREN CHRISTMAS CARDS

Crossroads Care's Christmas cards and Manx Traditions Calendar 2019 are available. Both the cards and calendar have been designed and created by local artist and ceramicist Felicity Wood. Felicity has a love for Celtic knots and enjoys developing these shapes into a modern style. She has been producing Crossroads Care's Christmas cards for the past fifteen years and we are thrilled she also created a calendar for 2019.

The Manx Traditions Calendar 2019 is based on Manx traditions throughout the year, and each month has been created from an old Manx custom. This year's Christmas card, Laa Steaoin, St Stephen's Day, has been designed from December.

Available to buy in the Crossroad Care shops and during the Cooish Manx language festival.

Christmas Cards (pack of 10 including envelopes) - £4.00

Manx Traditions Calendar 2019 - £5.00

More info: <http://www.crossroadsiom.org/>



## £2 coin celebrates ancient Manx Christmas tradition

An iconic Manx Christmas tradition is being celebrated on a coin this festive season.

The Isle of Man Post Office is releasing a £2 "Hunt the Wren" coin.

The coin depicts the well-known custom which is carried out every St Stephen's Day (26th).

Originally the wren were hunted down, killed, and fastened to a pole, their feathers thought to ward off evil in the coming year . . but nowadays a groups travel around singing a traditional song and dancing around a decorated wren pole using an imitation bird.

It coins are also available in a special limited edition of 1000 beautiful Christmas Cards featuring imagery taken from the Manx Folk Traditions stamp collection complete with a 'Hunt the Wren' stamp, first day of issue unique postmark and a 2018 Hunt the Wren £2 Coin.

All products can be purchased at [www.iompost.com](http://www.iompost.com).

Coin is £8.50

Hunt the Wren Christmas Card & Coin Gift Pack: £22.50

<https://www.iompost.com/stamps-coins/product/hunt-the-wren-christmas-card-coin-gift-pack/>

Article from [www.manxradio.com](http://www.manxradio.com)





# Hunt the Wren

## WHERE OH WHERE?

Dancing on the streets around a "the king of all birds" who is paraded around on a pole...

Hunt the Wren is one of the most popular and yet more unusual Manx traditions in practice today.

On St. Stephen's Day (26th December) communities come together across the Isle of Man to dance and sing around the streets. The practice, dating back to Pagan times, is centred on a wren, "the king of all birds," which is hunted and then danced through the streets on a special pole (the bird in the wren pole today is a replica!)

Join revellers around the Isle of Man to celebrate the old tradition of Hunt the Wren through song and dance. Musicians, singers and dancers of all ages and abilities welcome!



**RAMSEY** - meet outside St Paul's Church at 10.30am.

**ST JOHNS** - meet at 10.30am in the Arboretum car park.

**PORT ST MARY** - meet at 10am in the Scoill Purt-le-Moirrey car park.

**KIRK MICHAEL** - meet at 11am outside the Mitre pub, then onto The Raven Pub in BALLAUGH 11.20am and SULBY Glen Pub at 11.40am.

**DOUGLAS** - meet outside the Woodbourne Pub, Alexander Drive. Meet 10.15 for 10.30am 'Round the Houses'. All welcome, no prior knowledge needed (unless you're playing an instrument)!

Singing and dancing and hunting the wren must be over by 12 noon to avoid bad luck!

Following that, visit ST JOHNS to take part or spectate the annual Cammag match!

Cammag is a team sport originating on the Island, closely related to the Scottish game of shinty and is similar to the Irish game of hurling. Once the most widespread sport on Man, it ceased to be played around 1900 after the introduction of association football, though it has experienced a revival in the 21st century.

Historically Cammag season started on Hunt the Wren Day and was played by men (of all ages) during the winter. \* Trad music session afterwards in the Tynwald Inn\*

**Mollag Band sing Hunt the Wren:**

<https://vimeo.com/247774280>

**Fiona McArdle & David Fisher explain in Manx Gaelic about the ancient tradition:**

<https://vimeo.com/195925636>

**More info on Hunt the Wren and download music, lyrics, etc.:**

[https://www.culturevannin.im/manx\\_year.html](https://www.culturevannin.im/manx_year.html)

Article above from [www.visitisleofman.com](http://www.visitisleofman.com)

Photo of wren bush by Fiona McArdle

# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



## PERREE BANE AT LOWENDER PERAN

*Report by Fern  
Hopkinson*

The first weekend in November saw Manx group Perree Bane travel to Newquay for the 40th Lowender Peran festival; celebrating Celtic music and culture. Five Manx musicians and eleven dancers joined performers from Cornwall, Ireland,

Scotland, Brittany and Wales for a 4 day extravaganza of ceilis, workshops, dance displays and sessions. Whilst in Cornwall our musicians Paul, Beccy, Kirsty, Patrick and Russell were also joined at times by musicians Rachel Hair (harp) and Gilno Carswell (flute). Highlights included a ceili and display for a group of young people with special educational needs, sharing our traditional tunes with other musicians in a Manx themed session, a dance workshop teaching Dance for Five and packing the dance floor with people dancing Manx ceilis.

Despite an exhausting schedule much fun was had by all, culminating in an unofficial session and dance display at Newquay airport with the Hegarty School of dancing as we all waited for our delayed flights home.

Thanks go to the Isle of Man Arts Council for supporting us financially, the Lowender Peran Festival for inviting us and finally all the musicians and dancers.

If you are interested in finding out more about Manx dancing or music contact Perree Bane on Facebook.

## Tributes to Sophia Dale

Sophia Dale, Gaelic singer with Manx band Skeeal, sadly passed away last month in Uist where she had lived for the past few years. Her distinctive voice was an integral part of Skeeal's sound, and she had recorded several albums with the band.

Here is a beautiful unaccompanied version of traditional Manx song "Padjer Colum Killey" with glorious improvised harmonies by Sophia Dale: <https://soundcloud.com/breesha/padger-colum-killey-st-columbas-prayer-by-skeeal>  
Tribute : [www.welovebarraandvatersay.com/index.php/88-welcome/12044-tributes-to-artist-musician-sophia](http://www.welovebarraandvatersay.com/index.php/88-welcome/12044-tributes-to-artist-musician-sophia)

Picture by Charles Gorrie





*It's been a busy summer for the Manx Folk Dance Society...*

## **1918-2018 Hembygdgillet 100 years** *report by Mo Robinson*

The Manx Folk Dance Society had a very special invitation to join their friends in Malmö, Sweden in August 2018. They were also joined with The Wayfarers from Birmingham and Volkstanzgruppe Besse from Germany. Our arrival in Copenhagen was in a localised Thunderstorm, just like the last time we visited, well we like to make an entrance and warn them the Manxies have arrived. There is a short journey, approx. 10 minutes by train over the Oresund Bridge spanning across the waters between Denmark and Skane, Sweden. We were welcomed by our hosts and taken to Scandic St Jörgen Hotel which was right in the center of town, and shortly after the other groups arrived, and there was a welcome evening and we had a chance to catch up and chat to all our friends.



The program for the week was action packed, beginning with workshops in Folkets Park, they did say the dancing would be on grass, but unfortunately all the grass had died off because there had been no rain for the last three months, from the stage you could see a cloud of dust rising above, as everyone danced polka, in the blazing sun and heat at 30 degrees, we had a performance in the same park a few days later but in a different area, which was not so dry. As part of the Celebrations we all paraded to The City of Malmö Town Hall for a Reception and Dinner, hosted by the Culture Chairman, she gave us a warm welcome and after the meal there was time to have speeches and present gifts, the wooden floor in the Reception hall was highly polished and not suitable for a dance performance, but Joshua Clarkson was allowed to perform





the jig in his soft pumps, this was a very special moment for him.

The following day was an excursion day, where we were taken to the East of Skane, we walked through an apple orchard, and via the woods down to the beach, there was a chance to take a swim and the water was amazingly warm in the Baltic Sea. We travelled back via the town of Ystad and had some time to take a look around the town. On the last day we had a Church service with high mass, in Limhamns kyrka, there was beautiful music played and singing by the local choir, together with a parade and slow dancing by the Swedish Group, it was an incredible moment and so special it brought a tear to your eye, just to be there and be a part of 100 years celebration. The week was over too quickly, and we hope it will not be too long before we see everyone again, maybe on the Isle of Man, but I think maybe just one group at a time.

## Manx Folk Dance Society take a road trip to Wales

*report by Mo Robinson*

The folk dancers took their 2nd trip in August to visit the Welsh group Tipyn O Bopeth for the Bank Holiday weekend. We stayed in a Gothic Mansion, called Golden Grove, which is a large country house styled in a Tudor/Scottish Baronial style situated in a Deer park called Gelli Aur, in Llandeilo Carmarthenshire.



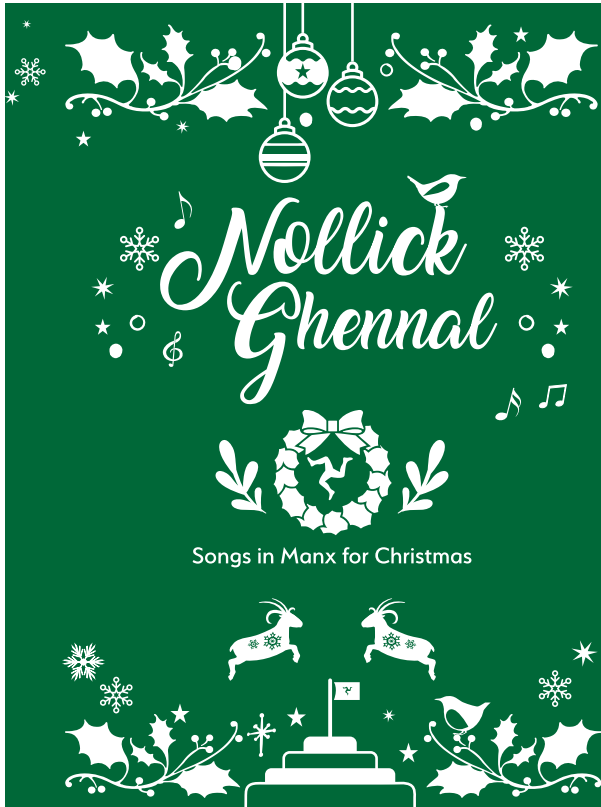
The house is, at present, undergoing restoration, and it was an experience to stay in and explore, even at one point up into the Bell/clock tower and on to the roof! We did not dance on the roof though - we took the safer option and performed at the National Botanical Garden centre, where there is a large domed glass atrium, both groups performed on 3 days to large crowds.

We also danced on one of the evenings at the Golden Grove for the diners, and enjoyed a Home-made Welsh traditional stew made with Leeks and Ham. On the last night we all met in the Village hall for Supper and lots of music and dancing.

A good time was had by all, thanks to Roberta (Bobby) Evans for organising this visit.







## NOLLICK GHENNAL Manx Christmas Songs

**COMING SOON!!!** Look out for a new publication from Culture Vannin to be released soon!

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin has compiled a new book of Gaelic songs suitable for both schools and the general public, and it will hit the shelves and Carol Services later this month!

*Nollick Ghennal* is a book of nearly 40 new, old and well-known Christmas carols in Manx Gaelic. The collection brings together original Christmas songs composed by teachers Annie Kissack and Aalin Clague for students of the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, songs by composers such as Bob Carswell and H.P. Kelly, new lyrics set to traditional Manx melodies, old Manx Gaelic carols and songs of the nativity, as well as well-known Christmas favourites translated into Manx by various contributors.

Follow [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com) NEWS or Culture Vannin or Manx Music & Dance on Facebook to find out when it's released.

Don your festive loaghtan wool jumper and listen along to some Manx Christmas music!  
<https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/sets/manx-christmas>



Young, award winning Manx harpist Mera Royle appears on the latest Fatea Winter Showcase album:

[www.fatea-records.co.uk/magazine/news/WinterEagle/](http://www.fatea-records.co.uk/magazine/news/WinterEagle/)

### **DON'T FORGET!!!**

There are lots of tempting Manx music & dance Christmas presents from Culture Vannin shop online:

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

## RUMOURS OF UNEASE

The long awaited album from Manx Gaelic gypsy-jazzers Clash Vooar has been officially launched and is now available to buy as a CD or download:

<https://clashvooar.bandcamp.com/releases>

Follow the band on Facebook and look out for live gigs:

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

**PEDDYR CUBBERLEY** will release a new Manx Trad arrangement of the Christmas Carol "See Amid The Winter's Snow" on December 1st.

As Manx traditional musicians, Lucy & Peddyr gave this carol a bit of the Manx Celtic treatment and they hope you will enjoy it. :)

Peddyr Cubberley ~ Irish Flute

Lucy Gilmore ~ Celtic Harp

Available from my Bandcamp page:

<https://peddyrcubberley.bandcamp.com/track/see-amid-the-winters-snow>

And listen on Youtube

<https://youtu.be/FO4qFP2W-kg>



## Christa McCartney

The new album *Shee* from Manx Gaelic singer and harpist is now in IOM shops or to buy online £12.99

[www.christamccartneymusic.com/apps/webstore/](http://www.christamccartneymusic.com/apps/webstore/)



## Biskee Brisht in the Glen



This funky Manx band performs 'Not Again' & 'The Fall' in Port Soderick Glen.

<https://youtu.be/Rq5Cw3L-QrQ>

Manx for 'Broken Biscuit' are fronted by Ruby Biscoe-Taylor, who pulled together friends and family to make the current line up of John (accordion), Django (trumpet), Colin (trombone), Matt (bass and violin) and Cosmo's dad (shiny Gretsch). More information on getting involved in the project and to watch more videos:

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

**Chris and Karen Rewind** As mentioned in a previous KMJ, a musical duo from British Columbia have written an original song about the Isle of Man. You can listen to the track "The Isle of Man" by Chris J Marr & Karen P Hennessy here: <https://youtu.be/RN-zSX63uyo>





## 'Turn to Face the Strange' debut EP release by Jamys Woolley

Prolific singer-songwriter Jamys Woolley has released his first EP of original songs in time for Christmas.

'Turn to Face the Strange' comprises five songs recorded at the Ballagroove Recording Studios over the past two years.

Jamys, 28, is a familiar and popular figure on the local live music scene. He has written many songs, which he usually performs acoustically. Those selected for his EP, such as 'Live it Up (Tropical Trees)' and 'Trust made a Great Companion', have been shaped and honed in collaboration with producer Gyp Buggane.

Gyp said the EP was "one of the most enjoyable records I've ever worked on; it's a magical mystical ride of beautiful strangeness... Jamys really is an incredible wordsmith".

Jamys' musical style has been compared with artists such as Nick Cave, Joy Division, Echo and the Bunnymen, Captain Beefheart, The Doors and The

Velvet Underground. Undoubtedly though, his greatest inspiration has been Bob Dylan; but these are no mere Dylan-copies – they are very original in their own right.

Audiences who enjoyed Sam Waters' film 'Mad Manx and the Soap Box Derby' will also recognise one of the songs from the soundtrack: 'Live It Up'.

Jamys's musical journey began as a 14 year old precociously-talented electric guitarist, fronting the heavy metal band Meso Soup, along with Joe Kneale and Ben Barlow.

His love of heavy metal was balanced by playing classical violin with the Manx Youth Orchestra where he sat next to the now famous fiddle player Tom Callister, causing Jamys to comment years later: "I should have practised more"!

The title 'Turn to Face the Strange' is an oblique allusion to the David Bowie song 'Changes', and the EP photography is by his long-time friend and fellow skateboarder Elliot McMahon.

The EP is available as a digital download for £5:

<http://jamyswoolley.bandcamp.com/album/turn-to-face-the-strange>

*Physical CDs will be available*

*soon direct to buy from Jamys.*



### Youtube/ video corner

- **Lowender Peran 2014** Kemysk choreograph Cornish Dance "Melyndowr" (water mill) to celebrate the links between the Isle of Man and Cornwall. They are joined here by Grainne Joughin dancing a Manx Jig.

<https://youtu.be/ngQOCMonC94>

# RESEARCH NEWS



Pictured above and right in a 1977 *Manx Life* magazine are members of Manx music group Bwoie Doal & dance group Bock Yuan Fannee dressed in character for a play devised by Bob Carswell RBV.

The actors were: Colin Jerry, Elsie & Bob Carswell Senior, David Fisher, Cristl Jerry, Bob Carswell (Junior) plus Phil Kelly and Marion Teare.

**Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa**  
*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

‘At Christmas play and make good  
cheer, For Christmas comes  
but once a year’

In the Isle of Man, a key element of Christmas in past-times was taking a break from routine. This holiday from the usual hard and relentless routine was called the ‘Foolish Fortnight’ or in Manx Gaelic, ‘Yn Kegeesh Ommidjagh’, and this began on the shortest day, Black Thomas’ Eve (now 21st December) and ended on Twelfth Night.

Read about the Mollag Band, Carval singing on the Oie'll Verrey, Christmas fiddlers, Hunt the Wren and the White Boys and other curious Manx traditions associated with Christmas-time:

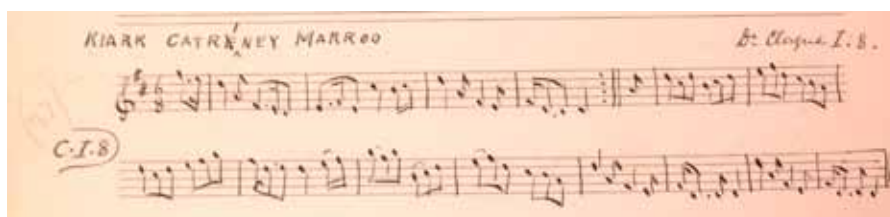
[www.manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_505045.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/news_story_505045.html)





# KIARK CATREENEY MARROO

"DR CLAGUE I : 8."



THE ORIGINAL COLLECTION | OF | MANX FOLK MUSIC | [RULE] | MADE BY | HIS HONOUR THE DEEMSTER GILL | MR W.H. GILL & DR. CLAGUE | COMPLETED IN 1895 & 1896. MNHL, MS 09702, Deemster J.F. Gill Papers, Box 1. Bound up and paginated in 1912 by Mrs Lucinda Gill.

\*

On 27 November 1894, W.H. Gill wrote to his brother, Deemster J.F. Gill, and in the course of the letter mentioned that "you might deliberate with the Doctor as to the fate of the tune with the title 'Kiark Catreeney Marroo.' It is a nice point for you to settle, viz. Is it Manx or Scotch?" By Doctor was meant Dr John Clague, and Gill was somewhat despondent as "I find it note for note in a book of professedly Scotch Songs. I am afraid we have not a leg to stand on, especially as the tune does not appear in 'Mona Melodies,'" continuing, "[b]ut perhaps the Doctor can tell us something of its history." Clague was quick with his reply, and in a letter to the Deemster from early December commented that:

As to Kiark Catreeney Marroo I think it is an old Gaelic tune and is as much Manx as it is Irish and Scotch. I have seen the tune in a collection of Irish airs as well as of Scotch airs, the Irish title being "The ducks dang my daddie"—the Scotch one "The deuks gang o'er my daddie."

He went on to add that:

I believe that the "Kiark Catreeney Marroo" procession—by the bye tomorrow is the day for it—is one of the oldest of our national customs. Much older than "Hunt the Wren" & the "White Boys."

Associated with Colby Fair held each year on 5 December, the interest here is not with the calendar custom itself, which can be readily read up in Clague's own *Cooineaghtyn Manninagh: Manx Reminiscences By the Late Dr John Clague* (Castletown: M.J. Backwell, n.d. [but 1911]) 43 & 45, but with the tune itself.

Whilst the Gill brothers had conducted two collecting tours in the Island that year, they did not collect Kiark Catreeney Marroo, it came from Clague, and the Deemster made a copy of it as shown here ([OC] 94/2). Clague and the Gills passed each other the tunes they had collected, the difference being that while the latter marked the ones they received, Clague did not. W.H. Gill devised a simple code, as he explained to his brother in May 1895, "[i]n the transcripts I sent you the referencing at the left hand bottom corner refer to the Sources," and as an illustration, "C.I = Dr Clague's 1st lot[.]"

This "1st lot" consists of fourteen tunes, but numbers eleven and twelve, however, are not present in the transcript made by the Deemster. As it contains Kiark Catreeney Marroo (C.I.8), the subject of the letter dated 27 November 1894, this first batch of material from Clague was evidently in W.H. Gill's hands by that date. Of the twelve tunes that are present, nine are titles recognisable from *Mona Melodies* (1820), and the remaining three are Car y Phoosee, Kiark Catreeney Marroo, and Ree Ben Juan Tammy. Turning to Clague's own tune books, now in the MNHL, they are all present there but as arrangements with the exception of Hunt the Wren (C.I.9). As regards Hunt the Wren ([CI] 49/3), Clague notes the source as being Annie Crellin of Orrisdale and dated 11 September 1897 (as Anne Margaret Crellin, she was the Secretary of the Folk Lore Committee of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society). If this is the date he obtained it from her, as opposed to entering it in the tune book, then the version sent to Gill comes from another source. Leaving aside the issue of the form of the *Mona Melodies* titles in the Deemster's transcript, the trio of tunes mentioned above are transcribed unarranged and as collected by Clague and as such are known now only from this source. The structure and composition of the Clague tune books has yet to be fully understood, and whilst we can no longer "deliberate with the Doctor" directly, there is the Deemster's transcript that can be used instead as here.

STEPHEN MILLER

Letter from W.H. Gill to Deemster Gill, 22 May 1894; W.H. Gill to Deemster Gill, 27 November 1894; Dr John Clague to Deemster Gill, 5 December 1894, MNHL, MS 09702, Box 2. The Dr John Clague tune books are MNHL, MS 448/1-3 A and MS 449 B.

**Ballad of Buster Scruggs** – a new Coen Brothers film about the American Frontier on Netflix features a song called 'Molly from the Isle of Man'. [www.netflix.com/im/title/80200267](http://www.netflix.com/im/title/80200267)

Towards the end of the movie, a character sings "Has anyone here seen Molly, Molly from the Isle of Man?"



## The White Boys 2000 digitised films

Some VHS films of the White Boys mummers' play and dance performed at various spots around Peel in 2000 have now been digitised and are available to watch online. Big thanks to John Dowling who filmed the original performances.

Find out more about The White Boys tradition and watch the films here:

[www.culturevannin.im/manx\\_year\\_event\\_505782.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_505782.html)

## \*More articles concerning Manx music history added to manxmusic.com Research page

There are two papers by David Speers which were originally published by Beodeoideas:

*Manx Traditional Ballads - the Broadside Connections Revealed* by David Speers. First published in Bealoideas 84 (2016)

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Manx%20Traditional%20Ballads%20D%20Speers%202016%20small.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Manx%20Traditional%20Ballads%20D%20Speers%202016%20small.pdf)

*The historical References to Manx Traditional Music, Song and Dance: A reappraisal and a Chronology* by David Speers (1996/1997)

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Speers%20historical%20references%20Manx%20music.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Speers%20historical%20references%20Manx%20music.pdf)

A new article by Dr George Broderick about the Hop tu naa song has also be added:

*HOP-DY-NAA Fragments collected by Prof. John Rhys, University of Oxford, in 1890 during his visits to the Isle of Man 1886-1893.*

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Hop-dy-Naa%20Prof%20John%20Rhys%201890%20GB.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Hop-dy-Naa%20Prof%20John%20Rhys%201890%20GB.pdf)

Thanks to the authors.

## 'Print is Much Safer than MS': The Fate of Folklore and Folk Song Collections in the Isle of Man by Stephen Miller

The Isle of Man in the 1890s saw remarkable activity in the collecting of folklore and folk song, both in English and Manx Gaelic. This was followed by a further wave of collectors in the next decade, enthused by the Celtic Revival. Much of the material collected has now been lost for a variety of reasons detailed in this article. The most significant loss was that of the cylinder recordings made by the Manx Language Society between 1905 and 1913. Several collectors expressed concern in their lifetime about the survival of their papers, but this did little to prevent the loss of the collections they amassed. Such a fragmented record has consequences in researching what does now survive.

Read the full paper: <https://kula.uvic.ca/articles/10.5334/kula.26/>



# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

A Manx Gaelic carol based on an old melody from the Clague/Gill Collection with new lyrics by Annie Kissack. "Arrane Cadlee" is performed by children of the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh where Annie teaches, as well as by her choir, Caarjyn Cooidjagh. This song is one of many Gaelic Christmas songs in the forthcoming book by Culture Vannin, *Nollick Ghennal*.

## Arrane Cadlee

Lullaby

Kiaull - tradishoonagh (Mannin)

Focklyn - A Kissack



Gow dty\_ aash my lhian-noo vil - lish, Ayns dty chlean ny lhie ayns shee.

5 Chouds ta ain - leyn sol - lys kiaul - ley, As ta'n chiaull cur fast - ee dooin.

9 O my chree, my\_ oik - an vil - lish, O my chree, my\_ oik - an veen.

1. Gow dty aash my lhiannoo villish,  
Ayns dty chlean ny lhie dy chiune,  
Chouds ta ainleyn sollys kiaulley,  
As ta'n chiaull cur fastee dooin.

Co-chiaull:

*O my chree, my oikan villish,  
O my chree, my oikan veen.*

2. Cha jeanyim cur mood eaddagh stoamey,  
Feeu da'n ree ayns cashtal mooar,  
Cha bee feme ayd er ram argid,  
Seihll as slaynt dhyt, shen dy liooar.

3. Ta dty lhiabbee souyr as meein,  
Agh ayns manjoor feayr as creioie,  
Nagh dug Yeesey Creest e chione beg,  
Er y traagh, hie eh dy lhie.

# CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

1st Caarjyn Coidjagh at Tynwald Mills from 2p.m til 4p.m. Any singers who would like to join in from 3 til 4p.m. to sing carols would be very welcome. Collection in aid of M.E support group.

2nd IOM Symphony Orchestra concert with premiere of Charles Guard's Legend of St Maughold, Villa Marina 2.30pm

4th MFDS Christmas Social, Onchan Methodist Hall 7.30pm

6th Shennaghys Jiu bingo night, Ramsey Masonic Hall

7th Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre, 7.30pm £24/20 villag gaiety.com

7th Caarjyn Coidjagh Christmas songs in aid of ME Support, Rushen Parish Church, 7.30pm, free (donations welcomed)

14th Lesh Shee as Graih, St Ninian's Church (see poster)

16th Cracking Christmas Concert, Manx Museum, 12pm (see poster)

16th Perree Bane Christmas Party, 6pm

16th Caarjyn Coidjagh Christmas Service at Kirk Christ Malew, 3pm, free

26th Hunt the Wren - Island-wide!

22nd Perree Bane and Rushen Silver Band, Port Erin Railway Station, afternoon.

28th Mollag Ghennal, Legion Club, Douglas, see article

28th Russell Gilmour Trumpet, David Kilgallon Organ Ramsey, Music Society Christmas Concert St. Pauls Church, Market Square, Ramsey

## JANUARY 2019

6th Hartes Ease Old Christmas Concert, Knockaloe

12th Arrane son Mannin, Peel Masonic Hall, 7.30pm

## FEBRUARY

3rd Annie Kissack's Manx Mass sung by Caarjyn Coidjagh, St Matthew's Church, Douglas, 10.30am



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

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

~ SESSIONS ~

**TUES** 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas

**WED** 8.30pm Session at O'Donnells, Douglas

**THURS** 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey

**FRI** 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey

**FRI** Trad session at the Manor, Willaston

Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary  
Occasional **SAT** 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel  
Monthly **SUN** 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

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

**Call:** Chloë: 01624 694758

**or write to:** Culture Vannin, PO Box 1986, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1SR

Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin

The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space

PRESS: please feel free to pick up articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture