

Nollick Ghennal  
as Blein Vie Noa



**KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU**

Mee ny Nollick 2019 December

manx music today

## Take your 'pick'! Manx music for Guitar – online tuition films

Culture Vannin has created a series of free online video lessons to learn Manx music for guitar.

Throughout 2020 and beyond, guitarists around the world will be able to learn a Manx tune each month, expertly demonstrated and explained step-by-step by Pete Lumb, former Head of Guitar for the Isle of Man Music Service.

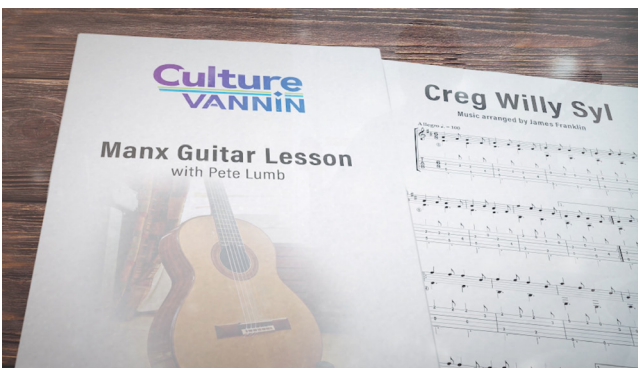
The first five pieces from the series of detailed instruction videos and free downloadable sheet music are available now. The short tuition films currently available to view are *Arrane ny Niae* (The Washing Song), *Mannin Veg Veen* (Dear Little Isle of Man), *Smuggler's Lullaby*, *Creg Willy Syl* (Willy Syl's Rock) and *Arrane Ghelby* (Dalby Song).



Accompanying each film is a pdf. score to download, with the melody written in both standard music notation and TAB.

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, said:

"Music is a way to connect to the Isle of Man, whether you already enjoy Manx trad music or not. This new series of tuition films is designed to make it easy to step into the exciting world of Manx music, even for those who have never encountered it before."



The Manx melodies themselves have been arranged for fingerstyle guitar by James Franklin, Pete Lumb and Frank Woolley, and the collection suits a range of abilities from beginner to advanced players. A book is planned for next year and it is hoped that other guitarists may contribute their own arrangements towards an ever-growing online resource of Manx music for guitar.

Chloë explains: "The series, which is to be unveiled over the coming twelve months

and beyond, will offer a way for so many people all over the world to engage in Manx material, allowing them to take it in exciting new directions."

Future monthly film releases will include *Three Little Boats*, *Sea Invocation*, *Flitter Dance*, *Shooyl Inneenyn* and many more traditional tunes from the Isle of Man.

### Watch and learn here:

[www.culturevannin.im/video\\_story\\_606045.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/video_story_606045.html)

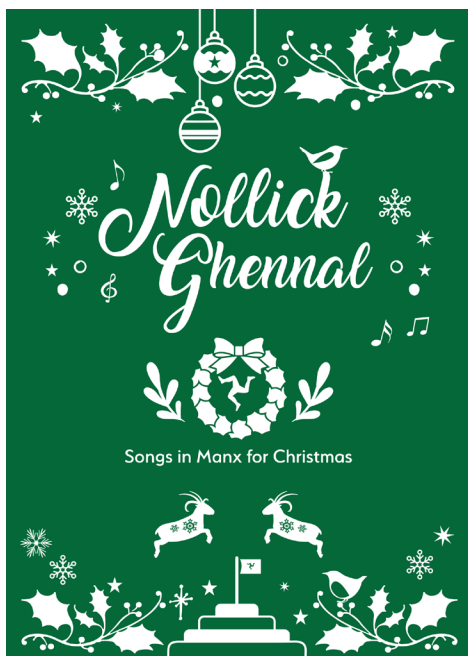
[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB95FuN2S6jOuYc1cXlvFJn-cqmKeiJaD](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB95FuN2S6jOuYc1cXlvFJn-cqmKeiJaD)

\*\* See KMJ Transcription of the Month for "Creg Willy Syl"...

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

- *Hunt the Wren - Where O Where?!*
- *Manx music in Newcastle*
- *Christmas Gift List ideas!*

**Culture VANNIN**



## Nollick Ghennal - Songs in Manx for Christmas

RRP £8.00

A book containing 40 Christmas songs in Manx Gaelic is available from Culture Vannin and other Isle of Man bookshops.

Nollick Ghennal (Manx Gaelic for Merry Christmas) brings together new songs composed by teachers Annie Kissack and Aalin Clague for the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh carol services, original songs by composers such as Bob Carswell and H.P. Kelly, new lyrics set to traditional Manx melodies, a selection of old Manx carols and songs of the nativity, and well-known Christmas favourites which have been translated into Manx by various contributors over the years. Working with the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, compiled and transcribed the melodies and lyrics, which were sensitively edited by Chris Sheard. This little book will be of interest to children and adults, whether they're fluent Manx speakers or total beginners.



## BREE WEEKEND 2019 FILMS ONLINE

Find out what these talented youngsters got up to at the 13th annual Bree weekend (26/27 October) in the Youth Arts Centre, Douglas. As well as the whole play 'Bree's Winter Palace', individual highlights include; Has Anybody here seen the Wizard? Loddy Doddle Dagh, Eunyssagh Ding Dong and young beginners playing Bee dty Host on whistles!

[www.culturevannin.im/video\\_story\\_605077.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/video_story_605077.html)

JACTOR PROJECT PRESENTS

# A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND FUN

FALCON'S NEST  
HOTEL 

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 6.30PM - LATE

MAD DADDY • BROKEN ROOSTER • EL CATRAZ  
BIRD & THE BEARDS • BISKEE BRISHT  
SLOW DECAY • CAT BALLOO  
HAN-FX AND JOR-DMC FT. THE INNUENDO ORCHESTRA

TICKETS £5 FROM THE PORT ST MARY EXAMINER SHOP,  
THE FALCON'S NEST AND RAY ON 404147

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO PARKINSONS DISEASE SOCIETY IOM

ISLE OF MAN  
*Symphony*  
ORCHESTRA

Patron: Charles Suard

## GALA CONCERT

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2019

VILLA MARINA : 2.30pm

Beethoven : Egmont Overture

Beethoven : Triple Concerto :

Emma Abbate (Piano), Miriam Kramer (Violin),  
Evva Mizerska (Cello)

Sibelius : Symphony no.2

Conductor:  
Maurice Powell

Leader:  
Tom Field

Tickets (including 2% booking fee)  
Circle - Adult : £16.00, Concessions : £13.50, Child : £5  
Stalls - Adult : £14.50, Concessions : £12.00, Child : £5  
from Villa Box Office, Welcome Centre,  
www.villagaiety.com or Hotline : 600555

Gough  
Ritchie  
CHARITABLE TRUST 

[www.iomso.im](http://www.iomso.im)

The Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra is a registered charity no: 970

# Manannan's Winterfest

A Magical Manx Christmas!

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

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

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

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

ONE NIGHT  
ONLY

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

## MOLLAG GHENNAL

Manx festive fun with the legendary  
Mollags and musical friends.

The Legion Club in Douglas  
Sunday 29th December

Featuring:

The Mollag Band  
Joughin Family Band  
Mark Lawrence  
Mera Royle  
Scran  
Dave Kilgallon & friends  
And others...

Tickets from Thomson Travel, Celtic  
Gold, Shaktiman, £12.00 incl supper

Manannan's Winterfest 2018 videos: [www.culturevannin.im/video\\_story\\_597416.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/video_story_597416.html)

# Bulgarian-Manx Dance Concert

Together we keep traditions alive!

Studio theatre at Ballakermizen

08.12.2019 5.30pm

Adult: £10 Children (over 7 yrs): £5

Perree Bane



Rhythm of Bulgaria



To book your tickets contact : 250039 / 231214

Come and join us for an evening full of fun, dancing, music and colourful costumes with traditional Manx and Bulgarian dance groups - Perree Bane and Rhythm of Bulgaria.

The dance groups collaborate for the first time in joint concert to present to you the lovely culture and traditions we have and the great diversity on our little and beautiful island !

We are very excited and looking forward to see you all on the 8th of December to have a great evening together!

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children over 7 years you can buy them at the Bulgarian Food store Arbanasi in Douglas (5 Windsor road, Douglas) and the Culture Vannin shop (Main Road, St Johns).

Or give Rhythm of Bulgaria members a ring on 250039/ 231214/ 231695 to arrange to get your tickets.

## www.Knockaloe.im

### "Brightly Beams the Morning Star"

*Following a sell-out concert last year come and join us for*

a candlelit evening of seasonal Renaissance and Baroque music and song to celebrate the Manx Old Christmas Eve with local group:

### "Hartes Ease"



**7.30pm on Sunday 5th January 2020**

Holy Trinity Church, Patrick, Isle of Man

**Tickets £10:** price includes complimentary interval mulled wine and sweet treats  
**Doors open 6.45pm**

Limited seating so early booking is recommended via [www.knockaloe.im](http://www.knockaloe.im)  
or contact Rachael Wood on 648477 Mon - Fri mornings only or via email: [events@knockaloe.im](mailto:events@knockaloe.im)  
**Entry ONLY with a prepaid no-refundable ticket via Eventbrite**

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

Registered Charity No. 1150

Hartes Ease and friends wish to invite you to join us for our Manx Old Christmas concert, "Brightly Beams the Morning Star".

This will be our fourth Christmas concert by candlelight in the lovely Holy Trinity Church, Patrick for the Knockaloe Charity. We are grateful for the warm welcome we are given by the Church and Knockaloe Charity. This year we are delighted that Ruth Keggins has agreed to take part in this year's Old Christmas Eve event. Information on our flyer advises early booking. Seating is limited and the previous three at Patrick have been sell-outs, so book early to avoid disappointment.



Hunt the Wren is one of the most interesting Manx traditions still practised on the Isle of Man today. On St. Stephen's Day (the 26th of December) communities come together across the Isle of Man to dance and sing around the streets. The practice, dating back to pre-Christian times, is centred on a wren, "the king of all birds," which is hunted and then danced through the streets on a special pole.

(In case it needs stating, the bird in the wren pole today is just a replica!)

**MORE INFO:** [www.culturevannin.im/manx\\_year\\_event\\_469497.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_469497.html)

**Where, Oh Where?**

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

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

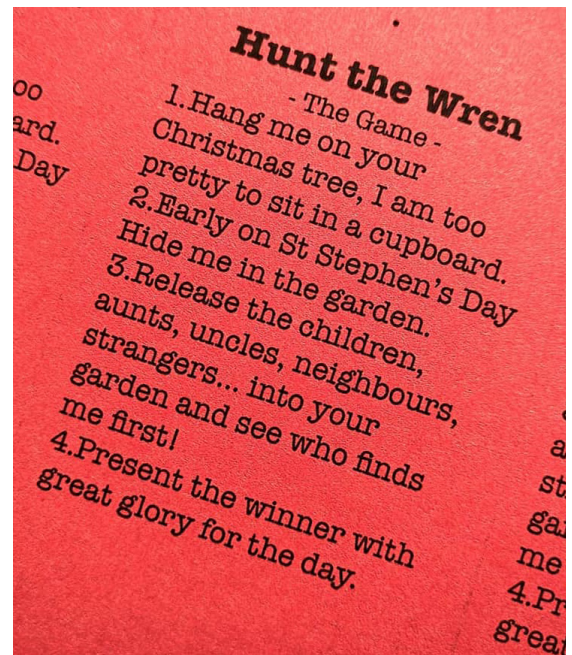
**PORT ST MARY** - meet at 10am in the Scoill Purt-le-Moirrey car park.

**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)!

**Hunt the Wren - the game! >>**

Following on from her very popular Hop tu naa decorations, Manx artist Felicity Wood has produced these lovely wren decorations along with instructions on a fun game to hunt the poor little birdie! The Curator, Douglas & other shops £12.



On St. Stephen's Day (26th December) communities across the Isle of Man come together, to sing and dance. The tradition, dating back to pre-Christian times, is centred on a wren - the king of all birds. Young men would hunt to find a wren which was killed and tied, pride of place, in the centre of the wren pole. The dancers were then ready to perform Hunt the Wren!





## CAARJYN COOIDJAGH ~ DATES THIS CHRISTMAS ~

- Friday 6th December 7.30pm. Caarjyn Cooidjagh concert in aid of ME Support IOM, Kirk Christ Church Port Erin.

- Christmas carols at Tynwald Mills on Saturday 7th December from 11.30am in support of ME Support IOM. All singers are welcome to join us.

### **A Fine Manx Christmas Entertainment with Caarjyn Cooidjagh**

21 Dec 2019

3.30pm til 5pm

Enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea served at 3.30pm, whilst the magnificent Caarjyn Cooidjagh Choir perform a selection of Manx, traditional and the more festive pieces. Caarjyn Cooidjagh will perform at around 4pm.

Tickets are £15, spaces must be booked in advance. To book a space please call the cafe on 818091, payment for this is required at the time of booking!

<https://www.milntown.org/>




*Come along to  
our sixth*

***Annual Christmas Concert***  
*Featuring Manx Choir*  
***Caarjyn Cooidjagh***

*Kirk Christ Church, Church Road. IM9 5LW.  
Just outside Port Erin*

***Friday 6 December, 2019 at 7.30pm***  
*A short entertaining concert followed by refreshments*

***Admission Free***

*A retiring collection will be taken in aid of ME Support (IOM)  
and the church*

Registered Charity No 381 Email: [cefa@manx.net](mailto:cefa@manx.net) Cefia Marshall 460965



## MANX COMPETITIVE MUSIC, SPEECH & DANCE FESTIVAL 25th April - 2nd May 2020

The 'Guild' Syllabus is now out with plenty of classes open to trad and folk musicians:

[www.manxmusicfestival.org/](http://www.manxmusicfestival.org/)

There is also the Musical Composition prize - to maintain a link with our cultural heritage, the challenge is to compose a piece of music for a maximum of five performers on a Manx theme.

Entries close 1st Feb 2020



### CELTON MANX RECOGNITION PROJECT

A project to take Manx music and dance into residential homes around the Isle of Man over the winter months has been going really well. A wide range of trad musicians, singers, dancers and school groups took up the opportunity to get involved, and thanks to a recognition award from Celton-Manx, Culture Vannin arranged visits to 16 homes. Above pic shows three generations of the Kilgallon clan who sang, danced and played for residents at Brookfield last weekend.

## Festive favourites from Cliogaree Twoaie

Manx Gaelic choir Cliogaree Twoaie will be performing over the festive period and they also invite you all to join them for carol-singing around the pubs in Ramsey:

**11th Dec** - Cliogaree Twoaie Manx choir & The Rolling Tones concert, St Anthony's Church, Onchan, 7.15pm Free admission.

**15th Dec** - Carol singing around Ramsey with Manx Gaelic choir Cliogaree Twoaie, 2pm start at the Mitre Hotel, Ramsey.

*The choir's Christmas CDs are also available to buy from shops inc. Culture Vannin.*

**THE ROLLING TONES** CHOIR

Present a Jolly Christmas Concert with all your favourite songs and carols  
With Guests: **Cliogaree Twoaie**

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December- 7:15pm  
St. Anthony's Church, Onchan  
Free Entry - with Refreshments

# ARRANE SON MANNIN

Competition for a new song in Manx

& Manx Music Concert

Saturday 11th January

Peel Masonic Hall

7.30pm

free admission

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

The International Pan Celtic Festival will take place in Carlow, Ireland 14-19 April 2020, but before that, an original song in Manx Gaelic will be chosen to represent the Isle of Man at the Arrane son Mannin concert & competition.

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

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

**Application form:**

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

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



GIG ~ Clash Vooar  
White House, Peel  
Sun 8th Dec  
8pm FREE

Culture Vannin 11 months ago  
The Mollag Band Song [recorded in The Mitre, Kirk Michael, 2017] # Folk & Singer-S...

Watch out for the Mollag Band this Kegeesh Ommidjagh!!

Watch a video and hear the song here:

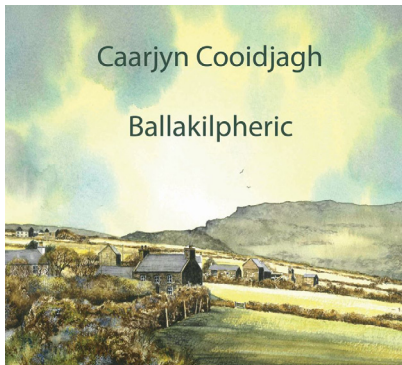
[www.culturevannin.im/manx\\_year\\_event\\_559033.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_559033.html)



Jishag y Nollick veen...

... Dear Father Christmas

## MANX MUSIC & DANCE CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Caarjyn Cooidjagh

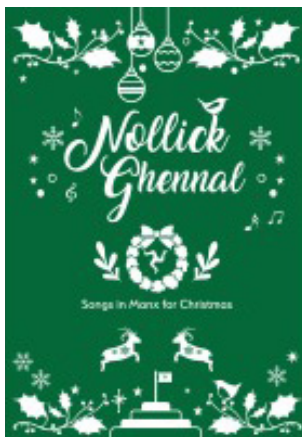
Ballakilpheric

Gaelic choir

Caarjyn Cooidjagh's CD  
£10/£6 Bandcamp download



Tickets to Mollag Ghennal  
28th Dec £12, Celtic Gold,  
Shakti Man, etc.

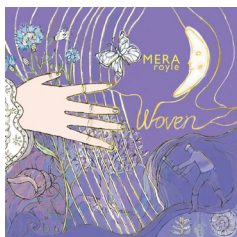


Nollick Ghennal Gaelic  
Christmas Song Book £8



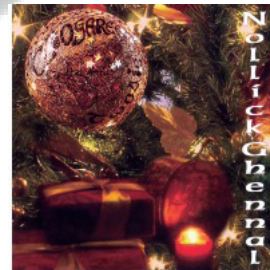
Hunt the Wren decoration by  
Felicity Wood

£12 The Curator, Douglas  
& other shops



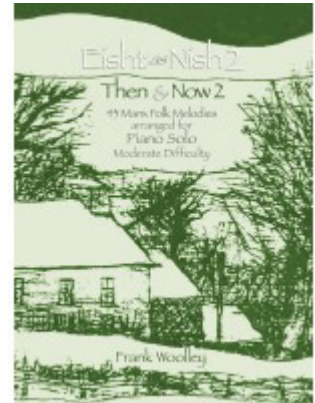
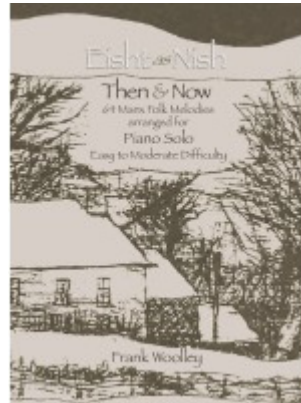
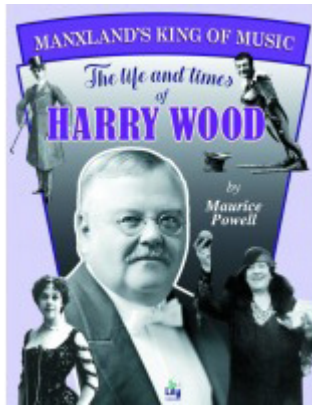
<< Woven - Award winning harpist  
Mera Royle's latest EP  
£10 CD via Meraroylemusic Facebook  
Bandcamp download £7

Most of these products are available in the Culture Vannin shop, IOM bookshops or online. More info: [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)



Essential Manx songs & tunes in Kiaull yn Theay 1 & 2  
£6 each

Christmas songs in Gaelic from choir Cliogaree Twoaie



Story of composer Harry Wood  
Manxland's King of Music  
£16

Eisht as Nish 1 & 2 - Beautiful  
Manx piano arrangements by  
Frank Woolley £12 each



Gypsy-funk Manx style from Clash Vooar £10 / £6 Bandcamp download

www. **Knockaloe.im**  
"Brightly Beams the Morning Star"  
*Following a sell-out concert last year come and join us for a candlelit evening of seasonal Renaissance and Baroque music and song to celebrate the Manx Old Christmas Eve with local group:*  
**"Hartes Ease"**

Hartes Ease & Ruth Keggins concert tickets  
www.knockaloe.im



Talented young musicians Scran's debut album £10 / £7 Bandcamp

# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



## Manx music and dance at Newcastle University

BA students on the Folk Music Degree at Newcastle University enjoyed a lecture and practical workshop about the traditional music and dance of the Isle of Man last week.

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, was invited by Dr Simon McKerrell and Catriona MacDonald from the Folk and Traditional Music degree to give the illustrated lecture. During the two hour session, the music students learnt about the history of Manx music and dance and heard about the Island's curious calendar customs, such as Hop tu naa, carval singing at the Oie'll Verrey and Hunt the Wren on St Stephen's Day. Chloe taught them a selection of Gaelic songs, played some Manx tunes and even tried out a few dances, including Flitter Dance and Hop tu naa. The folk music department, which currently has Manx students Raygie Dolloso and Mera Royle studying with them, is keen to strengthen links with the Island and the staff wish to repeat the workshop in the future.

While Chloë was in Newcastle she also visited the Sage Gateshead to observe their inspirational Folkworks adult education programme and she joined counterparts from UK cultural organisations at the English Folk Dance and Song Society's education seminar in Barnard Castle. She also attended a lecture by Mike Vass, the Traditional Artist in Residence at the School of Scottish and Celtic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, and met with the teaching staff from the department.

Chloë said; "It's really useful to keep up-to-date on developments in traditional culture and education across the water, and also to forge new links with counterparts from similar organisations to Culture Vannin. They tend to be very interested in what we are doing to promote Manx culture, and likewise, it's inspiring to hear their stories and learn about their projects".

### LINKS:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/w344/>

<https://sagegateshead.com/workshop-types/folkworks-tuesday/>

<https://www.efdss.org/>

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/literatures-languages-cultures/celtic-scottish-studies>



**Ny Fennee** Manx dance group went down a storm at the recent Lowender Peran Celtic festival in Cornwall. It was many years since the group were last at the festival, but they made a great come-back!

<http://nmanx.org/manx-performers-strengthen-ties-with-cornish-festival>

## Travel Blog 2010

Musician Carol Walker from the USA captured some lovely footage of Hop tu naa and Manx music from her visit to the Isle of Man nearly a decade ago.

[www.musicladycarol.com/manx-slide-shows.html](http://www.musicladycarol.com/manx-slide-shows.html)

## Manx music in Merseyside

KMJ reader Hilary Morgan leads a U3A Recorder Consort in St Helens in Merseyside, and as a descendent of the Isle of Man, she is keen to include lots of Manx music in the group's repertoire. At a recent concert, they performed Ellan Vannin, the Manx National Anthem and an arrangement of Eisht as Nish (mixed with Pachebel's Canon!)

Hilary has kindly shared some of their arrangements with Culture Vannin, so if you're interested in playing them too, email Chloe: [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)

Ellan Vannin

Paul Cringle's beautiful tune "Auldyn River" is becoming increasingly popular, and this time it's being played in Arizona, USA!! [www.facebook.com/BeggedAndBorrowed/videos/1285811251597810/](https://www.facebook.com/BeggedAndBorrowed/videos/1285811251597810/)

# kiaul1 noa



Soundcheck teenage band 'Spaghetti and the Hoops' have released a new single called NAKED:

<https://open.spotify.com/>

[www.facebook.com/spaghattiandthehoops/](http://www.facebook.com/spaghattiandthehoops/)



## Rushen Silver Band Christmas



## New Christmas CD from Rushen Silver Band

Rushen Silver Band have released a new Christmas CD to celebrate the band's 70th Anniversary. Simply titled 'Christmas', the CD was recorded at Scoill Phurt le Moirrey

back in February. The CD includes a new arrangement by the band's Musical Director John Kinley of Balladoole, and also John's arrangement of *Hunt The Wren* that has been performed at many concerts over the last few years.

CDs are £10 and available from the band, as well as some local shops including Trend Gifts in Port Erin.

More info and to find out where RSB are performing:

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


### Youtube/ video corner

Watch Rushen Silver Band play Manx tunes Gwendolin and the Washing Song (Arrane ny Niece) arranged and conducted by Ashley Cole.

[www.facebook.com/rushensilverband/videos/520394448727108/](http://www.facebook.com/rushensilverband/videos/520394448727108/)

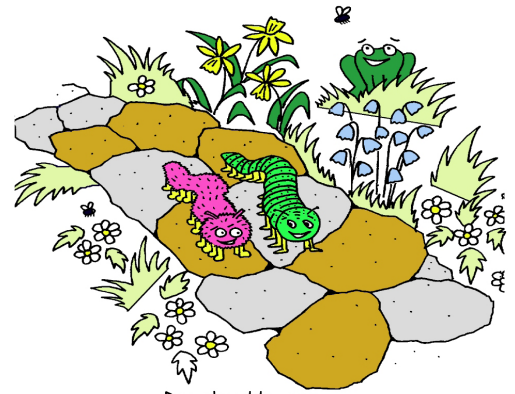
# Roie Mygeayrt

Annie Kissack as Jenny Kissack



Songs  
ABC  
1 2 3  
Info

Songs and rhymes in Manx for young children



Daa phraddag veg  
Snaue lesh traau,  
Snaue lesh traau dy moal,  
Sheese y cassan,  
Sheese y cassan,  
Mastey ny blaaghyn hoal.

## Roie Mygeayrt App

Manx Songs and Rhymes is an ideal and fun introduction to the Manx language. Based on the highly popular Roie Mygeayrt series produced by the Manx Gaelic Nursery Organisation, Mooinjer Veggey, this is a fun and exciting introduction to Manx. This resource will be enjoyed by parents and children alike but it is also a great resource for those learning the language or who want to find out more about the language today.

Download and get singing!

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.anspear.language.manx.roie&hl=en>

The Snaefell  
Mines Monster  
THE REAL REASON WHY  
THE LAXEY WHEEL KEEPS  
TURNING!  
A new story song by Eerie Weasel.  
[https://youtu.be/VNR\\_bYsJkdU](https://youtu.be/VNR_bYsJkdU)



LESH SHEE AS GRAIH



ST NINIANS CHURCH  
FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

MAE CHALLIS  
JEFF JEPSON BAND  
TRUMAN FALLS

FROM 730PM  
TICKETS £10  
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO [WWW.GRAIH.ORG.IM](http://WWW.GRAIH.ORG.IM)

LISTEN:  
The "Ellan Vannin Tragedy"  
and other pieces inspired by  
Manx music by Ingie:  
<https://soundcloud.com/ingie>

# RESEARCH NEWS

## Birds in Manx folklore

You have heard of the Moddey Dhoo of Peel Castle, but how about St. Catherine's hen of Colby?

Although there are many animals in Manx folklore, it is birds which start to dominate at this time of year.

Of course, the most important is the 'King of All Birds.' When all the birds held a competition to determine who should be king, it was the eagle who flew higher than all the others, but it was the clever wren who hid under his wing and flew a short space above him!

This is mentioned at the end of the Hunt the Wren song: 'The wren, the wren, the king of all birds / Was caught St. Stephen's Day in the furze / Although he is little, his family is great / We pray you, good dame, to give us a treat!'



Another Hunt the Wren story is of the enchantress whose beauty mesmerised all the Manxmen. But inevitably she grew tired of them and tricked them into drowning in a stream. She then changed herself into a wren and escaped the vengeance of the Manx women. In memory of this, the Manx people go out dancing and singing around the wren on St. Stephen's Day (26 December).

Another popular bird in Manx folklore is the lhondhoo (blackbird), who features in a lovely Manx song. 'Lhondhoo, lhondoo / Vel oo cheet? Vel oo cheet?' – 'Blackbird, are you coming?' sings the mother sadly on her nest. But there she waits as her husband fails to return to help with the children. If you listen closely to the bird's song in the wild, you will still be able to hear her singing this song.

The lhondhoo also caught out a crooked miller in Baldwin. It spotted him taking a double measure of corn and cried out noisily in Manx from the bush outside: 'The miller of Baldwin is a bad rascal / He is the biggest thief on the earth!' The miller hastily put back the stolen corn!

Another worthy bird was the curlew, who helped St. Patrick when he was lost in mist at sea with a sea-beast after him. The curlew called out from Peel Hill, 'Come you! Come you!' and, recognising the call, St. Patrick leapt to safety on the hill. In repayment, the saint declared that no one would ever find the curlew's nest.

Rather less fortunate was the hen at Colby.

A group of young men used to walk around the Colby fair on 6 December carrying a dead hen whilst singing its sad song. This mock funeral was for Kiark Catreney (Catherine's Hen), who the men eventually chopped up and buried the head and feet. The rest they took to the pub, where they enjoyed a chicken dinner and a lot of ale!

*By James Franklin, Online and Educational Resources Development Officer, Culture Vannin*

**LISTEN** to Clare Kilgallon and Annie Kissack sing "Lhondhoo" on *Sollys*

<https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/sets/sollys>

Clare and Annie learnt the Song of the Blackbird from the singing of Mona Douglas when they were young. It was collected from Tom Taggart, a fiddler and singer from Grenaby in the South of the Island around 1924 – Taggart apparently knew other bird songs and stories. A variant of the song entitled 'Kione Jiarg' had been published earlier in both A W Moore's journal 'The Manx Note Book' (1885) and Sophia Morrison's 'Manx Fairy Tales' (1911).

Annie and Clare have arranged the song as a duet, with the bird names echoing each other closely.

This was originally released as a CD in 2012 by Culture Vannin [www.manxmusic.com/publication\\_266847.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/publication_266847.html)



## THE OIEL VERRY IN ANDREAS

(1875)

(1)

LEODEST OIEL VERRY was held on Monday, January 4, in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, when Mr J. Kneale preached to a crowded house many having had to stand outside, as the house was full to excess. After preaching the singing commenced. Mr Kewen sung a Manks carol. "Hold the Fort" was next sung by Misses Mylrea and Goldsmith, Messrs W. Skinner, T. Cottier, J. Kelly, W. Goldsmith, and — Goldsmith. "The Lifeboat" was then sung by Mr B. Radcliffe. "Another year has passed away," "Kind words," and "While shepherds watched their flocks by night," were sung as pieces, besides seven carols, sung by Dugdale, Teare, Kneen, Lace, Corkill, Corlett, Corkill, Kinrade, and Callow, of Andreas and Jurby. The Leodest tonic-sol-fa choir sung eight hymns during the service. The singing commenced before eight o'clock, and lasted till ten, when the Doxology was sung and the audience dispersed in good humour and well pleased.

(2)

BALLAKANEEN OIEL VERRY was held in the chapel on the 7th January. The Rev Mr Hughes preached to a crowded house. After preaching he invited the carol singers, or others, to sing their pieces. The first piece sung was the "Sweet bye and bye," sung by Messrs B. Radcliffe, Mylrea, and W. Skinner, junr. The piece was much applauded by the audience, and received from the Rev. H. Hughes the greatest praise he possibly could give for the good rendering of the piece. "Now another year has passed away," was sung by the Misses Goldsmith and Cottier, Messrs Goldsmith, T. Cottier, and J. Kelly. "I hear thy welcome voice" was sung by Messrs Kewin and Christian. A carol was then sung by Messrs T. Cottier, Kelly, and Goldsmith. "Safe in the arras of Jesus" was next sung by B. Radcliffe, junr, and W.S. Quayle then sang a Manks carol. "The Lifeboat" was next sung by F. Radcliffe. The next was the carol, "Let Christmas now in joyful mirth," sung by J.T. Corkill and Corlett. A carol, sung by Messrs Quayle and Dugdale. The Doxology was then sung, and the meeting brought to a close at ten o'clock. The Oiel Verrys at Leodest and Ballakaneen this year are the best that have ever been held, and the singing at these meetings deserves credit. The collections also have increased, and will defray the cost of lighting the chapels.

Sources: (1) "[Ramsey and the North] Ballakaneen Oiel Verry," *Mona's Herald* 14 January 1875: 5d; (2) "[Ramsey and the North] Leodest Oiel Verry," *Mona's Herald* 14 January 1875: 5d.

"Mr Kewen sung a Manks carol." This was the last link at Leodest with the Oiel Verry of old, held on Christmas Eve in the parish church, the vicar having left, with *carval* singing and a cavalcade of parched peas from the females there. In 1875 at Leodest and Ballakaneen, the venue was now the Methodist chapel, the date now in January and a varying one, with a sermon preached on the night and a selection of hymns following thereafter and all done by ten o'clock. The collection at Ballakaneen was to be used in part to defray the costs of lighting the chapel that evening, no longer did people bring their own candles on the night.

Stephen Miller, 2019

Ronague WI Brass Band made a surprise appearance for the Rose Wueen Carnival (1953) *below R* Spotted by Stephen Miller.

*Below Manks Tea & Concert advert 1912*

**BUCKS ROAD P.M. CHURCH.**

**YE MANKS  
TEA & CONCERT**

to be held in the  
**SCHOOLROOM, Allan St.,  
DECEMBER 26th.**

SEE THE MANX KITCHEN . . .  
and the portrayal of  
MANX CHARACTER . . . . .  
in TABLEAUX AND . . . . .  
MOVING PICTURES. . . . .

TEA	...	...	5-30.
CONCERT	...	...	7-45.

**TICKETS - - NINEPENCE.**

REMEMBER DECEMBER 26th!  
"Laal Steavin"  
(St. Stephen's Day.)



RONAGUE "WOMEN'S INSTITUTE" came down from the hills to Port Erin for the Rose Queen Carnival to present this comedy item in the southern resort's great parade.



# ‘Haydn Wood and the Isle of Man A chronology from the Isle of Man newspapers’

Here are three seasonal extracts from the research article ‘Haydn Wood and the Isle of Man’ by Maurice Powell. It is clear that even at the age of 10 years the young virtuoso-in-waiting already had a number of challenging violin solos in his repertoire.

## 1892

Isle of Man Times 10th December: Isle of Man Fine Arts and Industrial Guild (5th exhibition). Master Haydn Wood (Tynwald Street School) wins 3rd prize in the Freehand Drawing for boys under 12 class.

Isle of Man Times 17th December: Finch Hill Congregational Church Annual Gathering. The concert featured Master Haydn Wood performing a violin solo based on Bellini’s La Sonnambula.

Isle of Man Times 27th December: Christmastide Concerts and Services. Monday 26th, Master Haydn Wood (described as ‘small, and apparently young’) appeared at a few minutes notice in the absence of another musician on St. Stephan’s Day at the Circus, and played ‘with remarkable skill’ Farmer’s Variations on Home, Sweet Home\* and the gavotte from Thomas’ opera Mignon.\*\* The event was described as ‘a capital winter entertainment’ with local singers, humorous, comic and character songs, a ‘vent’, a mimic, a novelty balancer etc.

\* Henry Farmer (1819-91) was a self-taught, Nottingham-born violinist, and the composer of a celebrated Mass in Bb (1843).

\*\* The aria Me voici dons son boudoir from Act II.

### READ MORE:

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Haydn%20Wood%20and%20the%20IoM%20Maurice%20Powell%202019.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Haydn%20Wood%20and%20the%20IoM%20Maurice%20Powell%202019.pdf)

## HELG YN DREEAN

From P. Kelly,  
Baldrine

Helg yn Dreean.

Round for any number, usually 8.

Said to have been formerly danced by the Wren Boys before the Wren was buried by torchlight, half the boys being dressed as women. Now danced by men & women together, generally without an actual “bush” or an odd woman but is much better fun with both.

(1) All take hands in ring, swing right foot over left, stamp it, do six running steps clockwise, hop on right foot, swing left over, stamp it, do six running steps counter-clockwise, & bring feet together.

(2) Women run forward to centre, honour the “bush,” turn right & come back, passing men by right shoulders. As women turn away from centre, men go forward, honour, turn left, come back, & take partners for spin.

(3) Reel spin all couples, odd woman fooling around.

(4) Changing to reel step, partners cross each other holding right hands. Then ~~woman go on round circle to right~~ & men ‘pass’ to right, taking hands right & left alternatively with the person next to them. At end of the tune, if more than four couples are dancing, then the ring is formed again & the dancers go straight on from where they are, taking new partners. The odd woman tries to oust another woman, & if she succeeds, the new odd one fools around in the spin next time. Last time through the odd woman seizes the “bush” for the spin, & often this they lead off in reel step, the other couples following.

Mona Douglas, “Folklore Notebook. | Dances. | Tunes, descriptions & notes”. MNHL, MS 09545, Mona Douglas Papers, Box 9.

\*

It is said that Christmas comes earlier every year and it seems that as regards Hunt the Wren in Port St Mary that too is the case with a post on Facebook dated 19 November about the upcoming event.... Here is the description of the dance as collected by Mona Douglas from John James Kelly of Baldrine.

Stephen Miller, 2019

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

**CREG WILLY SYL** - one of the new Manx guitar pieces as demonstrated by Pete Lumb:

[www.culturevannin.im/video\\_story\\_606045.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/video_story_606045.html)

This lively jig is best known for accompanying the *White Boys Dance*, the Manx mummers play at Christmas, although the title refers to Willy Sylvester's Rock near Glen Helen. If you're lucky enough over the Kegeesh Ommidjagh (Foolish Fortnight) in the IOM, you may just stumble across The White Boys... But in the meantime, find out more here: [www.culturevannin.im/manx\\_year\\_event\\_505782.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_505782.html)

## Creg Willy Syl

Manx trad  
arr. James Franklin

1

5

10

14

# CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

28th Scran & others play at Castletown Christmas Market, 10am – 4pm

30th Perree Bane dancers & Ellan Vannin Pipes and Drums, Peel Christmas Light Switch On, 2.30pm

30th Jactor Project Night of Music and Fun, various bands, Falcon's Nest Hotel, Port Erin 6.30pm, £5

## DECEMBER

1st IOM Symphony Orchestra Gala concert, Villa Marina, 2.30pm, £16-14.50/£5 children

5th Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre, 7.30pm, £15-£24

6th Caarjyn Coidjagh concert in aid of ME support IOM, Kirk Christ Church, Port Erin

7th Caarjyn Coidjagh carols in aid of ME Support IOM, Tynwald Mills, 11.30am

8th Bulgarian-Manx Dance Concert, Ballakermeen Studio Theatre, 5.30pm £10/£5

8th Clash Vooar at the White House, Peel 8pm, free

11th Cliogaree Twoaie Manx choir & The Rolling Tones concert, St Anthony's Church, Onchan, 7.15pm, free

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

15th Carol singing around Ramsey with Manx Gaelic choir Cliogaree Twoaie, 2pm start at the Mitre Hotel

21st A Fine Manx Christmas Entertainment with Caarjyn Coidjagh & afternoon tea, Milintown, Ramsey 3.30pm £15

22nd Perree Bane Christmas Party, Ballasalla Village Hall, 6pm

26th **HUNT THE WREN!** Various locations

26th Post-Cammag Manx music session, Tynwald Inn, St Johns, 3pm-ish onwards

29th Mollag Ghennal, Douglas Legion Club, £12 inc refreshments

## JANUARY

5th Hartes Ease & Ruth Keggin, Old Manx Christmas eve concert, Patrick Church, 7.30pm, £10 (see poster)

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

## NOLLICK GHENNAL AS BLEIN VIE NOA!

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

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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