

# KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Mean Souree 2025 June

MANX MUSIC TODAY

## PREPARING FOR THE MANX FOLK AWARDS - NEW FILMS FROM ARBORY SCHOOL

A primary school in the south of the Island is celebrated in a new series of short films from Culture Vannin.

The four films visit Arbory School as they prepare their entries of Manx music, song and dance for a major part of the school calendar in the Isle of Man, the Manx Folk Awards.

A relaxed week of competitions held each Spring term, the Manx Folk Awards offer an accessible way for all school-age children to discover Manx culture and make it their own. 29 different schools took place this year, but one of the schools which has consistently embraced this fully from the start has been Arbory School.

The primary school in Ballabeg throws itself into the event organised by DESC and Culture Vannin each year, ensuring success in the competitions but, more importantly, an enormous sense of enrichment for the school community and children.

Jonathan Ayres, Head teacher of Arbory School says:

"Arbory School has always been at the centre of the local community with which it has strong links in terms of culture and heritage. The Manx Folk Awards gives pupils an opportunity to work on new projects as well as to showcase their skills and talents, specifically linked to Manx culture, outside the local area. The Manx Folk Awards enables children to participate alongside other students from around the Island where they make connections and benefit from feeling part of a larger cultural community. Teachers and



children come together to share and celebrate 'Manxness' in a competitive but relaxed atmosphere. This helps to promote our unique culture whilst enabling children to build their confidence, to perform in front of an audience and to have fun."

This has been explored in a series of four short films, now available on the Culture Vannin website and YouTube channel. 'Preparing for the Manx Folk Awards' puts a spotlight on rehearsals with the school choir, folk music group and dance teams, and features interviews with both staff and pupils.

There are also two films which highlight the long-standing tradition of Manx dancing at Arbory.

The school has had a brilliant record with Manx dance for decades. As well as performing at the Manx Folk Awards, the school enjoys its annual Laa Columb Killey performances every 27th

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

- Oie Voaldyn in photos
- This Fair Isle: Manx music arranged by Kevin Kelly
- Orry Corjeag - research article

**Culture**  
**VANNIN**

June and the children regularly compete at the Guild. Over the years, they have built up an inspiringly positive and open environment for Manx dance, resulting in a very high standard of performance.



At the centre of the school's dance practice is Triana Collister. After many years as a well-respected and much-loved teacher, this is her final term at the school before retirement, so the filming also offered the opportunity to discover the secret to her success!

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin, says:

"We wanted to make these films with Arbory partly to recognise the great

work they are doing, partly to record their long relationship with Manx culture, but also to give a living example of how much schools or organisations can gain by engaging with traditional music, song, dance and language. Doing so offers so much to young people today, giving them important values as they go forward with their lives."

One of the stand-out interviews in the film was with a young girl who gives an observation beyond her years:

"When you're performing, it's stuff from all around the world, but at the Manx Folk Awards, it's only Manx stuff, and it makes you feel like you're part of a proud and great nation."

James Franklin, Online & Educational Resources Officer at Culture Vannin, says:

"It was a privilege to be a part of the filming in the school, watching the positivity and enjoyment which the children and staff got from their coming together to practise Manx music, song and dance. It was clear how enriching and positive the experiences were, which is exactly why we made the films – to show how exciting it all is!"



Manx dancing at Arbory School



Interview with Triana Collister



Preparing for the Manx Folk Awards (Longer edit)

The films are all available on the Culture Vannin website and on our YouTube channel:

<https://tinyurl.com/2uucx289>

For the films, or more information about the Manx Folk Awards or Culture Vannin and its work, visit [www.culturevannin.im](http://www.culturevannin.im) or find more resources and opportunities on [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)



# This Fair Isle: Manx music arranged by Kevin Kelly



A simple Manx music enquiry to Culture Vannin led to a visit to the Isle of Man, and now American composer and choral director Dr. Kevin Kelly has produced a suite of Manx songs for chorus and harp!

Kevin's collection of 19 songs was premiered last month in a concert called 'This Fair Isle: Celtic Folksongs & Dances from the Isle of Man'. Held in Athens, Georgia, USA, on Saturday 26th April, the sell-out concert starred the Athens Chamber Singers with Elizabeth Veal on harp, and Kevin as conductor.

With a variety of arrangements of Manx songs in English, such as "Love of My Heart" (Graih my Chree), "Sea Invocation", "King of the Sea" and "Slumber Song", Kevin has kindly given Culture Vannin permission to share the live concert recording on Bandcamp and [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com).

Kevin's interest in Manx music began nearly a decade ago, when he was Supervisor of the University of Georgia Music Library and emailed Culture Vannin with a question about a Manx song. After several months of corresponding with Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, Kevin and his wife decided to visit the Isle of Man to attend Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering and he has since become an avid follower of Manx music.

Kevin said: "Our concert drew a full house and many in the audience were asking questions about the Isle of Man; maybe we gave your tourist trade a little boost!" He added: "It's a dream... but I'd love for my choir to come to the Isle of Man and do a concert tour".

As well as this choral suite, Kevin has arranged dozens of Manx folk songs and dance tunes for recorder quartet; all of which are available as sheet music on [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com)

Chloë said; "It's amazing that Manx songs and melodies can spark such enthusiasm and creativity across the Atlantic, and I'm delighted to have helped Kevin bring a little piece of the Isle of Man to Georgia, USA! "

All of the songs from Kevin Kelly's 'This Fair Isle: Celtic Folksongs & Dances from the Isle of Man' can be listened to and downloaded for free at:

<https://culturevannin.bandcamp.com/album/this-fair-isle-celtic-folksongs-dances-from-the-isle-of-man>

More information about Kevin and the Athens Chamber Singers here:

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

To discover Kevin's recorder suites and discover more about Manx music: [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)



## MANX MUSIC & DANCE AT THE GUILD 2025



Manx dances, songs and music featured in lots of classes at last month's Guild, with performances from Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums, Arbory School Folk Group, Share na Veg harpists, Mannin Music Fiddyl Obbee and Anna and Cristl who sang a duet version of "Invocation to St Bridget" in Manx.

**RESULTS:** [www.manxmusicfestival.org/results/2025-results-manx-music-festival/](http://www.manxmusicfestival.org/results/2025-results-manx-music-festival/)



## **Paid performance opportunity: 'Cree' Manx language & song project**

Culture Vannin is seeking performers for a summer project that will bring Manx language, music and song to elderly residents in care and nursing homes across the Isle of Man. We're looking for engaging duos, or solo musicians who would be willing to pair up, to lead interactive (where possible) sessions featuring simple Manx songs and phrases.

Clear communication and enthusiasm are key; the ability to speak good Manx is a bonus, but not essential. Performers will receive a competitive rate of pay and reimbursement for mileage. DBS checks are essential.

To find out more or register your interest, contact Ruth Keggin Gell (Yn Greinneyder, Culture Vannin): [gaelg@culturevannin.im](mailto:gaelg@culturevannin.im)

*This project has been made possible through funding from Elizabeth Clucas Charitable Trust.*



Manx music duo Shoh Slaynt & piper John Struthers, and Culture Vannin Manx Music Development Officer Dr Chloe Woolley, along with a representative of Celton Manx, at a care home, in a previous project involving Manx music funded by Celton Manx in 2019.





**SAVE THE DATE!**  
<https://makemusicday.org/>

**MAKE  
MUSIC**

ISLE OF MAN  
 Laa Jannoo Kiaull  
**JUNE 21**

The sun shone for the afternoon entertainment at Oie Voaldyn [4th May].

The Culture Vannin sponsored stage included music and dance from Skeddan Jiarg, The Mollag Band and Scrán.

[Photo - Gura mie ayd - Val Caine]

More photos here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybnhskrf>

Manx jewellers ELEMENTIsle supported Oie Voaldyn as the main sponsor this year, a powerful celebration of Manx May Day and the turning of the seasons.

Here's their video set to 'Arrane Oie Voaldyn' by Paul Rogers:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16MLiU5Ubn/>





Perree Bane brought summer to Cregneash for Laa Boaldyn! [photo credit: Jiri Podobsky]







# FULL MOON FESTIVAL 27 - 29 June

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



Mannin Music Shop in Peel has the largest collection of Manx sheet music and history books & local CDs in the world!

Pop in for a browse >>

They ship worldwide too...

[www.manninmusic.shop/](http://www.manninmusic.shop/)



The Bridge Bookshops and Manx Museum shops also stock a good selection of Manx music books and CDs





ERIN ARTS CENTRE presents

# MANANAN FESTIVAL



**LISA KNAPP & GERRY DIVER**  
Trailblazing Folk Duo

7.30pm Wednesday 2nd July 2025  
Tickets £22 / Under 18s £2  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre)

Tickets available from: [www.TicketSource.co.uk/ErinArtsCentre](http://www.TicketSource.co.uk/ErinArtsCentre)  
or in person at the EAC Box Office.  
The Erin Arts Centre is a registered charity 236A.  
Mananan Festival 2024 is supported by



ERIN ARTS CENTRE presents

# MANANAN FESTIVAL



**ON RAVENSDALE HILL**  
Film Premiere  
with Jackie Morrey Grace

7.30pm Tuesday 1st July 2025  
Tickets £8 / Under 18s £2  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre)

Tickets available from: [www.TicketSource.co.uk/ErinArtsCentre](http://www.TicketSource.co.uk/ErinArtsCentre)  
or in person at the EAC Box Office.  
The Erin Arts Centre is a registered charity 236A.  
Mananan Festival 2024 is supported by



The Manx Youth Band & Manx Concert Brass present



# Gala CONCERT

12 July 7.30pm

featuring The Platform School's **Skeealyn Vannin**



Guild Gaelic choir winners Skeealyn Vannin will be representing the Isle of Man in Lorient this August. Check them out first at the MYB/MCB gala concert, at Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering and online: <https://tinyurl.com/2svdy9kh>

<https://manxmusic.com/performers/gaelic-choirs-and-singers/platform-vocal-ensemble/>



YN CHRUINNAGHT

**Celtic**  
GATHERING 2025



**21-27  
JULY**

Jerrey Souree  
2025

# CELTIC MUSIC, SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL

## ISLE OF MAN

RURŲ • CALUM STEWART TRIO WITH SOPHIE STEPHENSON  
RACHEL HAIR & RON JAPPY • THE MCGOLDRICK FAMILY  
AVANC • ANNIE BAYLIS BAND & THE BRIM • CLASHAGH  
THE BARLEYSHAKES • TREE NY KIARE • SMOOINAGHT MIE  
THE MEGA MANX CEILI • MINE'S A SHANTY  
RAIDIÓ FÁILTE • SKEDDAN JIARG • PLUS MANY MORE

### SUPPORTED BY

Culture Vannin | IOM Arts Council | Domestic Event Fund | Digital Group | Culture Ireland  
Noa Bakehouse | Soundcheck Charity | IOM Post Office | Fynoderee Distillery  
UNESCO Biosphere | Mann Social | Killbr8 Limited | Visit Isle of Man | Manx National Heritage  
Peel Town Commissioners | Malcolm Scott Dickinson Charitable Trust | Miller's T'Ale



CELTICGATHERING.IM





## Filmed concert of Manx song now online

Enjoy a complete concert of Manx Gaelic song, traditional and modern, by the choir, Caarjyn Coidjagh, directed by Annie Kissack RBV.

At the conclusion of the live concert is the awarding of the Isle of Man's highest cultural honour, the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan (RBV), to Annie Kissack.

This event was recorded live in Barregarrow Methodist Chapel, Michael, on 15th April 2025.

Watch here: <https://tinyurl.com/ykrtbkjv>

Not only are the performances fantastic, but the songs performed offer a wonderful overview of their output over the past 35 years under the direction of the creative force of Manx nature that is Annie Kissack RBV.

## From Little Red Birds to Jiggy Jig...

All performances of Manx music, song and dance from the Manx Folk Awards back in March are all online at last:

The 14 videos include...

- A brass duet of 'Smuggler's Lullaby'
- A young boy singing in Manx likely to melt hearts - 'Mish as y Keayn'
- The first ever video to be released of the traditional Manx working song, 'Churnal Jiu as Churnal Jea'
- A young school choir from the South of the Island singing the traditional Manx milking song, Cur dty Vainney

<https://tinyurl.com/4hevb8rz>

More about the Manx Folk Awards can be found here:

[www.manxmusic.com/schools/manx-folk-awards/](http://www.manxmusic.com/schools/manx-folk-awards/)



# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



## Songs of Mother Europe – Online Course Invitation, starts this Thursday!

This summer, take part in a unique online singing course exploring traditional songs from across Europe, led by respected singers who have deep roots in their cultures.

Songs of Mother Europe (5 June–31 July) is a 9-week journey into traditional music, language and story—helping us reconnect with heritage through the power of song.

The course features live weekly sessions (Thursdays, 6.30pm BST), an online community space, and recordings for continued learning. Whether you're new to traditional song or already immersed in it, all are warmly welcome.

In addition to songs from wider-Europe, there will be sessions exploring Manx, Irish, and Scottish Gaelic songs, with sessions delivered by Ruth Keggin (Isle of Man), Lasairfhiona Ní Chonaola (Aran Islands, Ireland), and Alasdair Whyte (Isle of Mull).

You can find out more and sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxhxjs4f>

(sessions start this Thursday, so make sure to get in there quick!)



Spotify Manx Music Playlist  
<https://tinyurl.com/yckzsa79>





## A Celtic Collaboration and a New Resource

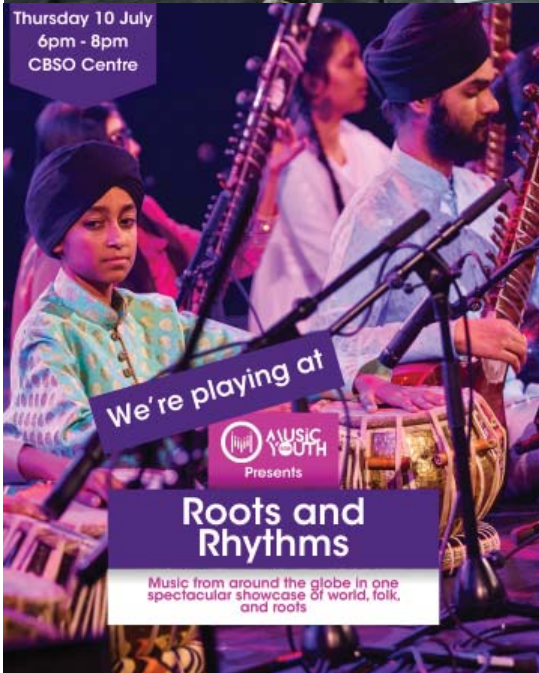
LOWENDER recently welcomed Manx musician David Kilgallon to Cornwall to work on recording a series of Cornish tunes which will soon be freely available as a resource for teaching dance. David is no stranger to Lowender, a multi instrumentalist, composer and producer from the Isle of Man who has visited our Celtic festival many times.

A mixture of musicians have been involved including members of the Youth Folk Ensemble, who gained valuable recording experience.

Recording took place at Redruth Wesley using the Cornish Underground studio. We're now into the editing phase and we can't wait to hear the results! Watch this space...



Thursday 10 July  
6pm - 8pm  
CBSO Centre



Manx youth band SCRAN have been invited to perform in the prestigious Music for Youth national festival in Birmingham next month!

The Roots and Rhythms concert will take place on Thursday 10th July in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra concert hall:

[www.mfy.org.uk/get-involved/national-festival-2025/#](http://www.mfy.org.uk/get-involved/national-festival-2025/#)

Find out more about Scran:

<https://manxmusic.com/performers/manx-bands/scan/>





# RESEARCH NEWS

## Orry Corjeag

by Maurice Powell

*Manx Violinist and the first Baume Scholar*

Orry Corjeag was the professional name of the Manx-born violinist, composer, arranger and conductor George Samuel Robinson, normally known as 'Sam'. It is not known why he adopted the name 'Corjeag', but the rare Manx surname was known particularly in the Parish of Michael and surrounding area.\*

**READ THE FULL BIOGRAPHY HERE:**

<https://manxmusic.com/history/biographies/corjeag-orry-1889---1937/>



PHOTO: The Hambourg String Quartet, Capetown 1908.

Jan Hambourg, Boris Hambourg, Orry Corjeac [sic.] and Eric Coates (left to right)

From *The Life and Music of Eric Coates*: Payne, Michael (Routledge 2012)

"A GENUINE DUTCH FOLK DANCE" (1957)



Children at Kirk Michael Primary School performing a genuine Dutch folk dance at the Dutch Bulb afternoon on Tuesday.

This issue contains pictures of a most enjoyable and picturesque afternoon at Michael Primary School last Tuesday, when the scholars held a hyacinth bulb competition. The idea was born in the mind of Headmaster Gair. He contacted the Dutch Embassy and they supplied all the bulbs which the children "brought up" themselves, finishing them off with charming and most ingenious flower pots. Altogether a hundred flowers were on show. The judges, Mrs H.L. Fletcher and Miss D.V. Stubbs, awarded first prize, a medal, to little Andrea Kneale, and gave diplomas to Juan Quayle, Margaret Barron, Doreen Mayne, Barry Swann, David Corlett and Stephen Higham. The children then entertained their parents and friends, and all the items had a Dutch "flavour"; the children were dressed in the national costume of that friendly country, and the school walls were decorated with Dutch posters and copies of famous paintings. Dutch cheese and other manufactured goods were on view. The scholars had been working on "Holland" as a topic and the afternoon saw the end of the project.

People in Kirk Michael are still talking about the "afternoon which was so different."

"Dutch Bulb' Afternoon." *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 1 March 1957: 10c.

It is remarkable what one comes across in the Manx newspapers, and as ever only by chance, as Dutch folk dancing at Kirk Michael Primary School in 1957, is likely not on anyone's research agenda.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV





"... you've got a great freedom to do what you like with [Manx music] and I do feel that. I don't feel I owe it to anybody. There's not somebody hovering, standing over your shoulder... Perhaps Mona Douglas is, in a sort of way, but I'm sure she would be quite happy, whatever we do as long as it's Manx."

This comes from a short 1999 interview with Annie Kissack about the Manx choir, Caarjyn Coidjagh, which is now available online: <https://tinyurl.com/4nk5cfy9>

Not only does it offer a fascinating time-stamped view of the choir and Manx music from 26 years ago, but it also offers an interesting insight into where Manx music has come from, where it's come to, and, perhaps, something of where it is headed.

Unfortunately, the interview is text only, but it is available online here:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdzffvau>

If you are interested to hear the choir as they sound today, here they are in a recent concert from Barregarrow: <https://tinyurl.com/2bmsbacr>

The photograph is of Annie playing as a part of the Perree Bane band in 1984 at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient, in a photograph used courtesy of David Fisher (who is playing the flute on right, with Greg Joughin playing guitar on the left).

### **2026 is the Year of the Manx Language, Blein ny Gaelgey - join in & let's celebrate!**

It is an opportunity to get involved to celebrate a positive image of Manx, get more people to use it, and inspire creativity and innovation in and for the language, so that we have a lasting legacy for future generations.

There are ways in for everyone. You may already use Manx in your business, or with friends, or you may have ideas for something new that no one has thought of before. If you've been thinking of learning or connecting with Manx for a while, this is the time!

There are five themes to the year-long celebration:

- Young People & Families
- Identity & Sense of Place
- Community & Creativity
- Research & Resources
- Lifelong Learning

2026 is a special year in lots of ways – we will be celebrating 25 years of the Manx medium school, Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, 30 years of Mooinjer Veggey educational charity, 35 years of Manx being taught in schools, and 40 years of Coonceil ny Gaelgey, the Manx Language Advisory Council.

The Year of the Manx Language is the idea of the Manx Language Network, Jeebin, and sits at the heart of the Manx Language Strategy 2022-2032, a strategy which aims to grow the number of speakers to 5,000.

For more info, see [www.yearofmanx.im](http://www.yearofmanx.im) and [www.learnmanx.com](http://www.learnmanx.com) or contact [info@yearofmanx.im](mailto:info@yearofmanx.im)



# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

**Yn Scollag Aeg (The Young Lad)** is an old Manx Gaelic song. It has been the inspiration for various instrumental settings, including organ and windband commissions by Culture Vannin. Recently added to [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com) is the windband score by Paul Dunderdale with audio demonstration [parts available on request]. Download & listen here: [www.manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/yn-scollag-aeg/](http://www.manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/yn-scollag-aeg/)

## Yn Scollag Aeg

for Matthew, Jack, Ida.

Paul Dunderdale

♩ = 78

**A**

Piccolo

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe 1

Oboe 2

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

Clarinet in Eb

Clarinet in Bb in Eb

Clarinet in Bb in Bb

Clarinet in Bb in Bb

Alto Clarinet

Bass Clarinet

Soprano Saxophone in Eb

Alto Saxophone in Eb

Alto Saxophone in Bb

Tenor Saxophone in Bb

Tenor Saxophone in Bb

Baritone Saxophone

Horn 1 in F

Horn 2 in F

Trumpet in Bb in Eb

Trumpet in Bb in Bb

Trumpet in Bb in Bb

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium in Bb

Tuba

Xylophone

Timpani

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

Suspended Cymbal 1



# CALENDAR

## JUNE

17 The Sound of Mann, Villa Marina, 7pm  
21 Laa Jannoo Kiaull / Make Music Day  
27 Laa Columb [www.laacolumbkilley.org/](http://www.laacolumbkilley.org/)  
29 Clash Vooar, Scrán & Biskee Brisht at the Full Moon Festival

## JULY

2 Clash Vooar at the Sailor's Shelter, 7.30pm  
7 Tynwald Day  
7 Clash Vooar in the Global Village 12.30 and main tent 6.30pm (Tynwald)  
21 – 27 Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering [www.celticgathering.im](http://www.celticgathering.im)  
24 - 27 Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle at Viljandi Folk Music Festival, Estonia

25 Clash Vooar at Black Dog Oven, part of Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering

## AUGUST

1 – 10 Festival Interceltique de Lorient  
28 Caarjyn Coodjagh at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin

## SEPTEMBER

5-7 Caarjyn Coodjagh in Midsummer Night's Dream  
23 European Folk Day  
[www.europeanfolkday.eu/](http://www.europeanfolkday.eu/)

## OCTOBER

22 Caarjyn Coodjagh sing for Peel Pensioners, Philip Christian Centre

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

[www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com) & keep in touch at  
[www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance](https://www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance)

~ SESSIONS ~

**MON** 8pm Trad session at The George Hotel, Castletown  
**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  
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary  
Each **SUN** 12.30-4 Trad session:  
**1st Sunday** of Month Laxey Sailing Club  
**2nd Sunday** – Douglas Venue  
**3rd Sunday** – Blackdog Oven, Peel  
**4th Sunday** Woodbourne Pub, Douglas – Slow session 4pm – 6pm  
Stay up to date: [www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendisleofMan](https://www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendisleofMan)

~ SESSIONS ~

**culture vannin**

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

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

**MANX MUSIC** NOT COM

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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*