

# KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Mee ny Nollick 2021 December

MANX MUSIC TODAY



# Nollick Ghennal

**Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**  
*Manx music and dance at Christmas*

**'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 (6th January or Old Christmas Day).

Much like today, the 'Foolish Fortnight' was a time of socialising and revelry. Very little work was done; the time instead spent singing, dancing, eating, drinking, dancing, sports, games and visiting. Fiddlers were hired during Christmas to play for dancing and their fee was known as 'Yn Unnysup' – a word thought to be linked to Wanderer's cup or Wandescop and which features in several tune titles.

## **The Mollag Band**

Before carol-singing from house to house became part of Christmas, there was the 'Mollag Band' – a motley crew of men dressed in disguise who took to the streets singing loudly, banging drums and

*In this month's edition...*

- *TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE! National Songs music quiz*
- *New Christmas song from Biskee Brisht*
- *"Where O Where" to join in with Hunt the Wren!*

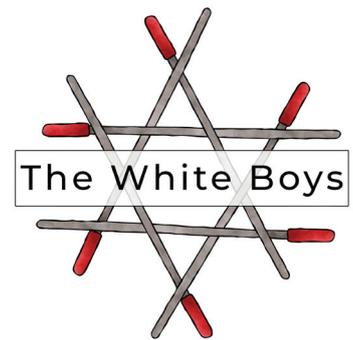
**Culture**  
**VANNIN**

generally making a nuisance of themselves until they were paid to go away! The 'mollag' was the inflated sheep's bladder which was fastened to the end of a stick and used to threaten those who wouldn't pay! <https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/the-mollag-bands-559033/>

## White Boys Play

A tradition associated with Christmas in the Isle of Man and elsewhere in the British Isles was the the White Boys mummers' play. Referring to local topics and current affairs, the folk drama features St. George who fights various opponents who are then brought back to life by the Doctor! Usually performed by men, the characters were dressed in white dresses decorated with ribbons, beads and tinsel and high hats decorated with evergreens. The performance also included the White Boys Carol and the impressive White Boys Dance where blunt-edged swords were interlinked into a 6 pointed star performed to the tune, "Creg Willy Syl".

<https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/the-white-boys-505782/>



## Carvals at the Oie'l Verrey

Another tradition peculiar to the Isle of Man was the singing of Carvals on the Oie'l Verrey (Eve of the Feast of Mary or Christmas Eve). When the evening service was over and the vicar had gone home, the Parish Clerk and congregation stayed in the church to perform or listen to carvals (carols) in Manx Gaelic. These carvals rarely referred to the nativity, but instead to matters of Christian duty, judgment, salvation, redemption, the joys of heaven and the terrors of hell! They were usually performed unaccompanied by a male singer and the duration was determined either by the length of time taken to walk and sing from the back of church to the altar, or the length of time a lit taper lasted until the flame went out. Some carvals were 320 verses long! Friendly rivalry was part of the evening as the congregation would shout encouragement at the end of each verse, or the women would fling parched peas at their bachelor friends! Afterwards, all retired to nearest tavern for hot spiced ale and they ended the evening in the small hours by singing 'Arrane Oie Vie' – the Goodnight song or Parting Song. A.W. Moore published a collection of carval text manuscripts in Carvalyn Ghailckagh (1891) and many of the melodies were taken down by Dr Clague and the Gill Brothers in the 1890s. e.g. "Carval ny Drogh Vraane". [www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/music/carvals.htm](http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/music/carvals.htm)

## Christmas Day

Early on Christmas morning, fiddlers called on households to wake everyone up to receive their gifts!

## Hunt the Wren – Shelg yn Drean

Another music and dance tradition that has been continuous in the Isle of Man is Hunt the Wren or Shelg yn Drean which is performed on St. Stephen's Day. In the past, people would beat the bushes to catch a wren and kill it, before parading the bird in a bush decorated with evergreens and ribbon. The traditional circle dance is performed around the bush to a lively song. Similar to the legends found in surrounding islands, one story behind the tradition is that a wren betrayed St. Stephen by alerting Roman soldiers to the bush where he was hiding. Another tells of a beautiful siren who lured Manx men into the sea to their deaths. When one attempted to catch her, she turned into a wren and escaped, so each year since, men and boys tried to catch the bird. A feather from a hunted-down wren was considered very lucky as it gave protection against shipwrecks and witchcraft.

<https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/hunt-the-wren-469497/>

Hunt the Wren revellry must be finished by midday, when it then customary to gather on Tynwald Fairfield for the annual cammag match between the North and South; a dangerous stick and ball game similar to hurling and shinty! <https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/cammag-560072/>

## The party is over!

Twelfth Night marked the end of Kegeesh Ommidjagh (foolish fortnight), and this was known as Laa Giense, a feast day when young people were paired off. Just in time for back to work!

**MORE INFO ON MANX CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS:** <https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/>

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS IN MANX

*Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa = Happy Christmas and a Good New Year*  
*Lesh yeearreeyn share = With best wishes*  
*Lesh Shee as Graih = With peace and love*  
*Hee'm oo 'sy vlein noa = See you in the New Year*  
*Shee erriu car ny bleeaney shoh gheet =*  
*Peace to you throughout the coming year.*

Christmas Card = Kaart Nollick / Christmas Carol = Carval / Christmas Day = Laa Nollick

Christmas Eve = Oie'll Voirrey / Christmas Tree = Billey Nollick / Father Christmas = Jishag y Nollick

Snowman = Fer sniahtee / Shelg yn drean = Hunt the wren

### Nollick Ghennal Erriu Ooilley

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Tradishoonagh (Sostyn)  
Gaelg - Cliogaree Twoaie &  
C Sheard



Nol-lick ghen - nal er-riu ooil - ley, Nol-lick ghen - nal er-riu ooil - ley, Nol-lick  
ghen - nal er-riu ooil - ley, As blein vie noa diu. *Shoh nai - gh - tyn mie, da*  
*ooil - ley - 'n sleih. Nol-lick ghen-nal er-riu ooil - ley, As blein vie noa diu.*

1. Nollick ghennal erriu ooilley,  
Nollick ghennal erriu ooilley,  
Nollick ghennal erriu ooilley,  
As blein vie noa diu.

Co-chiaull:

\* *Shoh naightyn mie, da ooilley 'n sleih*  
*Nollick ghennal erriu ooilley*  
*As blein vie noa diu.*

2. S'mie lhien ooilley puiddin figgagh,  
S'mie lhien ooilley puiddin figgagh,  
S'mie lhien ooilley puiddin figgagh,  
Lane blasstal as çhiu!

3. Ta shin gearree puiddin figgagh,  
Ta shin gearree puiddin figgagh,  
Ta shin gearree puiddin figgagh,  
As jough vie dy iu!

4. Neemayd tannaghtyn derrey vees ain,  
Neemayd tannaghtyn derrey vees ain,  
Neemayd tannaghtyn derrey vees ain,  
Bee as jough my sailliu!

5. Gura mie eu son jough as puiddin,  
Gura mie eu son jough as puiddin,  
Gura mie eu son jough as puiddin,  
Slaynt vie as slane lhiu!

Alt

\* *Shoh slaynt, shee as graih, da'n clane lught-thie,*  
*Nollick ghennal erriu ooilley*  
*As blein vie noa diu.*

BUY the Manx Gaelic Christmas songbook, **Nollick Ghenna**! for £8 in most IOM bookshops.  
More info: [www.manxmusic.com/publication\\_558103.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/publication_558103.html)

## The Quiteboys are Back!



YES FOR THE 1ST TIME SINCE LAST YEAR  
**THE BARELY CREDIBLE QUITEBOYS  
ARE BACK!**

Performances will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December at:

10am outside the Port St Mary Coop

10.30 by Port Erin Railway Station

11.15 Colby by the Spar Shop

11.45 Castletown Square

12.30 St Johns by the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh

1.30 outside Strand Shopping Centre Douglas (*inside if wet*)

3pm Regent Street Douglas

4pm Michael Street Peel

**PERFORMING THEIR DEATH DEFYING  
FIGHTS, SONG AND DANCE**

**SOME OF THE HAM-EST ACTING YOU'LL EVER SEE!**



## THE WHITE BOYS PLAY

**The locations and times for the White Boys in 2021:**

### **Saturday 4 December**

1pm Port Erin, by the Railway Station (The Quiteboys / Southern White Boys)

### **Monday 6 December**

7pm Ballabeg, Arbory Christmas Event, Arbory Primary School (Southern White Boys)

### **Saturday 18 December**

10am Port St. Mary, by the Coop (Southern White Boys)

10.30 Port Erin, by the Railway Station (Southern White Boys)

11am Ramsey, outside the Courthouse (Peel White Boys)

11.15am Colby, by the Spar (Southern White Boys)

11.45am Castletown Square (Southern White Boys)

12.30pm St. Johns, by the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh (Southern White Boys)

1.30pm Douglas, Strand Shopping Centre Douglas (Southern White Boys)

2pm Peel, Michael Street (Peel White Boys)

3pm Douglas, Regent Street Douglas (Southern White Boys)

4pm Peel, Michael Street (Southern White Boys)

5pm Peel, the Dog's Nollick, East Quay (Peel White Boys)



More information about the White Boys here:

<https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/the-white-boys-505782/>

*photo at top from Dec 2020 by Val Caine*

## HUNT THE WREN

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

**DOUGLAS:** 10.15am meet (for 10.30am start) outside the Woodbourne Hotel

**RAMSEY:** 10.30am meet outside St Paul's Church

**St. JOHN'S:** 10.30am meet in the Arboretum car park

**WILLASTON:** 10.45am meet in Willaston School Car Park (opp. Manor Pub)

**KIRK MICHAEL:** 11am outside the Mitre pub (going on to Ballaugh) > **BALLAUGH:** 11.20am outside The Raven (going on to Sulby) > **SULBY:** 11.40am at the Sulby Glen Pub

## CAMMAG

2pm, St. John's, the Tynwald Fairfield ~ The North vs the South!

To be followed by a Manx music session in the Tynwald Inn...

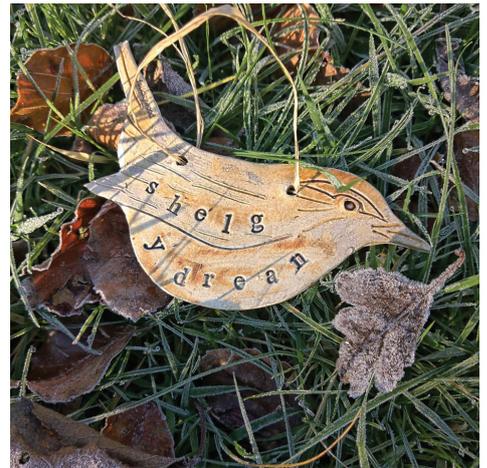
## St. Stephen's Day

A poem by David Callin

The wren's untouchable, except today.

Once upon a time, we all turned out  
to chase her through the village, all the way

to messy ends in middens and in ditches.  
With drums and whistles, in a merry rout,  
we solemnize the harrying of witches.



### More information and resources:

<https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/hunt-the-wren-469497/>

If you're in the Isle of Man and are organising your own Hunt the Wren, you can request a vinyl banner from Culture Vannin. Contact [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)

## Hunt the Wren

1. We'll Hunt the wren, says Robin the Bobbin,  
We'll hunt the wren, says Richie the Robin,  
We'll hunt the wren, says Jack O' the Land,  
We'll hunt the wren, says Everyone

*Where O Where? Says etc.*

In yonder green bush, etc.

2. How get him down?  
*Where O Where? says etc.*  
With sticks and stones, etc.

3. How get him home?  
*Where O Where? says etc.*  
The brewer's big cart, etc.

4. How'll we ate him? [or How get him ate?]  
*Where O Where? says etc.*  
With knives and forks, etc.

5. Who'll come to the dinner?  
*Where O Where? says etc.*  
The king and the queen, etc.

6. Eyes to the blind, says Robin the Bobbin,  
Legs to the lame, says Richie the Robin,  
Pluck [or luck] to the poor, says Jack O' the Land,  
and bones to the dog, says Everyone

*Where O Where? says etc.*

The wren, the wren, is King of all birds,  
St Stephen's Day, he's caught in the furze,  
Although he is little, his family's great,  
We pray you good people to give us a trate!

[based on the version used by the Perree Bane dance group]

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*LISTEN to Caitlin Bennett and the Bree weekend students sing this version (30'15"):*

<https://tinyurl.com/2p89dazy>



## Mie lhiat y Nollick? Mie lhiat goaill arrane?! Do you like Christmas? Do you like singing?

Culture Vannin have JUST the thing for you! Join Michelle and Chloe (a.k.a Hello Little People) and Ruth and Chloe (from Culture Vannin) and learn a super-fun contemporary Christmas song in Manx!

This song, *Shinyn ny Deiney*, is a firm favourite of the paitchyn at the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, and it was written specially for them by the talented Annie Kissack. After you have a watch of this and see how much fun Chloe and Michelle have with it, you'll see why... What better time to learn and sing the song than in 2021 - the twentieth anniversary of the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh: our wonderful Manx language school in St. John's.

Jeant dy mie Hello Little People - what you see is truly what you get; they learnt the song on the spot with no help beforehand. Gow aynr - join in! With thanks to Open Water Films for the film.

WATCH <https://fb.watch/9DkaVHG1se/>

## Shinyn ny Deiney

We are the (Wise) Men

Liorish Annie Kissack

G

Shin - yn ny dei - ney, ny dei - ney feer chreen - ey!

3 D

Oh - oh-oh - oh - oh! Ny rol - lage- y - dee! Shin-yn ny dei - ney, ren

6 1. D7

geiyrt er rol - lage as Haink shin er Yee - sey

8 2. D7 G

Creest Mac Yee, oh shin er Creest nyn Yee.



**Cummaghyn** - a wonderfully complex modern Manx dance.

'Cummaghyn' is Manx for 'Shapes' - a name which makes sense when the various moves of the dance develop. A new filmed performance by Skeddan Jiarg (photo above) has recently been released. It was filmed by Culture Vannin at Cwlwm Celtaidd, Wales, on 7th March 2020.

<https://vimeo.com/564083934>

More performances from Skeddan Jiarg at Cwlwm Celtaidd can be found here:

[www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/skeddan-jiarg-at-cwlwm-celtaidd-660051/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/skeddan-jiarg-at-cwlwm-celtaidd-660051/)

This dance was composed by Bock Yuan Fannee, and it is performed to the traditional Manx tune, '**She Bosun dy row ayns Dover s'thie!**

Watch Bock Yuan Fannee (photo below) perform it here:

[www.manxmusic.com/performer\\_128514.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/performer_128514.html)

Sheet music for the music to download: [manxmusic.com/learn\\_page\\_697540.html](http://manxmusic.com/learn_page_697540.html)

see end for KMJ TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH





Last month, members of Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums entertained Braddan WI, and at the Friday Folk Club in Peel (12th Nov), there were spots from Paul Reynolds & Annie Pearce, Marlene Hendy & Dilys Sowrey, and Paul Cringle.





# Manannan's Winterfest

NO 4

A Magical Manx Christmas!

**MUSIC & SONG FROM**  
**BLUE TRAIN BIG BAND**  
**DUO LANDAT MOISSON**  
**MAE CHALLIS | MANDY GRIFFIN**  
**THE REVEILLETES | THE SHIMMERS**

**AND FEATURING**  
**DOT, GEOFF & SONIA**  
**THE DEEMSTERS**  
**GARETH MOORE**  
**DAISY DIVERS**  
**NY FENNEE DANCERS**  
**& MANANNAN'S HOUSE BAND**



ONE NIGHT ONLY

FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup>  
 DECEMBER 2021  
 GAIETY THEATRE

photo by Warren Pickett  
 \* artists shown performed in the 2020 show



ARTS COUNCIL

TICKETS: £21/£25 | CALL: 600555 | VILLAGAIETY.COM



Manannan's Winterfest returns to the Gaiety Theatre in a unique concert celebrating Manx Christmas traditions through a collaboration of the Island's finest exponents of classical, folk, brass and choral music, with a sprinkle of local humour and drama added to the mix! The mighty sea-god Manannan invites you to get into the Manx festive spirit and join him for this very special evening of entertainment!

# CRUINNAGHT VANNINAGH ASHOONAGH

## MANX COMPETITIONS

*Yn Chruinnaght held a fantastic night of (mainly) Manx Gaelic competitions on the 6th November in the Corrin Hall, Peel as part of the Cooish Manx festival. Featuring all generations and abilities of Manx speakers, the evening was based on the festival's forerunner of 1924. Medals were provided by Aundyryn Kiull-Vannin [Manx Folk Awards] and the MCs were Adam Horne and Jo Callister. The adjudicators were Dr Laura Rowles, Paul Salmon, Ruth Keggin and Sue Woolley [bonnag].*

### WINNERS

**UNDER 14 Spelling Bee** – Orry Franklin

**ADULT/14+ Stump Speech in Manx** – Nicola Tooms [theme: Hop tu naa]

**UNDER 14 Sight-reading in Manx** - Frank Joughin

**ADULT Sight-reading in Manx** – Ali Carroon

**UNDER 14 Any solo song in Manx** – Kerron Stitt (National Anthem); Finbar McSevney & Martha Watson (most amusing – S'mie Lhiam Cappan dy Hey); Saffy McKenna (best newcomer - Foillycan, Foillycan), Lowenna Joughin & Cara Rowles (best group performance - Ny Jinnyn)

**ADULT/14+ Any solo song in Manx** – Paul Salmon (Eisht as Nish) & David Kilgallon (Ushtey Millish 'sy Garee)

**OPEN TO ALL Original Manx joke class** – Kerron Stitt, Orry Franklin, Tony Quirk

**UNDER 14 Recitation of a poem** – Rafferty McKenna (haiku in Manx)

**ADULT Recitation of a Manx dialect poem by memory** – Jo Callister (Oul' Bobby Bob)

**UNDER 14 Performance of an original song, poem or short story in Manx** – Finn Franklin (story); Frank Joughin (poem); Matilda Watson (poem); Aalish Kilgallon (song)

**ADULT/14+ Performance of an original song, poem or short story in Manx** – Philip Collins (poem – Quocunque Jeceris Stabit)

**OPEN Manx National Song 'raising'** (one verse and chorus any song in English or Manx from the *Manx National Song Book* combined volumes 1 & 2) – Ali Carroon

**Best Bonnag** – 1. Tony Quirk; 2. Becky McSevney; 3. Dottie Hampton





kiuill manninagh jiu 12/21 culture vannin

# YOUNG MUSICIAN OF MANN 2022

## ERIN ARTS CENTRE

Are you a promising young instrumentalist?  
Fancy showcasing your skills in front of an audience?

*The Competition is Coming!*



1st Round - Sunday  
30th January 2pm  
Final - Sunday 6th  
February 2pm

Applicants must be between the ages of 7 and 18yrs on 30th January 2022  
Competitors will be split into two groups - 7-12yrs and 13-18yrs  
Application Forms Coming Soon!

Victoria Square, Port Erin.  
Doors open 30 minutes prior to each event | Open 10am - 4:30pm Tue - Fri  
Tickets available online at [Ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre](https://ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre) & at the Box Office  
Keep updated online @erinartscentre.com, Facebook & Instagram @Erinartscentre  
835858 | information@erinartscentre.com  
The Erin Arts Centre is a registered charity. Charity number 236A



# YOUNG SINGER OF MANN 2022

## ERIN ARTS CENTRE

Are you a promising young singer?  
Fancy showcasing your skills in front of an audience?

*The Competition is Coming!*



1st Round - Sunday  
16th January 2pm  
Final - Sunday 23rd  
January 2pm

Applicants must be between the ages of 7 and 18yrs on 30th January 2022  
Competitors will be split into two groups - 7-12yrs and 13-18yrs  
Application Forms Coming Soon!

Victoria Square, Port Erin.  
Doors open 30 minutes prior to each event | Open 10am - 4:30pm Tue - Fri  
Tickets available online at [Ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre](https://ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre) & at the Box Office  
Keep updated online @erinartscentre.com, Facebook & Instagram @Erinartscentre  
835858 | information@erinartscentre.com  
The Erin Arts Centre is a registered charity. Charity number 236A



Tickets £7

### CHRISTMAS WITH BISKEE BRISHT

Saturday 4th December  
At Foraging Vintners, Port Erin

Doors open at 7pm  
Support from Alice Dudley

*The Sound of Christmas*

Monday, 13th December, 7pm Royal Hall

Join the Island's primary schools in a festive celebration of singing.

The programme will include a mixture of Manx Christmas songs, carols, Christmas chart hits and more!

ADULT £10 / SENIOR £10

UNDER 16 £5

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

Entries are now open for the  
**Manx Music Festival  
AKA The Guild!**

23rd to 30th April 2022.

Pick up a syllabus in various shops  
or download here:

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

Knockaloe.im

## “Kiaull ny Nollick Veg Knockaloe”

After a missed year due to Covid restrictions, the Knockaloe Charity is delighted to invite you to join us for an evening of seasonal music and song to celebrate “Manx Old Christmas” on Friday January 7th, with “Hartes Ease”. There will be complimentary interval mulled wine and home made sweet treats served.

On this occasion we are relocating to the more spacious Corrin Hall, Peel. This is a roomier venue which we think is important at this time. Tickets will also be limited so there is no danger of overcrowding, and entry will be by ticket only.

Ticketing information to follow. More info about Hartes Ease:

[www.iomearlymusic.net/Early\\_Music\\_on\\_the\\_Isle\\_of\\_Man/Hartes\\_Ease.html](http://www.iomearlymusic.net/Early_Music_on_the_Isle_of_Man/Hartes_Ease.html)

More info about Knockaloe Centre for WW1 Internment: [www.knockaloe.im](http://www.knockaloe.im)

*The ME support concert this Friday 3rd Dec with Caarjyn Coidjagh has been CANCELLED due to Covid concerns in the south of the Island.*



Perree Bane  
Christmas Party

Sunday 19th December

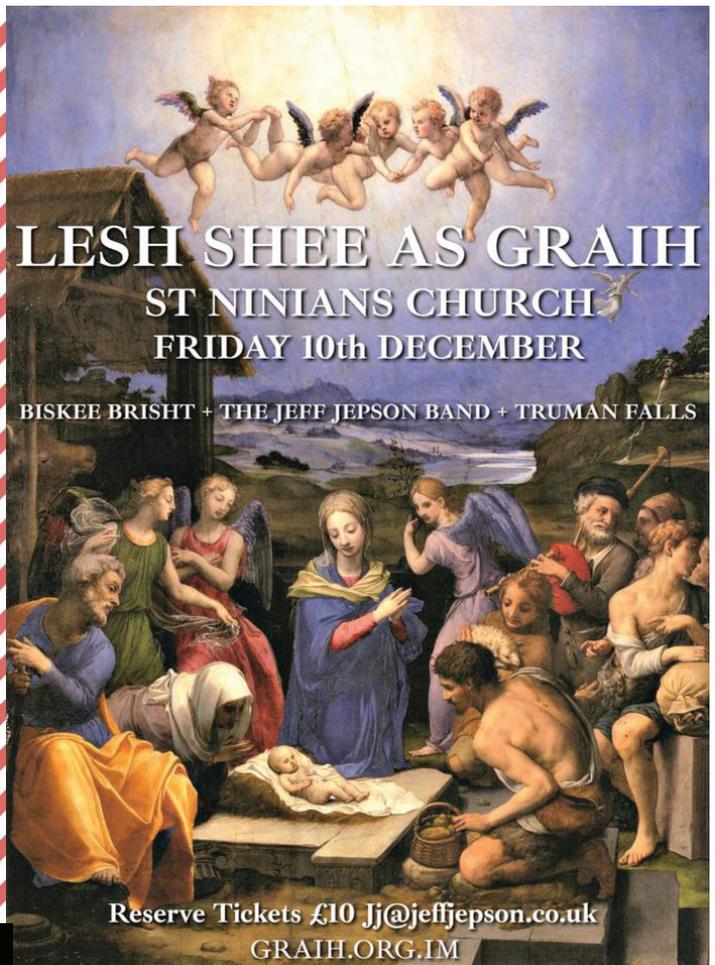
Ballasalla Village Hall  
Mill Road  
Ballasalla

Children 6pm  
Adults join in at 7pm

Bring a plate of food and  
your own drink

All welcome  
Bring friends  
and family

PIC•COLLAGE



LESH SHEE AS GRAIH  
ST NINIANS CHURCH  
FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER

BISKEE BRISHT + THE JEFF JEPSON BAND + TRUMAN FALLS

Reserve Tickets £10 Jj@jeffjepson.co.uk  
GRAIH.ORG.IM



The  
MANX  
SLOE  
GIN  
Launch  
Event

Fire & ICE

**Mactullagh Vannin** play Manx trad music at the Fynoderee Manx Sloe Gin Launch.

~ Thursday 16th December 7 - 10pm ~

TICKETS £35

<https://tinyurl.com/mrmud4df>

Who's ready to test their knowledge of **Manx National Songs** - a book which is 125 years old this year!? Let us know how you get on!...

Circle the correct answer:

1. Who arranged all the songs in *Manx National Songs*? (1896 - vol.1)

ML Wood                      WH Gill                      AW Moore                      IP Freely

2. Who is the "King of the Sea", according to the song?

Herring                      Manannan                      Eddie the Eagle                      Ben-my-Chree

3. What are "Tappaghyn Jiargey"?

Red herrings                      Dance shoes                      Red top-knots                      Hot taps

4. What does "Illiam Dhone" (or Dhoan) mean?

Brown William                      William Taylor                      Poor William                      William the Conqueror

5. What was "The Tiger" in the song?

Dr Clague's Manx cat                      A ship                      A young lad from Ronague                      Mr Cubbon's best horse

6. Which town is "shining by the sea"?

Douglas                      Castletown                      Ramsey                      Ronague

7. What does "Oie Vie" mean?

Greetings                      Drink up                      Good Night                      Watch out

8. What was Mrs Cregeen famous for?!

Her jellies                      Her singing                      Her beautiful daughters                      Her smelly farts

9. According to the song, what was under the snow?

Cows                      Jellies                      Sheep                      Ned Beg's plough

10. What is "Yn Guilley Hesheree"?

The Plough boy                      The School boy                      The Herring boy                      The Beach boy

Marks \_\_\_\_\_ / 10

PLAY ONLINE & CHECK YOUR SCORE!  
<https://tinyurl.com/55pwca56>

# SCRAN DATES



## Finder's Keepers Christmas Market,

Isle Contemporary, Peel  
Sun 5th Dec, 3pm

<https://tinyurl.com/ypawm3yn>

## Christmas Live

A live nativity in the heart of Douglas with real sheep, dancers, Manx music and more!

Villier's Square, Douglas,  
Thurs 16th Dec, 7pm

Come and get a properly amazing Christmas fix at Christmas Live 2021

More info & free tickets:

<https://fb.me/e/1myl11S68>

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

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

Family-friendly Nativity  
Thursday 16 December  
7.00pm | Villier's Square  
**Live animals**  
Unity Dance School  
The Samaritans Choir  
Live music from **SCRAN**  
Ruth Keggin-Gell (Culture Vannin)  
**All tickets FREE**

*Unfortunately Duo Landat-Moisson from Brittany cannot visit the Island this December, so the Breton-Manx night at the Fyn Bar (9th) and Yn Chruinnagh's Fest Noz (11th) have been postponed till Spring 2022.*

# Aundyryn Kiaull-Theay Vannin

## MANX FOLK AWARDS

20 - 24th March 2022

The 2022 set pieces for choirs & recitation are themed around

Manx folklore, nature  
and animals

Check out the syllabus:

[www.manxmusic.com/education\\_page\\_92025.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/education_page_92025.html)

Entries close Fri 4th February

# Manx Folk Awards



For updates & news on Manx music & dance, follow

[www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance](http://www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance)

# kiaul1 noa



## CHRISTMAS MORNING IS FINALLY HERE!!!

Biskee Brisht have released a new single about all those bittersweet memories called 'Christmas Morning'.

Listen on your fave streaming services:

### Spotify:

<https://tinyurl.com/z8j967ma>

### Apple Music:

<https://tinyurl.com/4vxadz2x>

### Bandcamp:

<https://tinyurl.com/mrb3vb28>

### Youtube:

<https://youtu.be/uMEZnLCjsLg>

### Soundcloud:

<https://tinyurl.com/tye4b7ss>

Biskee Brisht Christmas jumpers are available to buy from

<https://biskee-brisht.myshopify.com/>

(only available until December 6th so they'll arrive in time for Christmas!)

Watch the band at Foraging Vintners on the December 4th, support from Alice Dudley, doors at 7pm, tickets £7





You can now enjoy the concert from the 2021 Big Bree Workshop Weekend where the students learnt songs, tunes and dances all linked to Manx National Songs which is 125 years old this year.

### WATCH THE CONCERT HERE:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/bree-weekend-2021-698041/>

Extracted highlights from the concert are also available...

**The Ballad of Arthur Caley** <https://vimeo.com/643766728>

The sheet music and lyrics for this song are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8f3wb5>

**The Illiam Dhone play** <https://vimeo.com/643768478>

**The Tiger & Betsy Baker** <https://vimeo.com/643778468>

**Yn Guilley He\$heree** <https://vimeo.com/643781578>

### New Manx music gif!

Just search for 'kiaull' wherever you want a gif and this (and a few others) will come up! >>

It comes from the Cammag session of last year (26th Dec 2021), out of this film:

<https://youtu.be/WRKwI8DYaRA>

GIF: <https://media.giphy.com/media/3J0Y7sK7x3zqYiK31U/giphy.gif>



## NYE Cocktails and Ceili

Join The Fynoderee Distillery in Ramsey this New Year's Eve to celebrate "Fyn Bar style" with cocktails and ceili music from 8pm - until the clock chimes midnight!

We'll have our friends from the "Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band" keeping us jigging n' reeling away until the clock strikes 12...

With "Fire & Ice" providing the sustenance

Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/9frj8cdz>

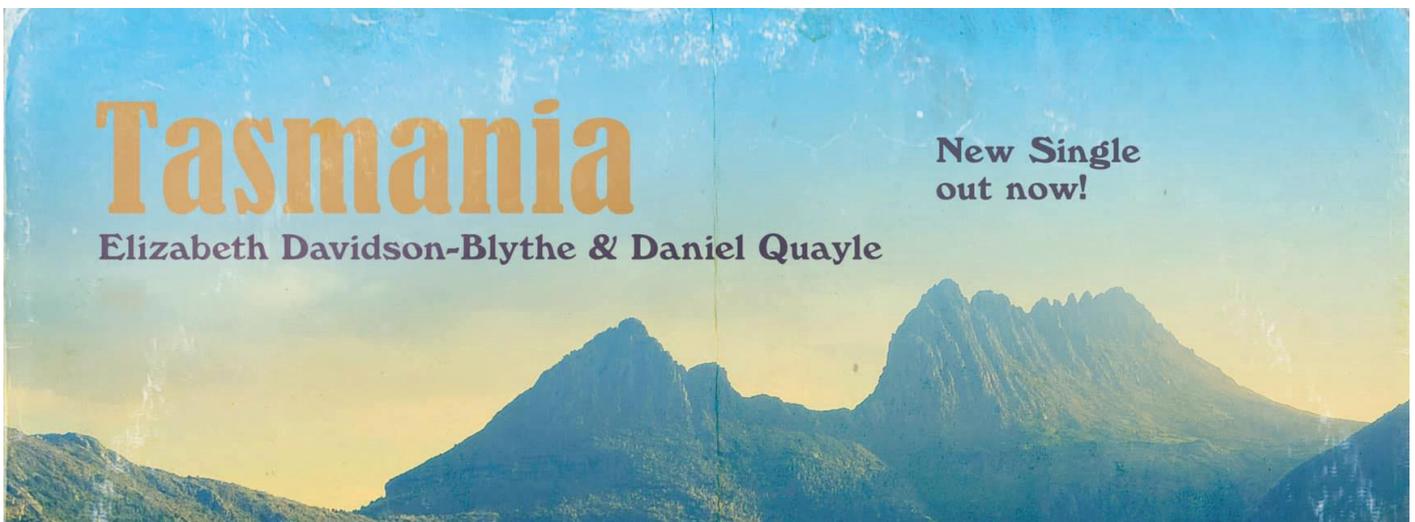
# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

## Help crowdfund TRIP's debut album

TRIP are a six-piece trad band based in Glasgow, Scotland, featuring Sligo flautist Tiernan Courell, Newcastle accordionist Michael Biggins, Manx fiddler Isla Callister with Scots Alasdair McKenzie on guitar and voice, Rory Matheson on piano and Craig Baxter on bodhran. Their debut album 'A drop for Neptune' is a culmination of the last 4 years of making music together. Inspired by the sea, the album combines both traditional and contemporary, self-penned tunes and songs to create an exciting take on traditional music.



Powerful, driven and distinctive, TRIP's sound is infused with the traditional melodies of Scotland, Ireland, England and the Isle of Man; a reflection and blend of the different Celtic nations each member hails from. MORE INFO: <https://tinyurl.com/yd4dyvmn>



*Daniel Quayle & Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe's brand new single 'Tasmania' is out now!*

SPOTIFY: <https://tinyurl.com/ypf6j63r>

Young Manx dancers Onnee and Kitty Ayres performed Sharon's Jig for a large audience at the National Methodist Youth Conference in Birmingham last month:

<https://tinyurl.com/4pu6mtmm>

## Youtube corner

- Manx Gaelic choir, Cliogaree Twoaie
- choir from the Isle of Man performed
- *Carval er Yeesey Creest as e Hurranse* (A
- Carol on Jesus Christ and his Suffering
- / tune: St Luke's from E. Quayle's
- manuscript 1726) at the opening
- ceremony of the Pan Celtic Festival in
- Carlow, Ireland 2012.

<https://youtu.be/jMH00hxCSUI>

# RESEARCH NEWS

“MR CORRAN WAS NOT MUCH OF A MUSICAL GENIUS”

T.E. BROWN RECALLS JAMES CORRAN, THE PARISH CLERK OF BRADDAN

[3c] Our clerk, Jemmy Corran, was a very remarkable man. Observe, I call him Jemmy Corran, because the rude, modern age to which we belong has come to talk of people in that way; but my father would never have tolerated such a liberty; to him he was “Corran,” or “Corran the clerk,” and so he was to us. A merry, mercurial, bright, laughing man—he was of the Corrans of Ballamenagh, one of the best old Braddan families; and, after the fashion of that time had been brought up to a trade—it was that of a ship carpenter. The clerkship was, as you know, elective—I suppose it is so still. Jemmy was brought in at the head of the poll by the ship carpenters of Douglas. I remember I used always to fancy that they had all come up to Braddan in a solid phalanx, armed with adzes and hatchets. Mr Corran was not much of a musical genius; his leading of the singing was—terrible. (Loud and continued laughter.) On Manx Sundays he had it all to himself, as the organ was not played. His tunes were the most indescribable mazes and labyrinths of impossible melody. Some people thought that they were grand old Manx airs; there was a wild melancholy about them that might have suggested this theory; but no! [3d] they were only tunes too sadly familiar, but led utterly astray in the wilderness of Corran’s incapacity; but on English Sundays we had quite a choir.

“Meeting of Manxmen in Liverpool.” *Mona’s Herald* 19 January 1881: 2d–f & 3.

T.E. Brown (1830–97) was born in Douglas and when he was two, the family moved to Kirk Braddan, his father, the Rev. Robert Brown, being appointed then to the living of Kirk Braddan. In the 1841 census, James Corran was aged 40 and working as a joiner. Married to Alice, they lived at Cronkbourne with their seven children, the eldest three of whom were born in England. By the time of the next census, Corran was now the Parish Clerk, and living at Church Bridge House; he died early in 1853, and the clerkship became available once more. Kirk Braddan at this date was still holding the Sunday Service in both English and Manx. The music practices were different as Brown recalls—on “English Sundays” as Brown termed it, there was a choir and an organ accompaniment, “Manx Sundays,” the hymns were lined out as once was common practice by the parish clerk.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

See, *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Braddan 1841, HO/107 1463/5, fol. 29; *CEB* for Braddan 1851, HO/107 2525, fol. 434, sch. 85. For his death, “Election of Parish Clerk,” *Mona’s Herald*, 30 March 1853, 3c–d.

“WERE YOU SINGING HYMNS?”

“We were all singing on the road home,” deposed Robert Caley before the Magistrates Court on 2 January 1890. He was up before the bench for having stabbed Daniel Corlett during an argument that had taken place on 24 December 1889. Asked by one of the Justices of the Peace, “Were you singing hymns?” the answer came back, “No sir. Carols or ‘Carvals’ as they say in the country.” The incident had taken place on the way back from the Oiel Verrey at Christ Church Maughold. Besides Caley and Corlett, others present were John Callow of Abbey Lands, William Alfred Christian of Laxey, Robert Kinnish of Baldhoon, John James Quilleash Skillicorn of Gretch Vane, and George Shimmin of Ballaragh. They had all arrived too late to be admitted but had managed on the way there to have drinks at the Dhoon Glen Hotel and at the Glen Mona. Caley was fined £1 with fees for his role in the assault and “Mr Harris advised all in Court to go home and live in peace with each other in the parish, and to go to church instead of the public-house.” (For the court case, see “Serious Affray in Lonan,” *Manx Sun*, 4 January 1890, 5b–d.)

STEPHEN MILLER RBV



"hunt the wren", an ancient manx  
st. stephen's day custom.

- Nollick Ghennal  
as blein vie noa -

**Shelg yn DREAIN**  
Veih'n Chynsey A.W. MOORE

Feer happer.

"Hem-mayd gys y keyll", dooyrt Robin y Vobbin; "Hem-mayd  
gys y keyll", dooyrt Richard y Rob-in; "Hem-mayd  
gys y keyll", dooyrt Ju-an y Thal-lao; "Hem-mayd  
gys y keyll", dooyrt ooil-ley un-nane.

'Vintage' Hunt the Wren themed Christmas card designed by Colin Jerry for Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh featuring the song as collected by AW Moore for *Manx Ballads and Music* (1896).

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

### **1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.1.13 Cur Shaghey yn Geurey**

Although a name also given to Fathaby Jig there is no known evidence to explain the origins of this dance. Some typed notes appear amongst Douglas' papers pertaining to Sleih gyn Thie and Rinkaghyn Vannin in which the dance has a Manx Waltz to finish but explains that a simple turn can be used for very young children. The dance appears in 1983 in Rinkaghyn Vannin as collected by Douglas from a Miss Davies. It is also described by Carswell (2004) as being a realistic social dance although no historic evidence of its provenance can be found.

**READ FULL THESIS:**

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf)

\*\*\*

**LEARN THE DANCE** (also known as Step Dance): <https://vimeo.com/335905502>

## **'Christmas with the Woods', a seasonal selection of items from the Isle of Man newspapers**

*Isle of Man Times, 30th December 1893:* St. Barnabas Christmas Sale of Work in aid of church funds at Bourne Hall, Drumgold Street, Douglas on 28th December. The Christmas tree that stood in the centre of the hall 'was heavy laden'. A musical feast was provided by Harry Rushworth's Juvenile Orchestra whose young players included Master Haydn Wood, Adeline and Elise Wood and Blanche and Nella Mew, all members of Douglas' most prominent musical families.

*Isle of Man Examiner, 27th December 1897:* A Grand Concert of Manx National Music on St. Stephen's Night at the Pavilion, Douglas. Master Haydn Wood is numbered among the soloists together with Harry Wood's Student Orchestra and Douglas Town Band – who performed a Grand Selection of Manx Airs\* arr. By their conductor Mr George Thornley – and the Manx National Choir of fifty voices.

\* A hitherto unknown arrangement of Manx National Melodies. Does it still exist I wonder?

*Isle of Man Times, 21st December 1918:* 'For the Sake of the Soldiers', a National Thanksgiving Fete on Thursday 19th at the Villa Marina. 'A huge fair with entertainment by local groups. Haydn Wood plays two violin solos: a Chopin Nocturne and his own Elfin Dance.

*Ramsey Courier, 20th December, 1929:* Miss Ethel Brew sang some of Haydn Wood's songs at the Ramsey Cushag Choir concert at St. Olave's School, Ramsey.

*The Mona's Herald, 31st December 1935:* 'A Plea for Manx Nationalism'. The popularity and frequent broadcasts of Haydn Wood's music based on traditional Manx melodies cited as an example of the Island 'having something of its own to offer' in the realm of music.

*Ramsey Courier, 18th December, 1936:* His Excellency Sir Montagu Butler (The Lieutenant Governor) accepts the dedication of Haydn Wood's new concert overture The Land of Mountains and Glens. The composer 'who has done so much for the Island in musical circles' will conduct the first performance on the 22nd on the National Programme. The work was completed during the composer's summer holiday on the Island and is 'a graceful musical tribute to the Isle of Man'.

COMPILED BY MAURICE POWELL

# Willie Holden and the Holden Family of Musicians

by Maurice Powell



The young violinist, a concert hall favourite before World War I.

On an unseasonably warm afternoon in February 1961 an interview took place at number 3, Cowells Terrace, Ramsey, between the writer of the Northern Notebook feature of the Isle of Man Times\* and a sprightly, 'bushy haired' eighty-two-year-old gentleman, who, it quickly transpired, had a fascinating story to tell that stretched back to the 1880s.

\* Isle of Man Times, 27.02.1961

Born in Bury in January 1879 and baptised during the registration quarter of January-March, William 'Willie' Henry Holden\* had retired to the Island two years earlier after a long and varied career as a violinist and musical director. In fact, he was proud that he maintained a repertoire of eight concertos and several shorter violin pieces, and still played for two hours each day on his two-hundred-year-old Italian violin.

\* He was also referred to as 'Bill' or 'Billy' in newspapers reports from the 1960s and '70s.

'Willie' Holden recalled that he had learned the violin at a very early age and had first played in public at the age of eight.\* He may have been a violin pupil of Harry Wood in Douglas, and of John Dunn,\*\* one of the most prominent English violinists of the Victorian and Edwardian period, who was a frequent visitor to the

island. From 1892 aged just fourteen, 'Willie', became the conductor of the orchestra at the Theatre Royal, Garston, near Liverpool.\*\*\*

\* In an interview he gave to the Ramsey Courier from his home, San Remo, Coburg Road, Ramsey, dated 21.03.1969, he recalled that he first took up the violin at the age of five, and made his concert debut at Hope Hall, Liverpool, at the age of six.

\*\* In an extract from the Eastern Daily News from Norwich, cited as an afterword to his obituary, Isle of Man Examiner 12.05.1972, the writer (A.G.W.) states that Willie Holden had been taught by four violin teachers including John Dunn (1866-1940), famous as an interpreter of the music of Paganini, who gave the first performance of Tchaikovsky's violin concerto in England in 1902.

\*\*\* See Valerie Grace Crennel Kinrade, Music of the Isle of Man Tourist Industry 1870-1970, dissertation, University of Liverpool, July 2009. Originally the Garston Royal Palace of Varieties, the Theatre Royal, Garstang, was a former warehouse opened in September 1892, closed in 1895 and re-opened as the Theatre Royal in 1896. In 1903 the theatre became a billiard hall, and later the Garston and District Co-Operative Society's furnishing department.

During the Isle of Man Times interview cited earlier 'Willie' Holden recalled playing with Haydn Wood, although whether this meant simply 'playing' as children or implies that he and Haydn Wood played the violin in Harry Wood's orchestra at the Derby Castle or took part in Harry Wood's Student Orchestra concerts is open to conjecture. In an interview with the Ramsey Courier in 1969 cited earlier he recalled that he was 'with Harry Wood for some time'.



Mr. Willie Holden, now in his 91st year.

READ the full biography: [www.manxmusic.com/bio\\_page\\_701531.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/bio_page_701531.html)

PHOTOS: Isle of Man Courier, Fri 21st March 1969

“ON THE FORMER OCCASION THERE WAS AN ENTIRE ABSENCE OF MANX  
SINGING”

THE AGNEASH OIEL VERREY (1902)

It would appear that the good people of Agneash are determined (at least so far as they are concerned) that the old-fashioned Oiel Verrey services will not altogether die out. At one of these services, held about three weeks ago in the chapel, the attendance was so large that many persons had to remain outside. On Saturday evening last another of these services was held, when the chapel was again filled. This last time the service was in accordance with ancient custom, there being no programme provided. The Chairman (Mr W. Kermeen), who was the right man in the right place, briefly alluded to old customs. Referring to the Manx tongue, he said: “Strange though it may be to many present, it was the medium of courtship in his early days.” He was pleased to say that they (in Agneash) were still able to give some capital specimens of the good old tongue, which was richer and fuller than the ordinary language of to-day. Mr Kermeen recited some verses from [a] ballad on the wreck of the Lily on Kitterland, the whole of which he had learned when a boy. The meeting was then thrown open. The chapel and also the male choir were again in attendance. A choir from Maughold also put in an appearance, and all three presented some fine old tunes in good style and were highly appreciated, especially by the old folks. Several recitations were given both in Manx and English by persons varying in age from 8 years to almost 80. Quite a number of carols were sung. On the former occasion there was an entire absence of Manx singing. It cannot, however, be said, so far as Maughold and Lonan are concerned, that Manx carol singers have altogether ceased to exist. The old veteran, Mr James Kewley, though far advanced in years, is still hale and hearty and possesses an excellent voice for one of his years. His two carols were highly appreciated. Mr John Moore, the well-known singer of Maughold, was also equal to the occasion with a portion of “Carval Drogh Vraane,” which was well received. Excellent order prevailed throughout.

“[Lonan and Laxey] Agneash Oiel Verrey.” *Manx Sun* 25 January 1902: 5g.

What was “old-fashioned” about this Oiel Verrey was the use of Manx and associated with that the singing of *carvals*; the influence of the Manx Language Revival here is clear. Much, however, about the Oiel Verrey has changed: not just the date, but also it taking place in a Methodist chapel, the presence now of a choir as well as a guest one here from Maughold. Nevertheless, what remained was community and seasonal celebration.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

NAMES

William Kermeen, was aged 58, a lead miner, married to Margaret (57), and living at Agneash in Lonan, with their children, Emily Margaret (27), James (19) lead miner, Elizabeth (17), Alfred (13). William was born in Rushen, the others all in Lonan. He was the only Manx speaker in the household.

*Census Enumerators’ Book* for Lonan 1901, RG 13/5307, fol. 22, sch. 11.

James Kewley, 68 years old, lead miner, lived at Agneash with Ellen his wife (63) and nephew, Thomas (15), another lead miner. James and Thomas were born in Lonan, Ellen was English. James spoke Manx.

*Census Enumerators’ Book* for Lonan 1901, RG 13/5307, fol. 24, sch. 37.

John Moore, aged 54, lived at Ballaberna, working the farm there with his mother, Isabella (72), his brother, James (35), and his nephew, Charles (14). Another nephew, Robert (8), was also living there. All were born in Maughold. Only Isabella is returned as a Manx speaker.

*Census Enumerators’ Book* for Maughold 1901, RG 13/5302, fol. 17, sch. 43.

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

*She bosun dy row ayns Dover s'thie* (It was a boatswain whose house was at Dover) is the tune used for the Manx dance, **Cummaghyn** (shapes) which was choreographed by Bock Yuan Fannee.

## She bosun dy row ayns Dover s'thie

*Cummaghyn*  
dance composed by  
Bock Yuan Fannee

(It was a boatswain whose house was at Dover)

Manx trad  
tune used to  
accompany the dance  
*Cummaghyn*

Musical notation for the Manx dance tune 'She bosun dy row ayns Dover s'thie'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first four measures. The second staff starts at measure 4 and includes first and second endings. The third staff starts at measure 8 and also includes first and second endings. A note in the third staff is marked with a 'b' in a circle. The piece concludes with the instruction 'Repeat B tune for final part of dance'.

## She bosun dy row ayns Dover s'thie.

(IT WAS A BOATSWAIN WHOSE HOUSE WAS AT DOVER.)

Piano accompaniment for the Manx dance tune 'She bosun dy row ayns Dover s'thie'. The score is written for piano in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat major). It consists of four systems of music. The first system includes the tempo marking 'Lento.' and the metronome marking '♩ = 60.'. The first system also includes the dynamic marking 'p'. The second system includes the dynamic marking 'mf'. The third system includes the dynamic marking 'rall.'. The piece concludes with a fermata over the final note.

The song was arranged and published by WH Gill in *Manx National Music* (1896)

# CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

4th Perree Bane at 11am and The Quiteboys at 1pm, Port Erin Railway Station, Port Erin's Countdown to Christmas

4th Caarjyn Coidjagh sing carols at Tynwald Mills, St Johns from 2-3pm in aid of M.E support, IOM.

4th Skeddan Jiarg dance for the Christmas parade for the Peel Light Switch On, 4pm

4th Biskee Brisht & Alice Dudley, Foraging Vintners, Port Erin, 7pm, £7

5th Scran at the Finder's Keepers Christmas Market, Peel, 3pm

10th Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre, 7.30pm [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com)

10th Lesh Shee as Graih, St Ninian's Church

12th Cliogaree Twoaie will be busking around Ramsey on Sunday 12 December. Meet at Old Ramsey Courthouse, Parliament Street, 12 - 1.30pm

16th Mactullagh Vannin at the Fynoderee Manx Sloe Gin Launch. 7 - 10pm ~ [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/216205274797](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/216205274797)

13th The Sound of Christmas, schools concert, Villa Marina, £5 - £10

14th Bunscoil Ghaelgagh outdoor Nativity Parade, 6pm, outside St Johns Chapel

16th Christmas Live, 7pm Villiers Square, Douglas, featuring Scran and Ruth Keggins [www.christmaslive.im/](http://www.christmaslive.im/)

18th Skeddan Jiarg dance at the Black Dog Pizza, 4pm

18th White Boys – various locations, see <https://tinyurl.com/mprbu49e>

19th Perree Bane Christmas ceilidh, Ballasalla Village Hall, from 6pm

26th Hunt the Wren - various locations, see [www.manxmusic.com/event\\_detail\\_701678.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/event_detail_701678.html)

31st New Year's Eve ceili with Tarroo Marroo Band at Fyn Bar, Ramsey.

Tickets: <https://fynoderee.com>

## JANUARY 2022

2nd Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh Christmas Service in Manx, St Runius Old Church in Marown, 3pm. Families welcome. Nine lessons and carols style service.

7th "Kiavull ny Nollick Veg Knockaloe" – Hartes Ease concert, Corrin Hall, Peel.

28th Mec Lir at Celtic Connections [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com)

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 Trad Session at O'Donnell's, Douglas  
**THURS** 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey  
**FRI** 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey  
**FRI** 8pm Trad session at the Colby Glen

Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiavull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary  
First **SUN** of month 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club  
Third **SUN** of month 12.30pm Trad session in Ginger Hall, Sulby

Stay up to date: [www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan](http://www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan)

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:  
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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