

# KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Jerrey Fouyir 2020 October

MANX MUSIC TODAY

## Manx Charms at the Big Bree Workshop Weekend

Culture Vannin's Big Bree Workshop Weekend will take place next month at St John's Methodist Hall on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th October.

This year's weekend of music, song and dance activities will be themed around Manannan's Charms – an innovative App recently designed for Culture Vannin that explores some of the fascinating characters of Manx folklore and encourages young people to consider their relationship with the local environment and the planet and to become more eco-friendly.

Led by voluntary tutors from the traditional music scene, students in school years 6 – 13 (ages 10 – 18) are invited to join the team to learn about Manx culture through singing and playing instruments, dancing, composing and drama. The friendly use of Manx Gaelic is encouraged throughout and all of the students perform in a concert for family and friends.

Founded in 2006 by Culture Vannin, Bree is a youth education movement which celebrates Manx music and dance. Bree, which is Manx for 'vitality', aims to both introduce and develop Manx culture within the Island's young musicians and dancers and ensure that it remains a living tradition. The group meet once a month to play and sing, but some of the more advanced musicians are also members of the band 'Scran', and a new Manx Gaelic medium club called Bree Ghaelgagh has recently been launched.

*All young people are welcome to get involved in the 14th 'Big Bree Workshop Weekend', and for just £10 for two days of fun and creativity, it is the ideal place to get involved in Manx culture!*

*Closing date for applications: Friday 9th October.*

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

for more information: [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im) or tel. 694758.

**Application form at end of KMJ or** [www.manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_647763.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/news_story_647763.html)

**Watch videos from 2019:** [www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/bree-weekend-2019-605077/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/bree-weekend-2019-605077/)

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

- September events in pics
- New music tutorials with Isla and Ruth
- Hop tu naa is nearly here!!

## BIG BREE WORKSHOP "WEEKEND" 2020



Sun 25 & Mon 26 Oct / 10am - 4pm

St John's Methodist Hall

Bree presents two days of folklore themed fun with Manx music, dance & culture for young singers, musicians & dancers aged 10-18

**CONCERT for family & friends at 3pm on Mon 26 Oct**

Further info: [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)  
or tel. 01624 694758 [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)

**Culture**  
**VANNIN**

## The sights and sounds of *Our Island, Our World*

The grounds of Peel Cathedral were packed with people for the return of a one-day festival of music, song and dance from around the world.

The 'Our Island Our World' festival took place on Saturday and featured many of the different communities that call the Isle of Man their home, as well as Manx artists and musicians.

The free family day saw hundreds of people try their hand at various arts and crafts, including henna tattooing, lantern making, Chinese calligraphy and paper art and weaving. All this took place in a mock Bedouin tent, created inside the Corrin Hall, while global and local music played inside Peel Cathedral. There was also Chinese dancing from Rita Zhu and Indian dancing from Gwenael LaSirene, along with music from the Fecktones, Loose Crew and the Manx Bulgarian project, which skilfully blends folk music from both countries. Lava finished off the festival with a set of Latin music at the Centenary Centre during the evening.

[www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=57918](http://www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=57918)

Photos: Val Caine, Jiri Podobsky, Mike Wade



# #treisht2020 – new Manx music tutorials

## Isla Callister

A new series of Manx music instructions films for fiddle has been released!

[www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/fiddle-lessons-by-isa-callister-646571/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/fiddle-lessons-by-isa-callister-646571/)

Thanks to the brilliant Isla Callister, there are now four new detailed video lessons for some of the Isle of Man's favourite traditional and modern Manx tunes.

Created during lockdown as one of the Culture Vannin #treisht2020 projects, these video lessons offer the chance to learn these four tunes:

- \* Myr Shenn Ayr
- \* Jerrey yn Teihll
- \* Ta Cashen Ersooyl
- \* Keayrt Hug Mee Graih



More on Isla Callister can be found here: [www.facebook.com/islacallistermusic/](https://www.facebook.com/islacallistermusic/)

## Ruth Keggin Gell

One of the Isle of Man's leading singers, Ruth Keggin Gell has created four videos teaching simple songs in Manx, all of which are suitable for singers, early learners of Manx, or parents or teachers of children. Complete with clapping games and recommendations of how to take performances further, they are great fun!

[www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/song-lessons-by-ruth-keggin-gell-648552/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/song-lessons-by-ruth-keggin-gell-648552/)

- \* Manannan Song
- \* Juan y Jaggad Keir
- \* Lhigey, Lhigey
- \* Arrane ny Niece

The #treisht2020 projects are a series of projects commissioned during Covid19 Lockdown in the Isle of Man to create new material which engages creatively with traditional Manx culture:



[www.culturevannin.im/news/putting-trust-and-hope-into-manx-culture---first-treisht2020-projects-announced-633486/?fbclid=IwAR11NzUVj9l4gF6nfQu-tV4phYUE8SSDKpsXntRSLQSOxy1VBPvijEuywzM](http://www.culturevannin.im/news/putting-trust-and-hope-into-manx-culture---first-treisht2020-projects-announced-633486/?fbclid=IwAR11NzUVj9l4gF6nfQu-tV4phYUE8SSDKpsXntRSLQSOxy1VBPvijEuywzM)

*P.S. Ruth led a zoom Manx song workshop for the North American Manx Association last week.*

# Isle of Man Newspapers' 'Community Kindness' celebration at the Gaiety Theatre

Six months after the island entered lockdown, Isle of Man Newspapers and our partners hosted an evening at a packed Gaiety dedicated to the spirit of community kindness.

Celebrating the sacrifices of the Manx people, the evening was made possible by 3FM, Manx Telecom, Microgaming, ThinkManx, Standard Bank, Keystone Law, PokerStars and the Isle of Man Government.

For those who filled the magnificent old theatre on Thursday, it was certainly a night they won't forget in a hurry as some of the best entertainers in the island walked, danced and cycled the boards and videos reminded us all of this historic year.

The evening opened with a performance of Ellan Vannin by Olivia Landels before the excellent children of Skeddan Jiarg charmed the audience with their dancing.

Throughout the evening, performances from folk blues band Clash Voar and singing farmer Paul Costain and his fellow Cleveland Medal winners, before the sea dogs of the Mariners Choir brought the first half to a close.

Pink Floyd tribute band Pigs on the Wing opened up the second act and Dot Tilbury took to the stage with her shopping trolley full of toilet rolls. Dot introduced her special guest Chief Minister Howard Quayle for a sing song on a tandem bicycle, as they were flagged by cyclist Matt Cool.

The Manx Bulgarian Project were next up, showing how music has brought two cultures together before Grace Templer performed the latest James Bond theme while a montage of clips from the films played.

David Killgallon & Co rocked the stage with their fiddles and Pigs on the Wing returned with Wish You Were Here.

The evening was crowned by fundraiser Dylan Walton who, along with police standard bearers, handed over a cheque to the hospice for the money he raised by walking up Snaefell.

Ellan Vannin Pipes and Drums rounded off the evening as they led the audience in O Land of Our Birth.

Isle of Man Newspapers deputy chairman Trudi Williamson said: 'I was extremely humbled to look back at where we were and see where we are now, it is truly incredible. We're proud to have played our part in what has been a challenging year.'

## Howard hits the right note for community kindness

By Sam Thurston  
sam@iomtoday.co.uk  
Twitter @samthurston

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### PERFORMANCE

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Photos from the night from <https://iomtoday.newsprints.co.uk/> and searching the code DK200924.



The Gaiety Theatre is possibly the only one anywhere right now that can boast a packed crowd



Chief Minister Howard Quayle



Original article: <http://www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=58068>

Photos from the night from <https://iomtoday.newsprints.co.uk/> and searching the code DK200924.

## AFRIOM portraits

An unusual series of portraits of Manx people have been unveiled by Beth Louella.

Created for Culture Vannin as a part of their Treisht projects, Beth's three pieces focus on people with African heritage, emphasising the richness of their stories and cultures.

Beth Louella proposed the project herself, as it chimed closely with her own feelings about Manx identity:

My art is largely celebratory and key themes include heritage, culture and identity. There are so many people with connections to the Isle of Man spread across the world and many countries represented here on the Island. I believe these connections enrich our culture and are something to celebrate.

The AFRIOM portraits incorporate elements from various settings, including imagery, colour and text woven together to represent the sitters' personalities and heritage.

Beth writes:

The paintings feature people who live in the Isle of Man who have African heritage and are passionate about their island home and contribute in many ways. The portraits are painted using the colours of Manx National Tartan (green – fields and valleys, light blue - sky, dark blue - sea, purple - heather, red - fuchsia, white - cottages and yellow - gorse) with shades altered to work best in the artworks. There are obvious and subtle visual references in each of the paintings, every pattern includes elements from the Isle of Man and the African country each person is connected with. The words in the paintings come from each of the islanders, include lines from the *Manx National Anthem* chosen specifically and reference the Isle of Man (IOM) and each African country.

'**O Gem**' features a woman born in Ghana who has lived in the Isle of Man for many years. The patterns on her top are in a popular Ghanaian layout and show both her Ghanaian and Manx identity through shapes such as the star from the flag of Ghana alongside the Celtic Trinity Knot (triquetra). The text in the background focuses on celebrating the freedom to be yourself and express yourself in the Isle of Man. The woman's red hair contrasts with the main colours in the painting making the image especially dynamic and reflecting her vibrant personality as well as linking with the theme of freedom of expression.

'**O Land**' shows twin Manx men, born in the Isle of Man with Kenyan heritage. The text around one of the necklines reads 'Manx – Luo – Kalenjin', whilst the Manx element indicates their birthplace on the Isle of Man, Luo and Kalenjin are Kenyan tribes. This painting contains all the colours and features key items from both the Kenyan flag and flag of Mann. Both young men have represented the Isle of Man in sports and achieved a number of awards, this is reflected in the image by the circles and leaves on their tops (indicating growth and development) alongside the scallop shell and the prominent positioning of the Three Legs of Man.



**'Sweet Mountain Air'** features a young woman born in Zimbabwe who has lived in the Isle of Man since she was a child. The text in the background refers to her African royal heritage, the 'safe haven' feeling of the island and the similarities she has found in the strong community cultures of both the Isle of Man and Zimbabwe. The patterns on her top refer to traditional Zimbabwean patterns and feature animals from the Isle of Man and Zimbabwe such as a Manx wallaby and Zimbabwean elephant. The style of the animals reflects how they are shown on ancient stone crosses in the Isle of Man as well as the simplified style of the Zimbabwean patterns.

James Franklin of Culture Vannin writes:

Beth has captured these subjects perfectly. Confident, vibrant and celebratory, we could not think of a better way to represent these Manx people who are adding their own stories and heritage to the rich tapestry of who we are as Manx people.



All of Beth's portraits and the other Treisht projects can be found on the Culture Vannin website:

AFRIOM portraits: [www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/imagearchive/afriom-portraits/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/imagearchive/afriom-portraits/)

## New Stamp Issue Celebrates Manx National Anthem

Isle of Man Post Office (Manx: Oik Postagh Ellan Vannin), in collaboration with the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company (Manx: Sheshaght Phaggad Bree Ellan Vannin) and Biosphere IOM, have issued a twelve stamp issue. The stamps celebrate the Manx National Anthem 'O Land of Our Birth'. The images on the stamps are taken from twelve winning photographs selected from a recent competition titled 'O Land of Our Birth'. The final choice of images reference the words of the national anthem.

Article by Alistair Kneale for the London-Manx Society NEWSLETTER Autumn 2020

<http://www.londonmanxsociety.co.uk/>



CENTENARY CENTRE

# Fundraising Event

SAT NOV 7TH 8PM

PEEL CENTENARY CENTRE

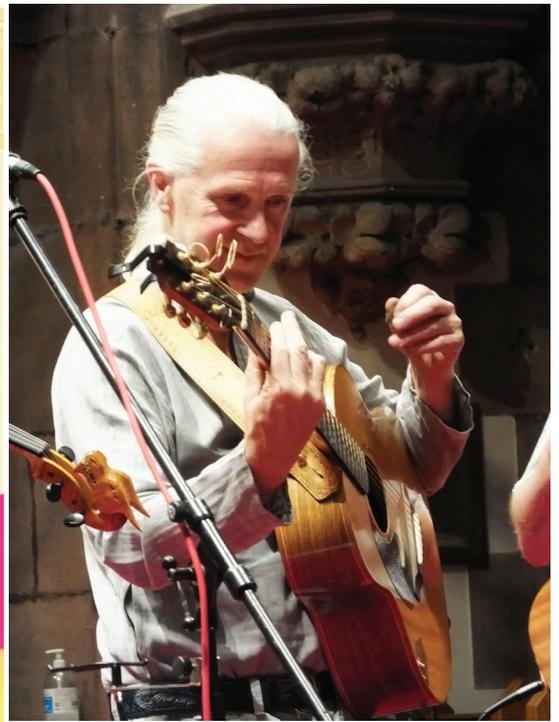
*Women in Song Choir*

*Soloists: Mandy Griffin, Matt Quinn and Karen Elliott*

*Mollag Band*

*Tickets £10*

*available from <https://tickets.in> Celtic Gold, Shakti Man,  
Corlett's Jewellers and Thompson Travel*



The Mollag Band gave an excellent concert in the Cathedral in Peel last month (19 Sep).

Photos by Val Caine.

You can see them perform again in November in the Centenary Centre

<<





"M is for Manx Cat: An Isle of Man ABC!"

Settle down with the author of the popular book, 'M is for Manx Cat! An Isle of Man ABC' as she reads the enjoyable rhymed children's book in full. Manx music performed by Mera Royle and Jamie Smith.

WATCH THE FILM: <https://vimeo.com/454433193>

This film was produced by Dark Avenue Film in 2020 as a #treisht2020 project for Culture Vannin; a series of projects commissioned during Covid19 Lockdown in the Isle of Man to create new material which engages creatively with traditional Manx culture.

M is for Manx Cat! An Isle of Man ABC [isleofmanabc.com](http://isleofmanabc.com)

This film was produced by Dark Avenue Films for Culture Vannin in 2020.



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!*

7.30pm, Friday 11 December 2020 - Gaiety Theatre, Douglas

Book tickets: [www.villagaiety.com/whats-on/manannans-winterfest/](http://www.villagaiety.com/whats-on/manannans-winterfest/)

## ISLE OF MAN TRAD MUSIC WEEKEND

Last month saw musicians, singers and dancers gather for the IOM Trad Music Weekend in Douglas (25 - 27 Sep). Over the past few years, the festival has attracted a growing number of visiting musicians, but with current border restrictions, the festival-goers were all Island-based this year.

However, the sessions in Sir Norman's, the Prospect and the Thirsty Pigeon still received a good number of participating musicians and dancers. It wasn't just trad music either, as the Tradbluzz night featured jazz, pop and blues musicians too. [Photo: John Kilgallon below dancing "Men's Jig"]

Check out the videos here: [www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan](https://www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan)



### Markets, festivals and shows encouraged

Half a million pounds has been set aside by government for people to arrange local markets, festivals, shows and concerts across the Island.

The sum's been taken from the £100 million economic recovery fund to stimulate domestic spending over the next six months.

It's open to individuals, community groups, businesses and local authorities. Organisers can claim up to 80 per cent of the costs of the events, with the £500,000 fund available until the 31 March.

It's intended to help the domestic economy which has suffered from lockdown and border restrictions, and faces a winter season with depleted finances.

The Business Agency of the Department for Enterprise says it's working closely with local authorities to bring forward a number of events.

More information about the fund will be available from [www.businessisleofman.com](http://www.businessisleofman.com) next week.

Original article from:

[www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/500k-events-fund-announced-by-government/](http://www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/500k-events-fund-announced-by-government/) 30/09/2020

**MADE IN MANN**  
presents

*Biskee  
Brisht*



HOP-TU-NAA SPECIAL



FRI 30th OCTOBER - BISKEE BRISHT, Promenade Suite, Villa Marina

More info: [www.villagaiety.com/whats-on/made-in-mann-presents-biskee-brisht/](http://www.villagaiety.com/whats-on/made-in-mann-presents-biskee-brisht/)

Supported by the IOM Arts Council: <https://iomarts.com/news/Made%20in%20Mann>

oie  
houney

HOP-TU-NAA [oiehouney.com](http://oiehouney.com)  
MANX WINTER FIRE FESTIVAL

31.10.2020

PEEL • ISLE OF MAN

<https://oiehouney.com/>

COME JOIN  
US AT

THE FAIRWAY'S  
HOP-TU-NAA PARTY

GAMES, DISCO, FANCY  
DRESS COMPETITION,  
CHILDREN'S BUFFET

£5 PER CHILD

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE FAIRWAY BAR & CAFE,  
RHEAST LANE, PEEL

WEDNESDAY 28TH  
OCTOBER 2 - 5PM

## 'Turnips on Tour'

Join MNH for their annual Hop tu Naa with a difference; this year, they're on tour!

Choose from 4 different locations (The Grove, Manx Museum, House of Manannan and Rushen Abbey) to pick up your pack which will include your turnip, a Jinny the Witch activity kit, Hop tu Naa booklet and more.

**The Grove Museum – 24th & 25th October**

**Manx Museum – 26th & 27th October**

**House of Manannan – 28th & 29th October**

**Rushen Abbey – 30th & 31st October**

Book your place here:

<https://manxnationalheritage.im/whats-on/detail/turnips-on-tour/>

**MAUGHOLD SOCIAL CLUB:** Saturday 31st October - Hop Tu Naa, 5pm Maughold Church Hall.

Traditional songs; fancy dress, turnip lantern competition (no pumpkins!) & Guy competitions...

# HOP ON

## THE HOP TU NAA BUS

SUPPORTED BY CULTURE VANNIN

Magic  
 Turnip carving  
 BYOT (Bring your own Turnip)  
 Refreshments  
 Face painting  
 Haunted bus rides  
 Wear spooky fancy dress  
 £5 children, adults go free

10AM 'TIL 3PM

### Saturday 31st October

Culture VANNIN Jurby Transport Museum

HELLO LITTLE PEOPLE WINTER SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT  
HELLO LITTLE PEOPLE PRESENTS...

**(spooky) A ^ BEG ADVENTURE**  
 Friday 30th October  
 The Children's Centre, Walberry Farm  
 Tom Begg's Hop Tu Naa Adventure

**FREAKY FOLKLORE**  
 Coming November 2020!  
 Manx Museum, Douglas  
 An immersive tour exclusive for primary schools.

**JUAN + THE BEANSTALK**  
 18th to 31st December  
 Inside a Magical Tipi at St John's Gardens (Garey Ny Cloie)  
 An alternative Christmas pantomime.



pepsi MAX BOWL TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER TALK OF THE TOWN

JOIN US FOR A

# HOP-TU-NAA TREASURE HUNT

RAISING FUNDS FOR HD ISLE OF MAN

11AM - 3PM

NOBLE'S PARK BANDSTAND

SPOOKY COMPETITIONS & PRIZES  
 £4.00 ENTRY | HDAIOM.COM

Yessir™ Custom Manx Hop-Tu-Naa t-shirts  
 Buy Here\*~: <https://amzn.to/2RRokpm>  
 More Here: <https://amzn.to/2RRokpm>  
 Free Delivery Over £20 & Prime. Free Returns

## The Story of Jinny the Witch...

It is said that Jinny the Witch's real name was Joney Lowney and she lived about 300 years ago in a cottage on the Ballaglonney back road (near where the Mount Murray Country Club is today).

Joney was poor and used to go around the neighbourhood begging for food. It was noted though that bad luck often fell on those who refused her: 'The cows would dry up, the horse would go lame, the hens wouldn't lay' and Joney got the blame. But she was also known for doing good deeds. She gathered herbs in her apron and made potions with them. With each curse or cure, Joney's reputation grew.

One night, a traveller arrived at Joney's door. She offered the man some supper and made up a bed on the floor. As he drifted off to sleep he saw strange shadows on the wall. He fancied he saw Joney stepping into a big basket, and with a whoosh! the basket, with Joney in it, flew out of the door. Thinking he was dreaming, the man fell back asleep and slept soundly till dawn when he saw Joney return with a whoosh! and step out of the basket, which was full to the brim with fresh herring! Soon the story was all over the neighbourhood. Joney's reputation as a witch, able to get her own way by magic, began to spread.

But she went a step too far when she upset one of the most powerful men in the island. She had gone along to the Bishop's Mill at Braddan where the Bishop's miller, William Corrin, was distributing sacks of flour to the poor. When she saw the poor quality of the grain being used, she rebuked the miller in front of a large crowd of people.

'You should be giving the best to the poor, not that rubbish!' she shrieked. At those words, the mill machinery stopped dead and no-one could get it going again – ever.

Joney was arrested and charged with practising witchcraft. She was found guilty and locked up in Peel Castle for 14 days. She was also fined the sum of £3 and was ordered to stand at the Market Cross of the four main towns – Castletown, Peel, Ramsey and Douglas, dressed in a long white sheet with a notice pinned to her chest saying 'For Practices in Sorcery and Witchcraft' in big letters. Her punishment might sound harsh, but in fact Joney got off very lightly. If she had lived in England or Scotland she could have been hanged or burnt at the stake. After her release, she returned home and as far as we know lived quietly ever after....



## Food and Recipes...

The traditional HOLLANTIDE Eve supper was potatoes, parsnips and fish mashed together with butter. The left-overs of the meal were not removed from the table in case the fairies were hungry, and crocks of fresh water were put out for them.

### HOLLANTIDE FAIRINGS

- 3oz. margarine or butter
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup 2oz. sugar
- 6oz. plain flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon mixed spice
- 1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda A little water
- 1. Melt the fat, syrup and sugar together in a saucepan over a low heat.
- 2. Sieve the flour and spices into a bowl.
- 3. Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in a little water and add to the ingredients in the saucepan, then mix in with the dry ingredients to form a dough.
- 4. Cover the bowl and leave for at least one hour.
- 5. Roll out thinly and cut into fancy patterns (traditionally men on horse-back) using a cardboard pattern.
- 6. Bake in a moderate oven for about fifteen minutes.
- 7. When the biscuits are cold, decorate with lemon peel, icing and currants.

Quoted from My Grandmother's Cookery Book – 50 Manx Recipes compiled by Suzanne Woolley © 1975.

### BUTTER TAFFY

(Adult supervision required)

- 225g butter
- 160g caster sugar

1. Put the butter and sugar into a heavy saucepan.
2. Heat at a medium heat until it is a liquid and keep stirring.
3. Once combined and the sugar is dissolved, pour the mixture into a greased baking tray. Put in a fridge for 1/2 hour to an hour to set and cool.



# Welcome to Hop tu Naa



## Why should we celebrate Hop tu Naa?

-  It's a key part of Manx History
-  It tells us a lot about Manx traditions
-  It's a very old custom
-  It is our way of acknowledging the start of Winter
-  It's a great story
-  Making turnip lanterns takes real skill & bravery!
-  It's Manx!



Department of Education, Sport and Culture  
*Ribynn, Tasse, Sport as Culture*

Culture  
VANNIN

## Turnip Lanterns...

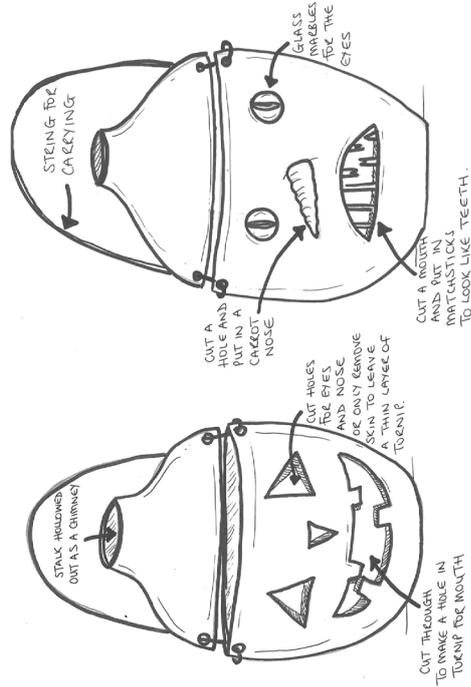
Before the tradition of turnip carving started, cabbages were put onto the end of sticks and used to thump on people's doors!

To carve your own turnip, first you must cut the top off a large turnip\* (known locally as a 'moot') and make sure it sits nicely by evening up the bottom. Then you can either hollow it out with a spoon - the traditional lengthy way - or use a drill bit to drill several holes (taking care not to go through the bottom!) and then chip out the remains. (make sure an adult helps!)

Once your turnip is hollowed out you can draw your design on with a pencil and cut out. Traditional designs include Peel Castle, witches and Manx cats - not just scary faces. Some people carefully carve just the skin of the turnip out and leave the thin wall of the turnip - this keeps the wind from blowing out your candle!

Hollow out the stalk of your lid for the chimney and pop a tea light into your turnip (or in modern times, a torch).

\* You can also use the stalk as a handle and carve your turnip the other way up - this was often done in Peel.



## Songs and Dance...

There are lots of traditional songs associated with Hop tu Naa that were sung door to door by children - a tradition still carried on today. There are many references to Jinny; flying over the house, giving her a penny, 'my mothers gone away and won't be back til the morning'.

There are lots of regional variations of the Hop tu Naa songs but the most popular ones are included below, along with the Manx Gaelic version (pronunciation below each line)

Hop-tu-naa, Hop-tu-naa,

Jinny the witch flew over the house

To get a stick to lather the mouse (OR) Give us a penny we'll chase her out,

Hop-tu-naa, your mother's gone away

and she won't be back until the morning.

.....

Ta shenn Oie Houney, Hop-tu-Naa!

Pronunciation: [Ta shenn ee howna, hop-chu-nay!]

Tan eayst soishean, Irol-la-laa!

Pronunciation: [Tun aist saw 'shin, Irol-la-lay!]

x 2

CHORUS:

Hop-tu-Naa as Irol-la-laa,

Pronunciation: [Hop-chu-nay as Irol-la-lay]

Ta shenn Oie Houney, Hop-tu-Naa!

Pronunciation: [Ta shenn ee howna, hop-chu-nay!]

.....

Hop-tu-naa, Put in the pot,

Hop-tu-naa, Scald my trot [throat],

Hop-tu-naa, I met an ole woman,

Hop-tu-naa, She was baking bannags,

Hop-tu-naa, I asked her for a bit,

Hop-tu-naa, She gave me a bit, as big as my big toe.

Hop-tu-naa, She dipped it in milk,

Hop-tu-naa, She wrapped it in silk,

Hop-tu-naa, Irol-la-laa.

Jinny the witch went over the house, to fetch a stick to lather the mouse. Hop-tu-naa, Irol-la-laa.

If you don't give us something, we'll run away with the light of the moonooooon....

## Traditions, Folklore and Facts...

- Hop tu naa is the oldest continuous Manx tradition
- Hop!T'an Oie - means 'it is the Night!'
- The phrase Hop tu naa is thought to derive from the celebration of the Celtic New Year, like Hollanftide and Hogmanay - NEW YEAR'S EVE
- It's celebrated on 31st October. In the old calendar it was 11th November - Old Hollanftide Eve
- It marks the end of Summer and the start of winter
- It's also Celtic New Year's Eve - Sauin in Manx Gaelic

- Traditions include; songs, dance, turnip lantern carving, divination, stories about the legend of Jinny the Witch and recipes
- Gorse bonfires would be lit to ward off bad fairies
- It was tradition to steal the first salted herring from a neighbour's house
- Girls would guess the name of their future husband by making 'soddag valloo' or dumb cake (flour, eggs, shells, salt and soot!) baked and eaten in silence and then the girl would walk backwards to bed to dream of her future husband! They could also fill their mouth with water and hold salt in their hands then visit their neighbour to overhear a conversation and listen for first man's name mentioned...

- The veil between this world and the next is at its thinnest - supernatural

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

- The veil between this world and the next is at its thinnest - supernatural

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

## Manx Gaelic for you to try!

Turnip - moot

Witch - buitch

Ghost - scaarjooon

Black Cat - kayt doo

Wizard - druightagh

Bat - craitnag

Magic - obbeeyys

Skeleton - ushylagh

DOWNLOAD:

# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

## QuaranTUNE 2.0 Virtual Dulcimer Festival

American musician Carol Walker took part in QuaranTUNE 2.0 Virtual Dulcimer Festival (August 28-30) which saw a total of 1,827 workshop attendees and 900 concert tickets. Ten countries were represented, and Carol reports that she enjoyed meeting dulcimer players from Japan, Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, the UK and the Isle of Man! She tells KMJ:

"In short, it's possible that there are about a thousand new folks who have now heard Manx music for the first time!

Of the 10 workshops I taught during the festival, two were all Manx music, attended by a total of 60 people. I shared about 10 different tunes with the participants, many of whom were completely unaware of Manx music, but everyone really enjoyed the arrangements I shared, along with a bit of the history behind some of the tunes. In addition, I taught other workshops that were geared towards improving playing skills, and each of those also included a Manx tune or two.

I sold quite a few copies of my two books of dulcimer arrangements, *Tailless Tunes* and *Tailless Tunes 2*, especially my new digital download version which was much appreciated by attendees who live in the UK and Europe. Also popular was the new digital download version of my Manx CD, *Alas! The Horse Is Gone*.

Because some folks had emailed me that they were unable to take my class during that particular festival, I decided to offer the Manx

workshop again on my own in September, and have had about 20 people sign up for those. It's one of five virtual workshops I'm now offering, and response has been very good. There's a new page on my website with all the details: [www.musicladycarol.com/virtual-workshops.html](http://www.musicladycarol.com/virtual-workshops.html)

Following the two days of workshops, each instructor had the opportunity to perform a 15-minute set during one of the four virtual concerts, and mine opened with "Alas! The Horse Is Gone."

*PHOTOS below: "Picture-in-Picture" technology used for the workshops /above: Carol's online concert set.*

The organizers of the QuaranTune Dulcimer Festival are taking a break now, but we're all hoping that another one will happen during the winter months. And I hope to be back with them again, offering "More Manx Music."



I'm putting together a Power Point presentation for the two virtual Manx workshops I'll be doing in September. This will feature highlights of my two trips to the Island, including photos of Dr. Clague's notebook, the Hop-tu-Naa party I attended (with everybody singing in harmony!), giving a dulcimer lesson to Charles Guard, views of Niarbyl and Cregneash, among other things."

2010: [www.musicladycarol.com/manx-slide-shows.html](http://www.musicladycarol.com/manx-slide-shows.html)



<< Chloe, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin, surprised Carol Walker recently with a photo of the mountain dulcimer she left in the Island on permanent loan 10 years ago, with a few of the essential items connected to the Manx tunes in her books: The wren pole for Hunt the Wren (26 Dec), swords from the White Boys Dance (tune: Creg Willy Syl) and the Babban ny Mheillea (harvest baby).

## Manx musicians play in the Proms

Three Manx brass musicians played their part in the reconfigured and socially-distant BBC Proms concerts. Among the enforced changes to the annual series of classical concerts three well-known local trumpet players, Jason Evans, Russell Gilmour and Sam Kinrade, played their parts in the last week of the event. READ THE FULL ARTICLE by Mike Wade:

[www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=57922](http://www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=57922)



Manx artist Felicity Wood has produced another beautiful calendar [above] inspired by Manx customs and it's just £6 in aid of *Crossroads Isle of Man*:

<https://quirky.im/product/2021-illustrated-calendar-by-local-artist-felicity-wood-designs/?fbclid=IwAR1M2U8qmYhrzgLVDzjfQgYC5jESVe7nUwLOxR9I5HIU2xMkwfILCKSZCwU>

**SAVE THE DATE!!** details tbc

COOISH Manx language festival  
in conjunction with Yn Chruinnaght

JESARN 14 MEE HOUNEY  
Saturday 14 November

**COOISH**

## MONA'S ISLE

An album of music celebrating the life of one of the Isle of Man's most important cultural icons has been released by Culture Vannin.

Timed with the 122nd anniversary of her birth ((18th September 1898) and inspired by the folklore collection, music, poetry and life of Mona Douglas RBV (1898 - 1987), this collection of new songs was created by a group of Manx musicians who all had some connection to Mona.

The project was the vision of local musician, Dave Mclean, who had been a member of Mona Douglas' youth group, Aeglagh Vannin, in the 1960s. He brought together the ensemble of singers and instrumentalists who, over several months, created this collection of new songs.

The songs of Mona's Isle are in Manx and English and vary from traditional to modern in style - some are new settings of her poems, or re-workings of traditional melodies that she had collected in the early 20th century, whilst others are original songs which explore Mona's fascinating life and philosophy.

The album of 11 songs features musicians Aalin Clague, Alanna Cowley, Annie Kissack, Bob Carswell, Breesha Maddrell, Bruno Cavellec, Chloe Woolley, Clare Kilgallon, Dave Kilgallon, Dave Mclean, Greg Joughin, Mandy Griffin, and archive audio of Mona herself singing a song that she had collected in the 1920s; "Arrane ny Niece".

The album was first released as a CD in 2017 but it is only now released online for the first time.

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

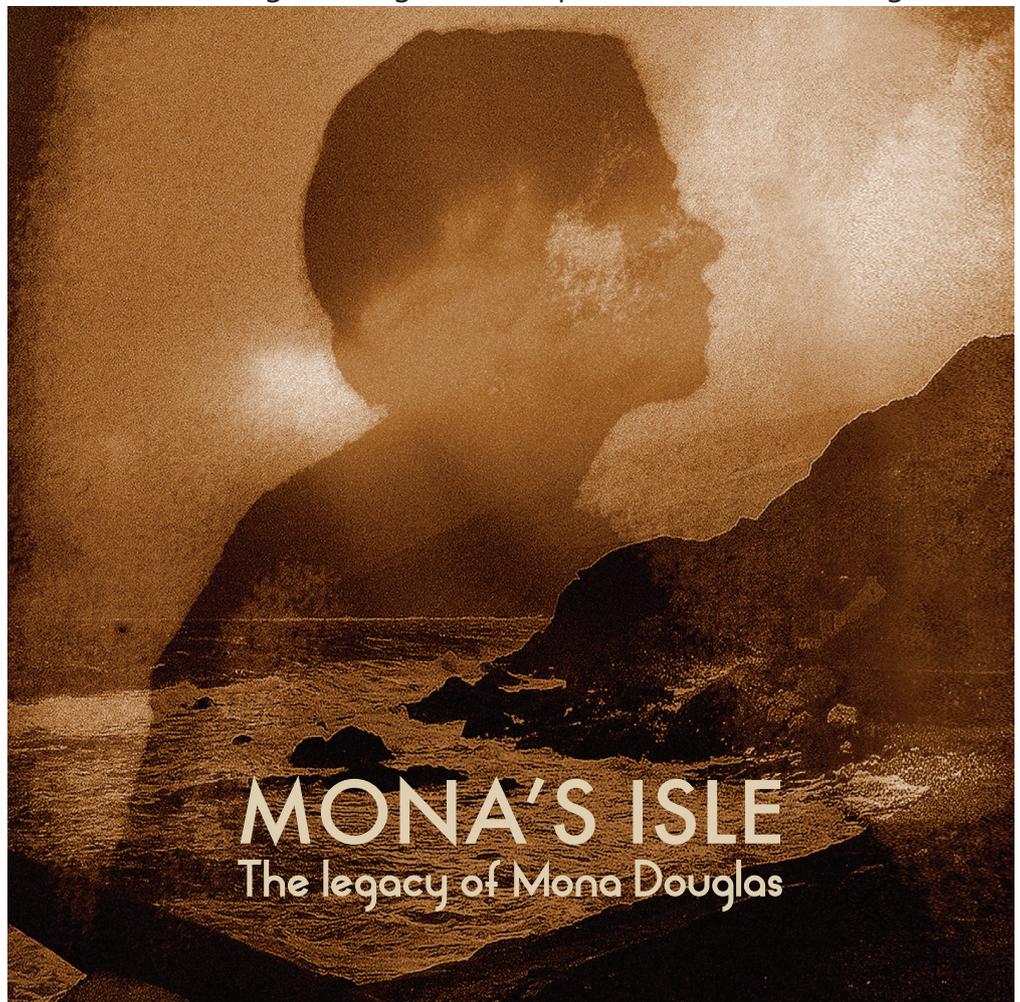
"Mona Douglas' life-time work for Manx culture was so important for the

Isle of Man, then and now. She inspired so many, and not least the musicians featuring here. It is wonderful to mark her birthday with releasing this album of music celebrating her life and work, bringing it to the attention of new audiences around the world."

'Mona's Isle - The Legacy of Mona Douglas' is available from the Culture Vannin website or BandCamp:

[www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/audioarchive/monas-isle-the-legacy-of-mona-douglas/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/audioarchive/monas-isle-the-legacy-of-mona-douglas/)

Or buy the CD/DVD set: [www.manxmusic.com/publication\\_479886.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/publication_479886.html)

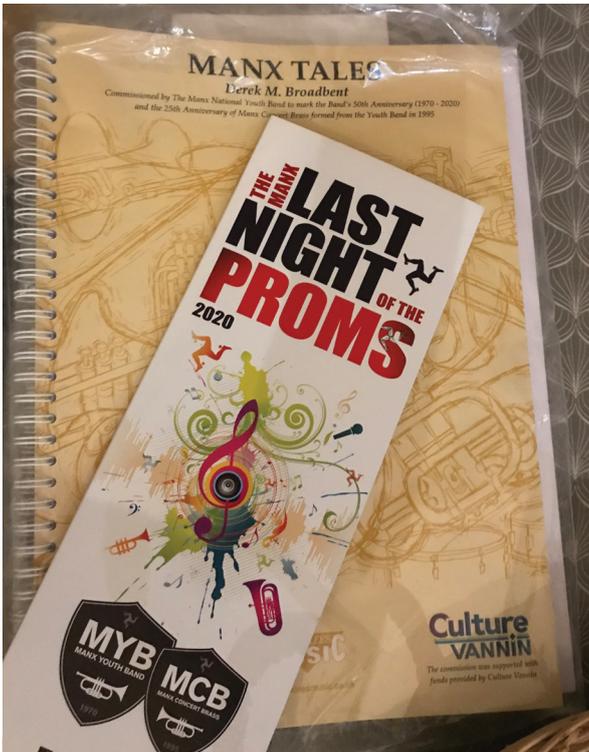


**The Manx Youth Band and Manx Concert Brass** hosted an extra special *Manx Last Night at the Proms* last weekend (26 Sep) as they celebrated 50th and 25th anniversaries. The bands had ambitious plans for 2020 including their first trip to the *Festival Interceltique de Lorient* in Brittany to represent the Isle of Man, but the outbreak of Covid-19 put paid to that this year. However, they were still able to forge ahead with other celebrations, including this annual extravaganza. The Proms featured the premiere of a new commission called **“Manx Tales”** by well-known brass band composer, Derek M Broadbent, and the production of a short docu-film about the history of the band made by Dark Avenue Films - both projects supported by Culture Vannin. **WATCH FILM: <https://youtu.be/LAulk83I4Ss>**

**Manx Tales** is based on the Manx melodies; “Ellan Vannin”, by E Craven Green/Townsend, “Yn Unnysup” (trad), “The Bells of Old Kirk Braddan” by ML Wood and “The Pride of Port-le-Murra” by Harry Wood.

Kirklees Music in Yorkshire have kindly sponsored the printing of copies for all brass bands in the Isle of Man and the sheet music was presented to Culture Vannin and the Manx National Heritage Library during the concert.

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



## MANX TALES

Derek M. Broadbent

### Introduction: “Ellan Vannin”

Ellan Vannin (the Manx language name for the Isle of Man) is a poem and song, often referred to as ‘the alternative Manx National Anthem’, the words of which were written by Eliza Craven Green in 1854 and later set to music by J. Townsend.

### 1. “Mannin veg villish veen”

Mannin veg villish veen (Dear Sweet Little (Isle of) Man) is set to the traditional Manx Air ‘Yn Unnysup’ (corrupted into ‘Wandescope’ or ‘The wandering Minstrel’s Cup’. The English words are by Hugh Stowell then Rector of the Parish of Ballaugh and tell of a wandering rover’s love and desire to return to the ‘Dear Sweet Island of Man’

### 2. “The Bells of Old Kirk Braddan”

The Bells of Old Kirk Braddan was written by Miss Mary Louisa Wood ARCO who at the end of the 19th Century was affectionally referred to as ‘The Mother of Manx Music’ due to her enormous influence on the Island’s musical life, especially church music. It is intended to reflect times past with good friends and the peace and tranquillity of the Parish of Braddan’s Old Church which still stands, although disused.

### 3. “The Pride of Port-Le-Murra”

Harry Wood (1868 - 1939) was the bandmaster of the famous palace and Derby Castle Bands in Douglas in the Isle of Man in the late 19th And early 20th Centuries when the Island was one of the most popular holiday destinations in the British Isles.

Known as ‘Manxland’s King of Music’ he was born in Slaithwaite in West Yorkshire. Port-Le-Murra is Port St. Mary, a small seaside village in the South of the Island and the words supplied by William Hanby refer to a typical ‘Jack the Lad’ often alleged to have been found in such holiday fishing ports of the time.





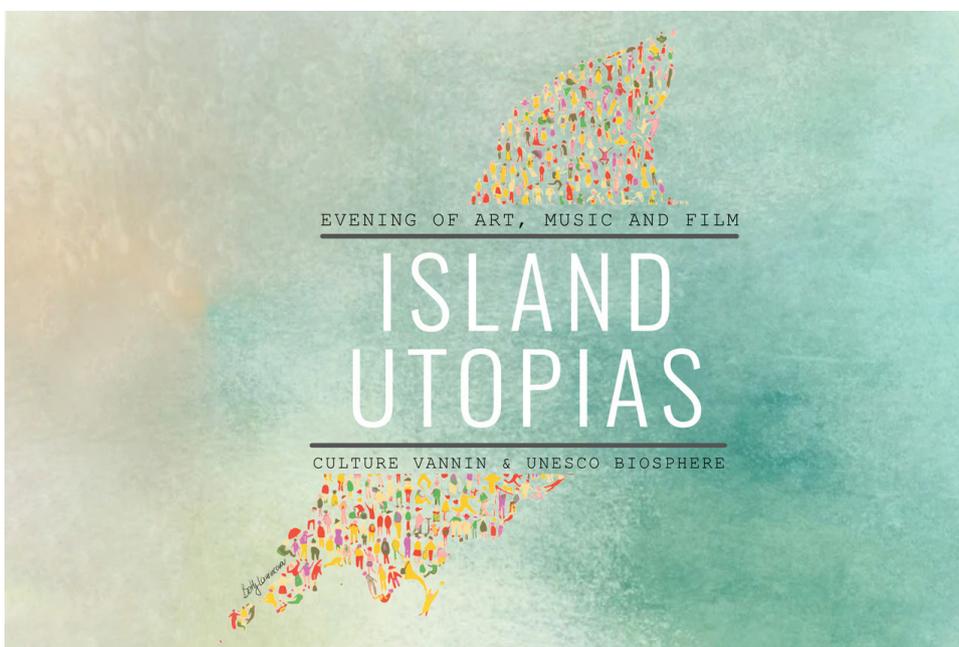
## Introducing a World Premiere: 'The Mannin Suite'

Isle of Man Post Office is pleased to present this commemoration of the life and achievements of Isle of Man resident **Mitch Murray CBE** with our dynamic set of ten top stamps. The issue sees a collaboration with Zappar to bring a world first for a stamp, with Mitch Murray's brand new composition '**The Mannin Suite**' being released first and exclusively, for a limited period, 'Zap-access-only'. Buy the stamp collection here:

[www.iompost.com/stamps-coins/collection/mitch-murray-s-top-ten/](http://www.iompost.com/stamps-coins/collection/mitch-murray-s-top-ten/)

READ ARTICLE about the award-winning songwriter and his connection to the Isle of Man:

[www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-8753785/RICHARD-LITTLEJOHN-Mitch-Murray-honoured-set-stamps-recalling-glory-days.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-8753785/RICHARD-LITTLEJOHN-Mitch-Murray-honoured-set-stamps-recalling-glory-days.html)



## ISLAND UTOPIAS

*We are all faced everyday with a changing world: what does a better one look like?"*

A multi-media collaboration of art, music and film was premiered last month in the Erin Arts Centre (25 Sep). Over 2020, Sarah Mercer, intern for Culture Vannin, interviewed a range of people in the Island about their ideas for the future, what they hope for and what they fear, and she asked them to articulate their re-imagined, ideal Isle of Man.

Themes from the interviews were then given to 12 Manx artists as inspiration. These were exhibited and the *Island Utopias* film premiere showed the visual creation of the pieces, along with audio extracts of the interviews and live music composed by Matthew Warren.

Played live on the grand piano while the audience watched the big screen, Matthew Warren used Manx folk tunes, including Ushag Veg Ruy & Manannan Song, as inspiration for the musical accompaniment. The films will be available to watch on [culturevannin.im](http://culturevannin.im) in the future.

Sheshaght ny Paarantyn  
supporting Bunscoil Ghaelgagh (Registered Charity No 797)



**The Whitehouse, Peel**  
**Friday 16th October from 8pm**

*Social Evening – Book a sitter!*  
*Lots of fabulous donations for auction*

*Generous donations include...*

*Meats, Fruits, Vegetables, Cakes, Harvest Hamper from Shoprite,  
Harvest Bouquet from Elaine's Flowers,  
Gaelic Books from Culture Vannin*

*VOUCHERS from Greens, The Neb at Tynwald Mills,  
Duncan's Diner, Harbour Lights Peel & Celtic Gold*

*A pair of 'Mirror' Wills from M&P Legal  
and MUCH MORE!*

*Cake Raffle, Beer, and plenty of laughs!*

**Oli King** performs his own Manx themed pieces and one by Frank Woolley from Culture Vannin's publication of music for church organ;  
*Celebration & Contemplation* >> <https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/sets/manx-music-for-church-organ>

Teenage band **Glitch 256** are making waves in the Isle of Man. Check out their new singles "Roll the Devil's Dice" & "The Lady of the Night":

[www.facebook.com/Glitch256band](http://www.facebook.com/Glitch256band)

READ INTERVIEW: <https://gefthemongoose.com/>

**JUST RELEASED:** "Hop tu Naa" guitar tutorial with Pete Lumb: <https://youtu.be/Lp45DkqfEy4>  
[www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-guitar-lessons-606045/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-guitar-lessons-606045/)

**NB\* new start time for third Sunday of month Ginger Hall Session: 12.30pm**

### **Youtube/Soundcloud corner**

**The Saddle Sessions, Douglas, Isle of Man. Wednesday 26 Aug 2020**

Mary Molloy on B/C button accordion leads this lively set of Manx tunes:

1. Eunnysagha Vona 2. Car Juan Nan 3. Daunse ny Ferishyn

<https://soundcloud.com/chris-teh-cummal/09-manx-set-the-saddle-sessions-track-9>

WATCH Annie Kissack and Phil Gawne performing the beautiful Manx song, **Padjer Colum Killey** (St Columba's prayer) also known as Bannaght Colum Killey (St Columba's blessing)

<https://vimeo.com/452276577>

### **NAME THAT MANX TUNE!**

The moonjor veggey have got hold of a Manx tune and they've meddled with it! Can you tell which tune it is?!

<https://youtu.be/YUce5OU-7-0>

*Just for fun...*

### **NEW VENUE FOR SESSION**

Robin and friends are pleased to now have a new venue for musicians to get together at The Colby Glen pub each Friday from 8pm.

The session (formerly held at the Manor) enjoys playing a variety of music including Manx, English traditional, Morris, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, and also tunes from the Scandinavian countries amongst others... the list is endless.

All musicians are welcome or just come along to enjoy the tunes.



# RESEARCH NEWS

## “THE TERM ‘CLASS’ WAS SCARCELY SUITABLE” (1871)

On Thursday last the members of the advanced division took into consideration the advisability of altering the name of “advanced class” to some other more appropriate and significant title. As this division now numbers over a hundred names, and usually musters upwards of ninety for practice, including most of the leading voices in Douglas, it was thought by several that the term “class” was scarcely suitable. Under these circumstances, therefore, after a little discussion, in which all present seemed anxious to take an active part, it was finally proposed by the Secretary that in future this class be designated as Miss Wood’s choir. The proposition was seconded by Mr Kissack, and evidently gave general satisfaction, for upon a show of hands, it was earned unanimously.

“[Local Intelligence] Douglas Singing Class: Alteration of Title.” *Mona’s Herald* 25 October 1871: 5a.

A number of the Douglas Singing Class, those “leading voices in Douglas” as the *Mona’s Herald* referred to them, were evidently displeased with being in what was termed the Advanced Class, and effected a change, and so with a unanimous show of hands it became “Miss Wood’s Choir.” With musical ability comes too social distinction for some.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

## “WHO CLAIMED THE PALM FOR HUNT THE WREN AS THE MANX NATIONAL ANTHEM” (1878)

The Rev. E. Ferrier was called upon to preside, and asked the company to repeat the Lord’s Prayer with him. He congratulated the town on giving such an entertainment to the poor, and contrasted the condition of the company with the sufferers by the Indian famine and the Eastern war; and after a few very appropriate remarks, introduced the string band who played a choice selection of music, including “*Hunt the Wren*,” the chorus of which was taken up by the audience and sung with spirit most lustily, and encored vociferously, also, “*Molly Charaine*.” The pieces were all greeted with loud applause. Several songs were sung by Mr George Kewley and G.P. Quayle, and were heartily encored and responded to. The latter sang for his last encore the well-known old Manx favourite Carol, sung by the “*White Boys*,” *Ree ben Juan they Meigh*, which evoked roars of laughter and cheers. After some happy remarks by the Rev. H.S. Gill, vicar of Malew, who claimed the palm for *Hunt the Wren* as the Manx National Anthem, instead of *Molly Charaine* from the greater popularity of the former, the proceedings were brought to close with three cheers for the Band, and at the invitation of the Vicar, the audience stood up and sang the Evening Hymn, to the time of the old hundredth Psalm.

“[Castletown and District] Treat to the Poor of Castletown.” *Manx Sun* 19 January 1878: [4]e.

As can be seen above, *Hunt the Wren* for some vied with *Mylecharaine* as the Manx National Anthem, though most were content with *Mylecharaine* to claim “the palm.” For further on *Mylecharaine*, see Fenella Bazin, “*Mylecharaine*: A Forgotten Call to Nationhood,” *Folk Song: Tradition, Revival, and Re-Creation*, eds. Ian Russell and David Atkinson (Aberdeen: The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, 2004) 336–48.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

# Summer Entertainment on the Isle of Man

## The Joe Loss Years

### Part 1: 1946-50 'Let the good times roll again'

by Maurice Powell

'It was a golden period. The mix of reliable old, brilliant new, up and comers, down and outers, has been, never was-ers and some of the most eccentric acts ever seen . . .'\*

The world of entertainment slowly began to regain some of its pre-war vitality during the immediate austere post-war years. In 1947 the Crazy Gang returned to the London stage with Together Again, and in 1949 Billy Cotton and Tessie O'Shea appeared together in their touring show Tess and Bill. Radio reached the height of its popularity and influence\* and two years later Billy Cotton launched the Billy Cotton Band Show, which cemented his enormous reputation, and with his signature tune Somebody Stole My Gal and raucous call of 'Wakey, Wakey!' the show became the backdrop to Sunday lunchtimes throughout Britain. In 1948 Frank Muir and Dennis Norden's Take It From Here was soon attracting enormous radio audiences, mainly due to the weekly saga of the Glum family, starring 'Professor' Jimmy Edwards, Dick Bentley and June Whitfield. Ray's a Laugh with Ted Ray replaced ITMA after the death of Tommy Handley in 1949, and Educating Archie, Peter Brough's bizarre radio ventriloquist show, began a decade-long run the following year and helped launch the careers of some notable stars who appeared as Archie Andrew's tutors, including Tony Hancock, Max Bygraves, Beryl Reid and Hattie Jacques. Worker's Playtime, the popular lunchtime entertainment for factory workers begun in 1941 and broadcast directly from factories 'somewhere in England', introduced a myriad of stars including Jack Warner, Elsie and Doris Waters, and later Cyril Fletcher and Val Doonican. Another wartime favourite, Variety Bandbox, ran from 1944 until 1953, and helped launch the career of resident comedian Frankie Howerd, whose hesitant, seemingly disorderly delivery became his hugely successful trademark. In 1950 Crazy People morphed into that warped, anarchic trailblazer The Goon Show.

**READ THE FULL ARTICLE** [www.manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_647888.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/news_story_647888.html)

## All for the Cause:

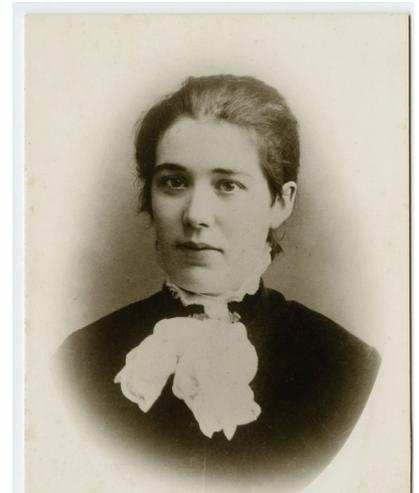
### *The Life and Work of Sophia Morrison*

#### With James Franklin

7.30pm, Wed 18 November, Peel Centenary Centre

Organised by Peel Heritage Trust

In 1880's the Isle of Man was fast losing its language, songs, stories and more. Manx people were even considering merging the Island with England but one woman in Peel was to change all this. Best known for her 'Manx Fairy Tales' Sophia Morrison set about dedicating the last 17 years of her life to preserve anything Manx, which is still with us today. James will trace the story of her life and the impact she had, and still has on the Isle of Man. [www.facebook.com/events/288497282409646](https://www.facebook.com/events/288497282409646)



## EFDSS: Traditional Tunes and Popular Airs Conference: Exploring Musical Resemblance Saturday 10 October and Sunday 11 October

The conference aims to bring together researchers working on 'traditional' and 'popular' tunes as transmitted and transformed in all manner of musical styles and genres, performance contexts, levels of society, historical periods, and geographical locations.

The sessions will take place on Zoom from 15.00 (BST) to 17.30 (BST) on each day, with evening music and socialising on Saturday.

£15 for both days / £10 for one day

Book online and see programme:

[www.efdss.org/whats-on/61-conferences/10121-traditional-tunes-and-popular-air-conference](http://www.efdss.org/whats-on/61-conferences/10121-traditional-tunes-and-popular-air-conference)

“EACH WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS”  
THE MOLLAG BAND SPOTTED IN CASTLETOWN (1881)

Every evening during the week the town has been enlivened by what is called the “molog band,” consisting of about 18 performers, all dressed from head to foot in sheepskins, and in all the colours of the rainbows, each with different kinds of musical instruments, consisting of melodeans, foghorns, drums, imitation fiddles and harps, &c. These performers paraded the streets of the town nightly, and one of their number was dressed to resemble a bear, which went through some very amusing antics.

“Christmas in Castletown.” *Mona’s Herald* 28 December 1881: 8e.

The Castletown brass band, the White Boys’ band, and the “Molog Band” have enlivened the town during the past few days by selections of Christmas music which have been much appreciated, the performances of the Molog Band in particular, under Mr Robert Kelly, Commander-in-chief, being very warmly received.

“[Castletown and District] The Castletown brass ....” *Manx Sun* 31 December 1881: 4f.

These two newspaper references missed in a trawl through the newspapers due to *mollag* being spelt as *molog*. The mention in the *Mona’s Herald* in 1881 is now the earliest one of the Mollag Band to date. For further on the Mollag Band see, Stephen Miller, *The Mollag Band* (Onchan: Chiollagh Books for Culture Vannin, 2018), online at the Culture Vannin [www](http://www.culturevannin.com) site.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

“ARE YOU QUITE SURE ABOUT YOUR ‘HOP-TU-NAA?’  
HAVE YOU GOT THE GENUINE ‘HOP-TU-NAA?’”  
(1893)

In January 1893, T.E. Brown delivered a talk to an audience in Castletown, the title of which was “Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island” if you read the *Ramsey Courier*, or “Manx Characters,” in the case of the *Isle of Man Times*. Both papers reproduced the text in two parts, though only the second half can now be found for each paper. The text of the lecture as reproduced in the *Ramsey Courier* and the *Isle of Man Times* differs, with the former being in the style of Brown familiar from his letters, while the latter is a plainer account of what was said on the evening. Brown had given a similar (if not the same) lecture earlier that month in Peel, “Manx Character and Characteristics,” on 12 January at the Centenary Hall, held in aid of the Church Repair Fund, and a *précis* of which had appeared in the *Isle of Man Times*. Brown spoke two years later on 19 November 1895, again at Castletown in the Town Hall, a fundraiser to support the costs of an action concerning the right of access to the Racecourse at Langness. His talk, “Castletown Fifty Years Ago,” covered the same ground as the lectures from 1893, again being reproduced in the newspapers, this time it being the turn of the *Isle of Man Examiner* to report it. In the course of the 1893 lecture Brown referred to “Hop-tu-Naa,” the *Ramsey Courier* reporting his words so: “Then about “Hop-tu-Naa.” Are you quite sure about your “Hop-tu-Naa?” Have you got the genuine “Hop-tu-Naa?” The account by the *Isle of Man Times* was more succinct: “They had a peculiar version of “Hoptunaa” at Castletown.” This is what is discussed further in the fuller version of this piece which is available for download with this issue of *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu*.

**ARE YOU QUITE SURE ABOUT YOUR ‘HOP-TU-NAA?’...**

**read the full article by Stephen Miller RBV here:**

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Hop%20tu%20naa%20KMJOct2020Miller.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Hop%20tu%20naa%20KMJOct2020Miller.pdf)

# DELEGATION FROM MANNIN ~ LORIENT 1976 ~ PART 1

## THE EARLY DAYS - A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE by Cristl Jerry

### Introduction

*I feel it is important and worthwhile to give some general background and history to how and why such festivals come into being. There is always a link to the past which sees them desirable and beneficial. They have a social and a political dimension too, to foster friendship and cooperation; respect for variety, differences and connections; as well as to recognise the value of cultures both shared and unique.*

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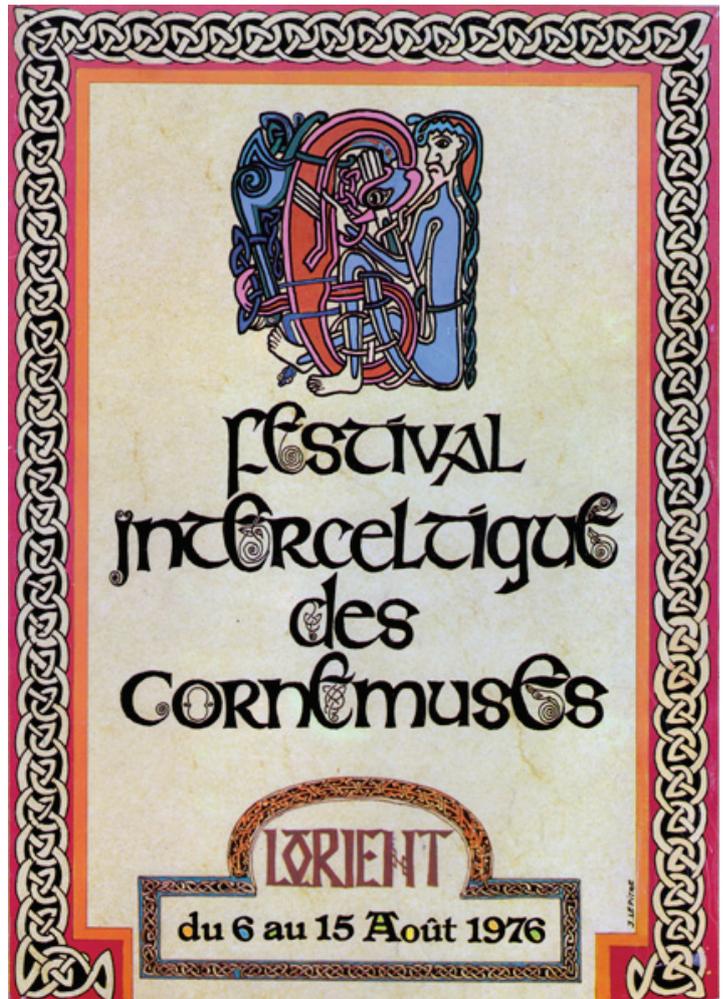
We were first approached to represent the Island at the "Festival Interceltique des Cornemuses", in Lorient, Brittany, some time in the spring of 1976. Mona Douglas called to see us hoping there could be representation from Mann. We were certainly unaware at the time of such an event, although we later discovered that Charles Guard had been previously. This was fairly early days in the revival of any significance, other than the occasional social performances at a 'Manx Tey' or 'Mheillea' of perhaps a song or two from the National Song Book and perhaps a recitation from T E Brown. We were very hesitant about taking on this mission, although we had been doing as much as we could to play as much Manx material publicly ie in pubs that would put up with us. Nevertheless, flattered that Mona thought we were worthy enough to represent the nation. We had to make up our minds as there was not a great deal of time to decide, as we would have to prepare ourselves if we took up this challenge.

The festival now called, "Le Festival Interceltique de Lorient", from the mid 1980s, had developed to include far more than a festival of bagpipes. It seems to have taken its initial inspiration from the "Festival International des Cornemuses", a 3 day event held in Brest. This has the signature of the late Polig Monjarret, well known and esteemed Breton musician and collector of Breton music, dance and history. He had been collecting and noting music and dances over many decades, quite often surreptitiously as the French authorities regarded such activity as treason almost! Polig saved so much of the extant, rich body of Breton culture. He was also responsible for initiating and introducing a new type of band, now well and truly established all over Brittany called Bagads. Bagads play Breton music, old and newly composed and are made up of Breton bombards, Scottish pipes (both reed instruments) and drums. Fantastic! Bagads representing different towns and districts are fierce contestants in competitions, many taking part in the Sunday parade through the streets of Lorient also Breton dancers in national dress and the other participants of the festival. It's truly spectacular!

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Mona is of course remembered as a noted collector of Manx traditional dance, music and revivor of Yn Chruinnaght. She was also a keen believer in inter-Celtic cooperation and took over from her friend and mentor, Sophia Morrison. Following the tragically early death of Sophia in 1917, Mona accepted the responsibility as Secretary to both Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh and Celtic Congress at the very young age

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of 18. Later that same year, she attended a Celtic Congress in Dublin and met many well known people such as A P Graves and W B Yates and others. She became committed to the Pan Celtic Movement and said of the experience...."my association with a number of national personalities convinced me firmly that the goal in all Celtic countries should be, eventually, an independent federation of the Celtic States". Mona somehow had a way with her that suggested this Breton festival was an opportunity for the Island to be part of that movement to help fulfill that vision, and that representation there was an important way to recognition that Mann exists as a Celtic nation. Despite our misgivings about agreeing to go, she was very persuasive but not insistent, so how could we refuse!

Mona had continued her friendships over the years with many like minded people in the other Celtic nations, and had I imagine, been in touch with her friends in Ireland as the festival had arranged for us to travel with the Irish participants. There was a sea connection too, although not daily, it was direct to Dublin in the summer months. Mind you, it did take five hours from Douglas in those days.

We were of course worried about going with three young children, Patrick, Bridget and Kate and were told a young person, a school student, called Anne Kissack, who would be joining the Lorient party too. Mona put us through our paces with the young ones doing some Manx dancing, with regular rehearsals at Thie Aeglagh Vannin, a small building around Finch Road, Douglas, sadly no longer existing. I remember seeing some fencing foils there and a photo on the wall of Jack Irving dressed appropriately ready for a fencing match which I believe is called a 'bout'.

We had little enough time to prepare a programme for an event which lasted ten days and about which we had not the faintest idea what to expect, or more importantly, what was expected of us. It was pretty nerve wracking and unsurprisingly we began to wonder was this a huge mistake! I remember going to Anne's parent's house in Onchan. Eileen, her mum, was naturally anxious about her daughter of 16 going abroad for the first time with people her mother didn't know. I would have been the same. However she and we agreed to put her into our care, a responsibility I hadn't bargained for. However Anne seemed to be a very capable and sensible young lady so we were not too worried. We had to travel on the Steam Packet several days in advance of the date of departure to Brittany, because of the annoying infrequency of sailings to Dublin, I still bemoan that problem today. Of course we packed luggage for the five of us and laden with a harp, guitar and sundry instruments, set off for the Dublin sailing. Those who were around then will remember it was the hottest summer ever, at least in my memory it was. It was certainly sweltering in May and right through the summer when the children practised the dances. I was very glad Freda Moore taught Manx dancing at Peel Clothworkers' although we didn't have a big enough team to do much of the Manx repertory. Colin knew the words of many Manx songs and we had plenty of tunes between us all and Anne was a good singer. We had plenty of material that were frequently played.

We found a B&B to stay that evening but had been given a phone number to contact of the Heusaff family who we had first met in Peel. Alan Heusaff was one of the founder members of the Celtic League and was in Mann to have a family holiday and meet with others who had inter-Celtic interests. They were very hospitable and offered to put us up for the night. I think we had about three nights in Dublin and the evening before leaving for Brittany we were to meet at a venue right by the Liffey in town. I don't know who had arranged it but suspect it was Mona and her friends as she was to read some of her poetry for which she was well known and the Lorient party was to perform a few things to what I guess was an invited audience of people from Conradh na Gaeilge, An Conradh Ceilteach and Chonhdhail Cheilteach. Our presence in Ireland was treated as a great celebration and an excuse for a party - we were asked to go to a party after the entertainment, which we felt obliged to attend, as the honoured guests! I have no idea where we were taken, nor to whose house it was, but there was plenty of food and drink available. Anne, I think very sensibly, went off as Mona seemed to be in charge of her. I was really needing my bed, the children too! As you can imagine the party and hospitality went on and on. Eventually we were taken back to our O'Luain friends, getting to bed at some ungodly hour, aware that we needed to be up in good time to meet the Irish participants on the morrow.

.....to be continued.

# Social dancing at harvest time

by Dr Chloe Woolley, Culture Vannin

Autumn is here, the nights are drawing in and it's the season to celebrate the harvest, known in the Isle of Man as the Mheillea.

Mheillea was traditionally held on the evening after the last corn was cut. The last handful of corn was plaited and bound in ribbons and taken by procession to the nearest hill, where the 'Queen of the Mheillea' waved the 'babban ny mheillea' (Manx equivalent of the English 'corn dolly') to indicate that the harvest was in, to great rejoicing. It was time to party and dance the night away.

Thomas Quayle wrote in 1812: "The Manks peasantry being much attached to dancing, it is a constant practice on the evening of the day on which the last corn is cut, for the farmer to call in a fiddler or two."

Once they had left the fields and changed out of their working clothes, the reapers - men, women and children - joined the farmer and his family in the barn for a celebratory supper of broth, beef and mutton, barley and greens, mheillea pie (made with potatoes and herring) and apple dumplings. This was accompanied by barrels of ale, and followed by singing and dancing. The 'babban ny mheillea' came to the party too and was passed between the young women whilst dancing. For the rest of the year, it was kept on the mantelpiece to ward off bad luck.



Not restricted to the mainland, the mheillea was also celebrated on the Calf of Man, and in 1811, visiting author George Woods joined the tenant farmer and a dozen labourers on the tiny isle for "the meller of the Manks, a time of jubilee". He described the small party enjoying plentiful ale, a modest measure of the master's rum, and dancing in the barn, before he was rowed back to the opposite shore that same night.

One particular Manx dance is associated with the harvest celebrations. Folklorist Mona Douglas constructed a harvest dance in the 1940s that was based on historical descriptions of a circle dance around the 'babban'. With its final coda, "Yn Mheillea, Yn Mheillea, t'eh ayn, t'eh ayn, t'eh ayn, Hogh!" [The harvest is in!] it has become a staple of many a ceili.

These days, the harvest is celebrated in a different way than in the past. All over the Island, churches, chapels, pubs, clubs and schools host auctions of home produce, including fruit and vegetables, pies and cakes, jams and hedgerow wine – with the proceeds going to a various good causes.

Soon, the IOM Foodbank will increase its efforts to provide for those in need over winter, and events such as the forthcoming Food & Drink Festival and Trad Music Weekend will give us a flavour of days gone by when food, music and dancing went hand in hand.

**Original article produced for Isle of Man Newspapers and published in the *Manx Independent*.**

This article links to the series of traditional Manx music arranged for guitar being released as a free download and video lesson taught by Pete Lumb.

**Yn Mheillea:** [https://youtu.be/4lhOj\\_Q2bU8](https://youtu.be/4lhOj_Q2bU8)

<https://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-guitar-lessons-606045/>

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

A couple of original tunes for you this month. A brand new one from David Speers called "Rosie's New Pin" (inspired by a letter from the bank!) and a 30 year old one from me (Chloe!) recently rediscovered in a box of old high school books! "Ny Tree Muckyn Beggey" means The Three Little Pigs!

## Rosie's New Pin

David Speers (2020)

Musical notation for "Rosie's New Pin" in G major and 12/8 time. The piece consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 12/8 time signature. The melody is written in a single line. The second staff contains a first ending bracket labeled '1' and a second ending bracket labeled '2'. The third staff contains a first ending bracket labeled '1'. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The fifth staff contains a second ending bracket labeled '2'.

## Ny Tree Muckyn Beggey

By Chloe Woolley,  
Isle of Man ca. 1991

Musical notation for "Ny Tree Muckyn Beggey" in G major and 4/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a single line. The second staff is marked with a '5' above the first measure. The third staff is marked with a '9' above the first measure. The fourth staff is marked with a '13' above the first measure. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

2nd Closing date applications - IOMAC  
3rd MGP Supporters Club Mhelliah, Sulby Glen Hotel 8pm  
16th SnyP Mhelliah – auction & social evening, Whitehouse Pub, Peel 8pm  
17th The Children's Centre Mhelliah, The Mitre, Kirk Michael, 8.30pm  
19th Vikings Hockey Club Mhelliah, Woodbourne Pub, Douglas 7pm  
24th Shennaghys Jiu Bingo Night  
24th – 31st Turnips on Tour, Manx National Heritage sites  
25th/26th Big Bree Workshop Weekend, St Johns  
27th Hop tu naa Treasure Hunt, Nobles Park  
30th Biskee Brisht gig, Promenade Suite, Villa Marina, free  
30th A Spooky Beg Adventure, Children's Centre Farm  
31st HOP-TU-NAA – Island-wide!  
31st Oie Houney on Peel Beach [www.oiehouney.com](http://www.oiehouney.com)

## NOVEMBER

3rd Mhelliah in aid of Dementia EMI Unit

IOM, Manx Arms, Onchan, 8pm  
7th Fundraising Event with the Mollag Band, Women in Song, and more, for Peel Centenary Centre, £10  
14th Cooish in conjunction with Yn Chruinnaght – Manx Gaelic language mini-festival  
18th The Life and Work of Sophia Morrison - talk, Peel Heritage Trust lecture, Centenary Centre, 7.30pm

## DECEMBER

11th Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre, 7.30pm  
26th Hunt the Wren - Island-wide!

### St James Dalby Church & Community

The *Hub Music sessions* are on the 4th Friday of the month; from 7.30pm - bring your own instruments or voice, plus drinks or whatever to share; donations to help cover costs are much appreciated!

[www.stjamesdalby.org/hub-gatherings.html](http://www.stjamesdalby.org/hub-gatherings.html)

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 the Saddle, 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, Kiaull 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

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

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

**Call:** Chloë: 01624 694758 (answerphone)  
**or write to:** Culture Vannin, PO Box 1986, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1SR

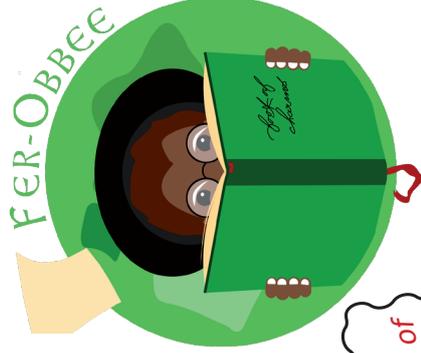
Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin  
The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space  
PRESS: please feel free to pick up articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture

# BIG BREE WORKSHOP

“WEEKEND” 2020

# BIG BREE WORKSHOP WEEKEND 2020

APPLICATION FORM



No experience of Manx music or dance needed!

only £10 for 2 days!

Sun 25 & Mon 26 Oct / 10am - 4pm

St John's Methodist Hall

Bree presents two days of folklore themed fun with Manx music, dance & culture for young singers, musicians & dancers aged 10-18

**CONCERT for family & friends at 3pm on Mon 26 Oct**

Further info: [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im) or tel. 01624 694758 [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)

kiuill manninagh jiu 10/20 culture vannin

Name/Ennym \_\_\_\_\_

School/Scoil \_\_\_\_\_ School Yr/ Blein \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Enmys \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency tel./Çhell. \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Post-l \_\_\_\_\_

Medical conditions, allergies & other info we should be aware of? Fys \_\_\_\_\_

**Tell us about your interests: I enjoy (tick)...**

Playing  Singing  Dancing  Drama

Manx Gaelic  Composing  Song-writing

*Brief info about you...*

e.g. which instruments you play; how long you've been playing, singing and/or dancing; music exam grades; level of Manx Gaelic (if any); groups you perform with...

**\* IMPORTANT - CONSENT\***

We often film & photograph students during the Bree Weekend and at other Bree events during the year. Footage is used for print media coverage, promotional and archive use on the Culture Vannin websites and social media.

**Parent/guardian** - please sign here to *give consent* to your child appearing on film and in photos: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name [print]: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

You have the right to withdraw consent at any time by contacting us at: Culture Vannin, Fairfield House, Main Rd, St Johns IM4 3NA

## BREE MEMBERSHIP

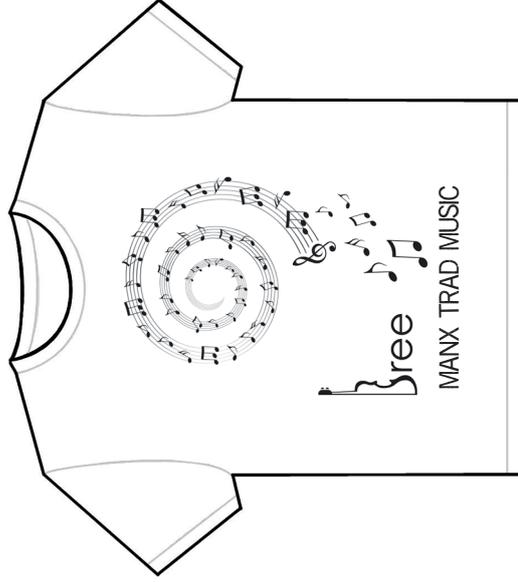
Student name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bree members meet once a month for music sessions, busking, performances and to take part in the Manx Folk Awards. It is free to join & you will receive updates by email until membership ceases. You can opt out at any time by emailing [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)

To consent to your child being a 'Bree Member', please tick here:

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ORDER A BREE T-SHIRT

Select your preferred size & colour >>



Child	Adult
<b>£7.50</b> XS 30" <input type="checkbox"/> S 34-36" <input type="checkbox"/> S 32" <input type="checkbox"/> M 38-40" <input type="checkbox"/> M 34" <input type="checkbox"/> L 42-44" <input type="checkbox"/> L 36" <input type="checkbox"/> XL 46" <input type="checkbox"/> XL 38" <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL 50" <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>£10.00</b> S 34-36" <input type="checkbox"/> M 38-40" <input type="checkbox"/> L 42-44" <input type="checkbox"/> XL 46" <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL 50" <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Colour</b> [tick]	
White <input type="checkbox"/> Light Blue <input type="checkbox"/>	

### BREE WEEKEND PAYMENT ONLY

I enclose a cheque for £10 made payable to 'Culture Vannin'  
 OR I have paid £10 via PayPal to enquiries@culturevannin.im  
 [please ref. 'Bree weekend' in the NOTES box]

<input type="checkbox"/>	[tick]
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### BREE WEEKEND BREE WEEKEND + T-SHIRT

I enclose cash/cheque for £17.50 or £20 made payable to 'Culture Vannin'  
 OR I have paid £17.50 or £20 via PayPal to enquiries@culturevannin.im  
 [please ref. 'Bree weekend' in the NOTES box]

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please return this application form by Friday 9 October to:**

Bree Manx Music c/o Culture Vannin,  
 Fairfield House, Main Rd, St Johns IM4 3NA

More info. tel: 694758 email: [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)

kiuill manninagh jiu 10/20 culture vannin

## PLEASE KEEP & READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY

- Students will require their own instruments & dance shoes where applicable.
- No experience of Manx music needed, but students are expected to be competent on their instrument and must be in school years 6 - 13.
- Students will require a packed lunch or written permission to leave premises (U16).
- Students are expected to attend the whole weekend, unless otherwise agreed.
- Culture Vannin Child Protection Policy: [www.manxmusic.com/education](http://www.manxmusic.com/education)
- Bree has a closed Facebook group - join for updates and to see or add photos of the weekend.
- **This year's 'weekend' is SUNDAY & MONDAY & is in St Johns Methodist Hall! NB Clocks go back on Sunday 25th October!**

## YOUR PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT TO US

- Please do not share photos of the Bree concert on personal Facebook pages.
- Personal data collected will only be used in relation to the Bree Manx youth movement and will be kept secure and retained until student membership ceases.
- Your contact details will be used to keep Bree Members informed of updates throughout the year and to contact you in case of emergency.

## Our Privacy Notice can be read online:

[www.culturevannin.im/page\\_529488.html](http://www.culturevannin.im/page_529488.html) and a hard copy can be requested from: The Director, Culture Vannin, Fairfield House, Main Road, St John's IM4 3NA

# Culture VANNIN



This year's theme is Manannan's Charms.

Discover your 'clein' at the Bree weekend! [manannanscharms.im](http://manannanscharms.im)