

# KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Jerrey Fouyir 2024 October

MANX MUSIC TODAY

## Hop tu Naa workshop day for young musicians and dancers

*The songs, music, dance, stories and traditions of Hop tu Naa are the theme of this year's Big Bree workshop!*

Taking place from 10am – 4pm on Saturday 5th October in the Philip Christian Centre in Peel, young musicians and dancers will have the chance to explore the ancient Manx calendar custom through singing, dancing, music-making, storytelling and craft. Open to children aged 10 – 18, this one-day workshop will close with a showcase concert for family and friends. Hop tu Naa is the oldest continuously-existing tradition in the Isle of Man. Celebrated each year on the 31st of October, Hop tu Naa is the Manx equivalent of Halloween, but with some very important differences which will be explored during the workshop day.

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development for Culture Vannin is organising the event alongside a team of volunteer tutors. She said:

“Hop tu Naa is unique to the Isle of Man, and although it has enjoyed a revitalization in recent years, it’s still important to keep the traditions alive and passed along to the next generation. Most people love to hear children singing the traditional songs when they come to the door with their carved turnips!

At the Bree workshop day, the students will have the opportunity to learn some well-known, and lesser known songs in English and Manx, have a go at an exciting version of the dance, play their instrument in a band, find out about the real Jinny the Witch, and discover other curious customs connected to Hop tu Naa. Some children might like to compose a new song or tune, make some spooky craft decorations or create a drama piece under the guidance of our knowledgeable tutors. Then we’ll chuck all of that into Jinny’s cauldron and present a mini concert for family and friends!”

Manx music, dance & folklore

Manx language, history & culture

**THE BIG BREE**

**'HOP TU NAA' DAY!**



A day of fun workshops for young musicians, singers & dancers aged 10-18

Saturday 5 Oct / 10am - 4pm  
Philip Christian Centre, Peel

**CONCERT for family & friends ~ 3pm**

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

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

- *New Manx dance tutorials*
- *Lesser known Hop tu Naa songs*
- *History of the song, Ellan Vannin*

**Culture VANNIN**

Bree, which is Manx for 'vitality', is an educational movement which provides a fun space for young musicians to explore Manx traditions in a fun and creative way. Set up by Culture Vannin in 2006, Bree meets monthly for a Manx music session, workshop or performance, and some of the more advanced members play with 'Scran'; a teenage band who have recently returned from Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany where they performed in front of thousands and came fourth in the prestigious Loïc Raison Trophée band competition.

All young people are welcome to come along to the Big Bree Hop tu Naa day, and for just £10 for a day of fun and creativity, it is the ideal opportunity to get involved in Manx culture and make new friends! Application form: <https://tinyurl.com/pztw7zxx>

Closing date for applications: Friday 27th September *[but youngsters belonging to dedicated KMJ readers can have a last chance to join... if they're quick!]*

Contact Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin for more information: [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im) or tel. 694758.

Watch highlights from last year's Big Bree Workshop Weekend:

[https://youtu.be/-tgqgVvEW7Y?si=ne8VPtCf\\_z0HynB9](https://youtu.be/-tgqgVvEW7Y?si=ne8VPtCf_z0HynB9)

More information on Bree:

<https://manxmusic.com/schools/bree---manx-traditional-youth-music-and-dance-movement/>

More information on Hop tu Naa:

<https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/hop-tu-naa-468995/>



Welsh, Manx & Cornish links were celebrated for #EuropeanFolkDay last month (24 September) with the **Môr / Mooir / Mor** song and tune exchange!

Bree had a go at Welsh tune Morgawr:

[https://youtu.be/\\_gO0ty\\_xRc8?si=4227OqF0JcEKIEfP](https://youtu.be/_gO0ty_xRc8?si=4227OqF0JcEKIEfP)

Cornish musicians performed Three Little Boats <https://fb.watch/uWlp0o8wmN/> and young fiddle player Finn from Bree also recorded this ace version of Manx song, Shiaull Ersooyl: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/5pqwehoHP3eoMQac/>

# Manx dance lessons online

Learning Manx dancing is now even easier, with the release of new video lessons.



Whether you're discovering Manx dancing for the first time or wish to add to your repertoire, Culture Vannin can help you 'step-by-step' with their collection of Manx dance instruction videos, and two more have just been added!

The wedding dance "Car y Phoosee" is simple to learn and can be adapted to work with various group sizes – from a small quartet of dancers to a hall full of ceili goers, it is good fun to join in with, and will literally have everyone clapping along!

"Gorse Sticks" is a solo dance which requires the performer

to 'clack' two wooden sticks together whilst performing a bit of fancy footwork. Composed by Philip Leighton Stowell, one of the founders of the Manx Folk Dance Society, this dance is very popular with experienced dancers, and always raises a big cheer at the end.

Introduced by Gráinne Joughin, both dances are demonstrated by members of the Peel-based dance group, Skeddan Jiarg. These latest films add to a growing collection of dance instruction films produced over the past few years. With a range of solo and group dances for various abilities, the collection of 10 videos include Eunyssagh Vona, Dance for Three, Hop tu Naa, Flitter Dance, Chyndaa yn Bwoailley ('Return the Blow'), Cur Shaghey yn Geurey and two versions of the Manx Girls Jig. Written instructions, sheet music, audio and other videos of performances can be found with each dance profile on [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com).

As well as being a valuable resource for Isle of Man schools, and particularly useful for preparing for the annual DESC Manx Folk Awards, and Manx Music Festival (Guild), these tutorials are already being used by dancers around the world. There are dance groups as far as the USA, Brazil and Australia who love including Manx dance in their performances.

"Dancing plays a vital role in the vibrant culture of the Isle of Man," stated Dr. Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin. "We're thrilled that these films will encourage even more people—whether they're part of dance groups, are educators, or simply enthusiasts—to engage in this joyful and social aspect of our living culture."

The resources are freely available from [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com) in a steadily growing collection of Manx songs, tunes and dances. This is a part of Culture Vannin's work to open up access to, and enjoyment of, Manx culture for everyone, regardless of age, ability or location.

The films are all available on [www.manxmusic.com/learn/dances/](http://www.manxmusic.com/learn/dances/)

# Watch as music fills the Isle of Man's pubs for the 'Traditional Music Weekend'

## A number of musicians travelled over to the island for the event

Lovers of traditional music came together last weekend to celebrate the Isle of Man's 'Traditional Music Weekend'.

A variety of events took place across the island over the course of a few days, with a number of visiting musicians involved. The weekend's activities kicked off with a welcome session at the Columbia Club in Douglas, with all visiting and local musicians coming together on Friday evening.

On Saturday afternoon, several Douglas pubs played host to live music sessions, with O'Donnell's on Castle Street, Douglas having music all day from 1pm. Further sessions then took place at the Bridge on North Quay between 1pm and 5pm, as well as HOPS opposite O'Donnell's at 4pm. The pubs were filled with guitars, whistles, accordions, banjos, fiddles and many more acoustic instruments, all playing trad folk music from the Isle of Man, Ireland, Scotland and elsewhere. On Sunday, musicians then gathered at the Prospect pub in Douglas from 1pm, while on Monday the 'Survivors Session' took place at Quids Inn between 10.45am and 2pm.



Manx dancing at the Welbeck. Original article in *The Manx Independent*.

Check out more photos (Callum Staley (CJS Photography)) and video: <https://tinyurl.com/bdt67dmz>



**John Kaneen**

**Edward and Emily asked me to say a few words about my connection with John.**

**It's obvious to all here and so many others that he had a huge influence on us and our local culture in general.**

**There will be a time soon to fully reflect on his life as a husband, father, brilliant musician, singer, radio journalist and broadcaster, Panto fairy, Manannan, Cammag umpire, folk music collector, bombarde blower, surprisingly nimble dancer and all round gentle giant (with an extremely loud shout if ever the p.a. proved inadequate). Whatever he took on, he did it to the best of his great ability and then kept up the effort for decades. His repertoire of tunes, songs and monologues seemed to have no end.**

**My interest in folk music was sparked by my pal Paul Reid while we attended Chester College from 1970 - I'd never heard anything of it before, at 18 years old. Paul persuaded me to bring along my abandoned violin next term and learn some tunes by ear. Eventually, completely unguided, I made what lazily sounded like the right sort of noise but never really did it right.**

**Where was Katie Lawrence when I needed her in 1971?**

**Anyway, John and I ran into each other 50 years ago, probably at one of the folk clubs running in the 1970s and soon got together in his front room to learn mostly songs. When I say "we" - please don't take this an equal partnership. He led - I followed and between us sounded not too bad, backed by his concertina and my fiddle, or the guitar and mandolin. We even spent a week around Merseyside playing at a different folk club each evening - and the Irish Centre for the Sunday afternoon session. "We" also ran a folk club, initially in the old Athol Hotel on the Prom, bringing in professional guest artists whenever we could afford them. The astounding Martin Carthy made a deep impression on everyone, for example.**

**Late 1970s, he and Ross Jellicoe put together the Calor Gas ceilidh band - with Bob Carswell, Simon Capelen and me - first gig at the Castle Mona in 1979. I played bass for a long time while the tunes soaked into my thick head. Calor Gas probably played between one and two thousand ceilidhs over the next 36 years - and John will have played every one of them. My attendance was sometimes a bit**

patchy, so at least 20 other different players were drafted in from time to time. The band lasted so long that we played some weddings early on - and then for the resulting children's weddings a generation later.

John and I met for the music and had a focussed sort of friendship. Musicians know that when playing together, your soul is bared. There is nowhere to hide your shortcomings but John was a really generous player and always propped you up through the wobbles.

He was a very private, deep well and never let on when things were tough for him.

We never discussed politics, religion, the state of the World or our own problems. We met to play and did just that - sat down and got on with it - as anyone at the O'Donnell's session will vouch. A three second gap in proceedings and he'd be off with another quality song, monologue or set of tunes, like it or not.

So, we became the best of music buddies over the years and now I really miss him. He used to say that I wasn't half the man my mother was - also a leading musician as it happens. How right he was. We all enjoyed his lovely gentle sense of humour. One of his regular Manx accent sayings - and excuse me if this feels odd but I'm sure he would approve - "You know there's people dying who never died before".

Who else would have had two of his own practice wakes - laid out with candles all-round and people stood at his head recounting his qualities - just because he wouldn't be aware what's going on at this one?

It was sad to see him fading away in recent months but he never lost his sense of fun or forgot the happy times in all the years we were lucky enough to share with him. Thank you my friend.

*A missive from Michael Kneale to John Kaneen RBV, read at his funeral on 2nd September 2024.  
[printed with permission]*



# Harvest of the Sea

Afternoon Entertainment  
Featuring:

- Mine's a Shanty
- Annie Kissack
- Phil Gawne
- Members of Caarjyn Cooidjagh
- "Spuds and Herring" - a short film  
A celebration of the Peel fishing industry  
shown by kind permission of Culture Vannin

Saturday 5th October 3PM  
Free Entry

Donations for RNL1 & Onchan Methodist Church  
Onchan Methodist Church  
Main Road, Onchan



The St German's Cathedral  
Foundation for Music & the Arts

## Concert Series 2024

### Tallis Consort



Saturday 5th October  
St. German's Cathedral, Peel

Free Admission 7.30pm  
[www.cathedral.im/music](http://www.cathedral.im/music)

CHARITY 182

# Ceili Night

FEAT. THE KIPPER CEILI BAND & CHIPPY SUPPER

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER | DOORS 7PM

TICKETS: [WWW.ETICKETS.IM/SDOFA](http://WWW.ETICKETS.IM/SDOFA)

VICTORY HALL  
FINCH ROAD  
DOUGLAS

SOUTH DOUGLAS  
OLD FRIENDS  
ASSOCIATION

PM FOR TRUSTEES

### Calling all dancers and music lovers!

Get ready for our FIRST EVER Ceili Night Fest featuring the electrifying Kipper Ceili Band!

Join us for an evening of traditional music, lively (guided) jigs, and reels that'll have you dancing the night away! Don't miss this unforgettable celebration of local culture and community spirit! Ticket £15/£20 includes a chippy supper!

[www.facebook.com/events/337126519392937/](http://www.facebook.com/events/337126519392937/)

There will be live acoustic music from 7.30pm at the Candlelight Vigil for Gaza.

All musicians welcome to play.

Chloe will pass on any enquiries to the organisers:  
[manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im)

# CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR GAZA

and all the innocent victims of war crimes against humanity in the region.

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER  
6 - 7.30pm

Amphitheatre in front of the Sefton Hotel, Douglas, Isle of Man

Music - Poetry - Readings *Bring a candle (in a jar or electric) and something to sit on*

# Young Manx Instrumentalist



A competition to showcase the best young instrumentalists on Island (aged 7-18)

Any instrument - Any Style

The competition will be held on Sunday November 17th at Peel Centenary Centre

Closing date for entries:  
October 20th

email: [info@manninmusic.com](mailto:info@manninmusic.com)

Scan for  
entry form



## Introducing the Young Manx Instrumentalist 2024!

This year Mannin Music are running a competition for instrumentalists aged 7-18 on 17th November 2024. They are bringing over composer and educational specialist Sarah Watts who has written lots of repertoire for ABRSM.

The goal is to have a really supportive and relaxed competition, where all of the Island's young instrumentalists will get an opportunity to hear each other perform.

All instruments and styles of music are welcome!

Entry is via google forms:

<https://forms.gle/Jqovg8rfNb62LwAr9>

Competition guidelines and further information is available below:

<https://tinyurl.com/e56huhfn>

### HOP TU NAA Thursday 31 October

Peel dance group Skeddan Jiarg will be celebrating Hop tu Naa through music, song and dancing at Black Dog Oven in Peel from 6.30pm

MAUGHOLD PARISH SOCIAL CLUB  
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

# HOP TU NAA PARTY

THURSDAY 31ST  
OCTOBER

3PM - 4:30PM  
MAUGHOLD  
CHURCH HALL

COSTUME COMPETITION  
TURNIP LANTERN JUDGING  
BEST GUY FOR BONFIRE NIGHT  
FUN GAMES  
PRIZES TO BE WON

# YOUNG SINGER OF MANN

- + JUNIORS (7-12 YEARS)
- + SENIORS (13-18 YEARS)
- + PRIZES £150 / £100 / £50

ERIN ARTS CENTRE  
SAT 25TH - SUN 26TH  
JANUARY 2025

APPLICATIONS OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 2024

CALL 835858 OR EMAIL [HELLO@ERINARTSCENTRE.COM](mailto:HELLO@ERINARTSCENTRE.COM) FOR MORE INFO



ELLAN VANNIN PIPES AND DRUMS

# 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



Join the Isle of Man's only pipe band for an evening of music and fun

**12TH OCTOBER 2024**  
**PEEL CENTENARY CENTRE**  
DOORS OPEN 7PM • SHOW STARTS 7.30PM

### SPECIAL GUESTS STARS

**Finlay McDonald** & *The Isle of Man's very own*  
*Director of The National Piping Centre, Scotland*

**Malcolm Stitt**  
*from Deaf Shepard*

e-Tickets on sale at Peel Centenary Centre  
<http://www.centenarycentre.com>  
and Celtic Gold Shop, Peel

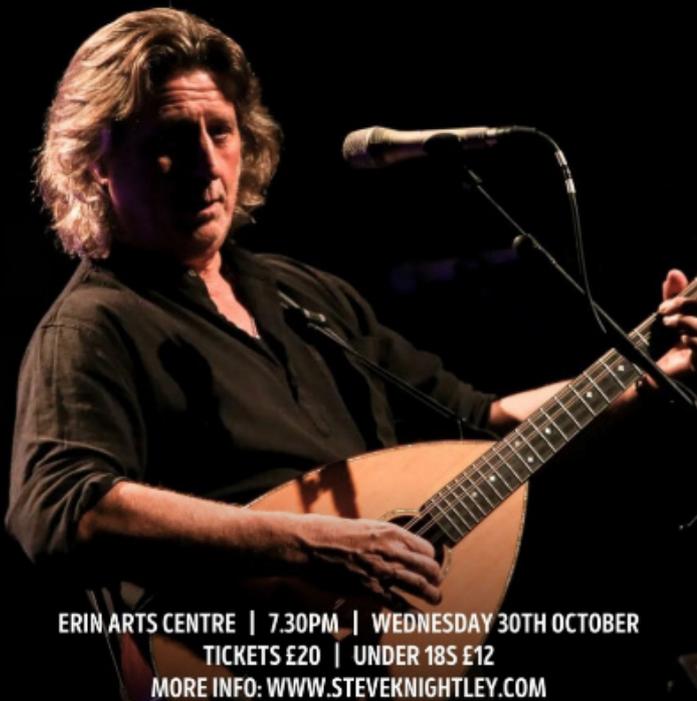


**NB. The Oie Houney event scheduled for 31 October in Castletown has been cancelled**

More info: <https://tinyurl.com/2xrvt273>

# STEVE KNIGHTLEY THE WINTER YARDS TOUR

BOOK ONLINE



ERIN ARTS CENTRE | 7.30PM | WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER  
TICKETS £20 | UNDER 18S £12  
MORE INFO: [WWW.STEVEKNIGHTLEY.COM](http://WWW.STEVEKNIGHTLEY.COM)

Keep updated online: [www.erinartscentre.com](http://www.erinartscentre.com), Facebook & Instagram @Erinartscentre  
835658 | [hello@erinartscentre.com](mailto:hello@erinartscentre.com) | The Erin Arts Centre is a registered charity. Charity number 236A

Folk and Roots Music  
at The Institute 2024  
The Big Wheel Blues and Roots Club

NOVEMBER  
**8TH**



## JEZ LOWE IN CONCERT

One of the UK's busiest singer-songwriters, playing for audiences the world over.  
"The best singer songwriter to come out of the UK for a long time" Richard Thompson

The Institute, Laxey

Friday November 8th 2024  
Doors open 7:30pm.

Tickets just £15 from  
[www.etickets.im/et](http://www.etickets.im/et)





## SNOW WHITE MUSICAL IN MANX

The Manx Gaelic musical, Sniaghtey Bane, performed by the children of the Manx medium primary school, the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh.

This musical version of the classic fairytale, Snow White, receives its unique updated Bunscoill twist, with a Moddey Doo, a Buggane and a few cups of tea!

The play is entirely in Manx Gaelic, but the wonderful acting from Bunscoill pupils makes it, if not entirely comprehensible, certainly very enjoyable for Manx speakers and non-Manx speakers alike!

All 18 original songs are composed by Annie Kissack and Aalin Clague.

This recording from July 2024 is released here with thanks to the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh.

The separate audio recordings of the songs from Sniaghtey Bane will be available soon.

WATCH HERE: <https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/sniaghtey-bane-874456/>

12th & 13th Dec!

# Manannan's Winterfest

No 7

A Magical Manx Christmas!

Culture VANNIN ARTS COUNCIL December 2024 | GAIETY THEATRE CALL: 600555 | VILLAGAIETY.COM THE FYNODERREE DISTILLERY

Spotify Manx Music Playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4FuL5heugMH5ua8zzxxQIM?si=81fbbdb6a8724e34>



**Isle of Man Arts Council Announces New Extraordinary Events Fund**

Applications open on Monday 9th September for the new Extraordinary Events Fund to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the IOMAC in 2025.

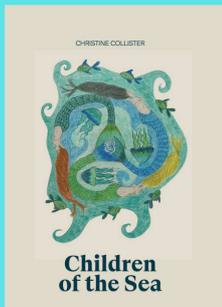
£100,000 has been ring-fenced to support new innovative arts events/projects on the Isle of Man in 2025.

The first round of applications close on Friday 18th October with successful recipients being informed after the Isle of Man Arts Council meeting on Friday 8th November 2024.

The second round of applications close on Friday 17th January 2025 with successful recipients being informed after the Isle of Man Arts Council meeting on Friday 31st January 2025. All other streams of funding are still open as usual.

**FIND OUT MORE: [www.iomarts.com/](http://www.iomarts.com/)**

# Christine Collister



**Friday November 8th**  
**Erin Arts Centre**  
**doors 7pm start 7.30pm**

**Tickets £15**

+44(0) 1624 835858

[hello@erinartscentre.com](mailto:hello@erinartscentre.com)

First show of UK tour to celebrate  
**Children Of The Sea**

Special project of original songs inspired by  
 Manx Folklore and a magical sense of place.

Original illustrations by local artists on  
 display! Plus songs from across her 40 year  
**career!**



kiuill manninagh jiu 10/24 culture vannin

# kiaul1 noa



Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quaye are excited to announce their first release in more than two years. The single, *Revival of the Fittest*, will be released on 11 Oct 2024 (available on all streaming platforms). They have been working with Scottish producer Keith Morrison on developing a new sound for traditional music from Ireland, Scotland and most specifically the Isle of Man. This music marks a new and exciting chapter in their musical journey and they are incredibly grateful for the support of the Manx community in their efforts to keep promoting Manx music abroad.

**REVIVAL OF THE FITTEST // AVAILABLE 11 OCT 24**

<https://edbdq.bandcamp.com/album/revival-of-the-fittest>

<https://trad.im/>



A film of new Manx dance choreography by Gráinne Joughin and performed by young dancers of Gena's Dance Academy has been released online.

'In Search of Manannan' portrays the feeling of adventure and bravery in a rather dark piece with moments of light and youthful innocence that marries Manx music and song by Barrule, with more traditional steps, alongside new and contemporary movements and formations. This piece was specially commissioned for GDA On Tour in May 2024 and supported by Culture Vannin.

WATCH *In Search of Manannan* here:

[www.manxmusic.com/watchlisten/in-search-of-manannan-872847/](http://www.manxmusic.com/watchlisten/in-search-of-manannan-872847/)

Look out for GDA Manx dancers at this year's *Manannan's Winterfest!*



**Joughin fiddles for sale!**  
 You can now buy Joughin violins from The Mannin Music Shop in Peel. Pop into the shop to try one.  
[www.manninmusic.shop/](http://www.manninmusic.shop/)  
[www.facebook.com/JoughinViolins](https://www.facebook.com/JoughinViolins)

LOCAL SINGER-SONGWRITER  
 JEFF JEPSON HAS RELEASED  
 NEW ALBUM  
 "AND ON THE AIR"  
<https://jeffjepson.bandcamp.com/album/and-on-the-air>  
[WWW.JEFFJEPSON.CO.UK/](http://WWW.JEFFJEPSON.CO.UK/)

**BBC Scottish Symphony premiere a new piece inspired by Manx folklore!**  
 'Folk,' a new orchestral song cycle by composer Helen Grime and based on the book of short stories by Zoe Gilbert was premiered by the BBC Scottish Symphony in Glasgow City Halls and Aberdeen Music Hall last week, with Claire Booth (Soprano).  
 It will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 8th October.



**MANX MUSIC FOR VIOLA**  
 Composer Richard Willmer has arranged a selection of Manx songs for viola and piano, which is available to buy from his website: <https://richardwillmer.musicaneo.com/sheetmusic/4.html>

**LISTEN to a snippet of Arrane Ghelby here:** <https://tinyurl.com/2bdv4rab>

**However,** Richard has kindly offered interested viola players and readers of KMJ readers a free pdf. of the music score. Email [Chloe.manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:Chloe.manxmusic@culturevannin.im) and request a copy. The suite contains:

Richard Willmer

**Suite on Manx Folk Songs**  
*op 34*

*For viola and Pianoforte*

*I - Geay Jeh'n aer (Sea Invocation)  
 II - C'raad ta'n Ree (Manannan Song)  
 III - Lhigey, Lhigey (Gallop, Gallop)  
 IV - Ny Kirree Fo Niaghtey (The Sheep under the Snow)  
 V - Arrane ny Niece (Washing Song)  
 VI - Arrane Ghelby (Song of the [Water] Kelpie)  
 VII - Jig (The Fathaby)*

Florence, June 2022

- I - Geay Jeh'n aer (Sea Invocation)
- II - C'raad ta'n Ree (Manannan Song)
- III - Lhigey, Lhigey (Gallop, Gallop)
- IV - Ny Kirree Fo Niaghtey (The Sheep under the Snow)
- V - Arrane ny Niece (Washing Song)
- VI - Arrane Ghelby (Song of the [Water] Kelpie)
- VII - Jig (The Fathaby)

**Youtube corner**

Ben Gibbs plays Father Eugene's Welcome to Cape North March, Car y Phoosee, Gyn Ennym - Bagpipes

[https://youtu.be/\\_ambMUqW2jg?si=cxcEznnXOpOsYbJG](https://youtu.be/_ambMUqW2jg?si=cxcEznnXOpOsYbJG)

kiaull manninagh jiu 10/24 culture vannin

# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Four Manx songs performed by Aaroaha School of Music in Bangalore, India. The children learnt Manannan Song, Juan y Jaggad Keeir, Lhigey Lhigey and Arrane ny Niece from video tutorials led by Ruth Keggin on [manxmusic.com](https://manxmusic.com). Their costumes were inspired by the young Manx dancers of Perree Bane Aeg and were made especially for the concert. Jeant dy mie!!!

Enjoy their performance here: <https://youtu.be/zEjOolljryw?si=UHnWUxY9k18Mw0Vy>

MANX RADIO: Christy DeHaven takes a look back at the Lorient Interceltique Festival which took place in Brittany a few weeks ago, with upwards of 900,000



festival goers enjoying the sights and sounds - some of which came from our own talented Manx contingent. She chats with the organisers and some of the performers to find out about this huge international showcase for Manx creatives and producers.

LISTEN HERE:

[www.manxradio.com/podcasts/manx-radios-island-life-series-specials/episode/our-island-at-lorient-2024/](https://www.manxradio.com/podcasts/manx-radios-island-life-series-specials/episode/our-island-at-lorient-2024/)

## SUMMER UPDATE from Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quayle

The last two international festivals that we played this summer (both in July) were also some of the most fun and exciting gigs we've done, and we wanted to share some of our adventures with KMJ this month. The first was Folk in a Field in Norfolk, which was actually our second time performing in Norfolk this year (we played at Folk on the Pier back in May). We'd highly recommend this festival to anyone who's looking for a slightly smaller festival experience in the UK with a great supportive, community feel. There are lots of local food and craft vendors and amazing bands to listen to all tucked away in a cluster of fields just outside of Kings Lynn. It was really a joy from start to finish!

We also got to play in Belgium for the first time ever at a festival called Zilleghem Folk in West Flanders (just outside of Bruges). We were on the lineup with Andy Irvine (absolute dream come true!), Deira, and Hot Griselda, among other amazing foreign and local acts. It was wonderful be surrounded by Belgian folk music and learn more about the music and dance culture there. We also enjoyed trying the Belgian beer while we were there.

Overall the weather was lovely, the audiences were enthusiastic and we had a great time sharing lots of Manx music with people in a new country.



And here's the link to a cool collaboration video we made in Belgium with Deira  
[www.instagram.com/reel/C98LP2NsaMV/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C98LP2NsaMV/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)

**London Manx Society** (Manx: Yn Cheshaght Manninagh Lunnin) will be holding their Mhelliah Service at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street London EC4Y 8AU on Monday 7th October 2024 at 12pm [www.londonmanxsociety.co.uk](http://www.londonmanxsociety.co.uk)

## NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION - Hop tu Naa Song Workshop

NAMA says: Halloween is approaching, but to the Manx the holiday is Hop tu Naa, a festive time with its own unique traditions, including traditional Hop tu Naa songs. Join us Monday, Oct. 14, at 12 pm Eastern Time to learn about these songs and how Hop tu Naa is celebrated on the Isle of Man.

Hop tu Naa is not "trick or treat," though they have common origins. The most famous Hop tu Naa song was originally sung in Manx but has been translated into English. Many variations exist from different parts of the island and are sung each year on Oct. 31.

NAMA is offering a free workshop with Dr. Chloe Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin. This workshop, held over Zoom, will last 45 minutes, with time for Q&A and conversation.

Join us and make your Halloween a bit more Manx this year in North America.

To sign up, fill out the short registration form here --

<https://acga.wufoo.com/forms/mlcxt3q1u27ono/> -- and we'll send you the Zoom link.

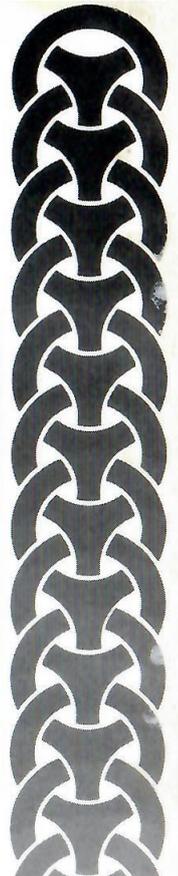
[www.facebook.com/northamericanmanxassociation](http://www.facebook.com/northamericanmanxassociation)



Jeanzee      Breizh  
Performers   Brittany

### Avel Dro

Avel Dro is a group of friends who have been playing for Festou Noz (Ceilis) and concerts in the Inzinzac Lochrist area of Morbihan for twenty five years or so. They mix Breton traditional instruments (biniou and bombarde) with more modern instruments, but always play music which respects both dance and tradition.



Sad news from Brittany that two long-term friends of the Manx music and dance scene have died. Christian Thoumine and Dominique le Bruchec will be remembered by many Yn Chruinnaght festival goers as members of Avel Dro [photo above], and from performing on the Island with Bourromp Atav in 1989 and 1991. Members of Manx dance group Bock Yuan Fannee kept in touch with them over many years and made exchange visits to Brittany. <https://www.tamm-kreiz.bzh/groupe/476/Avel-dro>

Thanks to Fiona McArdle for the information and the photo from the 2000 Yn Chruinnaght programme

# RESEARCH NEWS

An article for *The Manx Independent* (18th September 2024) written by Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin. <https://tinyurl.com/2x57wcww>

## Ellan Vannin: A history of probably the most recorded Manx song in history

“The words are simple and full of poetry, and are fraught with sweetly pensive home breathings for Ellan Vannin – the vernacular for our Island home”. So wrote Mrs M.A. Quiggin in the *Manx Sun* of August 1855. The bookseller from Douglas was urging a new edition of the song “Ellan Vannin”, because within a year of its release, it had “become a favourite wherever heard”.

Referring to the Gaelic name for the Isle of Man, “Ellan Vannin” is one of the best-known and loved of all Manx songs - its opening line “When the Summer Day is Over” stirring hearts for 170 years.

In 1854, poet Craven Green joined forces with Manchester music publisher John Townsend to publish a “new and elegant song” about the Isle of Man.

Initially printed as a poem in the *Manx Sun*, it was announced that the song would soon follow “with music composed by Mr J. Roberts (probably meaning Mr J. Townsend), author of “The Evening Song of the Manx Fisherman””.

The song’s nostalgic feel had particular appeal with Manx emigrants - by 1870 the song sheet of “Ellan Vannin” had already reached its 16th edition and it was further catapulted to fame after its inclusion in *Manx National Songs* in 1896.

Born in Leeds in 1803, young singer and actress Eliza Craven came to the Isle of Man with a touring theatre company. Lodging at Ballaughton Manor in Braddan, she and fellow actors had residency at the New Theatre in Athol Street, Douglas in the early 1820s.

The theatre closed due to financial difficulties, and Eliza moved back to Yorkshire, where she married comedian James Green. Her short spell on the Isle of Man left a lasting impression on her though, as along with “Ellan Vannin”, her subsequent poems often referred to her love of the Island, its people and legends.



“Ellan Vannin” to replace the National Anthem?” read a headline in the Isle of Man Examiner 1946, as the World Manx Association president asked members of its 52 societies to consider overturning the national anthem: “Ellan Vannin was always sung at Manx gatherings with great affection, and he thought a plebiscite might be held”. However, WH Gill’s “O Land of our Birth” of 1907 remained as the national anthem, despite only being officially recognised as such by Tynwald in 2003.

Possibly the most recorded Manx song, “Ellan Vannin” has never gone out of fashion. Back in 1928, the London Manx choir released a gramophone record, and more recently, dozens of Manx schoolchildren collaborated on a video during lockdown. As the first Manx singer on BBC Radio, May Clague performed it in 1926 and HMV recorded it with the Lhon Dhoo Choir accompanied by Joe Loss and his orchestra. Girl band Twisted Angels produced a punk version in 2006,

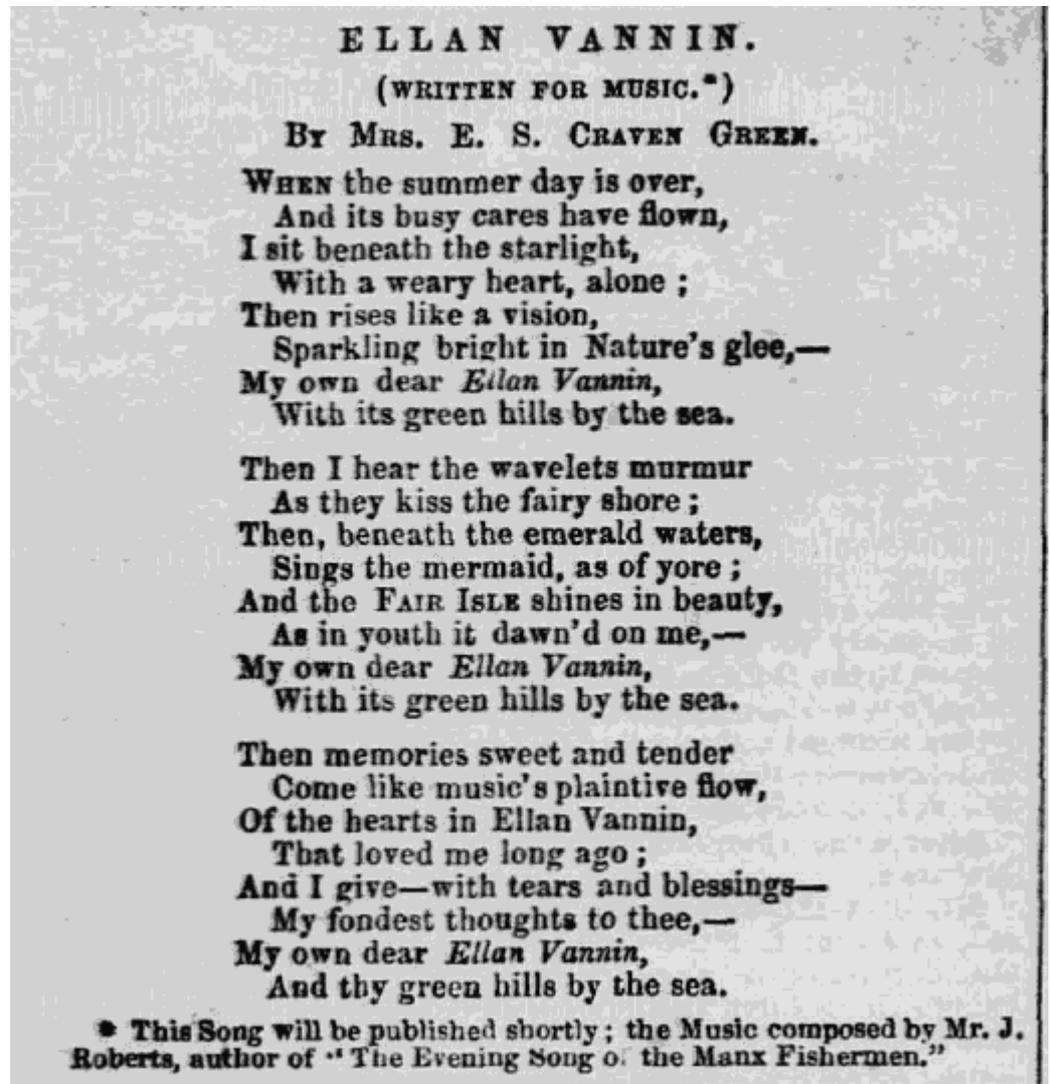
Sravanti Mazumdar recently recorded it in Bengali, and star of the musicals Sam Barks has also produced a version.

In 1997, Robin Gibb and King William’s College Choir once again elevated the song to fame as a charity single. Originally in 3/4 time signature, this version was in 4/4 with modified lyrics. The Manx-born Bee Gees are honoured with a granite statue on Douglas Promenade, where the song lyrics reminiscent of their childhood home are engraved alongside the Manx translation by John Nelson.

Many years since Eliza’s poem of love and longing for the Isle of Man, the chorus still has resonance for Manx people around the world: “My own dear Ellan Vannin, with its green hills by the sea”.

LEARN the song:

<https://www.manxmusic.com/learn/songs/ellan-vannin/>



*Hop-dy-Naa:*  
Fragments in Manx Gaelic and English  
collected from Manx oral tradition

GEORGE BRODERICK  
Universität Mannheim

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Manx Gaelic *Hop-dy-Naa*, the name given to the last day of the Celtic year (31 October) on which children are wont to go from house to house chanting a rhyme and thereby earning sweets (nowadays money), does not appear to have any Celtic etymology. The phrase *Hop-dy-Naa* forms a vocable chorus to the rhyme chanted, which seems to have given its name to the event, formally *Sauin* (Gaelic *Samhain* ‘end of summer’), *Oie Houney* /*oi*: ‘hounə/ (Gaelic *Oidhche Shamhna*) ‘the night of Souney / *Samhna*, Eng. ‘Hollantide’ / ‘Hallowe'en’. Many customs are associated with this event. Some comments:

Read the whole article by Dr George Broderick: <https://tinyurl.com/4y8ypmak>



The Manx Folk Dance Society outside the George Hotel in Castletown. This one and many others can be viewed in the Manx Dancing Phot Archive: [www.facebook.com/groups/6466813783](http://www.facebook.com/groups/6466813783)  
Ny Fennee dance team in Ramsey are collecting photos for their archive too:  
[www.facebook.com/share/p/n829EkdMzg23hij5/](http://www.facebook.com/share/p/n829EkdMzg23hij5/)

Sadly we've reached the end of the series of individual dance descriptions extracted from Dr Cinzia Yates' [Curtis] thesis, so why not read the whole thing?!

**‘...while the others did some capers’:**

the Manx Traditional Dance revival 1929 to 1960

[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)

## THE HALLELUJAH BAND (1883)

SIR,—If the Hallelujah Band is going out of existence in Castletown, surely that is no reason for showing such an evil spirit towards the ministers of prosperous churches in the town and neighbourhood. On Tuesday evening, there was a meeting held in the Town Hall, for the purpose, I presume of doing good. All went off as usual until one great gun got up, who has been pushing himself to the front of late, much to the annoyance and disgust of those who know him. Well, this orator, in the course of his address, charged a clergyman residing a little distance out of Castletown, with threatening his servants with instant dismissal if they went near the meetings of the Hallelujah Band. The impression left on the minds of the audience was, that the clergyman referred to was the respected vicar of the parish. If it is true (which is very unlikely), surely the time of the Band could be occupied better than by abusing a gentleman who has done them no harm. Anyone who knows anything of the vicar, will not believe such a statement, although it came from a person of title; and he must remember that a Castletown audience will not listen to a disparaging word said against their worthy vicar, who, by his Christian example, by his liberal spirit, and by his noble actions, has endeared himself to all his parishioners, dissenters as well as churchmen. My object in penning these lines is not to bring this under the notice of the vicar (who I should hope would not demean himself by noticing such an attack emanating from such a vile source), but rather to warn the officers of the Band against such conduct, as it brings discredit on those in command as well as on the Band as a whole. I would earnestly recommend them to put a stop once and for ever to the wind-bag of Tuesday night, and they will thereby raise themselves again in the esteem and estimation of the public, and, if not annoyed by any more abuse, greater number of people will attend the meetings. I do trust the officers of the Band will take the hint, and not put an untimely end to their usefulness in Castletown by allowing such things to occur.

AMICUS.

May 30th, 1883.

Pseud [signed as "Amicus"]. "[Letter to the Editor] The Hallelujah Band." *Isle of Man Times* 2 June 1883: [3]f.

The Hallelujah Band first appeared in the Island in 1882, and was a Temperance movement that attracted adherents in the literal hundreds judging from contemporary reports in the Insular press and is a topic for further study. It later gained a base in Ramsey in the North, where it established an Assembly Room at the Methodist New Connexion Chapel on Bowring Road. As can be seen by the letter, not all welcomed the coming of the Band and music making can divide as well as unite.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

## Manx Notes: Folkways and Language

Delve into a bank of hundreds of fascinating history articles about Manx culture by Stephen Miller RBV: <https://tinyurl.com/242dd33f>

### 2024

- [688] **'Is Manx history given sufficient prominence ...' (1907)**. *Manx Notes* 688 (2024): 1.
- [687] **'To Teach the Manx Language' (1902)**. *Manx Notes* 687 (2024): 1.
- [686] **'The last person speaking Manx solely was ...' (1904)**. *Manx Notes* 686 (2024): 1.
- [685] **'Manx Charms!' (1828)**. *Manx Notes* 685 (2024): 1.
- [684] **'Hollantide Fair' (1856)**. *Manx Notes* 684 (2024): 1.
- [683] **'Manx Superstition' (1867)**. *Manx Notes* 683 (2024): 1.
- [682] **'Superstition in the Mountain Glens of Mona' (1871)**. *Manx Notes* 682 (2024): 1–2.
- [681] **'Manx Superstitions' (1874)**. *Manx Notes* 681 (2024): 1.
- [680] **'He was bewitched ...' (1874)**. *Manx Notes* 680 (2024): 1.
- [679] **'Superstition dies hard' (1898)**. *Manx Notes* 679 (2024): 1.
- [678] **'A Visit to Peel Expressed in Verse' (1896)**. *Manx Notes* 678 (2024): 1–3.
- [677] **'A Relic of Manx Superstition' (1893)**. *Manx Notes* 677 (2024): 1.
- [676] **'Superstition in Andreas' (1890)**. *Manx Notes* 676 (2024): 1.
- [675] **'One noted for his belief in witchcraft' (1900)**. *Manx Notes* 675 (2024): 1.
- [674] **'Charms and Spells' (1900)**. *Manx Notes* 674 (2024): 1–2.
- [673] **'Some people hold that superstition is dead' (1901)**. *Manx Notes* 673 (2024): 1.
- [672] **'The "Laying" of a Ghost' (1901)**. *Manx Notes* 672 (2024): 1.
- [671] **'Some Manx Customs and Beliefs' (1902)**. *Manx Notes* 671 (2024): 1–2.
- [670] **'Sweet Kitty, my country cousin' (1903)**. *Manx Notes* 670 (2024): 1–3.
- [668] **'Ghosts' (1903)**. *Manx Notes* 668 (2024): 1.
- [668] **'Manx Sailor's Longing' (1916)**. *Manx Notes* 668 (2024): 1.
- [667] **'Iron Bedstead Country' (1958)**. *Manx Notes* 667 (2024): 1.
- [666] **'Juan Thubm Billy-yn-Clayragh Johnnie' (1927)**. *Manx Notes* 666 (2024): 1–3.

## MANX MUSIC HISTORY & RESEARCH

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

# The Organist and the Agitator

## Dr George Tootell in Germany

by Maurice Powell

A few days after the Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra's Gala Concert at the Villa Marina on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, a member of the audience and a regular listener to my Manx Radio programme 'A Little Light Music', Joan Cross, sent me an extract from a book entitled *Theatre Organ World*.<sup>\*</sup> This now rare book consists of interviews with famous theatre and cinema organists, brief biographies, reminiscences and anecdotes from of their colourful lives, and advice to young organists, and featured a fascinating article by Dr George Tootell,<sup>\*\*</sup> a well-known cinema organist and composer on the Island, about his visit to Germany in 1927 and 1928.

<sup>\*</sup> *Theatre Organ World*, edited by Jack Courtney, Theatre World Publications, 1946 (p.94, 139-41), 'Cinema Organists and their instruments "Spotted" for your information and entertainment by famous writers, artists and musicians'.

<sup>\*\*</sup> See Maurice Powell, *Dr George Tootell and A Legend of Man*, manxmusic.com February 2022.

Dr Tootell made his first appearance as a theatre organist in Germany at the Phoebus Palast, Nuremberg, in October 1927, and before an audience of 2,000 people performed 'an elaborate Fantasia on themes by Wagner and Liszt of his own composition, which caused an alarming uproar which to his relief turned out to be only excessive enthusiasm. He also played for German news reels and gave a series of Sunday recitals. He left Germany in January 1928 but returned that Spring for a five-month tour commencing in Berlin before moving on to Bratislava, Nuremberg and finally Munich.

It was in a Munich bierkeller that he experienced the strangest encounter of his tour, for as he was being served beer in what at first appeared to be 'a large glass salad bowl' the waiter whispered in his ear 'Adolf Hitler' and nodded in the direction of a nearby table occupied by a rowdy group of men. Dr Tootell surreptitiously glanced in their direction and noticed at once 'the figure with the wind-swept coiffure which afterwards became so notorious', the gross figure of (Ernst) Roehm, 'who later perished in a purge', and (Rudolf) Hess. He had experienced neither thrill nor alarm (as the waiter clearly had) and back in Nuremberg asked the theatre manager who Hitler was. 'Oh', he said, he's only an agitator – a wind bag!

Of other adventures in Bamberg where he learned 'what it cost to knock a policeman's helmet off', and in Vienna where he performed Honegger's superb 'train piece' *Pacific 231* in an arrangement for organ and piano duet, he had not the space to elaborate on. However, his verdict on the Germans he met: '... in sociability and warm-heartedness, Bavaria corresponds to Lancashire'.

**Andreas, December 2023.**

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

**HOP TU NAA is nearly upon us, and there are plenty of songs out there to learn and perform at the doors with your turnip lanterns on the 31st October.**

Here are a few of the lesser known Hop tu naa rhymes:

Hop-tu-Naa Hop-tu-Naa...  
Jinny the Witch flew over the house,  
To get a stick to lather the mouse.  
Hop-tu-Naa Hop-tu-Naa...  
Hop-tu-naa ringo, ringo.  
Hop-tu-naa. I've burnt my fingers  
Ladies and gentlemen sitting by the fire,  
And us poor creatures out in the mire.  
If you're going to give us anything, Give it us soon,  
Cos, we're going home by the light of the moon.

*Taken from Country Girl – Life on an old Manx farm with Manx Dialect by Nancy M. Mills 1998*

Hop-tu-naa- This is old Hollantide night  
Trollalaa- the moon shines fair and bright  
Hop-tu-naa- I went to the well  
Trollalaa- I drank my fill  
Hop-tu-naa- on my way back  
Trollalaa- I met a witch cat (polecat)  
Hop-tu-naa- The cat began to grin  
Trollalaa- and I began to run  
Hop-tu-naa- where did you run to?  
Trollalaa- I ran to Scotland  
Hop-tu-naa- What were you doing there?  
Trollalaa- baking bannocks & roasting collops  
If you're going to give us anything, give it us soon  
Or we'll be away by the light of the moon.

*Collected in Ramsey by Prof. John Rhÿs in 1890 - see article by Dr George Broderick*

<https://tinyurl.com/4y8ypmak>

Jinny Squinney went over the wall, to get a rod to beat the foal,  
Jinny Squinney went over the house, to get a rod to beat the mouse,  
Jinny Squinney went up to the claddagh, to get an apron full of barragh.

*Collected by the poet Rev. T. E. Brown in the 1890s*

Full list of *Transcriptions of the Month!*

[www.manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/kmj-transcriptions---manx-songs-and-tunes/](http://www.manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/kmj-transcriptions---manx-songs-and-tunes/)

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

5 Bree 'Hop tu Naa' workshop day, 10am - 4pm, Peel

5 Ceili Night, Douglas Old Friends 7pm

6 Candlelight Vigil for Gaza, 6 – 7.30pm followed by music

12 Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums 40th anniversary concert with guests Finlay McDonald & Malcolm Stitt

25 – 27 Lowender Celtic Festival, Cornwall

## LOWENDER FESTIVAL FRIDAY 25 – SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER

Lowender Celtic Festival in Redruth, Cornwall is back in 2024, with more opportunities for cultural exchange, dance and song!

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

30 Steve Knightley, Erin Arts Centre, £20 / £12 (U18)

31 Hop tu naa!– various events!

## NOVEMBER

6 – 10 Cooish Manx Language Festival

8 Joy Dunlop & Ron Jappy, with Un Chorra, Centenary Centre, Peel, 7.30pm £12.50 / £5 U16 [www.celticgathering.im](http://www.celticgathering.im)

8 Christine Collister, Children of the Sea, Erin Arts Centre, 7.30pm, £15

8 Jez Lowe, The Institute, Laxey, 7.30pm

9 Le Vent du Nord, Centenary Centre, 8pm

30 St Andrew's Day Gala Ball, Ramsey Park Hotel, 6.30pm

## DECEMBER

12-13 Manannan's Winterfest, [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com)

26 Hunt the Wren – Island-wide!

27 Cool Yule Two, Centenary Centre, Peel, 7.30pm

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

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

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

~ SESSIONS ~

**TUES** 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas  
**WED** 8.30pm Trad Session at O'Donnell's, Douglas  
**THURS** 8pm Singing session at R.A.O.B. (Buffs) Club, Ramsey  
**FRI** 8.30pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey  
**FRI** 8pm Trad session at The George Hotel, Castletown  
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiavull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary  
First **SUN** of month 1-4 Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club  
Occasional **SUN** 1-4 Trad session in The White House or Black Dog, Peel

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

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

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Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin

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

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