

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Jerree Souree & Luanistyn 2023 July & August

MANX MUSIC TODAY

The music, dance and culture festival, **Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering**, celebrates its 45th anniversary with an amazing line-up and wide range of cultural offerings for all ages and tastes!

The week-long festival will take place 24 - 30 July, and, although based at the Centenary Centre and other venues in Peel, exciting events will also be hosted in Douglas, St John's and Lezayre this year.

YN CHRUINNAGHT

celtic

GATHERING 2023



The festival organisers pride themselves on bringing some of the biggest Celtic names to the Isle of Man, and this year have secured concerts with Irish music legends Dervish, young Celtic trailblazers TRIP, Manx Gaelic singer Ruth Keggin and Scottish harpist Rachel Hair, and one of the most popular singer-songwriters on the folk scene, Karine Polwart. The festival is also delighted to invite over Cornish band Morvran with dancer Carmen Hunt, and the brilliant Cat's Claw Ceilidh Band from Wales.

Celtic music and dance fans will be very excited to check out these groups when they visit the Island, and you can get a taste of their sounds on the Yn Chruinnaght 2023 Spotify playlist.

Dancing is a major part of the festival, and as well as dazzling displays to watch throughout the week, there will be workshops and ceilis to join in with. There will be a letter 'C' fancy dress family ceili with Welsh Tympath, Cornish troyl and Manx ceili dancing, and the return of the Mega Manx Ceili in the Villa Marina, Douglas, which saw hundreds of people take to the Royal Hall ballroom floor last year.

Festival goers can also look forward to a singalong evening of shanties, Manx and Irish songs at the Oie Arraneyn (Song Night), Celtic language, music and dance workshops and displays outside the House of Manannan in Peel, and a family friendly artisan craft fair and day of free entertainment in St John's.

[above - Dervish]

In this month's edition...

- *Tynwald Day 2023*
- *Manx music and dance in Dublin*
- *Elgar and the Isle of Man*



Local talent is featured throughout the festival, including young musicians and dancers from Scran and Perree Bane Aeg, inter-generational Gaelic choir Un Chorraa, poetry from the Manx bard Michael Manning, a recital from the Mill Ensemble who will perform Charles Guard's "Manx Medley for Wind Quartet", new folk band The Skimmees, harpist Mera Royle, Gaelic groovers Clash Vooar, Skeddan Jiarg Manx dancers and Celtic guitarist Mark Lawrence.

Yn Chruinnaght is delighted to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Manx Museum with a lecture by MNH curator Katie King, and the festival has also partnered with Films in Peel to screen Oscar-nominated Irish language film, An Cailín Ciúin (The Quiet Girl).



The festival extends into Douglas throughout the working week with the 'Folk and Folk' sessions at Noa Market Hall, and, in the evenings, the White House in Peel is the place to go for lively late night sessions. Black Dog Oven in Peel has come on board as a venue for late afternoon entertainment and it is where the festival will close on Sunday 30th July with its farewell session. Likewise, the beautiful Lezayre Church and Arts Centre will play host to an acoustic concert with Ruth Keggin and Rachel Hair.

A number of businesses have also become 'Caarjyn ny Feailley' (Festival Friends) where they'll host a fringe event or provide a welcome space for impromptu live music or a 'cooish' (chat in Manx) over a coffee or pint. – There is a lot to get excited about!

The festival is grateful for the invaluable support of Culture Vannin, the Isle of Man Arts Council, Culture Ireland, Peel Town Commissioners, Digital Group, Soundcheck Charity, Malcolm Scott Dickinson Charitable Trust, Mann Social, Isle of Man Post Office, Visit Isle of Man and IFGL, plus many local businesses.

Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering tickets range from £3 for kids to £22 (available online or from Celtic Gold or Mannin Music in Peel), with a limited edition Festival Pass for all Peel events for just £60 www.celticgathering.im

and Mega Manx Ceili tickets priced £15/£5 from www.villagaiety.com

[above Karine Polwart & Dave Milligan
left Cat's Claw Ceiliidh Band]



YN CHRUINNAGHT

Celtic

GATHERING 2023

24 - 30 July | Jerrey Souree 2023
CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

CELTIC MUSIC, SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL

ISLE OF MAN

DERVISH • KARINE POLWART & DAVE MILLIGAN • TRIP
RUTH KEGGIN & RACHEL HAJR • THE MEGA MANX CEILI!
MORVRAN • CAT'S CLAW CEILIDH BAND • MERA ROYLE
PERREE BANE • SKEDDAN JIARG • CLASH VOOAR



SUPPORTED BY

Culture Vannin | IOM Arts Council | IFGL | Visit Isle of Man | Digital Group
Culture Ireland | Peel Town Commissioners | Soundcheck Charity | IOM Post Office
Malcolm Scott Dickinson Charitable Trust

[YNCHRUINNAGHT.COM](https://ynchruinnaght.com)

DOWNLOAD THE FULL PROGRAMME: <https://tinyurl.com/32swynus>

WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 22 July | Pre Chruinnaght Nautical Warm Up

3pm Fenella Car Park, Peel
Launch of SS Yn Chruinnaght in the Fenella Beach race for Peel Traditional Boat Weekend (boat building throughout the morning and the race starts 3pm)

From 12.30pm Peel Quay
60th Anniversary of the Viking longboat races! Ahoy there!

7pm The Black Dog Oven, Peel
Entertainment from duo "Tropic Slug"

Monday 24 July

1-2pm Noa Bakehouse, Market Hall, Douglas
Scottish Food and Folk session (see pg. 5)

7.30pm Centenary Centre, Peel
CONCERT - TRIP with support from Clash Vooar £15/£5 U16

9.30pm Whitehouse Pub, Peel
Late night music session

Tuesday 25 July

11am House of Manannan, Peel
Pobble Pop-up Gaeltagh - Manx conversation

11am House of Manannan, Peel (St Patrick's Suite)
Trad music masterclass with TRIP - intermediate/advanced level

12-2pm House of Manannan, Peel
Displays and Workshops (see pg. 6)

1-2pm Noa Bakehouse, Market Hall, Peel
Irish Food and Folk session (see pg. 5)

3pm Centenary Centre, Peel
Youth Trad Concert featuring Manx Folk Awards winners

7.30pm Masonic Hall, Peel
SONG NIGHT Sing along with Yn Chruinnaght! Featuring Un Chorraa, Caarjyn Cooitjagh, the Lockdown Lovelies, Mine's a Shanty, Susan & Mary, and more! £5/£3 U16

Wednesday 26 July

12-2pm House of Manannan, Peel
Displays and Workshops (see pg. 6)

1-2pm Noa Bakehouse, Market Hall, Peel
Manx & Breton Food and Folk session (see pg. 5)

5pm The Black Dog Oven, Peel
AFTERNOON TUNES Music from Tree ny Klare

7pm Masonic Hall, Peel
FAMILY CELLI Featuring Cat's Claw Ceilich Band, Morvran, the Kipperceilli Band and a dance display from Perree Bane £5/£3 U16

7.15pm Centenary Centre, Peel
FILM NIGHT 'An Cailin Ciuin/The Quiet Girl' (12) Oscar nominated Irish-language adaptation of the acclaimed story "Foster", written by Claire Keegan. In conjunction with Peel Film Night £5

8.30pm O'Donnell's Pub, Douglas
Evening session

Thursday 27 July

11am House of Manannan, Peel
Pobble Pop-up Gaeltagh (Manx conversation)

12-2pm House of Manannan, Peel
Displays and Workshops (see pg. 6)



Thursday 27 July cont'd

1-2pm Noa Bakehouse, Market Hall, Peel
Welsh Food and Folk session (see pg. 5)

5pm The Black Dog Oven, Peel
AFTERNOON TUNES Music from The Skimmees and Morvran

5pm Atholl Room, Centenary Centre, Peel
THE ANNUAL IAN O'LEARY LECTURE "MUSEUM 100: Celebrating 100 Years of the Manx Museum" with MNH curator Katie King

7.30pm Centenary Centre, Peel
CONCERT Karine Polwart and Dave Milligan with support from Mera Royle & friends £18/£5 U16

9.30pm Whitehouse Pub, Peel
Late night session

Friday 28 July

10.30am Atholl Room, Centenary Centre, Peel
Mini Musicians Ceili for under 4s

12-2pm House of Manannan, Peel
Displays and Workshops (see pg. 6)

1-2pm Noa Bakehouse, Market Hall, Peel
Cornish Food and Folk session (see pg. 5)

5pm The Black Dog Oven, Peel
AFTERNOON TUNES Music from Evel Wonder

7.30pm Villa Marina, Douglas
MEGA MANX CELLI with music and dance for all the family! Featuring the Mega Manx Ceili band, Cat's Claw Ceilich Band, Skeddán Jiarg, Perree Bane Aeg, Eilan Vannin Pipes & Drums
£15/£5 U16 Book tickets at villagaiety.com

7.30pm Lezayre Church and Arts centre, Churchtown, nr. Ramsey
CONCERT Ruth Keggan and Rachel Hair £10/£5 U16

Saturday 29 July

10am New carpark near railway line, St Johns
POBBLE WALK We'll walk to Foxdale! Come and speak with other Manx speakers in a friendly group!

11am-4pm St John's Methodist Hall, Royal Chapel Hall and Fairfield
Free music, song, poetry and dance displays and artisan craft fair. Featuring Birdies' Gaelg as Golf, face painting and much more for all the family! (see pg. 21)

7.30pm Centenary Centre, Peel
CONCERT Dervish £22/£5 U16

9.30pm Whitehouse Pub, Peel
Late night session

Sunday 30 July

3pm The Black Dog Oven, Peel
FAREWELL GIG & SESSION Featuring Peddyr & Tiffany followed by a session led by Yn Chruinnaght committee band. Bring your voices & instruments!

THE MANX TENT



- De Linguis / Lingomann - Manx Language and Culture
- The IOM Women's Institute
- IOM Family History Society
- The Rock Project
- John Dog - Manx Dialect Society
- Yn Chruinnaght / The Celtic Gathering
- Dept. of Education

Biosphere Bee Picnic

Crafts and activities

Crazy Golf

Arboretum

10am - 4pm



TYNWALD GREEN

0910-0950 Onchan Silver Band
 1010 Schools Parade
 1015 Petitioners meet at Lych Gate
 1010-1300 Tynwald Ceremony
 1330-1415 IOM Wind Orchestra
 1415-1500 Grand Manx Dance
 1630-1700 Castletown Metropolitan Band




FAIRFIELD

0900 - 1700 STALLS
 1000 - 1100 PERREE BANE & FRIENDS

Tynwald Day

2023



VIKING VILLAGE

Open 10am - 5pm



COOL Y REE



ST JOHN'S CHAPEL

1400 - 1430 The Lockdown Lovelies
 1430 - 1500 Lhon Dhoo Male Voice Choir

Kys t'ou? Laa Tinvaal
 Sonney Din!

BUNSCOILL



1000 - 1700 Mooinjer Veggey Cafe
 1000 - 1020 Un Chorraa Community Choir
 1330 - 1430 'Body Rock' Break Dancing

TYNWALD FEST MARQUEE



1000-1430 Sue Quilliam Craft Workshop
 1330-1400 'Mine's a Shanty'
 1500-1600 Gena's Dance Academy
 1600-1700 Spinnin' Vannin Workshop
 1700-2200 Face Painting & Joyful Henna
 1730-1830 The Mega Manx Band
 1830-1910 SambaMann
 1915-2015 Retrospect!
 2030-2200 Ceili Dancing with Kipperceili

There'll also be Manx music from Bree outside Culture Vannin from 1pm, followed by the Grand Manx Dance on the front Fairfield at 2.15pm... Always a spectacle to behold on Tynwald Day!

Laa Jannoo Kiaull / Make Music Day

The Isle of Man celebrated Make Music Day in a variety of ways on the 21st June. Both St Johns school children <https://vimeo.com/838334066> and the Landmark Show Choir from Deal in Kent had a go at Manx song, Hop tu naa: <https://vimeo.com/838259286> while Bree tried out a Nepalese tune called Resham Firiri, as part of the Global Folk Song Swap. Watch: <https://vimeo.com/838367185>

Peddyr Cubberley on wooden flute joined Tiffany Kerruish on low D whistle to film The Broken Hairclip & The Belvedere - tunes composed by Peddyr:

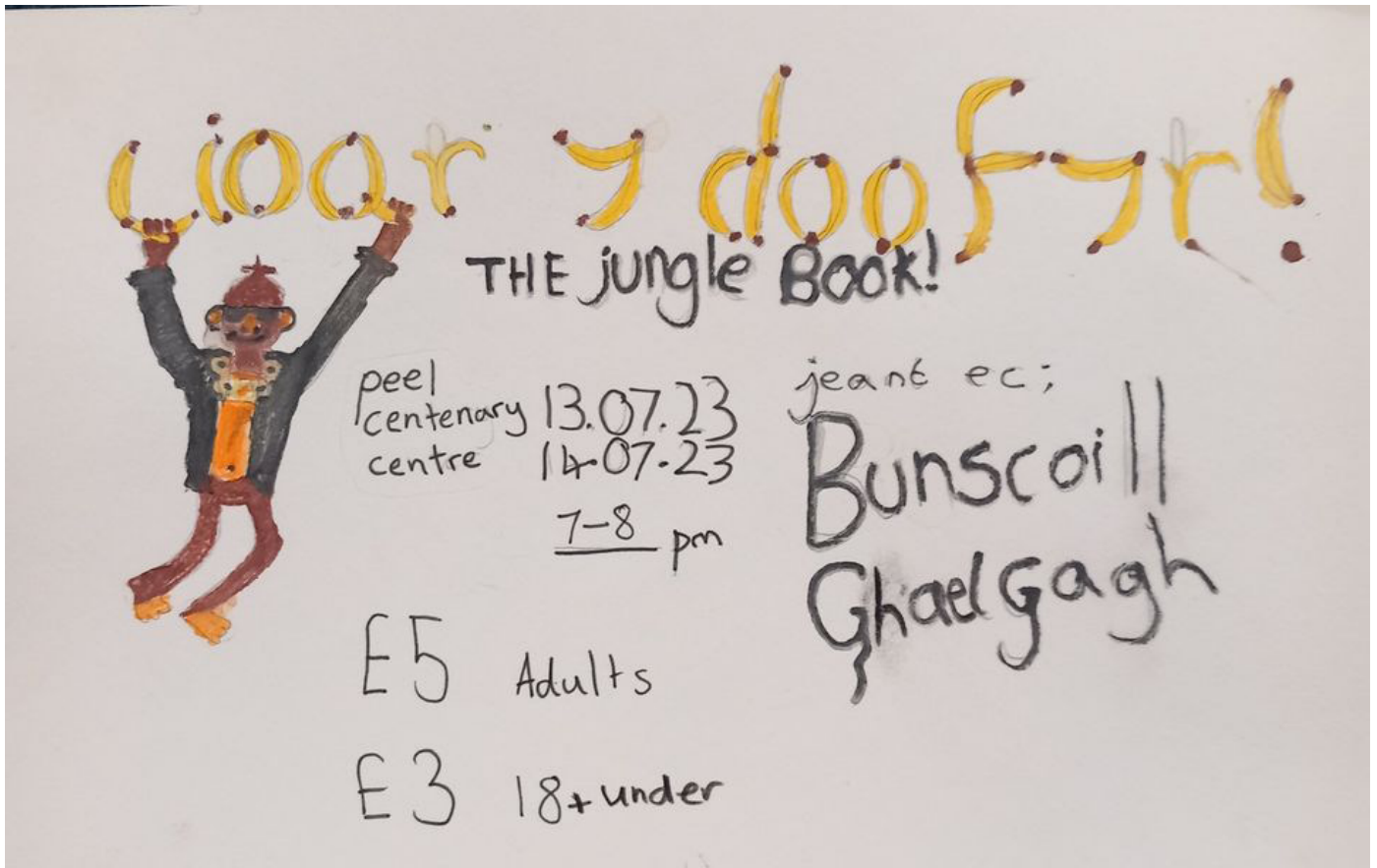
<https://fb.watch/lrZkpOpMVW/>

And Ramsey Grammar School Street and Pep Band visited their local primary school, Bunscoill Rhumsaa to entertain the younger children in a 'Proms in the Playground' performance.

SEE OVER FOR PHOTOS >>







THURSDAY, 13 JULY & FRIDAY 14 JULY 2023 FROM 19:00-20:00
Bunscuill Ghaelgagh present The Jungle Book, Peel Centenary Centre
 tickets: <https://www.centenarycentre.com/whats-on/>



PLUS you can now enjoy the film of last year's Bunscuill musical, **Shelg yn Ghrian!**

The musical play about escaping a dystopian dictatorship and the destruction of the earth, only to run-in with space pirates, rapping bugganes and a magical harp (!), is the creation of Annie Kissack and Aalin Clague. All songs are composed by Annie Kissack and Aalin Clague: <https://vimeo.com/838728689>

Audio of Shelg yn Ghrian:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/audioarchive/shleg-yn-ghrian/>

Manx National Week
 Tuesday 4th July – young Manx folk group *Share na Veg* will be performing at 10am outside the Courthouse in Ramsey



NAMA awards

The annual North American Manx Association Youth Awards 2023 will be presented on July 7th, 2023.

The winner for Manx music and dance is **Fraser McKenna**, age 13, from QEII High School.

Fraser has been dancing with Skeddan Jiarg from a young age. He also plays piano and cello with youth groups Bree and Scran, and has won numerous first prizes as a soloist with at the Manx Folk awards and the Guild. He was awarded the Manx Folk Awards Folktastic prize in 2022.

Fraser has represented the IoM internationally as a dancer too, performing in front of large audiences at various Celtic festivals including the Lorient Interceltic festival.

Here is Fraser performing My Shenn Ayr at the Manx Folk Awards earlier this year:

<https://vimeo.com/814678586>

Find out about the other winners: <https://namanx.org/7895-2>



There was a stunning performance of Isla Callister's Creeaght at the Mananan Festival in the Erin Arts Centre (27 June).
Jeant dy mie ~ Well done Isla Callister Kirsty Lawrence Katie Lawrence Annie Kissack Mera Royle Kirry Clague, Anna Garvin & artist Jo Davies.

Watch the concert filmed at Yn Chruinnaght last year:

<https://youtu.be/Wyk1G66Qyw0>

Creeaght





The Sound of Magic – 500 children from combined Isle of Man primary school choirs filled the Villa Marina in Douglas on 28th June for a concert themed around magic. Organised by Katie Lawrence and a team of fellow music teachers, and held in conjunction with the Douglas Buxton Trust, the evening featured two brand new choral compositions in Manx Gaelic by David Kilgallon: Tehi Tegi and City Under the Sea.

A vibrant poster for the Full Moon Festival. The title "FULL MOON FESTIVAL" is written in large, yellow, hand-drawn letters at the top. Below it, the dates "JUNE 30TH - JULY 2ND" and location "ROSE HILL FARM, RICHMOND HILL, DOUGLAS" are listed. The poster features a list of artists including Bushwacka!, Ninja Wrangler, Voodoo Sandits, and Persian Doormats. It also includes a list of DJ sets from various groups like Volume and Underground Sounds. The bottom of the poster contains ticket information and a website link: "BUY TICKETS - WWW.THEFULLMOONFESTIVAL.CO.UK". The entire poster is framed with a decorative border of smiley faces.

ISLE OF MAN STEAM RAILWAY



VICTORIAN HERITAGE FAYRE

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY 1ST JULY - 11.00 to 16.30

PORT ERIN STATION 11.00 - 16.30	OTHER HIGHLIGHTS
<p>FROM 11.00 WELCOME FROM RUSHEN SILVER BAND - GRAND FAYRE OPENING BY HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN LORIMER</p> <p>12.30 VICTORIAN FANCY DRESS COMPETITION</p> <p>12.45 & 13.30 FAMILY MAGICIAN AND PUPPET SHOWS</p> <p>14.00 BEST FAMILY DOG COMPETITION</p> <p>14.15 MANX TRADITIONAL DANCERS WITH 'PERREE BANE'</p> <p>15.00 & 15.45 CELTIC MUSIC FROM TALENTED FIDDLER ELIZABETH DAVIDSON-BLYTHE & DANIEL QUAYLE</p>	<p>AMAZING MODEL RAILWAY DISPLAYS INSIDE PORT ERIN RAILWAY STATION 150TH ANNIVERSARY GIN COCKTAILS WITH FYNODEREE DISTILLERY TREASURE HUNT AROUND PORT ERIN SHOPS & COLOURING COMPETITIONS PORT ERIN MUSEUM GUIDED TOURS & BOOK SIGNING WITH BARRY EDWARDS AT 11.30 3D DOME EXPERIENCE IN ASSOCIATION WITH ISLE OF MAN RAILWAYS AT PORT ERIN ARTS CENTRE HOUSE OF MANNANAN PEEL - IRON ROAD EXHIBITION - A PICTORIAL ADVENTURE INTO THE HISTORY OF STEAM BEAUTIFUL VICTORIAN CRAFTS, MEMORABILIA, FOOD STALLS & MUCH MORE...</p>

FREE ENTRY



Isle of Man **TRANSPORT**

150th Anniversary Celebrations in association with

Isle of Man Post Office, Manx National Heritage, VISIT ISLE OF MAN, Culture VANNIN

www.rail.im | 01624 662525 | /IoMTransport



truman falls
JEFF JEPSON

THE LAXEY INSTITUTE SATURDAY 22ND JULY
TICKETS £5 DOORS 730
WWW.THELAXEYINSTITUTE.IM

ISLE LISTEN

Save the date - Saturday 26th August for a Manx music & dance fundraiser for the Island's mental health charity.

www.facebook.com/IsleListen
www.islelisten.im

ERIN ARTS CENTRE presents

MANANAN FESTIVAL 2023

Monday 26th June - Saturday 1st July



RANT FIDDLE QUARTET
Powerful evocative
chamber-folk

Friday 30th June

Sad news to share with KMJ readers that Manx dancer Andy Harding passed away earlier this week.

Andy was a member of dance group Perree Bane for many years and had also been a valuable member of the Yn Chruinnaght committee.

Below is a lovely picture of Vicky Watterson and Andy dancing one of his favourites, "Chyndaa yn Bwoailley" (Return the Blow) at Tynwald Day a few years ago.

His funeral will be at 2pm on Thursday 13th July at Douglas Crematorium.

[Gura mie ayd - thanks to Carol Hayes for the photo]



Sad news as well that former Manx dancer Mark Shimmin has died recently.

Mark was a founding member of the Bock Yuan Fannee dance group, helped revive the White Boys Play in 1975 when he played the part of Little Devil Doubt, and Mark had attended Festival Interceltique de Lorient in its early years as a Manx dancer.

Obituary in IOM Newspapers:

<https://tinyurl.com/ht8797ep>



David and Tomas bring 'life and soul' to tunes

By Jackie Darbyshire

Manx traditional musicians David Kilgallon and Tomas Callister have produced an album of popular tunes as they might be heard in a session in the island.

Popular Manx Tunes Db edition features a selection of popular Manx tunes played in the Isle of Man today which were originally collected in the late 19th century.

Rather than perform to the notation of manuscripts, they focused on how each tune speaks to them, reimagining and arranging them with the artistic spirit and flare of the fiddle players of the time.

David told Island Life: 'The majority of tunes chosen were those you'd expect to hear in a session on the Isle of Man, typically played after celebrations like Hunt The Wren, Tynwald or Illiam Dhone Day.

'Others have been taken for their beauty and links to Manx songs or Carvals - biblical songs - and a few have been taken straight from the collectors manuscripts.'

The album also features Adam Rhodes and Adam Brown on bouzouki and bodhran.

The artwork was by Isla Callister.

Explaining their interpretation of the music, David said: 'Tom and I have been constantly refining these tunes for 15-20 years now and find there are definitely ways of presenting them in ways that speak.

'We wanted to focus on the emotion each tune holds, taking into consideration that historically, fiddle players would have been paid to bring the life and soul to Manx gatherings through music, so I like to think they certainly resonate well with those musicians who would originally have performed them.'

Asked how widely heard the tunes were when they were originally collected, David said: 'Some Manx tunes and songs have been linked with places all over the British Isles, and certainly when comparing styles of tune, I've made comparisons as far as Brittany and Norway.

'Given the geographical positioning of the Isle of Man as well as historical trade routes, I like to think that our Manx music fell upon ears from travellers afar, perhaps exchanged upon visits with other musicians but certainly migrated along with families to further parts of the whole world.'

The album, with support from Culture Vannin, was released on CD on Monday (June 12) and is available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey, Manx National Heritage shops and Mannin Music in Peel.

The full digital album release takes place on July 5. You can pre-order it now at

<https://davidkilgallon.bandcamp.com/album/popular-manx-tunes-d-edition>

You get two tracks now, streaming via the free Bandcamp app and also available as a high-quality download.

Read original article from Isle of Man Newspapers: <https://tinyurl.com/yr79ecnd>



Gem of God's Earth



Tim Price

Dramatic coastlines and tranquil woodland; panoramic mountain top views and wildflower meadows; sunsets, stars, and even glimpses of the northern lights; all these are featured alongside expressive orchestral music in a film of the Island that will be shown during Manx National Week.

Gem of God's Earth is a 7 movement orchestral suite inspired by the Island's diverse range of natural features. The piece is made up of nearly an hour of original music, composed by local composer Tim Price.

The composition and

release of this music in 2020 was originally supported by the Isle of Man Arts Council's Covid-19 Resilience Fund. Part of the release included an online concert film, which placed the music alongside photos and videos of the areas and features that inspired it. In creating this, Tim collaborated with his sister, Rachel Price, who is a local photographer. The result is a musical and visual tour of the Island, giving listeners a truly cinematic experience.

Speaking about his music, Tim said, "As a composer, I have often found inspiration in the Manx landscape. The places and features I have chosen for the 7 movements represent some of the natural variety that is packed into this small Island. I've tried to use a rich instrumental and harmonic palette to create a piece that depicts something of the beauty, diversity, and atmosphere of these natural features."

The piece takes listeners on a journey around the Island, visiting The Ayres, Ballaglass, Langness, The Curraghs, The Chasms, and Cronk-ny-Arrey-Laa, as well as looking at the Dark Skies. Each movement is also introduced with a short explanation, giving insights into the music and pointing out things to listen for.

"The film proved very popular at the time of its release, both with local listeners and with Manx people around the world. Three years later, I felt that this would be a good time to give people another chance to see the film in full."

The event will take place at Ramsey IM Church in Chapel Lane, Ramsey on Monday 3rd July at 7:30pm. Tickets (available at the door) will be £10 and include locally made refreshments served after the film.

• • • • •
• **Soundcloud & Youtube** •
• **corner** •

• Harry's Tune-a-Day Challenge •
• 2019 - Day 64 - Manx tune: •
• Car Y Phoosee •

• <https://youtu.be/L2r-uC04bxU> •
• • • • •

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Festival Interceltique DE LORIENT

It's the Year of Ireland at the 2023 Festival Interceltique de Lorient and there will be a huge Manx presence there with over 50 performers invited to Brittany to showcase Manx music and dance in front of 800,00 festival goers!



Skeddan Jiarg: www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1459

Isla Callister's Creeaght: www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1383

Mec Lir: www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1378

Ruth Keggins: www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1347

Ruth Keggins & Rachel Hair: www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1323

Boghnid: www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1468

Ruby Biskoe-Taylor: www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1466

FULL DETAILS: www.festival-interceltique.bzh

Celtic Colours International Festival 6-14 October 2023

Manx Gaelic singer Ruth Keggins and Scottish harpist Rachel Hair will take Manx songs and music to the Celtic Colours in Nova Scotia.

<https://celtic-colours.com/artists/ruth-keggins-rachel-hair/>

BBC Radio Scotland's Travelling Folk show presented by Anna Massie was live from the Isle of Man this week.

In this episode, Anna plays lots of Manx music and chats to Manx Gaelic singer and Manx Development Officer for Culture Vannin, Ruth Keggins and to Isla Callister about her Creeaght project: www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001n7sq

Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quayle

TWO EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE MANX DUO IN SCOTLAND



July brings two exciting opportunities for Scottish audiences to enjoy invigorating live performances by critically acclaimed Manx trad duo, *Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quayle*. This will be their second trip to Scotland this year, after a performance at the Niel Gow Festival in Dunkeld & Birnam in April.

Their debut album, *The Coast Road*, with music from the Isle of Man, Ireland, Scotland and Estonia has been described as “a hell of an album” by FolkWales Online Magazine and “guaranteed to warm the absolute chilliest of cockles” by R’n’R Magazine.

Of the performance on 7th July at the Newton Stewart & Minnigaff Traditional Music Festival, Elizabeth says “We’re thrilled to be performing alongside incredible acts such as Ciaran Ryan Band and Flook. We’re particularly pleased to see Manx music so well represented at the festival, with the brilliant Isla Callister flying the Manx flag with HEISK.” Daniel says “It will be fantastic to perform at the Wee Folk Club in Edinburgh on 9th July, as it takes place in the very place we first met and played music together, The Royal Oak.”

Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quayle will be performing at the Newton Stewart and Minnigaff Traditional Music Festival on 7th July 2023, and at the Wee Folk Club in Edinburgh on 9th July 2023.

For interviews, hi-res photos and music for review, please contact Daniel at eadbq@gmail.com

Daniel and Elizabeth will also be representing the Isle of Man at this year’s LOWENDER festival in Redruth, Cornwall 25 - 29 October

www.lowender.co.uk/festival/performers/

www.lowender.co.uk/festival/programme-2023/



Raidio Failte visit the Isle of Man

As well as enjoying a 'kiaull as gaelg' session at the Albert in Port St Mary [see above], the **Raidio Failte** crew aired live from Culture Vannin on Saturday 24th June, with interviews conducted through Manx and Irish:

<https://tinyurl.com/4kfvee6u>

Perree Bane will be taking Manx dance to Ulverston next week for the 25th Furness Tradition Festival
<https://furnesstradition.org.uk/>

Rachel Hair and Ron Jappy feature in the August 2023 *Irish Music Magazine*. Rachel tells readers about their recent adventures in Japan and speaks about teaching harp each month in the Isle of Man:

"The Isle of Man music scene is flourishing now. There are lots of excellent young players, and there are good sessions, Manx music is coming to the fore. Many of my students go off the island to university. I'm delighted that when they return home, they are still keen to continue with their traditional music."

www.irishmusicmagazine.com

Manx music & Dance in Dublin

by Chloe Woolley

There was plenty of Manx music, song & dance in Dublin last weekend!! Jo Callister and I led workshops for the wonderfully international Balfolk group (members all live in Dublin but hail from Brazil, Hungary, India, the Basque country, Russia, Sicily, Galicia, Italy, Brittany, Belarus, Chile & Ireland!), we performed at the Stoneybatter Festival, taught Gaelic songs to students at the Gaelscoil Bharra, shared tunes, songs & dances at an Irish-Manx Ceilí in Cabra and had a tour of the Irish Traditional Music Archive.

We received such a warm welcome everywhere we went and hopefully we've enticed lots of musicians and dancers to come and visit the Isle of Man! *See over for photos >>*



RESEARCH NEWS

“NOT MANX BUT IRISH”—SLEIH GYN THIE AND THE FATHABY JIG

To the Secretary, Manx Music Festival:

I have learnt with surprise, and some resentment that the Sleih gyn Thie team of Manx dancers was disqualified at your recent festival on the grounds that their performance of the Manx dance The Fathaby Jig, and especially the basic step, was not Manx but Irish, and I am glad to be able to support their justifiable protest, not against their placing, which is, of course, at the discretion of the adjudicator appointed by your committee, but against the grounds of the disqualification.

As you may know, I have been the only serious collector of the Manx dances since the 1920's, and my work in connection with them has been approved and supported by both the English Folk Dance Society and the International Folk Music Council. I was also the first person to teach Mr. Leighton Stowell and his team of children at the Albert Road School, Ramsey for their first demonstration of the revived dances, taken from my notation of traditional dancers and some dance notes made by my great-grandfather, Philip Quayle of Glen trammon, which had come into my hands from the family. As a result of this demonstration, one of the dances was shown as a special item in the All England Festival at the Royal Albert Hall, London the following January.

Later, in connection with the Festival of Mann, the Manx Folk Dance Society was formed, at first with the object of bringing the Manx dances back into more general use, though it later made more use of English folk dances. Five of the dances were published by Stainer & Bell of London with piano arrangements by Arnold Foster, followed later by a further collection of seven. Many of the Manx dances, however, remained in MS, and some of them have been revived by various teams.

The Fathaby Jig was a popular dance in the 19th century and is so referred to be the poet T.E. Brown in one of his letters, and it was noted and taught by me in the 1920's. I enclose a copy of the original notation bearing the names of the persons from whom it was noted. Mrs. Bridson was the mother of the then Glen Meay blacksmith and lived on the Glen Rushen road, and the notation of her demonstration of the step with me was made in the presence of Mr. W. Walter Gill, himself a folk lore collector and author of the Manx Scrap Books, who then lived at Dalby.

I have supervised and coached personally the dancing of the team disqualified by your adjudicator, and I feel that their style of dancing is much closer to that of Manx traditional dancing than is that of much taught more formally today.

Mona Douglas

*

Whilst undated, one cannot be but taken by the irony here that the Fathaby Jig, a dance both collected and taught by Mona Douglas, is rejected at the Manx Music Festival as being “not Manx but Irish.” Douglas writes here of collecting the dance in the 1920s, with the added detail of the presence of Walter William Gill when doing so. She writes too of teaching it in that decade though a later letter from 1935 casts doubt on this:

However, I hope to get on with some “home-work” soon again, and meanwhile I have not been absolutely idle about dances, for I have kept up my own small Wednesday group (the only thing outside work that I am doing at present, but they would have fallen to bits without me), and we have gone ahead with the Fathaby Jig, which I started with Mr. Stowell last spring and then found it impossible to work up to demonstration standard in time for the Liverpool lecture. When I get back to Ramsey it will be much easier to teach for the work I am putting into it now. I don't think I sent you the notation, but will try to do so soon it is rather complicated, and I am not sure that I have got it down very clearly.

Stephen Miller RBV

efdss Library Conference: Call for Papers: Folk dance: grappling with tradition

The 2023 Vaughan Williams Memorial Library Conference, Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 November
Papers can be given in-person at Cecil Sharp House, London, or remotely.

We seek proposals on any form of folk dance relating to the theme of revival, reproduction, reimagination, re-creation, reformation, refashioning and/or reconstruction.

Proposals should be no more than 300 words long, and if selected, resulting papers will last c.20 minutes followed by c.10 minutes of questions.

Please email proposals to Tiffany Hore, Library and Archives Director, at tiffany@efdss.org, by 5pm BST on Friday 28 July.

www.efdss.org/about-us/what-we-do/news/12592-library-conference-call-for-papers

“REALLY, I AM THOROUGHLY TIRED OF THE WHOLE BUSINESS”

MONA DOUGLAS WRITES TO ARNOLD FOSTER (1936)

Thie-ny-Garee, | Laxey, | Isle of Man.

5th September, 1936.

Dear Arnold,

Annie Caine was in the library on Wednesday, and gave me your message about the dance volume but I'm afraid I am still feeling very unsatisfied about the whole thing! The letter that Mr. Howard sent me seemed to me rather evasive on the main issue, so on June 25th I wrote him a letter of which the enclosure is a copy. He has not replied, so I take it that he cannot, or does not wish to, give the required permission for my suggested "notice" to be printed on the volumes.

Really, I am thoroughly tired of the whole business, and if you agree I should like now to vest my collector's copyright in the E.F.D.S. and Manx Museum jointly, and let them make their own arrangements for publication, with the proviso that your arrangements should be used and an adequate royalty paid you. This ought to give you the same security that you would have under the ordinary agreement with Stainer & Bell; it would mean that final control of the copyright would not pass entirely out of the Island, as it would if I were to vest the rights in the E.F.D.S. alone; and although I know I should get nothing at all, I think this would be preferable to continuing the P.R. discussion and postponing publication until the dances have been forgotten again, or, alternatively, having no security as to their complete freedom for dancers in the future. As to Stainer & Bell, while I should like to consider them as far as possible, I feel that their failure to answer my last letter and give the required assurance does rather set me free from any further real obligation to them.

Let me know if you will agree to this course, and when I hear from you I will do what may be necessary to put it into operation. I have already sounded the Curator of the Manx Museum, and he is quite willing to co-operate with us, but does not wish to have the dances tied up to any particular publisher. I think Kennedy would probably take the same attitude, though he has not actually said so.

I hoped that Paddy would have been over last month to get on with the rest of the notations, but have not heard from her since I was out in March. Have you seen her? Perhaps I ought to have written, but I've been fearfully busy.

Love to Bobbie, and all the best to yourself.

*

Collecting and recording dances was one thing, teaching and performing them another. And then to be added to the mix was the issue of the copyright of those arrangements over which many a letter was written.

Stephen Miller RBV

MUSICAL EDUCATION.

MR. AKERS, Professor of Music, from London, returns Thanks for the distinguished Patronage he has been honoured with, by the Gentry and Inhabitants of this Island, during his short residence among them; a continuance of that support will ever be his study to merit. Mr. A. assures his friends that it is not his intention of introducing into his System of Teaching any innovation contrary to the practice of the first masters in London. Days of attendance, in Douglas, (independent of those devoted to the Misses Dutton's establishment), Mondays and Thursday; Castletown, the Wednesdays; Peel, on the Saturdays.

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Douglas Town Band origins and early years

by Maurice Powell

This is the first in an occasional series about the origins and early years of the Island's brass bands, for my frequent dips into the local newspapers during the nineteenth century have revealed additional, perhaps new, information about their earliest years. However, until Douglas Town Band was established the newspapers are delightfully vague about precisely which Douglas band was playing at a particular event; furthermore, the names of local bands were interchangeable.

The first recorded reference to a 'Douglas Band of Music' occurs in the *Mona's Herald*, 19th March 1839, when the band led a procession from the shipyard, where they 'struck up a lively tune', to the Wellington Hall, and thereafter entertained the carpenters, joiners, sailmakers, riggers, smiths and labourers during a dinner provided by Mr James Aitken Esq., of Liverpool.

On 21st May 1846 'Mr Creer's Douglas Band' led the march of the Castletown Artificer's Society from the Green to St. Mary's Chapel for a service, after which they paraded through the streets to Government House and were addressed by the Governor, before re-joining the parade and forming a circle whilst the band 'discoursed several beautiful airs'. There are no further references to Mr Creer's Band after 1846; thereafter the name Douglas Band was used whenever a band played in the town. In May 1849 the band led the 'magnificent procession' of the Ancient Order of Rechabites through the streets of Castletown and thence to the home of Captain Woods at Balladoole where they played 'some very sweet airs' and were presented with a one-pound note. Between June 14th - 18th 1859, Douglas Band was engaged to play on the Pier Head in the afternoons between 2.30 and 5.30, and at other times at various places around the town to entertain the visitors.

Douglas Town Band

Douglas Town Band as we know it today came into existence as a result of the change of fortunes of the 1st Isle of Man Rifle Volunteer Band, variously known as the Douglas Rifle Volunteer Band or the Rifle Corps Band,* the Douglas Volunteer Band and the Douglas Band. The *Isle of Man Times*, 1st January 1884 contains a brief report of a New Year's Day Promenade Concert and Fireworks Display with music provided by Douglas Band, 'late of the Isle of Man Volunteers' which suggests that the two bands were one and the same. The highly regarded musician and conductor F. C. Poulter** became bandmaster that year, and by May had reorganised the band to the extent that it was 'much admired' at a Volunteer Corps parade. The following year the band advertised for engagements in the local newspapers, and in May 1885 F. C. Poulter petitioned the Douglas Commissioners for permission to play on the promenade during the summer season.

* This band is first mentioned in the local newspapers when it appeared at a Rechabite Anniversary gathering in Ramsey in July 1860. The bandmaster in 1881 was a Mr Proctor. The last reference to the band was in the *Isle of Man Examiner*, 06.05.1899 when the band appeared at a charity cycle parade.

** See Maurice Powell: Frederick 'Pa' Poulter, manxmusic.com.

The first report that specifically mentions Douglas Town Band under that name occurs in the *Isle of Man Times* on Saturday 14th November 1885, when it provided the music at the Orange Lodge (Pride of Douglas, 163) tea party and ball at Buck's Road Skating Rink the previous Monday, when there was 'a large attendance'. In January 1886 the 'temporary break up' of Douglas Band was alluded to in an address given at the St Barnabas Church Parochial Tea; it seems likely that the band in question was the Douglas Volunteer Band and that some members wished to form another band.

This is confirmed when we next hear of the band, in the Manx Sun on November 19th 1887, in a report of a meeting of Douglas Town Commissioners during which a letter dated 15th November to the Commissioners from Mr T. Gale representing members of the 'disbanded Douglas Volunteer Band' was read out proposing that the band could be formed into a new band, and asking permission to call themselves Douglas Town Band. Mr Gale also asked whether the Commissioners could assist in promoting a fund for the purchase of new instruments. A 'ludicrous' motion from Mr. R. Kelly that the letter be referred to the Paving and Sewering Committee was met with laughter and 'negatived' by nine votes to six; a second motion, that the letter be referred to the Musical Committee, also failed to attract any support simply because there was no such committee.

A little more information may be found in the Mona's Herald of 23rd November 1887 when Mr Gale's letter was published in full. He states that 'I have been requested by a number of persons (who have until recently been connected with the band of the 1st Isle of Man Rifle Volunteers, and now forming a brass band in the town) to ask your permission to adopt the name of the Douglas Town Band'. Mr Gale hoped that the new band would give 'one or two concerts in the open air every week when the length of the day will permit'. Eventually, and amidst a good deal of merriment, and several frivolous exchanges between members of the Commissioners, a final motion, that the new band be allowed to use the name 'Douglas Town Band', was adopted, even though 'the band could use the name without our sanction if they liked'. Unsurprisingly, the Commissioners decided that 'under the Act' it could not assist in the purchase of musical instruments.

New instruments

On Monday 10th December the Isle of Man Times reported that on Monday 5th an order for band instruments for the new Douglas Town Band had been placed with Messrs G. Thornley & Son, Stationers of Finch Road, with delivery to the island expected on Monday's boat (the 12th), after which the instruments would be exhibited in the windows of Mr S. Webb, the Lounge and Louvre, Strand Street,* and Messrs Thornley & Son. During the afternoon of Saturday 17th December 1887, the band would display their new instruments during a short parade through the town, weather permitting. On Christmas morning the band conducted by G. Thornley 'discoursed festive music' at various places around the town.

* Webb's Lounge and Louvre, 18-20 Strand Street, Douglas, provided refreshments, galleries with daily newspapers and periodicals, a writing gallery with free writing materials and papers for guests and an orchestra that played operatic and other selections throughout the day.

On Monday 2nd January 1888 the band was engaged to provide music for dancing at the annual Oddfellows Ball at the Skating Rink, and 'will undoubtedly give every satisfaction to lovers of Terpsichore'. The last major engagement that year was in October at the annual Victoria College Sports Day at the Falcon Cliff Grounds, and for once we can identify some of the pieces they entertained the crowd with during the event: the march *Sympathie* (R. Smith); a waltz, a galop, a ballad, a schottische, a glee, another march, (The) Merry Minstrel, a fantasia entitled (The) Queen's Pride, and a finale, God Save the Queen. On 14th November 1898 the band participated in the Manx Band Association's brass band contest held at the Palace Ballroom.

Douglas Town Band continues to flourish today as the oldest Manx brass band in continuous existence.

Andreas, June 2023

Discover all of the *Transcriptions of the Month* songs & tunes here:
www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_467456.html

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

2. The Leighton Stowell Book of Manx Dances

- 2.5 Yn Billey Keirn (The Rowan Tree)

Stowell was evidently interested and aware of much Manx folklore. Within his papers is a lecture, one of a series of at least 17, on the folklore surrounding the rowan tree. Inspired by this tree associated with the cross at Calvary and many Manx superstitions, Stowell again wrote an eight-verse poem about the tree. As with *Gathering in the Barley*, Stowell then wrote a tune based upon the poem and a dance based on the tune, this time for six. He had purposely tried to compose a dance different to others and so added in step dancing and reels of three. In 1972 the dance was performed to a *purt y beayll* sung by a choir of twelve girls, the first time a choir was used for this purpose. The dance should be performed near a branch of the rowan tree, in keeping with the traditions outlined in Stowell's lecture. (MNHL 09683, MNHL 09545 Box 14 & Stowell: 1981)

It is worth noting that the tune given for the dance in *Leighton Stowell Book of Manx Dances* is not the tune most commonly used in modern performances. The tune now commonly referred to by many musicians as *Billey Keirn* is actually that written for *Gathering in the Barley*, but with the A tune and B tune swapped.

READ THE FULL THESIS:

www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf

'Elgar and the Isle of Man'.

By Maurice Powell

I was delighted to be invited to give a talk to the Elgar Society (Yorkshire and North East) at the Bar Convent in York on Saturday 24th June on the subject of 'Elgar and the Isle of Man'. Thirty members attended, including some eminent Elgarians, and I was particularly pleased to renew my friendship with Philip Scowcroft, the doyen of writers on British Light Music, and to meet Prof Julian Rushton, the Cambridge musicologist whose study of Elgar's 'Enigma Variations' (1999) I have in my library.

I need not repeat the details of my talk here, as my research into Elgar's connection with the Island appeared in *KMJ* in May 2022, and can read in full in manxmusic.com. The members were kind enough to say how much they enjoyed my excursion into the composer's brief – and little known - visit to Douglas in 1914, and appreciated my informal style – not short on facts and figures – but delivered (I hope) with a light touch. I was especially pleased to have the opportunity to introduce the members to the story of the Manx Music Festival, the importance of the tourist industry to the Island, the Sunday Sacred Concerts and Clara Butt singing 'Land of Hope and Glory' in September 1902, the Celtic revival at that time, and even a brief mention of 'spuds and herring!'

I was able to introduce some music into the talk and the members were pleased to hear an extract from 'The Banner of St. George' (performed at the Festival Concert with the composer conducting Harry Wood's Palace Grand Orchestra), four Elgar songs arranged for orchestra by Haydn Wood, which no member had heard before, and to finish with Haydn Wood's 'Manx Rhapsody' as an example of the kind of work Elgar would not have approved of. In his remarks at the Festival's conclusion he told the audience that traditional Manx music (indeed, all 'folk' music) amounted to very little, and although it was acceptable by the hearth at home, was unsuitable for the wider concert hall. Tsk! Tsk! Sir Edward. We beg to differ.

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

see www.manxmusic.com for more printable pieces of Manx music

Aalin Clague is a prolific songwriter and she has composed dozens of songs for her students at the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, for her community choir Un Chorraa and with her band Clash Vooar. Aalin will be leading a workshop at Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering. Here is one of her songs written for the Bunscoill - a fenoderee is a shy, hairy creature found in the Isle of Man who often helps out on the farm! Listen to Cristl and Catherine sing it here: <https://vimeo.com/250786979>

Fenoderee

A Clague

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh

A

Fe - no - de - ree Fe - no - de - ree, T'eh ny ob - bree mie

3 T'eh ny ghoin - ney gas - tey gas - key - dagh as feie. Cha

5 mie lesh ead - dagh T'eh red beg Fai - tagh, agh

7 choud's ta yiarn ayns e laue eisht t'eh jan - noo ob - byr braew.

B

9 Gia - rey ny lus - syn gia - rey ny blaagh - yn

11 scris - sey yn lhean - nee, as stam - pey lesh e voyn.

A. Fenoderee, Fenoderee, T'eh ny obree mie
T'eh ny ghoinney gastei, gaskeydagh as feie
Cha mie lesh eaddagh, t'eh red beg faitagh
Agh choud's ta yiarn ayns e laue, eisht t'eh
jannoo obbyr braew.

B. Giarey ny lussyn, giarey ny blaaghyn
Scrissey yn lheannee, as stampey lesh e
voyn

Fenoderee, Fenoderee, he's a good worker

He's nimble, hasty and wild

He doesn't like clothes, he's rather shy

But while there's a scythe in his hand, then he's doing good work.

Cutting the plants, cutting the flowers

Clearing the meadow, and stamping it underfoot

v. 1 Sing A tune in unison, then B tune repeated [singers could stamp their feet ♪♪ on words *stampey lesh*].

v. 2 Divide choir to sing A whilst other sing B repeated

v. 3 Own choice!

CALENDAR

JULY

30 June – 2 July Full Moon Festival with Clash Vooar, Scran, Tree ny Kiare and loads of Manx acts

2 Trad music session, Laxey Sailing Club
1-4pm

3 Gem of God's Earth film and music by Tim Price, Ramsey IM Church, 7.30pm £10

4 Share na Veg perform outside Ramsey Courthouse, 10am

5 Tynwald Day

7 Daniel & Elizabeth and Heisk perform at Newton Stewart & Minnigaff Trad Music Festival

9 Daniel & Elizabeth perform at the Wee Folk Club, Edinburgh

13 – 14 The Jungle Book / Liooar y Doofyr, Centenary Centre, Peel, 7pm, £5/£3

24 – 30 Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering
www.ynchruinnaght.com

AUGUST

4 – 13 Festival Interceltique de Lorient

6 Peel Carnival



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~ 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 Colby Glen
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
First **SUN** of month 1-4 Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club
Third **SUN** of month 1-4 Trad session in The Mitre, Kirk Michael

Stay up to date: 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