



# OIE VOALDYN

[Oievoaldyn.com](http://Oievoaldyn.com)

MANX MAY DAY AND EVENING FIRE FESTIVAL  
**SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2026**

#oievoaldyn  /oievoaldyn

# Securing the benefits of offshore wind for the Isle of Man

At a time when energy security and economic resilience are firmly at the top of the agenda, our proposals for the first offshore wind farm in the Isle of Man's territorial waters have the potential to be a catalyst to drive long-term prosperity and sustainability for the Island.

Offshore wind is a proven, reliable technology that can deliver large-scale, low-carbon electricity while maintaining harmony with the marine environment and local industries.

The Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm has the potential to

- Deliver operational lifetime financial benefits to the Island in the region of £2 billion
- Provide £22.5 million from a Community Investment Fund that would provide financial support directly to community organisations and initiatives
- Support the Island's energy security goals
- Create Isle of Man-based jobs, with an on-Island Operations & Maintenance base
- Support the Island's UNESCO Biosphere status, climate change and sustainable finance goals

In the UK, Europe and around the world offshore wind is a practical, reliable, source of electricity generation. That's why we see Moir Vannin as a unique opportunity to be the first step toward a greener, more secure future for the Isle of Man.

# FAILLT ERRIW DYS OIE VOALDYN 2026 VOISH YN SKIMMEE

## A WARM WELCOME TO THE OIE VOALDYN MANX MAY FIRE FESTIVAL 2026



This year marks the fifth Oie Voaldyn Manx May Fire Festival. Since growing from the seed of an idea in 2018 (with a few hiccups along the way!), the festival has continued to flourish, welcoming visitors from across the Island and an increasing number of international guests.

The Oie Voaldyn Festival would not be possible without the generous support of our headline sponsor, Ørsted, alongside funding from Eric Wright Water, Peel Town Commissioners, the Domestic Event Fund, Culture Vannin, Biosphere Isle of Man and PWC. We extend our sincere thanks to all our supporters.



Credit: Simon Park

### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADLINE SPONSOR

Failt!

Ørsted is very proud to be a key sponsor for this year's Oie Voaldyn Manx May Fire Festival.

For us, this partnership is about a commitment to the local community and the long-term preservation of Manx culture and heritage. We're really pleased to support this year's Oie Voaldyn festival which is a great celebration of the Island's culture, community, and creativity. Events like this bring people together, and it's important to us that we play a positive role in the local community and make a genuine contribution."

We've been working with the amazing organising team behind the festival to help create a sustainable future for the festival by protecting the Island's natural environment and preserving its cultural heritage for future generations.

On behalf of Ørsted and the Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm project team, I hope you enjoy the festival this year, and in years to come.

Gura mie eu

**Jamie Baldwin, Project Director for Ørsted's Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm**



Peel Town Commissioners are delighted to be supporting Oie Voaldyn once more. It's wonderful to see this festival involving so many from our local community, with plenty for everyone to enjoy throughout the town over the weekend. We're certain that everyone will enjoy the thrilling spectacle, whether they're participating in the show or parades, or watching (safely!) from behind the barriers. Let's hope Summer wins the battle!



Culture Vannin is proud to support Isle of Man Folk and Fire Festival in celebrating Oie Voaldyn, Manx May traditions. We are always delighted to see this festival embracing Gaelg, the unique language of our Island, and never more so than in 2026, for Blein ny Gaelgey - Year of the Manx Language. Manx is for everyone: speakers, those who don't know any Manx yet, people who call the Isle of Man home, and visitors to our shores alike. We encourage you to join in and be part of this fun and accessible Year. Gow aynr - get involved!

[www.yearofmanx.im](http://www.yearofmanx.im) | [www.culturevannin.im](http://www.culturevannin.im)

Cover photo: Steve Corran



**ART**  
**ADVENTURES**  
*For Beginners*

14 February - 7 June 2026

9.30am - 4.30pm, House of Manannan, Peel

Explore colour, shape, and imagination together in this fun family exhibition of modern and contemporary art from the Isle of Man Arts Council Loan Collection.

## A BIT OF BACKGROUND...

The Oie Voaldyn festival is based on an old Manx tradition and reflects the Island's unique cultural heritage with a fusion of past, present and future.

This evening's story takes its inspiration from descriptions of mock battles which took place between Summer and Winter in the Island's ancient capital of Castletown. A similar mock battle and ceremony to drive out the Winter and welcome the Summer was first described in 1555 by Olaus Magnus. The custom in the Isle of Man is thought to be a remnant from the time when we were under Scandinavian rule.

Oie Voaldyn (May Eve) was believed to have been a time when the veil between worlds was at its thinnest and when people and animals were vulnerable to the

influence of malevolent forces - therefore we mortals needed extra protection:

- Yellow flowers were strewn across thresholds and over doorways.
- On the hills gorse fires were lit, horns blown and drums beaten to drive away and scare off the witches and malevolent spirits.
- The cattle and livestock were driven through the smoke of the fires to cleanse and protect them.
- Crosses made from the broken twigs of the Cuirn tree (Rowan) were bound with sheep's wool. The crosses were put over the doorways of homes and barns, attached to the tails of cattle and hidden on fishing boats.

For more information about Manx customs and folklore visit [www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/](http://www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/)





# Peel Beach Kiosk

*Isle of Man*



**Open  
9am  
daily**

**We serve hot & cold food, freshly made Lavazza coffee, hot chocolate & tea, cold drinks, ice cream, homemade cakes and brownies, and all with a beautiful view!**

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# JOIN IN!

## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED TODAY...

If you would like to join in the parade, torches can be purchased for those aged 18 and over at the Oie Voaldyn merchandising and information stall up to 8.30pm.



You will need to pick your side - choose if you want to support the Ben Rein y Touree (Summer Queen) or Ben Rein Y Gheuree (Winter Queen). Summer strollers will start their journey from Peel Hill, winter wanderers will set off from the old Creg Malin.



Or you can just watch and listen to the story unfold on the shoreline and cheer on your chosen champion as they battle it out.



## THERE'S LOTS OF OTHER THINGS HAPPENING DURING THE DAY...

- ◆ Just chill with the live music
- ◆ Pick your side and get your face painted
- ◆ Make a summery headdress to wear
- ◆ Say hello to the folklore folk
- ◆ Learn the Shee Eriu song for a sing-along later
- ◆ Have a go at poi spinning
- ◆ Make a crosh cuirn to hang above your door to bring good wishes to your household throughout the coming year



See page 10 & 11 for a full timetable of events.

# Moor Vannin

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more than  
green energy –  
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impacts



For further information,  
please visit [www.orsted.im](http://www.orsted.im)

# WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN

- 2pm - 9pm**     **Live music on the Culture Vannin stage**
- Please see the board by the stage for the running order on the day
- 2pm - 6pm**     **Visit the Eric Wright Water Craft Tent on the Groyne**
- Make a summer flower headdress (small charge)
  - Make a bell bracelet (small charge)
  - Make a winter pendant (small charge)
  - Make a summer dreamcatcher (small charge)
  - Summer or Winter face decoration (small charge)
  - Fun for the little ones with Mooninjer Veggey
- 2pm - 5pm**     **On the sea shore**
- Storytelling in the tepee
  - Make a traditional Crosh Cuirn with Rowan and wool, with John Dog Callister
- 4pm - 5pm**     **Oie Voaldyn Beg**
- Cheer on the kids as they parade along East Quay from Black Dog Oven to the shore in their finest summer and winter costumes. It's free for all to join in and there will be prizes for dress-up - see page 27 for more information.
  - Gather to watch the antics as the kids make a right old song and dance of it on the sand.
- 6.30pm - 7pm**     **On the sea shore**
- Learn to spin poi with Skimmee Aile



# WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN

## 2pm – 8.45pm **At the Oie Voaldyn Stand on Weatherglass Corner**

- Make a wish or send a message of goodwill at the Oie Voaldyn Tree
- Sign up to carry a wax torch in the evening procession
- Buy your (safe & solar powered) kids' fire torch
- Get your Oie Voaldyn hoodie
- Make a donation

## 6pm – 8.30pm **Along the promenade**

Meet the characters – come and say hello to the Summer and Winter Queens and their champions. Meet Fynoderee, Teeval, Tarroo Ushtey, Glashtyn, the two Feeaghs Huginn and Muninn, and the Moddey Dhoo.

## 9pm – 10.15pm **Oie Voaldyn Fire Festival**

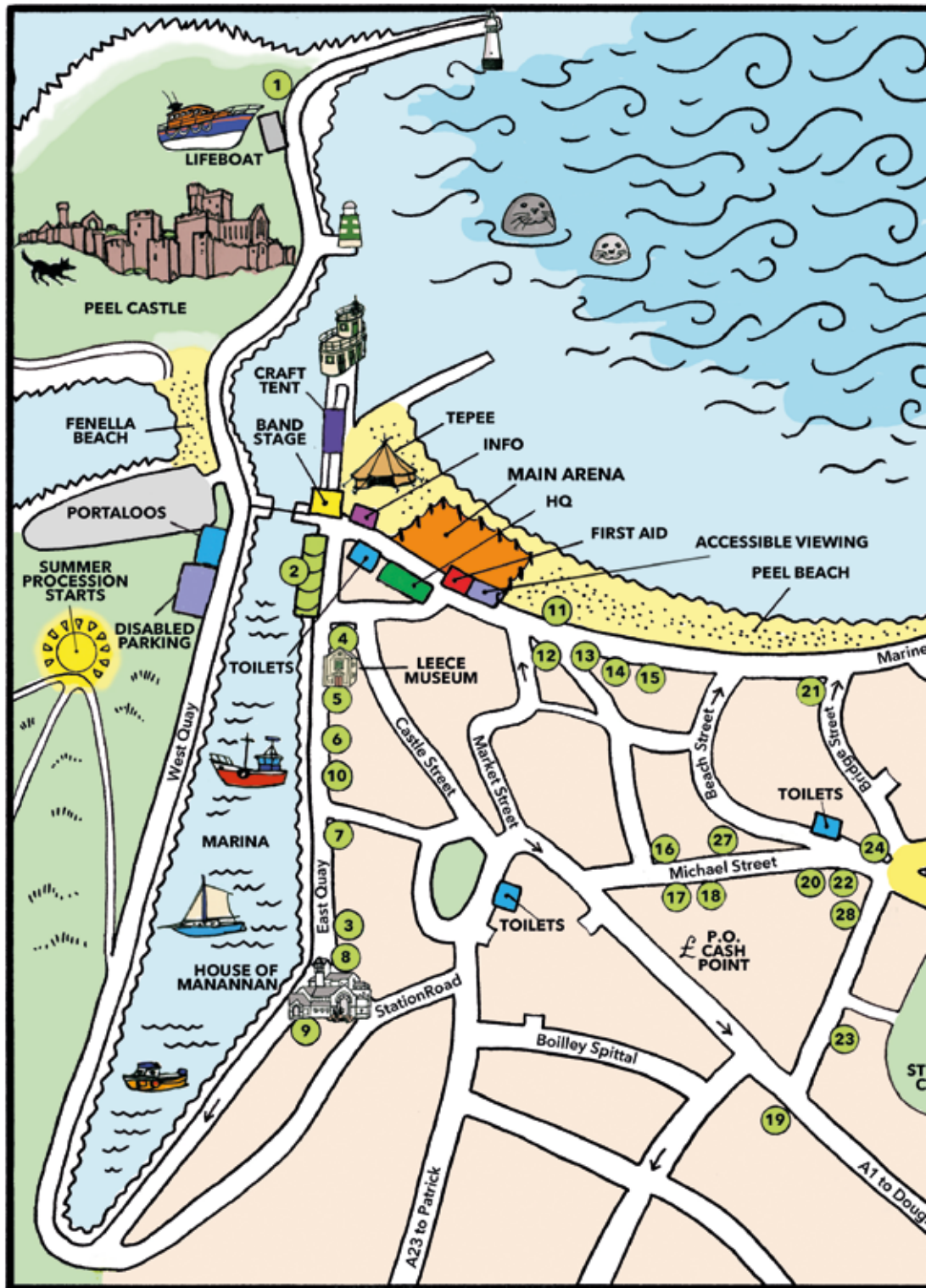
A fire will be lit on Peel Hill to signal the start of the proceedings – look left and right into the distance as the torchlight processions make their way to the shore. See the Summer and Winter Queens, their champions and their loyal supporters gather to make their demands. Cheer on your favourite champion as Summer challenges Winter for supremacy.

We take a moment or two for quiet reflection as the livestock is cleansed in the smoke of the fires; blessings are given and hopefully the spirits are appeased for another year. Then it's time to party as our fire dancers spin their magic for us.

Lastly, join us in a verse of Ellan Vannin to close the proceedings for another year (words on page 21!)

**Food and drink available throughout the day from 2pm**





PEEL CASTLE

LIFEBOAT

FENELLA BEACH

PORTALOOS

SUMMER PROCESSION STARTS

DISABLED PARKING

TOILETS

MARINA

HOUSE OF MANANNAN

CRAFT TENT  
BAND STAGE

TEPEE  
INFO

MAIN ARENA  
HQ

FIRST AID

ACCESSIBLE VIEWING

PEEL BEACH

LEECE MUSEUM

TOILETS

TOILETS

TOILETS

P.O. CASH POINT

West Quay

East Quay

Castle Street

Market Street

Beach Street

Michael Street

Station Road

Boilley Spittal

A23 to Patrick

A1 to Doug



WINTER PROCESSION STARTS

MAIN CAR PARK

**FOOD/DRINK OUTLETS**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. CAFE        | 16. SUPERMARKET |
| 2. STREET FOOD | 17. CHINESE     |
| 3. INDIAN      | 18. CAFE        |
| 4. PUB         | 19. PUB         |
| 5. ICE CREAM   | 20. PUB         |
| 6. CHINESE     | 21. CAFE        |
| 7. RESTAURANT  | 22. INDIAN      |
| 8. PUB/FOOD    | 23. SUPERMARKET |
| 9. FOOD CAFE   | 24. TAKEAWAY    |
| 10. BAR/FOOD   | 25. TAKEAWAY    |
| 11. CAFE       | 26. CHIPPY      |
| 12. PUB/FOOD   | 27. PUB         |
| 13. CAFE       | 28. PUB         |
| 14. ICE CREAM  | 29. SUPERMARKET |
| 15. CHIPPY     | 30. RESTAURANT  |

**OIE VOADYN** **MANX MAY FIRE FESTIVAL**  
 Oievoaldyn.com

**Eric Wright Water is proud to be part of the Eric Wright Group, a long-established company delivering a wide range of projects.**

Projects range from water infrastructure improvements, bridges, active highways and public realm improvements, educational and property development to managing NHS buildings.

Making a difference to the places and the people who work and live in these communities.

We are 100% owned by the Eric Wright Charitable Trust, which means all profits generated are either reinvested into our growth or directed, by the Trust, to support charitable activities.

We have a strong ethos to support and invest in the communities where we operate.

Where possible, we work with the local supply chain. To date on the project, we have spent over £11m with local companies, including PCS, Absolute Scaffolding and Mann Crane hire.



**Eric Wright**  
Water

Together,  
we make  
a difference.

[ericwright.co.uk](http://ericwright.co.uk)



# MOOINJER YN TOUREE

## THE SUMMER FOLK

'DREST IN THE GAYEST AND BEST MANNER'

*Ben Rein Y Touree:* (Queen of Summer)

The emblem of the beauty of Summer and representing the maiden.

*Billey Cuirn:* (Rowan Tree)

The Summer Queen's bridegroom and the embodiment of the restorative and healing protective powers of Summer.

*Thalloo as Aer:* (Land and Air)

The Summer Queen's personal elemental protectors.

*Champion Y Touree:* (Summer's Champion)

The Summer Queen's champion to vanquish the power of Winter so Summer can flourish and prosper.

*Teeval:* (Princess of the Ocean)

A powerful royal mermaid (Ben-Varrey) who advised the Irish warrior Conchubar to have her image and name fashioned on to a shield by Culann the Smith so that he would be invincible in battle.

*Flora:*

The guardian, protector and nurturer of the plant kingdom.

*Fauna:*

The guardian, protector and nurturer of the animal kingdom.

*Phynoderree/Fynoderee:*

The furry satyr, said to have been a fallen fairy who secretly helps the farmers by herding in the stock and gathering in the harvest, also known to aid fishermen by repairing their fishing nets and boats.

*Billey Darragh:* (Oak Tree)

King of the trees who connects the sky to the earth and offers wisdom, knowledge, protection and healing to all.



## TARROO USHTEY

Among the strange immortals of our land,  
Mona's sweet isle, long famed  
in verse and song,

A creature that is seen when moon is full,  
Yn Tarroo Ushtey, or the Water Bull,  
A denizen of marshes, there among  
The reeds and rushes would he take his stand  
'Mid clammy mists and vapours. So with bland  
Unwinking eyes he started out to the hills,  
Lonely and secret, none his lot to share,  
Opening his snowy muzzle on the air  
To bellow faintly as from fancied hills,  
Or other bovine fancy to command.

Often when summer's heat gave place to cool  
Chill breath of autumn and sun's white fire  
Mellowed to golden glow, he could be seen  
With strong head lifted, and the silky sheen  
Of snowy flanks would glimmer in the mire,  
Ere he would fade into the silent pool  
Among the slates and bushes of Barrule.  
'Twas said by some he waited to devour  
Some night wayfarer should  
he chance to stray  
Too near the pool, or e'en the waterway  
Or river, at some dark and lonely hour.  
And some said who believed it was a fool.

W T Quirk

<https://wtquirk.com/>

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THE OIE VOALDYN

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SERVING FROM 12 - LATE

SMALL PLATES - BURGERS- SEAFOOD  
STEAKS & MEATS - SALADS - MEAT FREE  
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**BREAKFAST MENU SERVED FROM 9:30 - 11:30**

# MOONIER YN GHEUREE

## THE WINTER FOLK

‘DREST IN WOOLLEN HOODS, FURR TIPPETTS’

*Ben Rein Y Gheuree:* (Queen of Winter)

With a heart of the purest ice.

*Floag Sniaghteen:* (Tiny Snowflake)

The snow princess creates snow storms to protect her Queen from the Summer company.

*Champion Y Gheuree:* (Winter's Champion)

The Winter Queen's champion to defend her power.

*Berree Dhone:* (Witch)

The Winter Queen's magician to protect and guide her and help keep the forces of Summer at bay.

*Rio as Sniaghtey:* (Ice and Snow)

The Winter Queen's watery assistants to help her govern and control the earth.

*Cabbyl Ushtey:* (Water Horse)

Often referred to as a Glashtyn... incredibly muscular and looking for someone to ride him back to the still waters he calls home, where his rider can't jump from his back and they get pulled to their deaths. However, Glashtyns can be put to good use, as farm hands, if you can control them.

*Feeagh Doo:* (Black Raven)

Odin had two ravens that brought him all the 'skeet' of the world. They were Huginn (Thought) and Muninn (Memory). The raven is still part of the Island's present identity and past Scandinavian rule as it is still represented on the coats of arms.

*Taroo Ushtey:* (Water Bull)

A nimble bull that looks much like any other except for a shinier coat, sharp ears and a whirry sound. Usually found in the marshy 'curragh' areas of the Island and grazing with normal herds (to the fury of the farmer's bull.) They can be controlled with a rowan stick.

*Ben Chraue:* (Bone Woman)

The Winter Queen's shaman, healer, Caillagh and crone. An emblem of the deformity of winter.



## MODDEY DOO

"Beware the pad of heavy paw"  
Bade dying soldier, his last implore.  
On Patrick's Isle there prowls a hound  
By castle walls no longer bound.  
Coal black coat, now tinged with grey  
"Look not upon him!" wise ones say.  
The Moddey Doo with blood red stare  
Would change the fate of those who dare.  
Winter, Summer mock their fight  
Oie Voaldyn's fires warm hearts this night  
While Manx folks sing to herald May,  
Their course may change with turn of day.  
So guard, dear friends, this May anew  
Call, "Fow Royd! Fow Royd!" Moddey Doo.

Isobel Simonds

## CAILLAGH NY CROAMACH

At Imbolc I go to gather sticks  
to build a fire to warm me,  
The longer the fire burns the  
longer winter will last,  
If the ditch is empty of water and dry  
fuel abounds, a wet spring it will be,  
If the ditch be full of water with no good  
wood to burn, a fine spring I forecast.  
I am the necessary winter.  
As this season turns to change  
my time is near,  
Though I do not leave you with a whimper,  
At Hop-tu-Naa as the wheel  
again turns I will reappear.

Anna Fargher



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# YN SKIMMEE AILE FIRE TEAM

Friend or foe? Fire has always fascinated us; it warms the soul but burns the flesh. Against all odds, we learned to tame its flame, reviving it night after night to nourish both body and spirit through food and ancient tales.

Some of us choose to go further, befriending the fire to amaze the masses. Whether dancing with flames or spinning sparks, our ancestors' fascination lives on through our craft. This past year has seen Skimmee Aile evolve and expand significantly; we have recruited talented new performers, growing into a formidable 24-person strong group dedicated to the arts.

Ste, leader of Skimmee Aile and the Summer Queen's champion, says: "The night of Summer is upon us. I am privileged to lead this expanded team. Our growth this year has been incredible, and our new members are just as dedicated as our veterans. Together, we hope to please the spectators' eye through a display of battling flames and shadow."

If fire is your friend, why not join our parade as a torchbearer? It may lead you closer to the flame than you think. To try your hand at fire spinning in the future, contact us at [info@skimmeeale.com](mailto:info@skimmeeale.com)

**Kirsty Dencheva & Gwenaël LaSirène**



Credit: Pics by Steve Corran



*Skimmee Aile are grateful to the IOM Arts Council for their financial support*

# BRING THE FIRE PROJECT

We are delighted to welcome Bring the Fire Project to the Oie Voaldyn Manx May Fire Festival again this year. Bring the Fire Project is a Liverpool based collective of fire dancers, circus skills teachers and flow arts promoters and was founded in 2012 by passionate fire artist, Szymon Mamys.

Szymon has run a number of very well attended local training workshops for Skimmee Aile and looks forward to future collaborations.

Over the years Bring the Fire Project transformed into the brightest fire performing group in Liverpool, organising a number of events, performances, workshops and projects working with festivals and productions across the UK and Europe.

They specialise in fire performance, light shows, flow shows, circus walkabouts and working with community through medium of circus, fire and light. They provide excellent fire and pyro performance based on exploration between modern object manipulation arts and various dance forms. Their passion is to harness the beauty of this dangerous element into a symmetry



Credit: Pics by Steve Corran

of patterns. Everything is illuminated with the cascade of colours and patterns created while dancing and moving with light.

<https://bringthefireproject.co.uk/>

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

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01624 845623 or 07624 483866  
[albanyhouseiom@msn.com](mailto:albanyhouseiom@msn.com)



# CORAAGHYN YN AILE VOICES OF THE FIRE

HEAR, HEAR! THE ENCHANTING VOICES OF THE FIRE!

**Voices of the Fire** is a community choir dedicated to bringing the ancient Manx language alive through powerful, atmospheric chants. Formed to accompany the vibrant Fire Festival and performance show, the choir weaves together voices, rhythm, and ritual to create an experience that feels both timeless and fiercely present. Our music is shaped by the elements, the turning seasons, and the deep sense of belonging that comes from standing together around a shared flame.

We are proud to be supported by a Culture Vannin *Bein ny Gaelgey* grant, which has enabled us to record a series of original Manx songs written especially for the choir. These new works explore themes at the heart of Manx identity: connection with the land, the cycles of nature, and the bonds that hold communities together. Each piece is crafted to honour tradition while welcoming new creative expression, allowing singers of all backgrounds to step into the living story of the Island.


At its core, Voices of the Fire is about connection with each other, with the Island, and with the cultural spark that continues to burn across generations. We are always excited to welcome new members who feel drawn to these ideas. You don't need to be fluent in Manx or have formal musical training; what matters most is an appreciation for community, creativity, and the shared experience of singing something meaningful.

If you're looking for a place to root yourself, lift your voice, and help shape a growing body of Manx-language music, we would love to have you join us around the fire.



**PLEASE JOIN US IN SINGING ONE VERSE OF  
ELLAN VANNIN AT THE END OF THE SHOW:**

**When the summer day is over  
Its busy cares have flown  
I will sit beneath the starlight  
With a weary heart alone  
Then it rises like a vision  
Sparkling bright it shines for me  
My own dear Ellan Vannin  
With its green hills by the sea**

If you would like to get involved in the choir in the future put your details on [www.oievoaldyn.com/getinvolved](http://www.oievoaldyn.com/getinvolved) or join the Facebook Group  **Voices of the Fire**.

# COME & VISIT THE LEECE MUSEUM



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# AY BILLYN (THE TREES)

In the evening after harmony is restored between Summer and Winter, a tree blessing and Yggdrasil ritual will take place. The Yggdrasil tree was central to Norse mythology and was thought to connect the nine Viking worlds. The Tree of Life has played a central part in Celtic mythology and is symbolic in many cultures, religions and traditions throughout the world. Our Oie Voaldyn tree ritual is inclusive to everyone, offering a way to connect with the many different cultural influences and traditions of the people living on the Island. Representing rebirth, renewal and the cycle of life, the nine trees bear messages of love and goodwill, remembering loved ones and lost ones, and conveying hopes of healing and peace.

Each of the nine trees will be represented by one of the following organisations; a team from each will carry their tree to the shore where it will be blessed and then cast on the fire.

**Beach Buddies:** *Shellagh (Willow)* Offers protection and healing and is closely tied to the cycles of the moon.

**Special Olympics:** *Darragh (Oak)* Associated with strength, resilience and self confidence

**Ed's Man Club:** *Hollan (Holly)* Connected to unity and courage for warriors and protectors

**Victim Support:** *Farney (Alder)* Symbolises strength, resilience and protection

**Peel Youth Club:** *Ooyl (Apple)* Long symbolic of longevity, love and faithfulness, as well as rebirth

**Heroes on the Water:** *Unjin (Ash)* It is revered as a tree of life, protection, and resilience

**Culture Vannin:** *Coull (Hazel)* Associated with wisdom, knowledge and creativity

**Eric Wright Water:** *Beih (Birch)* Representative of new beginnings, renewal, and purification

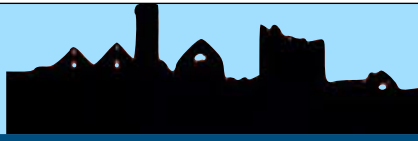
**Orsted:** *Keirn (Rowan)* In Celtic mythology it's known as the Tree of Life and symbolises courage, wisdom and protection.



Credit: Steve Corran Photography



Credit: Steve Corran Photography



# The Cod and Castle Chippy

## Peel Promenade

**Open 7 days a week, 11.30 - 8.30**

Traditional seaside chippy serving  
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Manx specialities.



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**Peel Castle.**

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# PLEASE SUPPORT US

We hope you enjoy this year's festival, which we've planned to be bigger and better than ever. As you can imagine, bringing it all together takes a great deal of creativity, dedication and collaboration from many individuals and organisations (just take a look at the long list of 'thank-yous' on page 51!).

To ensure we can include as many people as possible while maintaining independence in our decision-making, we are now a not-for-profit organisation under the name *Isle of Man Fire and Folk Festivals*. Our purpose is to celebrate Manx culture and its traditions. Through the spectacle of both the Oie Voaldyn and Oie Houney festivals, we aim not only to entertain, but also to inform and inspire our audiences.

The Isle of Man Fire and Folk Festivals committee takes its responsibilities seriously. We recognise that staging these extraordinary events relies on true teamwork—participants commit to workshops, rehearsals, and giving their all to create something truly memorable on the day. Everyone involved becomes a member by paying a small annual subscription, fostering a strong sense of belonging and offering the opportunity to contribute ideas, innovation and improvements.

If you would like to become a member, you can sign up at <https://membermojo.co.uk> or contact us at [info@oievoaldyn.com](mailto:info@oievoaldyn.com) or just scan here:



Becoming independent also means we can raise funds to maintain the high standards we set ourselves, and to help secure the future of the festival for years to come.

If you would simply like to contribute, please scan here to visit our JustGiving fundraising page:



**Thank you for your support  
- every little helps!**

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MONDAYS  
0930-1130  
RAMSEY ELIM CHURCH  
what3words ///  
cafeteries.erasse.sociable

Manx for  
"Ramsey"

EAST



POSSAN CLOIE  
KIONE DROGHAD

THURSDAYS  
0915-1115  
ONCHAN ELIM CHURCH  
what3words ///  
puddles.savings.clock

Manx for  
"Onchan"

SOUTH



POSSAN CLOIE  
CAIRBRE

FRIDAYS  
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# OIE VOALDYN VEG (MINI OIE VOALDYN)

***Oie Voaldyn Veg* (Mini Oie Voaldyn) is designed to give younger children the opportunity to take part in the day's festivities during the afternoon. We hope that by getting involved early, these children will continue to participate in the years to come and help keep the tradition alive.**

This year's fancy dress parade theme is *Sourey* (Summer) (pronounced "soura") and *Geurey* (Winter) (pronounced "gowra"). We're especially excited that the competition will be judged by the visiting Jarl Squad from Shetland.

The parade will begin at 4pm, starting outside Black Dog Oven on East Quay and making its way down onto the beach.

The *Oie Voaldyn Veg* "Battle of the Seasons" will feature two sing-offs and two dance-offs, with the audience deciding the winners using the *Oie Voaldyn Veg* clapometer. Children will dance to two tracks by Manx band *Mec Lir*- one of which may be familiar if you've travelled on the Steam Packet boats recently. The sing-offs will feature two short, seasonal songs in Manx.



## **Fancy dress categories include:**

- Overall best dressed family (Summer and Winter)
- Best themed pram/buggy (please note the parade will go onto the beach—helpers will be on hand)
- Best aged 5 and under
- Best aged 8 and under
- Best aged 12 and under

**Further information, including music tracks and songs, can be accessed via the QR code:**



# Eric Wright Water is proud to be supporting the Oie Voaldyn Festival.

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Working with Manx Utilities, Eric Wright Water is delivering the Peel Regional Wastewater Treatment Works – a major infrastructure investment that will introduce modern wastewater treatment for Peel for the first time. The new facility forms part of the Island’s wider Regional Wastewater Treatment Strategy and will significantly improve how wastewater from the town is managed and treated.

The project is being delivered through a phased programme, with screening planned to be operational from 2026, followed by biological treatment from 2027, ahead of full completion of the overall scheme by 2028. Each phase will deliver progressive environmental improvements as the works are brought into use.



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## The Isle of Man was recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2016, and is currently the only whole nation in the world to hold this prestigious status. So what does it mean for us as an Island, why is it so important, and where does Oie Voaldyn fit in?

A UNESCO Biosphere is a place where people and the rest of nature exist in harmony, balancing the conservation of biodiversity and culture with sustainable development, underpinned by research and education to ensure the best methods are explored and implemented. It is also important to share what we learn outside of the Isle of Man, building valuable connections and networks with other Biosphere Reserves and the wider world of which we are all residents.

The Biosphere status belongs to everybody in our Manx community and recognises that our landscapes, wildlife, and way of life are something to be celebrated, protected and shared. Our landscapes, glens, and waters are not just beautiful - they sustain us, inspire us, and shape who we are.

Oie Voaldyn sees our community come together to celebrate fire as a force of renewal and protection, just

as those who walked before us did. As they marked the changing seasons and gave thanks to the natural world, so too must we play our part in shaping the future of our Island. Our biosphere status reminds us that we are all connected and that our actions today affect the environment, the wellbeing of our communities, and the generations to come.

Culture and nature are intertwined. The stories we tell, the traditions we celebrate, and the land upon which we walk all contribute to our shared heritage. By collectively embracing our biosphere status, we can commit to caring for our Island and working together to build a thriving, sustainable future to be proud of.

Whether we are preserving our rich Manx folklore, protecting our diverse wildlife or uplifting the local economy, each of us has a role in maintaining the balance between people and place.

- 1 Lezayre Road, Ramsay
- 2 Main Road, Kirk Michael
- 3 Peveril Road, Peel
- 4 Alexandra Road, Castletown
- 5 Peel Road, Douglas
- 6 Alexandra Drive, Douglas
- 7 Bray Hill, Douglas
- 8 Victoria Road, Douglas
- 9 Main Road, Onchan
- 10 Main Road, Laxey
- 11 Main Road, Foxdale
- 12 Peel Road, Douglas – Brown Bobby



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# FIRE FOLKLORE & LEGENDS

**Oie Voaldyn** is a Manx fire festival which is a piece of an ancient universal blanket of beliefs, connections, customs, folklore associating fire as a protector, purifier and punisher. The four elements fire, air, water and earth are the warps that run through the universal blanket which touches everyday life. The elements are fundamental to us all.

In the Manx language the four elements are known as **aer** (air), **aille** (fire), **ushtey** (water) and **thalloo** (earth). The Island has customs, folklore, myths and traditions associated with fire. Fire and the hearth had a central role in the lives of all families, it provided warmth, light and enabled the creation of nourishing meals.

Some sources that have said that the domestic fire was put out on **Oie Voaldyn** (April 30th) and relit on **Laa Boaldyn** (May 1st) by rubbing two sticks together or by taking fire from Oie Voaldyn gorse and bonfires.

It was also said by some that it was a time not to lend fire to anyone. No one really knows for sure what exactly happened, but what it does hint to is that fire was strongly associated with Oie Voaldyn on the Isle of Man. Cattle, after being in the barns over the winter, were let out at this time of year, and were ran through two bonfires as a purification. This was also a custom in Ireland and other countries, including northern India. Incidentally wood ash and smoke contains disinfecting qualities, fire and sunlight subdue many bovine diseases.

Fire was part of the Manx calendar: in July at Old Midsummers Day, **Laa Tinvaal** (Tynwald Day), bonfires on hills and blazing wheels were rolled down from hilltops. Often the fires were lit in places where the smoke could drift over the fields of corn and another notion was that the height men jumped over the flames would be the height the corn would grow. Bollan Bane (Mug wort) was worn and throw into the fires as a protection against witchcraft, thought to have been especially powerful on this eve. There are similar midsummer bonfires in the Scandinavian countries, possibly a remnant from the Island's time as part of the Viking kingdom.

**Oie Houney** (31st October) brings with it a number of associations with a household's future and the hearth. **Soddag Valloo** (Dumb Cake) contained ashes of the fire and was made in silence, by young women whilst dreaming of their future husbands. The ashes of the fire were smoothed out before bed by the woman of the house, in the morning they would be inspected for footprints. Those which appeared to be heading towards the fire would signify a birth and those which led to the door, a death.

Turnip lanterns lit with candles were meant to represent the souls of those who had passed and walked amongst us on this night. In Ireland fires are lit on this night, and nowadays the bonfires lit in the UK are associated with Guy Fawkes and the festival is commemorated on 5th November.

On **Oie Vreeshey** (31st January) St Bridget's eve: a saint and goddess linked to the home and hearth, and fire. She was invited into the home on this night with fresh rushes strewn on the floor, food and fresh water offered and a bed made. It foretold good luck for the household for the coming year.



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# GLASHTYN

This shapeshifting figure from Manx folklore is traditionally associated with the sea and lonely shorelines of the Isle of Man.

Often appearing as a handsome dark-haired man, he may also take the form of a white horse. Though sometimes mistaken for a harmless stranger, he is dangerous and linked to water spirits.

In many tales, he seeks the company of women, luring them toward the sea. Unlike some malicious beings, he is usually silent but persistent. Stories warn that those who follow him risk drowning, making the Glashtyn a cautionary symbol of temptation and hidden peril.



# TEEVAL

Known as the Princess of the Ocean, Teeval is a mermaid of Manx legend. She was discovered asleep on a beach by Conchubar, an ambitious young Irishman seeking to become King of Ulster.

Following a druid's advice, he had travelled to the Isle of Man to have the smith Culann forge powerful weapons. While waiting, he found Teeval and tied her up, fearing she would escape.

Captivated by her beauty, he refused to release her until she promised to aid him. If her name and image were placed on his shield, she said, he could call on her strength in battle. He agreed, freed her, and later became king.



# FYNODEREE

Known as a powerful but shaggy fairy spirit in Manx folklore, often described as large, hairy, and incredibly strong.

Unlike delicate fairies, he is a solitary household helper who performs farm work at night—threshing corn, herding sheep, or gathering crops- if treated with respect. However, he dislikes gifts of clothing; in one famous tale, when given clothes as thanks, he feels insulted and leaves forever.

Though fearsome in appearance, the Fynoderee is generally kind and loyal, rewarding generosity but punishing greed or laziness. He represents the wild, untamed spirit of the countryside and the value of hard work.



# TARROO USHTEY

This is a fearsome creature of Manx folklore whose name means "Water Bull." Said to emerge from lonely lakes and misty glens, it resembles a powerful black bull, sometimes with unnatural eyes or dripping hide.

Like other Celtic water beasts, it is linked to danger and the unpredictable forces of nature. In some tales, it mates with ordinary cattle, producing strange, ill-tempered offspring.

The Tarroo Ushtey embodies the mystery of inland waters, warning people to be cautious near remote bodies of water where the boundary between the natural and supernatural feels perilously thin and uncertain.



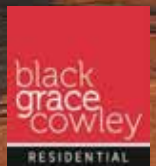
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## ADSYN DY BRAGH BEAYN

*She traa bun-chorvaal v'ayn: traa va'n down noa as gyn cummey.*

*Trooid dorraghys y folmid shen haink ushtey casherick ny Mayrey, Danu, cur bioys da dy chooilley chretoor er feai-ny-cruinney, as glass ayns dy chooilley ghlione.*

*'Sy thalloo dorragey haink rish billey ard as lajer, as trooid coyr-cooidjagh ushtey casherick Danu as y billey shoh huitt daa chro-darragh, yn chied-er jeu fyrrynagh as y nah-er jeu bwoirrynagh. She yn Dagda, Yn Jee Mie, Ayr ny Jeeghyn, daase veih'n chied-chro, as Breeshey, Yn Ven-Jee Ooasle, Moir ny Jeeghyn, veih'n nah-chro. Mastey nyn baitçhyn - Paitçhyn jeh Soilshey as Mieys - va inneen yial as ghraihagh derragh çhiass stiagh ayns annym peiagh erbee vaikagh ee. Hug ad yn ennym Sourey urree, as haink ee dy ve Ben-Rein Mooinjer yn Touree.*

*Dinsh Breeshey da e paitçhyn ooilley nagh row ad nyn lomarcan 'sy theihll, son va shuyr ec nyn Moir Vooar, Danu, as she Domnu yn ennym v'er y çhuyr shoh. Cha row Domnu gollrish Danu, er-yn-oyr dy row ny shuyraghyn soie noi-ry-hoi.*

*Rish ymmodee bleeantyn va'n thalloo fo reill paitçhyn Domnu, paitçhyn jeh Dorraghys as Olkys. Mastey nyn gloan hene va inneen feayr as jymmoosagh derragh rio stiagh ayns annym peiagh erbee vaikagh ee. She Geurey yn ennym va currit urree, as haink ee dy ve Ben-rein Mooinjer yn Gheuree.*

*Rish traa foddey ren ny Paitçhyn jeh Soilshey as Mieys caggey noi ny Paitçhyn jeh Dorraghys as Olkys, derrey yn*

*traa dooar Soilshey as Mieys barriaght er Dorraghys as Olkys. Dyllee Yn Morrigan veih mullagh dagh slieau:*

*Ta shee goll seose dys niau  
Ushtey casherick tuittym er y thalloo  
Lhig da nyn mea gymmyrkey mess  
Ta'n thalloo fo nieau  
Ta shin jeh'n thalloo nish  
As ta dy chooilley pheiaagh lajer.*

*Agh choud's va boggey er ny Paitçhyn jeh Soilshey as Mieys, haink goo Domnu harrish y thalloo:*

*Ta dy chooilley red fioghey  
Eer laaghyn ny Paitçhyn jeh Soilshey as Mieys  
Hig yn traa vees ad er nyn gastey.  
Ta'n traa çheet vees Sourey gyn blaas  
As y keayn gyn east  
Ny booghyn gyn bainney  
As dagh peiagh er-y-thalloo faase.*

*Lurg tammylt mie, va ny jeeghyn as ny caggaghyn oc jarroodit ec sleih as hie ny Paitçhyn jeh Soilshey as Mieys dy chummal ayns plaaseyn fo thalloo ny cruink. Ta phadey Domnu bunnys jarroodit, neesht, agh ve currit er Mooinjer yn Touree as Mooinjer yn Gheuree tannaghtyn erskyn y thalloo, treayll yn caggey eddyr Soilshey as Dorraghys goll. She Oie Voaldyn as Oie Houney ny h-Oieghyn ta ny sheshaghtyn-caggee oc çheet noi-y-cheillee, as t'eh grait dy beagh Mooinjer yn Gheuree geddyn barriaght er Mooinjer yn Touree er Oie Voaldyn, harragh phadey Domnu dy ve feer.*

**Peddyr Mac Niallan**



## THE EVERLIVING

It was a time of primeval chaos: a time the world was new and without form.

Through the darkness of that emptiness came the holy water of the Mother, Danu, giving life to every creature around the world and putting green in every glen.

In the dark ground there appeared a tree both tall and strong, and through the joining of Danu's holy water and this tree two acorns fell, the first male and the second female. It was the Dagda, The Good God, Father of the Gods, who sprang from the first acorn, and Brigid, the Exalted Goddess, Mother of the Gods, who sprang from the second acorn. Among their children - the Children of Light and Good - was a bright and loving girl who would put warmth into the soul of anyone who would see her. They called her Summer, and she came to be Queen of the Summer Folk.

Brigid told all her children that they were not alone in the world, for their Great Mother, Danu, had a sister, and this sister was called Domnu.

Over many years the land was under the rule of the children of Domnu, the Children of Dark and Evil. Among their own children was a cold and vengeful daughter who would put ice into the soul of any person who would see her. She was named Winter, and she became Queen of the Winter Folk.

For a long time the Children of Light and Good fought against the Children of Dark and Evil, until the time that victory was won by Light and Good over Dark and Evil.

The Morrigan called from every mountain:

Peace ascends to heaven  
Holy water falls on the earth  
Let our lives be fruitful  
The earth is under heaven  
We are of the earth now  
And everyone is strong.

But as the Children of Light and Good were joyful, the word of Domnu came over the land:

All is transient  
Even the days of the Children of Light and Good  
The time will come when they will be cast out.  
The time is coming when Summer will be without  
flower  
And the sea without fish  
The cows without milk  
And everyone on the earth will be feeble.

After a good while, the gods and their battles were forgotten by people and the Children of Light and Good went to live in palaces under the hills. Domnu's prophecy is almost forgotten, too, but the Summer Folk and the Winter Folk were made to remain above ground, maintaining the battle between Light and Dark.

Oie Voaldyn and Oie Houney are the nights their armies come against one another, and it is said that if the Winter Folk were to defeat the Summer Folk on Oie Voaldyn, Domnu's prophecy would come true.

**Peddyr Mac Niallan**



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**As winter loses its power, our ancestors welcomed in the season of growth and renewal at Oie Voaldyn. This ancient fire festival marks the threshold between winter to summer, a celebration of fertility, new beginnings and optimism. Fires were lit at sunset in rites of purification to safeguard the people, their homes and livestock. At the heart of these traditions are the charms and healing herbs that have been used for centuries as allies at these times of transition.**

For our forebears, this seasonal shift was not just symbolic, but also a time for resilience as they chose what to cast off and what to call in for the new season. The winter months would have been challenging, with the need to keep warm and nourished, whilst keeping disease at bay. Spring herbs, such as Nettle, Wild Garlic, Dandelion, Chickweed and Cleavers were valuable sources of nutritious fresh green leaves and all are also powerful tonic herbs, helping to detoxify and eliminate the stagnation of the winter months. Others, such as Yarrow were used to heal wounds and keep fevers at bay.

In these times, illness and misfortune could be seen as a disturbance between people, place and unseen forces. Herbs addressed the physical, but their use was often strengthened by the use of charms. Charms have been used since ancient times as rituals, blessings or statements of intention. They can take different forms – often a spoken or whispered phrase, or prayer, repeated with focused intention, but they might also be written down. Sometimes a charm is accompanied by a simple action, working with a plant ally, a touch, or even spitting. They could also be a physical object, such as a herb and might be carried on the person, placed on a personal altar or hung over a doorway for protection and blessing.

Here in the Isle of Man, charms formed an important part of folk healing. Herbs were often harvested or 'lifted'

accompanied by a spoken charm and 'charmners' were still called on until relatively recently to ease ailments such as stopping bleeding and curing warts.

Each herb also had its own particular character which could be called on to as an ally. Mugwort is known for its protective qualities, clearing away negative forces and aiding communication between the real and dream worlds. Hawthorn, which heralds May with its bountiful blossom, aids physical healing as a heart tonic herb, promotes emotional healing and is also connected with the spirit world. Birch is associated with renewal, adaptability and enduring strength, bringing hope and inspiration with its graceful form.

Today, we can still embrace these traditions – drinking cleansing herbal infusions, crafting healing potions and working with the growth and wildness of Nature to support our health and wellbeing.

Join me for a hands-on workshop where we will explore the ancient wisdom of these powerful healing herbs and charms, where you will prepare your own remedy and leave ready to welcome the magic of the summer season.

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# A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF TONIGHT'S SHOW...

Our Oie Voaldyn Festival is a living, evolving celebration - a vibrant fusion of the ancient Manx, Celtic, and Norse traditions that have shaped life here on the Isle of Man for centuries. Tonight, we do not seek to recreate the past, but to honour it - carrying forward the spirit of our ancestors as we create new connections and traditions that speak to all who gather here. Immerse yourselves in the sights, sounds, and energy of Oie Voaldyn 2026. Open your senses and connect with the many customs and stories that mark this powerful turning of the year.

## LOOK TO PEEL HILL —

See the Viking warriors from Shetland as they descend, their fiery torches blazing, their battle cries echoing across the night. They will light two great fires upon the beach.

## NOW TURN TO THE EAST —

The Winter Company approaches.

We welcome them — cheer them on as they enter the arena in all their splendour. Behold the Queen of Winter, her protectors and guardians, her Champion, her advisors, her shaman, and her loyal followers.

## NOW LOOK TOWARD THE CASTLE —

The Summer Company draws near.

We welcome them with equal joy. The Queen of Summer arrives, accompanied by her elemental guardians of earth and air, her Champion, her healer and maker of magical knots, her keepers of the plant and animal kingdoms, and her devoted followers.

The battle lines are drawn.

Summer and Winter prepare to clash.

Insults are exchanged, and the Queens adorn their Champions.

Both sides are determined.

The Champions take up arms in defence of their Queens — and the battle begins.

Winter falls...

But without Winter, there can be no Summer.

The Queens and their attendants come together, forming a healing circle. Through their combined power, life is restored to the Winter Champion.

All is in balance once more.

The Queen of Summer graciously invites the Queen of Winter to her bower for a great feast.

The Winter Queen passes the orb of power — its colour shifting from blue to gold.

Summer has begun.

The Summer Queen offers her blessing to all her people — and to the animals who share this land.

Following this blessing, the animals are guided through the cleansing smoke of the fires, for protection and renewal.

To honour the full circle of life — and to remember those who came before us, and those yet to come — Summer and Winter join together.

They weave a figure of eight around the fires, a symbol of unity, continuity, and peace.

Our Tree Ceremony celebrates all faiths and beliefs. A symbol of rebirth, renewal, and the eternal cycle of life, nine sacred trees carry messages of love, remembrance, healing, and hope.

Each tree is represented by a local charity or organisation, carried to the shore, blessed, and offered to the fire.

We now welcome *Bring the Fire* and *Skimmee Aile* for their spectacular fire dance.

We are truly blessed to live on the Isle of Man, in peace and safety. So tonight, with one voice, we send a message of hope to the world.

Our song is simple. Our message is clear:

**Shee Erriu — Peace Be Upon You**

And now — with the animals blessed, the gorse burned, the malevolent spirits driven away, and the trees of life returned to the elements — we celebrate!

Winter has ended.

Summer has arrived.

We welcome back *Skimmee Aile* and *Bring the Fire*...

**It's time to celebrate!**

Please join us in a verse of *Ellan Vannin* to close the ceremony (words can be found on page 21).

After the show, you are warmly invited to come forward and receive a blessing from the Summer Queen.

# THE MUSIC

We are often asked about the soundtrack to Oie Voaldyn.

It is an eclectic and carefully curated blend of music, drawing on a wide range of styles, cultures, and influences. Each piece has been chosen not just for how it sounds, but for how it feels — to deepen the atmosphere, heighten the drama, and guide you through the unfolding story of the night.

From powerful, rhythmic beats that echo the energy of battle, to haunting melodies that evoke mystery, memory, and magic, the soundtrack is an integral part of the experience. It helps to carry us between worlds — from winter into summer, from darkness into light.

We invite you to let the music surround you, to feel it as much as hear it, and to allow it to draw you further into the spirit of Oie Voaldyn.

## HERE'S OUR PLAYLIST - WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT

<b>Oie Voaldyn</b>	<b>John Bowker</b>	<b>To settle us into the mood</b>
<b>Heart Warriors</b>	<b>Byron Metcalf</b>	<b>Vikings appear on the hill</b>
<b>Urur</b>	<b>Wardruna</b>	<b>Winter approaches</b>
<b>Berserkir</b>	<b>Danheim</b>	<b>Winter enters the arena</b>
<b>Thugamir Fein An Samhradh Linn</b>	<b>John Spillane</b>	<b>Summer enters the arena</b>
<b>Long I Heard, Now I See</b>	<b>Skyforger</b>	<b>The champions face off</b>
<b>Falls of Glory</b>	<b>BrunuhVille</b>	<b>The battle commences</b>
<b>Arrane Y Chlean</b>	<b>Barrule</b>	<b>Winter falls &amp; rises again</b>
<b>Magpie</b>	<b>The Unthanks</b>	<b>The animals are blessed</b>
<b>Roy's Tribute</b>	<b>The Fureys</b>	<b>Figure of eight</b>
<b>Helvegen</b>	<b>Wardruna</b>	<b>Tree ceremony</b>
<b>Warriors</b>	<b>Ronan Hardiman</b>	<b>Fire spinners</b>
<b>Hei Skal</b>	<b>Songleikr</b>	<b>Fire spinners</b>
<b>Xanadu</b>	<b>Unmet Ozcan</b>	<b>Fire spinners</b>
<b>Longma</b>	<b>Nini Music</b>	<b>Fire spinners</b>
<b>Shee Erriu</b>	<b>John Bowker</b>	<b>Blessing</b>
<b>Fire</b>	<b>Kasabian</b>	<b>Fire spinners finale</b>

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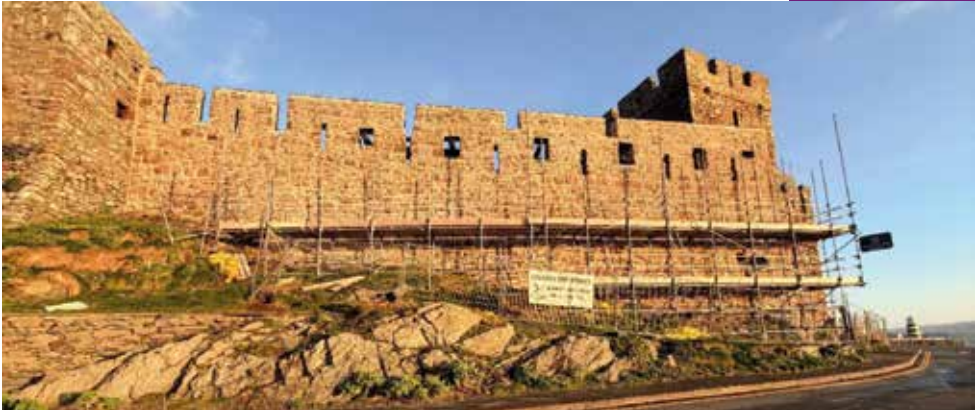
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# CONSERVATION IN ACTION AT PEEL CASTLE



Perched against the Irish Sea on St Patrick's Isle, Peel Castle has long stood as one of the Isle of Man's most striking landmarks. Its weathered sandstone walls have witnessed everything from Viking rule to ecclesiastical power. Now, a major conservation milestone is bringing renewed life to this ancient fortress, revealing not only its enduring silhouette but also the craftsmanship and community effort behind its preservation.

Manx National Heritage recently announced the completion of a significant phase of restoration work at the castle. With scaffolding finally removed, the newly conserved Causeway Wall, part of the nearly one-kilometre-long curtain wall, has been unveiled once again, marking an important step in safeguarding the site for future generations.

This latest phase is about far more than aesthetics. The castle's exposed coastal position leaves it vulnerable to harsh weather and relentless sea air, both of which accelerate the deterioration of its historic fabric. Conservation here is a delicate balancing act: protecting the structure while maintaining its authenticity. The solution lies in traditional materials and techniques, carefully applied.

Central to the project has been the use of locally sourced Manx slate, installed as protective coping along the wall. Supplied from Cringle Quarry, the slate was specially selected to match the historic character of the site, an unusual process given the quarry is more commonly used for aggregate than building stone. This recent intervention blends seamlessly into centuries-old masonry.

Equally significant is the incorporation of salvaged sandstone, gifted by the Dean of Peel Cathedral. Reusing this material not only ensured sensitive repairs but also embedded a tangible sense of continuity, linking the castle's past and present through shared heritage resources.

Traditional skills have played a defining role throughout the works. Specialist contractors employed lime mortar rather than modern cement, allowing the ancient stonework to "breathe" by releasing trapped moisture, an essential quality in a marine environment. This approach reflects a growing recognition that conservation is not just about preserving buildings, but also about sustaining the knowledge and techniques that created them.

For those involved, the project represents both achievement and responsibility. As one of the Isle of Man's most ambitious conservation efforts, the wider programme to stabilise the castle's curtain wall is ongoing, with further work already underway on the Barbican.

Whilst in Peel, enjoy the uninterrupted profile of Peel Castle rising above the shoreline, a familiar sight, sensitively conserved by Manx National Heritage in a project which encapsulates the essence of conservation – a quiet, meticulous process that often goes unnoticed, until, suddenly, it doesn't.

*Lynsey Clague, Communications Manager,  
Manx National Heritage.*



Manx National Heritage  
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## UP HELLY AA JARL SQUAD FROM LERWICK SHETLAND ISLANDS

**The Oie Voaldyn Committee are delighted to welcome our esteemed visitors all the way from Shetland. We are thrilled that the Jarl Squad from Lerwick Up Helly Aa 2026 will be joining in our festivities. They will be hard to miss in their fabulous Viking-inspired costumes and will be enjoying the warm and welcoming hospitality of the Isle of Man this weekend. You may even hear them singing!**

Up Helly Aa is a renowned fire festival held annually in Lerwick, Shetland, on the last Tuesday of January to mark the end of the Yule season. It features a spectacular torch-lit procession led by the "Jarl Squad" of Vikings, culminating in the burning of a meticulously crafted replica Viking galley

Up Helly Aa likely grew from older traditions like "Antonmas," but in Lerwick things really took off after the Napoleonic Wars, when returning sailors brought plenty of noise and mischief. By 1824, the town was in full chaos—think drums, drinking, and the odd scuffle. Around 1840, flaming tar barrels were added (because why not?),

though they proved a bit too wild. By the 1870s, cooler heads prevailed: the festival was revamped with costumes, torches, and eventually Vikings. Today, it's a spectacular, well-organised celebration—now welcoming everyone—while still keeping a fiery nod to its lively past.

Guizer Jarl Lynden Nicolson, Knut The Great, said: "We are delighted to be taking part in the Oie Voaldyn for the first time; we have travelled down from the Shetland Isles, taking the same path that the Vikings did all those years ago, and unlike the early Viking visitors, we hope you will welcome us with open arms - Cheers!"

Happy Oie Voaldyn to all  
our customers old and  
new, from the team at  
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# GENERAL INFORMATION

Should any emergency arise you can find our Operational HQ upstairs in Peel Sailing Club on Shore Road.

A core ethos of the Oie Voaldyn Festival is to have a minimal impact on the environment. Please remove your litter from the shore so it does not go into the sea and cause harm to marine life. Please either take it home with you, or find a suitable bin.

Water refill stations along the quay and promenade area are available at the Leece Museum, Boatyard Restaurant, Davison's Ice Cream Parlour and Cod & Castle, and there is a drinking fountain on the promenade.

## GETTING HERE

### BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

There are regular services to and from Peel. See [www.iombusandrail.im](http://www.iombusandrail.im)

### BY CAR:

There will be plentiful FREE parking available on the seaside of the A4 Peel to Kirk Michael coast road. Once in Peel follow the temporary signs for parking.

**From the east** turn right at the Ballacraigne traffic lights and take the Poortown Road A20 to Peel. After Tesco turn right into Church Street, right at the end and head up the hill. Parking will be signposted.

**From the south** via A3 from Foxdale, straight across at the Ballacraigne traffic lights and take the Poortown Road A20 to Peel. After Tesco turn right into Church Street, right at the end and head up the hill. Parking will be signposted.

**From the north** take the A4 coast road by Kirk Michael School to Peel. Parking will be signposted.



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entire supply chain from forest to final product.

Our printers have used Saphira Eco Inks which are eco-friendly, mineral oil-free vegetable inks.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Disabled parking is available on the West Quay, just before the entrance to Fenella Beach, with some further spaces reserved in Fenella Beach Car Park. These areas will be marshalled throughout the day.

Accessible toilet facilities are available on Shore Road to the right of Peel Sailing Club.

We provide a raised viewing platform overlooking the arena to accommodate a small number of wheelchair users, or those with reduced mobility who are physically unable to navigate the beach. The platform is directly opposite Peel Sailing Club and must be pre-booked. To reserve a space please contact us at [info@oievoaldyn.com](mailto:info@oievoaldyn.com)

For those who may be visually impaired or unable to clearly hear the commentary on the night, we have provided a written synopsis of the show in this program on pages 41 & 43.

For further information about our festival, updates, pics and more, check out our facebook page or go to [www.oievoaldyn.com](http://www.oievoaldyn.com)

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## Contact Us



# ELS Group

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ELS GROUP ARE PROUD TO HAVE SUPPLIED THE CONCERT-SIZED PA SYSTEM, PRODUCTION LIGHTING, AND TECHNICAL CREW FOR THIS YEAR'S OIE VOALDYN FIRE FESTIVAL. WE WISH THE EVENT ORGANISERS EVERY SUCCESS FOR 2026 AND BEYOND.



# OIE VOALDYA PRODUCTION TEAM

**John Shakespeare** - Production manager

**Jo Shakespeare** - Wardrobe, program

**Kirsty Dencheva** -

Fundraising, media & communications

**Jax Keenan** -

Sustainability, membership & volunteer liaison

**Cathy Clucas** - Oie Voaldyn Veg

**Julie Matthews** - Oie Voaldyn Veg

**Ealee Sheard** - Bands & traders liaison

**Grainey Sheard** - Media & communications

**Steve Corfield** - Fight co-ordinator

**Alan Kneen** - Fire chief

**Christa McCartney** - Voices of the Fire lead

**Cecile Danger** - Merchandising

**Claire Temple** - Stage manager

**Lulu Gillow** - Operational planning



## GVRA MIE MOOAR EV... A BIG THANK YOU TO...

- Orsted, our headline sponsor
- Eric Wright Water for Oie Voaldyn Veg
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- Biosphere Isle of Man
- IOM Arts Council
- PWC for the accessible platform
- Peel Heritage Trust
- Cod & Castle
- Terry Quayle & the hardworking PTC works team
- Justin McMullen and the crew at ELS
- Amy Rothwell and the team at Ellan Vannin Events
- Lulu Gillow, Helen Watson, Kim Summer, Anna Clucas, Beryl Bridson, Sue Quilliam, Rachel Storey & Hannah in the Craft Tent
- Skimnee Aile Fire Team
- Bring the Fire Project
- Lerwick Up Helly Aa Jarl Squad
- Izzy Simonds for character and principal costumes
- John Bowker for "Shee Erriu"
- John Dog Callister
- Ellie White for principals' make-up
- Ken Diack for HQ security
- Peel Sailors Shelter
- Peel Harbour Keepers
- Black Dog Oven
- Peel Sailing Club
- Fynoderee Distillery for the loan of the furry satyr
- Jane Prescott, The Manx Herbalist
- Words & Spaces for printing
- Emma Cooke at EJC Design for graphics & typesetting
- Sue Jones, Steven Corran, Simon Park, Anna Modlinska & Julian Simmonds for photography
- Our fire marshals & fire spotters, the arena team, the merch team, the torch packers, the clean-up crew, the stitchers and the makers...and all the other amazing folks who help make this magical event happen!

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