**Mayrnt 2021 March** 

MANX MUSIC TODAY

# **JOIN THE MANX FIDDLE ORCHESTRA**

Be part of the Isle of Man's first *Manx Fiddle*Orchestra!!

With Katie Lawrence as conductor, you're invited to join other fiddle players for a massed performance of some of the Island's favourite Manx tunes.

KMJ readers may recognise this gathering of fiddles from the Yn Chruinnaght programme cover of 1996. It was taken the year before when the Strathspey Fiddlers came over from Scotland to perform at the festival >>



### **MFO DATES:**

Rehearsal 1 - Sat 27th March, 3 - 4.30pm, Peel Masonic Hall

Rehearsal 2 - Sat 5th June, 3 - 4.30pm, Peel Masonic Hall

Rehearsal 3 - Sat 24th July, time TBC afternoon, Douglas

Premiere performance - Sat 24th July, 7.30pm, Douglas, as part of Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering

- Violinists of all ages are invited to be part of the Manx Fiddle Orchestra.
- Players must be fairly competent on the violin or viola, and can either sight-read or comfortably learn by ear.
- No previous knowledge of Manx traditional music is required, but players must be willing to memorise their parts for the performance.
- Please bring your own music stand to rehearsals.
- Tutors are DBS checked.
- Organised by Culture Vannin and Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering

Email Chloe to SIGN UP: manxmusic@culturevannin.im

### In this month's adition

- NEW Manx dance video tutorials
- Braaid Eisteddfod to go ahead
- "Ny Tree Muckyn Beggey" arr. for recorder quartet



iaull manninagh jiu 03/21 culture vannin



Chyndaa yn Bwoailley



Girls Jig



Hop tu Naa



Flitter Dance



Girls Jig (simplified)



Dance for Three



Eunyssagh Vona

# MORE MANX DANCE TUTORIALS RELEASED

Popular Manx dances "Eunyssagh Vona" and "Dance for Three" have now been added to Culture Vannin's growing collection of dance instruction films.

Filmed over the past few years, the lessons are led by Grainne Joughin and demonstrated by young and adult dancers from Skeddan Jiarg. This group from Peel are one of the many Manx groups inspiring

a new popularisation of the Island's traditional dances.



As the first freely available videos online, the tutorials are a valuable resource for Isle of Man schools, but it's also hoped that they will introduce even more people to the traditional dances distinctive of the Isle of Man. In recent years Manx dancing has been taken up by groups all over the world, including in America, Australia, Brazil, Russia, and beyond. "Dancing is so important to the living culture of the Isle of Man," said Dr Chloe Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin. "These films will enable even more people to take part."

The eight films available are some of the best-known and best-loved of all Manx dances: Eunyssagh Vona, Dance for Three, Hop tu Naa, Flitter Dance, Chyndaa yn Bwoailley ('Return the Blow'), Cur Shaghey yn Geurey and two versions of the Manx Girls Jig.

"Whether they are used by dance groups, school teachers or interested individuals, we are excited that these films will enable even more people to take part in one of the most enjoyable and social aspects of our culture." The films are all available on the Culture Vannin website where more information about Manx dancing is also available, and also on YouTube.

## THE BRAAID EISTEDDFOD

If you'll be missing the Guild this year, why not go along to the Braaid Eisteddfod for a night of great entertainment?!

Being held on Saturday 6th March, it's a great opportunity for performers to take to the stage.

Proceedings get underway at 7.30pm under the guidance of Chairman Chris Lyon and, with participation from the audience, a great evening's entertainment is guaranteed.

The experienced adjudicators Allan Wilcocks (musical) and Dot Tilbury (literary) will give all performers constructive and encouraging feedback and talented official accompanist, Wendy McDowell, will be there to support the singers and is able to play even the most unusual pieces of music.

Come along and enjoy one of the longest standing traditional evenings of good Manx entertainment. Entry is just £5 and includes supper.

## THE BRAAID EISTEDDFOD

### **SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 2021**

**AT 7.30PM** 

**CHAIRMAN** Mr Chris Lyon

**ADJUDICATORS** Musical Mr Allan Wilcocks MBE Mrs Dot Tilbury MBE Literary Accompanist

Mrs Wendy McDowell

**ADMISSION** £5.00 (including supper)

AWARDS:

Laurie Kelly Cup - Hymn Raising John Kennaugh Cup - winner of Class 2 and 7 Eric Goldie Cup - best competitor aged 21 and under

Sue Howe Cup - Ladies' Solo

### COMPETITIONS

3.

6.

1. Hymn Raising 8. Quiz

2. Recitation - to be performed 9. Folk Song from memory

10. Duet Mens' Solo

**Humorous Story** 11. 4. Instrumental Solo

12. Quartet Stump Speech 5

14. Choir Ladies' Solo

15. Any competitor not covered by 7. Original Poem the previous 14 classes

The Committee would like to thank the Chairman, Adjudicators and Accompanist for giving up their time to support this event.



## FILM AWARDS FOR DARK AVENUE

The Lost Wife has received its first festival award wins!

**HUGE** congratulations to Jeremy Theobald for winning BEST ACTOR and to Mera Royle Music for winning BEST COMPOSER at Phoenix Short Film Festival, and to Will Fletcher and the Dark Avenue team for winning BEST EDITING at Prague International Monthly Film Festival.

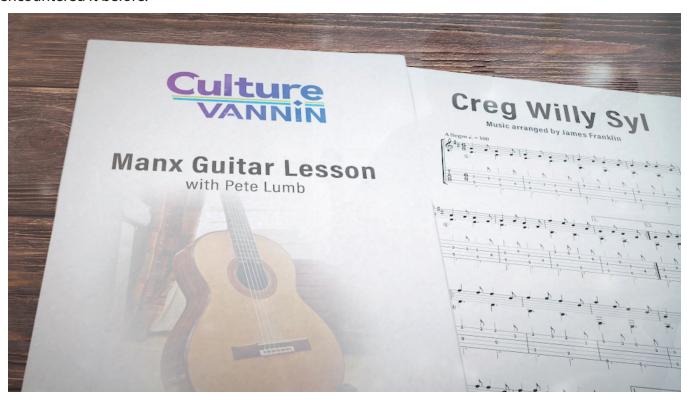
The Lost Wife is based on an old Manx story from Sophia Morrion's Manx Fairy Tales (1911).

## MANX GUITAR LESSONS

Over the past year, guitarists around the world have been treated to a Manx tune a month, expertly demonstrated and explained step-by-step on film by Pete Lumb, former Head of Guitar for the Isle of Man Music Service.

All of the 19 free films are now available online with detailed instructions and free downloadable pdf. sheet music in both TAB and standard notation. The Manx melodies featured in the series include Three Little Boats, Eunyssagh Vona, Smuggler's Lullaby, Sea Invocation and Lhigey Lhigey.

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, said: "Music is a way to connect to the Isle of Man, whether you already enjoy Manx trad music or not. This new series of tuition films is designed to make it easy to step into the exciting world of Manx music, even for those who have never encountered it before."



The Manx melodies themselves were arranged for fingerstyle guitar by James Franklin, Pete Lumb and Frank Woolley, and the collection suits a range of abilities from beginner to advanced players.

Chloë explains: "The series offers a way for so many people all over the world to engage in Manx material, allowing them to take it in exciting new directions."

Chloe has also themed a series of historical articles for the *Manx Independent* around some of the melodies in the series.

Watch and learn here: www.culturevannin.im/video\_story\_606045.html www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB95FuN2S6jOuYc1cXLvFJn-cqmKeiJaD

Smuggler's Lullaby Mannin Veg Veen

Arrane ny Niee

Arrane Chalby

Arrane Ghelby

Creg Willy Syl Eunyssagh Vona

Berree Dhone

Arrane ny Guilley Hesheree

Flitter Dance

Cutting the Turf / Hie mee Stiagh

Car ny Ferrishyn

Eisht as Nish

Shooyl Inneenyn

Yn Mheillea

Hop tu Naa

Kiark Catreeney Marroo

**Three Little Boats** 

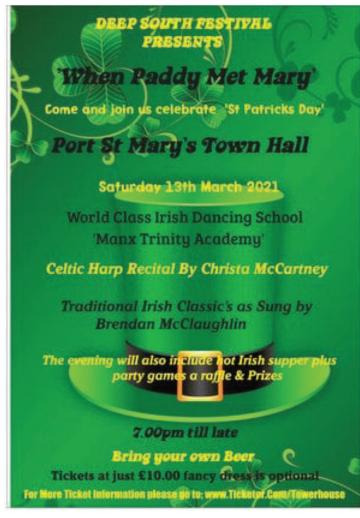
The Sea Invocation

Lhigey, Lhigey





Biskee Brisht at Secret Pizza FRIDAY, 5 MARCH 2021 AT 8PM





# **Update - "I'm Douglas Live" event**

This rescheduled event will take place from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th June. If you have already expressed an interest in taking part, you do not need to reconfirm as you are already registered. If you wish to be included, please send an email to Luis Villalon Gimenez at dtcm@douglas.gov.im with the following details:

- Performer's name:
- · Discipline:
- Number of Participants:
- · Style:
- · Do You Require Venue:
- Contact person:
- · Email:
- Any Additional Relevant Observations:



# MAKE MUSIC DAY!!

### LAA JANNOO KIAULL MONDAY 21 JUNE

Who knows what MMD 2021 will bring... One thing's for sure, Make Music Day will take place around the world (in 125 countries) as usual on 21 June!

If you would like to get involved, email Isle of Man representative Chloe Woolley: manxmusic@culturevannin.im

Loads of inspirational ideas and toolkits here:

https://makemusicday.co.uk/

Join LAA JANNOO KIAULL The Isle of Man's Make Music Day Facebook page: www.facebook.com/makemusicdayIOM/

# SHENRAGHYS JIU MANX CELTIC FESTIVAL

It is with great sadness that we are once again announcing the postponement of this Year's Shennaghys Jiu Festival. It's hard to believe that another year will be passing without seeing all our many friends and supporters, but although disappointed we are not deterred and are determined to make 2022 a truly fabulous festival based around friendships, families and community.

We had hoped to be in a position to run a scaled back version of the festival this year with our super local artists and had already had two new exciting events lined up for the weekend. Unfortunately due to the latest lockdown time and other mitigating events we have been left with this difficult decision.

We would of course like to thank our many sponsors, especially Culture Vannin, Island Aggregates, Corlett's and Ramsey Town Commissioners who have been extremely supportive and understanding of the decisions we have reached, along with The Masonic Hall in Ramsey, The Mitre and Peel Centenary Centre. The loss of another year is truly sad, but it is the essence of a festivals to have freedom to meet perform and share ideas and meet new friends that has been behind the success of the festival and we feel under present conditions some of that magic would be lost. We will miss those moments this year, but the keenness to meet up again soon has also meant that planning for 2022 is now already underway and fundraising for 2022 will continue throughout this year and into next to ensure that it will be a festival to remember.

Wishing everyone a safe year and hope to see you all next year for Shennaghys 2022.

# kiaull noa



**Fyn** is a new Manx music group based in New York! Their latest EP was inspired by some of the tunes in the #treisht2020 tutorial videos produced by Culture Vannin.

Whistle player, Shane, hails from the IOM, and he is joined by Heather Cole on fiddle and Mia Theodoratus on harp.

- 1. Ben Rein y Voaldyn
- 2. I Once Loved A Lady
  - 3. My Shenn Ayr

https://fynband.bandcamp.com/album/treisht

- 1. Arrane Ghelby
- 2. Our Ship Did Sail
- 3. Va Nancy ayns Lunnon
  - 4. Arrane y Chlean

https://fynband.bandcamp.com/album/arrane-ghelby

# Isla Callister's ManxMondays

All videos and sheet music on her blog:

www.islacallister.com/blog/

- #1 'Vreeshey, Vreeshey': https://www.islacallister.com/blog/1
- #2 'Bwoaill Baccagh': https://www.islacallister.com/blog/2
- #3 'Arrane ny Niee': https://www.islacallister.com/blog/3 featuring Gaelic singer Ruth Keggin Gell
- #4 Betsy Baker and The Girls of Balladoole:
- https://www.islacallister.com/blog/4 featuring big brother, Tom Callister on fiddle and David Kilgallon on keys
- All videos and sheet music on her blog
- https://www.islacallister.com/blog/4

# GUITAR PIECE OF THE MONTH

The final guitar tutorial of the month is "Lhigey Lhigey" with Pete Lumb.

https://youtu.be/aeUEsKirwtk

Learn the tune from Pete Lumb, and download the music here, along with 18 other Manx pieces for finger-style guitar:



kiaull manninagh jiu 03/21 culture vannir

https://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-quitar-lessons-606045/

# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Isle of Man traditional musicians starred on RTE in Ireland last week (24 Feb 2021) when they showed how busy IOM pub sessions continue to be:

www.rte.ie/news/primetime/2021/0223/1198899-covid-19-restrictions-ireland-europe-isle-of-man-madrid/



### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 PLAYS ~ DAY 24 - Isle of Man

Ross Grant was joined by Isla Callister last month as part of his Around the World in 80 Plays project. Ross said; "Isla is making lots of amazing music currently, including her Manx Monday channel on Facebook which is well worth checking out! I'm also a huge fan of her work with the brilliant band TRIP. Absolutely loved playing these Manx slips jigs - 'Colbagh breck/ Ta Cashen ersooyl' and look forward to catching a tune or two with Isla in person." www.facebook.com/watch/rossgrantviolin/

# RESEARCH NEWS

# THE MONA DOUGLAS FOLK SONG COLLECTION "A SONG ABOUT THE WHITE HEATHER"

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"A SONG ABOUT THE WHITE HEATHER! SUNG BY MRS. CALLOW, CARDLE VOAR.

O where are you going, Ineen, Ineen - (3 times)
O where are you going in all the wild weather?
O Vummig my chree, I'm away to the Mountain, (3 times)
Away to the Mountain to seek the White Heather! (twice)

O what will you do there, Ineen, Ineen -
O what will you do there in all the wild weather?
I'll lay me to rest in the lag of the Mountain,
And sleep with my head on a tuft of White Heather.

Who is there will find you, Ineen, Ineen-
Who is there will find you in all the wild weather?
My lover will find me across the dark Mountain,
Will find me and gather my tuft of White Heather.

And who is your lover, Ineen, Ineen-
To follow and find you in all the wild weather?
My lover is Deathe, and he dwells in the Mountain,
And the sign of his love is the tuft of White Heather!
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""A SONG ABOUT THE WHITE HEATHER" SUNG BY MRS. CALLOW, CARDLE VOAR." Typescript, undated. мnнl, мs 09545, Mona Douglas Papers, Box 15.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV



The ladies of the Douglas Manx Class, attired in old-fashioned costume, sang "Hunt the Wren" and other Manx songs, the Manx Museum last Saturday,

# Manx music and dance revival in the 21st Century

This final look at the history of Manx music and dance brings us up to the present day, highlighting some of the developments from the past 20 years.

As Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin (formerly the Manx Heritage Foundation) since 2004, part of my role is to help promote Manx music and dance in schools. Working with the Department of Education and Children's Music Service, we have created resources for a host of instruments. We have also founded the youth group Bree, which has produced some fine musicians, some of whom went on to form Scran, which released a debut album in 2018. Some members, such as Isla Callister, have gone onto study traditional music at university.

The foundation of Manx music in schools was laid by outstanding individuals such as Mike Boulton, who established Share na Veg at Albert Road, Ramsey some 40 years ago. Building on this, Rachel Hair has taught dozens of aspiring harpists, including Mera Royle, who won the coveted title of BBC Radio 2

Young Folk Musician in 2018.

Dance, meanwhile, continues to flourish through multi-generational groups like Skeddan Jiarg and Perree Bane.

Mooinjey Veggey Gaelic nurseries and the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh have produced songs like "Traa dy Gholl dy Valley" and "S'mie Lhiam Cappan dy Hey", now sung across the island. The DESC Manx Folk Awards (formerly Cruinnaght Aeg) provides friendly competitions open to all schoolchildren.

The past 20 years has seen a surge of music CDs including 'The Best That's In', a compilation of music hall favourites and traditional music, and fantastic offerings from The Mollag Band, Skeeal, Biskee Brisht, Birlinn Jiarg and Clash Vooar. It has found respect in other genres too: blues guitarist Davy Knowles explored his roots in the film 'Island Bound', while mainstream singers Robin Gibb, Christine Collister and Sam Barks have all recorded songs from their homeland.



Kiaull yn Theay 3 & 4 tune books brought together original songs and tunes from Peddyr Cubberley, Katie Lawrence, David Speers and Bob Carswell, etc. Traditional melodies have inspired new compositions by Roy Baker. Paul Dunderdale, David Kilgallon, Madeline Kelly, Frank Woolley and others.

Manx music has made its mark internationally with Barrule, Ruth Keggin and Mec Lir appearing on stage at Celtic Connections in Glasgow and winning awards at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient. Rushen Silver Band, Ny Fennee and others captivated huge audiences when the Isle of Man was the 'honoured nation' at Lorient in 2015.

Collaborative projects with Scottish, Irish, Norwegian, Breton and Bulgarian musicians have revealed the flexibility of Manx music, while a project exploring the life of folklorist Mona Douglas and another re-enacting 'The Mona Melodies' of 1820 have helped keep the past alive and relevant.

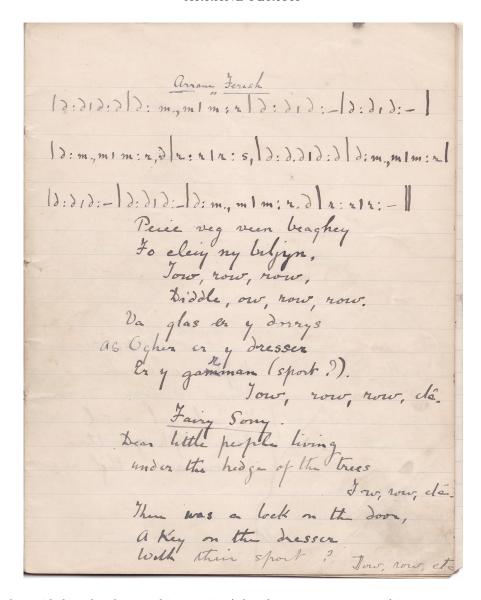
Customs such as Hunt the Wren and Hop tu Naa along with annual events such as Mollag Ghennal, Manannan's Winterfest and Oie Voaldyn, are now highpoints of the year.

Over the past year, digital technology and social media have become vital tools in the work of Culture Vannin. The result is that every day, people around the world are discovering Manx music and dance, and once the border opens, perhaps we will welcome new visitors who have come specifically to sample the culture.

By Dr Chloe Woolley for the Manx Independent 18.02.2021

[photo - Bree dancers 2020]

# FROM THE MORRISON–KERMODE COLLECTION ARRANE FERISH



School Exercise Book, untitled, undated. In Sophia Morrison's hand. минь, мя 09495 Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6.

Stephen Miller RbV

MS 36 - M84



# Manx Musical Worthies Harold Moorhouse

'His dance music brought joy and love to many "In the Mood" '\*
Born 1907; died 2002

More than any other local dance band leader, Harold Moorhouse, who for decades kept the dance music going in Douglas and elsewhere on the island throughout the seasons, and was particularly associated with the Palais de Danse, the Palace Ballroom, the Villa Marina and as the resident band leader at the Balqueen Hydro in Port St. Mary, fully merits his place in my selection of Manx Musical Worthies.

By Maurice Powell

### **READ HERE:**

https://www.manxmusic.com/bio page 665316.html



As there is an expressed desire in the present day to resuscitate the Manx language reminds me that in 1872 the Manx Society having for its object the preservation of literature and records in the vernacular tongue gave a Manx entertainment and concert in the Victoria Hall (now absorbed by Mr Williamson's grocery establishment), Prospect Hill, Douglas. The proceedings were conducted entirely in Gaelk (Manx Gaelic), the chairman being the Rev Thomas Caine, the then vicar of Lonan, and Quine Brothers, of that day, performed exclusively Manx airs adapted to dance music with their On that occasion the noted quadrille band. Chairman read a letter of apology from the Rev John Thomas Clarke, Chaplain of the Sea-men's Bethel, Swansea, the writer subscribing himself, "Yuan Homase Mac-y-Shleree, sy Thalloo Vretnagh." The names of the reciters and singers were on the programme in the vernacular, as, for instance, "Illiam Quilliam, Balla-ny-Hinsha," read a portion of Milton's "Paradise Lost," under the title of "Pargys Caillyt"; another Quilliam, hailing from the west of the island, recited "Arrane mysh ny Baatyn Skeddan"; one hailing from "Skeery Pherrick" recited "Thurot as Elliott." Song, "Arrane er Song, "Arrane er Privateer"; dialogue, "Illiam as Esbel"; duet, "Aarey Yacob"; song, "Boollan Bane." After which James Cowin recited "Yn Jeirkagh Meshtyllyn" (the name of the reciter is sufficient to surmise that the title was "The Drunken Vagrant"). Then followed "Kirree fo Sniaghtey," and as an encore "Hiarn Saue yn Ree"; song, "Mannin Veg Veen"; song, "Arrane ny Fereshyn"; the last item "Mylecharane" winding up the programme; after which the Chairman delivered a valedictory Manx speech. I leave the translation of the above headings to thos interested in the retention of Manx Gaelic.

<< A few Manx tunes and songs in 1899: Manx Sun, Saturday, October 28, 1899; Page: 10. *Thanks to David Radcliffe* 

# Library sound recordings digitised

Manx National Heritage is looking for good listeners as it studies the Isle of Man's sound heritage.

Since October library and archive recordings - on reel-to-reel, vinyl, cassette tapes and CDs - have been digitised.

Now MNH wants volunteers to help it catalogue and listen to the contents.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer listener you can contact the team on 648072 or email uosh@mnh. im

Collections information manager Jude Dicken says the project will create a few surprises:

www.manxradio.com/news

# Youtube/ •

## Soundcloud corner! •

Challenge for you!! •

# What Manx tune is this? •

(played backwards) •

https://youtu.be/8rk2VJ8tOss •

Answer at end of KMJ>> ●

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

# 1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.5 Peter O'Tavy

Peter O'Tavy is a dance primarily associated with weddings, in which the bride, groom, best man and bridesmaid test their sobriety after the wedding breakfast. However, as a traditional dance with associated folklore there is very little information available with regard to its collection. The earliest mention of the dance is in correspondence between Arnold Foster and Mona Douglas in 1935 (MNHL 09545 Box 21) pertaining to the upcoming publication of dances by Stainer & Bell, 'There are two tunes which I want – The Fairy Reel and Hunt the Wren and I hear from Edith Jones that there is another new one which she has not got called Peter O'Tavy'.

The dance has evidently been collected and deciphered during the early 1930s, as notes are already in existence by 1935 and a full sequence of photographs of Stowell's dance team at Albert Road performing the dance can be found in the Manx Museum library.



By kind permission of Manx National Heritage.

### A1.5.1 Peter O'Tavy. The honour by the Albert Road Dance Team c. 1935

(MNHL PG4962/1).

As Stowell moved from Albert Road School, Ramsey to Castletown in 1937 the dance must have been complete by this time. This is backed up by Douglas' 1937 paper which states that the dance is complete and that oral tradition says that it is a relic of the Spanish Armada. The early restoration of this dance is further evidenced by Stowell in an extra mural lecture he gave, in which he states that with the Albert Road team they first unravelled the Dirk Dance, then Car ny Ferrishyn, Eunysagh Vona, Peter O'Tavy and Car Juan Nan. This sequence of events would imply, based on information on the Albert Road Dance team (see Chapter 3), that the dance was already complete in 1929/1930. Further, Joe Woods states that an impromptu performance of the dance took place at the 1937 Celtic Congress (Bazin: 1998).

The most detailed information on the dance's origins comes from Stowell in his personal papers held in the Manx Museum. On a sheet of typed notes from 1950 Stowell maintains that this is the most beautiful of the Manx dances. He also states that he has entered it into the Guild many times since 1926 and it has always won. He also points out that the tune and words can be found in JFSS (1924) in which Gilchrist suggests that the name derives from 'Petronella,' an old country dance. He then goes on to state quite

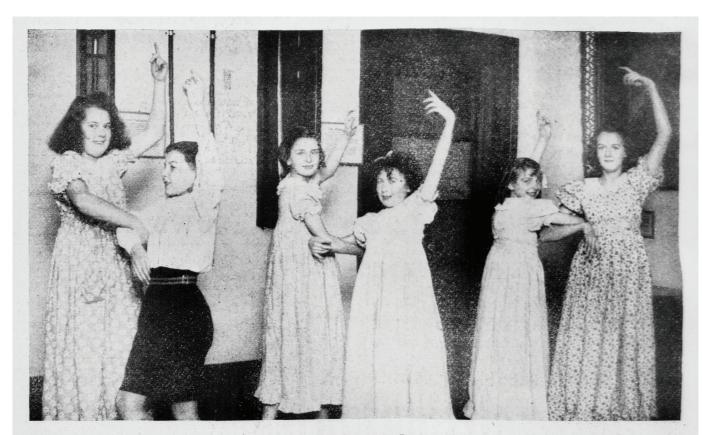
clearly that it used be sung at the tavern on Colby Bridge by the customers who, standing on one leg would move the other to the right and left without putting it on the ground, a tricky movement when one had drunk too much 'jough'. The date 1926 seems unlikely though as, if he did work the dance out with the Albert Road Team and Mona Douglas, they did not come together until 1928/9. There is, however, some possible information here as to the origin of the dance as collected but only in relation to the first step of the dance, not the ensuing figures. Stowell also refers to the dance as 'Car ny Phoosee' or 'the wedding reel'.

In one of Douglas' notebooks, however, she states quite clearly that this is a separate dance to Car y Phoosee; a lively long ways dance in which the whole company takes part. Douglas is also very realistic in these notes as to the ultimate origins of Peter O'Tavy. While she recognises that there is a tradition of Spanish influence on the Isle of Man with place names such as Spanish Head, there is no record of a Spanish ship ever being ship wrecked on the Isle of Man's shores, she notes that it is possible that some Armada survivors did settle on the Isle of Man at a later date. This ties in with what she sees as the grace and dignity of the dance, similar to some ceremonial Spanish dances.

Subsequently the dance was published as having been collected by Douglas in Seven Manx Folk Dances: Set II 1953 and it is in this form that it is danced today. The tune appears then on the LP Daunseyn Theayagh Vannin (1973) as produced by the MFDS and finally the whole dance in Rinkaghyn Vannin in 1983.

By Cinzia Curtis 2006 **READ FULL THESIS:** 

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



"Old Christmas Day" at the Museum.-A dance movement by the Castletown Children, trained by Mr. Leighton Stowell.

Castletown Dancers 1942

NEW RESEARCH: An Analysis of Haydn Wood's Mannin Veen as It Relates to Manx Folk Songs and Legends From the Isle of Man.

by Haley Armstrong, Sage publications 2020

https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2158244020954930

## 'Mylecharaine' was once a song said to be known to every Manx person.

Indeed, the National Anthem is even based on its melody.

So we [Culture Vannin] were interested in an account from 1862 dealing with its descendants...

The song is framed as a conversation between a daughter and her father, Mylecharaine, who is cursed by his daughter for causing her to live alone through his

miserliness.

In the 1850s George Borrow visited the Isle of Man and went in search of the descendants of Mylecharaine (spelt, for him, 'Mollie Charane'), out in the curragh at Jurby. The account gives a fascinating picture of the Isle of Man over 150 years ago:

"Two families bearing the name of the miser [Mollie Charane], and descended from him, still reside upon the Curragh, at the distance of about half-a-mile from each other. The name of the head of the principal family is John Mollie Charane; that of the other is Billy Mollie Charane.

In the autumn of the year 1855, I found my way across the Curragh to the house of John Mollie Charane. On my knocking at the door, it was opened by a respectable-looking elderly female, of about sixty, who, after answering a question which I put, namely, which was the way to Balla Giberagh, asked me to walk in, saying that I looked faint and weary.

On my entering she made me sit down, brought me a basin of buttermilk to drink, and asked me what brought me to the Curragh. Merely to see Mollie Charane, I replied. Whereupon she said he was not at home, but that she was his wife, and any business I had with her husband I might communicate to her. I told her that my only motive in coming was to see a descendant of the person mentioned in the celebrated song.



She then looked at me with some surprise, and observed that there was indeed a song about a person of the family, but that he had been dead and gone many a long year, and she wondered I should give myself the trouble to come to such a place as the Curragh to see people merely because one of their forebears was mentioned in a song. I said that, however strange the reason I gave might seem to her, it was the true one; whereupon she replied, that as I was come I was welcome.

I had a great deal of discourse with her about her family. Among other things, she told me that she had a son in Ohio, who lived in a village where the Manx language was spoken, the greater number of the people being Manx. She was quite alone in the house when I arrived, with the exception of two large dogs, who at first barked, and were angry at me., but eventually came and licked my hands.

After conversing with the respectable old lady for about half-an-hour, I got up, shook her by the hand ,and departed to Balla Gilberagh. The house was a neat little house, fronting the west, having a clump of trees near it. However miserly the Mollie Charane of the song may have been, I experienced no lack of hospitality in the house of his descendent."

[George Borrow, 'Ballads of the Isle of Man' in 'Once a Week' Jan 1862, quoted in 'Yn Lioar Manninagh,' vol. I, Pt. 2, pp.359-360]

Here is a beautiful solo sung version of the song by Jonee Fisher, giving a perfect demonstration of why it was such a popular song: https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/mylecharaine-jonee-fisher

Mylecharaine - Air: http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/manxsoc/msvol16/p056.htm

Lyrics: http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/mb1896/p052.htm

Mylecharaine - major version (melody used as basis for the National Anthem)

http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/mb1896/p253.htm

# THE MONA DOUGLAS FOLK SONG COLLECTION "A SONG ABOUT THE WHITE HEATHER"

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"A SONG ABOUT THE WHITE HEATHER! SUNG BY MRS. CALLOW, CARDLE VOAR.

O where are you going, Ineen, Ineen - (3 times)
O where are you going in all the wild weather?
O Vummig my chree, I'm away to the Mountain, (3 times)
Away to the Mountain to seek the White Heather! (twice)

O what will you do there, Ineen, Ineen -
O what will you do there in all the wild weather?
I'll lay me to rest in the lag of the Mountain,
And sleep with my head on a tuft of White Heather.

Who is there will find you, Ineen, Ineen-
Who is there will find you in all the wild weather?
My lover will find me across the dark Mountain,
Will find me and gather my tuft of White Heather.

And who is your lover, Ineen, Ineen-
To follow and find you in all the wild weather?
My lover is Deathe, and he dwells in the Mountain,
And the sign of his love is the tuft of White Heather!
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""A SONG ABOUT THE WHITE HEATHER" SUNG BY MRS. CALLOW, CARDLE VOAR." Typescript, undated. MNHL, MS 09545, Mona Douglas Papers, Box 15.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

# MILITARY DANCE!

A Volunteer Subscription Dance, Wednesday 17th December 1902. Tickets 6s. Music by 'an efficient string band'.

The 'Volunteers' were members of the Loyal Manx Volunteer Force (Company) who saw service at home and abroad during WWI. (See Maurice Powell, 'Manxland's King of Music', Lily Publications, 2018, p. 202-207 for further details of the LMVF photographs from 1915).

The string band who played for the dancing was probably conducted

7th V.B. (Isle of Man) King's Liverpool Regiment. VOLUNTEER SUBSCRIPTION 7th (J.o.M.) V.B. The DANCE King's Liverpool Regiment. Will be held in the Drill Hall **→≒|•|**≡• ROAD. Volunteer Jance. Subscription .1 Wednesday, Dec. 17. TICKETS, 6s. each, may be had from the THE DRILL HALL. following Members of the Committee: Corporal WEDNESDAY, XO. Bregazzi, Prospect Hill; Corporal Coupe, Vic-€X DEC. 17, 1902. toria Street; and Mr P. Lomas, Royal Hotel. Music by an Efficient String Band. Sargt.-Major THOMAS, Hon. Sec.

by C. F. Poulter, a well-known musical director in Douglas at that period.

(See Maurice Powell, **Charles Frederick Poulter**, manxmusic.com)

The most popular dances in the decades before WWI, when American jazz-influenced dances became popular, were Waltzes, Polkas, Schottisches, Quadrilles, Lancers and Barn Dances.

kiaull manninagh jiu 03/21 culture vannir

Q.M.S. CUBBON, Hon. Treasurer.

# WILLIAM HANBY.

## Died January 21st, 1921.

... After Mr Tom Longden, Mr William Hanby. Both gentlemen rendered inconspicuous but admirably efficient service to the Manx public, in the mechanical department of the Post Office; both gentlemen, in their unofficial capacities, richly earned the blessing that is pronounced upon the mean who makes two laughs grow whom only one grew before; and the two gentleman, unfortunately, have died within a few days of each other, each at a comparatively early age. Mr Hanby was the elder, for the was 61 years old, and had the previous year earned his retirement on pension. He was the son of the late Mr William Ridsdale Hanby, mining engineer, of Douglas, and in the year 1871 he joined the service of the Manx Telegraph Co. The telegraph system was first introduced into the Island, as may be remembered, by a joint stock company, of which the late High-Bailiff Harris, was chairman, and when in due course the undertaking was taken over by the Government, Mr Hanby was transferred. In 1908 he became overseer, and throughout the war he was called upon to discharge

### A NATIVE OF PEEL.

Sung at "King Gobnageay" on Hollantide Night, November 12th, 1902.

Words by W. Hanby. Music by Harry Wood.

I'm a native of Peel,
And I think, for a meal,
That there's northen like taters an herrin';
I was reared on the quay,
So I foller the say,
An' its middlin' good fishin's I'm gerrin.

### Chorus.

Then here's to the hake and the herrin, And here's to the win' blowing free, To the blue sky above and the gel that I love, Here's a health to our bhoys on the say.

### MANY TRANSLATION.

Purt-ny-hinshey, rag mee,
As son lhongey dy vee,
Cha nel veg goll-rish praaseyn as skeddan;
Va mee troggit er'n key,
Nish goll shiauley ta mee,
As ceastaghyn braew vie ta mee gedding.

### Chorus.

Shoh slaynt da'n vockglass as yn skeddan, As shoh rys yn gheay sheidey harrin, Gys yn aer gorrym erskyn as y'neen baillish Ihiam, Shoh slaynt da ny guillyn ain er y cheayn. J. Nelson.

duties of a wider range. Mr Hanby's gifts first made themselves publicly recognised about twenty years ago, when the Manx operetta, "King Gob-ne-Geay," was produced at the Gaiety Theatre. Mr Hanby was responsible for the dialogue and the lyrics, and Mr Harry Wood for the music, and the reduction achieved a tremendous success.

Hanby, as a versifier, had lightness of touch; he had a spontaneous wit that ascribed his hearers down the streams, and in a jovial, unidealistic way he hit off Manx character, and particularly Manx character as it is moulded by the visiting season, to the life. The motto which, the editor of the "Passing Show" has adopted was also his

With or without offence to friends or foes, I sketch your world exactly as it goes.

A second extravaganza, "The Babes in the Wood (from a Manx point of view)," also emerged from the pen of Mr Hanby and Mr Harry Wood, and was also an inexhaustible source of innocent merriment. Mr Hanby will especially be remembered for his two excellent character songs, "The Native of Peel," and "The Pride of Port-le-Murra,," Mr George Kelly, harbour master of Douglas, who is an entertainer of no mean order, first popularised these songs, but they have now obtained a very wide vogue, and that vogue is likely to continue. One rather regretted, at the time when Mr W. Cubbon's "Anthology of Manx Poetry," was published, these two songs were not included, for they are well worthy of a permanent place in the Island's literature. Mr Hanby also wrote a couple of recitations, which Mr George Kelly has often given with great effect-"The Land of the Cushag," and "Quilleash's lil' Cow."

It is worthy of note that Mr Hanby was a cousin of Professor Henry Hanby Hay, of Philadelphia University, a poet of merit, and a patriotic Manxman, who at one time contributed freely to the columns of this newspaper.

Manx Quarterly No. 25 p111/118 - Memorial Notices (isle-of-man.com) http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/mquart/mg25111.htm

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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



Kevin Kelly, who lives in the USA, discovered the tune, "Ny Tree Muckyn Beggey" in a previous edition of KMJ, and he has since arranged it for recorder quartet. He hopes to be able to try it out with his ensemble before too long.

You can download the full score and parts for free here: www.manxmusic.com/learn\_page\_666583.html

# Ny Tree Muckyn Beggey Three Little Pigs





### MARCH

5th Folk Friday – Clash Vooar, Centenary Centre, Peel

5th Biskee Brisht, Secret Pizza, Castletown 6th Braaid Eisteddford

27th Manx Fiddle Orchestra - introductory rehearsal. Masonic Hall, Peel

### **APRIL**

### MAY

14th Boaldyn concert

### JUNE

4th - 6th "I'm Douglas Live"

5th Manx Fiddle Orchestra rehearsal

9th - 9th July Gaelg21 Manx Langage Month 21st Laa Jannoo Kiaull - Make Music Day

# JULY

5th Tynwald Day

19th - 25th Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering www.celticgathering.im

23rd - 25th Dark Horse Festival [sold out]

# For updates & news, follow

www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance for updates

# Celtic Congress - Mannin Branch

# **Boaldyn Concert**

~ Fri 14th May ~

 Music, song, poetry and dance in the month of May - Various performers

Centenary Centre, Peel

organised by the Celtic Congress
with Culture Vannin

YN CHRUINNAGHT CELTIC GATHERING SAVE THE DATES!! 19th - 21st July 2021

www.celticgathering.im www.ynchruinnaght.com

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

www.manxmusic.com

SESSIONS

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas
WED 8.30pm Trad Session at the Saddle, Douglas
THURS 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at the Colby Glen
Last FRI of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
First SUN of month 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club
Third SUN of month 12.30pm Trad session in Ginger Hall, Sulby

# culture vannin

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www.manxmusic.com

Call: Chloë: 01624 694758 (answerphone)

or write to: Culture Vannin, PO Box 1986, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1SR

~ SESSIONS ~