

## KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Mean Fouyir 2021 September

MANX MUSIC TODAY

*A Love Letter to Lorient*

A staged concert of Manx music, song & dance was filmed to give fellow Celtic culture fans in Brittany a taste of the wonderful things the Isle of Man has to offer.

In normal years, some of the leading Manx performers attend the Festival Interceltique de Lorient each August to represent the Island. They take Manx culture, and, with that, the Isle of Man to millions of people (in person and through television and media) across Brittany and beyond. This year, due to Covid-19, this couldn't happen, so the delegates and Culture Vannin decided to send them a filmed concert instead! The performances are available for everyone to enjoy online now:

**Concert shared by the Festival Interceltique de Lorient:** <https://fb.watch/7pYG9B6HQJ/>

**Separate performances:** <https://tinyurl.com/5ecjrmew>

**Performers:**

- \* Aalish Kilgallon (voice & dance)
- \* David Kilgallon (piano, fiddle & voice)
- \* Joshua Clarkson (dance)
- \* Clare, Esther & Jon Kilgallon (voice)
- \* Jack Mclean (guitar)
- \* Frank Joughin (fiddle)
- \* Maeve Callister (fiddle, voice & dance)

- \* Lucy Gilmore (harp)
- \* Grainne Joughin (dance)
- \* Ali Carroon (dance)
- \* Clash Vooar

Compèred by the Manx delegates for Lorient;  
Grainne Sheard & Sarah Hendy.

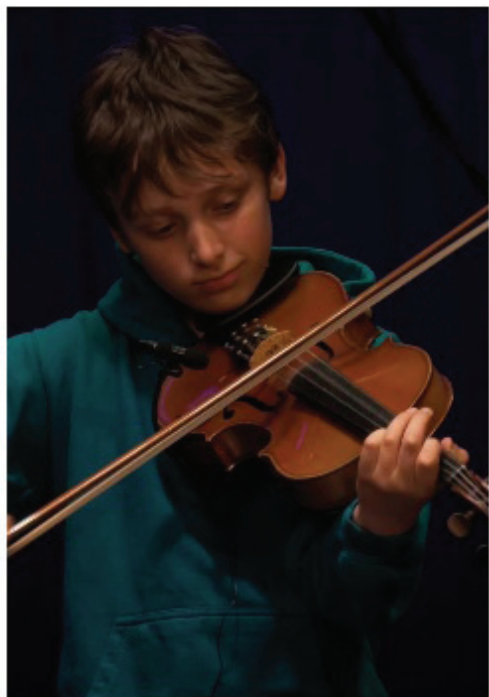
*Recorded: 8 July 2021, Peel Centenary Centre,  
Isle of Man, by Culture Vannin.*

*In this month's edition...*

- 70 Years of the Manx Folk Dance Society
- The release of 'Folliaght' for Colmcille1500
- New EP from Lochtan

**Culture**  
**VANNIN**





Performers taking part in *A Love Letter to Lorient*



# Happy 70th Anniversary to the MANX FOLK DANCE SOCIETY!



Hear long-term member  
Joan Cowell talk about  
the history of the society:

<https://tinyurl.com/3knrsb6>

Read about the MFDS receiving the RBV award in 2012:

[www.culturevannin.im/rbv/manx-folk-dance-society-292939/](http://www.culturevannin.im/rbv/manx-folk-dance-society-292939/)

More info on the group <http://manxfolkdance.org.uk/>

And look out for a new film about the 'folkies' coming soon from Culture Vannin...





## TRIBUTE TO WENDY HURST

*As most of you will have heard, our dear friend and fellow musician Wendy has passed away [9th August 2021]. We will remember her with great fondness, and will never forget her laugh, her wicked sense of humour, her directness and, above all, her kindness.*

*Wendy wasn't religious, neither am I, but I'd like to think she'd be amused by the idea of her sorting them all out in that great session in the sky.*

*To Wendy. Slaynt!*

**[Spokeperson for the Isle of Man Traditional Music facebook page]**

\*\*\*

*Thank you for everything you've done for the trad music scene  
Wendy. Oie vie.*

From Chloë & the team at Culture Vannin x



Wendy playing Hunt the Wren at Ballaglass Farmhouse, Maughold 2000 (Photo: Wendy Hurst/Bob Fennell)





The Mollag Band is 30 years old this year!

To celebrate, here is a newly released live video of one of their favourite songs!

<https://vimeo.com/582020259>

This performance of 'Sellafield' was given at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient in 2019, the last time the Manx were able to attend in person in the normal way.



Performing at the Espace Marine to an audience of 1,000s in person, and to 100,000s on French television, the legendary Manx band wowed them all with their unique brand of pop songs in Manx and English. This is one of four songs from The Mollag Band at Lorient in 2019 now available online:

<https://tinyurl.com/58z3zfa>

MANX LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

# COISHKYS

**4 - 7 Mee Houny / November 2021**

kiuill manninagh jiu 09/21 culture vannin



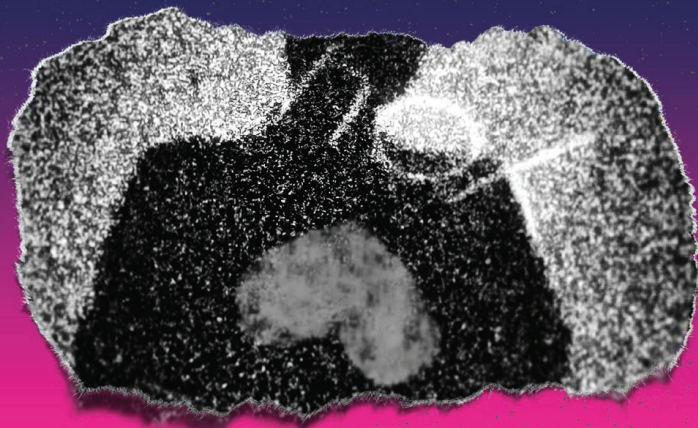
**MADE IN MANN**

PRESENTS

# TRUMAN FALLS

**FRI 24 SEP**

DOORS 7.30PM



**LIVE IN THE PROM SUITE**

**FREE TO ATTEND / LIMITED AVAILABILITY**



NOW HIRING

## CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT GO-ORDINATOR

YOUTH ARTS CENTRE

Join our team as a Creative Development Co-Ordinator within Department of Education, Sport and Culture! In this role you will manage and develop the day to day activities, events, administration, policies and procedures relating to the operation of the Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas.

APPLY VIA [WWW.JOBTRAIN.CO.UK/IOMGOVJOBS](http://WWW.JOBTRAIN.CO.UK/IOMGOVJOBS)



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

## Concert Series 2021

**Saturday 26th June**  
The Shimmers Vocal Ensemble

**Saturday 17th July**  
Summer Serenade  
A cabaret of light music for a Summer evening

**Wednesday 11th August**  
Hartes Ease & The Tallis Consort

**Saturday 18th September**  
The Blue Train Big Band

**Thursday 14th October**  
Manx Youth Band

**Saturday 20th November**  
Isle of Man Wind Orchestra

**Free Admission 7.30pm**  
[www.cathedralmusic.im](http://www.cathedralmusic.im)



Ramsey Crookall  
Established 1946  
Members of the London Stock Exchange



Celebrating  
75 Years in Business  
1946 - 2021

The Isle of Man Arts Council present a free adult Ukulele Workshop as part of the Arts in the Arcade 2021 programme. Come and learn to play with Mannin Music's Dr Laura Rowles!

1st September, 7-8.30pm

Full info and booking info: <https://tinyurl.com/2m25stun>



ARTS IN THE  
ARCAD

CREATIVE  
WORKSHOPS







Unique opportunities have arisen - Dr Litman has a few vacancies for Cathedral Choristers aged 8-14 years. Highly specialised professional training and expectations. Training for RSCM medals and ABRSM grades. All completely free. Interested parents should contact Dr Litman: [www.music@cathedral.im](mailto:www.music@cathedral.im)

# BALLEY

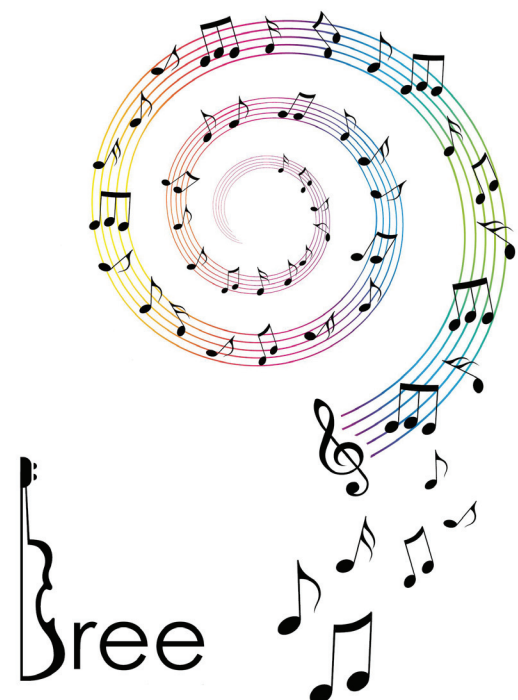
CASHTAL

# BEATS

28-29 AUGUST  
NOON - 10PM

**BIRD AND THE BEARDS**  
**BISKEE BRISHT**  
**BUNCH SKANKERS**  
**CASTLETOWN**  
**METROPOLITAN**  
**SILVER BAND**  
**CHRISTINE COLLISTER**  
**CLASH VOOAR**  
**EVPD LAVA**  
**LOOSE CREW**  
**MATT CREER**  
**MOTHERFUNKERS**  
**SOUTHERN STATE**  
**SUNSET JET**  
**TERRY GEORGE**

EXPERIENCE  
A WEEKEND  
OF FAMILY  
FRIENDLY  
LOCAL  
MUSIC



## BIG BREE WORKSHOP WEEKEND

Calling young musicians, singers and dancers! Culture Vannin will be holding their two day workshop on Sunday 24th and Monday 25th October. Look out for more info: [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com)



AUGUST SUPER BANK HOLIDAY

VILLA MARINA GARDENS

# BUSHY'S FEEL GOOD FESTIVAL

## THURSDAY 26TH AUGUST

6-7:30PM GLITCH 265

8-9:30PM BROKEN ROOSTER

10-11:45PM BUNCH A SKANKERS

## FRIDAY 27TH AUGUST

12:30-2PM TERESA MCNULTY

3-4:30PM A STONES THROW

5:30-7PM TERENCE GEORGE

8-9:30PM MAE CHALLIS

10-11:45PM MALDUNE

## SATURDAY 28TH AUGUST

12:30-2PM JOHN LIGHTFEILD

3-4:30PM IAN THOMPSON

5:30-7PM BISKEE BRISHT

8-9:30PM TOUCAN PARTY

10-11:45PM HARVEY MUSHMAN

## SUNDAY 29TH AUGUST

12:30-2PM STEPHEN NASH

3-4:30PM ALEX BELL

5:30-7PM KLEVER SHIRTS

8-9:30PM THE BONEYARD

10-11:45PM 3 MILLION

**26.08.21 to  
29.08.21**

This event is supported by the Domestic Event Fund, organised and run by business Isle of Man an executive agency for the Department of Enterprise



#feelgoodatbushys  
**ELS**



## Laa Columb Killey "Beg" film

A film capturing a very unusual year in one of the Isle of Man's oldest and most traditional fairs has been released; Laa Columb Killey "Beg."

Arbory has enjoyed its traditional parish fair at the end of June for over 100 years, with a parade, a princess and attendants, sports, singing, dancing, refreshments and more. It is the key date (25th June) in the year for many in the parish, but perhaps few elsewhere in the Island will know much about it.

This short film of Laa Columb Killey "Beg" explores some of what makes Arbory's annual festival so special.

[www.culturevannin.im/news/laa-columb-killey-beg-film-688944/](http://www.culturevannin.im/news/laa-columb-killey-beg-film-688944/)

More about the traditions of Laa Columb Killey in the Isle of Man:

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





**Jim Crebbin BEM**, Conductor Emeritus of Rushen Silver Band, and the band's musical director from 1964 to 2009, passed away on 12th August.

Jim also served for many years on the Committee of the Manx Music Festival, and was an inspiration to many of the Island's brass players in particular.

A spokesperson for Rushen Silver Band said: "It is impossible to put into words how much Jim meant to the band, or how significant his part has been in the band's story. We're very proud to have known and made music with Jim, and will continue to do so to honour his legacy. Thanks for all your efforts for the band and the island's community Jim, and now we hope you enjoy a very well deserved rest in peace. We will do all we can to keep the music playing."





# kiaul1 noa

## Y Folliaght: A choral piece for Columb Killey, by Aalin Clague

This beautiful new choral piece composed by Aalin Clague and performed by Caarjyn Cooijagh was created as part of the Colmcille1500 celebrations of the 1500th anniversary of the birth of Columb Killey / Colmcille / St. Columba.

Commissioned as a Treisht2020 project by Culture Vannin, 'Y Folliaght' is inspired by nature poetry attributed to Colmcille, with lyrics in Manx by Dr Marie Clague. The song was recorded by Gyp Buggane and film created by Andy Skillen. It was shot at various locations around the Isle of Man, including Niarbyl, Traie Vane & Garwick.

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/BMAuk7AfWjg>

LISTEN: [www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/audioarchive/y-folliaght/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/audioarchive/y-folliaght/)

DOWNLOAD SHEET MUSIC: <https://tinyurl.com/cehdnjv5>



The lyrics begin:

*S'eunyssagh d'ou dy ve er cronk aalin / er baare carrick / dy voddym mennick fakin er yn ushtey kiune  
Dy voddym fakin ny tonnyn trome / erskyn yn ushtey gial myr t'ad cantal / kiaull da nyn Ayr dy bea veayn  
Delightful to me to be on an island hill, / on the crest of a rock, / that I might often watch the quiet sea.  
That I might watch the heavy waves / above the bright water, as they chant / music to their Father  
everlastingly.*

More information about Caarjyn Cooijagh can be found here:

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

More about Colmcille1500, a celebration of the legacy of St Columba and our shared Gaelic heritage: [www.colmcille.net/colmcille-1500/](http://www.colmcille.net/colmcille-1500/)





## When Manx traditional meets electronic...

Lochtán have released a new album of tunes. The duo is made up of trad musician Owen Williams (who many will know from his time in Scrán and his work with Mera Royle), and DJ and producer, Joe McGuigan.

They formed last year when the first lockdown interrupted their plans and left them with the space in which to work on their music, perfectly blending a modern electronic sound with traditional music on flute and other instruments... and if you are unsure how that sounds, you need to listen!

Jeant dy mie, Owen as Joe!

Lochtán on Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/7cGZ91CK1M4l8jd53jfDC>

Amazon: [www.amazon.com/.../B09BP1K7YF/ref=dm\\_ws\\_sp\\_ps\\_dp](http://www.amazon.com/.../B09BP1K7YF/ref=dm_ws_sp_ps_dp)

Isle of Man's answer to The Pogues, THE BALLAGHS have brought out their debut online album, "Another Broken String"! Fronted by Mike Wade on vocals and guitar, the 10 track album includes original song, *The Brig Lily*, in which folk fans will recognise Manx tune, Three Little Boats, and the song *Trim Rigg* which features Chanter's Tune.

LISTEN on Spotify:  
<https://tinyurl.com/44n8jbp6>



## Isle of Man Gloom-Pop

**Raine** is a collaboration between Suzy Manton and Martyn Cain who take "an atmospheric stroll through the darkest edges of the night" on their new album, 'Most Nights Lately':

Listen on Spotify:

<https://tinyurl.com/3c7h4f3k>

Check out music videos for...

How it Ends: <https://youtu.be/fraKVjnGoDc>

Icarus: <https://youtu.be/t0Hkz9Ypaok>

Killing Time:

<https://youtu.be/DuqHNdSbND4>



[www.facebook.com/rainemusicIOM](https://www.facebook.com/rainemusicIOM)





Manx harpist Mera Royle has released an original composition called *Erinna*, inspired by the suffragette movement. It's available for free download:

<https://tinyurl.com/ucp9v4f8>

A statue of the music trio The Bee Gees has been unveiled on Douglas Promenade in the Isle of Man, where the famous brothers were born. The inscription includes their version of the song Ellan Vannin in Manx and English. [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-57769115](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-57769115)



[Browse](#) [Pre-Orders](#) [RSD 2021](#) [Tickets](#) [Our Story](#) [Blog](#)



[Contact](#)



## Sound Records Gets Ballagroove-y

On an industrial estate in the south of the Isle of Man, a small, nondescript unit (from the outside, anyway) houses a whole world of creativity. For the past decade, Gyp Buggane has run Ballagroove Recording Studio out of it, helping Manxies of all musical stripes and others from further afield realise their dreams of laying down their own tunes in a professional setting...

READ THE FULL BLOG: <https://tinyurl.com/dxt29ybc>



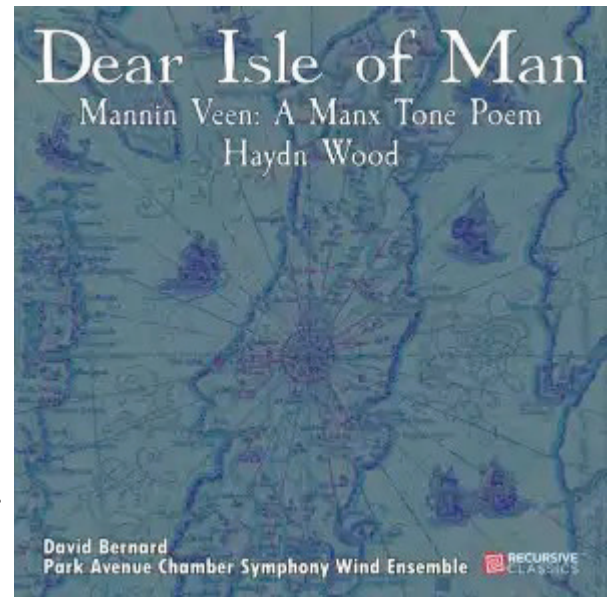
# Harrish y Cheayn – Across the Sea

## DEAR ISLE OF MAN ~ MANNIN VEEN

A MANX TONE POEM BY HAYDN WOOD

The Park Avenue Chamber Symphony has just released a recording of their performance at New York's Cary Hall of "Mannin Veen," a work by the British light music composer, Haydn Wood (1882–1959). Though Wood was born in Yorkshire, he spent his childhood in the Isle of Man and he was inspired by Manx folk melodies throughout his musical career. Mannin Veen is a tone poem written in 1933 and based on traditional melodies from the Isle of Man, such as The Good Old Way (Tra va Ruggit Chreest) and Ushthey Millish 'sy Garey (Sweet Water in the Common).

The Park Avenue Chamber Symphony is a critically-acclaimed orchestra based in New York City, founded and led by the conductor, David Bernard. In this recording, the orchestra performs the work in its more common arrangement for wind/brass band, in which it has become a staple of the repertoire for that type of ensemble.



Download it for free on all the major streaming services:

Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/252sj92e> Amazon: <https://music.amazon.in/albums/B09B417CFQ>



Read *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: <https://tinyurl.com/nk8nd6ad>

Manx musos Isla Callister, Ruth Keggin Gell and (adopted Manx muso) Rachel Hair have been performing at the UNDER CANVAS outdoor summer festival in Inverness co-curated by Fèis Rois. <https://eden-court.co.uk/under-canvas>

Isla has also been playing with the Chris Gray Music trio at Edinburgh Festival for BBC Radio Scotland's Pipeline, ca. 44'33":

[www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000yzhd](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000yzhd)

**Breton-Manx collaboration, Neear Nesañ,** performed at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient earlier this month (13 Aug). David Kilgallon and Mera Royle joined Breton musicians, Thomas Moisson and Lors Landat for the quartet's premiere performance in Brittany.

Read about Mera's involvement in this Breizh Amerika blog: <https://tinyurl.com/fn6fd2yb>

Find out how the group came together: <https://youtu.be/0RUfCrHmgJI>

PLUS... Look out for the new album!





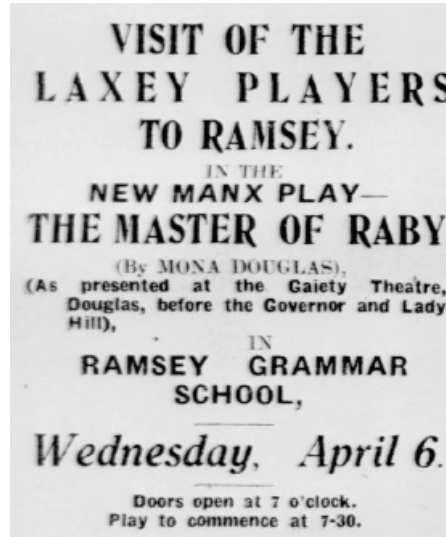
# RESEARCH NEWS

“SEE THE MHEILLEA DANCES IN THE BIG BARN AT RABY”

MONA DOUGLAS AND “THE MASTER OF RABY”



*Isle of Man Examiner*, 4 March 1927



*Ramsey Courier*, 25 March 1927

\*

The *Isle of Man Examiner* in its issue for 7 July 1926 announced that on the 28 October the Laxey Players were to present a bill of three plays that evening, namely *Kebeg*, *Luss ny Graih*, and *The Master of Raby*. *Luss ny Graih* was written by Christopher Shimmin, the other two plays authored by Mona Douglas. The plays were performed not in October as advertised but on 18 November from a report in the *Examiner*:

A company of Manx dialect players resident in Laxey, and directed by Miss Mona Douglas, on Thursday presented two hitherto unperformed plays from Miss Douglas' pen, entitled “Kebeg” and “The Master of Raby.” The scene of both plays is laid in the parish of Lonan. Incidental music and dances, part of it Manx and part Hebridean, were given by a choir under the direction of Miss E. Taylor, and a company of dancers under Miss A.I. Caine.

There was to be a repeat performance the following year in the Gaiety on St Patrick's Day 1927, and with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Lady Governor in attendance, though this time *Kebeg* was dropped from the bill.

“Brightness was imparted to the harvest scene in the first play by several old-fashioned dances stepped to old Manx airs, thanks to the training of Miss A.I. Caine.” This is from the only review that appeared in the newspapers of the performance of *The Master of Raby* at the Gaiety. That said, the dancing had been flagged up in the adverts: “See the Mheillea Dances in the Big Barn at Raby,” they had all read, a number mentioning that they were “genuine old Manx Folk Dances.” The play was repeated a third (and seemingly final) time on 6 April 1927 at the Grammar School in Ramsey. The final mention of the play is from 1929, when Mona Douglas won first prize for best play by the Folk Song and Dramatic Association.

So which “genuine old Manx Folk Dances” formed part of the performance of *The Master of Raby*? Fortunately, a copy of the programme for the Gaiety Theatre performance exists where they are described as:

## The Dances in the Mheillea Scene are :—

- (1) “Hie Mee Stiagh” (I went in)—a harvest dance.
- (2) “Chyndaa yn Bwoailley” (Return the Blow)—an old Manx Courting Dance.
- (3) “Car y Phoosee” (Wedding tune)—The Manx Wedding Dance.

(These three dances and their placing in the chronology of collecting by Mona Douglas await further consideration.)



The Gaiety performance was in aid of the Publication Fund of the Manx Language Society, specifically for J.J. Kneen's *The Place-Names of the Isle of Man* which was published in six parts (one per sheading) between 1925–28. This was not the first time that plays had been performed in order to raise funds for Kneen's work, nor for that matter plays that involved Manx folk dances. In 1926, to support the Manx Language Society, the Castle Rushen Players led by Leighton Stowell were at the Gaiety on 18 March to present two plays, *Mylecharaine* by "Cushag," and *A Li'l Smook* by J.J. Kneen. "Revival of Old Manx Dances by Children" (also as "Revival of Old Manx Dances") were mentioned in the adverts for the evening. The *Mona's Herald* carried an account of the performances and mentioned that "[b]efore and between the plays, folk dances were danced charmingly by sixteen Castletown School children and pupils of the Olwyn School of Dancing. Miss Ruth Bird gave a delightful jig, and Misses Lily Radcliffe and Louie Bird shone in a country dance." The Castle Rushen Players later repeated their performance of *Mylecharaine* at a Manx Tea and Entertainment held the following week on 24 March at the Port St Mary Wesleyan Church. There was dancing of sorts here: "A tableaux 'Spring's Awakening,' an Irish Jig, and fairy dances were pleasingly presented by Kathleen Corrin ('Queen of Spring'), Kathleen Clucas, Doreen Corrin, Iris Kneale and Kitty Cubbon." To complete the picture, J.J. Kneen's own dramatic troupe, the Purt Iern Cushags, later put on his own play, *Gool on Cushags*, in December 1926, again to support his own *The Place-Names of the Isle of Man*. This time, however, dancing did not feature, instead "[t]he old Manx Xmastide custom of 'The White Boys' was also enacted."

Intertwined here are the figures of Mona Douglas, J.J. Kneen, and Leighton Stowell, each with their own company of dramatic performers, the Laxey Players, the Purt Iern Cushags, and the Castle Rushen Players. Douglas and Kneen were each playwrights, the pair also presenting and directing their own works, while Douglas and Stowell were both involved in the revival of Manx folk dances. At the heart of all these activities—plays, folk dances, calendar customs, place names—is the promotion of a sense of Manxness.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV



Wendy Hurst & Nigel Taylor playing for Hunt the Wren dancers in Port St Mary 1997 (Photo: Wendy Hurst/Bob Fennell)



# The Isle of Man edition of 'Treasure Hunt' from 1987:

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/YBgyBFHb6fE>

Anneka Rice visits the Laxey Wheel, Douglas Promenade, Peel Castle, Bradda Head, Cregneash, the Sound and more in this episode of the popular Channel 4 gameshow from the '80s.

The contestants were in the studio with books and maps, trying to interpret clues and direct Anneka around the place in her helicopter, trying to get to the end before the clock runs out... it was GREAT - just ask any 80s TV watchers and they'll tell you!

Things to watch out for especially are the brilliant opening where Anneka fails to point out the sights from North Barrule as it is entirely covered in mist(!), and of particular interest to KMJ readers - the Manx Folk Dance Society dancing in Cregneash!

[Booie da Visit Mann Tours - Credit to John Shakespeare for finding this online - Gura mie ayd!]



## MAUGHOLD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The country dances given by the children of the Dhooon School were as follows: Car-ny-phoosee (Manx Wedding Dance), Hyndaa yn Bwoailley (Manx Country Dance), Long Eight, First of April, Goddesses, Cumberland Square, Durham Reel, Cincassian Circle.

The names of the children taking part were: Annette Neill, Margaret Kerruish, Mary Corlett, Shiela Lovie, Hazel Kissack, Christine Holgate, Tony Callister, Brian Olsen, James Faragher, Henry Kelly, Thomas Corteen, Trevor Hawley.

The competition for the best vase of flowers was judged by Mrs Fearn and Mrs R. S. R. Kneale.

<< Maughold Womens Institute

*Ramsey Courier, 25 May 1951*

Thanks to Stephen Miller RBV for sending in

- • • • •
- **Youtube corner** •
- The pipe organ of Station Road Methodist Church •
- in Port Erin, Isle of Man, demonstrated by Gareth •
- Moore and filmed by Charles Guard earlier this •
- year: <https://youtu.be/kxCqVwE11Is> •
- • • • •



# Leslie Stuart and the Isle of Man

by Maurice Powell

This is the third article in an occasional series about eminent composers of light music who visited the Isle of Man during the golden age of the tourist industry (the mid-1880s until the mid-1960s), a period during which also witnessed the rise in popularity of the genre known as British Light Music, from the age of Gilbert and Sullivan, the final years of Haydn Wood and Eric Coates, and the emergence of the younger generation of Ernest Tomlinson and Robert Farnon.\*

\* See also Valse Septembre, Felix Godin at the Villa Marina, and Frederick Curzon at the Villa Marina, [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com).

## **‘As genuine as his music . . . a delightful raconteur and a charming companion’**

The first reference in the Isle of Man newspapers to the master of Victorian and Edwardian musical comedy de jure Leslie Stuart, or rather Mr T. A. Barrett, was in the Isle of Man Times of 23rd May 1885, when he was described as the ‘highly creditable’ solo pianist and accompanist in three popular vocal concerts at the Grand Music Hall, Victoria Street, Douglas, on Whit-Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Later that season the Manx Sun, 15th August 1885, briefly mentioned a concert at the Derby Castle where Mr T. A. Barrett played ‘several pianoforte solos’ and his brother, Mr Lester ‘Homely Jokes for Homely Folks’ Barrett, delighted the crowds with his humorous songs and ‘patter’ on his first appearance in Douglas.

The Manx Sun of 23rd August 1890 reported that the great attraction that month at the Falcon Cliff Pavilion, Douglas,\* was Mrs Alice Shaw, the lady whistler (siffleur), the ‘rage’ of London, ‘whose marvellous ability in a department of music hitherto closed to women’, had won her considerable renown ‘among all classes in England’. Mr T. A. Barrett had been instrumental in securing her engagement and was her accompanist whose ‘perfect execution and thorough sympathy with the artiste has added greatly to the pleasure of all’ in such pieces ‘of operatic or more severe extraction’ as Il Bacio, The Whistling Polka and the waltz Sylvia. Each evening Lester Barrett ‘scored a big success’ with his character studies including ‘Professor O’Toole’ and ‘It is very wrong of Loo’.

Harry Wood recalled in Cavalcade of Music that his 1893 Lancers included Leslie Stuart’s The Soldiers of the Queen with the composer’s permission, and that earlier that season in Douglas he had been introduced to Leslie Stuart by David Day, of Francis, Day & Hunter, at a supper arranged by the manager of the Derby Castle. Stuart had four new songs with him: Soldiers of the Queen, Sweetheart May, The Willow Pattern Plate and Little Dolly Daydream, and Wood predicted correctly that they would all become ‘hits’...



**READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE:** <https://tinyurl.com/4pvmzxx3>



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

### 1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.10 Fathaby Jig

The history of this dance is a little more complex as it appears to have more than one name. In some sources the dance is also called 'Cur Shaghey yn Geurey' which is now the name of an entirely different couples dance. There is no evidence to explain this discrepancy.

The dance does not appear in the Folklore Notebook: Dances book in Douglas' papers, but a similar page of notes does exist but gives no hint as to the origin of the dance. (MNHL 09545 Box 9). In a similar notebook (MNHL 09545 Box 5) notes can be found with some history of the dance. This states that the dance is usually associated with the north of the island, particularly Bride where it was a regular feature of the Mheillea, Christmas and New Year celebrations. The dance is also reported to be mentioned by T.E. Brown in his letters, although verification of this reference is yet to be found. However, in later typed, un-dated notes the informants for the dance are given as J Mylchreest, J Kelly and Mrs Bridson. There is no further information as to who these people were or when they were consulted, although in-depth work on the informants of the Manx collectors has recently been carried out by Stephen Miller (research in process).

The first concrete evidence of the dance is in the paper by Douglas of 1937 on the notation and revival of Manx dances and it is described as being complete. In this paper it is described as an 8-hand jig, similar to an 8-hand reel, but in jig time and with the lead round at the beginning and end as opposed to body and figure; not actually that similar to a standard 8-hand reel other than being for 8 people. In 1945 in JMM No. 64 Douglas posits that the distinctive lift in the lead round at the beginning and end of the dance is possibly Scandinavian in origin. The dance was then published in 1953 in Seven Manx Folk Dances: Set II with no additional information other than citing Douglas as the collector.

The tune then appears on the LP Daunseyn Theayagh Vannin (1973) where the dance is described as a 'lively 8-hand jig with characteristic steps and an unusual lift of the women round their partners in the promenade'. The dance was republished in 1980 in Rinkaghyn Vannin with no additional information other than, once again, citing Douglas as the collector.

It is worth noting that, although the dance was previously compared to a standard 8 hand reel, now more commonly referred to as a set dance in Ireland, Carswell (2004) argues that Douglas did not agree with this assertion.

#### READ FULL THESIS:

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf)

#### THE MANX CLASS AT THE GUILD (1913)

MANX SOLO FOR FEMALE VOICES.	MANX SOLO FOR JUNIORS.
Subject—"Mylechraine" (A. W. Moore's Ballads —p. 253).	Subject—"Bliam Dhone" (A. W. Moore's Ballads —p. 226).
First prize, £1; second, 10s; presented by Dr Marshall, M.H.K., 10s 6d; and the Manx Language Society, 19s 6d.	First prize, 15s; second, 7s 6d; presented by Archdeacon Kewley, 10s 6d; Mr R. Keruish, M.H.K., 10s; and the Manx Language Society.
1. Miss Essie Callister, Peel.	1. Hazel Crellin, Port St Mary.
2. Miss Annie Bell, Douglas.	2. Willie Crinnan, Peel.
3. Miss Hilda Kelly, Peel.	3. Douglas Corlett, Port St Mary.
4. Miss Annie M. Keown, Peel.	4. Ruby Taggart, Douglas.
5. Miss Millie Cowell, Peel.	5. Harold Corlett, Port St Mary.
6. Miss Agnes Collister, Peel.	6. Violet Craine, Peel.
7. Miss Amy Kelly, Peel.	7. Connie Cain, Peel.
8. Miss Emily Macleod, Douglas.	8. Doris Harrison, Peel.
9. Mrs Harley Cunningham, Douglas.	9. Doris Callister, Peel.
1st.—Miss Annie Bell.	10. Florrie Cowley, Peel.
2nd.—Mrs Harley Cunningham.	11. Willie Callow, Peel.
3rd.—Miss Amy Kelly.	12. Clive Crellin, Port St Mary.
	13. Lucy Kelly, Peel.
	14. Marjory Kermode, Douglas.
	15. Addie Macdonald, Peel.
	1st.—Willie Crinnan.
	2nd.—Doris Callister.

*Isle of Man Examiner*, 14 April 1913

These two Manx Classes at the Guild in 1913 had twenty-four entrants, moreover twenty-four individuals who were interested in singing in Manx at the Guild. With the 1911 census one could begin to form an impression of just who is coming forward to compete in these classes.



## Yn Gareyder film released on online

Yn Gareyder (The Gardener) is a documentary film about Manx poet Paul Lebedzinski made by Foillan Films in 1986. Lebedzinski's poems feature throughout the film and they are broad in nature; some humorous, some satirical and others more serious. Many of his poems reflect his view of contemporary events on the Isle of Man and the film sets selected poems into context, giving historical background to the themes mentioned. The film is narrated in Manx by Brian Stowell and the poems are recited in the original English, and it also includes



amazing footage of Manx music inside The Walpole (a Ramsey pub now long gone), readings from Paul amongst friends in the pub, Paul at work gardening and out collecting materials for thatching, and even a trip inside his home in North Ramsey where he reads the paper and plays the accordion in his back garden.

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/O58AXnsnHbo>

Foillan Films was set up in the early 1980s by Manx language activist George Broderick and filmmaker Peter Maggs.

### OTHER FOILLAN FILMS featuring Manx music and dance

**Mona Douglas** - In this short film Dr George Broderick interviews folk song and dance collector, folklorist and cultural revivalist Mona Douglas in Manx. She sings a version of Shenn Ven (Old Woman) and The Milking Song (Arrane Ben-Vlieaun or Cur dty Vainney). WATCH:

<https://youtu.be/PI0orFfRRhg>

**Kirree Fo Niaghtey** - This film is based on the traditional Manx folk song "The Sheep Under the Snow". WATCH:

<https://youtu.be/z06zNtmkz4I>

**Yn Gaaue** - a biography of one of the last native speakers John Kneen; a blacksmith from Ballaugh, born c.1854. The documentary features Manx dance group Bock Yuan Fannee performing The Fathaby Jig (ca. 24'22"). Here they are pictured waiting for the 'traffic' to clear in the Ballaugh Currags near where Yn Gaaue used to live!



WATCH: <https://youtu.be/OlyRdx9WlZA>

**Illiam Dhone** - a film showing the Illiam Dhone Ceremony at Hango Hill on ghe 2nd January 1986. Featuring Brian Stowell singing the Illiam Dhone ballad and the National Anthem played on whistle. WATCH: <https://youtu.be/x5NJzihEbeA>

All digitised and made available by Manx National Heritage.



## DR CLAGUE ~ A young man with a natural gift for bone-setting...

Dr John Clague became one of the most important figures in the preservation and revitalisation of Manx music, folklore & language, but many will enjoy the story of how, as a young man, he went from helping around the family farm at Ballanorris, Arbory, to training to be a doctor in London.

It all began one harvest...

*"When the last load was brought home it was called the 'stook of brimmin,' and if there were two or three carts in the field together they would strive with one another which would be first, because they did not like to be called the 'stook of brimmin.'"*

*It was an accident in this strife to a young man who fell off a cart and broke his leg when he was driving across a clash that was the cause of my being a doctor.*

*He fell off the cart when it was late in the afternoon, and he was carried home, and I set the bone. On the morrow I went for my friend William Clucas, The Strang, a bonesetter of great repute. He advised my father to send me to Guy's Hospital, London, and I went the same week that the young man was for getting out of bed."*

Dr John Clague, 'Manx Reminiscences' <https://tinyurl.com/xau2ht53>

What very different days it was for medicine in the 1870s.

In fact, the young Clague was already acting as an informal folk doctor, healing people with the plants and herbs he knew around the hedgerows and fields of Arbory, before this incident. So he was in a good position to most benefit from what they had to offer in London, especially as the Head there was later to estimate him the cleverest student to pass through the hospital doors during his time there!

All of this made Clague perfectly placed to carry out the work he did when he returned to the Isle of Man in 1873, which we are still indebted to him for.

This includes forming the most important record for Manx charms and other folklore from that period, becoming was a leading figure in the Manx language revival of the 1890s & 1900s, and collecting no less than 315 of the Isle of Man's traditional tunes.

Dr. Clague was an outstanding figure in Manx cultural history to whom we all owe a great debt of gratitude today. He died on 23 August, 1908. His headstone in Arbory carries the beautifully simple inscription: "Hie eh mygeart jannoo mie" / "He went around doing good."

Intro to Dr Clague: [www.manxmusic.com/bio\\_page\\_129756.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/bio_page_129756.html) and his 'Cooïnaghtyn Manninagh' / 'Manx Reminiscences' is available online via Chiollagh Books (including Stephen Miller RBV's excellent biographical introduction): <https://tinyurl.com/xau2ht53>



## DOWN MEMORY LANE >> KMJ AUGUST 2012

The year when young Gaelic singer Ruth Keggin joined other Manx acts at Lorient, Barrule released their debut album, and Caitlin Bennett, Maxine Smalley, Cairistiona Dougherty, Beki Collings & Isla Callister all won NAMA awards! Step back in time:

[www.manxmusic.com/media/Newsletters/KMJ%20August%202012.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/Newsletters/KMJ%20August%202012.pdf)





# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

A new choral piece to celebrate the 1500th anniversary of the birth of St Columba/Colmcille had been composed by Aalin Clague. Commissioned as a #treisht2020 project by Culture Vannin, 'Y Folliaight' is inspired by nature poetry attributed to Colmcille, with lyrics in Manx by Dr Marie Clague. DOWNLOAD SHEET MUSIC: <https://tinyurl.com/cehdnjv5> LISTEN: <https://tinyurl.com/an9s68t7>

WATCH: the scenic music video: <https://youtu.be/BMAuk7AfWjg>

## Y Folliaight

By Aalin Clague

Jerrey Fouyir / October 2020

Lyrics in Manx by Dr Marie Clague

inspired by nature poetry attributed to Colmcille

Can be performed freely

### Con brio



8 *mf*

S Oh Oh

A *mf* Oh Oh

T *mf* Dy vod-dym fa-kin ny ton - nyn trome er-skyn yn ush-tey myr t'ad can - tal

12 *f*

kiaull da nyn Ayr dy bea veayn, kiaull da nyn Ayr dy bea veayn.

kiaull da nyn Ayr dy bea veayn, kiaull da nyn Ayr dy bea veayn.

kiaull da nyn Ayr dy bea veayn, kiaull da nyn Ayr dy bea veayn.



# CALENDAR

## AUGUST

26th – 29th Bushy's Feel Good Festival, Villa Marina

29th Caarjyn Coidjagh at the Manx Bard Event, Moorhouse Farm, 3pm

28th/29th Balleycashtal Beats, Castletown festival, 12-10pm

## SEPTEMBER

1st Ukulele workshop [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com)

11th Bree Manx music youth session, 2 - 3.30pm Culture Vannin

24th Truman Falls, Prom Suite, Villa Marina, 7.30pm

## OCTOBER

2nd 'The In-between Times' – a new one-act play by Annie Kissack, Erin Arts Centre

24th - 25th Big Bree Workshop Weekend, St Johns Methodist Hall [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com)

31st HOP TU NAA!!

## NOVEMBER

4th - 7th Cooish Manx Language Festival

**For updates & news, follow**

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

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

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

## SING UP!

Group singing & Musical Theatre lessons for students aged 4-18

Douglas & Peel



Places available for September



Email Libby Landels - [singupiom@gmail.com](mailto:singupiom@gmail.com)

~ SESSIONS ~

**TUES** 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas  
**WED** 8.30pm Trad Session at O'Donnell's, 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

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

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

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

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

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