

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Averil 2024 April

MANX MUSIC TODAY

MANX FOLK AWARDS *another huge success!*

More than 1,000 school children showcased their talent and passion for traditional Manx music, dance, song and language at last week's Manx Folk Awards.



The event, organised by the *Department of Education Sport and Culture* and *Culture Vannin*, included a staggering 100 classes, for children aged 3-18, over five action-packed days. This year's festivities were particularly special, with some classes paying homage to the Island's maritime heritage and the 200th anniversary of the RNLI.

An album of MFA photo highlights is now online to enjoy! <https://tinyurl.com/3y66tysm>
Secondary videos uploaded so far - more films & prize winner results to be added soon...
<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-folk-awards-2024-secondary-825340/>
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB95FuN2S6jOIVpo9Vff-pJtKHXolouDK>

WATCH the fabulous Platform Theatre Group with their winning performance of "Manannan's Cloak" by Lin Marsh: <https://youtu.be/-Wh7DwCX90g?si=8GHF0AzcBFIs3zH>
and "Slumber Song" (or Arrane Saveenagh in Manx) collected by Mona Douglas and arranged by Arnold Foster: https://youtu.be/_p1Y41QgnC0?si=3XplCOHiL1pC2LSK

2024 FOLKTASTIC PRIZE WINNERS: Castle Rushen High School, St Thomas' KS1 choir, Sulby School Manx dance group & young fiddle and trumpet player, Aelan Morgans!

In this month's edition...

- *Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering 2024 line-up!*
- *Clash Vooar launch their new album*
- *New melody by MFA participant*





Highlights from this year's MFA awards. See more: <https://tinyurl.com/3y66tysm>

SHENNAGHYS JIU FESTIVAL #25



THURSDAY 28TH - SUNDAY 31ST MARCH
4 DAYS OF CELTIC MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

THURSDAY SCHOOL VISITS
6.45PM - OFFICIAL OPENING - RAMSEY TOWN HALL

FRIDAY SHENNAGHYS JIU BIG DAY OUT
6.15PM - YOUNG PERSONS CONCERT - RAMSEY MASONIC HALL
8.00PM - FAMILY CEILIDH - RAMSEY MASONIC HALL

SATURDAY 9.30AM - 3.00PM - OUTDOOR DISPLAYS - RAMSEY COURTHOUSE
11.00AM - IRISH MUSIC WORKSHOP - THE MITRE HOTEL
12.30PM - 2.00PM - MUSIC IN THE PUB - THE MITRE HOTEL
2.30PM - 5.30PM - SHENNAGHYS JIU AT THE FYN BAR
3.30PM - 5.30PM - DANCE WORKSHOPS - RAMSEY MASONIC HALL
5.00PM - SHENNAGHYS JIU AT THE CENTRAL
7.30PM - CONCERT - RAMSEY MASONIC HALL
8.30PM - FAMILY CEILIDH - RAMSEY MASONIC HALL

SUNDAY 3.00PM - CELTIC SHOWCASE CONCERT - PEEL CENTENARY CENTRE
7.30PM - FINAL CONCERT & CEILIDH - RAMSEY MASONIC HALL

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SOUNDCHECK, SERENDIPITY ARTS & CRAFTS, W. E. TEARE BUTCHERS**



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07624 452653

<https://shennaghysjiu.com/>

<https://shennaghysjiu.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/programme2024.pdf>

Glasb Vooar

at the Whitehouse, Peel
Easter Monday

With Special Guest
Brian Brough

Pulled by the Stars

THE MANX MUSIC SPEECH & DANCE Festival

Founded 1892

MANX MUSIC FESTIVAL / GUILD
www.manxmusicfestival.org
 27th April to 4th May 2024



New Manx shop: Shapp Er-Linney:
www.facebook.com/manxmerch

MANANAN FESTIVAL

JUNE 2024
AT THE
ERIN ARTS CENTRE

MONDAY 24TH ELIZA CARTHY	TUESDAY 25TH KITTERLAND
WEDNESDAY 26TH HELP! I THINK I'M A NATIONALIST	THURSDAY 27TH BRODSKY QUARTET
FRIDAY 28TH MARTIN ROSCOE	SATURDAY 29TH ROBIN NOLAN TRIO

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/ERINARTSCENTRE

MAKE MUSIC

ISLE OF MAN
Laa Jannoo Kiaull
JUNE 21

Laa Jannoo Kiaull / Make Music Day takes place on 21st June.

Last year, 450 events took place in the IOM & UK involving more than 36,000 music-makers!

You can take part by organising your own event in your own community. More info:

<https://makemusicday.co.uk>

Michael Heritage
Eiraght Skyilley Maayl

MAY EVE TO HOLLANTIDE



Photo © Manx National Heritage
(Cropped) Ref. PGN 00586



www.michael-heritage.org

- an illustrated
talk by

**YVONNE
CRESSWELL**

Monday 15th April
Ebenezer Hall
Main Road, Kirk Michael
7.30 pm

- MEMBERS ONLY -

Followed by light refreshments

what3words:
reassuring.mistreat.teamed

BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2024

Riffs

HEAT 1 FRIDAY 5TH APR DISKEE BRISHT SHADY ACRES CRAWLBOARD	HEAT 2 FRIDAY 12TH APR MOD OR CROTEAU NATURAL SELECTION
HEAT 3 FRIDAY 19TH APR IMPULSIVE & SELF DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS MARINE DRIVE	HEAT 4 FRIDAY 26TH APR EJECT NEPTUNES DYSFUNCTION JUNCTION

Unit 5

BATTLE OF THE BANDS - QUID'S INN, DOUGLAS

THE ISLAND'S LEADING DANCE SCHOOL
PROUDLY PRESENTS

GDA ON TOUR

Gena's Dance Academy presents a toe-tapping
showcase with some of our Island's leading performers

17 - 18 MAY 2024

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Christine Collister

SPECIAL LAUNCH CONCERT FOR

Children Of The Sea

A suite of 9 songs inspired by Manx Folklore
Accompanied by a 48 page hardback book with stories, lyrics and illustrations
from local artists - original artwork on display at the event.

Peel Centenary Hall
APRIL 27th
DOORS 7.30
START 8pm
TICKETS £15

CHRISTINE COLLISTER

Children of the Sea

ARTS COUNCIL
Culture VANNIN

Watch a snippet of Skeddan Jiarg performing for the
Guild of British Travel Writers, ca. 5 mins!

www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance/permalink/10161514990107417/

YN CHRUINNAGHT CELTIC GATHERING



YN CHRUINNAGHT
FÁILT ERRIU
ALL WELCOME!

Celtic

GATHERING 2024

CELTIC MUSIC, SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL
ISLE OF MAN
22 – 28 July / Jerrey Souree 2024

DUNCAN CHISHOLM – HEISK – KATIE LAWRENCE
ELIZABETH DAVIDSON-BLYTHE & DANIEL QUAYLE
BRIGITTE & KATELL KLOAREG - THE LEN COLLECTIVE
THE MEGA MANX CEILI!
& MANY MORE ACTS

CONCERTS • WORKSHOPS • CEILIS
CRAFT FAIR • SESSIONS • LECTURES



Supported by
Culture Vannin . IOM Arts Council . IFGL . Visit Isle of Man
Digital Group . Culture Ireland

WWW.CELTICGATHERING.IM TEL. 07624 302200

Every summer in Peel, Isle of Man, Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering brings together the music, dance, culture and languages of the Isle of Man, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany.

From 22nd – 28th July 2024, Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering will present a whole array of fabulous entertainment, including an opening night gig with trail-blazing Scottish/Manx band HEISK and dazzling tunes from Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle, a lecture about St Bridget's role in Brittany, a concert celebrating the Celtic seasons, a giant ceili in Cathedral Isle of Man, a musical folklore tour of Peel, the compositions of Katie Lawrence, and grand finale from Scottish fiddle legend Duncan Chisholm!

Audiences will also enjoy Irish music and dance from The Len Collective and Céilí le Chéile, plus poetry and film, artisan craft fair, sessions, displays and workshops, and ceili

dancing from the Celtic nations. There will be plenty of free community events and family activities, as well as lunchtime sessions in the capital Douglas.

Established in 1978, Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering is known for its small and friendly atmosphere and the fishing town of Peel is the ideal hub for the festival. Language learners and enthusiasts can sign up for Culture Vannin's Manx Gaelic summer school which runs alongside the festival, and boat owners can sail over to the Island for 'Peel Sea Fest' during the final weekend.



NOW FOR SALE!!

An early bird, limited edition festival pass for just £60 (saving £21.50!!)

www.tickettailor.com/events/ynchruinnaght/1193374

Individual tickets will be available at the end of April.

More info: www.celticgathering.im and www.facebook.com/CelticGatheringIOM/



Perree Bane danced at Cafe Lingo's Springfest in Douglas last month. More photos: www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance/permalink/10161530071992417/



The Mollag Band played in the Sailor's Shelter last month. *Photo thanks: Valerie Caine*

**Isle of Man Trad Weekend back
in 2024, by popular demand.
September 20th to 23rd 2024.**



Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quayle went on a mini-tour of secondary schools last month. Organised by Dr Chloe Woolley for Culture Vannin, the Manx music duo visited Castle Rushen High School, Ballakermeen High School, Ramsey Grammar School & QE2 High School. They gave inspiring performances and taught the students to play "Jerrey y Theihll" by ear.



Laxey School enjoyed a Manx dance workshop which included the Flitter Dance... just in time for Good Friday!

Jo Callister [DESC] and Chloe Woolley [Culture Vannin] visited Laxey School last week, where they told the year 6 children about airs, jigs and reels, and taught the Manx reel step, Flitter Dance, Y Mheillea & a bit of Hunt the Wren!

MORE PHOTOS:

<https://tinyurl.com/yymmteyhs>

LEARN SOME OF THESE DANCES:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-dance-lessons-579863/>

MORE ABOUT THE FLITTER DANCE & MANX GOOD FRIDAY TRADITIONS

<https://culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/flitters-520943/>



Young Ramsey harpist Resa Brown was invited to perform for Queen Camilla on her recent visit to the Isle of Man!! The Queen commended Resa for doing the Island proud through playing Manx music. Other trad music artists invited to the reception at Government House included Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe, Daniel Quayle & Ruth Kegglin.

Resa Brown is a member of Bree and Ny Fennee dance group, and Scran, who are pictured below taking part in the Young Battle of the Bands last month (10th March).



Celebrating Earth Day – Gaia on the Isle of Man

DEFA is pleased to confirm Gaia is coming to the Isle of Man between 19 April to 12 May, in time to celebrate Earth Day (on 22 April). See <https://my-earth.org/>

Gaia, the illuminated hanging earth designed by UK artist Luke Jerram will be floating in three-dimensions in St Thomas' Church in Douglas.

Measuring six metres in diameter, the internally-lit sphere is 2.1 million times smaller than the real Earth. It has been recreated from 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface and each centimetre of the sculpture represents 21km of our planet.

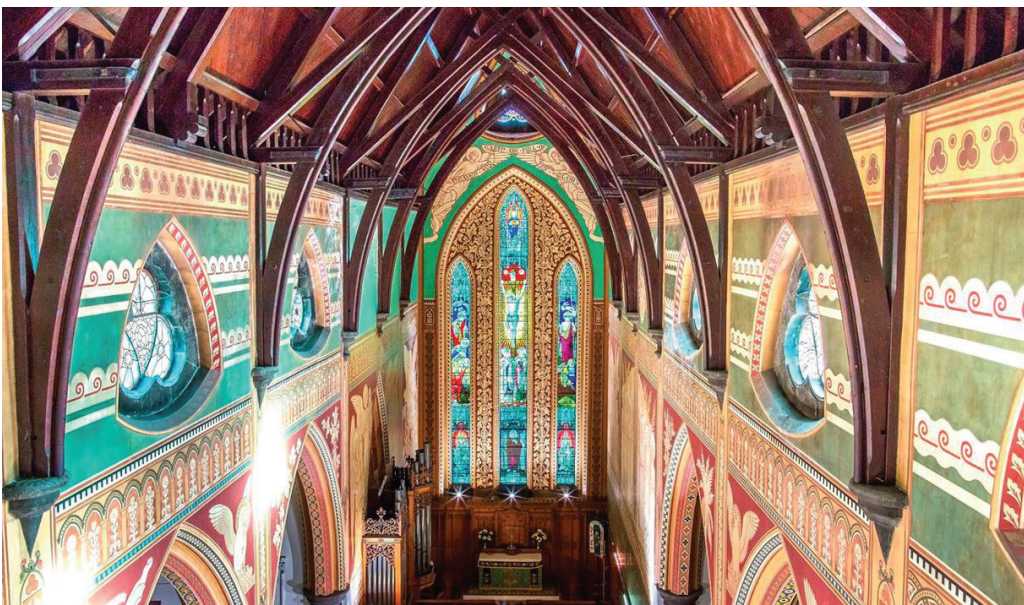
Gaia has been supported by a partnership of organisations including Net Zero Isle of Man, the Isle

of Man Arts Council, Ørsted and St Thomas' Church who are hosting Gaia in their nave.

An exciting programme of events are already taking place for Manx Wildlife Week which nicely falls within the timeframe of Gaia. To enhance this programme and make the most of Gaia, Jade Foster and the Climate Change Transformation Team hope to have some additional specially curated climate and earth-inspired events to take place in or outside the venue. They are inviting music performances, talks, workshops - events that could be hosted under Gaia or stargazing or walks in nature – that could start or end with a visit to Gaia.

If you are interested in being part of the Gaia programme or are hosting an event elsewhere that they can promote as part of the programme, contact *Jade Foster*,

Engagements
Manager for
Climate Change
Transformation Team
at DEFA [Department
of Environment, Food
& Agriculture]:
Jade.Foster@gov.im



*Photo Credits:
GDIF and Southhall
[above] &
St Thomas' [left]
by Culture Vannin.*



CHILDREN OF THE SEA

Manx singer-songwriter Christine Callister has produced an illustrated book and album inspired by Manx folklore and the landscape.

Over three years in the making, Children of the Sea is a beautiful suite of nine new songs based on traditional stories from the Isle of Man. Retelling tales from the small island but speaking of ancient wisdom for the whole world, Children of the Sea, guides us on a magical journey filled with hope and love.

Hardback 48 page book which includes a CD with stunning recordings of the 9 songs, full lyrics, background notes and a sumptuous series of illustrations by various artists.

Launch concert in the Centenary Centre, Peel on Saturday 27th April at 8pm.
 Tickets £15: www.etickets.im/cc/

Buy your copy at the concert (RRP £27.50) and view the artwork or online from:
www.christinecollister.com/post/children-of-the-sea
 FLED 3115 – Fledg’ling Records (fledglingrecords.co.uk)

MANX MUSIC .IM .COM

Exciting things are happening on the new-look www.manxmusic.com and content will gradually be added and updated during the coming year.

If you would like to edit your info or be added as a performer on

www.manxmusic.com/performers/

send your profile info, music/video links and photo to: manxmusic@culturevannin.im

28th March is Piano Day, which takes place on the 88th day of the year because of the number of keys on the instrument. Established in 2015, it is now well known around the globe. To mark the occasion, Director of Music at King William's College, Steve Daykin and piano teacher Gareth Moore recorded an impromptu duet performance of Ellan Vannin for all to enjoy... <https://fb.watch/r536DRBPLO/>



If you're a female composer with a passion for folk music, discover this innovative online platform which originates from the Faber Music book 'Folk Tunes from Women'. Why not contribute to the musical library by uploading some of your own tunes?

FOLK TUNES FROM THE WOMEN

Visit: <https://tunesfromthewomen.co.uk>

Caggey as Graih

Love & War

Originally from the Isle of Man, Doug Francisco penned this original song for the "Arrane son Mannin" new song contest, where he returned to perform it alongside his former teenage band mate David 'Kin' Kinley and singer Ruby Biscoe-Taylor.



Watch here: <https://youtu.be/cwPVAOdX1V8?si=xNSqWZIYVvK4Xsjz2>

Erin Gaelgagh

Manx Mass ~ Erin Ghaelgagh

Annie Kissack's Manx Mass, performed by Caarjyn Coidjagh, is now online:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/audioarchive/manx-mass/>

<https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/sets/manx-mass>

This beautiful new setting of a Manx version of the Mass was commissioned for its premiere performance by St German's Cathedral / Keeill Aspickagh Charmane, Peel, on 9th September 2018.

Taking the words translated by Adrian Pilgrim in 2016, Annie composed the setting with her own choir in mind, Caarjyn Coidjagh.

It is under Annie's own direction that the choir perform the piece here, available online for the first time ever:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/audioarchive/manx-mass/>

Gura mie mooar eu, Annie Kissack Poetry & Caarjyn Coidjagh, for creating such beautiful work, and for being happy for it to be recorded & released online for all to enjoy!

More information is available from Learn Manx: <https://tinyurl.com/3m5tb58h>

IOM PERFORMERS!

Yn Chruinnaght committee are busy putting the full programme and line-up together for this year's YC Celtic Gathering (22nd - 28th July).

If you'd like to be considered as a performer/group, send your details to:

info@ynchruinnaght.com

Celtic Music, Song & Dance Festival

Concerts | Workshops
Cellis | Sessions | Craft Fair

22nd - 28th July 2024
celticgathering.com



Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



50th 2024 Pan Chzeltach

Pan Celtic Festival

INTERNATIONAL

Ceatharlach
Co. Carlow, Ireland

2nd - 6th APRIL

www.pancltic.ie
#panclticcarlow

Festival Office: Potato Market, Carlow

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME
CLÁR NA FÉILE

Pan-Celtic Festival in Carlow Ireland

Good luck to Sarah Mercer & Mera Royle who will be taking part in the International Song Contest with Manx song, "Baatyn Pabyr"!

Fingers crossed too for Sue and Jamys Harrison with their original song in a traditional style, "Rosemary McFee".

Read more in the Feb 2024 edition of KMJ:

<https://tinyurl.com/26yvr9tp>

<http://www.pancltic.ie/>

PDF programme:

<https://tinyurl.com/53t52c7r>

Check out this young Cornish guitar whizz Finley Bray who plays Manx tune, Eunyssagh Vona:

<https://tinyurl.com/46mvak5x>

Finley will be at Shennaghys Jiu this weekend, with ceili band, Splann!

MANX DELEGATION TO LORIENT

This year's Festival Interceltique de Lorient has a focus on Celtic youth this August, and this is reflected in the 2024 line-up. The Manx delegation will include Ramsey-based Manx dance group Ny Fennee:

<https://tinyurl.com/nxz8pu3z>

Youth band Scran with singer Aalish Kilgallon:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhkdrdd>

Furthermore, Manx musos Mera Royle, Jack Mclean, Owen Williams, Mec Lir, Imar, Ruth Keggin & Rachel Hair will also be performing during the festival.

www.festival-interceltique.bzh



53^{ème} FIVOD AR GELECED

12-18 août 2024

FESTIVAL INTERCELTIQUE DE LORIENT

LA JEUNESSE DES PAYS CELTES



ELIZABETH DAVIDSON-BLYTHE & DANIEL QUAYLE

AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL
2-5 May 2024

www.australiancelticfestival.com

RESEARCH NEWS

'Jinny the Witch' and Other Song Folk

Edited by Steve Roud and David Atkinson



'Jinny the Witch' and other Song Folk

Edited by Steve Roud and David Atkinson

The Ballad Partners are thrilled to announce the publication of their 9th book: 'Jinny the Witch' and Other Song Folk.

Head on over to the Ballad Partners website and get your copy today! The namesake of the new book of research papers refers to the star of Hop tu naa in the Isle of Man, and was written by a regular contributor to KMJ, Stephen Miller RBV.

Stephen's chapter is called: Singing that Ancient Doggerel about 'Jinny the Witch': Hollantide Eve Songs from the Isle of Man.

Buy it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3hv2yhxw>

www.theballadpartners.co.uk/publications

Call for conference papers: 'Collectomania!' Folk Song and Music Collectors and their Worlds

For over two hundred years, and for a variety of reasons, 'folk' song and music enthusiasts have ventured into the field and become collectors – gatherers of material which has greatly enhanced our understanding of the vernacular culture of the past.

Their activities have come under increasing scrutiny in recent years, and to mark the centenary of the deaths of two key figures – Cecil Sharp and Sabine Baring Gould – and the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ella Mary Leather, we are organising a wide-ranging assessment of the collectors' lives and works, with a major two-day conference.

We will investigate collectors as individuals and networks, their achievements and failures, motives, methods, strengths and weaknesses, social and political context, the contemporary collector, and the underlying ethics of collecting itself.

The focus will be on collecting in Britain and Ireland, but we would also be pleased to hear from researchers in countries with strong historical folk cultural ties to these islands.

The conference will be in-person, but papers from delegates who cannot attend can be pre-recorded and played on the day.

Proposals for papers (20 minutes) and other presentations are invited.

Please contact Tiffany Hore (tiffany@efdss.org) or Steve Roud (steveroud@gmail.com).

Closing date for submissions: Friday 5 April 2024.

VENUE: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY

DATES: Saturday 20 July and Sunday 21 July 2024 Organised jointly by the English Folk Dance and Song Society and the Traditional Song Forum (TSF); with the support of the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA), the Welsh Folk Song Society, and the Elphinstone Institute (Aberdeen).

3. Unpublished Dances

3.3 Miscellaneous Dance B

Again there is no title for this dance or suggested music. However, the dance appears as a full set of typed notes in Douglas’ papers (MNHL 09545 Box 4 and 19). It appears in a box of papers relating to the publication of Rinkaghyn Vannin and the formation of the organisation ‘Sleih gyn Thie’ so it would seem reasonable to theorise that this was a dance composed relatively late and offered for inclusion in Rinkaghyn Vannin. The use of a neck-scarf by the man and use of the term ‘presence’ as seen regularly in Leighton Stowell book of Manx Dances implies that it was possibly related to that publication and has been misfiled at some point. Although its origins are unknown, there was a period during the early competitions for the annual Yn Chruinnaght festival, when new couples dances were being composed, in a similar way to Gathering in the Barley. It is possible that this was one of these dances, although none of the dancers consulted remember it.

Bar 1 Entrance. Partner dance four side steps to change places.

2 Both dance four side-steps back to own places.

3/4 Both dance two high reel steps to meet at centre.

5/6 Partners arm right (reel step)

7/8 Partners honour right and left.

9/10 Partners arm left.

11/12 Partners honour right and left.

13 Both dance two reel steps with kick to corners nearest presence.

14 Both dance four pivot spins to right.

15 Both dance two reel steps with kick to meet at centre.

16 Partners take right hands with a slight honour.

17 Man steps behind woman and takes her left hand high in his left, still clasping her right hand with his right.

18 They pivot once clockwise in this position.

19/20 Man turns woman under his raised left arm to face him, and they swing clockwise with crossed hands.

21 Both dance two reel steps backward to corners nearest presence, woman holding her skirt out and man holding his hands high.

22/23 Woman taps behind with right foot, hopping on left, then brings right heel behind, in front, behind left ankle, and changes weight onto right foot; then taps behind with left foot and brings left heel behind and in front of right ankle hopping on right foot, and finishes with feet together. Simultaneously man claps his hands under his right knee, hopping on left foot, then under left knee, hopping on right foot, makes a pivot turn clockwise and clasps his hands over his head.

24/25 Partners dance two reel steps forward to meet at centre & take R hands.

26/27 Woman pivots to her left while man dances eight tapping cross steps round her clockwise, still holding her hand high. (Woman’s pivots are under man’s arm, and she holds her skirt with her left hand.)

28/29 Partners honour with clasped hands, woman curtseying low and man raising his free hand, curved over his head.

30/32 Lead off in four side steps, and a clockwise turn, still with right hands clasped.

33/34 Four more side steps to finish lead off.

Note: In the last figure, when partners meet, instead of taking right hands, the man may pull off his neck-scarf and the woman catch hold of it in her right hand, and they would then hold it to finish instead of clasped hands.

READ THE FULL THESIS:

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

“DANISH FISHERMEN LEARN MANX HYMN” (1937)

On a recent date, Mr H. Browning Button, of Birmingham, lectured on “Beautiful Manxland” to the Anglo-Danish Association at Esbjerg. There were about 50 members of the Society present, who listened with keen interest to the lecturer’s account of the origin of the Island’s symbol, the Scandinavian traditions and relics, and his description of a series of artistic lantern slides representative of the varied interests of the Island.

In reply to questions at the close of the lecture, Mr Button was able to give practical information as to the best way to reach the Island from London, approximate cost, *etc.*

The Danish audience, all of whom understood English, were particularly interested in the Manx music the lecturer played on the piano, and by request, he repeated the Fishermen’s Evening Hymn two or three times.

Esbjerg is an important fishing port, and one of the members is going to teach the Danish fishermen to sing the Manx tune.

“Danish Fishermen Learn Manx Hymn. Lecture on Manxland at Esbjerg.” *Mona’s Herald* 27 April 1937: 6e.

As ever, one of those pieces found only by chance. One wonders if the fisherfolk of Esbjerg still have the Manx Fishermen’s Evening Hymn in their repertoire.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

“THREE OLD AND UNPUBLISHED MANX HYMN TUNES” (1950)

Members of the Croit-e-Caley Methodist Church, enjoyed a lantern lecture entitled “Methodist Worthies” by Miss Doris Costain, on Monday. Miss Costain mentioned that the one surviving member of the “old brigade” was Mr R.R. Kermode, of Ballakilpheric. Mr J.R. Corrin, J.P., M.L.C. presided and the lantern was operated by Mr R.E. Torr. In keeping with the atmosphere of the evening, a Ladies’ octet sang three old and unpublished Manx hymn tunes and “April Evening.” One of the tunes was written by the late Mr W.H. Gill and named “Thornhill” and another was based on an old Manx air memorised by the late William Kneen, of Croit-e-Caley and passed on to the late Rev. Arthur Jones, a well-known musician in the south of the Island, who later went to reside in Ramsey.

“[News from Out-Towns and the Country] [Rushen] Members of the” *Isle of Man Examiner* 14 January 1950: 9d.

“[A] Ladies’ octet sang three old and unpublished Manx hymn tunes.” As can be read this was at Croit-e-Caley Methodist Chapel in 1950. Just the one tune is named, W.H. Gill’s “Thornhill,” the others unfortunately not named. Nevertheless, these tunes were still recalled and, more importantly, sung.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

“TELEPHONE NUMBER TORQUAY 4693” (1959)

This week we have had a letter from a reader in Torquay who says that in December, 1906, he was staying in a boarding-house in Durban, South Africa, when two Manxmen came to stay there. While in South Africa, they had written a Manx song which they published under the title “Boghey Vec Vilish.” He adds, “I managed to strum it on the piano for them and everyone around thought it was good. If any of your people interested in music would like the song—I have not got a written copy—I would either make a small tape recording (if they would send me a tape) or sing it to them over the phone any evening.” The man who makes this novel offer is Mr George Eastman, 2, Atlantic Court, Beacon Terrace, Torquay (telephone number Torquay 4693). By the way, the authors have got astray in the Manx title. It probably is “Boght Veg Villish” (Sweet Little Thing).

Pseud [signed as “Islander”]. “[At Random...] Torquay Offer.” *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 20 March 1959: 3c.

Whilst a kind offer of Mr Eastman, one feels that he has certainly taken his time to inform readers of the *Isle of Man Weekly Times* of his offer. Nevertheless, a reminder of how music making can function as a reminder of places now left.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

Rushen Silver Band

origins and early history [part 4]

by Maurice Powell

Band on the Run?

A short paragraph in the *Isle of Man Examiner* of 18th May 1951 was quickly corrected: 'Rumours in the district that Rushen Silver Band had been disbanded are incorrect'. In fact, the secretary Mr Jack Clague stated that 'the band has been kept together and hopes to organise a good programme for the coming (summer) season'. Perhaps the band was temporarily short of players in some sections and in need of an influx of new young players for the coming summer season, hence rumour of its imminent demise?

In August the band now numbering around twenty players led the colourful children's fancy dress parade at Port Erin Regatta under a new bandmaster (R. L.) Leslie Cooil, a well-known farmer, pianist and popular singer of Bradda. Thomas Clague became the assistant bandmaster. It was at this time that the band formed its own male voice choir, trained by Leslie Cooil.

On Coronation Day, 1953, the band appeared for the first time in new uniforms of blue with red trim and gold braid and played selections throughout the day.*

* The uniforms were ex-RAF and supplied by Newson's outfitters of Douglas, dyed and altered by a tailor from Bradda.

The band of twenty-two players was once again at Level Hall, Colby, for a concert which included marches and waltzes and a hymn, vocal items, harmonica solos, trombone solos and cornet duets. In October the band mourned the death of Amos Collister of Surby, a founder member of the band.

In December 1955 the band gathered at the band room attached to the vicarage near Rushen Church for a special presentation to two young cornet players: J. Crebbin (who had joined band at the age of twelve) and J. Potts (who had joined band at the age of fourteen) who were leaving the Island to undertake their National Service in the Royal Air Force. They were very much missed, and in February 1956 the band was advertising for prospective young players to attend training sessions on Wednesday evenings beginning that month; the urgent need for new members was also emphasised at the band's AGM later that month.

In September 1956 the annual band outing by coach visited Foxdale, Kirk Micheal and Jurby for the air display, then travelled on the Ramsey for tea, and eventually home via Laxey and Douglas. The annual Ballafesson Wesley Guild social gathering took place in November and in addition to a selection of entertaining pieces from the band, there were mouth organ solos from J. and E. Clague, a euphonium solo from T. Qualtrough, and a trombone solo from C. Watterson.

In February 1957 bandmaster Leslie Cooil accepted the position of choir master at St. Catherine's Church, Port Erin, and relinquished his position as bandmaster of Rushen Silver Band.* The *Isle of Man Times* of 1st November noted that a new bandmaster, J(Jim) E. Crebbin

directed the band at the Ballafesson Wesley Guild social. J. Crebbin's appointment as bandmaster may initially have been a temporary one in order to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Leslie Cooil. A brief report in the *Isle of Man Examiner* of 3rd July 1958 seems only to add to the confusion in its attempt to quash a rumour that had emerged at a Port Erin Commissioner's meeting to discuss the need for a summer season bandstand,** that the band was without a conductor. The band secretary, E. Clague, responded by saying that the band was 'astonished' at the suggestion that it was without a conductor and confirmed that a new bandmaster (J. Crebbin) had been appointed on 26th August 1957, 'and has been in that position ever since and the band had advanced greatly under his leadership'. The assertion that 'attendances at band practices was very poor' was also vehemently denied. 'In fact', attendances have never been better in the 14 years existence as a Silver Band'. It was further confirmed that four band members were now undertaking their National Service, but there were players in reserve to take their places.

* He subsequently returned as bandmaster for a short period although, according to the history of the band on its website, he was notoriously unreliable and often late for practices and engagements.

** *Isle of Man Examiner*, 29.05.1958. 'The Commissioners were aware that there was '... a glaring shortage of a bandstand in Port Erin' which (however) could be paid for by utilising the £225 saved by the remission of the Entertainments Tax. It was thought that not only would a bandstand be very popular with the visitors and residents alike, but it would be an 'encouragement to Rushen Silver Band'.

On 2nd March 1960 the *Isle of Man Daily Times* published a short paragraph under the heading 'The "Noise" of Music' stating that the band was planning to erect a wooden building for use as a band room at the east end of the Eagle Hotel Gardens, Port Erin. Before the plan could be taken any further the Local Government Board Planning Committee asked the Commissioners if the 'noise created therein' would be likely to cause any annoyance to residents in the district. A later proposal to insist that a sound-proof lining should be mandatory for the 'hut' was rejected on the grounds that it was doubted that the Commissioners had the power to impose such a condition, and furthermore 'if people living nearby were annoyed by the noise it was for them to object'. The plan was referred to the Roads Committee for consideration'.*

* By the 1970s the band had moved to a small practice room in Port St. Mary. A new band headquarters was constructed between 1981-83 at Ballafesson and was officially opened in 1983 by dance band leader Ronnie Aldrich. The band room was extended in 2002.

In June 1960 the band was invited to play in Port Erin once each week during the summer and was permitted to take a collection at each event to help defray expenses. The repertoire at this time consisted of marches and waltzes, hymns and an occasional popular classical overture. The band's annual calendar at this period included appearances at the Port Erin Carnival and Regatta; the Good Friday open-air service on the beach at Fleshwick Bay; Lifeboat Day; the Ballafesson Wesley Guild social evenings; the 'June Effort' parades designed to encourage visitors to Port St. Mary and Port Erin; the Bradda Glen café; various church services; garden fetes; Remembrance Day; carols at Christmas and even attendance at a Ladies soccer match.

Andreas, August 2023

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

One of the classes in the Manx Folk Awards is for an original composition written in the Manx idiom. QE2 High School student Ealish Ayres entered the class with this lovely melody, which was performed at the competition by her piano teacher, Katie Lawrence.

Mooir Lheinney [Flowing Tide]

by Ealish Ayres
Isle of Man
2024

The musical score is written in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves of music. Above each staff are the corresponding chords: Bm, D, Em, G, Bm, A, D, F# for the first staff; Bm, D, Em, G, Bm, A, D, A for the second staff; Bm, G, D, A, Bm, G, D, A for the third staff; and Bm, D, Em, G, Bm, A, Bm for the fourth staff. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with a final fermata on the last note.

You can watch the performance here:

<https://youtu.be/wWF3w6garm0?si=eHbj0JmN1kMXzmbm>

More performances from the Sunday secondary competitions:

<https://tinyurl.com/34553c26>

Full list of *Transcriptions of the Month!*

www.manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/kmj-transcriptions---manx-songs-and-tunes/

MANX MUSIC
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CALENDAR

MARCH

28 – 31 Shennaghys Jiu Festival, Ramsey & Peel

31 Clash Vooar album launch, Noa, Douglas (sold out)

29 Spark Magical festival of creativity for children www.villagaiety.com/spark

APRIL

1 Clash Vooar at the White House, with Brian Brough, 8pm

2 – 6 Pan-Celtic Festival, Carlow, Ireland

5, 12, 19, 26 Battle of the Bands, Quid's Inn, Douglas

15 May Eve to Hollantide, illustrated talk with Yvonne Cresswell, Michael Heritage Trust (members only)

19 – 12 May Gaia on the Isle of Man [see article]

27 – 4 May The Manx Music, Speech & Dance Festival [Guild], Douglas

27 Children of the Sea – launch concert with Christine Collister, Peel Centenary Centre, 8pm, £15

MAY

2 – 5 Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quayle, Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes, www.australiancelticfestival.com

17-18 Gena's Dance Academy on Tour with Manx dance performance, Gaiety Theatre, Douglas www.villagaiety.com

JUNE

21 Laa Jannoo Kiaull – Make Music Day

24 – 29 Mananan Festival, Erin Arts Centre

28 - 30 Full Moon Festival, Douglas

www.facebook.com/thefullmoonfestival

JULY

5 Tynwald Day

22 – 28 Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering

www.celticgathering.im

AUGUST

12 - 18 Festival Interceltique de Lorient

www.festival-interceltique.bzh/

SEPTEMBER

20 – 23 Isle of Man Trad Music Weekend, Douglas & other areas

www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan

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

www.manxmusic.com

& join the party every day at

www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

~ SESSIONS ~

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas

WED 8.30pm Trad Session at O'Donnell's, Douglas

THURS 8pm Singing session at R.A.O.B. (Buffs) Club, Ramsey

FRI 8.30pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey

FRI 8pm Trad session at The George Hotel, Castletown

Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary

First **SUN** of month 1-4 Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club

Third **SUN** of month 1-4 Trad session in The Mitre, Kirk Michael

Stay up to date: www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

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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