

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Averil 2023 April

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Another successful Manx Folk Awards - Aundyryn Kiaull-Theay Vannin

Organised by the Department of Education Sport and Culture, and Culture Vannin, the Manx Folk Awards last week (26 – 30 March) showcased Manx music, dance, song and language over 5 days, with children aged from 3 - 18 taking part.



This was the 12th year of the event and there were over 1000 entries in almost 100 different classes that ran in three different venues; Kensington Arts, Trinity Methodist Church and St Johns Methodist hall, with certificates and book token prizes for the winners and a highly coveted Manx Folk Awards medal.

A daily 'Folktastic' trophy and cash prize, sponsored by the Malcolm Scott Dickinson Charitable Trust, was also awarded to an outstanding performance on each day. The winners were QE2 student Frank Joughin for his new composition 'Cape Breton' and for stepping in at the last minute to play fiddle with the Bree folk group who were missing a member; Arbory School for their talented KS1 solo singers and choirs; Skeddán Jiarg KS2 dance couples for a particularly entertaining performance of Chyndaa yn Bwoailley; and Mannin Music for their support of all of the music classes throughout the whole festival.

In this month's edition...

- *Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering 2023 line-up revealed*
- *Ushag Veg Ruy Jig by David Speers*
- *Creeaght films released*



Jo Callister, Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum at DESC said: 'Chloe and I have been bowled over by the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work from staff and pupils. We have been inundated with lovely feedback are proud that we are able to organise such a welcoming and inclusive event, where lots of young people performed for the first time.'



The overall theme was Manx calendar customs and amongst the 94 classes on offer, there were original song, dance and poetry composition classes. New classes for 2023 included instrumental duets and a two minute presentation in Manx Gaelic about calendar customs, where the lucky audience learned all about Tynwald day, Hunt the Wren and the naughty witch Tehi Tegi from pupils at Bunscoil Ghaelgagh.

The choirs performed set pieces, including the National Anthem, Flitter Dance Song, Hop tu naa and Invocation to St Bridget, as well as their own choice of Manx song. These classes each ended with a rousing massed sing of the set piece and the dance classes ended with a huge group performance of the Mhelliah and a Manx jig.

Highlights included a trumpet performance of Hunt the Wren, a group harp performance of Auldyn River, over 30 Manx dancers from Arbory School and hundreds of 4-7 year olds singing the National Anthem together.

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin said: 'The Manx Folk Awards is a great showcase for the work going on in schools. It's wonderful when you see the children enjoying themselves on stage, and feeling proud of the Isle of Man.'

Results, photos and films are available on Culture Vannin's website. Photos will be added soon: <https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/imagearchive/manx-folk-awards-2023/>

Photos: Previous page - dancers from various groups gathered to all dance together at the end of a day of competitions. Above - Adjudicator Clare Kilgallon RBV & Chris Williamson from Culture Vannin present certificates to representatives from school choirs.



Special guests included Chief Minister Hon Alfred Cannan, Hon Julie Edge Minister DESC, His Excellency Sir John Lorimer & Lady Loirimer, Geoff Moorcroft Director DESC & Chris Williamson from Culture Vannin.



MFA RESULTS: <https://culturevannin.im/resources/manx-folk-awards-716357/>

SHENNAGHYS JIU MANX CELTIC FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 6TH - SUNDAY 9TH APRIL

2023

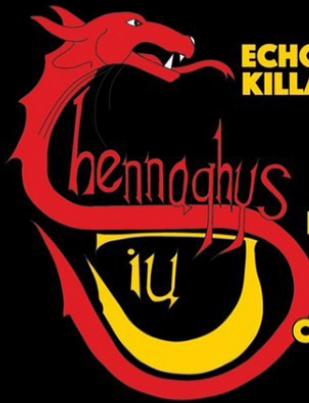
4 DAYS OF CELTIC MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE



SHENNAGHYS JIU

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
CORLETT'S PRESENTS...

A CELTIC MUSIC SHOWCASE



ECHOES OF
KILLARNEY

MERA
ROYLE

CAIRDE
GAEL



PEEL CENTENARY CENTRE

SUNDAY 9TH APRIL - 3PM

Shennaghys Jiu held a St Patrick's Day ceili fundraiser last month >>



Programme

Thursday 6th April

- 7.00 p.m.** Official Opening, Ramsey Town Hall
Visiting groups to perform at local schools.

Friday 7th April

Shennaghys Jiu Big Day Out.

- 10.00 p.m.** **Manx Conversation – Madhatters Café, Ramsey.**
6.30 p.m. **Family Concert at Masonic Hall, Ramsey**
Featuring: *Claarseyryn Twoaie, Share na Veg, Ny Fennee,*
8.30 p.m. **Family Ceilidh at Masonic Hall, Ramsey**
Featuring: The Tarroo Marroo Ceilidh Band, The Echoes of Killarney, Karrygi Du

Saturday 8th April

- 9.45 -12.30** **Outdoor displays, The Courthouse Ramsey**
Featuring: A selection of visiting and local groups
11.00 a.m. **Irish Music Workshop, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey**
Led by Greta Curtin (see page 23 for details)
12.00 p.m. **Food Folk and Manx, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey**
Featuring: The Echoes of Killarney, Manx Musicians - all musicians welcome.
1.30 – 3.30 p.m. **Outdoor displays, The Courthouse Ramsey**
1.30 p.m. **Young Musicians Workshop, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey**
Led by David Kilgallon (see page 23 for details)
2.30 p.m. **Manx Language Workshop, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey**
3.00 p.m. **Cornish Dance Workshop, Masonic Hall, Ramsey**
4.00 p.m. **Irish Dance Workshop, Masonic Hall**
5.00 p.m. **Manx Dancing Workshop, Masonic Hall led by Boghnid**
5.00 p.m. **Music in the Pub, Truth, Ramsey**
Featuring: Matt Kelly, Greta Curtin and Jessie Healey
5.00 p.m. **Music in the Pub, Fynoderee Gin Bar, Ramsey**
Featuring: Cairde Gael
7.30 p.m. **Concert & Family Ceilidh: Masonic Hall,
Ramsey Kindly Sponsored by Island
Aggregates**
Featuring: Concert – Skeddán Jarg, Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe & Daniel Quayle, The Echoes of Killarney, Karrygi Du
Entry: donations

Sunday 9th April

- 3.00 p.m.** **Celtic Showcase Concert, Peel Centenary
Centre. Kindly sponsored by Corletts**
Featuring: Echoes of Killarney, Mera Royle, Cairde Gael
Admission £15
7.30 p.m. **Old School Family Ceilidh and Concert at the Masonic Hall Ramsey**
Featuring: Lucy Gilmore, Mark Lawrence, Ceilidh: Echoes of Killarney, Karrygi Du, Cairde Gael
Tarroo Marroo
Entry: donations



YN CHRUINNAGHT

Celtic

GATHERING 2023

CELTIC MUSIC, SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL

CONCERTS | WORKSHOPS | CEILIS | SESSIONS | CRAFT FAIR

24 – 30 JULY 2023

Every July in the 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.

This year sees a stellar line-up with young Irish, Manx & Scottish band TRIP opening the festival, a concert with Scottish singer-songwriter Karine Polwart and jazz pianist Dave Milligan, an acoustic sunset recital in Ballaugh Old Church with Manx Gaelic singer Ruth Keggín and Scottish harpist Rachel Hair, a giant ceili in the Island's largest venue, and a foot-stomping grand finale with Irish music legends, Dervish!

In between, audiences will enjoy music and dance from Cornish band Morvran and a myriad of Manx acts, plus daily sessions and workshops, dance displays and ceili dancing from the six nations. Celtic language enthusiasts can also watch Irish Oscar-nominated movie, An Cailín Ciúin or attend the intensive Manx Gaelic summer school each morning.

Over its 45 years, the festival has maintained a small and friendly atmosphere, so if you decide to immerse yourself in the whole week, you'll soon be treated like a local! Fishing town Peel is the hub of the festival, but there will be fringe events happening in the capital Douglas, and the quaint villages of Ballaugh and St Johns. A festival pass covering most events costs just £60, but there are also lots of free community events and an artisan craft fair with plenty of entertainment and family activities.

YN CHRUINNAGHT

Celtic

GATHERING 2023

DERVISH
KARINE POLWART &
DAVE MILLIGAN
TRIP
RACHEL HAIR &
RUTH KEGGIN
MORVRAN
AN CAILÍN CIÚIN
THE MEGA MANX CEILI
AND MORE!

24th - 30th July 2023
Peel & Douglas, Isle of Man

ynchruinnaght.com
info@ynchruinnaght.com

All information on the festival and tickets:

www.celticgathering.im and www.facebook.com/CelticGatheringIOM/

A musical celebration of courageous Manx women has just been released online

'Creeaght' is a full-length traditional music composition by Isla Callister, which celebrates the role women have played in Manx history.

First performed at the Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering in July last year, the entire performance was recorded by Culture Vannin and is now available to watch in full online.

'Creeaght' is the Manx word for 'courage,' and it is a new composition commissioned by Culture Vannin for a traditional ensemble of fiddles, harp, piano, cello and voice.

The all-female performers in the recording include: Isla Callister, Mera Royle, Ruth Keggin, Annie Kissack, Katie Lawrence, Kirsty Lawrence and Anna Garvin.



The suite of 9 pieces celebrates the lives and legacies of women who have shaped the history of the Isle of Man from the late 1800s to the present day. Cultural figurehead Sophia Morrison, minority rights campaigner Angèle Kneale and the women behind the law-changing campaign for abortion reform and Handmaids IOM are the focal point of Creeaght.

Isla Callister, composer and musician, says: "The role women have played in Manx history has long been overlooked and hidden from view. Their remarkable stories of resilience, collaboration and courage are bound together in the story of Mann, and it is time for the stories to be shared and celebrated. Creeaght is a musical project that attempts to address this inequality."

The performance featured artwork by award-winning Manx illustrator Jo Davies, who brought the stories of these women to life through her illustrations. The piece was commissioned by Culture Vannin as a part of their ongoing work to develop and encourage innovative and exciting projects that enable us all to engage meaningfully in our Island's history and identity. Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin, says:

"When Isla first approached us with the concept behind Creeaght, we knew it would be something very special and meaningful, given her passion for the topic and her incredible musicianship. The live performance at Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering took the audience's breath away and there was hardly a dry eye in Peel Centenary Centre. These films are just one part of the legacy of Creeaght - there are educational aspects to deliver, future performances here and abroad and hopefully an album to come yet."

The suite was first performed to a sell-out audience at Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering in July 2022, forming one of the most spoken about and stand-out concerts of recent years. It is due to be performed again soon in the Island, as well as internationally.

The full video of the hour-long concert is available on the Culture Vannin website (www.culturevannin.im) and YouTube channel, in its full form, as well as in its nine individual parts.

Creeght videos are now live on the website: <https://tinyurl.com/yhzh6mtu>

& YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/4hwu3tsx>

more info: <https://culturevannin.im/news/a-musical-celebration-of-manx-women-761126/>

MANX RADIO INTERVIEW: <https://tinyurl.com/y8jn7w23>

Podcast: <https://www.manxradio.com/podcasts/one-to-three/episode/introducing-creeght/>



<< Coinciding with *Without Wings* The Manx Autoimmune Arthritis Trust's #Bekind 2023 challenge last month, Manx blues guitarist **Davy Knowles** donated his very first mandolin to Culture Vannin's young folk group, Bree. Furthermore, the USA-based guitarist also gave an electro-acoustic guitar to the winner of most promising young guitarist at Battle of the Bands last month. Gura mie ayd Davy!!

The main line-up has been announced for *Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering* (24th - 31st July) and festival passes are now for sale: www.facebook.com/CelticGatheringIOM
If any Manx acts would like to be considered, email info@ynchruinnaght.com with details.

BELOW:

A Manx concert in Lezayre Church & Arts Centre, presented by "The Northerners" - Ny Fennee and Cliogaree Twoaie [31 March]





The North American Manx Association is once again, this academic year, presenting awards for outstanding achievement by young people under the age of 18 years on the Isle of Man along with two additional awards for older recipients.

The awards are arranged in five categories and for each category a silver medal has been minted for presentation to suitable candidates. You are invited to submit recommendations, and full details of criteria can be found on nomination form. To request the full application form, email: frances.cowin@sch.im Nominations should reach Frances Cowin by Friday, 5th May 2023.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SPORT AND CULTURE
NORTH AMERICAN MANX AWARDS



Category:

Full Name:

Full Address:

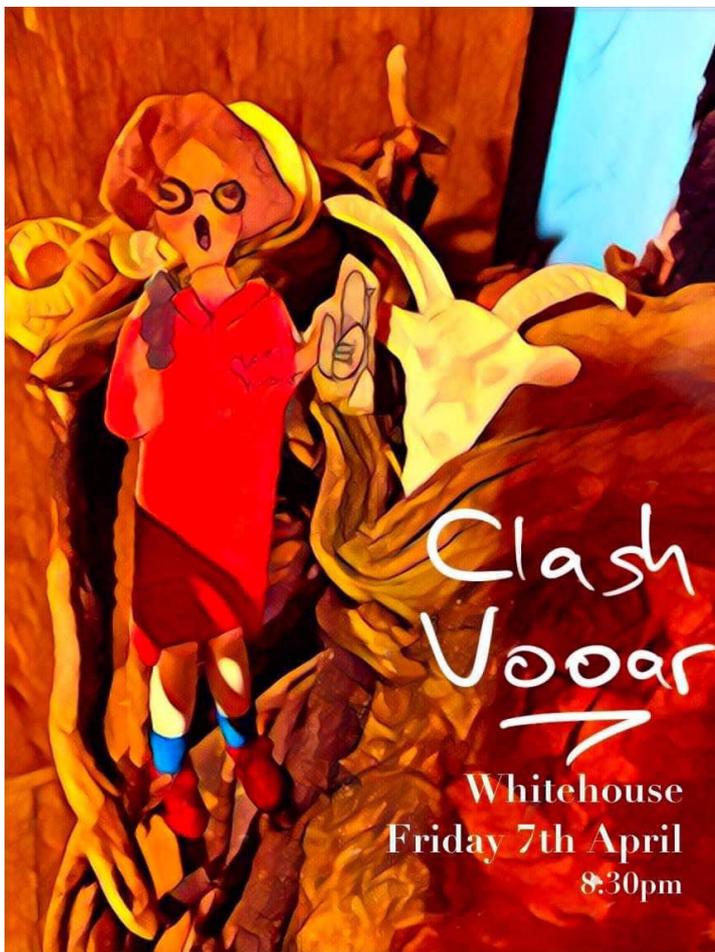
Age: School:

Nominated by:

Awards Descriptions

Please complete the relevant nomination form for your nominee and return via email. Entries should be sent to; Frances Cowin frances.cowin@sch.im by Friday 5th May 2023.

Category 1	Outstanding achievement in Manx music and/or dance
Category 2a	Key Stage 3 - 5; Outstanding achievement in Manx Language to be chosen by Yn Skimmee Gaelgagh (not open for public nomination) This award recognises academic achievement in the language with a view to supporting university applications
Category 2b	Key Stage 1 & 2; Award for commitment to Manx Language to be chosen alternative years by Yn Skimmee Gaelgagh and Bunscoill Ghaelgagh (not open for public nomination) 2023 nomination: Yn Skimmee Gaelgagh.
Category 3	Outstanding achievement in Arts and Crafts which portray any aspect of Manx life or Culture (this includes painting/drawing, sculpture, needlecraft/textiles, craft, story, poem)
Category 4a	Outstanding contribution to Manx Culture by a student under 18
Category 4b	Outstanding contribution to Manx Culture by a student over 18
Category 4c	Outstanding contribution to Manx Culture by a group of young people under 25
Category 5	Manx Community Award: To be made to young people who have made an outstanding contribution to the Manx Community in general, either by their work for voluntary organisations or by their involvement with, and assistance to, people or groups of people who need special help.



FULL MOON FESTIVAL

JUNE 30TH - JULY 2ND

BUSHWACKA!

BUNCHA SKANKERS **VOODOO BANDITS** **LEE JOHN**

A STONES THROW BAHUKI
 DROP KICK THE FISH DUSTY PLANKTON
 FRANCESCA MAY JAMIE BLACKBURN
 MOTHER FUNKERS NATHAN THOMPSON
 NEIL COWIE NIGHT TIME TENNIS
 NO ONE DIED OTTY LIVE
 RED HOT CHILLY YESSIRS
 SAMMY J LIVE SAX THE GETAWAYS

3 STOOLS COLLECTIVE ALAN STACEY ALAN VANNIN
 AUDIOWOK BUSY LADY CLASH VOOAR COOL HAND
 CORKWING FLUKE GOMH HALF NAKED HEADLINE JC STORMZ
 LEWIS PARKER LOOSE CREW MO BEATS NINJA FINGERS
 ROGUE FADER SECRET GIG SHADY ACRES THE AAA VIXEN
 THE DAVID MAPP ORCHESTRA TIGER BOOM TREE NY KIARE

ATILLA DANIEL LOONEY DANNY LIPTROTT PADDY RANTIN STEREO AND MCGRATH
 STEVIE BUTT T4 BARRY FEARON BRIAN ROONEY

DJ SETS FROM **VOLUME** **MORE ACTS TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

ACROSS 5 MUSIC AREAS
DAY, WEEKEND & CAMPING TICKETS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Gear PROTEC BESTCARS ARTS COUNCIL

BUY TICKETS - WWW.THEFULLMOONFESTIVAL.CO.UK

The Guild
 22nd to 29th
 April 2023

www.manxmusicfestival.org/

THE
MANX MUSIC
 SPEECH & DANCE
Festival
 Founded 1892

OIE VOALDYN

SUNDAY 30th APRIL

4pm-7pm
METHODIST HALL
 St Johns

4PM Face painting, Craft workshops for children
 5PM Oie Voaldyn costume contest,
 Winter-Summer battle
 6PM Music, Dances and Procession

Free entrance and refreshments

Isle of Man Primary Schools Singing Concert
 Presents ...

Wed 28th June 2023
 7pm
Villa Marina Royal Hall
 Tickets: £10 / Concessions £5
 Available From the Villa Concessions Office

The Sound of Magic

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DOUGLAS BUXTON MUSIC TRUST
 email: dbmt@manx.net / CHARITY NUMBER 246



April is **Autism** Acceptance Month

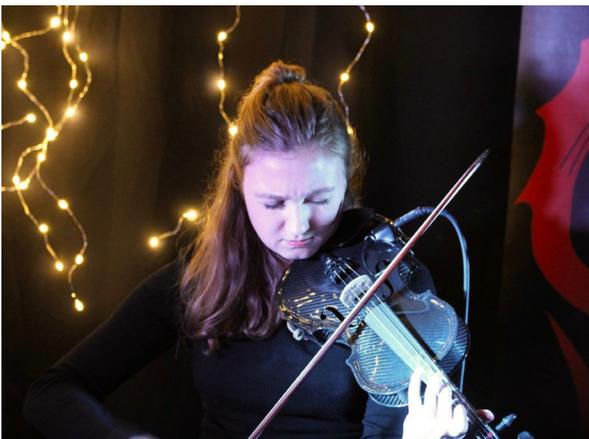


For more information please visit
gov.im/autismacceptance

April is international Autism Acceptance Month, which provides a perfect opportunity to promote a national conversation about the ways everyone can contribute to making a truly autism friendly Island. Last year, the DHSC ran a public consultation seeing input from the Island's autistic and ASC community and they are now working on a National Autism Strategy and campaign. They're interested in involving the Manx music, dance and language community and ask whether there are:

- o Any events/performances/workshops happening in April which could be adapted to make them more autism-friendly (e.g. having a quiet area for decompression, encouraging headphones/sunglasses for anyone experiencing sensory overload, having a clear itinerary ahead of time to manage expectations, etc.)
- o Any autistic musicians or dancers who would like to be voices of the campaign/could be celebrated for their contribution to Manx culture
- o Any other ideas the community might have about how to celebrate, include, and raise awareness about autistic people.

If you can help or have any ideas, contact Head of Engagement, Amy.Monroe2@gov.im



Learn to play Manx tunes on the fiddle anywhere in the world!

Every Tuesday evening on Google Meet Elizabeth Davidson Blythe will teach a Manx tune (or two) for about 45 min starting at 6PM BST. This is meant to be a fun and pressure-free experience for all skill levels to experience some Manx music! Lesson link:

<https://elizabethdavidsonblythe.com/contact>

<https://www.facebook.com/elizabethdavidsonblythe>

Saturday 29th April from 2-3.30pm in Culture Vannin, St Johns - Arrane Oie Voaldyn workshop for Bree students with Paul Rogers - learn the song, tune & dance to take part in a performance/parade at the Oie Voaldyn party the next day (Sunday 30th) which will take place in St Johns Methodist Hall from 4 -7pm. Watch the video and download the song here:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/arrane-oie-voaldyn-650598/>

FLITTERS!! The Manx tradition for the morning of Good Friday is the eating of flitters. These shellfish (known as 'limpets' in England) are caught from the rocks and cooked there on the shore. But no iron should be used at all in the fire this day (in recognition of the nails used to put Jesus on the cross), and so the flitters should be cooked in their own shells in the embers of the fire, and eaten using sticks. You then want to throw the shells into the sea with the Manx invocation, 'Gow shoh as bannee orrin' ('Take this and bless us'), before performing the Flitter Dance over the embers of the fire.

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

For updates & news on Manx music & dance,
follow www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

Manx musicians Breesha Maddrell and Isla Callister have compositions in *New Folk Tunes from 100 Women* - a forthcoming publication by Faber Music.

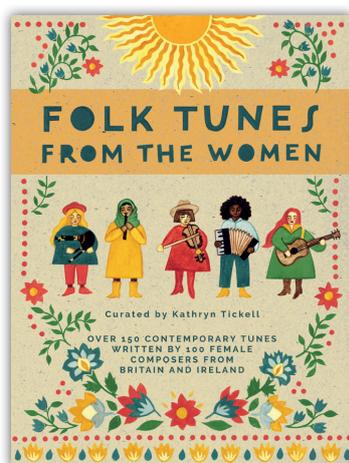
FABER *ff* MUSIC



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marketing@fabermusic.com
fabermusic.com

New Folk Tunes from 100 Women to be published by Faber Music in bumper collection

8 March 2023



This International Women's Day, Faber Music is proud to announce a tune book like no other. **'Folk Tunes from the Women'**, to be released on **5 May 2023**, is a bumper book of over 150 contemporary tunes from 100 female composers from Britain and Ireland, brought together all from different areas, traditions and backgrounds. Available to pre-order now from Amazon.co.uk and other retailers.

'Folk Tunes from the Women' has been curated by Northumbrian piper and fiddle player Kathryn Tickell, OBE. After a request in 2021 from a friend who was looking for female-composed material to teach to her fiddle group, Tickell realised that everything on her 'possibles' list was written by men. Having then contacted a few of her female tune-writing friends to ask if they knew of any collections of tunes by women composers, they all said "no... but there absolutely should be such a thing."

And so the project was launched, Tickell put out the call, and the composers came in their droves. From successful professional musicians with many compositions to their name, to those who may have only written one tune. All these composers answered the call to submit material for 'Folk Tunes from the Women'. They all felt passionately that there was a real need for the book to exist, not only to make their own tunes more visible and accessible, but also to make it easier to learn and champion tunes from other women tune-writers.

Featuring a wide selection of Jigs, Hornpipes, Reels, Airs, Marches, Polkas, Waltzes, Mazurkas, the book also includes many tunes which don't fall into a natural category.

Curator Kathryn Tickell explains "Although this material is presented collectively, I hope people will get a sense of the women involved and the processes and motivations behind our music. Some of these tunes were written in the darkest depths of grief, others are expressions of pure joy. There are stress-relievers, protests, distractions, memorials and meditations. Many tunes were written in gratitude – for life, for health, for friends and family. Some are professional commissions; others were given freely as gifts. Some are for dancing, some for listening. They are for births, deaths and everything between and beyond."

The tunes are presented as melody lines with chord symbols, to make it the most useful book for teachers and players alike.

Title:	Folk Tunes from the Women	Publisher:	Faber Music
Publication Date:	5 May 2023	Extent:	256pp
Format:	Melody line with chord symbols	Dimensions:	305mm x 229mm
Price:	£22.00	ISBN10:	0571542875
Link to buy:	https://www.amazon.co.uk/Folk-Tunes-Women-contemporary-composers/dp/0571542875		

Review copies available. Press contact: Rachel Topham, rachel.topham@fabermusic.com



Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

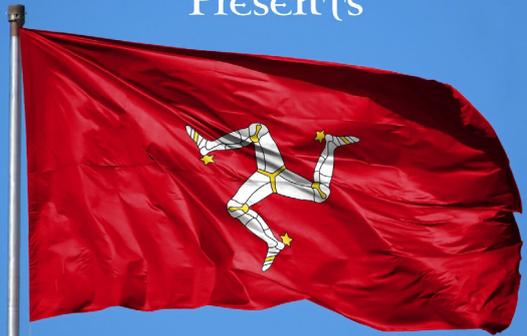
London Manx Society (Yn Cheshaght Manninagh Lunnin)

Annual Lunch

Saturday 13th May at 1pm

- An afternoon of Manx Music and Dance with Chloe Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin
- Chloe will talk to us about Manx Music and she, and her family, all talented musicians, will perform
- Price of £30 includes 3 course silver service lunch. Plus:
- Prize draw! Top prizes include a voucher for a car and two passengers to and from the Island courtesy of IOMSPCo. Voucher £50 for use at Manx Museum Shop. Voucher for £20 fuel free when using Mylchreests car hire.
- Venue: Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton London - West End, 92 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4BH
- Payment details to reserve place and to notify of any dietary requirements contact:
- londonmanxsociety@googlemail.com
- www.facebook.com/groups/1468756610108681

London Manx Society
Presents



Annual Lunch
13th May 2023

Lowender is looking for performers for this year's Celtic Festival in Cornwall, 26th – 29th October 2023 in Redruth.

We need performers who can:

- Lead a Manx Music session
- Do music spots/dance display for street entertainment
- Run a Manx dance workshop
- Run a Manx ceilidh

A bonus if:

There are Manx speakers as part of your group happy to teach people a few words of Manx

There are dancers capable of doing a display - we're particularly looking for groups able to bring dancers and/or a dance team

We can offer financial support towards travel, free indoor camping at Redruth School (or we'll help you find alternative paid-for accommodation), excellent craic and the chance to meet loads of new friends from across the Celtic world.

Deadline for expression of interest by 6th April, as the programme is going live at the end of April:

jfdavey@gmail.com

Pan-Celtic Song Contest

Good luck to **Shenn Scoill Elley** (Phil Gawne, Paul Rogers, Andy North and Luna Sheila Tang) when they compete The International Pan Celtic Festival in Carlow Town, Co. Carlow

11 – 16 April / Aibreán 2023

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



With the successful launch of the 'Celtic Odyssey' series in 2022, Festival Interceltique de Lorient is excited to re-initiate new interceltic encounters between artists from 8 Celtic nations in "Celtic Odyssey #2" on 11th August with Ronan Le Bars and 16 other musicians, including Manx Gaelic singer, Ruth Keggan. www.festival-interceltique.bzh/

MEC LIR

06/08/2023

Festival
INTERCELTIQUE
Lorient

#interceltique23
festival-interceltique.bzh

RESEARCH NEWS

'We Must Have a Song About the Isle of Man' by Maurice Powell

We must have a song about the Isle of Man,
The Isle of Man, the Isle of Man.
We must have song to make us all feel gay
When we go upon a holiday.
Like "Meet Me in Kellyland",
Or something we can shout and bawl.
If we didn't have a song to sing as we toddle along,
It wouldn't be like the Isle of Man at all.*

This is the third of three articles about popular songs from the Island's golden age as a popular holiday destination, from the 1880s until the late 1960s, that can be regarded as specifically 'Isle of Man' or 'Douglas' songs.** Thanks are due to my colleague Charles Guard for prompting me to begin this investigation and for the intriguing suggestion that 'The Island of Holiday Songs' may be unique in having such a wealth of songs written in praise of its natural beauty, and attractions as a holiday venue, far more than either Blackpool, Scarborough or Margate, to name just three other popular resorts.

I do not imagine for one moment that I have identified more than a fraction of the number of 'Isle of Man' songs performed at the Falcon Cliff Pavilion, the Palace Coliseum, the Derby Castle Opera House, the Villa Marina and elsewhere by many of the great music hall and variety stars of the era. Some of the songs exist only as titles in newspaper reviews or on the back of old sheet music copies with very little additional information extant, often not even the name of the lyricist and/or composer.

This modest piece will be constantly updated, corrected and improved as and when new information becomes available. In the meantime, here is a selection of songs, vocal waltzes, polkas and schottisches, seasonal dances and topical novelty instrumental pieces that reflect the enormous attraction vibrant and colourful Mona's Isle held for the hard-working folk of the industrial towns and cities of the Northwest of England and further afield. More information about and the wonderful variety stars who performed here and their entertaining songs may be found in my survey of the first fifty years of the Island's 'golden age' of its tourist industry, *Manxland's King of Music, the life and times of Harry Wood*, published by Lily Publications in 2018.

* We Must Have a Song about the Isle of Man by Worton David and C. W. Murphey, published by Francis, Day & Hunter (Sixpenny Popular Edition no. 863) c. 1912. Popularised by Florrie Forde.

** See The Origins of 'Hi! Kelly' and Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly, manxmusic.com, 2017.

READ FULL ARTICLE: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8d5rh5>



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

2. The Leighton Stowell Book of Manx Dances - 2.2 Daunse ny Moain

The Turf Dance in English has a slightly confusing history. It is performed to the tune Hie Mee Stiagh or Cutting the Turf, a song with rather vulgar words. Although the dance was compiled by Stowell in 1955 (Stowell:1981), references to dances with associated names appear earlier. In 1930 in correspondence to Douglas from Ruth Hedger (MNHL 09545 Box 19), Hedger mentions a composed dance, composed by a 'he', called the Widow's House, which she was led to believe was traditional but was incorrect. The full title of the tune to The Turf Dance is Hie Mee Stiagh dys Thie Ben-Treoghe or I went into the Widow's House. Again in Douglas' papers (MNHL 09545 Box 29) notes can be found which include reference to a dance called Hie Mee Stiagh, which is described as a six-hand ring dance. The tune appears on the LP Daunseyn Theayagh Vannin (1973) and is associated with a composed dance by Stowell and in a number of Stowell's notes he gives a full description of the composition of the dance (Stowell: 1972 & MNHL 09683).

Stowell composed the dance for the young Methodists of Arbory Street Chapel in Castletown who were under the instruction of Maisie Allison, a dancer taught by Stowell. From Stowell's notes it is evident that he is aware of Manx traditions regarding the collection of turf for winter fuel and in particular writes of the tradition of 'stealing' a piece of turf from a neighbour to start the fire with on 21st December or St. Thomas' day. Although this larceny seems unfair this was reportedly done with the unspoken knowledge that this was a reciprocal agreement. Once a fire was lit on this day it was not to be touched by a poker, but should be kept burning all day. The refusal to use an iron poker is associated with the wounds of Christ that were caused by iron nails by Stowell, although the mystical powers of iron to ward off evil is a regular feature of Manx folklore. The dance was then composed with the joy of gathering turf in mind and so the turf was venerated in a similar way to the wren in Hunt the Wren by being placed atop a pole and decorated with streamers. Stowell then lost his own notes and the dance was not resurrected again until 1970 when it was performed in front of the Queen Elizabeth II.

READ THE FULL THESIS:

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



HOSTS at the annual Bachelors' Tea at Newtown, Santon, on Tuesday evening.

Examiner, 25 February 1955

“A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MANX CONCERT”
FRANCES CORLETT AT THE GLADSTONE HALL, PORT SUNLIGHT (1910)

On Tuesday evening last, a highly successful Manx concert was given at the Gladstone Hall, Port Sunlight, before a crowded house. Many scores being unable to gain admission. The concert, which was in aid of a bereaved Manx family, was organised by Miss Fanny Proctor (late of Douglas), and she was ably assisted by Mr John Mylrea (formerly of Peel). The stage, which was arranged as a Manx kitchen, was very realistic, and the costumes of the fishermen, farmers, and fisher-girls and milk maids forming the chorus were very fine—over eighty performers taking part. Miss Proctor is to be congratulated on her great success, and we are pleased to see our former townsman, Mr Mylrea to the front again in the work of charity. In December last, Mr Mylrea who is well known as a baritone vocalist in Liverpool and Birkenhead, and is also a member of the popular Linwood Male Quartette, organised a successful concert in aid of the “Ellan Vannin” Fund, the proceeds of which helped to swell the Liverpool Manx Society’s Fund. On Tuesday evening Mr Mylrea in his oilskins, top-boots, and guernsey gave a fine rendering of “Mannin Veg Villish Veen,” and Gordons fine song “When the ebb tide flows.” The other soloists were Mrs Caley, Miss Gladys Ager, Miss Fanny Proctor, Mr J. Illidge and Mr Austin Proctor. The following is the full programme: Overture, Mr J.C. Reason; solo, “Hush, Little Darling,” Miss F. Proctor; Manx National Anthem; solo, “The Token,” Mr A.M. Proctor; solo, “Fair Maids Man,” Miss G. Ager; solo, “Mannin Veg Villish Veen,” (Dear little Isle of Man), Mr J. Mylrea; fairies dance, children; solo, “Good-bye,” Mrs Caley; solo, “The Manx Weddin’,” Mr A.M. Proctor; Manx fisherman’s evening hymn, choir; tableau and chorus, “Spin Wheel, Spin,” girls; solo, “Ellan Vannin,” Mrs Caley; duet, “When the Wind Bloweth in from the Sea,” Miss F. and Mr A.M. Proctor; solo and chorus, “King of the Sea,” Mr J. Illidge; solo, “Lovers To-morrow,” Miss G. Ager; part song, “Sweet and Low”; solo, “When the Ebbtide Flows,” Mr J. Mylrea; solo, (a) “If I Built a World for You,” (b) “If no one ever Marries Me,” Mrs Caley; Hunt the Wren, Old Manx custom of Hunting the Wren on the day after Christmas. This is still in practice. Solo and chorus, “Ramsey Town,” Mr A.M. Proctor; “God Save the King.”

“Manx Concert at Port Sunlight.” *Peel City Guardian* 20 August 1910: [6]d.

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Port Sunlight is a model village built by the Lever Brothers to house the workers employed at their soap factory. In 1910, the Gladstone Hall on Tuesday, 16 August, was the occasion for “Miss Fanny Proctor” to stage by all accounts an ambitious evening as a fund raiser for a Manx family who had recently suffered a death. Their name nor the circumstances are not stated, but given the venue one assumes they were employed at the factory there. As can be seen, this went beyond a simple programme of musical pieces and recitations, and a remarkable number of people—over eighty it is stated—were involved in a musical production featuring a setup of a Manx kitchen, and with those taking part, it must be said, dressing the part. “Manxness” is not only to be heard, but also to be seen. At this date, such a tableaux was the central feature in the Island of what were advertised as a “Manx Tea and Concert,” a phenomenon that needs further study. “Mrs W.J. Corlett has picked up a fine air—possibly Miss Wood will kindly arrange it for us,” wrote Sophia Morrison to J.J. Kneen on 25 October 1914. This is the married “Miss Fanny Proctor,” who was in her own right, Frances Phoebe Corlett, *née* Proctor, enumerated in the 1901 census as living at 35 Derby Square in Douglas and at that time aged 40. Her husband, William John Corlett, was the same age as her and ran an ironmongers business in Douglas of considerable size. In the letter, we have Corlett here as song collector, and on the stage Corlett there as promoter of Manxness. And, as ever, present is the figure of Sophia Morrison.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

For the 1901 census enumeration, see *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Douglas, 1901, RG 13/5304, fol. 47, sch. 58; the letter is MNHL, MS 1086/43 C.

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Here's a re-working of an old Manx song sent in by David Speers. He said:

I came across one of my old notebooks from the period in the 80's and 90's when I and others at the Whitehouse were looking through the Clague/Gills mss for tunes to play in the Whitehouse session, especially ones that could be played as lively dance tunes.

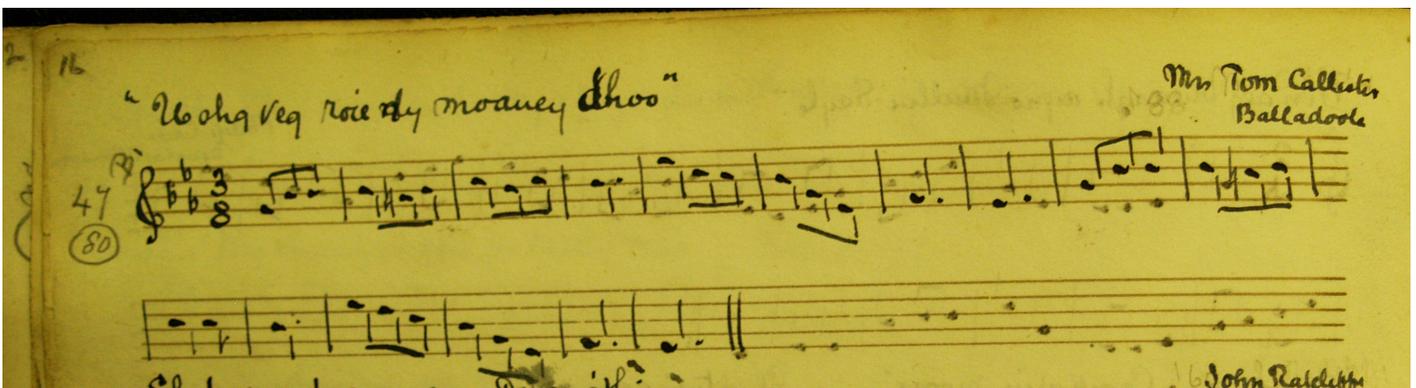
One that I've revisited is called "Ushag veg ruy ny moaney dhoo", one of several that would have been used for the ballad of that name.

Ushag veg Ruy

(Clague/Gill Collection, Mrs Tom Callister, Balladoole, arranged by D Speers)



This is one of several tunes named after the Manx ballad Ushag veg ruy ny moaney dhoo (Little red bird of the black peat). In the manuscript collection this is written in E flat major, has only one line of music, and the melody is incorrectly noted. This version has been revised and a 'B' tune added to make it playable as a double jig.



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

CALENDAR

APRIL

1 – 30 DHSC Autism Acceptance Month
6 – 9 Shennaghys Jiu Celtic festival www.facebook.com/shennaghysjiu
7 Clash Vooar at the Whitehouse, Peel
7-11 Edinburgh International Harp Festival www.harpfestival.co.uk/
11 – 16 Pan-Celtic Festival, Carlow, Ireland
22 - 29 Guild www.manxmusicfestival.org
29 Arrane Oie Voaldyn workshop for Bree students, Culture Vannin, 2 – 3.30pm
30 Oie Voaldyn children's party, St Johns Methodist Hall, 4-7pm

MAY

13 Manx music and calendar customs – illustrated talk by Dr Chloe Woolley & family, London-Manx Society annual lunch www.londonmanxsociety.co.uk

JUNE

26 Elgar in the Isle of Man, lecture by Maurice Powell, Elgar Society, York
21 Laa Jannoo Kiaull / Make Music Day

28 Sound of Magic, Villa Marina, 7pm
26 - 1 July Mananan International Festival, Erin Arts Centre
30 – 2 July Full Moon Festival

JULY

5 Tynwald Day
24 – 30 Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering 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 O'Donnell's, Douglas
THURS 8pm Singing session at R.A.O.B. (Buffs) Club, 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

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

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