

Revellers Enjoy a Busy St Stephen's Day

It's a busy time for those keeping Manx traditions in the spotlight on the Isle of Man when St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) dawns, with a surge of interest in events this year providing a welcome boost for the future of these important occasions.

Hunt the Wren often includes many happy revellers from across the Island, ensuring that this long-held tradition remains unforgotten in an increasingly global climate. Fortunately the necessity of using a recently killed bird as traditionally required has been superseded by something less blood thirsty, with coloured ribbons replacing feathers of the bird for good luck as singers and dancers move freely amongst the villages and towns.

Additionally this year Isle of Man Stamps and Coins have also released a unique £2 coin capturing the striking image of the little wren, and available as either a single product within a protective wallet, or within a limited edition card featuring images from the recently produced Manx Folk Traditions stamp collection, a Hunt the Wren stamp and a unique first day issue postmark.



Maxine Cannon, Isle of Man Stamps and Coins

General Manager, commented, "We are pleased to present this beautiful and festive £2 coin themed on a Christmas tradition that is still valued on our Island today, which perfectly illustrates this custom."

Meanwhile, there's still an opportunity to enjoy the Island's Christmas stamps celebrating eighty years of the Beano, with Dennis and Gnasher visiting several well-known destinations on the Isle of Man, drawn exclusively by their official artist Nigel Parkinson.

But later in the day there was a great opportunity to work off those extra calories by taking part in the annual Cammag match on the old fair field at St John's, where teams from the north and the south battled for supremacy in a sport which may well be familiar to those in neighbouring Celtic nations who play shinty or hurling. Although the game lost favour to football at the turn of the nineteenth century there has been a resurgence of interest in the sport in recent times.

The day concluded with an uplifting music session in the Tynwald Inn which included some of the Island's finest musicians.

by Valerie Caine © January 2019



In this month's edition...

- **Manannan's Winterfest & Mollag Ghennal REVIEWS**
- **Manx Folk Awards 2019**
- **LEARN 'Steady as She Goes' sets of tunes**

Culture VANNIN

[More photos PTO >>](#)



HUNT THE WREN 2018 - RECORD NUMBERS OF WRENBOYS!!

Hundreds of people took to the streets around the Island on St Stephen's Day to sing and dance 'Hunt the Wren' in what is becoming a very popular annual event in the Isle of Man!

Here is a selection of photos from just some of the public events that took place in Douglas, Kirk Michael, Ballaugh, Sulby, Ramsey, St Johns and Port St Mary. Some community groups reported having more than 150 people turn up to take part at their event!

Old tradition celebrated on Boxing Day - article by Isle of Man Newspapers:

www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=44921&headline=Old%20tradition%20celebrated%20on%20Boxing%20Day§ionIs=NEWS&searchyear=2018

View and order photos of Hunt the Wren from IOM Newspapers:

<https://iomtoday.newsprints.co.uk/search/bykw/p/u/0/1/wren>

Photo credits: BBC, Val Caine, IOM Newspapers, Peter Young, Adam Rhodes, Caroline Helps, Chloe Woolley & others.



And after the South beat the North in the 2018 Cammag match (an event that attracted 100s of people), there was a lively Manx session in the Tynwald Inn. Despite being after 12 noon, the whole pub joined Greg Joughin for a rendition of Hunt the Wren!

Gef The Mongoose have made a great 'Big Fat Culture Review of 2018' in their own inimitable style and their highlights include some special Manx music and dance moments! [Advance warning that the 'Gef' style won't suit everyone!]



www.gefthemongoose.com/lifestyle/gefs-big-fat-culture-review-of-2018/



MANX FOLK AWARDS 2019 - ENTRIES OPEN

Sunday 31 March 2019 - Secondary All Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre)

Monday 1st April 2019 - Keystage 1 All Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre & Rosemount Trinity Church)

Tuesday 2nd April 2019 - Keystage 2 Dance and Song Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre & Rosemount Trinity Church)

Wednesday 3rd April 2019 - Keystage 2 Instrumental Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre & Rosemount Trinity Church)

Thursday 4th April 2019 - Keystage 1 & 2 Aaloayrtys - Manx Gaelic & English Readings, poetry and recitation (St Johns Methodist Hall)

More information and syllabus: <https://manxfolkawards.weebly.com/>

WATCH films from the 2018 Manx Folk Awards: <https://vimeo.com/268756740>



MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHRISTMAS 2018

<< Perree Bane Aeg dance team take a break backstage in the Manx Museum where they performed at MNH's 'Cracking Christmas Concert'!

CHRONICLES CONCERT

Russell Gilmour and David Kilgallon delighted the audience at the Ramsey Music Society's Christmas Concert. Inspired by the Medieval manuscript, 'The Chronicles of Mann and Sudreys', Russell (trumpet) and David (organ) perform exquisite arrangements of Manx and other music.

The duo have made artful arrangements from Ny Kirree Fo Niaghtey, Berree Dhone, Battle of Santwat, Scollag Aeg and many other old Manx melodies.

TYNWALD CAROL SERVICE

<< Jonathan King conducts the Tynwald brass ensemble and choir for the annual Tynwald Carol Service in St George's. Attended by members of the House of Keys and the general public, the order of service included Tra va Ruggit Chreest & Jonathan's arrangement of the National Anthem.



Arrane son Mannin

New Song in Manx Competition
New Song in Manx Competition
Prize money sponsored by **Culture VANNIN**



Includes a Manx Concert
with:-

Biskee Brisht Bree
Caarjyn Cooijdjagh Matt Creer
Mera Royle (Harp) Owen Williams
Peddyr as Paayl and more...

Peel Masonic Hall, Stanley Road
Saturday 12th January 2019 - 7.30pm
FREE ADMISSION - RAFFLE

Culture VANNIN

Meeting Schedule 2019

ISLE OF MAN ARTS COUNCIL

8th February Funding Application Deadline: 23rd January	←	→	8th March Strategy Review No applications considered
3rd May Funding Application Deadline: 17th April	←	→	14th June Strategy Review No applications considered
17th August Funding Application Deadline: 17th July	←	→	6th September Strategy Review No applications considered
8th November Funding Application Deadline: 23rd October	←	→	6th December Strategy Review No applications considered

HOW IT WORKS

- 1. Application deadline:** You can send us your applications by post or email. No late applications will be considered.
- 2. Decision:** A decision will be made at the following Council meeting, usually held two weeks after the deadline date.
- 3. Outcome of decision:** We'll get in touch with you in the week following the meeting.

FANCY A CHAT?

Phone: 01624 694598

Email iomartscouncil@gov.im

Unit 8, Villa Marina Arcade, Harris Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 2HN

Oie'll Vreeshey

The final evening of January was an important time in the Isle of Man, as it was Oie'll Vreeshey (St. Bridget's Eve).

The Manx believed that Breeshey would be roaming the land that night, looking for a place to stay. So you had to make ready for her, with a spare bed, food and drink. If she came and stayed with you, then good luck would be with you for the year ahead. A story exists of this night from Ned Beg Hom Ruy (Edward Faragher), the poet of Cregneash. He tells the story of an old woman of Earyween, a farm high up the East Baldwin valley, who carried on this custom when others around her had given it up. This left her open to an abuse of her open-handedness when a wanderer happened across the freely-available food and bed...

The story is told here by Ruth Keggin, at the old farm buildings of Earyween itself, where this story took place.

Watch Gaelic singer Ruth Keggin tell a story by Ned Hom Tuy and sing the "Invocation to St Bridget":

<https://vimeo.com/309252818>

And in Manx Gaelic: <https://vimeo.com/309251368>

More information: https://www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_469776.html

Learn the song: https://www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_407801.html





Manannan brings us in from the cold

By Mike Wade (Isle of Man Newspapers)

There was a feast of musical, theatrical and comedic entertainment at the Gaiety on Friday night, with the first Manannan's Winterfest Christmas concert.

Some of the island's finest musicians joined together to produce an evening of glorious, festive music, with the highlights including stand-out performances from the rising stage star Alexandra Slater, who sang a wonderful version of 'O Holy Night', backed by a stage full of Manx musicians from the Ramsey Town band, the Manx Voices choir and the house folk group, featuring Malcolm Stitt, David Kilgallon, Jamie Smith and Katie and Kirsty Lawrence.

Alexandra also performed two stunning songs in Manx Gaelic, 'The Angel Gabriel' and 'Oikan Ayns Bethlehem', accompanied by Mera.

Elsewhere, there were folk tunes by the house band, and a version of a traditional Whiteboys play, by the Michael Players. The sheer variety of entertainment was highlighted by the compere, Dot Tilbury, who was on top form all night.

Amongst her many sketches and songs, the best was her hilarious take on the Victoria Wood song, 'Let's Do It', with a harassed-looking Geoff Corkish playing her sidekick.

The sight of Dot hurtling across the stage in a frock coat on the back of a hostess trolley is a sight never to be forgotten.

Organised by Malcolm Stitt and David Kilgallon, it was a wonderfully evocative night of music and variety, and one that created a genuinely warm, feel-good, family atmosphere. It is hoped that the Winterfest will become an annual occasion, and one that will welcome the Christmas season in at the Gaiety for many years to come.



Local band Clash Vooar launch new album at the Whitehouse in Peel

Local six-piece band Clash Vooar (Big Groove) featuring Dave McLean, Anglin Buttimore, Aalin Clague, Breesha Maddrell, Rob Cain and Danny Kneale recently launched their debut album, *Rumours of Unease*, at The Whitehouse in Peel; with a guest appearance by Jack McLean.

An enthusiastic and appreciative audience enjoyed a powerful mix of songs, tunes and languages reflected in a musical backdrop of Manx Gaelic, gypsy, jazz and blues. Breaking new ground on the Manx music scene, they present a selection of re-imagined, traditional music interspersed with Manx rooted, idiosyncratic storytelling, layered with prog rock keyboard, jazz inflection and atmospheric samples.

The band's diversity has developed exponentially, with their unique sound and experimentation re-shaping the expression of Manx music in a revolutionary fashion..

Further information about Clash Vooar is available on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/clashvooar/

Valerie Caine © January 2019

Album available from Bandcamp: <https://clashvooar.bandcamp.com/releases>

& the Lexicon Bookshop (Douglas), Bridge Bookshop (Port Erin & Ramsey) and MNH shops



Mollag Ghennal Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The much loved, annual Mollag Ghennal, which has its roots in the Garden Room of the old Villa Marina, before the Mollag Band took over the baton from the Calor Gas Ceili Band in 1993, celebrated its twenty fifth anniversary during the festive season.

It's a tried and trusted format still favoured by the event's many followers, who enjoyed a relaxed evening of mostly local entertainment at the Manx Legion building in Douglas. This year organisers welcomed Sel Edwards who provided both Welsh and Manx music, local singer/songwriter Matt Kelly, Imbolc (hotfoot from performances in Belgium), up-and-coming group Scran with their new album *Nane*, father and son duo Frank and Jamie Joughin and Manx dancers Skeddan Jiarg.

Meanwhile, the Mollag Band presented a new dimension, described by lead vocalist Greg Joughin as the musical equivalent of modern art, with groups of lyrics connected simply by vague association. An abstract image formed through the ears of the listener, a kind of melodic Matisse.

Supper was provided by the Mollag Kitchens.

As well as the usual self-penned, original songs from the Mollag Band, the evening concluded with a revolutionary mix of community singing linking Victorian music hall and Manx folk classics from the 1970s.

Valerie Caine © January 2019



Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

a'Nish, are coming to London!

The Manx Celtic band are back to play more music following their stint at the Lorient festival last summer.

Excite your Monday with a'Nish! Come to the **Horse and Stables** and spend the night listening to some glorious trad-come-jazz-come-human folk music.

Monday, 18 February 2019, 7pm

Tickets are £5 in advance (eventbrite) and £7 on the door.



Manx Connections in Glasgow

There are a few IOM connected gigs at Europe's biggest winter music festival this month! Celtic band Imar, which features Manx musicians Tom Callister & Adam Rhodes are playing on the 25th Jan; Isle of Man based musician, Malcolm Stitt, will be joining fellow members of Scottish band Deaf Shepherd for a sell-out reunion gig on the 19th January; and Jamie Smith and Paul Rogers from the Island will be playing on the 20th with Welsh trad group, Mabon. www.celticconnections.com

Celtic
CONNECTIONS

LECTURE IN LONDON

"I am longing for another voyage of discovery in the summer": The Gill brothers and their collecting of folk songs from the Isle of Man (1894-94) by Stephen Miller

Wednesday 17 April, 7.30pm

Cecil Sharp House, London

The Gill brothers, W.H. Gill (1839–1923) and Deemster J.F. Gill (1842–99) have remained marginalised and neglected figures in the collecting of Manx folk song, overshadowed by A.W. Moore (1853–1909), whose own Manx Ballads and Music appeared in 1896, and by Dr John Clague (1842–1908), whose collection was published in large part in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society between 1924–26, edited by A.G. Gilchrist. Ironically, the Gills have left more manuscript material behind than any of these collectors, found amongst the personal papers of Deemster Gill when they were released in 2000. They are now known to have made three collecting tours overall, travelling over most of the Island, making use of a network of helpers to locate twenty-eight singers and taking down one hundred and one tunes as a result. The outcome was Manx National Songs (1896), the lesser-known Manx National Music (1898), and the unrealised Manx National Airs. The letters from the helpers survive, as do notes made in the field, the annotations to the tunes allow the identification of the singers in the 1891 census, and the detail overall allows for the reconstruction of their collecting tours. The letters between the brothers detail the compilation of Manx National Songs and the argument over Manx National Airs. "Music hunting sounds charming," wrote WH Gill in 1895, and it is this "hunting" itself that will be the focus of this talk.

Stephen Miller previously worked at the Austrian Academy of Sciences on the Austrian Academy Corpus and taught recently at the University of Vienna. Born in the Isle of Man, he has a BA in History and an MA in Folk Life Studies, both from the University of Leeds. He has combined interests in folkloristics and digitisation and has lectured on both. Research interests include Manx folklore, folk song, and folk dance, and the figures and collectors involved with the Celtic Revival. Other areas are the Scottish folklorists, the Rev. Walter Gregor and W.G. Black, and the institutional history of folkloristics in the British Isles.

Book now: <https://www.vwml.org/events>

A Fine Selection of over 200 Irish Traditional Tunes for sessions

A new book of tunes inspired by the Irish music scene in the Isle of Man has been published by Manx musician and researcher, David Speers.

Based on the repertoire of Sean Craig, Tony Hopson & others, David has collated over 200 tunes into this fine selection. With a foreword by eminent Irish musician, Matt Cranitch, this book follows in the footsteps of seminal Irish music sources such as the collections by Francis O'Neill (1848 - 1936), Frank Roche (1866 - 1961) and Breandán Breathnach (1912 - 1985). The selection of tunes is based on a sound archive made at sessions in Ireland during the 1980s and 1990s, and which were included in Sean Craig's Tunebook, published in the Isle of Man in 1998. This present publication by David Speers is a new edition of that tunebook. Available £14 from callagpress@yahoo.co.uk



Goaill arrane son Nollick anys Gaelg (Sing for Christmas in Manx Gaelic)



If you are able to hear more Christmas songs sung in Manx Gaelic this year, it may be thanks to a new music book.

Culture Vannin has released 'Nollick Ghennal: Songs in Manx for Christmas, a new published collection of both new and old songs and carvals, written in Manx, for Christmas, along with traditional carols, which have been translated into Manx Gaelic.

The Christmas collection has been compiled by Dr Chloe Woolley, the Manx music development officer for Culture Vannin, with extra editing by Gaelic speaker Chris Sheard. Chloe said that the book was initially aimed at children, and for use in schools, but realised that there was a bigger interest in Manx Christmas songs.

'The book was inspired by a conversation with the teachers at the Bunscoill, particularly Annie Kissack and Aalin Clague,' said Chloe.

'They have written loads of songs for the Bunscoill Christmas carol service, many of them being easy little songs in Manx for the children to learn to sing. They said it would be useful for them to have them written down, as the songs weren't published. They also suggested many songs that would also be useful to have collected together.

'Initially the book was supposed to be for children, but then we thought that we might as well make it a fuller, more comprehensive collection, so it is more appealing to adults too.'

Among the songs contained in the book are a collection of carvals, from the relatively new, such as 'Yeeseey Chreest', written by Bob Carswell, to the traditional old Manx carval, Oikyn anys Bethlehem, a song handed down through the oral tradition.

'Some of the tunes are from Carval yn Ghaelgagh, a collection by A.W. Moore, and there are also familiar carols, like Hark The Herald Angel and Jingle Bells, which have been translated by many groups over the years,' continued Chloe. 'There are also nativity songs like 'Manger Beg' or 'Lhig dooin goll dys Bethlehem', which is well-known at the Bunscoill, but can be easily learned and performed by any one. Some schools are already singing Manx Christmas songs, and hopefully this will make it easier for them.'

Article & photo by Mike Wade in the *Manx Independent*, Isle of Man Newspapers.

'Nollick Ghennal: Songs in Manx for Christmas' is available for £8, from local bookshops or online from culturevannin.im

RESEARCH NEWS

THE “MOLOG BAND” IN CASTLETOWN IN 1881

It is with the idiosyncratic spelling of “molog” that the Manx newspapers carried reports of the Mollag Band in Castletown in 1881. The *Manx Sun* reported in its issue for 31 December 1881 that:

The Castletown brass band, the White Boys’ band, and the “Molog Band” have enlivened the town during the past few days by selections of Christmas music which have been much appreciated, the performances of the Molog Band in particular, under Mr Robert Kelly, Commander-in-chief, being very warmly received.

An earlier mention in the *Mona’s Herald* (28 December) contains the only newspaper account of the appearance of the Mollag Band, the musical instruments carried, and the manner of their performance:

Every evening during the week the town has been enlivened by what is called the “molog band,” consisting of about 18 performers, all dressed from head to foot in sheepskins, and in all the colours of the rainbows, each with different kinds of musical instruments, consisting of melodeans, foghorns, drums, imitation fiddles and harps, &c. These performers paraded the streets of the town nightly, and one of their number was dressed to resemble a bear, which went through some very amusing antics.

The mention of them having a “Commander-in-chief” is again another added detail and unfortunately there are too much candidates in the 1881 census to be able to identify which Robert Kelly is involved here.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019

“[Castletown and District] The Castletown brass ...,” *Manx Sun* 31 December 1881: 4f; “Christmas in Castletown,” *Mona’s Herald* 28 December 1881: 8c.

The Mollag Band in Kirk Michael - modern times! *What would the Mollag Band be like nowadays?!*



Perhaps the most brilliantly rowdy Christmastime tradition in the Isle of Man were the mollag bands. These groups of young lads would roam around the Isle of Man’s towns making ‘a rare din’ with their singing, dancing and loud homemade instruments.

An essential part of the tradition was the mollag (an inflated sheep’s bladder, traditionally used as a buoy), with which they would hit people on the street as a part of the fun.

It was unclear whether people gave them money in thanks for the entertainment or in order to get rid of them! Although they faded out (with the encouragement of the authorities!) at the turn of the 20th Century, in more recent times, Culture Vannin challenged a Kirk Michael family to revive the custom!

Find out more and watch the video here: www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_559033.html

JOHN NELSON'S RECORDING

By Bob Carswell

Two years ago there was the commemoration of the centenary of the death of Sophia Morrison on 14th January 1917. On a brighter note, this year will mark 160 years since Sophia Morrison's birth on 24th May 1859. Looking ahead, there will be a Manks Concert to celebrate that on Friday 24th May in the Centenary Centre in Peel - whose boards were trodden by Sophia Morrison as a cast member of Manx dialect plays. The concert will include another chance to see this year's presentation by the Michael Players, RBV.

At the time of the commemoration of Sophia Morrison two years ago, Manx National Heritage presented an exhibition at the Manx Museum which included recordings made in 1907 with the Edison Phonograph bought by Sophia Morrison in her capacity as Secretary of Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh. One of the items performed on recordings by John Nelson (originally of Ballayockey, Andreas, later of Ramsey) was his translation of Jane E Hall's hymn, 'The New Name', set to music by Ira D Sankey. The wax cylinder recording was digitized by the British Library in 2016.

Read full article and song lyrics:

www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/John%20Nelson's%20recording%201907%20Bob%20Carswell.pdf

Listen to the audio: <https://youtu.be/4cbdFPIL1Bk>



This recording was made on an Edison Phonograph machine purchased by Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh for the purpose of recording speakers of the Manx language. This is one of six recordings that came to The Manx Museum from Douglas Library in 1955. The recordings were digitised with the help of The British Library in 2016. Listen to the playlist:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxvEbuf5XvSuBCI4Wp4XFd2YUXt6ve7pT

THE BAND STRUCK UP "OLD MYLECHARANE" (1877)

In 1877, Manx folk living in California gathered for a picnic on Saturday, 9 June, the second one so held it was said. The venue was Shultzin Park, in Alameda County, near Oakland. Most sailed there from San Francisco, the voyage taking around forty-five minutes, and "[t]he band engaged for the day played 'Ellan Vannin,' and 'Lovely Mona' on board [...]." They then took the train to the Park itself, a trip of half-an-hour. The day was hot, nearly 37C in the shade, "something unusual for this part of the country." Lunch was at 12 noon sharp, and after clearing up by the women, some of the boys playing football, came the dancing in a pavillion erected for the occasion, some one-hundred feet long and sixty wide. "Conspicuous in the midst" was the Three Legs of Man amongst the Star and Stripes and the Union Jack. "All things being ready for the dancing, the band struck up 'Old Mylecharane' [...] when young and old joined and marched round the pavillion with a will that showed they appreciated the good old tune." The programme proper then began with the following dances: Mona Delight (quadrille), Happy Manxman (waltz), Hop-dy-naa (polka), Ballaugh (lancers), Laxey Glen (schottische), Peel Castle (mazourka), Ballure Glen (waltz), Castle Rushen (Virginia reel), Tynwald (schottische), Peel Fishermen (lancers), Mona's Pride (waltz), Hunt the Wren (polka), Glenmaye (quadrille), Lovely Mona (schottische), Ellan-my-chree (mazourka), Manx Fairy (Virginia reel). The dancing came to a prompt end at 5pm with a prize waltz. The prize-giving for the day's events had to be curtailed "through the party had to make a stampede to catch the 6 o'clock train for Oakland." Sailing back the band once again played "Ellan Vannin" and "Lovely Mona," along with "Mylecharane," and "the last notes of the tune were only drowned in the noise of San Francisco." Here we see in the naming of the dances the recreation of a sense of Manxness in the heat of a Californian summer's day, and, as ever, the centrality of "Mylecharane" to that identity, described as the "Isle of Man National Air."

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019

James T. Taubman, "[Letter to the Editor] Manxmen in California," *Manx Sun* 21 July 1877: [2]f.

"CONGREGATIONAL SINGING" (1878)

A reminder that musical practices in church and chapel (as here) in the Island were not static and context (as ever) must always be sought in their study comes from the following noticed in the *Isle of Man Times* for 1878:

At the conclusion of the services in the Wesleyan Chapel, on Sunday last, the congregation were invited to attend the practice of the choir after the Wednesday evening service, in order to become acquainted with the new music which has been introduced in connection with the new hymn book.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019

"[Ramsey & the North] Congregational Singing," *Isle of Man Times* 13 April 1878: 5c.

ANTIQUÉ MANX FIDDLE SPOTTED !

A rather interesting violin owned by Californian collector, Mickie Zekley, was spotted by a follower of the Manx Music and Dance Facebook Group.

The inscription reads:

Made by Alexander McRuggle Isle of Man 1802; "In loving memory of Elizabeth Fitzchronin"

Note the female attributes!! See more photos:

www.facebook.com/mickie.zekley/posts/10216542274937005

Thanks to Pat Mac Swyney for sharing the link!



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• **Youtube/ video corner** •

• **ISLE OF MAN WORLD RECORDS** •

- The Island boasts wide-ranging world records.
- They're all down to its people, history and natural
- beauty. If you're connected to the Isle of Man, watch
- this video by Royale Maps, accompanied perfectly
- by the music of young Manx band, Scran.

• <https://youtu.be/5MogY2oaVZM> •

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**'Manxland's King of Music',
an illustrated talk
by Maurice Powell about Harry Wood and the Golden Age of the tourist industry.**

Manx Museum, Douglas
Sunday, 13 January 2019 from 14:00-16:00

The golden years for the Island as a summer tourist destination were from the mid-1880s until World War II. Blackpool's 'little brother across the water' punched well above its weight in terms of the quantity and quality of the musical and variety entertainments on offer. Many of the biggest variety stars and concert artistes appeared in Douglas: Marie Lloyd, Vesta Tilley, Dan Leno, Wilkie Bard and

Little Tich, and the great Florrie Forde; Clara Butt, Nellie Melba, Emma Albani, John McCormack, Fritz Kreisler and Paul Robeson, to name just a handful.

Our guide through this fascinating period is Harry Wood, the musical director of the Palace & Derby Castle Company, and elder brother of the composer Haydn Wood of 'Roses of Picardy' fame, who came to Douglas in 1885 as a violinist for the summer season at the Falcon Cliff, and quickly became one of the best-known musical personalities in the story of entertainment on the Island. He also played a vital role in developing and sustaining the local musical scene during the long winter months with his pantomimes, Sunday sacred concerts, his students' orchestral concerts, the Celtic concerts, his involvement with the Manx Music Festival and much else.

The talk will be followed by a book signing in the Manx Museum Shop.

This is a free lecture but to secure your spot please reserve a ticket: <https://manxnationalheritage.im>

Manx musical worthies

A selection of biographies written in the style of Manx Worthies has been added to:

www.manxmusic.com/biographies.html

Entries include; composer of the Laxey Wheel and many other folksongs, Stuart Slack; violinist and musical director, Kathleen Rydings; folk music revivalist Colin Jerry; conductor and composer JE Quayle; entertainment entrepreneur Fred Buxton, and a growing list of other important names from the past.

Contributors include Maurice Powell and Bob Carswell.

RESEARCH NEWS

There is now a handy index of all the KMJ research articles written by regular contributor Stephen Miller. Stephen's articles date from 2011:

www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/KMJ%20research%20articles%20by%20Stephen%20Miller.pdf

To read previous all editions of KMJ:

www.manxmusic.com/newsletters.html

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

A New Year's resolution for many people is to learn a new instrument or dust off the case of a fiddle they haven't played for decades. If you're one of those people, get some well-known Manx tunes under your belt with these downloadable sets of tunes, dubbed 'Steady as She Goes'!

Melody and chords: https://www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_144681.html

Mandolin tab: https://www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_182262.html

Guitar tab: https://www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_182283.html

Whistle finger numbers: https://www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_311086.html

Set 1 Car ny Ferrishyn

Musical notation for 'Car ny Ferrishyn' in D major, 4/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff shows the main melody with chords D, G, A, D, G. The second staff has two first endings: the first ending is A D and the second ending is A D. The third staff continues the melody with chords Bm, Em, A, D, G. The fourth staff has two first endings: the first ending is A D and the second ending is A D.

Car Juan Nan

Musical notation for 'Car Juan Nan' in D major, 4/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff shows the main melody with chords D, G, A. The second staff has two first endings: the first ending is G A D and the second ending is G A D. The third staff continues the melody with chords D, G, A, D, G, A. The fourth staff continues the melody with chords D, G, A, D, G, A, D.

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2019

12th Arrane son Mannin song contest & Manx music concert, Peel Masonic Hall, 7.30pm FREE

13th Manxland's King of Music – talk by Maurice Powell, Manx Museum, 2pm FREE

16th IOM Arts Council Drop in, The Engine House, Castletown, 10am

20th Clash Vooar live session and chat with Christy D on her programme on Manx Radio

31st Clash Vooar at the Whitey Peel 8.30pm - free gig

FEBRUARY

3rd Erin Gaalgagh (Manx Mass) with Caarjyn Coodjagh, St Matthews Church, Douglas, 10.30am

9th MFDS Chocolate Night! >>

18th a'Nish gig, Horse & Stables in London, 7pm £5/7

MARCH

8-10th Cwlwm Celtaidd Welsh Interceltic Festival

31st Manx Folk Awards Secondary competitions

APRIL

1-4th Manx Folk Awards KS1 & 2 competitions

5-8th Shennaghys Jiu Celtic Festival

17th Manx music lecture by Stephen Miller, Cecil Sharp House, London 7.30pm

23rd-28th Pan-Celtic Festival, Ireland

MAY

24th Sophia Morrison commemoration concert, Centenary Centre, Peel

JUNE

JULY

5th Tynwald Day

15th – 21st Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering

All things chocolate!

The Manx Folk Dance Society are having a chocolate night on Sat 9th February at Onchan Methodist Hall from 7.30pm.

Cost £4 adults and £2 children.

Bring your dancing shoes!

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 Session at O'Donnells, Douglas

THURS 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey

FRI 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey

FRI Trad session at the Manor, Willaston

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

Occasional **SAT** 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel

Monthly **SUN** 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey

~ SESSIONS ~

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For information on Manx music & dance contact:

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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