

# KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

*Mean Fouyir 2020 September*

MANX MUSIC TODAY

## New Manx music tutorial videos

The first of a new collection of traditional music video tutorials has been launched by Culture Vannin. Part of the Treisht lockdown initiative (Manx Gaelic for 'hope'), seven established musicians were invited to share their technical knowledge and create instruction films teaching a selection of Manx songs and tunes. As well as Gaelic songs for children and advanced singers, there are Manx tune tutorials for fiddle, whistle and harp.

Whistle and flute player Peddyr Cubberley was one of the successful applicants. A renowned performer and composer, Peddyr plays with Mactullagh Vannin, the Peddyr Trad Trio, Croan y Tead, and he is also a founding member of the Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band. He is particularly well known for his tune "Kinnoull", which has become an international hit performed at the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo. Peddyr said; "I would like to thank Culture Vannin for the opportunity to get involved in playing a further part in helping to keep our traditional Manx culture alive, and to help make it further available by way of the Treisht tutorials." For his videos, he chose to firstly teach the beginners' staple, "Smuggler's Lullaby",



and his own composition, "Nelson's Tonic"; a simple tune which has gained popularity in recent years after its inclusion on Barrule's self-titled album. Then he also teaches the reel "Eunyssagh Vona" and jig "Ben Rein y Voaldyn" step-by-step for those wishing to accompany Manx dancing or play in sessions.

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer, explained the background of the project: "Lockdown was an ideal time to draw upon the talents of self-employed musicians while they weren't busy gigging or teaching, and take the opportunity to add to the growing bank of teaching resources for Manx music. The collection includes a range of tunes and songs for various abilities and ages, and the videos should appeal to anyone interested in adding some Manx music to their repertoire, but also to more advanced students who want to learn tunes by ear to play in sessions or to accompany dancing. There is a rising interest in the culture of the Isle of Man internationally, and having these bespoke lessons available online will help us take Manx music even further around the globe."

Manx song and tune video tutorials are also being produced by Ruth Keggin, Phil Gawne, Beccy Hurst, Isla Callister, Mera Royle and Laura Rowles, and they will begin to be released over the coming weeks. David Kilgallon and Rory Murphy have both created a variety of instrumental backing tracks which will be freely available for non-commercial use very soon, and David Rowles is also producing audio files to aid learners with the "Steady as she Goes" Manx music session sets.

[www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/whistle-lessons-by-peddyr-cubberley-645448/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/whistle-lessons-by-peddyr-cubberley-645448/)

### *In this month's edition...*

- *August events in pics*
- *New music from Owen Williams AKA Lochtan*
- *OIOW & IOM Trad music weekend to go ahead!!*

All will be available for free access on [culturevannin.im](http://culturevannin.im) and [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com)

**Culture**  
**VANNIN**

**OIOW**  
**OUR ISLAND  
 OUR WORLD**  
*Festival of Music & Culture*

**FREE FAMILY DAY  
 SAT 12 SEPT  
 12PM-6PM**

PEEL CENTENARY CENTRE,  
 CATHEDRAL & GROUNDS

**EVENING CONCERT 8PM**

CENTENARY CENTRE  
 YNOD KEAD BLEN

ISLE OF MAN **ARTS COUNCIL** Culture VANNIN

OURFESTIVAL.IM : @OURISLANDOURWORLD

## OIOW Festival - A few words from organiser, Dave Mclean:

*We knew that the Island was very capable of fielding a high quality Festival of World Music and Culture, without help from far afield. We have put together a Free Family Afternoon with live music and dance, children's craft activities, global food and a junk percussion workshop as the start of a new initiative called Drums From the Sea as a collaboration between Beach Buddies, Oie Voaldyn and OIOW. We also have an exciting evening concert in the Centenary Centre with a Latin set from local band Lava and a film featuring the Gypsy Kings at home in the Camargue.*

Tickets for evening concert/film £10: [www.etickets.im/cc/](http://www.etickets.im/cc/)



## IOM TRAD MUSIC WEEKEND 25th - 27th SEPTEMBER

Despite no visiting musicians able to attend this year, organisers of the annual IOM Trad Music Weekend are going ahead and have an action-packed session weekend for all the musicians (and dancers) living in the Isle of Man. All welcome!

**Friday 25th September - SIR NORMAN'S, Sefton Hotel, Douglas – 'TRABLUZZ' Night**  
 8.30pm. All musicians, singers, all genres!

**Saturday 26th September - THE PROSPECT, Douglas from 12 - 8.30pm.**  
 Traditional Manx, Irish, Scottish, etc... IRISH SET DANCE WORKSHOP will run from 3pm.  
 Children welcome if accompanied by adults.

**Sunday 27th September – THIRSTY PIGEON, Douglas from 12 - 2pm.**

*\*Welbeck Hotel special rates available for IOM trad weekend staycays!*

[www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan/](http://www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan/) \*photo by Katie Lawrence 2019



Members of Croan Yn Tead were out and about again this month, this time entertaining the residents of Cannan Court in Kirk Michael. Arabella & Peddyr were joined by Ellie, who together performed over an hour's programme of Manx music & dance.

The programme consisted of many old favourites such as Mylecharine's March, Moirrey ny Gainle, Car y Phoosee, Car Juan Nan, Car ny Ferrishyn, Arrane Ben Vlieaun etc, including a new arrangement by Arabella of the ancient Arrane Ghelbee. As well as the old favourites, there were a good

few contemporary Manx tunes in traditional style, several of which were composed by Peddyr himself. Dances consisted of the Manx Girl's Jig, Dhooraght, and Clare's Jig.

The trio were well received by a very enthusiastic audience and were treated to a lovely buffet supper, with plenty of tea & cake to boot!

Croan Yn Tead are available for booking to suit a variety of engagements, functions and events and can be contacted from their Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/Croanyntead](http://www.facebook.com/Croanyntead)  
or by email at:  
[Clarsee@manx.net](mailto:Clarsee@manx.net)



This was a postponed visit as part of the Celton-Manx music in residential homes project organised by Culture Vannin 2019.

**Hartford Homes** **The Hartford Homes Festival of the Beach and Sea** Supported by **more music 3 FM 104-106**

**Sat 29 Sun 30 AUG 2020** Festival of the Sea **Manx Wildlife Trust**

**PORT ERIN BEACH FESTIVAL**

Manx Wildlife Trust's Marine Life mega Tanks & activities

- Music on the beach stage
- Mascots race
- Scruffs Dog Show
- Open water Bay Swim
- Bouncy Castles & Rides
- Beach sports
- Sand Castle Competition
- Junior Dinghy Racing
- Kite Flying Competition
- Traders & food stalls

shoprite Colas Bushy's PORTERIN PEIS

Often imitated never equalled

**QUIDSTIVAL** #livemusic 2020

**August Bank Holiday weekend 27th to 30th**

The ISLAND'S GENUINE FESTIVAL in the PUB!!!

**4 DAYS OF ABSOLUTE HEADLINERS**

Thursday **HOLIDAY DOG MUSIC STAGE**

Friday **BAREFOOT REVOLUTION**  
**SUNSET JET**

Saturday **SOUNDCHECK TAKEOVER**  
**TERRY GEORGE**  
**THE BONEYARD**

Sunday **JOSHUA T & the WHALEBONES**  
**DC/AC**

#SUPPORTLOCALMUSICIANS #KEEPITLIVE

#WHYPAYMORE  #BETTER4LESS

CASTLETOWN TOWN COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

**SUPERMANX** MUSIC FESTIVAL

THANK YOU TO OUR KEY WORKERS



**SUPERMANX WEEKENDER**

**LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO STAY HOME.**

SAT 29TH . MATT CREER . SUNSET JET . THE BIRD & THE BEARDS . MOTHERFUNKERS . LAVA .

SUN 30TH . MATT KELLY . BISKEE BRISHT . THE TIDES . LOOSE CREW . CLASH VOOR . BUNCHA SKANKERS .

Isle of Man 

**Food & Drink Festival**

IOM FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL 19/20 SEPTEMBER VILLA MARINA GARDENS

There is no music and dance stage this year, but there will be performance areas for buskers.

Slots are either half an hour or one hour each on Saturday 19th and/or Sunday 20th September in the Villa Marina Gardens.

For more info, or to register an interest, contact [lucy.verdon@gov.im](mailto:lucy.verdon@gov.im)

## Peel Carnival Brings in the Crowds

With many events cancelled, or hastily rescheduled, this year organisers of Peel Carnival were able to stay on course with their plans and held a successful event - which encouraged many people to join in the fun at the fishing port.

Glorious weather, a variety of stalls, a display by the Purple Helmets motorbike team, live music and dance and a number of eateries, all helped to lighten the mood and bring some cheer into a year where the social calendar has been decimated.

The event was also marked with the inauguration of a newly named stage alongside the former Raglan Hotel, in the name of the late and great musician Anglin Buttimore, who gave so much help to the community and his fellow musicians. His wife, Jenny, kicked off proceedings with a number of songs to launch the party atmosphere.

However, the main focus of the day was upon the carnival parade, which, as usual, wound its way from the House of Manannan, down the East Quay, along Shore Road (promenade) towards the car park alongside the former Creg Malin Hotel; with several awards distributed for some of the best participants and floats.

Valerie Caine © August 2020





Manx dance team, Skeddán Jiarg won 'Best in Carnival' and 'Best Float' at Peel Carnival for their fishing boat & crew float, dancing in sea themed costumes (not easy!) and their Manx Gaelic signage [photos - Val Caine & Chloe W].



Relive the 2020 festival:  
[www.celticgathering.im](http://www.celticgathering.im)  
 and on the Celtic Gathering IOM - Yn Chruinnaght Facebook.



*HOW DID THE CAT LOSE ITS TAIL?  
IS MANANNAN REALLY A ROCK STAR?  
DO THE LITTLE PEOPLE HAVE THE  
BEST PARTIES?*



Join Tom Begg as we venture into the unknown and have the biggest (or 'beggest') adventure yet!

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

### **A BEG ADVENTURE**

COMING SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER TO CASTLE RUSHEN, ISLE OF MAN

Tickets: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hello-little-people-presents-a-beg-adventure-tickets-117515438841](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hello-little-people-presents-a-beg-adventure-tickets-117515438841)

**ISLE OF MAN ARTS COUNCIL**

ISLE OF MAN ARTS COUNCIL

# NEW MEMBERS

STEVEN DAYKIN  
JEREMY THEOBALD  
DAVID KILGALLON

[IOMARTS.COM](http://IOMARTS.COM)



### **MEET THE NEW MEMBERS:**

[www.iomarts.com/news/arts-council-news/new-isle-of-man-arts-council-members-announced/](http://www.iomarts.com/news/arts-council-news/new-isle-of-man-arts-council-members-announced/)

## Weekend of Special Events Celebrated Maughold Church and its Patron Saint

Organised in the wake of restrictions implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic, a weekend of special events was organised to celebrate St Maughold, regarded by some as the patron saint of the Isle of Man, and the beauty and history of the parish church.

The special three-day weekend incorporated St Maughold's Day itself, which included dressing the nearby St Maughold's Well with flowers and a pilgrimage to bring the decorations from the well up to the church. Situated on the steep Maughold broogh and overlooking the sea, it's thought to have been used historically for baptism - with water still drawn for such purpose today. Recognised as an important centre of pilgrimage, the spring of clear water was said to offer a cure for sore eyes.

This singular, popular occasion presented an opportunity for visitors to discover more about the northern parish, which sits amidst glorious countryside and extensive views of neighbouring farmland. There was an exhibition of old photographs of the district within the parish hall before visitors headed towards Maughold Church, where most of the activities were centred. This included a children's trail of the churchyard, a monk in residence to answer questions and Celtic musical entertainment by Arabella Ayen and Peddyr Cubberley on harp and flute within the church itself. [see pic >>]

Other events for this popular weekend incorporated an illustrated talk by Dr Michael Hoy entitled Maughold - Bandit and Bishop, a parish lunch, an opportunity to explore the church itself and a pie and salad supper.

There were also a number of outdoor events, including a Monks and Mines Walk led by Dr Andrew Foxon, a walk at dusk with Phil Craine amongst the nearby broogh a stroll through Ballaglass Glen to Port Cornaa with Catriona Livingstone of Manx Walks and an opportunity for afternoon tea at Cornaa Mill garden.

Evening prayer (conducted in English with Manx language items) and Compline (a traditional monastic evening prayer) were held in the evocative setting of the north keill, together with a Celtic Eucharist Service, led by the Bishop of Sodor and Mann Peter Eagles, at the site of the east keill.

The fourteenth century, sandstone Maughold parish cross, (reported to be the only one of its kind on the Isle of Man) is now situated within the church, with the celebrated shelter, designed by Armitage Rigby for the remarkable collection of Manx stone crosses located in the parish, close by within the church grounds.

Valerie Caine © August 2020



The Ellan Vannin residential home in Douglas wonders whether any Manx musicians, singers, choirs, groups, etc. are available to visit and give a 1/2 hour performance or talk. Some of the residents are very interested in Manx folklore and traditions and remember doing a lot of them.

If you can help, contact Irene  
[irene@ellanvanninhome.com](mailto:irene@ellanvanninhome.com)

Perree Bane, Skeddán Jiarg & Biskee Brisht were some of the Manx acts to perform at Event Management Solution's "Picnic in the Abbey" series [Sun 9th & 16th August], with the support of Culture Vannin, IOMAC & MNH.



**BREE GHAE LGAGH Session 2 - 3.30pm,**  
Mean Fouyir 19 Jesarn / Saturday 19th September

To kickstart the new school term, the next Bree Manx music session will incorporate a Manx Gaelic section. Aimed at Year 6 and above, Manx speaking students (fluent and learners) are invited to join the regular Bree members and come along for some easy and fun music-making taught through Manx by trad musician and Gaelic teacher, Paul Rogers.

Culture Vannin, Main Road, St Johns

Nastee / Free to attend

Contact Chloe: [manxmusic@culturevannin.im](mailto:manxmusic@culturevannin.im) for more info.



# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

## The early days of the Manx at Lorient...

Today the Festival Interceltique de Lorient is known all over the world, with nearly a million people attending in person, and millions more watching on television, but things were rather different back in the 1970s...

After hearing of it from a friend, the legendary Bwoaie Doal drove 700 miles to be a part of the festival in 1977.

David Fisher was there, who has kindly allowed Culture Vannin to release his wonderful handful of pictures (below).



The back of the pictures tell us that besides David Fisher, these pictures feature: Mike Boulton RBV, Phil Kelly RBV, Colin Jerry RBV, Cristl Jerry, Simon Capelen, Sue-Ling Jaques, David Collister, Rosie Callin & Jan Beere.



Many more wonderful memories like these have been shared on the Mannin / the Isle of Man at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient page:

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





Thanks also to John Corlett, Mark Shimmin & Keith Stewart for these archive pics of Bock Yuan Fannee (1977, 1979) & FIL programme cover (1979 - previous page).

SEE RESEARCH PAGES OF KMJ FOR HISTORY ARTICLE

PLUS - follow the new <https://www.facebook.com/IsleofManPavilion>

## **"Connecting and Making Space for Future Generations of Folk Musicians"**

*survey for under 25s*

Our musical friends across the sea are conducting a survey about young traditional musicians in Europe under the age of 25. If you'd like to submit your thoughts, follow the link.

The research is commissioned by Wales Arts International (WAI) in partnership with the European Folk Network (EFN), trac (Wales) and Scotland's Traditional Music Forum (TFN). The research will be collated and presented as a written report under the title "Connecting and Making Space for Future Generations of Folk Musicians."

[www.cognitofirms.com/AngharadJenkins/connectingandmakingspaceforfuturegenerationsoffolkmusicians](http://www.cognitofirms.com/AngharadJenkins/connectingandmakingspaceforfuturegenerationsoffolkmusicians)

# kiaul1 noa

## LOCHTAN - Noa/Shenn new EP

Lochtán musician and former Scran member Owen Williams talks about the background of his new music venture:

*When the lockdown measures started coming into force, I had nothing really to do during the day since I couldn't continue working in the pub.*

*I messaged my friend Joe McGuigan, who was facing a similar lack of stuff to do - he had just arrived back from university where he studies sound design and music production, and had to do his two weeks in the house. When I asked if he'd be up for making some tunes through video call over the coronavirus period, he agreed and we decided to mix our favourite music styles; trad and electronic.*

*For our first track we were aiming for a funky kind of sound, and decided to stick an original tune together with a classic trad one, Chanter's. We weren't too sure how it would turn out but we were pleased with the end result.*

*For the second track we used a tune I'd written after coming back from Lorient in 2019, which I called Vive la Loïc, the name of which was inspired by a session at the festival.*

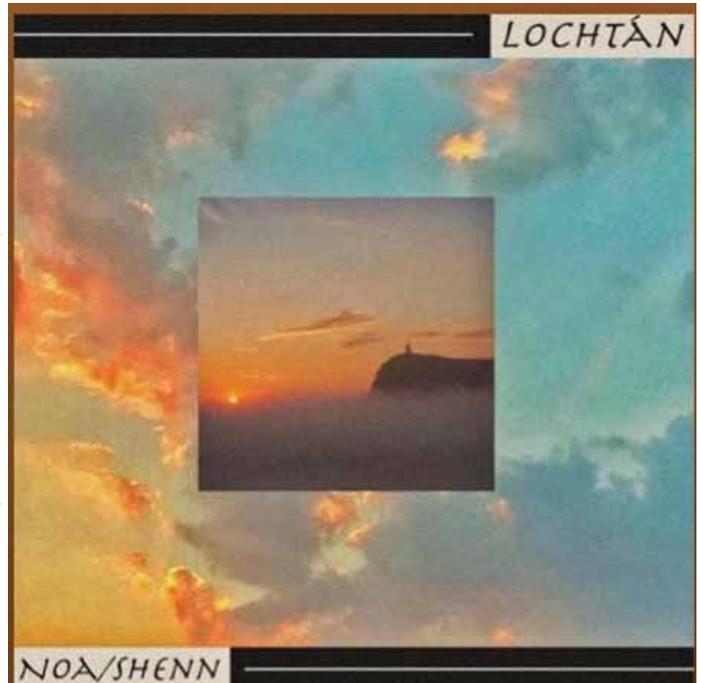
*After participating in the competition at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient as the Mera Royle Trio, Raygie Dolloso, Mera Royle and I were each given three bottles of Loïc Raison cider, and when I whipped a bottle out at a session later that night, one of the musicians shouted "vive la Loïc", and I wrote the tune about it.*

*The third track was an accident really; I was messing round with the chords Bm and A4, and some electronic drums when Joe and I thought it would work well with a whistle jig played over the top of it. We quickly jotted down and recorded it.*

*The final track was a completed version of a tune that we had begun working on back in November - it was the most difficult to finish but I think it might be our favourite.*

### Check it out here:

<https://open.spotify.com/track/5GZmKeosHkdu8WvetrKORx?si=4OdjuH-bTCeHniw46A736Q>



SMALL LANGUAGES  
**ROCK!**

## SMALL LANGUAGES ROCK!

Do you sing in Manx? Here is your chance to get new pop music to your repertoire for free.

The name of the project is "Small Languages Rock", and Professor Yair Sapir invites Manx singers to get involved in his new project.

Andrey Bochkanov has made a great version in Erzya with a small introduction, see:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QOkz1i79jU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QOkz1i79jU)

The Playlist:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=V\\_m83Xk-J64&list=PLqMqAu1mUu0YLccpB35wb8HzaYrQgm-3z](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_m83Xk-J64&list=PLqMqAu1mUu0YLccpB35wb8HzaYrQgm-3z)

Emma and Tom Greenwood have just released their lockdown album on Bandcamp

<http://emmaandtom.bandcamp.com/album/the-rising-of-the-lark>

which includes three Manx songs:

- \* Graih Foalsey
- \* Tra Va Mee Aeg As Lajer
- \* The Sea Invocation



### NEW GUITAR PIECES

Manx fingerstyle guitarist, Mark Lawrence has shared some of his arrangements of Manx tunes with Culture Vannin. Try "Step Dance" in this month's *Transcription of the month*.

You can also download Mark's debut EP here:

<https://marklawrence43.bandcamp.com/releases>

### ELLIE QUAYLE

Introducing Manx composer, performer, songwriter Ellie Quayle. Listen to her music and hear pieces inspired by the folktales of Manannan and the Buggane of St Trinian's:



[www.facebook.com/elliequaylemusic/](http://www.facebook.com/elliequaylemusic/)  
<https://soundcloud.com/user-779220708-593126254>

<http://elliequaylemusic.uk/>

Ellie was also one of the winners of the IOM Art Council's 'Home is where the Art is' competition with her lockdown song; The Groove:

<https://youtu.be/n1P0p9HgQuY>

### Youtube corner

DREAMING - a new tune composed by Manx harpist and composer Nina Shimmin. Performed and recorded by Christa McCartney.

<https://youtu.be/fBQCgc8Benc>

# RESEARCH NEWS

## “CLAPPING AND STAMPING” THE OIE’L VERRY (1880)

There is one thing I would like to say a few words about, which your correspondent K. C. mentioned to-day fortnight. It is the disgraceful applaudings in the house of God. We never see such unworthy acts committed in our churches, but in Dissenters’ places of worship we find that such is generally the case at Oiel Verry services. Clapping and stamping (whilst tobacco chewing and spitting go on at the same time) seem to be the fashionable way of applauding the carols, &c., sung at such services. Does it not look as if God were sleeping, pursuing, talking, or journeying, and they wish to attract his attention like Elijah advised the followers of Baal to do? As these services are near at hand again, let us hope that such disgraceful conduct may be put down this year once and for all.

Pseud [signed as “Spectator”], “[Northside Jottings] There is one ....,” *Mona’s Herald* 15 December 1880, 5d.

As ever, an item found by chance in the Manx newspapers and one which could only ever be come across so as there would be no reason to search for such an incident as reported here. This comment is a follow on from a letter sent in to the *Mona’s Herald* a fortnight ago where the writer complained of the behaviour at Wellington Street Chapel where the congregation’s reactions to the music was of the profane rather than of the sacred, akin to that found at a “free and easy,” in other words a no-holds barred drinking session in a public house. It was precisely that freedom at the Oie’l Verry that was its attraction, licensed excess as described here ever a feature of such calendar customs, and condemnation of such behaviour now in equal measure in the columns of the Island’s newspapers.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

## “CLAPPING, STAMPING, AND SUCH LIKE” WELLINGTON STREET CHAPEL (1880)

SIR,—I happened to be one of the many who attended the Wellington-street Chapel on Monday evening last on the occasion of the opening of a new organ in that place of worship, and was much pleased with the quality of tones of the instrument, and the masterly manner they were brought out by the clever organist. I was, however, very much pained to notice the manner in which the congregation behaved or rather misbehaved themselves in the House of God. At the conclusion of a piece they showed their approbation by clapping, stamping, and such like, something after the manner they would have done had they been listening to a “*stump*” in a free and easy. In some cases the weed was chewed, and the consequent spitting was prevalent. After hearing one of the pieces rendered, and seeing the manner in which it was received, I could not stay to notice such behaviour in God’s house. I am sorry to have to notice this matter through your columns, but I do think it is a disgrace to such a body in the nineteenth century.—Yours, &c,

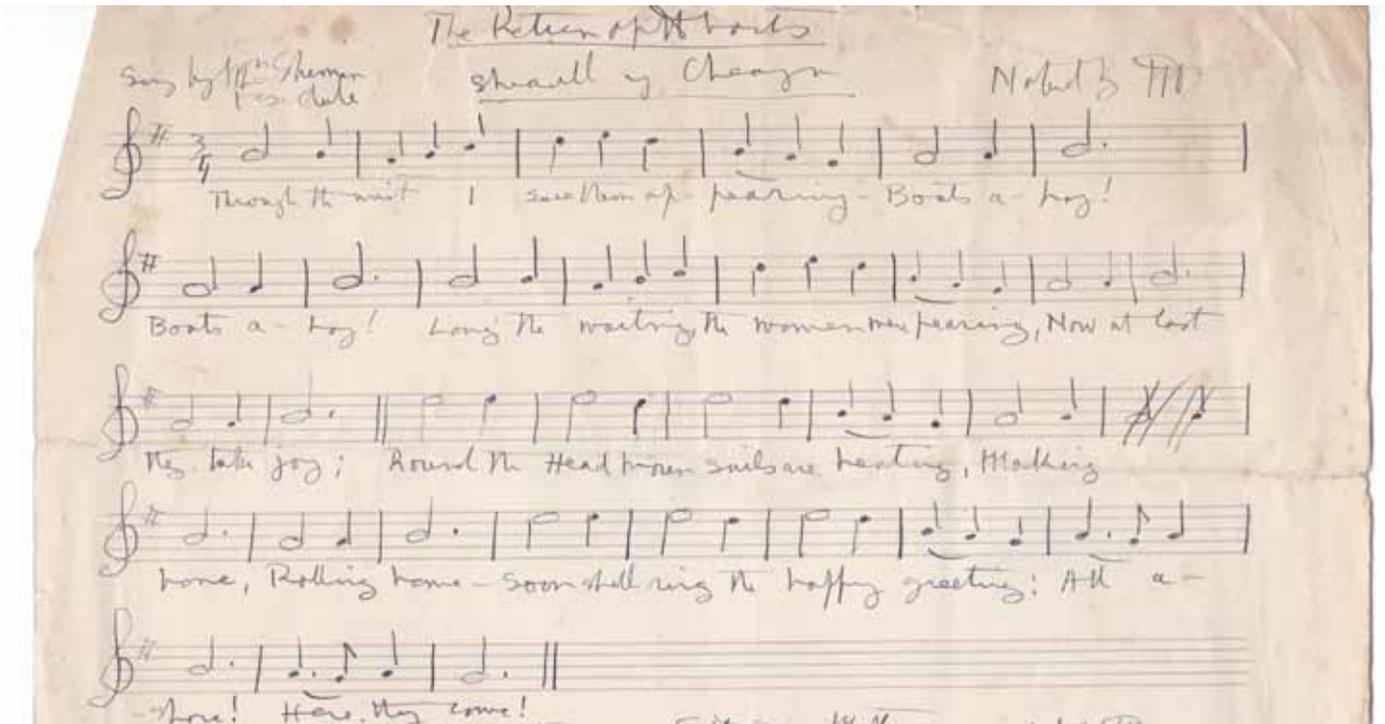
K. C.

Pseud [initialled as “K. C.”], “[Letter to the Editor] Irreverent Behaviour,” *Mona’s Herald* 1 December 1880, 3e.

Here is the letter that attracted the attention of “Spectator,” the author of the “Northside Jottings” column in the *Mona’s Herald*.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

THE MONA DOUGLAS FOLK SONG COLLECTION  
THE RETURN OF THE BOATS



Through the mist I see them appearing  
Boats ahoy! Boats ahoy!  
Long the waiting, the women were fearing  
Now at last they take joy;  
Round the Head brown sails are beating,  
Making home, Rolling home—  
Soon shall sing the happy greeting;  
All ashore! Here they come!

Untitled and undated single sheet in the hand of Mona Douglas. MNHL, MS 09495, Mona Douglas Papers, Box 9, [To sort...] [folder label].

\*

“Sung by Mrs Shim[m *missed*]in, | Foxdale” (with no date of collecting given) makes clear both the singer and place of collection. There is a match in the 1911 census for an Elizabeth Shimmin, aged 49, residing at Village House in Foxdale. Her husband, Henry (48) was a butcher, and they had their five children living with them: Ella (23), school teacher, Harold (21), Irene (19), and Herbert (15), all working with their father, and Ralph (13), still at school. All were born in Foxdale and the household was an English-speaking one. (*Census Enumerators' Book* for Patrick 1911, RG14 PN34736 RD635 SDI EDI/5 SN61.)

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

**EFDSS: Traditional Tunes and Popular Airs Conference: Exploring Musical Resemblance**  
**Saturday 10 October and Sunday 11 October**

The conference aims to bring together researchers working on 'traditional' and 'popular' tunes as transmitted and transformed in all manner of musical styles and genres, performance contexts, levels of society, historical periods, and geographical locations.

The sessions will take place on Zoom from 15.00 (BST) to 17.30 (BST) on each day, with evening music and socialising on Saturday.

£15 for both days / £10 for one day

Book online and see programme:

[www.efdss.org/whats-on/61-conferences/10121-traditional-tunes-and-popular-airs-conference](http://www.efdss.org/whats-on/61-conferences/10121-traditional-tunes-and-popular-airs-conference)

# The Manx in Lorient – 50 years on

*By Dr Chloe Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin*

The all-time king of Celtic gatherings, Festival Interceltique de Lorient, was first held 50 years ago this year. Unfortunately, Covid-19 put paid to planned celebrations. Instead, the 800,000 people who would usually flock to the Breton town for 10 days each August, tuned in for online archive footage and broadcast on France 3 TV channel.

In the Isle of Man, the current delegate Grainney Sheard invited musicians and dancers to share their memories on the Isle of Man/Mannin Facebook. A click on the page conjures up memories of the ear-splitting sound of bombardes, the spectacle of thousands of dancers and musicians in traditional costume, fest-noz dancing into the early hours, Breton cidre and crepes, the unwelcome sound of Scottish pipers practising at 5am and the agonisingly long coach and ferry journeys it takes to get there and back.

The festival was founded in 1971 in a bid to forge links between Brittany and the other Celtic nations and to revive the local economy. The submarine base of Lorient was heavily bombed in the Second World War and was still trying to recover.

The Isle of Man took part in its first year, albeit by accident. Fiddle player Mick Kneale (Calor Gas Ceilidh Band) was on a family holiday near Lorient when they discovered a flyer for the event on their car windscreen. Spotted carrying instruments, Mick and his guitarist friend found themselves on stage at the Palais de Congrès representing the Isle of Man and sharing a dressing room with non-other than the Dubliners!

In the early days, the Manx delegation was led by Colin and Cristl Jerry, of Peel. The baton has been passed to various others since and hundreds of performers have made the long journey. Some of those who come to mind include Brian Stowell, Ruth Keggin, Annie Kissack, Mera Royle, Bock Yuan Fannee, Ny Fennee, Rushen Silver Band, Cair Vie, Aeg Threshlyn and Caarjyn Coidjagh.

In recent years, King Chiaulee, Barrule and Nish as Rish have clinched the festival's top music award, Trophée Loïc Raison for the Isle of Man.

A trip to Lorient in the early days inspired Mike Boulton to write the tune, "Manninagh ayns Britaan Beg" – 'Manxman in Brittany' and 30 years later Cesar Joughin wrote the tune, "The Breton-Manx Air".

Many friendships have developed over five decades. Yn Chruinnaght welcomes Breton performers each year and provides the pre-Lorient launch pad for that year's chosen acts. It also fosters new collaborations such as 'Neear Nesin' (2019), featuring David Kilgallon and Mera Royle alongside two well-known Breton musicians, Lors Landat and Thomas Moisson.

For the past decade, Culture Vannin has organised the Manx Pavilion with the support of the IOM Arts Council and Visit Isle of Man. In 2015, for the first time ever, the Isle of Man was the honoured nation alongside Cornwall. This high-profile opportunity saw a proud delegation of more than one hundred musicians, singers, dancers, poets etc. showcase our cultural heritage, delivering 95 hours of live entertainment. The Isle of Man demonstrated it could punch above its weight and special moments included a beautifully choreographed music and dance show which earned a standing ovation and was repeated back home to a sold-out Gaiety Theatre under the guise of 'Manannan's Isle'.

Manx dance has always enthralled Lorient audiences, and the women's dance "Shooyl Inneenyn" went down well at the festival last year, performed by Skeddan Jiarg.

## SHOOYL INNEENYN - GUITAR LESSON

The dance melody is the theme of this month's guitar tutorial from Culture Vannin: Manx music for guitar, as arranged and performed by Pete Lumb:

[www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-guitar-lessons-606045/](http://www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-guitar-lessons-606045/)

<https://vimeo.com/371271239>

*The original article was published in the Manx independent 20.08.2020.*



John Corlett has delved through his old photos and come up with these pictures of a concert in Laxey Working Men's Institute. Organised by Mona Douglas (in red below), ca. 1985, we can see Manx dance group, Bock Yuan Fannee, with solo stick dancer, David Collister (AKA Daycol) and Gaelic choir Cliogaree Twoaie, conducted by Susan Kinrade.





## ***Haydn Wood and the Isle of Man, a chronology from the Isle of Man newspapers***

Compiled, edited and annotated by Maurice Powell

### **Extracts from the Manx newspapers for 1904**

Isle of Man Times, 6th August: Sunday Concert with Madame Albani and Harry Wood's Palace Orchestra augmented for the occasion to fifty players. Haydn Wood conducted the Andante con moto from his Suite in D major, first performed at a Royal College of Music concert in March or April 1903. He played the violin obbligato in Gounod's Ave Maria with Albani. \*

\* This may be the first occasion when he performed with Emma Albani (Canada's most famous opera star at that time, and a favourite of Queen Victoria) with whom he would enjoy a long association as the resident solo violinist with her touring concert party.

Manx Sun, 5th August: Haydn Wood conducts the Bijou Orchestra at the Derby Castle. Described as 'the prettiest and best ventilated entertainment room in Douglas', the New Bijou Variety Theatre was part of the Derby Castle site. He continued to conduct the orchestra until the end of the season.

Isle of Man Times, 13th August: Haydn Wood conducts the 'clever but small' Bijou Orchestra in the New Bijou Theatre at the Derby Castle in an overture by Suppe.

Isle of Man Examiner, 28th August: Haydn Wood, 'the rising young star violinist', plays a selection of violin showpieces and an obbligato to a Mozart aria with Madame Albani, re-engaged for a Sunday Concert after just three weeks.

Peel City Guardian, 10th December: Haydn Wood takes part in a concert at the Peel Centenary Hall on Thursday 15th and performs pieces by Hubay, Sarasate, Raff and his own Souvenance.

At this time the young Haydn Wood also took on his brother Harry's teaching commitments while he (Harry) was in Glasgow as the Musical Director of Hengler's Circus, a popular circus that spent many summer seasons in Douglas.

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

This traditional tune collected by Dr John Clague accompanies the simple dance, Cur Shaghey yn Geurey (Put away the Winter!) collected by Mona Douglas. Here is an arrangement for guitar by Manx musician, Mark Lawrence.

Collected from John Cubbon

## Step Dance

Dropped D tuning

⑥ = D

♩ = 120

Arr. Mark Lawrence

1 5 3 7 4 7 0 4 7 0 7 0 7

5 3 10 7 4 10 12 3 10 12 1 9

11 <12> <12> 4 7 0 4 5 2 4 3 7 1 5 3 7 3 9 3 7

1 5 3 7 4 7 0 4 7 0 7 0 7

# CALENDAR

## AUGUST

All month - Live music acts at Compton Vaults

Most Saturdays & Sundays in August - Laxey Summer concert season in the Village Square & Promenade Green.

27th – 30th Quidstival, Quid's Inn

29th & 30th Festival of the Beach & Sea, Port Erin, inc. Clash Vooar & other music acts

29th – 30th Supermanx weekender, Castletown – live music all weekend

## SEPTEMBER

5th A Beg Adventure - Hello Little People, Castle Rushen – various times



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

12th OIOW, Cathedral IOM & Centenary Centre, Peel, 12pm-6pm & 8pm.



19th Bree Ghaelgagh session, 2 – 3.30pm, St Johns

19th - 20th Food & Drink festival.

25th - 27th IOM Trad Music Weekend - Sir Norman's, Prospect & Thirsty Pigeon.

## OCTOBER

31st Hop tu naa - Island-wide!

31st Oie Houney, Peel

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

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

~ SESSIONS ~

**TUES** 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas  
**WED** 8.30pm Trad Session at the Saddle, Douglas  
**THURS** 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey  
**FRI** 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey  
**FRI** Trad session at the Manor, Willaston  
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiavull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary  
First **SUN** of month 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club  
Third **SUN** of month 3pm Trad session in Ginger Hall, Sulby

~ 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