

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Mean Fouyir 2024 September

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Manx Music, Dance & Art showcased to thousands in France

Between the 12th-18th August, a delegation of over 60 performers, artists and volunteers attended Festival Interceltique de Lorient (FIL) to represent the Isle of Man at the biggest interceltic festival in the world.



Taking place in Lorient, Brittany, the festival attracted an average of 850,000 visitors and spectators over 7 days. For over 40 years the Isle of Man has been involved in showcasing Manx music, dance and culture to the rest of Europe. For its 53rd edition, the Interceltic Festival 2024 put Celtic youth in the spotlight.

As part of its focus on the Celtic youth, the FIL invited 16 young artists from the 8 participating nations for a music residency to celebrate interceltism. Two groups were formed from this residency and they performed twice-daily during the festival. The Isle of Man was represented by Mera Royle (harp & fiddle) and Owen Williams (accordion and keys).

In this month's edition...

- *Play along with a Manx session*
- *Tribute to John Kaneen RBV (1940 - 2024)*
- *Manx/Cornish/Welsh collaboration - European Folk Day*

Culture
VANNIN

Representing the Island at the Lorient Stadium for multiple nightly shows called "Horizons Celtique", was northern dance group, Ny Fennee. The group performed to hundreds of thousands in-person and to millions who turned in on national French television. The dance group also represented the Island at the Grand Parade of Celtic Nations to thousands in the streets of Lorient.

Manx folk band, Scran, experienced their first festival of this scale, delighting audiences across multiple stages. The group competed in the Loic Raison Trophée and placed 4th overall. This was a considerable achievement since the band, ranging from 12-18 years of age, were up against older and more experienced groups. Scran member, Aalish Kilgallon performed an additional concert as a solo-musician on the shared Celtic stage.

A new offering from the Manx delegation came in the form of a DJ set by Çheumooie. Juan Kaighin entranced audiences with his blend of contemporary beats with audio samples of the last native speakers.

Festival favourites, Mec Lir performed a high-energy set at Le Kleub on the

first Monday and Ruth Keggin performed a sold-out show at Le Theatre as part of the Celtique Oddysee project, now in its third year.

Representing the visual arts, the Isle of Man was represented by Molly Kathryn at the Euroceltic Art Exhibition bringing pieces inspired by Manx Gaelic heritage and agriculture. Helen Winter delivered a number of textiles workshops over the week teaching needle felting techniques to local participants.

The Manx Delegates this year were Grainney Sheard and Ealee Sheard.

Grainney Sheard said: "We are so very proud of what our delegation have achieved in the past week. Each and every one of our delegation is a credit to our Island. It has truly been a privilege to bring so many talented artists and performers to showcase Manx culture at this international festival."

This is only a brief summary of the Manx participation at the FIL. To see and read everything the Manx delegation did during their time at the festival, find the Mannin FIL page on Instagram and Facebook.

The Manx Delegation are grateful to Biosphere Isle of Man for their support towards the Isle of Man Pavilion and to Culture Vannin for their continued support leading up to the festival.

Find out more about Festival Interceltique de Lorient: www.festival-interceltique.bzh

Mannin in Lorient's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/manxlorient

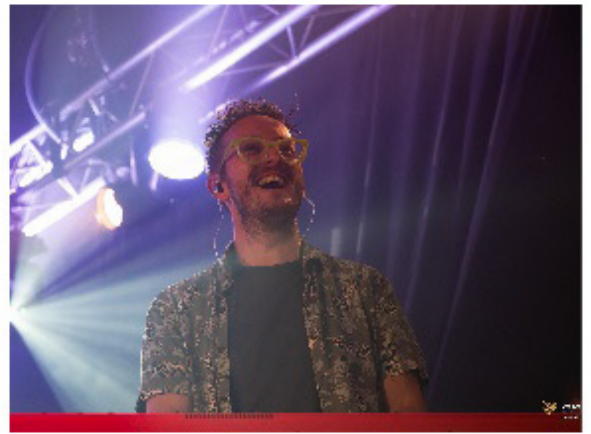
Biosphere in Brittany! - report by Breeshey Kermode

www.biosphere.im/news/biosphere-in-brittany-

Ny Fennee dance team montage of their time in Lorient:

www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance/permalink/10161870452042417/





Some official photos from Festival Interceltique de Lorient. Top clockwise: Owen Williams; Ny Fennee musicians; Dave Kilgallon from Mec Lir; Manx dance workshop; Ruth Keggin; Mera Royle

Tributes paid to Manx folk musician John Kaneen

The "enormous contribution" to Manx culture by folk musician and broadcaster John Kaneen has been praised following his death at the age of 83.

A singer, dancer, musician, event organiser and researcher, Mr Kaneen presented Manx Radio's weekly Folk Show for 45 years until 2022.

His funeral service took place at Trinity Methodist Church in Douglas earlier, following his death on 20 August.

Culture Vannin said he was "a larger than life character" and "a generous font of knowledge on folk song and balladry".

The cultural organisation said Mr Kaneen had also supported keeping traditions such as Hunt the Wren and the traditional ball game cammag alive, and had helped to shape the development of the Manx folk dance movement.

In a tribute online, Culture Vannin said: "His encouragement of young musicians must be recognised too.

"He regularly featured up and coming bands on his folk show, as well as organising for high profile folk musicians to perform on the island."

In 2019, the folk musician was awarded the Isle of Man's most prestigious cultural award, the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan, for his contribution to the music scene.

After receiving the award, Mr Kaneen said he had done it all for the "enjoyment and pleasure" that he had continued to get from his music and dance.

Also paying tribute online, Manx Radio said Mr Kaneen had had "an incredible four and a half decades on air" and a "very loyal following, with many of his listeners "tuning in from further afield".

The presenter would also will be fondly remembered as a "lynchpin of the Calor Gas Ceilidh Band" who he had led "many a rousing ceilidh", the station said.

"John made an enormous contribution to Manx culture and it's impossible to sum up his passion and commitment in just a few paragraphs - we know he'll be sorely missed," it added.



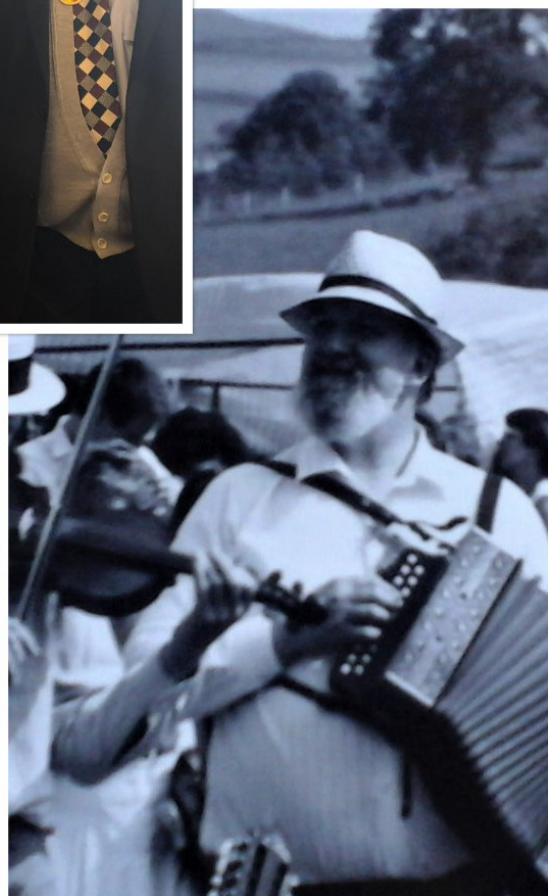
From the BBC IOM website: <https://tinyurl.com/4d57pvf3>

Tribute to 'Big John' by Culture Vannin:

www.manxmusic.com/news/john-kaneen-rbv-870594/

Read about Big John's RBV award: <https://culturevannin.im/rbv/john-kaneen-565295/>

[painting by T Hewson 2017]



Top left clockwise: John playing for the Hunt the Wren dancers in Douglas (photo: Jiri Podobsky); dressed as Manannan with Mona Douglas in Ramsey ca. 1980 (Yn Chruinnaght archive); playing melodeon (photo: David Radcliffe); playing guitar (left) with the Railroad Skiffle Band in 1957 *Weekly Times* – (pic: credit Mo Creer via FB Group Manx Nostalgia); receiving his RBV award for his contribution to Manx culture in 2019 from Chris Thomas MHK.

Young Manx band wow at Lorient

Young Manx traditional band Scran have just returned home after a phenomenal week in Brittany, performing at the world's largest Celtic festival, Festival Interceltique de Lorient.



As well as performing for audiences of thousands, the talented young musicians were also selected to compete in the final stage of the prestigious inter-Celtic band competition, Trophée Loïc Raison, where they scooped fourth place on Saturday night!

The band line-up of teenagers consists of Frank Joughin and Niamh Milsom on fiddles, Resa Brown and Alyth Braithwaite on harps, Daniel Cross on guitar and Fraser McKenna on keyboards, and the band were joined on stage by their mentor David Kilgallon and 12 year old Young Singer of Mann and Manx dancer Aalish Kilgallon who also gave some solo performances during the festival. The overall theme of the 2024 festival was 'youth', so Scran fitted the bill perfectly.

Describing the whole experience as "epic" and "an absolute blast", Scran members reported that "every element of the festival has been amazing".

18 year old fiddle player, Niamh, said:

"From playing to a massive inter-Celtic crowd, to dancing with the crowds to [watching] other incredible bands... playing sessions and having very late nights and to even just having conversations with people from different countries, the entire festival was the best experience possible".

Harpist Resa loved "the excitement of a completely new and amazing experience... the most incredible part that stood out for me was watching the crowd at our last gig doing traditional Breton dancing whilst we were playing our music!"

15 year old Fraser, who plays keyboards with the band, added:

"The whole experience was like never before, because none of us had all performed together and had such big important gigs like in Lorient. Also the thousands of people watching us over the course of the festival was just incredible, nerve wracking and very exciting all at the same time!"

Part of Culture Vannin's Manx music youth project, Bree, the band Scran was formed in 2015 under the leadership of Paul Rogers, and its rolling membership of young musicians from various schools around the Island has seen the production of two albums 'Nane' and 'Jees', docu-film features and high profile performances on and off the Island.

Now mentored by internationally renowned Manx musician and composer David Kilgallon, this was the band's first trip to the festival in Lorient.

Along with Ny Fennee dance group and Manx acts, Mec Lir, Ruth Keggin, Mera Royle, Owen Williams, DJ Çheumooie and other artists, the festival invited Scran to be part of the delegation representing the Isle of Man.

Festival Interceltique de Lorient is one of the largest events in Brittany, France and Europe, attracting more than 950,000 visitors and spectators each year – 12 times more than last year's number of TT visitors to the Island!

It was an inspiring experience for them all. Harpist Alyth said: "The whole trip was an amazing opportunity to get to know and bond with our group and gain a whole new appreciation for where our music has the ability to take us".

Mecia Brown said: As parents in the audience, we were bursting with so much pride. Scran's energy was so contagious and their performances mesmerising. They captivated the different audiences and the crowds of people from all the countries felt the passion. Many asked where Scran were from and were delighted when we said the Isle of Man. They did the Isle of Man proud".

Another parent, Tony Cross, added: "I was also so proud to be able to witness Scran's energetic and accomplished playing. Their performances really did impress and spread joy. It was an honour to share in this whole experience with an amazing group of people. The whole Manx delegation were outstanding ambassadors for this wonderful Island we call home!"

Frank's dad Jamie Smith, a seasoned Celtic musician himself, has been attending the festival since childhood: "To my mind Festival Interceltique de Lorient presents a unique opportunity for Manx performers of all ages to play on impressive stages with professional light and sound in front of large audiences of people who love Celtic/trad music.

The festival is a real melting pot where Manx artists meet artists from all the other Celtic nations and beyond, sharing music, language and dance.

It was a pleasure to witness Scran fully embrace the spirit of the festival and represent the Island with such skill, passion and energy. They inspired the festival crowds and I know they in turn were greatly inspired by the world class bands they had the chance to see and hear over the week.

It shouldn't be underestimated how special Lorient is developmentally for the Isle of Man's young performers, not to mention the positive impact it has had on the Manx trad scene down the years."

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, said:

"We were absolutely delighted when Scran was selected to be one of the Manx acts at this year's Festival Interceltique de Lorient, and as soon as they heard the exciting news, the band dedicated themselves to hours and hours of rehearsals. The experience has taken their music making to a new level, but they all rose to the challenge and have exceeded all expectations. We hope that Scran's success in Lorient will inspire other young musicians to get involved with Manx music and feel proud of coming from the Isle of Man. We welcome all young musicians to come and learn about Manx music through the Bree youth group, and for more experienced players or singers, there are regular auditions to join the band Scran".

More photos: www.facebook.com/share/p/3kCchT3Sh2MfaMYf/

Information about Scran: www.manxmusic.com/performers/manx-bands/scran-/

Video about Scran: <https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/scran-manx-music-youth-group-866468/>



Instascran photos!! see more: www.instagram.com/instascran99/



Scran gave a post-Lorient performance in Black Dog Oven to a packed audience (22nd August)

European Folk Day collaboration planned for Manx, Welsh and Cornish musicians!

Môr / Mooir / Mor

An exciting new international music collaboration has been announced, and you're invited to take part!

Culture Vannin has joined forces with similar organisations from Wales and Cornwall to present a folk music exchange created especially for European Folk Day on Monday the 23rd of September.

Development officers Chloë Woolley & Ruth Keggins Gell from Culture Vannin have teamed up with Jordan Price Williams from the Welsh folk development organisation, TRAC Cymru, and Jowdy Davey from Cornish cultural organisation, Lowender, to present a special challenge for singers and musicians - to learn each other's folk songs or tunes, and interpret them in their own way. Individuals or groups are then asked to record or film their performances and share them on their own social media channels on European Folk Day tagging #europeanfolkday

A common theme found in both the landscape and cultural heritage of all three nations is the 'sea', and interestingly, the Celtic cousins share a very similar sounding name for the sea in each language: Môr in Welsh, Mooir in Manx and Mor in Cornish!

The Manx song and tune for the project are now online and ready to learn through video tutorials from Manx Gaelic singer Ruth Keggins and traditional fiddle player Laura Rowles.



SONG: "Shiaull Ersooyl" (Sail Away) is a short Manx Gaelic song collected by Mona Douglas in the 1920s and it can be performed in lots of interesting ways:

<https://manxmusic.com/learn/songs/shiaull-ersooyl/>

TUNE: "Three Little Boats" is one of the most popular jigs from the Isle of Man, and as well as being a session favourite and also a simple Christmas song, it is often used to accompany dances; Ladies' Jig, Men's Jig and Dance for Three:

<https://manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/three-little-boats/>

The Welsh and Cornish sea-themed songs and tunes will be revealed soon.

Now in its second year, European Folk Day highlights the value of the traditional arts, reinforcing that each diverse nation is an essential part of Europe's rich cultural spectrum. From grassroots communities to national organisations, and from individual musicians to companies involved in traditional arts at any level, anyone can get involved!

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, said: "Annual events like European Folk Day are a great excuse to make international links and musical connections, whilst reflecting on what makes each nation unique".

Ruth Keggins Gell, Yn Greinneyder - Manx Language Development Officer, added: "Learning and performing music is such a fun and enriching way to engage the

community in the cultural heritage of our respective nations; we hope that through this lovely collaborative project, more people will enjoy finding out about Manx, Welsh and Cornish music and language!”

Culture Vannin’s own Manx music youth group Bree will be having a go, with a special workshop for young musicians on Saturday 7th September.

www.europeanfolkday.eu/event/bree-manx-cornish-welsh-music-workshop/

It’s free to attend and open to all singers and musicians aged 10 – 18.

Contact Chloë for more details: manxmusic@culturevannin.im

As a new collaboration for this particular trio of Celtic cousins, it is hoped that Môr / Mooir / Mor will inspire creatives from Wales, Cornwall and Isle of Man to learn from one another and spark enthusiasm for similar projects in the future.

- TRAC Cymru: <https://trac.cymru/> • Lowender: <https://www.lowender.co.uk/>
- European Folk Day: <https://www.europeanfolkday.eu/>
- Manx music & dance: www.manxmusic.com
- Learn Manx: www.learnmanx.com • Bree Manx music youth movement:

www.manxmusic.com/schools/bree---manx-traditional-youth-music-and-dance-movement/

Most KMJ readers will already know Three Little Boats, so how about learning Welsh tune; “Morgawr” which means sea monster?! Here’s Jordan Price Williams from TRAC to teach it to you!

Fideo 18 – Morgawr by Simon Owen <https://trac.cymru/en/tunery-wales/>

*Please let us know if you take part in the **Môr / Mooir / Mor** project!*

Morgawr

Simon Owen



Spotify Manx Music Playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4FuL5heugMH5ua8zzxxQIM?si=81fbbdb6a8724e34>

Get out your fiddle or guitar and join in with some Manx trad tunes!

An hour-long live audio recording of a traditional Manx music session has been released online by Culture Vannin.

The recording shares the friendly atmosphere of a traditional Manx music session, and offers the chance for those newer to Manx music to practise at home before joining in in person.

At a traditional music session, people bring their own instruments and join in with tunes being played by others, usually from memory or by ear. Joining a session for the first time might be intimidating for many, and so it is hoped that this new resource will help build confidence and widen participation in a very enjoyable traditional activity.

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, says:

“Taking part in and sharing music through a traditional music session can be a great experience, and anyone who can play an instrument should take the opportunity to have a go. We hope that this recording will make that easier for everyone.”

The session now available on the Culture Vannin website was recorded live in 2017 in Cornwall, at the Lowender Peran festival. Gathered there was a large number of Manx musicians, from many of the Island’s leading traditional composers and performers to children and those early in their Manx music journeys. Together they played an hour of music wonderfully representative of a traditional Manx session that might be encountered today.

The 28 tunes featured in the recording include some of the best known and most frequently heard Manx tunes, including Smuggler’s Lullaby, Car Juan Nan, Car ny Ferrishyn, Creg Willy Syl, Gyn Ennym and Hie Mee Stiagh.

It also features some more obscure tunes, including Murran ‘sy Vainney, Bwoaill Baccagh, Girls of Balladoole, Poagey dy Reenaghyn, Oh my Ghraih and The Wandescop. The release of this recording represents the first publicly available recording of some of these tunes.

James Franklin, Online & Educational Resources Officer at Culture Vannin, says:

“We have wanted to release a full session online for some time now, and this particular one just seemed perfect. We especially enjoy the conversations and banter of everyone there between and even during the music. It gives a wonderful representation of how enjoyable and welcoming the Manx musical community can be.”

The release of the 55-minute-long recording is a part of Culture Vannin’s ongoing work to support, promote and celebrate the music, language and culture of the Isle of Man. The Manx Music website www.manxmusic.com offers free sheet music, demonstration recordings and even video tutorials for a large number of Manx tunes and songs, as well as information about Manx music concerts and sessions going on around the Island.

The recording is available online here:

www.manxmusic.com/watchlisten/manx-music-session-lowender-peran-2017-870435/

Plus many of the tunes are featured on www.manxmusic.com/learn

SEE KMJ TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH >>





Isle of Man Arts Council launches a new £100,000 Extraordinary Events Fund to celebrate 60th Anniversary in 2025!

Applications open on Monday 9th September for the new Extraordinary Events Fund.

£100,000 has been ring-fenced to support new innovative arts events/projects on the Isle of Man in 2025.

The first round of applications close on Friday 18th October with successful recipients being informed after the Isle of Man Arts Council meeting on Friday 8th November 2024.

The second round of applications close on Friday 17th January 2025 with successful recipients being informed after the Isle of Man Arts Council meeting on Friday 31st January 2025. All other streams of funding are still open as usual.



Cathedral Isle of Man are the look out for choristers aged 8-16 years - if you have a child or student who you think might benefit from training in sight singing, get in touch with Dr Peter Litman. More details: <https://tinyurl.com/nhddjmfw>



ISLE OF MAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC WEEKEND



All musicians and spectators welcome

SEPTEMBER 20TH - 23RD

Music/Singing Session Venues

FRIDAY 20TH

8PM - LATE

The
Columba Club

SATURDAY 21ST

1PM - LATE

O'Donnells, The Bridge &
Singing Session at HOPS

FREE Saturday Workshops

Tune, Etiquette & Set
Dancing Workshops
11am - 12pm
Limited spaces

To book your space
call 434078 or see
Facebook

SUNDAY 22ND

1PM - LATE

The Prospect
All day music session

MONDAY 23RD

11AM - 4PM

Quids Inn
Survivor Session

Sponsored by



For more information please see
our Facebook page
@Isle of Man Traditional Music





SAVE THE DATE!

Bree 'Hop tu naa' Workshop Day!

Sat 5th Oct, 10am - 4pm

Philip Christian Centre, Peel

A whole day of Hop tu naa
themed workshops for
students aged 10 - 18.

*Music, song, dance, stories &
crafts, with a concert to finish!*

Part of the *Bree Manx* music youth group. All welcome. Application forms coming soon. Contact Chloe manxmusic@culturevannin.im for more details.

CHARITY 182

SOUTH DOUGLAS OLD FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Ceili Night

FEAT. THE KIPPER CEILI BAND & CHIPPY SUPPER

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER | DOORS 7PM

TICKETS: WWW.ETICKETS.IM/SDOFA

VICTORY HALL
FINCH ROAD
DOUGLAS

PM FOR TRUSTEES

CLASH VOOAR

Photo below of the
Manx Gaelic band
playing in the
Centenary Centre
last month (31
Aug)

[credit: Martin Critchey]



20 & 21 September
Gaiety Theatre

A play with music inspired by
the Snaefell Mining Disaster

CANDLES

Candles is a play with music based around the tragic events of 1897, which tries to put a human face on the tragedy that started with a candle in a mine, but ripped through Manx communities in the days and weeks that followed.

The production company, Yn Draamey, describe the play as follows:

Yn Draamey proudly presents

CANDLES

Written by Chris Maybury

Music by Nick Roberts

A new musical,
retelling the tragic Snaefell
mining disaster of 1897

*There was always a next shift...
until there was a last shift.*

The Gaiety Theatre

20th & 21st September 2024

Tickets from just £11

Book now at www.villagaiety.com/



"Candles explores the impact that one small event - an improperly snuffed candle - can have on a whole community. The loss and heartbreak are counterpointed with acts of practical heroism.

A flame is very like a living being. It requires fuel and oxygen. Like many organisms it is capable of snuffing out another life. Candles mixes the pride of a mining community with the sadness and guilt of the women who were left behind and the men who survived."

Written by Chris Maybury and music written by Nick Roberts. Choreographed by Susannah Maybury.

It is on for two nights only, in the Gaiety Theatre, Douglas - 20 & 21 September.

All information on the VillaGaiety website:
www.villagaiety.com/whats-on/candles/

If you want to know more about the disaster (and the treasure trove of drama and emotion to be called upon in the play), this film from a few years ago would be a good starting point:

<https://tinyurl.com/m595udam>



Oie Houney (31 October) AKA Hop tu naa was the last night of the Celtic year marking the end of summer and start of winter.

This year, Oie Houney organisers are marking the occasion with a winter Fire Festival in the heart of Castletown using Castle Rushen as a stunning backdrop for a son et lumiere style fire show and torchlight procession.

This is a family friendly, and FREE event for all ages, run by the same organisers that brought the sister festival in May - Oie Voaldyn - to Peel in previous years.

Further details of what else you can expect on the day will be announced shortly.

Plus the next Oie Voaldyn Fire Festival sponsored by Element Isle Jewellers will take place on Sunday 4th May 2025 - save the date!!!!

YOUNG SINGER OF MANN



- + JUNIORS (7-12 YEARS)
- + SENIORS (13-18 YEARS)
- + PRIZES £150 / £100 / £50

ERIN ARTS CENTRE
SAT 25TH - SUN 26TH
JANUARY 2025
 APPLICATIONS OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 2024
 CALL 835858 OR EMAIL HELLO@ERINARTSCENTRE.COM FOR MORE INFO



LE VENT DU NORD



Centenary Centre
Peel
Sat 9th November 8pm
 Tickets £20 www.centenarycentre.com
leventdunord.com



kiaul1 noa



Regulars at the Friday George Hotel session in Castletown, guitarist Tony, fiddle player Robin and melodeon player Kevin are known as "The Three Grumpy Old Men"!

They perform together from time to time at local care homes and at "Sight Matters" and they have filmed a few sets from their Monday evening rehearsals.

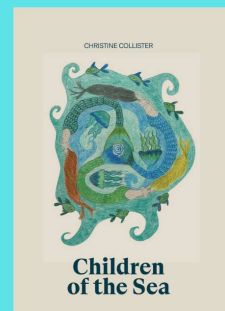
Here is a set of Manx tunes to enjoy: Fiddler Y Chiarn (The Lord's Fiddler) and Creg Willy Syl (William Sylvester's Rock):

<https://youtu.be/QCVoMbZL80I?si=muORB5jVGp65viJo>

'Arrane Oie Vie' by Rún
Irish singer and harpist Bróna McVittie performs the Manx 'Good Night Song' on her album with band Rún

<https://tinyurl.com/bdh4kb8w>

Christine Collister



Friday November 8th

Erin Arts Centre

doors 7pm start 7.30pm

Tickets £15

+44(0) 1624 835858

hello@erinartscentre.com

First show of UK tour to celebrate

Children Of The Sea

Special project of original songs inspired by Manx Folklore and a magical sense of place.

Original illustrations by local artists on display! Plus songs from across her 40 year career!

Return to North Barrule

Possibly the first AI generated song about the Isle of Man?!

A new song by 'Bee Manx' inspired by the recent news story about the three legs sculpture on North Barrule.

Composed locally, but performed by an AI singer!

Have a listen:

<https://tinyurl.com/4x3u3dse>

Youtube corner

Berrey Dhone sung by Tom Kines - a Canadian musician who collected folk music from across Canada and around the world:

<https://youtu.be/opLCvQBf8K0?si=qr-btHREVP584BeN>

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Will Quale, who performs and teaches Manx dancing in western Massachusetts, USA was rather excited when he heard that Manx blues artist **Davy Knowles** was going to play a solo acoustic set in his town! Will got into the venue early to hang a Manx flag at the back of the room, and said Davy; "was indeed surprised and delighted when he entered. He didn't play Creg Willy Syl [which he performs on his docu-film, *Island Bound*], but he did play a cracking tune he's written called

Barrule on his octave mandolin! He couldn't believe it when I told him we had Manx dancing in the area, so I told him he'll just have to return".

In fact, Davy will be 'Island Bound' in the New Year, as he is coming home to perform with Band of Friends at the Peel Centenary Centre January 7th and 8th!

Based in Chicago, the Manx blues guitarist says: "Playing in this band is a real dream come true for me. Gerry and Brendan are two of my musical heroes, having carved out such an iconic sound during their time with Rory Gallagher. To get to play with them on my home soil is going to be pretty special". Tickets are going super quick... so grab yours now! www.triskelpromo.com/band-of-friends/

Manx music and dance has been cropping up in other places too over the summer:

Manxman/adopted Cornishman, Steve Hunt, captured some Manx tunes happening at a Cornwall Folk Festival session last weekend:

www.facebook.com/share/v/mgJtjfoTGhVHXmHp/

He also bumped into The Ballaghs frontman Mike Wade and family at the Beautiful Days festival in Devon. Daughter Meri was proud to show off her Manx dancing skills too! >>

Dave Eyre in Sheffield reports that there were Manx dances at his local Morris Festival performed by Juggler's Meadow and Wake Robin from Boston, Massachusetts!

And traditional Manx dance, music and song group Perree Bane recently travelled to Cumbria for the Furness Tradition Festival in Ulverston, supported by the Isle of Man Arts Council via their Domestic Travel Grant Fund [photos >>]





RESEARCH NEWS

Each month, Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin, looks at a well-known Manx song and its history. Published in *The Manx Independent*. <https://tinyurl.com/mpz3xree>

HARVEST OF THE SEA – THE HERRING IN MANX SONG

For centuries, the Isle of Man has been unequivocally associated with the fishing trade, with the herring in particular hailed as “King of the Sea” (or Ree ny Marrey). This is echoed throughout old songs and melodies, many of which were collected in the 1890s from ‘Bwoie Doal’ (Blind boy) Tom Kermode, a fisherman from Bradda, and reflected today through Manx dance group ‘Skeddan Jiarg’ who are named after the red herring!

Along with farming, fishing was an essential part of the economy in the past, with priddhas an’ herrin’ (potatoes and herring) and pickled herring being staples for Manx families, whilst thousands of pairs of kippers were exported or served each morning to holiday makers. As the song tells us; “Red or kippered, fresh or pickled, Oh, the herring is king of the sea!”



For centuries the ‘Lil’ Silver Fella’ has been an essential source of income for both locals and the boatloads of Scottish women gutters, packers and kipperers who arrived for herring season. The herring was highly revered in every tier of Manx society – “No herring, no wedding!” was a common expression and when Deemsters take their oath, they still recite: “I will execute justice as indifferently as the herring’s backbone doth lie in the midst of the fish”. As late as the 1980s, Gus Craine is remembered selling small herring from the back of his van in Douglas, where he sang; “Fresh herrings. Get a feed of them down ya boy; and you’ll be jumping through two paper hoops!”

Fishing in the past could be dangerous, so cautionary folk tales of unexpected storms such as “The Witch of Slieau Whallian” were re-told, and superstitious customs warding off bad fortune at sea were common.

Sea invocations were recited, wise woman sold herbal tea by the quayside, and the lucky ‘Crosk Bollan’ (Bollan Cross) was carried on board as protection. The number three was considered unlucky by fishermen, as was meeting a red-haired woman or a Methodist vicar on the way to the boat. Many people on the Island still can’t say the word “r**”, as it was very bad luck to find a ‘longtail’ or ‘ringie’ on board!

The “Wreck of the Herring Fleet” where 21 fishermen died near Douglas Harbour in 1797

is a tragedy retold through Manx balladry, and one of the most well-loved blessings today is “The Manx Fishermen’s Evening Hymn”, also known as “Harvest of the Sea” or “Peel Castle”.

First published in Manx National Songs in 1896, WH Gill’s hymn rose to fame when it was included in the Methodist Hymn Book of 1904. Based on an old Manx air, the hymn asks for protection for the Manx fishermen: “Hear us, O Lord, from Heaven, thy dwelling place... Thou, Lord, dost rule the raging of the sea. When loud the storm and furious is the gale... we plough the land and plough the deep... by day the golden corn we reap, By night the silver harvest of the sea”.

This hymn has remained popular ever since, sung at harvest suppers and services, and recorded numerous times by choirs and ensembles. On manxmusic.com there are various versions to enjoy and learn.

Of course fishing is a far safer occupation these days, and for the first time in 25 years, a new quota was agreed with the UK in 2023 which would allow Manx boats to fish commercially for the ‘silver darlings’ once again.

LEARN The Manx Fishermen’s Evening Hymn:

www.manxmusic.com/learn/songs/manx-fishermens-evening-hymn/

PHOTO: Herrings workers washing off after work in Port St. Mary: Courtesy of Manx National Heritage (PG/5677/29)]

“MR JOSEPH WOOLCOCK” (1883)

(1)

On Thursday afternoon last, the funeral of Mr Joseph Woolcock, who died on Monday last, took place at Kirk Lonan. The funeral left his residence in the Glen a little after three o’clock, headed by the Laxey Amateur Band (of which the deceased was formerly a member) playing the “Dead March” in Saul. The coffin was covered with several beautiful wreaths, and his uniform cap was placed in the centre of one of them. A detachment of the Hallelujah Band and a great many Oddfellows followed their deceased friend and brother to his last home. It is said that this is the most numerously attended funeral that has taken place in Laxey for over a period of ten years.

(2)

Some eighteen months ago, when the Laxey Band were performing in Ramsey, one of their number named Woolcock, residing in Laxey Glen, unfortunately got into the harbour during the darkness of the night, and the “cold” which he then took terminated in his death from consumption on Monday last. On Thursday evening his remains had an imposing burial in our parish churchyard, the Laxey Band attending in uniform and played mournful strains suited to the occasion, and a numerous concourse of neighbours following.

Quite how John Joseph Woolcock ended up in the drink at Ramsey is not made clear, nor whether drink itself was to blame; however, end up he did and that was to lead to his demise aged just twenty-three. Woolcock was enumerated in the 1881 census as a blacksmith, unmarried and living with his brother and parents at 79 Glen Road in Laxey. The Laxey Amateur Band were in attendance, a reminder of the music making opportunities open to males in the Island in this period.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

For the newspaper pieces, (1) “[Laxey] On Thursday afternoon” *Isle of Man Times* 9 June 1883: 5f; (2) “[Laxey] Funeral of a Bandsman.” *Manx Sun* 9 June 1883: 4e. The census record is *Census Enumerators’ Book* for Laxey 1881, TNA, RG 11/5601, fol. 70, sch. 137. Obituary notices are “[Births, Marriages, and Deaths] Deaths.” *Isle of Man Times* 16 June 1883: 5g; “[Births, Marriages, and Deaths] Deaths.” *Mona’s Herald* 20 June 1883: 5f.

MANX MUSIC HISTORY & RESEARCH

www.manxmusic.com/history/research/

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

3. Unpublished Dances

3.8 Dance in Manx Steps to Storm Ballet Music

Evidently a relatively recently composed dance. The notes were found in Douglas's personal notes (MNHL 09545 Box 7) although what the Storm Ballet Music refers to is not yet known.

- Lead in: 4MSS to change places, partners facing; 4 back to original places, arms extended.
- 1st Fig: Partners advance 2 HRS to meet at centre, arm R & honour R & L, arm, L & honour R & L again. (12 bars)
- 2nd Fig: Bar 13: 2 RSK to corners. Bar 14: 4 pivots to R. Bar 15: 2 RSK back to meet at centre. Bar 16: Partners take R hands & honour. Bar 17: Man steps behind woman and takes her L hand high in his L, still clasping her R hand with his R. Bar 18: They pivot clockwise in this position. Bars 19-20: Man turns woman to face him under his raise L arm, then drops it so that they face with hands clasped and crossed. In this position they swing clockwise.
- 3rd Fig: Bar 21: Both dance 2 MRS backward. Bars 22 □ 23: Partners facing, woman hops on L foot while tapping with R behind, in front and behind L ankle, then changes weight and hops on R while tapping L foot behind, in front and behind (jig step). Simultaneously man hops on L foot, clapping hands under R knee, hops on R foot clapping under L knee, then pivots to R while clapping his hands over his head. Bars 24 □ 25: Both dance 2 MRS forward and meet at centre. Bars 26 □ 27: Partners take R hands high, and woman pivots under man's raised arm while he dances tapping cross steps R and L on the spot. Bars 28 □ 29: Partners honour low with hand clasped. Bars 30 □ 34: They lead off on MSS.

READ THE FULL THESIS:

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



by Eric Austwick for a Mona Douglas article of 1941

Haydn Wood and the Isle of Man, A dip into the Isle of Man newspapers for 1937

by Maurice Powell

Isle of Man Times, 20th February: Gerry (or Garry) Alligan, the radio correspondent if the Evening Standard, praises the BBC for 'recognizing the high merit of Haydn Wood as one of our most eminent composers'. In the same edition: 'A special album of 36 photographs compiled by P. E. Davies of Derby Road, Douglas, to mark the Homecoming of the North American Manx Society, is to be sent to Haydn Wood in London in order that he would display it for the London Manx Society'. (MP: I wonder where that album is now?)

Isle of Man Examiner, 30th April: Broadcasts of music of interest to Manx people to included Haydn Wood's Mannin Veen performed by the BBC Welsh Orchestra; the fantasia The British Empire performed by The Commodore Grand Orchestra. Haydn Wood conducted the fantasia during a special programme on 13th May to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth the previous day.

Mona's Herald, 18th May 1937: 'The Isle of Man is proud to claim Haydn Wood as one of its own though he was born in Yorkshire'. The new song A Bird in the Rain is considered to be his finest song to date. 'The composer is now considered to be one of the most popular English song writers'.

Ramsey Courier, 30th July: 'Haydn Wood is holidaying on the Island and hopes to complete his new (orchestral) work Manx Legend (The new work, King Orry, was broadcast on 8th May 1938 with Haydn Wood conducting). (MP: Haydn Wood and his wife spent every summer on the Island in order to spend time with his sister Adeline and play golf with his brother Harry).

Isle of Man Times, 13th November: Reflection of Trevor Wignall, sportswriter for the Daily Express during the Stage Golfing Society Dinner: 'Why don't we cheer more when Haydn Wood walks down the street? Stephen Foster is held up as "the world champion composer of ballads" in America, but Wood could give him fifty yards in a hundred and then beat him at the post'.

M Powell 2024

"ROSE TO THE OCCASION AND LED THE CONGREGATIONAL SINGING" (1952)

When the electricity supply failed on Sunday morning and the lights went out in the Waterloo Road Church the organ, dependent on an electric blower, also faded out. The officiating minister (Rev. W.S. Baker) rose to the occasion and led the congregational singing and thereafter raised the tunes of all the remaining hymns, one of which included the words:

Let your lamps be bright
And trim the golden flame.

Basing his sermon on the single-word text "Preaching," the occasion being Local Preachers' Sunday, the reverend gentleman said there were 4,650 ministers in the Methodist Church. and 22,500 lay preachers. In that circuit of 25 places of worship he was grateful for the services given willingly and sacrificially by the local preachers though he was often at his wits' end to find 25 preachers on Sunday. There were only two whole-time ministers who could not be everywhere. They stood in need of the services of more local preachers in the circuit and, indeed, throughout Methodism.

"Often at His Wits' End. Supt. Minister's Problem—Filling Pulpits." *Ramsey Courier* 8 February 1952: 4g.

It was the Rev. W.S. Baker who "rose to the occasion and led the congregational singing" by raising the tunes of the hymns to be sung due to the failure of the organ. This was a return to the common practice in church and chapel before the advent of the harmonium and the organ.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

“DO YOU WANT THE SQUARES SAYING THAT NOBODY LIKES MODERN MUSIC?”

THE TEEN-LAND! RHYTHM CENSUS (1957)

(2)

Positions of the different types of music are, at the moment: (1) Ballads; (2) Rock 'n' Roll; (3) Skiffle; (4) Dixie; (5) Classical; (6) Traditional Jazz; (7) Modern Jazz; (8) Latin-American.

This form given below is for all those who wish to record their vote in the “Teen-Land” rhythm census. Every week we shall give the latest positions of the different types of music.

(3)

This is the last week for the Rhythm Census! If you have not cast your vote—hurry! Closing date is this Wednesday, MARCH 6th. If you are a rock 'n' roll fan, a skiffle fan, or a fan of any other rhythms named on the list make sure your vote has been registered. Do you want the squares saying that nobody likes modern music? Do you want the classics to win? If you do not look at this week's chart. Mighty dangerous isn't it?

(1) Ballads; (2) (Tie) Skiffle and Classical; (4) Rock 'n' Roll; (5) Dixieland; (6) Traditional Jazz; (7) Modern Jazz; (8) Latin-American;

If you have not registered your vote do it now on the printed form below.

(4)

More fans voted for rock 'n' roll than any other rhythm, therefore “rock” is the winner of the census.

This may indicate that there are more rock 'n' roll enthusiasts on the Island than any other rhythm?

Final positions were:

(1) Rock 'n' roll; (2) (Tie) Skiffle and classical; (4) Ballads; (5) Traditional jazz; (7) Modern jazz; (8) Latin-American.

Perhaps it is time for *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* to re-run the poll and see if the Squares can win this time....

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

For the newspaper pieces, see (1) (left) “[Teen-Land!] Rhythm Census.” *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 15 February 1957: 6b; (2) —, 22 February 1957: 6b; (3) —, 1 March 1957: 6c; (4) —, 15 March 1957: 6c.

RHYTHM CENSUS

If you have a Skiffle, Rock n' Roll or Dixie group, write in and tell us about it, giving us its name. You could send in a photograph of it if you wished. Even if you are only just forming a group, tell us about it and your objectives.

This form given below is for all those who wish to record their vote in the “Teen-Land” rhythm census. Every week we shall give the latest positions of the different types of music.

Census Form

Mark a cross by the type of music you like best. Only select one.

Skiffle
 Rock n' Roll
 Dixie
 Trad. Jazz
 Modern Jazz
 Ballads
 Classical
 Latin-American

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

All correspondence dealing with this column should be addressed as follows:
 “TEEN-LAND,”
 “Isle of Man Times,”
 Athol Street,
 Douglas, I.o.M.

John Kaneen RBV - second from the left >> with the Railroad Skiffle Band

1957 03 15 Wkly Times



The Railroad Skiffle Group “in action.”

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Play along with a Manx session

Recorded at Lowender Peran festival in Cornwall 2017, you can play along at home or just enjoy listening:

www.manxmusic.com/watchlisten/manx-music-session-lowender-peran-2017-870435/

0.00: Moirrey ny Cainle / Creg Willy Syl / Gyn Ennym

5.44 The Black and the Grey

9.10 Smuggler's Lullaby / Ta Dick Veg Yannoo Mie / Car Juan Nan / Car ny Ferrishyn

16.20 Berrey Dhone / Murran 'sy Vainney / Bollan Bane

21.30 Bwoaill Baccagh / Girls of Balladoole (3/4 time)

24.42 Polka Drine (by Sharon Christian)

26.41 Cum y Shenn Oanrey Cheh / My Shenn Ayr

30.25 Poagey dy Reenaghyn / Fathaby Jig / Jemmy as Nancy / Jenny is all the Go / **Arrane ny**

Guilley Hesheree

37.50 Oh my Ghraih

40.20 S'liack Lhiam Bine dy Yough jig (by Greg Joughin & Sarah Hewson)

42.15 Billey Keirn (Gathering in the Barley)

44.40 The Wandescape / Peter O'Tavy

49.30 Garey Ford (by Peddyr Cubberley) / Gyn Ennym / Hie Mee Stiagh

One of the session tunes is "Arrane ny Guilley Hesheree". Song of the Ploughboy, this melody is also a song in *Manx National Songs 1896* and is a dance tune. Find out more here:

<https://manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/arrane-ny-guilley-hesheree/>

[whistle finger numbers below]

Arrane ny Guilley-Hesheree

Manx trad.
'Song of The Ploughboy'
arr. M. Boulton

0 6' 4' 6' 0 5' 0 1 2 1 0 1 2 4 0

5 6' 4' 6' 0 5' 0 1 0 6' 5' 4' 0

9 6' 4' 6' 0 5' 0 1 2 1 0 1 2 4 2

13 1 6' 0 1 2 1 0 6' 1 0 2 1

Full list of *Transcriptions of the Month!*

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

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

6 Mine's a Shanty, Erin Arts Centre 7.30pm

6 The Mollag Band, St James' Church Hall, Dalby

7 Bree Manx music session, 2-3.30pm

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

www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan

20 – 21 Candles – the musical, at the Gaiety Theatre, Douglas

23 European Folk Day

OCTOBER

5 Bree 'Hop tu naa' day, 10am - 4pm, Peel

5 Ceili Night, Douglas Old Friends 7pm

12 Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums 40th anniversary concert with guests Finlay McDonald & Malcolm Stitt

LOWENDER FESTIVAL FRIDAY 25 – SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER

Lowender Celtic Festival in Redruth, Cornwall is back in 2024, with more opportunities for cultural exchange, dance and song!

www.lowender.co.uk

25 – 27 Lowender Celtic Festival, Cornwall

31 Hop tu naa! Oie Houney

NOVEMBER

6 – 10 Cooish Manx Language Festival

8 Christine Collister, Children of the Sea, Erin Arts Centre, 7.30pm, £15

9 Le Vent du Nord, Centenary Centre, 8pm



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

www.manxmusic.com & keep in touch at

www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

~ SESSIONS ~

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas
WED 8.30pm Trad Session at O'Donnell's, Douglas
THURS 8pm Singing session at R.A.O.B. (Buffs) Club, Ramsey
FRI 8.30pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at The George Hotel, Castletown
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
First **SUN** of month 1-4 Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club
Occasional **SUN** 1-4 Trad session in The White House or Black Dog, Peel

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

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Chloë Woolley**:
manxmusic@culturevannin.im

www.manxmusic.com

MANX MUSIC NOT COM

Music office: 01624 694758 / Culture Vannin, PO Box 1986, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1SR

Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin

The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space

PRESS: please feel free to pick up articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture