



KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Iuanistyn 2014 August

manx music today

NEW ALBUM FROM THE MOLLAG BAND

The launch of The Mollag Band's new CD, *Afloat*, took place on the final day of Yn Chruinnaght as part of events being held on the forecourt of the House of Manannan in Peel, where a large crowd gathered to hear the popular local band, followed by a selection of other Celtic musicians and dancers.



Bathed in warm, summer sunshine the seven-strong Mollag Band presented a selection of songs and tunes based on their extensive repertoire, including material from their new CD.

Many of their fans took advantage of the free session, which included an open invitation to join members of the band in celebration of the launch of their latest CD, with Pimms and home-made refreshments.

The Mollag Band will shortly be travelling to Brittany, where they will represent the Isle of Man at the annual Inter-Celtic festival in Lorient, which attracts close to one million people during ten days of festivities.

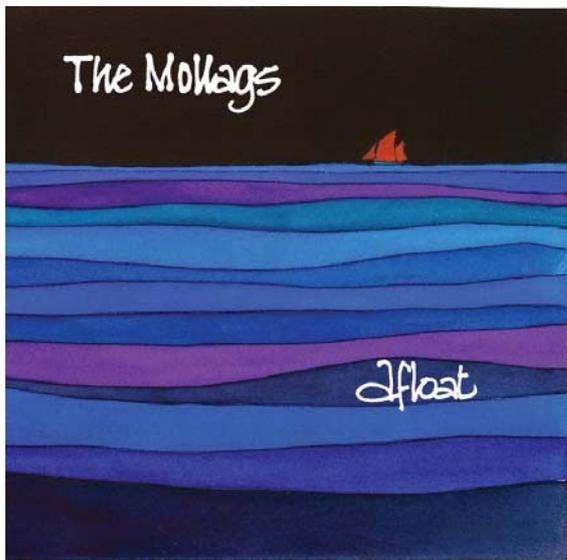
Copies of the CD are available now from usual Island outlets priced at £13.

You can also keep up with The Mollag Band's activities using their Facebook page.

Valerie Caine © July 2014

The Mollags – Afloat:

Unwritten Will – Hungry Dragon – The Laundryman's Blues – Hango Hill – Sad Song – Mr Mole – Graih my Chree – Thomas and Catherine – Nice Sunny Day One – Finn as Oshin – Arrane ny Fee – The Sparrow's Tale – S'liack Lhiam Bine dy Yough.



Mec Lir – Not an EP

Tomàs Callister, Adam Rhodes, David Kilgallon and Greg Barry AKA Mec Lir have released a CD just in time for to take to Lorient. Tracks include inventive reworkings of Flitter Dance and Three Little Boats, a Jack White song, & other upbeat sets that'll get your toes a-tapping!



CD available to buy soon, but tracks are now downloadable on iTunes for £5.53.

In this month's edition...

- NAMA winners
- new Manx music CDs & books
- Yn Chruinnaght in pics
- A Mollag Band tune to play



NAMA winners

The North American Manx Association (NAMA) honoured young people under 25 from across the Island for their exceptional contributions to Manx culture and life with silver medallions last month.

2014 recipients relating to Manx music & dance were:

Outstanding achievement in Manx Music: Owen Williams, 13, Castle Rushen High School

Owen is a dedicated member of the Manx music youth group Bree – Manx for ‘vitality’ – which performs at many community events. He is self-taught on a wide range of instruments, such as the whistle, concertina and bagpipes, takes piano lessons and plays cornet with a brass band. He enjoys composing Manx music, with his band ‘The Unwanted’ recently winning a Manx Folk Awards competition category with his composition.

Outstanding contribution to Manx Culture by a student under the age of 18: Michelle Jamieson, 16, Castle Rushen High School

Michelle is an accomplished and dedicated musician, actor and dancer, who has held the titles of Young Singer in Mann and Young Actor in Mann. Representing the Island at the recent Pan Celtic Festival in Ireland, the band Shenn Scoill, in which Michelle is the Manx Gaelic singer, beat off competition from five other Celtic nations with their song, Tayrn Mee Thie (Drawing Me Home). She has played various roles through her work with amateur dramatic societies on the Island including her role as Mary in the promenade performances of the Manx Passion during Holy Week 2014.

Outstanding contribution to Manx Culture by a group under the age of 25: Michael Primary School

As part of their Island of Culture celebrations, the school held a special week exploring Manx culture ending in an exhibition and concert for family and friends. The pupils have created Archibald Knox-style artwork and Celtic crosses, listened to Manx folklore and performed Manx traditional dances, researched local wildlife and learnt to make Bonnag. The school staff and pupils strive to ensure that Manx culture is an everyday part of school life from Infants right through to Year 6.

Another young Manx musician was rewarded for her Outstanding achievement in Manx Language by a student under the age of 18: Isla Callister-Wafer, 17, QEII High School

Winner of the Manx music category in 2012, Isla continues to make a remarkable contribution to Manx culture, making it both visible and accessible to people of all ages. Her enthusiasm, commitment and sense of humour have all helped her in working closely with Culture Vannin to help develop, record and produce numerous short Manx videos for the Manx Gaelic Video-a-Day project.

Full report: https://www2.sch.im/groups/decnews/wiki/ca7b8/North_American_Manx_Association_Awards.html

Massachusetts-based youth folk dance group ‘**And Sometimes Y**’ were also honoured with a DEC/Manx North American Award for the contribution to maintaining an awareness of the Isle of Man and its culture. Jeant dy mie!



Perree Bane and Grup de Ball Es Penell

report by John Dowling, Perree Bane

It has been a busy time for Perree Bane, with dancing out and the much anticipated visit from our friends from Menorca, Grup de Ball Es Penell.

Following on from their kind invitation last year to help celebrate the Groups' 25th anniversary, the IOM Year of Culture provided an excellent opportunity to extend an invitation to return the visit, which was accepted with alacrity.

18 originally signed up as their side but due to an accident and an illness 16 actually stepped off the 'plane and were whisked to King Williams' College which was to be their base for the duration of their visit. Fish and chips in Port Erin in the rain(!) was followed by testing of the local beers by the younger members at various hostelries in Castletown.



Dancing in Castletown Saturday morning in brilliant sunshine set the tone for their visit, the very strong instrumental and vocal music complimenting the energetic and choreographed dancing which was well received by the crowd. Down to Cregneash after lunch, fascinated by the Loaghtan sheep and coping with the rough surface admirably, with Perree Bane, as in Castletown earlier, providing the local contrast.

Sunday morning was an opportunity to see some of the Islands' industrial heritage, with a tram ride to Laxey and a tour of the Laxey Wheel. The two groups met up in Ramsey to participate in displays for Yn Chruinnaght, whilst the two secretaries (Esperanca Palliser for Es Penell and John Dowling for Perree Bane) attended the Garden Party at the Nunnery (in costume!).

Tynwald Day proved fascinating for the visitors; as at the Garden Party, it was all like something out of a movie for them! Dancing on the back field and front they wowed the many spectators, but all good things come to an end and due to work commitments 8 of them had to take the 'plane back to Menorca in the evening, missing out on the traditional Perree Bane beach barbeque and the ceili, Viking reanactment and pipe band back in St Johns.

The remaining members of Es Penell enjoyed visiting Peel on Tuesday and Fort Island on Wednesday where our knowledgeable Carol filled them in on the local history. Lunch at the Golf Club rounded things off.

Grup de Ball Es Penell were a joy to host, always up for whatever was asked of them and always entertaining. True they ran out of legs by Tynwald Mills on Tynwald Day but so also had several PB members!



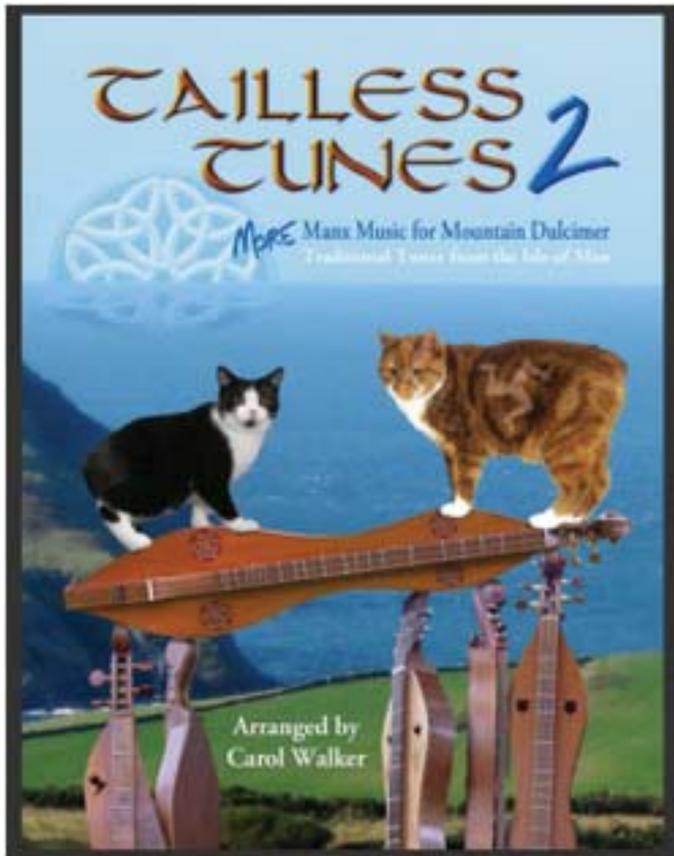
Many thanks to Perree Bane for a real team effort in chauffeuring them around and supporting them at the various dance venues, Fiona for the programme (in Catalan thanks to Clare and Max!) and for all the extra tasks without which such an event would not happen.

Many thanks also to the Arts Council, whose generous support made it all possible.

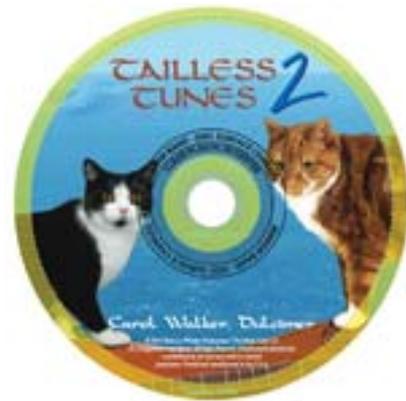
New Manx music book for mountain dulcimer

One of our Manx music ambassadors in the USA has produced another fantastic collection of arrangements for the mountain dulcimer.

Carol Walker's *Tailless Tunes 2 - More Manx Music for Mountain Dulcimer - Traditional Tunes from the Isle of Man* picks up where her first book left off, with over 50 more tunes, including recently composed ones such as "Eileen, My Vyrneen" by Bob Carswell, "You're Never too Old" by Laura Rowles, and "Mish as y Keayn" by Annie Kissack. The book comes with a CD of Carol demonstrating all of the tunes - a lovely album to listen to in its own right.



Carol estimates that there are dulcimer players in 40 states now playing Manx music, and she's intent on continuing to spread the word! She performed tunes from the new book in upstate New York last weekend, will be teaching a Manx workshop in Alabama in September and is booked to teach an all-day Manx workshop in Connecticut in November.



You can find out more and order a copy of the new book/CD for \$29.95 plus shipping from her website: www.musicladycarol.com/store.html

Youngsters to celebrate Manx culture this summer

Culture Vannin is organising a special Summer School (18-22 August) for young people aged 10-18, to celebrate *Island of Culture*. During the five days, students will have a go at Manx music, dance, drama, art, media, speak Manx, and learn about their local history.

Highlights will include traditional craft workshops with John 'Dog' Callister where the students will make bumbie cages and St. Bridget's crosses; a history tour of Douglas with Charles Guard to learn about the holiday industry of yesteryear; they'll bring Manx fairytale creatures to life with illustrator Gary Myers; record Manx Gaelic phrases for an interactive computer game; create a new play on a Manx historical theme; and learn some songs, music, dances and *gynsagh beggan Gaelg* to showcase in a final concert for family and friends.

The summer school will be held at the Youth Arts Centre on Kensington Road, Douglas from 10am-4pm on Mon 18 – Fri 22 August. Places are limited and cost £50 for the five days.

see end of KMJ for application form or download from:

www.culturevannin.im/cms/news_story_325981.html

Application deadline: Mon 11 August

**Culture
VANNIN**

Manx in Lorient

As reported in last month's KMJ, the Isle of Man is sending a strong delegation to Festival Interceltique de Lorient this month (1-10 August) with The Mollag Band, The Norwegian-Manx Project, Mec Lir, Ny Fennee, Davy Knowles, the Ruth Keggins Trio and artist Nicola Dixon all flying the flag for the IOM. One highlight will be 'Les Femmes Gaeliques' (Gaelic Women) concert, where our very own Manx Gaelic singer Ruth Keggins will star alongside Scottish Gàidhlig singer Julie Fowlis and world-renowned Irish singer Mary Black in the Espace Marine.

<http://www.festival-interceltique.com/>

Rachel Hair takes Manx harp music to USA

Culture Vannin's harp teacher Rachel Hair is teaching Manx tunes at the Somerset Folk Harp Festival in New Jersey this week. The four day conference includes 125 classes and workshops, and as well as giving a concert, Rachel will be leading two workshops: "An introduction to Manx music" and "Manx traditional dance music".

www.rachelhair.com

Manx trio **Barrule** join Irish songbird Cara Dillon for an evening concert at Sidmouth Folk Week on Sat 2

August. www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk



Rushen Silver Band
& Ballafesson Brass

'An Island Journey'



Rushen Silver Band premièred a newly-commissioned suite called *An Island Journey* last month.

Sponsored by the Gough Ritchie Trust, the new work is inspired by the Isle of Man railways, and consists of three movements: "Rattle Down" (from the north - Ramsey to Douglas), "The Seven Kingdoms", and "Steaming To The South".

The piece is based on composer Alan Fernie's travels on the railways last time he was on the Island! Mr Fernie is one of the world's most sought after composers and arrangers of brass band music and he came over to conduct the piece for the concert held at Rushen Primary School.

To watch a video of the performance, check out the [Rushen Silver Band facebook page](#).

Yn Chruinnaght review

Another action-packed Yn Chruinnaght brought Celtic culture to Peel, Ramsey and Douglas last month.

The fabulous Friel Sisters charmed audiences with their traditional Irish music and song, as did their special guest, 13 year old Manx concertina player Owen Williams, who joined them on stage for a tune he'd learnt at their workshop that morning; blues guitarist Davy Knowles' new collaboration with Manx trad artists was deemed a big success; Irish, Menorcan, Breton, Manx and Cornish dancers took to the floor (and grass) at the Mooragh Park, the Villa Arcade, Peel Golf Club and the House of Manannan; the 150th anniversary of Manx artist Archibald Knox was celebrated with a specially commissioned design by Nicola Dixon, a lecture by Yvonne Cresswell and events linking to MNH's Celtic Style exhibition at the HoM; a dozen young harpists from Claasagh wowed audiences at one of the IOM Arts Council's free summer season concerts; language experts discussed bi-lingualism for BBC Radio Ulster; the committee band and visiting acts performed in schools and live-at-home scheme luncheon clubs; Jamie Smith's Mabon returned to YC after 7 years, with their inimitable style and good humour; there were fantastic debut performances from rising young stars The Unwanted, Bree, Michelle Jamieson and Azariah; beautiful Celtic arts and crafts were made, sold and exhibited; The Mollags released their long-anticipated album *Afloat*; lively informal sessions sprung up in Peel's finest pubs; Matt Creer won new hearts with his self-penned songs; and the festival was generally a jolly nice gathering of friends, new and old!

YC is grateful for the support of Culture Vannin, IOM Arts Council and Manx Telecom. *Roll on 2015!*

In the meantime, look and listen out for coverage on BBC NI news and BBC Radio Ulster who came over especially to record the festival.

[SEE OVER FOR YC2014 IN PICTURES >>](#)

Yn Chruinnaght 2014

Thanks to Jiri Podobsky & Val Caine for permission to use their photos





Liverpool Festival of Ideas

On Friday 25th July, not only did the 50-foot high Royal DeLuxe company 'giants' take to the city of Liverpool, so did the Manx!

A number of Manx music performances were organised by the University of Liverpool as part of the Festival of Ideas (organised in association with the Centre for Manx Studies and with support from the Isle of Man Arts Council).

The Chronicles duo [pictured] gave a recital in the magnificent Metropolitan Cathedral, which was followed by performances from Nish As Rish (featuring Manx musicians Ruth Keggin, Karl Kramer and Alistair Dunlop), Ruth Keggin Trio, and Mec Lir in a gigantic marquee in Abercromby Square.

Bunscoill wins visit from Davy Knowles!

Pupils from Bunscoill Ghaelgagh were treated to a special visit from Davy Knowles, their prize for winning the Manx Folk Awards Island of Culture category with their five-minute multimedia presentation celebrating the school's Manx music, dance, song and drama activities. The children also entertained Davy with some Manx music themselves! [pic: Tommy Skillicorn & Davy Knowles]

Full story: www2.sch.im/groups/decnews/wiki/0e4d1/



RUINS OF BALLACREGGAN

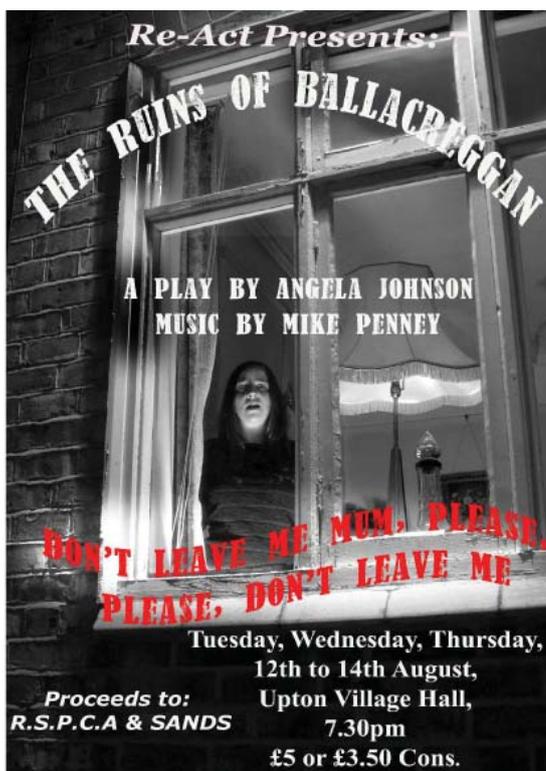
A new play called **The Ruins of Ballacreggan** will be performed in Chester this month by local community theatre group, Re-Act. Written by Angela Johnson, the play is partially set in the Isle of Man and it draws on aspects of Manx folklore and legend, particularly Manannan's link with South Barrule. Mike Penney has composed music to accompany the songs specially written for the play by Angela.

12th-14th "The Ruins of Ballacreggan" at Upton Village Hall, Chester, 7.30. £5/3.50

ELLAN VANNIN SUITE

American publisher Alfred has just published a new medley of Manx folk tunes for beginner wind band!

The *Ellan Vannin Suite* is arranged by Douglas E. Wagner and the medley includes Manx tunes "Sweetwater in the Common", "The Good Old Way" and "The Harvest of the Sea". Thanks to John Kinley for spotting this new work!



You can listen to it here: www.jwpepper.com/Ellan-Vannin-Suite/10303050.item#.U80VLIzZfV8

Learn Irish dance

You may have watched the fantastic 'Bailey Murray Academy of Irish Dancing' performing outside the House of Manannan at Yn Chruinnaght last month. If your child would like to take lessons, they are offering the first class free of charge. **Beginners classes:** Friday 5-7pm and Saturday 3-5pm or **Intermediate classes:** Friday 7-9pm and Saturday 5-7pm at St Mathew's Church Hall, Douglas. There is also a combined class on Sundays 10am-12pm at Gena's Dance Studio in Peel. Email: baileymurrayacademy@live.com for more details.

RESEARCH NEWS

A Very Gifted Manx Lady - The Life of Kathleen Rydings

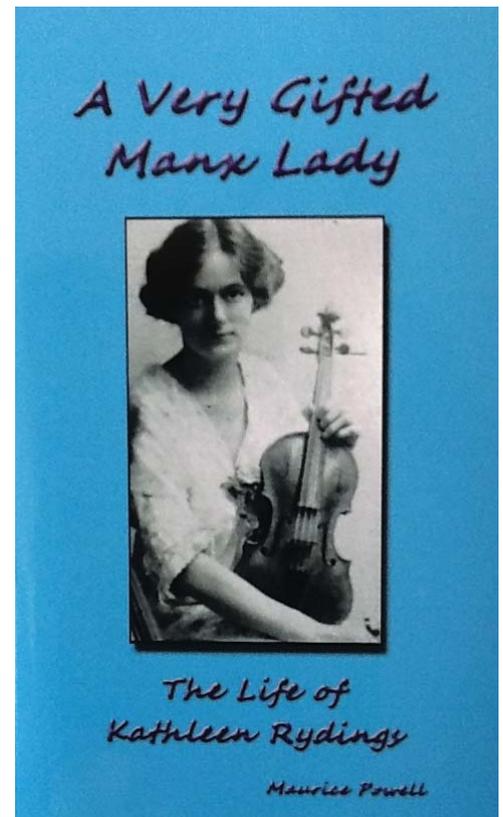
NEW BOOK by Maurice Powell

Kathleen Rydings' long association with the Manx Amateur Orchestral Society featured in *ENCORE! The Story of the Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra* (Maurice Powell, 2013), but it became clear during the preparation of that book, that her life demanded an in-depth investigation and a more fitting and personal tribute.

Her musical career began in the age of Gilbert and Sullivan, and ended shortly after the appearance of Eric Coates' Dambusters March, in other words, from the beginnings to the heyday of the genre we generally call British Light Music. She was born in the mining village of Laxey on the East coast of the Isle of Man, the daughter of Egbert Rydings, the founder of the St George's Woollen Mill, and an amateur violinist, singer, choir conductor and man of letters. An exceptionally talented young violinist, she was a pupil of both Harry and Haydn Wood, and won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in 1903 to study with Achille Rivarde, and extended her scholarship for a year to study with Cesar Thomson in Brussels. In 1912 she formed her own piano trio, The Kathleen Rydings Trio, and was engaged by a large department store in fashionable Eastbourne for ten years, to provide twice-daily concerts in their luxurious and genteel cafeteria.

She returned to the Island after World War I with her trio, and as the Strand Trio, was resident at the Strand Cinema and the Picture House in Douglas during the last decade of the 'silent' film era. In 1930, she was appointed conductor of the Manx Amateur Orchestral Society, a post she held for twenty-five years, and embarked on a career as one of the best-known and influential violin teachers in the Island's history. The late Alan Pickard was among her pupils. The Kathleen Rydings Trio featured in countless musical events both large and small throughout the 1930s, 40s and 50s, and Kathleen herself was a familiar, well-loved and highly respected figure at the annual Manx Music Festivals, directing her ensemble of pupils, the Avondale Strings. Essentially a shy and retiring person, she eschewed a career as a concert violinist, and returned to her roots. Her subsequent career may have less illustrious than some of her contemporaries, but Kathleen Rydings was a fine musician, and deserves to be remembered as a stalwart of the Island's musical life.

A Very Gifted Manx Lady is published by Wibble Publishing, and is available from Manx Museum, Douglas; House of Mannanan, Peel; Lexicon, Douglas; St Paul's Bookshop, Ramsey; The Bridge Bookshop, Port Erin; Laxey Woollen Mill or from the author at jommelli@manx.net **Price £8.99**



~ SESSIONS ~

WED 8.30pm Session at O'Donnells, Douglas

THURS 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey

FRI 8.30-11pm Green's Tea Rooms, St Johns

FRI 9pm Irish at The Mitre, Ramsey

Shoh Slaynt (1st/2nd Fri of month), 8.30pm, Highwayman, Peel

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

SAT 10pm Manx at The White House, Peel

Histories and Mysteries 6 – the secret life of traditional music in the Isle of Man

Discover more about the tunes entitled *Shannon Rea* in the Clague-Gill Collection in this article by David Speers:

http://manxmusic.com/news_story_329892.html

“MISS TODD,” “MISS M.L. WOOD,” AND “MISS MCKNIGHT.”

Deemster J.F. Gill wrote to his brother W.H. Gill on 8 July 1895, “I return the M.S. with some rough notes made when Miss Todd played them [interlined music] for me.” The manuscript was a transcript of the tunes the brothers had collected together earlier that year and it was evident that the Deemster could not read music and so “Miss Todd” was pressed into service. She was not the only woman to play a role in this regard. A.W. Moore was assisted as he acknowledged in *Manx Ballads and Music* by “Miss M.L. Wood” and “Miss McKnight.”

Miss Todd was Rhoda Todd, aged 52 in the 1891 census and the principal of a private school at “Cleveland” in Woodbourne Place, Douglas. She was English but her niece, Margaret Quiggin, born in Douglas, was a pupil there so she had a Manx connection through a marriage in the family. The school had ten pupils, four of whom had been born in India, one in England, and the remaining five were from the Island. Besides herself as principal there were three governesses, one born in Brazil though a British subject. A cook and a domestic servant made up the rest of the staff.

Edith Lilian McKnight was not in the Island for the 1891 census but was recorded there in 1901. She was 39 years old, born in England, a self-employed music teacher, renting two rooms as a boarder in the Teare household, a family of blacksmiths living at “Beach View” in Douglas Street, Castletown. She was, however, sufficiently well regarded as a musician to be drawn into assisting the work on *Manx Ballads and Music*. Mary Louisa Wood was the prime arranger of the tunes that appeared in the book. Aged 51 in the 1891 census, she was enumerated as an “Organist & Choir Trainer,” living at 1 Osborne Terrace in Douglas and sharing the house there with Annette Valentine Wood, 62, a widow and “Certified Pianoforte Teacher”. Both were born in London. She died in 1925, the *Peel City Guardian* recording that “[t]hough not Manx by birth Miss Wood was essentially Manx in sentiment, and all her compositions are influenced by that sentiment.”

Stephen Miller, Vienna

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

S'liack Lhiam Bine dy Yough Jig

by Greg Joughin &
Sarah Hewson
(The Mollag Band)

The image shows a musical transcription of the jig "S'liack Lhiam Bine dy Yough". It consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff starts with an Am chord and ends with an Fma7 chord. The second staff starts with a G chord and ends with an Am chord. The third staff starts with an Am chord and ends with an Fma7 chord. The fourth staff starts with a G chord and ends with an Am chord. There is a repeat sign at the end of the second staff.

Play along with your new Mollag Band *Afloat* CD with this jig from their song “S’liack Lhiam Bine dy Yough”

CALENDAR

AUGUST

1st-10th Festival Interceltique Lorient, Brittany
www.festival-interceltique.com

3rd Peel Carnival featuring Manx music and dance, 10am – all day, FREE

8th Shoh Slaynt at The Tynwald Inn, 8.30pm

10th Cliogaree Twoaie & Possan Noa,
Groudle Railway Cliff Top Cafe, 2pm. FREE

12th-14th "The Ruins of Ballacreggan" - new play with Manx inspired music. Upton Village Hall, Chester, 7.30. £5/3.50

18th-22nd **Culture Vannin Summer School** for students aged 10-18, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, see form attached. www.culturevannin.im

21st Laura and Dave Rowles & Perree Bane, IOM Arts Council summer season, Villa Arcade, 8pm FREE

28th Shoh Slaynt, IOM Arts Council summer season, Villa Arcade, 8pm FREE

SEPTEMBER

2th Skeeal concert at St German's Cathedral, Peel FREE

5th Shoh Slaynt at The Tynwald Inn, 8.30pm

20th I Love Culture, Villa Marina - *Island of Culture* concert featuring Manx entertainment in various genres. More details to come...

Shoh Slaynt are offering three spots to musicians who would like to sing/play at their monthly Tynwald gigs, starting with 8th August.

Each spot is enough for 4 songs/tunes and you can use their gear. Please contact the trio [see their Facebook page] to arrange to perform and see their other performance dates.

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online:
www.manxmusic.com



We welcome your stories, photos, reports, musings - all on Manx music and dance, of course. Just send something in if you want to share it with hundreds of direct KMJ readers worldwide and thousands more online!

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

Manx Music Specialist **Dr Chloë Woolley**: chloe@culturevannin.im

www.manxmusic.com

Call: Chloë: 01624 695787

or write to: Music Team, Culture Vannin, The Stable Building, The University Centre, Old Castletown Road, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 1QB

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

Culture VANNIN

**£50 for
five days**

SUMMER SCHOOL 2014

For students aged 10-18

**Explore Manx culture with workshops in
music ~ Gaelic language ~ history
dance ~ art ~ drama ~ film & media**

Monday 18 - Friday 22 August

10am - 4pm

Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas

TAKING OUR CULTURE FORWARD

**Showcase for family and friends
at 3pm Fri 22 August**

Further info: chloe@culturevannin.im or tel. 01624 695787

CULTURE VANNIN SUMMER SCHOOL 2014 APPLICATION FORM

Name/Ennym _____
School/Scoil _____ DOB/LR _____
Address/Enmys _____
Tel./Çhell. _____
Email/Post-l _____

I am interested in (tick):

Manx language (beginner) Manx language (advanced)
singing music dance history drama media art

Brief info about me:

e.g. which instruments I play (if any!)/exams/level of Manx Gaelic/relevant groups or clubs I belong to/particular interests/further information/medical needs, etc.

Students must:

- attend all five days, unless otherwise agreed
- bring a packed lunch or written permission to leave premises (U16)
- bring their own instrument/s & dance shoes (where applicable)

Send this form and a cheque for £50 made payable to 'Culture Vannin' to: Culture Vannin Summer School, c/o The Stable Building, The University Centre, Old Castletown Road, Douglas IM2 1QB

*** IMPORTANT** * Students will be filmed/photographed during the Summer School for promo use on the Culture Vannin website. Parents please sign here **if you object** to your child appearing on film and in photos: