

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Toshiaght Arree 2021 February

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Isla's Manx Mondays!

Manx fiddle player, Isla Callister has just launched her #ManxMondays, which is a new series of videos featuring Manx music that'll be posted every Monday throughout February on her Instagram and Facebook page. Isla has kicked off the series with a melody most suited to today - the first of February:

WATCH HERE: www.facebook.com/islacallistermusic/posts/764329144177293

She says: "The 1st of February marks Laa'l Vreeshey (St. Bridget's day) on the Isle of Man, and to celebrate I decided to do a wee arrangement of a traditional Manx Gaelic song about St. Bridget. I have loved this song and melody since I can remember, and have so many fond memories of all the traditions that come along with it."

WEB & SHEET MUSIC:

<http://islacallister.com/blog/1>

Isla, who is based in Glasgow, was Musician of the Week for the BIT Collective recently www.facebook.com/thebitcollective and she plays with the fantastic band **TRIP** who have a debut album coming soon.

Their keyboard player, Michael Biggins just scooped the 2021 BBC Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the year! www.facebook.com/TRIPceol

Isla also recently joined Chris Gray for his 'CC 2021 Tune a day 2' with two Manx jigs; My Shenn Ayr and Haste to the West: <https://chrisgraymusic.com/>



In this month's edition...

- Music from the WW2 internment camps
- Manx dance films from Cwlwm Celtaidd 2020
- NEW extra difficult Manx music quiz no. 5!

Culture VANNIN

MOORAGH - “Beyond the barbed wire..”

80 years after his release from the Mooragh Internment Camp in Ramsey, the music of Peter Gellhorn has been brought back to life on film, recorded in the very location it was composed during World War Two.

The Isle of Man saw thousands of people interned in quickly-erected camps all over the Isle of Man during the War. The first to open was Mooragh Camp in May 1940, on the northern promenade in Ramsey. Very soon it saw the arrival of a great England-dwelling musician, Peter Gellhorn.



Born in Breslau, Germany in 1912, Peter Gellhorn was a professional conductor and composer based in England until the outbreak of war, whereupon he was arrested as an ‘enemy alien’ and interned in the Mooragh. While there, Gellhorn gave piano recitals, played the organ in the local church, directed ensembles and choirs, and composed several works, including a piece called “Mooragh”. Gellhorn was released on 21 January 1941 after intervention by Ralph Vaughan Williams in his role as chair of the Committee for the Release of Interned Alien Musicians, and he went on to conduct operas at Glyndebourne and Convent Garden as well as being musical director for the BBC Singers and teaching at several universities. He died in 2004.

‘Singing a Song in a Foreign Land,’ is a research and performance project which highlights the contribution of musicians who fled from Nazi Germany and Austria to musical life in Britain and beyond, and in 2017, Culture Vannin worked with Professor Norbert Meyn from the Royal College of Music to bring the Alke String Quartet and professional singers from the college to the Island.

The ensemble gave several public performances and school workshops during their visit, but Culture Vannin also took the opportunity to film them performing Peter Gellhorn’s music in Ramsey Town Hall and inside one of the apartments on Mooragh Promenade which was once a part of the internment camp.

It was especially fitting that Gellhorn’s daughter Barbara was able to accompany the ensemble on the visit. In an interview filmed on Mooragh Promenade, Barbara Gellhorn said: “The thing I remember most clearly is him talking about looking up at the hill and not being able to go there... hearing the music written here is really moving... It felt like he was here”.

In another film, Norbert Meyn recites the lyrics of "Mooragh" which Gellhorn had set to a poem by a fellow internee at the camp.

Interviews and musical performances are now available to watch on:

www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/mooragh-internment-camp-music-660686/

More information about Peter Gellhorn, his music, and his time interned in the Isle of Man is available here: www.petergellhorn.com and more about the Royal College of Music's ongoing project here: <https://www.rcm.ac.uk/singingasong/>

Free sheet music for "Mooragh":

https://8f53495e-5428-4133-894d-c94a3cd819b0.filesusr.com/ugd/2fed8e_26ee1f89bc604ab8b7de2a27be9ffbfc.pdf

and other free printable scores by Gellhorn: www.petergellhorn.com/sheet-music

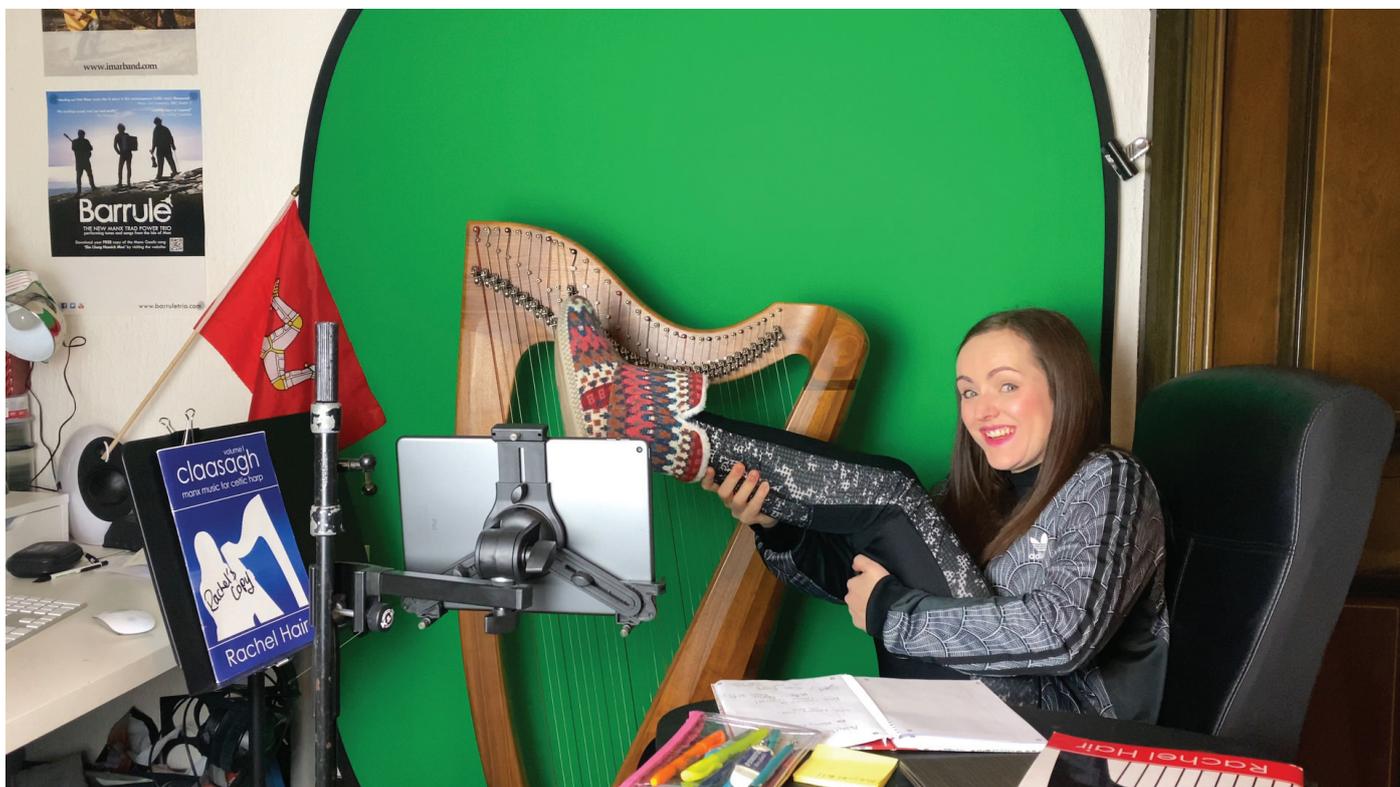


Mooragh, July, 1940

F. F. Bieber (dates unknown) Peter Gellhorn (1912-2004)

© 2016 Royal College of Music, London (graphic rights only), and Mary, Barbara, Martin and Philip Gellhorn. All rights reserved.





Closed borders can't stop Manx harp!

Despite the latest lockdown, last month was full of harp lessons.

In the days before March 2020, these would have taken place in Culture Vannin, with the leading Scottish harp player, Rachel Hair : Harp Player, coming over to spend time teaching Manx tunes to the Island's leading young harp players.

But in these strange times, this is now all happening remotely with the help of the internet (and some valiant parents at home with their tablets & phones!)

Rachel was nominated as the Tutor of the Year recently at the Scots Trad Music Awards, and she has been coming over through Culture Vannin to teach the Island's young harp players for years, pushing them to new heights.

The results are obvious in the Island, with the wonderful musicians (like Mera Royle, of course) emerging from Claasagh (Rachel's Manx harp student group), and she has helped to create an environment where Manx harp music is synonymous with something exciting and inspiring!

Jeant dy mie, Rachel & all the wonderful students who are thriving under her guidance, taking Manx music to new heights!

Some useful links might be these:

- * More on Rachel's work in Manx music: <https://www.rachelhair.com/manxharp/>
- * Mera Royle on the influence of Rachel Hair: https://youtu.be/_chBwRMnNLQ
- * Claasagh in performance a couple of years ago: <https://youtu.be/9pU-SOpaC0U>
- * Hear Rachel's music here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/rachelhair>
- * More on Claasagh & Rachel's lessons here:
www.manxmusic.com/performer_274720.html

Photo - Rachel teaching in her slippers!!

How well do you know your Manx songs, tunes & dances?!

TAKE QUIZ no. 5 OR ONLINE: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQK7DM7>

WARNING - EXTRA
DIFFICULT!

1. Who collected the tune, "Arrane Ghelby"?

- A. Sophia Morrison B. William Henry Gill C. Dr John Clague D. Mona Douglas

2. Which band recorded a track called "Insignificant Set"?

- A. Mec Lir B. King Chiaullee C. Scran D. Skeeal

3. Who wrote the tune, "Auldyn River"?

- A. Paul Ramsey B. Paul Cringle C. Paul Clypse D. Ramsey Douglas

4. Where did Click, Clock and Cluck come from?

- A. Scotland B. Cornwall C. Wales D. Ireland

5. Which year was 'Manx Ballads and Music' published?

- A. 1820 B. 1896 C. 1921 D. 1976

6. Where did Cashen go in "Ta Cashen ersooyl...?"

- A. To the ocean B. To the market C. To war D. To the castle

7. What is the name of the Manx song which shares the same melody as "O What if the Fowler my Blackbird has taken"?

- A. Ishbel Foalsey B. Graih my Chree C. Graih Foalsey D. Arrane y Lhondhoo

8. What is the name of Flanagan's girl? The one who wanted to be taken to the Isle of Man again!

- A. Sally Ann B. Mary Ann C. Sarah Jane D. Mary Jane

9. Which band sing "Magh ass e Kishtey"?

- A. a'Nish B. Skeeal C. Biskee Brisht D. Clash Vooar

10. Who wrote "I'm a Native of Peel"?

- A. Harry Wood B. Stuart Slack C. Arnold Foster D. CW Murphy

< Answers at the end of KMJ >>

LAA'L BRESHEY – ST BRIDGET'S DAY

It was customary to keep this festival on the eve of the first of February, in honour of the Irish lady who came over to the Isle of Man to receive the veil from St. Maughold. The custom was to gather a bundle of green rushes, and, standing with them in the hand on the threshold of the door, to invite St. Bridget to come and lodge with them that night saying:

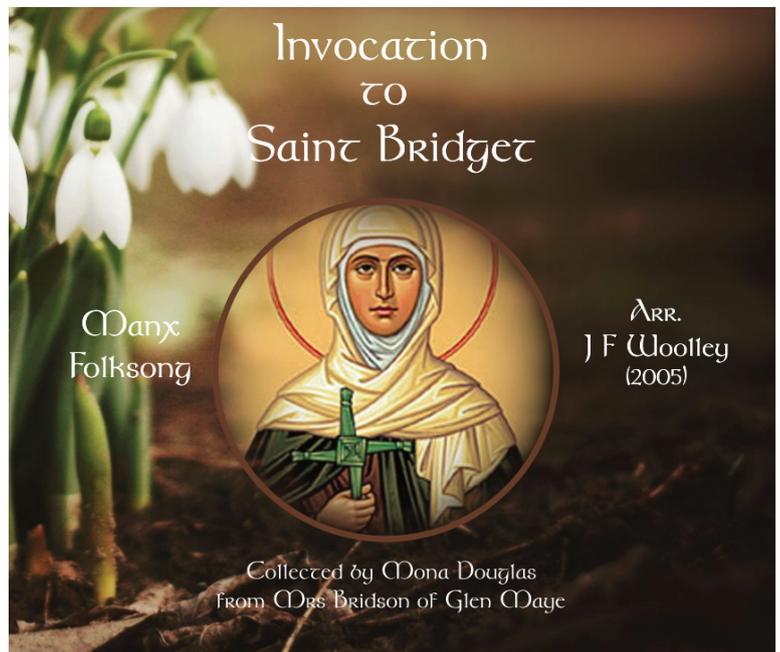
“Bridget, Bridget, come to my house,
come to my house tonight, open the
door to Bridget, and let Bridget come
in.”

“Vreeshey, Vreeshey, tar gys my hie,
tar gys y thie aym nocht. Vreeshey tar
gys y thie aym nocht.

O foshil jee yn dorrys da Breeshey, as
lhig da Breeshey cheet stiagh.”

After these words were repeated, the
rushes were strewn on the floor by way
of a carpet or bed for her.

A parish church, a nunnery, and no
less than seven of the ancient keeills
(chapels) or cells are named after her in
the Isle of Man, where she seems to have
been a great favourite.



And on St Bridget's Eve the old farmers' wives used to sweep out the barn, and put a bed, and a chair, and a table in, and light a large mould candle that would burn all night. And set bread and cheese on the table, with a quart jug of good Manx ale, all in the hope that Breeshey would pay them a visit. And they used to say at the open door before going to bed:

“Whosoever house you come to, come to ours tonight.”

“Quoi erbee yn thie hig oo, huggy tar gys yn thie aynyn.”

By Bernadette Weyde: <http://asmanxasthehills.com/laal-breeshey-st-bridgets-day-isle-of-man-manx-folk-tale/>

Sheet music for Invocation to St Bridget arr Frank Woolley:

www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_407801.html

Watch Ruth Keggin Gell tell this story: Oie'll Vreeshey: A story from Baldwin, Isle of Man:

<https://vimeo.com/309252818>

Story of the Chibbyr Vreeshey: St. Bridget's Well at The Nunnery: <https://vimeo.com/363597418>

More information and videos:

www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/laal-breeshey-469776/

• • • • •
• **Youtube/**
• **Soundcloud corner!**
• Emma Christian sings “Vreeshey,
• Vreeshey” in canon on her album
• *Beneath the Twilight:*
• <https://youtu.be/EDPDltKYkog>
• • • • •

MOIRREY NY CAINLE

February 2 – Laa'l Moirrey ny Cainle, Mary's Feast Day of the Candles, Candlemas.



“This dance was traditionally performed at Candlemas (2nd February) and the lighted candles were carried into church and blessed by the priest. The dance is done with four couples and an extra woman, ‘Moirrey’, who carries a lighted candle while each man carries an unlighted candle”.

Rinkaghyn Vannin - Dances of Mann

WATCH Perree Bane perform the dance: www.manxmusic.com/performer_128524.html

PLAY download the music and play along with Steady as she Goes soundtrack:

<https://culturevannin.bandcamp.com/track/set-12-moirrey-ny-cainle-the-fathaby-jig-2>

LISTEN Mera Royle playing the melody on the harp: <https://youtu.be/R-aF34k3XxI>

PLAY See ‘Transcription of the Month’ for a new arrangement for fingerstyle guitar





Skeddan Jiarg at Cwlwm Celtaidd films

Something to raise your spirits in these cold covid days...

Culture Vannin has released 5 films from those long-distant days when travelling to inter-Celtic festivals was still possible! These films feature Peel-based dance group, Skeddan Jiarg and include a performance of the women's dance, 'Shooyl Inneenyn'.

All available to enjoy here:

www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/skeddan-jiarg-at-cwlwm-celtaidd-660051/

These films were recorded at Cwlwm Celtaidd - The Celtic Festival of Wales back at the start of March last year, just before the curtain of covid dropped over the British Isles.

YouTube links:

Shooyl Inneenyn: <https://youtu.be/KArpJU2iFxs>

Cur Shaghey yn Geurey: <https://youtu.be/D9JxFgFoiFA>

Chyndaa yn Bwoailley: <https://youtu.be/NIXMYPcQdbw>

Girls' Jig: <https://youtu.be/UyfE3qBrIn0>

Bunscoil Gaelgagh students chat in Manx: https://youtu.be/U_iUyorGJzg

More about Skeddan Jiarg and how to get involved with the wonderful Manx dance groups around the Island is available here: www.manxmusic.com/group_index_74464.html

You can also enjoy learning some Manx dances courtesy of Skeddan Jiarg here:

www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-dance-lessons-579863/

This year's New Year's Honours list has named seven Manx residents who will receive awards from Her Majesty the Queen

Chief Constable Gary Roberts will receive a Queen's Police Medal, Edna Clarke will receive the British Empire Medal and Member of the British Empire medals will be awarded to Christian Varley, Charles Guard, John Riley, Jane Glover and Susan Waddecar.

*** MANX MUSICIANS ***

Charles Guard is an author, composer, musician, historian, filmmaker and broadcaster. During his different roles at Manx Radio he has contributed to public service broadcasting on the island. Throughout his career he has saved historic buildings and promoted Manx traditions and history. His wide-ranging and long standing contributions were recognised by the Isle of Man Newspapers' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018 and the following year he was awarded the Tynwald Honour. For his outstanding service to culture and heritage on the Isle of Man, Charles Guard will receive his MBE.

Harpist Charles also received an IOM Newspaper's Excellence Awards Lifetime achievement in 2018.

More about Charles Guard can be read here:

www.culturevannin.im/news_story_421700.html

Much of Charles' film work for Culture Vannin can be found here:

www.culturevannin.im/video_archive_index.html

His 2017 'Wonders of Mann' book is available here:

www.culturevannin.im/news_story_458115.

Hear some of Charles' compositions here:

<http://charlesguard.com>

Photo: Isle of Man Newspapers



John Riley has supported charities and organisations in the island and beyond. A retired headmaster, he devotes many hours a week to at least eight charities. He has led and organised



the Promenade Summer Concerts for many years, but is equally likely to be seen setting out the chairs for the audience as he is conducting the choirs and orchestras, playing the piano and singing. He has been described as the lynch pin that holds everything together and an invaluable contributor to the island's community for more than 40 years. Over 10 years, he raised £250,000 for an orphanage, and was on the ground helping to build a school for the children of a remote village in the Himalayas.

Photo: St Matthews Church

FULL ARTICLE: www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=59834

Calling all Creatives!

We are inviting you to be a part of our artist directory on iomarts.com!



1. Go to iomarts.com
2. Create an online profile
3. Add your creative business details onto our directory



We've been hard at work making our website all sparkly and wonderful and our next project is filling out the directory with all kinds of talent for our island to see.

We are on a search for artists, performers, filmmakers, music tutors, graphic designers and more to join the directory

It's a really simple process – just head over to www.iomarts.com and register for an account (if you don't already have one). Then, head to "My Account" and you'll spot the tab named "Artist Profile". Go ahead and click on that and then just fill it in however you like! There's space for an artist and images so feel free to be creative with it or if you're just wanting to advertise your service you can keep it simple!

It's totally up to you: iomartscouncil@gov.im.

SAVE THE DATE - MAKE MUSIC DAY!!



ISLE OF MAN
Laa Jannoo Kiaull
JUNE 21

LAA JANNOO KIAULL
MONDAY 21 JUNE

Who knows what MMD 2021 will bring...

One thing's for sure, Make Music Day will take place around the world (in 125 countries) as usual on 21 June!

If you would like to get involved, email Isle of Man representative Chloe Woolley: manxmusic@culturevannin.im
Loads of inspirational ideas and toolkits here:

<https://makemusicday.co.uk/>

Join LAA JANNOO KIAULL The Isle of Man's Make Music Day Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/makemusicdayIOM/

THE ROZ KELLY MUSIC BURSARY 2021

Closing date 4pm Monday 22nd February 2021

The Roz Kelly Music Bursary is awarded annually to enable two young musicians to separately attend the Music Summer School of their choice anywhere in the UK. Online programmes will be considered.

Eligible applicants are:

- Aged 16 – 21
- Resident in the Isle of Man
- Able to demonstrate their musical promise and enthusiasm through a written application
- Able to provide a written recommendation from a teacher, musical mentor or similar

Each award is up to a maximum of £1000 and it can only be used to fund travel to and participation costs of a UK based residential music summer school of the applicants' choice.

HOW TO APPLY: https://www.manxmusic.com/news_story_659588.html

A new film from Culture Vannin: 'Cammag: A player's view' with music by Mec Lir

Filmed at this year's great North-South match at St. John's (26 Dec), we wanted to give everyone an idea of what the game is like, from the thick of the action. - So we strapped a GoPro camera onto someone's chest, and we've now edited the beautiful thing together, complete with the scrums, ankle-hits and goal-mouth scrambles!



In fact, we are especially delighted that Dave Watt offered to wear the thing because, as well as being a great cammag player, he also managed to score all the south's goals - both of which are in the film! As well as to Dave, we also owe our enormous thanks to Mec Lir for allowing us to use some music from their new album. We're sure that everyone will see what perfect music it is for something as exciting and brilliant as cammag!

* The film: <https://youtu.be/OmtPQLJ-mtk>

* More information about the film: www.culturevannin.im/.../a-cammag-film-first-661170/

* More information about cammag: www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/cammag-560072/

CANCELLATION OF THE MANX MUSIC, SPEECH & DANCE FESTIVAL

STATEMENT FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Sadly, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's event.

Although the Festival was not due to take place until 24th April – 1st May we feel that there is too much uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. The safety and welfare of the competitors, audience, volunteers and all those who support the event is paramount. In addition the travel restrictions caused by the pandemic mean that our adjudicators may be unable to travel here.

The Executive has considered postponement and other options but, with regret, feel that planning such a major event is complex and time consuming and could be for nothing. Rehearsals and lessons are not taking place and we do not know for how long. Competitors and their teachers need clarity to avoid preparing in vain.

Festival chairman Anne Clarke said: 'We appreciate that many people will be disappointed by this news as we were hopeful that this year's Festival could go ahead as planned, however sadly it is not to be. We hope everyone can understand why we've had to take this difficult decision and would like to assure you that, pandemic permitting, the Guild will be back bigger, better and stronger than ever in the 130th year since its inception.'

We would like to thank our sponsors Dandara for their continued support.

kiull noa



Will Quale's had a bit of fun with images from Mec Lir's Flashback music video! If you haven't seen their tongue in cheek dance choreography yet, take a look!

<https://youtu.be/iBrkaIO2yoc>

GUITAR PIECE OF THE MONTH

THREE LITTLE BOATS: <https://vimeo.com/371252590>

Learn the tune from Pete Lumb, and download the music here, along with lots of other Manx pieces for finger-style guitar:

www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/manx-guitar-lessons-606045/

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

The Child That Has No Name by Illiam Dhone Band

"We are a couple of Manx fellas who are not able to get home. Throughout the UK lockdown, we have been writing some music about the Isle of Man to quench our home sickness.

We have published one song based the tale of The Child With No Name on YouTube.

One day soon, we hope to be able to get home and roam the hills again."

You can listen here: <https://youtu.be/nYM99l-tVws>

RESEARCH NEWS

“TWO COACH LOADS OF FRIENDS FROM RAMSEY” (1961)

The Oiel Verrey in Jurby East Methodist Chapel on Wednesday evening was a very popular event and two coach loads of friends from Ramsey swelled the numbers attending. The programme began with prayer offered by the Rev. J.R. Hunt, then the chairman (Mr Sydney Boulton) took over and members of the congregation came forward and gave musical items and recitations which were much appreciated. Miss Doris Faragher was the organist. Refreshments were served by the Jurby East ladies during an interval.

At the close a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr A.L. Callister to all who had taken part and assisted the effort, and Mr J.L. Callister, MHC, seconded. Later a gift stall in the Schoolroom did a brisk business with bunches of daffodils, eggs, fruit and other produce and in every way the evening was voted a great success.

Jurby East Chapel Anniversary was held on Sunday when the preacher was Mr E.H. Gale, of Bride, whose message was inspiring and challenging.

Two solos were rendered by Mrs W. Brew of Ramsey.

“Jurby East.” *Ramsey Courier* 3 October 1961: 8b.

The Oie'l Verrey in Jurby East Methodist Chapel was one that would have been unrecognisable in the past—a different date, a changed format, and one held in a Methodist chapel.... Nevertheless, though a changed one, still an Oie'l Verrey, and popular, with “two coach loads of friends from Ramsey” turning up on the night. The Oie'l Verrey then a chance to meet and renew acquaintances.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

“THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF WEEKLY CONCERTS” MUSIC MAKING AT DALBY (1896)

“The first of a series of weekly concerts which it is proposed to give during the visiting season, in aid of the Repairs Fund of St James' Church, was held in the Schoolroom, Dalby, on Thursday last. The entertainment, which was of a very high-class character, was greatly appreciated by the large audience present.” So reported the *Peel City Guardian* in its issue for 22 August 1896. Three concerts in number were held that summer and the paper reported the titles of the songs sung. The list when researched further would give an insight in popular music making in the Island in this period. The titles number some fifty-four and are: Asthore; Bid me to love; Carita; Daddy; Go, pretty rose; Hearts of oak; I cannot sing the new songs; I fear no foe; In the gloaming; Kocked in the cradle of the deep; Love's old sweet song; Margharita; Miss Benson; Morris dance; My lady's bower; My secret; My sweetheart when a boy; On the raft; Peter Gray; Queen of the earth; Shadow land; Should he upbraid; Song of the brotherhood; Tell her I love her so; Tell me, my heart; The anchor's weighed; The diver; The flight of ages; The Flying Dutchman; The gift; The last milestone; The lost chord; The love chase; The merry monk; The oak and the ash; The old lock; The Patti waltz song; The pilot; The polka and the choir boy; The silver wedding; The sleep of the flowers; The three jolly sailor boys; The tin gee-gee; The Vicar of Bray; This work-a day world; Tit for tat; To Anthea; Vainka's Song; When I'm big, I'll be a soldier; When sorrow sleepeth; Whisper and I shall hear; Wrap me up in my old tarpaulin jacket.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

REFERENCES

“Concert at Dalby,” *Peel City Guardian* 22 August 1896, [3]a; “Concert at Dalby,” *Peel City Guardian* 29 August 1896, [2]f; “Concert at Dalby,” *Peel City Guardian* 5 September 1896, [3]b.

Manx music and dance revival in the 20th Century

The Manx traditional music and dance scene is vibrant today, with the promise of a healthy future, and we can thank some very determined people for keeping these traditions alive.

Here we look back at some of the significant milestones on this journey – with apologies to those not mentioned due to space restrictions.

The first publication of Manx folk music was *The Mona Melodies* in 1820, but a far more influential book was *The Manx National Song Book*, published in 1896, where classics such as “The Manx Wedding” and “The Sheep Under the Snow” became household favourites.

Manx National Songs was based on a collection of more than 300 melodies collected by Dr John Clague and the Gill brothers, at the same time as AW Moore was ‘rescuing’ Gaelic songs for his *Manx Ballads and Music*.

Hot on their heels was Sophia Morrison. Best known for her book of *Manx Fairy Tales* and her work in reviving the Manx language, she also collected songs, including the beautiful melody, “Arrane Ghelby”. It was she who encouraged the young Mona Douglas to start her own collecting.

Throughout her long life, Mona published music, songs and dances, working with many others to restore and bring them back to life. She also built a community of enthusiastic performers through the Manx Folk Dance Society and Aeglagh Vannin youth group.

The 1970s saw significant change in the Isle of Man – its new status as an offshore financial centre prompted a building boom which was seen, by some, as a threat to the traditional way of life. Harpist Charles Guard and folksingers The Mannin Folk were already popular, but the political unrest provoked others to take a renewed interest in what was uniquely Manx.

Another milestone was the rediscovery of the original Clague Collection

in the Manx Museum library. Out of it grew a purely Manx music session called ‘Bwoie Doal’ (named after one of Clague’s informants) in Peel and out of this emerged Gaelic singers such as Brian Stowell, dance group Bock Yuan Fannee and choir Cliogaree Twoaie.

The protagonist of the session, Colin Jerry, published *Kiaull yn Theay* in 1978; a tune book that still provides the core repertoire for learners and performers.

That same year, Yn Chruinnaght inter-Celtic festival was revived by Mona Douglas with concerts, ceilis, competitions, exhibitions and visiting acts. New Manx groups such as Mactullagh Vannin, Mooinjer Veggey, The Mollag Band, Tholtan Builders and Caarjyn Coidjagh found a supportive audience, alongside dance groups like Ny Fennee and Perree Bane. Likewise, since the ‘70s, ties with the Celtic cousins were reinforced each year with Manx performers attending Lowender Peran in Cornwall, the Pan-Celtic in Ireland and Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany.

Singer and harpist Emma Christian took Manx music to international audiences with her successful album, *Beneath the Twilight* in 1994. Increasingly experimental albums by young bands of the ‘90s such as Paitchyn Vannin, King Chiaullee and Moot show Manx music was confidently alive and kicking by the millennium. Thanks to those who have gone before, Manx music is now well established and we look forward to building on those firm foundations.

By Dr Chloe Woolley for the Manx Independent 21.01.2021

[photo - Bock Yuan Fannee 1980s]





Some brilliant photos from David Radcliffe's archive!

Faces from the past include; Mona Douglas, Colin Jerry, Sam Scarffe and Paul Lebedzinski.



Dance groups Ny Fennee, Manx Folk Dance Society and Perree Bane pictured between 1985-88 by David Radcliffe

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

1. *Rinkaghyn Vannin* ~ 1.4 Yn Mheillea

Perversely, this dance has the some of the earliest references and yet is one of the most recently completed of the Manx traditional dances.

According to Quayle in his *General View of the Agriculture of the Isle of Man, 1812*, the Manx peasants were much attached to dancing. This could be

seen on the evening of the cutting of the last sheaf of corn, when the farmer called in a fiddler or two. This celebration marked the last day the women labourers were present to work and involved much dancing and celebration, as well as the Queen of the 'mellow'. A circular dance was performed at this celebration where the last sheaf was passed



between the women. However, according to Hall Caine in 1894 in his recollections of childhood, at a Melliah [sic] that he attended there was no dancing as the host was a local preacher.

The first record of the dance as it is danced today comes in Douglas' 1937 paper in which she states that the dance is still incomplete, although the dance appears to be generally known. This would appear to have been taken from her handwritten notes in her *Folklore Notebook: Dance* (MNHL 09545 Box 9) in which there is a reference to a circular harvest dance. Informants for this dance are 'Granny' and Charles Watterson of Castletown. However, the description is loose – a circle around the Queen of the Mheillea and the Babban (baby fashioned out of corn), followed by winding in and out in a chain, raising their hands above their heads and shouting 'hogh!' at intervals. Quite correctly, Douglas asserts that this is not enough information for reconstruction.

However, a full version appears to have been collected as a singing game from Children in Patrick, according to notation to the dance in Stowell's papers. Here the dance is similar to that danced today but lacks the final Manx Waltz movement, and is given in handwritten notation and attributed to Douglas. In 1943 the dance was performed with a Mheillea queen and Babban at St. John's school, according to correspondence found in Douglas' papers (MNHL 09545 Box 19). In the *Journal of the Manx Museum*, no.64, 1945 the dance is declared to be reconstructed and the tune noted from J Kelly of Baldrine, an apparent mine of dance information. A number of papers appear with typed notes to the dance, although frustratingly without dates. The dance differs each time, sometimes with the men 'balancing' in the chorus, other times performing a 'toe-knee' movement, and variously with or without the Manx Waltz movement. However, the dance was obviously popular enough to warrant a mention from Stenning (1950).

Peculiarly, Stowell's papers give a single mention to the Laare Vane being associated with the dance. In one of his many lectures, handwritten and stored with his papers, Stowell asserts that the Laare Vane put his head in the lap of the Mheillea Queen and went on to tell the future. There appears to be no evidence to back up this assertion, and many references to the Laare Vane being associated with New Year that would suggest this information is erroneous (see notes on Mylecharane's March).

The tune to the dance then appears on Daunseyn Theayagh Vannin LP (1973) with notes relating to the Mheillea Queen, the Babban ny Mheillea and procession. By 1979, in the Ian O'Leary Lecture at the

first Yn Chruinnaght festival Mona Douglas once again explains the customs associated with the dance and states that the dance is already well known to most people. It also appears in the leaflet of dance instructions as produced by the MFDS as 'The Mhelliagh Dance (Adapted)' and does not have the Manx Waltz movement at the end. Finally the dance notes are published in Rinkaghyn Vannin with all three movements and a note on the related customs.

Once again, it is due to the simple nature of the dance that Carswell (2004) feels that the dance is a realistic social dance and that it appears on the Key Stage 1 Manx dance schools curriculum. However, it is worth noting that the version that appears on the accompanying tapes includes only two verses, not three, possibly reflecting the occasionally omitted Manx Waltz movement. This would seem logical as the tapes are produced by the MFDS who previously published a version of the dance without the final movement.

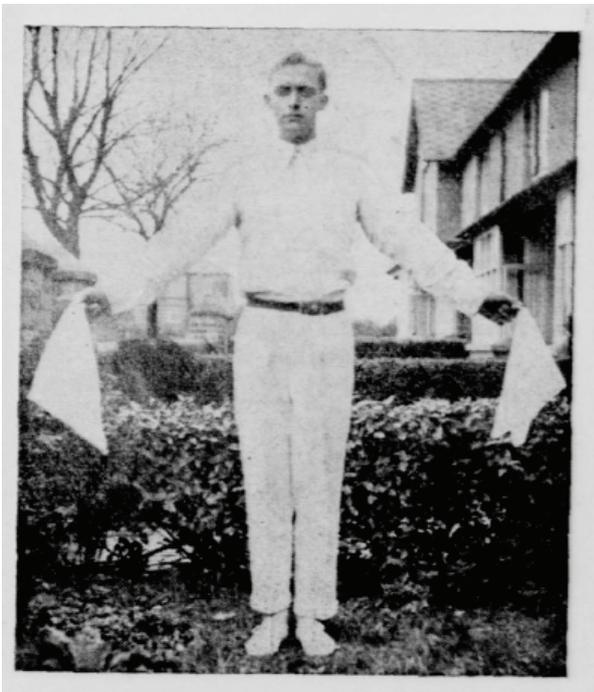
By Cinzia Curtis 2006

[Photo of Skeddan Jiarg at the Manx Folk Awards 2018]

READ FULL THESIS:

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

“MR BILLY CAIN, THE WELL-KNOWN MANX FOLK DANCER”
(1938)



Billy Cain is the name most associated with the Dirk Dance and it was due to a performance of the dance as part of a BBC broadcast in 1938, “Manxmen,” from Castle Rushen that this photograph was taken and reproduced in the *Ramsey Courier*. There is also a photograph taken on the occasion of the broadcast featuring him in action, “Mr Billy Cain, the Manx dirk dancer, who will dance before the microphone, wearing hard-soled shoes so that the steps will be heard,” with Joy Sollitt playing on the violin. The head “intruding” into the photo is that of D.G. Bridson, the director of the programme; incidentally, Joan Littlewood, later of Theatre Workshop fame, was the assistant on the broadcast.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

REFERENCES

For the photograph featured in the *Ramsey Courier*, see “[Photograph] Mr Billy Cain ...,” *Ramsey Courier* 20 May 1938, 5f–g; for the shot of the Dirk Dance on the night, “[Shots by our Cameraman] [Photograph caption] The Other Side of the ‘Mike’ ...,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 20 May 1938, 20. The quote is to be found in “[Mainly about People] Lunching also at ...,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 13 May 1938, 10d.

Summer Entertainment on the Isle of Man

1956-60 by Maurice Powell

'Ronnie, Ivy, Ken and Phil, but no Joe' is the fourth of five extensive research articles by Maurice Powell under the general title 'Summer Entertainment on the Isle of Man', covering the period from 1939 until 1975.

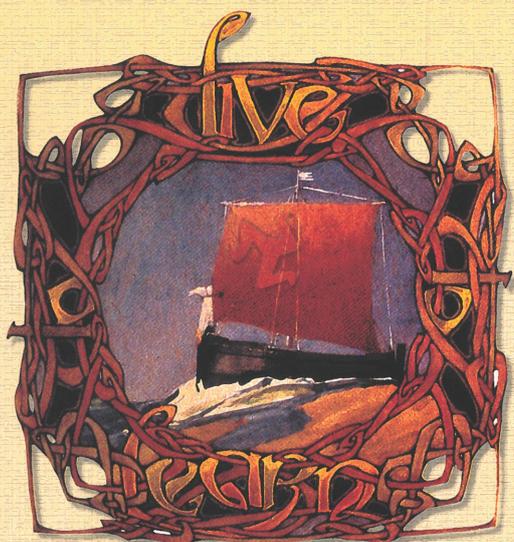
READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE:

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Entertainment%20in%20Douglas%201956-60%20\(AA\).pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/Entertainment%20in%20Douglas%201956-60%20(AA).pdf)

The previous articles in the series: 'From Pleasure Isle to Internment Isle', 1939-45; 'The Joe Loss years Part I', 1946-50; 'The Joe Loss years Part II', 1951-55, may be viewed complete on manxmusic.com.

www.manxmusic.com/history_page_472864.html

The final piece in the series covering the years 1961-75 will appear later this year, & a book during 2022.



Mannin Revisited

twelve essays on
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'The Devil once a Fiddler Made': The Connection between Manx, Scottish and Norwegian Fiddle Music

by Dr Fenella C. Bazin – pp. 151-160

www.ssns.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/10_Bazin_Man_2002_pp_151-160.pdf

More White Boys footage

The White House in Peel in the 1990s was a good place for this sort of anarchic Manx thing...

Culture Vannin is delighted to release two recordings of the White Boys from 25+ years ago, including one of the most gloriously riotous performances we know, captured inside the White House in 1995:

www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/the-white-boys-505782/

The performers are: David Fisher (St. Denis), Ian Morrison (St. George), Colin Jerry RBV (St. Patrick) & Bobba Greggor (The Doctor)

There is also this even earlier 1992 recording from within the Manx Museum shop (with Peter Hayhurst in the cast too): www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/the-white-boys-505782/

More here: www.culturevannin.im/manxfolklore/the-white-boys-505782/

A video version of this performance is available here: <https://youtu.be/9bdcxp4baQ8>

Gura mie mooar eu, Juan Greggor for the recordings, & Linda Carswell for the picture from the streets of Douglas in 1993.

FROM THE CORNISH ARCHIVES: This Lowender Peran TV feature from 1983 features David Collister (Daycol) and Yvette Corlett!! <https://youtu.be/zez4Z-WPspQ?t=956>

There's also some vintage Manx dancing here (around 02.40)!!

www.facebook.com/lowenderperan/videos/883455365523454

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Moirrey ny Cainle (Mary of the Candle) is a dance associated with Candlemas in February (see feature earlier in KMJ). Here is a new arrangement for fingerstyle guitar by Frank Woolley of that lovely tune. It was collected by Mona Douglas from Margot Quayle, Milntown in Lezayre.

Moirrey ny Cainle

Margot Quayle Milntown Lezayre

Arr. Frank Woolley

Allegretto

mf

6

mp *cresc.*

12

cresc. *f*

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

The Next Big Thing Champions Show,
postponed till 2022

For updates & news, follow

www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance for updates

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

www.manxmusic.com

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A. Sophia Morrison
2. B. Scran
3. B. Paul Cringle
4. D. Ireland
5. B. 1896
6. A. To the ocean
7. C. Graih Foalsey
8. B. Mary Ann
9. D. Clash Vooar
10. A. Harry Wood



~ 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 8pm Trad session at the Colby Glen
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 12.30pm Trad session in Ginger Hall, Sulby

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:
Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Chloë Woolley**: chloe@culturevannin.im
www.manxmusic.com

Call: Chloë: 01624 694758 (answerphone)
or write to: 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