

## **New IOW Songs and Tunes**

**Below are a mass of notes accumulated over the years.**

Many of these manuscript, however, exist from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The leader of the band, often the violinist, would write down tunes they had heard played or find them in the various books of the time. They would often adapt them and sometimes rename them. To this they would add their own tunes and other local tunes. Originally they were mainly reels, jigs and hornpipes. Later they added polkas, quadrilles, waltzes and so on. The scores sometimes had marks on them to show bowing, emphasis and generally how to make them come to life. They had to be tunes that could be easily picked up by ear, “hummable”.

### **The Isle of Wight Tune Book, the detail.**

To select tunes from other manuscripts, books, local sources, new tunes and other material to make a new Isle of Wight Tune Manuscript / Book. To have sections for core tunes, the sea, the land and love, dance, winter, airs. To be in a format easily readable for dance bands and mainly in keys they use. Although certainly played by the IOW village bands we will not include any Scottish, military and Playford type tunes as they are easily found elsewhere.

When tracked down tunes will need to played to see if all is fine with them. Some may have missing bars, difficult keys, strange notes and so on. They can then be passed around to see if they play well. The English style of playing has been discussed elsewhere. IOW style? Any new tunes will need to fit in with the traditional material. See IOW list of dances, villages etc that require new tunes. It wants to be a little different from a standard Folk Dance Band Repertoire. Some titles may have a variety of tunes attached to them and it is great to obtain a variety of possibilities.

On the island we have particular gaps relating to for instance the sea themes and legends. Here is an area that could be developed keeping the traditional feel. Island dialect is another area to further develop. We will avoid common themes found elsewhere such as Scottish and Irish tunes.

The way forward;

Choose tunes from the repertoire of the past that seem to have a relevance to the island. Reference manuscripts and tune books.

### **New Tunes for the Isle of Wight Tune Book**

#### **General Terms to use**

Reel, Jig, Hornpipe, Polka, Waltz, Scottische, Rant, March, Gavotte, Bourrée, Round, Lamentation, Joke, Royal, Bell, Delight, Maggot, Hoop, Ball, Wish, Wisdom, Lass, Day, Trip to, Whim, Boys, Frolic, Frisk, Hop, Farewell, Green, Ace, Triumph, Comedy, Bridge, Mill, House, Assembly, Fair...

Making a start: Adaption of a traditional tune. Revisit tunes you or others may written to give them an Island flavour. Read poems / stories for ideas. New fresh idea. Visit in person or virtually places on the island for inspiration and so on.

Possible title suggestions:

#### **Place Names** (see full list of towns, villages and hamlets below)

Shalfleet Strut

Brading Breakdown

Arreton Gavotte

Languard Polka

Salt Pan Reel from Newtown

Ryde Rag

Sandown Sunshine Rag

### **Legends**

Giant of Chale March  
Pied Piper of Newtown Tune  
The moving church of Godshill  
Knighton Gorges Ghost

### **Sea Collection**

Yarmouth Lifeboat Reel  
Wreck of the Irex  
St Helens Hornpipe  
Shalfleet Quay  
Medina River Boat Hornpipe  
Cowes Regatta Quickstep

### **Historical Events / Places**

Charles 1 Escape Reel  
Hulverstone March  
Victoria's Arrival  
Osborne Quadrille  
Osborne Waltz

### **Country Dances**

Red Squirrel Waltz  
The Fogo Jij (Bad Smell Jig)  
Pitzaa Polka  
Rattle Trap Polka  
Newtown Randy Polka  
Billy Bitter Jig (Blue Tit Dance)  
Dumbledore Dance (Bumblebee Dance)  
Rattlemouse Reel (Bat Reel)  
The Saacy Jig  
Devil's Dancin' House (Newport Dance)  
Smuggler's Reel

### **Festival Tunes**

May Day  
Midsummer's Eve  
Valentine's  
Michaelmas Day  
Plough Day  
More Christmas Tunes

### **Airs**

Island themes sea, downs, landscapes, summer, winter and much more.

### **Miscellaneous**

Glass Medina Shine Reel  
Cowes Crane Rag  
Island Cider Polka  
The Island Beer Barrel Polka

### **References**

Try here for ideas:

Village Music Project - Dance Books to 1860 - Johnson Volumes 1-8 and the manuscripts.

Vaughan Williams Memorial Library (VWML) - Browse Archives - Dip into the various collections and Manuscripts

Some of the key manuscripts are in print such as The Sussex Tune Book and have to be bought or borrowed.

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Full list of towns, villages and hamlets. Plus Flora and Fauna ideas

**Isle of Wight Towns**

Newport  
Brading  
Cowes  
East Cowes  
Ryde  
Sandown  
Shanklin  
Ventnor  
Yarmouth

**Island Villages**

Alverstone  
Arreton  
Bembridge  
Binstead  
Blackgang  
Blackwater  
Bonchurch  
Brighstone  
Brook  
Calbourne  
Carisbrooke  
Chale  
Chillerton  
Cranmore  
Fishbourne  
Freshwater  
Gatcombe  
Godshill  
Gurnard  
Havenstreet  
Lake  
Luccombe  
Merstone  
Nettlestone  
Newbridge  
Newchurch  
Newtown  
Ningwood  
Niton  
Northwood  
Porchfield  
Rookley  
Seaview  
Shalfleet  
Shorwell  
St Helens  
St Lawrence

Totland  
Whippingham  
Whitwell  
Winford  
Wootton  
Wootton Bridge  
Wroxall  
Yaverland

**Hamlets and other places IOW**

Adgestone  
Afton  
Afton Park  
Alum Bay  
Alverstone Garden Village  
Appley  
Apse Heath  
Ashey  
Barton  
Bathingbourne  
Bierley  
Binfield  
Bouldnor  
Borthwood  
Bowcombe  
Branstone  
Chale Green  
Cross Lane  
Culver Down  
Downend  
Easton  
Egypt Point  
Elmfield  
Five Houses  
Foreland Fields  
Forest Side  
Freshwater Bay  
Great Thorness  
Gunville  
Hale Common  
Hamstead  
Havenstreet  
Haylands  
Hillway  
Horringford  
Hulverstone  
Hunnyhill  
King's Quay  
Kingston  
Knighton  
Lane End  
Limerstone  
Little Atherfield  
Little Thorness  
Littletown  
Locksgreen  
Lowtherville

Mark's Corner  
Mersley  
Moortown  
Morton  
Mottistone  
Nettlecombe  
Ninham  
Niton Undercliff  
Norton  
Norton Green  
Nunwell  
Oakfield  
Osborne  
Parkhurst  
Pondwell  
Princelett  
Puckaster  
Quarr Hill  
Queen's Bower  
Rew Street  
Rookley Green  
Roud  
Rowridge  
Sandford  
Seagrove Bay  
Shalcombe  
Shide  
Staplers  
Steephill  
Steyne Cross  
Thorley  
Thorley Street  
Thorncross  
Totland Bay  
Upper Ventnor  
Wellow  
Whiteley Bank  
Winford  
Wootton Common  
Yafford  
Yarbridge

**Flora and Fauna**

Burnt Orchid Reel  
Sundew  
Violet coral  
Guillemot  
Yellowhammer  
Gentian  
Field cow-wheat  
Great crested newt  
Lady Eleanor Glanville (Glanville Fritillary)  
Starlet Sea Anemone  
Dead men's fingers  
Porbeagle  
Snakelock

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## **Some background notes taken from archive.**

### **Church Bands**

It seems there were a number of church bands on the IOW. These used to play in a gallery opposite the altar. The congregation would turn round to face them and then sing. They also played for dances, festivals, weddings etc. They were good musicians, some able to read music, play various harmonies, create new tunes etc. They would be constantly practising so the village would be full of music. Sadly this all stopped when every church had to have an organ!

I cannot find the relevant passage regarding IOW Brading Band but I remember it consisted of violin, oboe, serpent and Cornet (Trumpet, keyed bugle) other bands had cello and piccolo. There was also a quote about English bagpipes being played.

### **Other notes**

“We have started on the Alice Gillingham set and to our surprise there are some very interesting ones. Some tunes need considerable work to make them playable  
I see we were going to do: "Sea Songs and Shanties on and around the Isle of Wight" these were songs sung by the likes of Bob Roberts and so many more wonderful island shanty singers. This is a huge tomb of music (150 tunes) that I see is almost ready. We will try and put it together in an alphabetical set.”

## **Isle of Wight Tune Book**

### **Volume 1**

#### **Sea and Coastal**

Atherfield Ledge (St Catherine's)  
Crossing the Bar  
Cherbourg to Wight  
Dark Eyed Sailor  
Rat of Wight (Gilbert Lee)  
Sailors Return  
Isle of Wight Hornpipe  
Man O' War

#### **Land, Love and more**

Autumn Song  
Carter's Mate  
The Clown's Courtship  
The Crockery Ware  
Golden Gorse  
Lumps of Pudding  
Mary Maid  
Old Man Clothed in Leather (Misty Moisty Morning)  
The Old Miser  
Roger and Dolly  
The Parson of Chale  
Song of Sixpence  
Whistle Daughter Whistle  
Scrow Day  
Little Cappender  
The Widow  
Recruiting Sergeant

### **Volume 2**

Spring Song

March of the Wight Men (Men of Wight)  
Forsaken  
My Maid  
Sayings Song  
Three Drunken Maidens  
Jolly Waggoner  
The Old Grey Hen

### **Volume 3**

#### **Festivals**

Home Harvest Evening  
Shrove Song  
Shickshack Day  
Shroven (Newchurch & Brighstone)  
Newtown Randy

#### **Winter**

Isle of Wight Wassail  
Island Christmas Party  
Isle of Wight Mummers Christmas Carol  
Holly Red and Mistletoe - IOW Carol  
Hark (The Newchurch Carol)  
Island Winter Song  
Apple Tree Wassail

#### **Historical**

Brading Haven  
Damask Rose  
Silver Bow

### **Volume 4 Core Tunes**

Three Around Three / Enrico  
Harper's Frolic / Bonny Kate  
Huntsman's Chorus / Astley's Ride  
Curly Headed Ploughboy / The Quacker  
The Knife's Edge / The L.N.B. Polka  
Babes in the wood / I looked East and I looked West  
P&O Polka / Heel and Toe Polka  
Dumpty Umpty / Jenny Lind  
New Rigged Ship / Oyster Girl  
One more dance and then / The Sloe  
Foul Weather Call / Speed the Plough

### **Volume 5 Alice Gillingham Set 1909**

#### **Other**

Grandma's Old Armchair (Collected Newchurch in VWML)  
Throw out the Lifeline

To do  
Polly Oliver