

World Fiddle Day 2019

**** F I D D L E R E C I T A L ****

Music of Ned O'Connor, Dan Jeremiah O'Connor,
and Maurice O'Keeffe, as played in
Fleming's Bar, Scartaglin, 18 May 1995,
recorded and donated by Máire O'Keeffe.

To be played again in Fleming's Bar on
World Fiddle Day, 18 May 2019.

Special guests:

Paudie O'Connor (accordion),

Mick Culloty (melodeon).

**** All fiddle players welcome! ****

Set list

1. The Glen Cottage Polkas.
2. Pete Bradley's Polka.
3. Jigs: Ellen O'Leary's, Scatter the Mud, The Maid on the Green.
4. Slides: Why Don't You Wash Your Father's Shirt, Pádraig O'Keefe's Favourite.
5. Polkas: O'Connor's, Jenny Lind.
6. Slides: Mrs O'Connor's, Jim O'Keefe's.
7. Waltzes: The Star of Donegal, When I Grow Too Old to Dream.
8. Slides: Forget Your Troubles, Barrack Hill.
9. Polkas: Pa Paddy O'Sullivan's, The Galway Belle.
10. Slides: The Gleanntán Frolics, The Ceannguilla Slide.
11. Polkas: Con Thadhgo's The Ballydesmond Polkas 1 & 2.
12. Slides: Seán Reidy's, O'Connor's

Memories of Fleming's Bar

A sunny summer's evening – 18th May 1995 – an Ireland soccer match was on every TV in the land but we were oblivious to all of that as Ned and Dan Jeremiah O'Connor, joined by Maurice O'Keeffe, played and recorded a myriad of slides and polkas with the odd few jigs and waltzes thrown in. It was a most magical evening, full of fun and laughter and, most importantly, the music of the local Scartaglin area played by three legendary musicians who were incredibly generous with their tunes and memories of learning those tunes.

On 18th of May 2019 we will remember their music!

Máire O'Keeffe

As everyone knows we place fierce importance on our annual fiddle recital and encourage all fiddle players to take part as it is always great fun. Our thanks to Máire O'Keeffe for donating the music for this year's Fiddle Recital and as always Paul de Grae for working out the notation, titles and info for set list. This year's Recital is hosted by Eoin Stan O'Sullivan and we will hold it in Fleming's Bar, 24 years after the original tape was made.

This is real dance music, because Ned and Dan were always required for stations, parties, pub gigs etc., where people wanted good music to waltz to and dance sets. This really comes across in the tunes selected.

PJ Teahan.

The transcriptions

This booklet contains transcriptions of just a selection of the tunes recorded by Máire O'Keeffe at the session in 1995. Each set also has a link to a recording on Soundcloud (thanks to PJ Teahan for these). As is normal in a session, tune titles were not announced; the titles supplied here are, for the most part, those in common use in Sliabh Luachra.

In keeping with the spirit of World Fiddle Day, we felt it was important that as many fiddlers as possible (the younger ones especially) should have the chance to learn these tunes, so that they can play them on the day, and indeed keep these tunes in circulation. With that aim in mind, we have opted for fairly basic transcriptions, omitting ornamentation and variations.

Sound clips

PJ Teahan has posted the selected recordings on the Soundcloud page of World Fiddle Day Scartaglin. Individual links are shown here with each tune. You can also find them all here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218>

Visit the website!

The World Fiddle Day Scartaglin website has a great store of information, rare photos, recordings and videos, biographical details, etc., so have a look, you'll enjoy it:

<https://worldfiddledayscartaglin.ie/>



Dan Jeremiah O'Connor
(photo from Emma Ní Laoire)

Dan Jeremiah O'Connor was a fiddle player from Knockeenahone, Scartaglin. He learned from Pádraig O'Keeffe. He had an extensive repertoire of unusual tunes, especially slides and polkas, and was also a gifted storyteller and singer. He passed away in 2009.



Ned O'Connor (photo from PJ Teahan)

Ned O'Connor is a fiddle and C#/D accordion player from Mullen, Scartaglin. He learned fiddle from Pádraig O'Keeffe. He and Dan (no relation) played frequently together in Tom Fleming's pub in Scartaglin and elsewhere. Like Dan, he has large store of unusual local tunes.



Maurice O'Keeffe
(photo by Joe Gerhard).

Maurice O'Keeffe (1919-2017) was a fiddle player from Glounreagh, Kiskeam, County Cork. He learned from John Linehan. As with Ned and Dan, he had a vast store of tunes, which he generously shared in person and via dozens of "kitchen tapes" that he made and sent to interested people.



Máire O'Keeffe in the 1990s
(photo by Nutan).

Máire O'Keeffe is a fiddle player, music teacher and broadcaster from Tralee. She learned from Nicky McAuliffe and Anne Sheehy. She presented the RTÉ Radio series "The Long Note" in early 1990s, and has presented several of the "Handed Down" lectures in Scartaglin.



Paudie O'Connor in 2005 (photo by John Reidy)



*Left to right:
Mick Culloty, Paul de Grae, Dee Sullivan, Kevin Ryan, Mary Crowley, Dan Jeremiah O'Connor
and Ned O'Connor; at a session in Baily's Corner, Tralee, mid-1990s.*



*Maurice O'Keeffe, Jackie Daly and Dan Jeremiah O'Connor
(photo by Joe Gerhard)*



*A young Ned O'Connor (extreme right) playing melodeon at a dance in
O'Connor's in Scartaglin (photo from Eileen Sheehan).*

1. The Glen Cottage Polkas

No. 1

5

9

13

No. 2

17

21

25

29

These tunes are variously known as *The Glen Cottage Polkas*, *The Glin Cottage Polkas* or *The Green Cottage Polkas* – take your choice. The first tune appears in a multitude of versions all over Ireland, Britain and even France (as *L'Harmonica*). It's also used as the air for several songs, including "St Patrick Was a Gentleman". Arguably the original version is the Scottish reel *Alister McAlister* (variously spelled).

The second tune is a version of the Scottish march, *The Haughs of Cromdale*. Compare with the slide *Barrack Hill* (set no. 8 in this booklet) which also derives from that tune.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track-1-n-d>

2. Pete Bradley's Polka.



The title comes from the Johnny O'Leary book, referring to the late musician from Knocknaboul Cross. The tune also appears, untitled, as no. 86 in volume 5 of "Ceol Rince na hÉireann", from a tablature manuscript of Pádraig O'Keeffe which Jack O'Connell ("Jack The Lighthouse") gave to Breandán Breathnach. Matt Cranitch and Jackie Daly recorded it on their "Rolling On" CD, in the key of A.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track2-m-n-d>



3. Jigs: Ellen O'Leary's, Scatter the Mud, The Maid on the Green.

Ellen O'Leary's



Scatter the Mud



33 **The Maid on the Green**

37

41

45

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is labeled '33' and the title 'The Maid on the Green'. The notation consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with repeat signs at the beginning and end of the piece. The second staff is labeled '37', the third '41', and the fourth '45'. The music concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

A set of jigs from Dan on fiddle and Ned on accordion. The first one appears in the Johnny O'Leary book, named for his daughter Ellen. The second is not the usual version of *Scatter the Mud*, it's an older setting, found in O'Neill in a higher key ("Music of Ireland" no. 966); O'Neill seems to have borrowed it from "Ryan's Mammoth Collection", where it's called *The Eviction*. The final tune, *The Maid on the Green*, is also more usually played in a higher key (G), but sounds fine in D.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track3-jigs-n-d>



Ned and Dan (photo from Kevin Coleman of "The Kerryman").

4. Slides: Why Don't You Wash Your Father's Shirt, Pádraig O'Keeffe's Favourite.

Why Don't You Wash Your Father's Shirt

5

9

13

Pádraig O'Keeffe's Favourite

17

21

25

29 finish

Both these slides are quite well known, though usually untitled. The title of the first came from Dan, and is part of a children's rhyme: "Why don't you wash your father's shirt/ Why don't you wash it clean/ Why don't you wash your father's shirt/ And hang it on the crane". There are many variations in the words of the rhyme, and it is also sung to different tunes: The Beatles sang it on their 1964 Christmas record as "Oh can you wash your father's shirt?/ Oh can you wash it clean?/ Can you hang it on the line/ By the village green", to the same simple hexatonic tune that I remember from childhood in Dun Laoghaire, the same as used by these American children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCsdVhubfmo>.

Title of the second tune comes from the Johnny O'Leary book; it was also in Tom Billy's repertoire.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track-4-d-n>



*Maurice O'Keeffe and Dan Jeremiah O'Connor
(photo by Máire O'Keeffe).*

5. Polkas: O'Connor's, Jenny Lind.

O'Connor's Polka

5

9

13

Jenny Lind

21

25

29

A set of polkas, played by Ned and Dan with Maurice O'Keeffe. I can't find a title for the first one, so have provisionally named it *O'Connor's* in honour of both Ned and Dan (there are already a great many *O'Keeffe's* polkas!). The second tune is one of the few high society polkas to have found acceptance with traditional musicians. It was composed in 1843 by Anton Wallerstein (1813-92) in honour of a superstar of the day, Swedish soprano Jenny Lind (1820-87). Jenny Lind toured Europe during 1844-48 to great popular acclaim and took Dublin by storm in 1848; her fame coincided with a rise in the popularity of the polka. Although she was a professional singer, not a dancer, she did have a liking for ballroom polkas.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track-5-m-d-n>.

MUSICAL BOUQUET

London 1842 High Holborn. MAD^{ME} CARLOTTA CRISI. W. Strange del. P. Paton sculp. Lond.

THE NEW JENNY LIND POLKA.

COMPOSED BY WALLERSTEIN

POLKA. A. WALLERSTEIN.

N^o 1. *mf*

f *mf*

The original version of the "Jenny Lind" polka, by Anton Wallerstein (from a book of old dance music in the possession of Dee Sullivan).

6. Slides: Mrs O'Connor's, Jim O'Keeffe's.

Mrs O'Connor's

1
5
9
13

Jim O'Keeffe's

17
21
25
29

For lack of another title, I called the first tune after the concertina player from Scartaglin from whom Ned O'Connor got this and a good few other unusual tunes; Ned plays accordion on this set along with Dan on fiddle. Jackie Daly recorded the second tune and named it for his source, Jim O'Keeffe of Ballinahulla, Ballydesmond, a music teacher and fiddle player around Kanturk and Newmarket.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track-6-n-d>

7. Waltzes: The Star of Donegal When I Grow Too Old to Dream.

The Star of Donegal

9

17

25

When I Grow Too Old to Dream

33

42

51

59

The waltz first appeared in polite ballrooms in 1812, but it was another sixty years or so before it filtered down to rural working people, amid some controversy: it was considered scandalous because couples kept to the same partner throughout whilst embracing in public.

The first of these waltzes appears in slightly different form in Jerry O'Brien's "Irish Folk Dance Music", possibly from Paddy Cronin. The second is the air of a popular song from 1934, music by Sigmund Romberg and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II; it was recorded by many singers, from Gracie Fields to Slim Whitman, and was probably best known in Ireland from the singing of Peggy Dell.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track7-n-d-waltzes>

8. Slides: Forget Your Troubles, Barrack Hill.

Forget Your Troubles

5

9

13

Barrack Hill

17

21

25

29

The first of these slides is sometimes called after Denis O'Keeffe, an accordion player from Rathmore who was still playing in his 90s, but this is the title he himself had for it. The second tune is a version of the Scottish march, *The Haughs of Cromdale*. Compare with the second of the *Glen Cottage Polkas* (set no. 1 in this booklet) which also derives from that tune.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track-8>

9. Polkas: Pa Paddy O'Sullivan's, The Galway Belle.

Pa Paddy O'Sullivan's



The Galway Belle



Dan Herlihy recorded the first of these polkas and named it for the late Pa Paddy O'Sullivan, concertina player from Scartaglin. The second one appears under this title in Jerry O'Brien's "Irish Folk Dance Music", which was published in Boston in 1952 and contains many tunes sourced from Paddy Cronin, most likely including this one.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track9-n-d>

10. Slides: The Gleanntán Frolics, The Ceannguilla Slide.

The Gleanntán Frolics

Musical notation for the first part of 'The Gleanntán Frolics'. It consists of three staves of music in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 12/8 time signature. The first staff contains measures 1-4, the second staff contains measures 5-8, and the third staff contains measures 9-13. The melody is characterized by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a distinctive 'slide' pattern in the later measures.

The Ceannguilla Slide

Musical notation for the second part of 'The Ceannguilla Slide'. It consists of four staves of music in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 12/8 time signature. The first staff contains measures 17-20, the second staff contains measures 21-24, the third staff contains measures 25-28, and the fourth staff contains measures 29-32. The melody follows a similar pattern to the first piece, starting with a common sequence of notes before diverging.

Both these slides start with the same sequence of notes, which can cause confusion when changing from the first to the second! The title *The Gleanntán Frolics* is sometimes used for both tunes as a set, or even for the second tune itself. *The Ceannguilla Slide* is a version of a song air which Petrie collected in the mid-19th century (see no.s 1429-31 in the Stanford-Petrie collection, "A Mháire! is deas do ghéire" and "Baile Bheachain"); the same melody is known in Scotland as "My Ain Kind Dearie". Ceannguilla lies south-east of Scartaglin.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track-10>



Fleming's Bar in the 1990s (photo from Roger Landes).

11. Polkas: Con Thadhgo's, Ballydesmond nos. 1 and 2.

Con Thadhgo's



Ballydesmond Polka No. 1



34 **Ballydesmond Polka No. 2**

38

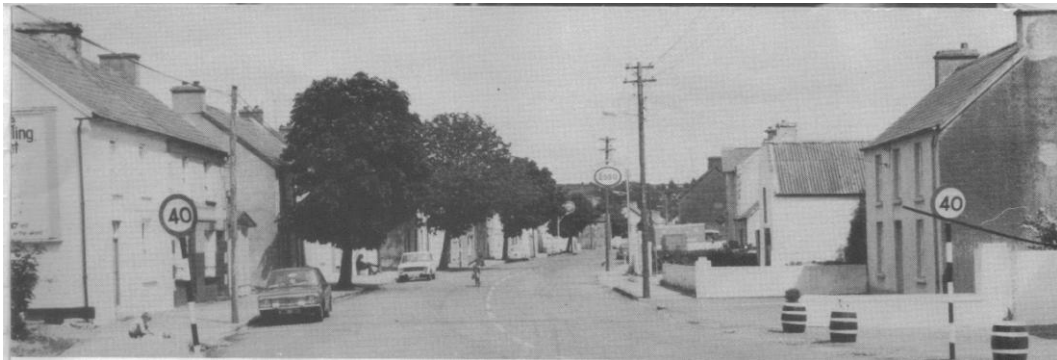
43

47

The image shows a musical score for 'Ballydesmond Polka No. 2' in G major (one sharp). The score is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins at measure 34 with a repeat sign. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. At measure 38, there is a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.'). The piece concludes at measure 47 with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The title *Con Thadhgo's* comes from the Johnny O'Leary book; Johnny learned the tune from Con Cronin (concertina). The well-known *Ballydesmond Polkas* come from Tom Billy Murphy, often played with a different tune first (as on "The Star Above the Garter").

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track-11-m-n-d>



Ballydesmond in the 1970s
 (photo by Alan Ward from the Topic booklet "Music from Sliabh Luachra").

12. Slides: Seán Reidy's, O'Connor's.

Seán Reidy's



O'Connor's



The image displays two musical staves for fiddle slides. The first staff, titled 'Seán Reidy's', contains measures 1 through 16. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 12/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various rests. The second staff, titled 'O'Connor's', contains measures 17 through 30. It also uses a treble clef, one sharp key signature, and 12/8 time. The melody is more rhythmic, featuring many eighth notes and some sixteenth notes.

It's often the case with slides and polkas that either they have no title, or else they attract a plethora of titles, some shared with other tunes. The first tune here is also known as *Pádraig O'Keefe's*, *Cuz Teahan's*, and *The Knocknagree Slide*, but all of those are also applied to other tunes. Denis Doody recorded it as *Baile an tSamhraidh*, but that title – a placename, literally, "summer town" – was also used on the Jimmy Doyle & Dan O'Leary album for the polka more usually known as *Bill Sullivan's*. According to Tom Fleming, Ned O'Connor always credited this tune to the man he got it from as a youngster, so that's the title used here. Seán Reidy was a musician from the Gortglass area near Scartaglin; he emigrated to the USA. He was well regarded as a musician for house dances, at which occasions Ned often heard him play. Tom made the point that Ned played box before fiddle; his fiddle style was dance music rhythm on fiddle as opposed to a "listening" style.

The second tune was recorded by Jackie Daly as *O'Connor's*, sourced from Ned and Dan.

Soundcloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-475789218/track-12-n-d>