

# Manx Notes 581 (2022)

## THE DANGERS OF MUSIC REHERSALS \*

(1851)

On Wednesday evening as the Rechabite band was practising on their way through Athol-street, a horse look fright in a spring-van belonging to Mr Bower, and ran off, knocked down a lad named Daniel Fargher, the wheel of the van went over his head and fractured his jaw-bone. He was immediately conveyed to Dr Ring's surgery, when assistance was immediately rendered.

Anon. "Accident." *Mona's Herald* 4 June 1851: [3]d.

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The Rechabites were a temperance society but it would be a Friendly Society that Daniel Fargher would need to call upon to pay his medical bills. Fargher was a sixteen year old, an apprentice cabinet maker, living at 2 John Street in Douglas, with his mother and father, a shoemaker, along with Thomas Quiggin, his nephew, a tailor.<sup>1</sup> In the nineteenth century, music was an integral part of associational culture, though one can be certain that its impact here was not a welcome one, an assault on the jaw and not on the ears....

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\* Originally published as Stephen Miller, "The Dangers of Music Rehersals (1851)," *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu May* (2022), [15].

<sup>1</sup> *Census Enumerators' Book* for Onchan 1851, HO/107 2525, fol. 45, sch. 188.