

O'Mealy reeds. Pictures and measurements of reeds for C chanter.

Wilbert Garvin and Ken McLeod

A short time ago Michael Maxwell phoned up one of the authors (WG) to find out if he could check a set of O'Mealy pipes that belonged to his father Patrick. He wanted to ensure that were put in good working order since his young son might be interested in playing them in due course.

The set was made up of bits and pieces by R.L. but the chanter was a particularly fine piece of work. It was an 'old-style' chanter in C. It had four drones (3 'D' and 1 'A', and one regulator. The interesting thing is that the reeds were original O'Mealy and were all in working order. The chanter sounded particularly good – 'Union' pipe characteristics, and the drone reeds were all made from elder.

The pictures and reed measurements are by Ken, the chanter bore measurements by Wilbert.

Also included is a comparison to a Michael Egan chanter belonging to piper Trevor Stewart of Belfast by Craig Fischer, which we thought well worth adding. Editor.