



April 2008

Manx Music Today

Kiaull Manninagh Jiu

The 'shennanigans' may be over for another year, but they were worth every single minute!



Shennaghys Jiu inter-Celtic youth festival took place around the Easter weekend 21st-24th March and featured Manx and visiting performers, supported by the Manx Heritage Foundation and the Isle of Man Arts Council. For more info, see: www.shennaghys.org

The festival programme featured many school groups as well as: Full Spate, Land or Sea, The Reeling Stones, Pobble, Ny Fennee, Cliogaree Twoaie, The Ballaghs, Staa, Katie Lawrence and a whole host of others, including old faces in new guises...



SESSIONS: TUES 9pm Irish in The Rover's Return, Douglas
THURS 9pm Singing in The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Tynwald Inn, St. John's, **FRI 9pm** Irish in The Mitre, Ramsey
Last FRI of month, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
SAT 9pm The White House, Peel
Hopefully every 2nd SUN 3pm Irish in O'Donnell's, Douglas



The Phynnodderree Session Book

At long last you can take Friday nights at the Tynwald home with you in the form of the Phynnodderree Session Book. Since it began in 1986, Leila Kneale's 'Friday Night Session' has moved around the Island from Port Erin to Ballasalla, then Port St Mary and Greeba before finally settling in its current home, the Tynwald Hill Inn, St Johns. Manx band, Phynnodderree, currently host the session, and the book of tunes represents their pick of Manx, English and Swedish tunes and much, much more. The session itself is always open to newcomers. If you want to buy a copy of the book, it is available from Leila Kneale on 833882 for the bargain price of £6 (including postage within the IOM) or direct from the Tynwald session for only £5, cheques payable to 'Phynnodderree'.



Perree T and King Chiaulee

kept everyone dancing at Cwllwm Celtaidd, the Celtic Festival of Wales,

last month. This photo from Mark Lawrence came with a note that even HE was kept on the dancefloor – cheers, Mark!



Molley as soylley da Mike Boulton! Congratulations to Mike Boulton!

Mike Boulton, former teacher at Albert Road School and guru to most if not all of the young Manx music groups to come out of the North of the Island, was awarded the Rotary Club of Ramsey's highest honour on 13 March. The rare honour to a non-Rotarian of the Paul Harris Fellowship recognised Mike's tireless work with the Ramsey community through his involvement with education, music and sport for at least four decades. For those who haven't had the honour of encountering Mike, his musical inspiration has seen successive Share na Veg groups over the years, not to mention those groups which followed like Bee er dty Hwoaie. Even though he claims to have retired, he currently has around 70 pupils learning traditional Manx music and dance each week – Mike aboo!



SET DANCING IN PATRICK

DAVE COLLISTER IS STARTING IRISH SET DANCING AGAIN AT PATRICK COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM THURSDAY 3RD APRIL COMMENCING 8PM. BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME AND QUITE A FEW NEW FACES ARE EXPECTED, SO IF YOU EVER FANCIED GETTING THOSE FEET MOVING, REST ASSURED THE GROUP WILL BE STARTING FROM SCRATCH!

As KMJ was going to press, members of Manx choir, Cliogaree Twoaie, were still hopping between lily pads on their return from the Pan-Celtic and Oireachtas festivals in Donegal Town. In the end, the Pan-Celtic Song Contest was won by Wales in the form of 'Atgofion' (Memories) sung by Aled Myrddin, The Manx entry was 'Bannaght son Mannin' (Salute to Mann), performed by Fiona Cain and David Kilgallon written by David Kelly and Tim Laycock, and translated by Bob Carswell. IOM delegate to the Pan-Celtic, Fiona McArdle, has just nipped into the office to tell me that John Kilgallon won the solo dance and the Cliogarees came away with a 100 euro prize for the best song from a non prize-winning choir – congratulations all round!

The Braaid Eisteddfod

The Island is famous not only for its cruinnaghtyn, but also for its eisteddfodau. The Braaid Eisteddfod is one of the highlights of the community calendar, with audience members and participants arriving early to ensure a seat and leaving in the early hours of the morning after long hours of music and entertainment. Many stalwarts of the Manx music scenes were there, with Manx traditional song featuring in a winning performance by Phil Gawne.



Manx music and dance on youtube

Not content with Manx-Sicilian links in the form of the three legs, Italian group, [Samhradh](#), can be found on youtube.com playing 'Flitter Dance and Bard Dance' (the second tune is from Enya's self-titled album) and 'Cadul Gu Lo', an instrumental version of 'O hush thee, my babe' arranged by W H Gill with words by Sir Walter Scott (the words the group uses as the title 'Cadul gu lo' appear in the song). If you check out their albums (worth it for their beautiful album covers alone) you can also find an MP3 of them playing 'Song of the Water Kelpie'.

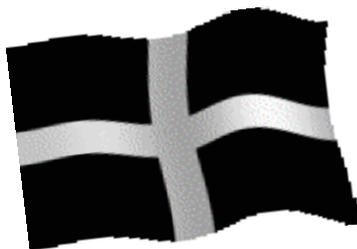
Not to be outdone, you'll also find the infamous Stationary Willberries online singing songs like the [Pride of Purt la Morra](#) and the Twisted Angels giving a very special treatment to [Ellan Vannin](#). Even The Reeling Stones have found their way online (more music and less running around needed!) with their infamous [Glasgow Reel Set](#).

The Belfagan women's morris dance group from Cockermonth, Cumbria, don their clogs for a very loud version of [Eunnyssagh Vona](#), [Mona's Delight](#) and finally (for this month), The North British sword dancers perform their version of the traditional [White Boys](#) Manx longsword dance

New monthly session at the Albert, Port St Mary

The last Friday of the month sees a new session at the Albert, Port St Mary (overlooking the inner harbour). The session will be a mixture of music and Manx. It is hoped that it'll attract a mixture of musicians and musics, as well as Manx speakers who can have a natter while the music's going on. Things will start around 8.30pm.

With our humble apologies to the Cornish contingent, St Piran's Day, although not green, was 5th March – everybody raise a retrospective pasty OR, better still, buy some of the wonderful [Cornish books](#) which Alan M Kent is dreaming up at the moment or catch some tunes on <http://www.cornishmusic.com/>



The birth of the Isle of Man Ceilidh Band – a report direct from our fly-in-the-ointment reporter...Pat the flute!

On the 11th March, the bowels of the earth opened to receive the Isle of Man Ceilidh Band. By "bowels of the earth" I mean that pleasant underworld that is the basement of The Rover's Return. For ceilidh band, envisage a motley crew of disparate souls united by their passion and ragbag uniforms. Black trousers and white shirts reflecting a complete spectrum of hues, creases, lumps and bumps, and the characters? Well, from the youthful exuberance of the concertina player, through the brash power of the fiddlers and the inspired finesse of the accordionist to the wavering of the decrepit flute player, you would think an unlikely assembly. Not a bit of it! Looking into their eyes you could see the devotion that binds them together. A love for Irish trad, the music that carries all before it, breaks down barriers, appeases the gods and reduces heroes to tears. This is their passion and you'd better believe it.

And then it happened. We all took our places, silence, the drums rattled and bang! Off they went into battle with two stirring marches, hearts pumping, chests out, proud. Then came the jigs, frolicking and easy, followed by the hornpipe with its swaggering humour and finally the reels, soaring high, now low, twisting and turning in all their glory. And then, too soon, it was over, leaving us with a breathless and elated yearning.

So what was it all about? Adjudication for entry to the 2008 All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil in Tullamore on 24th August. The result: the band qualified for the final of the Senior Ceilidh Band Competition. Katie Lawrence qualified for the final of the Senior Fiddle Competition. The verdict: the Isle of Man Ceilidh Band is cool.

The Isle of Man Ceilidh Band is David Kilgallon, Katie Lawrence, Adam Rhodes (fiddles), Rachel Higham, Patrick Knight (flutes), Mary Molloy (accordion), Beccy Hurst (concertina), Kirsty Lawrence (piano), Russell Cowin (double bass), John Ryan (drums). Bandmaster: Jacki Buckham. Visiting adjudicator from Birmingham: Vincent Jordan.

The band would like to thank all who have supported them along the way, including the Isle of Man Arts Council, the Manx Heritage Foundation, as well as Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann in Monkstown.



Photo of the Isle of Man Ceilidh Band by Bob Fennell

Lane dy vree

Breeshia Maddrell



I wrote this tune for one of the Bree workshop weekends in Autumn 2007, intending to teach it to a whistle group, but somehow didn't get round to it. Its title in Manx means 'full of energy' and that's the way it has to be played if it's going to make any sense. If you have any tunes or songs you want to share through KMJ, please send them to me and we'll hopefully be able to include them in future newsletters.

CALENDAR

April

- 3rd First meeting for set dancing (beginners welcome!), Patrick Community Centre, 8pm.
- 10th Bock Yuan Fannee and MFDS perform in Liverpool as part of a Manx evening for NW conference organisers.
- 12th Bree Youth Music Session, Green's Vegetarian Restaurant, 3pm.
- 12th Caarjyn Coidjagh choir at 'Praying the Keeills', St Ninian's Church, Douglas, 5pm.
- 25th Kiaull as Gaelg ec yn Albert – music and Manx at the Albert, Port St Mary 8.30pm.
- 26th New Rope String Band at the Centenary Centre, Peel: www.centenarycentre.com
- 26th – 3rd May Manx Music Festival (the Guild), Villa Marina, Douglas: <http://manxmusicfestival.org/>

May

- 2nd-3rd Bushy's Big Wheel Blues Festival (featuring Manx and visiting bands) www.bigwheelblues.com
- 3rd Laa Boaldyn/May Day celebrations for Ramsey Heritage Trust, including Bree musicians, time to be confirmed (afternoon).
- 3rd Cleveland Medal Night at the Guild, Villa Marina, Douglas: www.villagaiety.com
- 5th Fairies in the Glen at Ballaglass featuring Manx music, around 2pm – (wings optional). Organised by Maughold Social Club.



manx heritage foundation
undinys eiraght vannin

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