



**YN CHRUINNAGHT**  
Fcaillcy Ashoonagh Vannin The Manx National Festival

**2007**  
Jerrey Souree 18 - 22 July

## Yn Chruinnacht 2007 a resounding success!

Last weekend saw a fantastic festival celebrating Manx traditional culture (music, language and dance) and the Isle of Man's relationships with its Celtic cousins (Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany).

Historically a Ramsey festival, Peel welcomed Yn Chruinnacht with open arms for its first year in a new location. Peel Centenary Centre made a wonderful venue, and impressed both audiences and visiting groups alike. The professionalism and friendliness of the staff at the Centenary Centre made the festival a joy to run as well as to participate in.

Peel hostelries were equally welcoming with a number of spontaneous sessions and fringe gigs taking place throughout the weekend. Manx National Heritage hosted live music at Peel Castle and the House of Manannan proved a wonderful setting for the beautiful Art Exhibition, commissioned and displayed by the Sayle Gallery, and the official reception for visiting delegates and local dignitaries alike.

Local performers went down a storm, with a large audience at the Isle of Man Arts Council event at the Villa Marina, huge interest in the open air dance performances from visitors and locals alike, and an excellent gig with Manx band Skeel on Friday night, alongside Welsh visitors, Mabon. Manx ceili band Purt y Ninjas (groan) joined forces with Breton band Tymao on Saturday night for a night of dancing, with all tickets sold out. Sunday night also saw a sellout concert with Scottish band Pipedown and Irish band Grada attracting an audience from all over the island.



Other events were also well attended, and with music and dance workshops from the visiting groups, Manx language workshops, a lecture on the Manx language revival, an evening of satirical poetry at St Paul's Church, Ramsey, adult music, song and recitation competitions, a children's tea party and readings from Aalish ayns Cheer Yindissagh visitors were often left in a quandary as to which events to attend in order to fit them all in.

The event as a whole saw the return of a number of old friends, as well as attracting many visitors. A healthy number of people had travelled to the Island specially and it introduced Manx and Celtic music to a number of new ears. The official delegates from Scotland, Ireland and Cornwall were very impressed and it is hoped that links will be strengthened with these places seeing visitors from the Isle of Man travelling to their festivals and events.

It only remains now to thank all of the committee, who were a joy to work with, the stewards, visiting groups and all who participated in and supported the festival for all of their hard work. Thanks must also go to the Isle of Man Arts Council and Manx Heritage Foundation for their financial support.

2007 saw 30 years of Yn Chruinnacht and if this year was anything to go by, it will be running for another 30 years to come.

All photos thanks to Katie Lawrence.

# Laa Ruggyree Sonney (Happy Birthday)

To celebrate 1 whole year of Kiaull Manninagh Jiu we thought we'd publish the words to Happy Birthday in Manx, as developed by Yn Bunscoil Gaelgagh, the Manx language medium school. Due to copyright we can't publish the music, but I should imagine you all know it anyway!

Laa ruggyree sonney dhyt,  
Laa ruggyree sonney dhyt,  
Laa ruggyree sonney da  
Kiaull Manninagh Jiu

(Or name of your choice, two syllables is best!)

Laa Ruggyree sonney dhyt!



# Happy Birthday to Me!



## STOP PRESS: New Manx Music Newsletter

Welcome to the magazine and, in many ways, feel our newsletter for Manx musicians and dancers. I for one get excited by constant round robin emails full of information that I never read, and so I figured a once a month newsletter would be far more digestible. This way we can all let one another know about gigs, events, ideas etc. in one go.

By sending it by email we can distribute information simply and cheaply but it can still also be printed out by interested parties. However, this will only work with feedback from you guys, the musicians and dancers. Please send me info on any gigs you have coming up, reports of events that have happened (both good and bad) any photos or information that you think everyone else may be interested in, and generally use it to your own advantage. I shall try and get everything in and get it out the first week of each month.

So, please contact me if you think this is a bad idea, good idea, looks great, rubbish etc. etc. (I haven't got many photos yet - sorry)

Onna

## UNCHRUINNAGH

Well, as many of you will know, 'n Chruinnagh 2006 is now over and plans for next year are beginning. The festival was an overall success with a number of new events and the return of some old favourites.

For those of you who didn't make it, a number of events took place during the festival this year. For many this appeared to be a move away from Ramsey, but in reality, as a national festival, it was an attempt to reach everyone and attract a few new faces to Ramsey. With successful gigs in the Bannerman Hall, King Sills, and Peel Community Centre it was a perfect opportunity for the musicians to perform in a more concert atmosphere.

This year also saw the return of the Church service, held this year at Ramsey Methodist Church, and an event we hope will remain for years to come.

Probably the most successful for a new event was 'n Chruinnagh Rook at Bar Looj. Although, sadly, it was not as exciting as we'd hoped after Black Orchids were forced to drop out due to illness. Chruinnagh dropped into the breach. The highlight of contemporary Manx music gave musicians and organisers alike a chance to relax and enjoy the music, as well as getting a wider audience involved with the festival.

As ever, the Marquee was a huge success with a wonderful atmosphere. Our visiting groups began a trend to only smoke outside, and all festival goers were well behaved and generally good fun, well fed by all.

I only leaves the committee to say thank you to all of you who performed, helped out, observed and generally made the festival what it was.



We shall be working around the clock to find a way of making sure we all get a taste after the marquee next year!

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve the festival for next year please email [suggestions@unchruinnagh.com](mailto:suggestions@unchruinnagh.com)

**Lost Property**  
A number of pieces of lost property were collected throughout the week. If you have lost anything please email [lost@unchruinnagh.com](mailto:lost@unchruinnagh.com). Also, if you happen to have found anything please let us know.

**SESSIONS: TUES, 9pm Irish in Traff, Douglas, FRI, TYNWALD INN, ST. JOHN'S, FRI, IRISH IN THE MITRE, RAMSEY, SAT, THE WHITE HOUSE, PEEL**

This edition marks the first birthday of Kiaull Manninagh Jiu. Its first year has seen many events in the Manx music and dance calendar and its readership has grown considerably to include much of Europe, the Americas and even some of Asia. It has proved invaluable for telling people about gigs and events and acts as both a press release and report to interested parties. We are particularly please to see that Kiaull

Manninagh Jiu has inspired a similar publication, Gaelg, dedicated to the Manx language. For a trip down memory lane and full back issues in glorious colour pdfs check out [www.manxheritagemusic.org](http://www.manxheritagemusic.org).



## Rink

# Norwegian Dance Group visits the Island

From Saturday 30th June to Sunday 8th July 2007, the Manx Folk Dance Society and Bock Yuan Fannee hosted a group of 31 Norwegian Folk Dancers and Musicians called Gjesdalringen, from the Rogaland District of Norway, just south of Stavanger. They had a very busy and enjoyable week, incorporating a lot of sight-seeing as well as a lot of dancing - displays and social. From Saturday 4th to Sunday 12th August 2007 the 2 Manx Groups are visiting Gjesdalringen on their home territory in Norway for a similar experience. We hope to provide a detailed report in the next issue.



**SESSIONS: TUES, 9pm Irish in Traff, Douglas, THURS. 9pm Singing in The Mitre, Ramsey, FRI, 8pm Tynwald Inn, St. John's, FRI, 9pm Irish in The Mitre, Ramsey, SAT, 9pm The White House, Peel**

# Spectacular Fortnight of Manx Performing Arts



A spectacular fortnight of Manx performing arts competitions for primary and secondary aged children was held within the last two weeks for 'Cruinnaght Aeg' at Castle Rushen High School, Auldyn Infants School and Ramsey Grammar School.

The competition attracted over 700 entries with most of the Island's schools participating within one of more of the 70 classes offered to Key Stage 1, 2, 3 and years 10 - 11.

Competitions ran from Monday to Wednesday at each of the schools demonstrating the wealth of Manx traditional talent including Manx singing, music and dance currently taught in Manx schools through the dedication of teachers and school staff. Each of the entrants received constructive feedback from a select team of judges with backgrounds in Manx folk music, singing and dancing whilst exceptional entrants received certification for first, second and third place in each class.

Anthea Young, Education Services Officer for Manx National Heritage said:

*"A significant effort was made by all those entering the competition, with the majority of the Island's schools and junior cultural groups contributing to performances in song, instrumental music, dance, and the spoken word in Manx and English with exceptional recitations further performed within the Manx language competitions held at Bun-scoill Ghaelgagh".*

Within the award ceremony best individual entries for the Instrumental competitions were awarded to Sarah Oatts of Buchan School and Isla Callister Wafer of Bun-scoill Ghaelgagh. Best individual entries for singing were awarded to Marcus Koske of Auldyn School and Michelle Jamieson of Rushen Primary. Best individual entries for dancing were awarded to Maxine Smalley of Queen Elizabeth II High School, Ashleigh McMaster of Ramsey Grammar School and Bethany Hall of Perree Bane: Paitchyn. Recitation winners were Sinead Stephens entering the southern competition and Jonathan Mason in the north.



The competitions, organised jointly by Manx National Heritage and the Department of Education, concluded with two prize giving concerts at Castle Rushen and Ramsey Grammar School for participants and winning performers within the competition. Awards and certificates were presented by Mr Quintin Gill, MHK for Rushen, at the Southern concert and Miss. Joy Brew, former head of Auldyn Infants School, at the northern prize giving.

Anthea Young continued:

*"Manx National Heritage would like to thank the teachers, judges and stewards from the Friends of Manx National Heritage who were involved in assisting with the competitions, together with musicians who performed to accompany entrants at both the competitions and concerts".*

**For further information on Cruinnaght Aeg 2008, please contact:**

Anthea Young, Education Officer, Manx National Heritage E-mail: [anthea.young@mnh.gov.im](mailto:anthea.young@mnh.gov.im) Tel: 01624 648000

## Arrane son Mannin 2007

The organisers of the Pan Celtic song competition are once again looking for Manx representation and this means that it is once again time for the Manx heat Arrane son Vannin (Song for Mann). Last year saw a close run battle between Veih'n Chree and a song by Breesha Maddrell and a song composed by Sharon Christian. Veih'n Chree pipped it and went on to come second in the overall competition in Ireland.

This year the prize money has been upped to £250 and if the Manx contingent can win the final, to be held this year in Donegal Town they stand to scoop the grand prize of €1500.

The first heat will be held as part of the annual Cooish festival of Gaelic Language in November of this year, and

successful finalists will then travel to Donegal in April 2008 as part of the Pan Celtic Festival.

As a language song competition, any entries do not have to be traditional music (there was a punk band last year!) but the song does have to be in Manx gaelic and have instrumental accompaniment. Both lyrics and tune must be newly composed in 2007 and not previously composed. The live performance must include three to eight performers and the composer need not perform.

If you have a good song in English and would like it translated into Manx contact Bob Carswell

[bob@mooinjerveggy.org.im](mailto:bob@mooinjerveggy.org.im).

All entrants should contact Fiona McArdle on 471543 or at [fmcardle@manx.net](mailto:fmcardle@manx.net) for an entry form and more information.

# Adult Manx Music Summer School 2007 with Marc Duff

At the end of this month, the Manx Heritage Foundation will be presenting another educational programme of master classes for adult Manx musicians. This year, multi-talented instrumentalist Marc Duff has been invited over from Scotland to lead sessions on bodhrán, whistle, bouzouki and Celtic recorder.

Marc is a founder member of the Scottish folk band Capercaillie with whom he has recorded numerous best selling albums. Since leaving the band in 1995, he has been in great demand as a teacher and a session musician, working with artistes including Wolfstone, Deaf Shepherd, Billy Bragg, Kathleen MacInnes and Ian Bruce. Marc has a degree in performance from the London Guildhall School of Music and is currently Musician in Residence for Falkirk Arts Council where he researches and teaches traditional music.

All master classes will take place at the Philip Christian Centre in Peel [entrance behind Peel Town Hall] and are free of charge. Own instruments will be required.

|                                  |            |          |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> August | 11am - 1pm | Bodhrán  |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> August | 2pm – 4pm  | Whistle  |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> August   | 11am – 1pm | Bouzouki |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> August   | 2pm – 4pm  | Recorder |

Places are limited and are designed for adult Manx instrumentalists of competent standard. To reserve your place on one or more of these sessions, please call Chloë or Cinzia on (01624) 695159 or email [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im)

Marc will also perform with guitarist Malcolm Stitt in a concert at 7.30pm on Sunday evening [26<sup>th</sup> August] at the Philip Christian Centre - £6 (inc. refreshments). Musical support by local band Sheear. Tickets will be available from Chloë and Cinzia during the weekend.

<http://marcduff.com/>



## CALENDAR - AUG 2007

### Manx Music Summer Season

2 August, 7:30pm, Colonnade room, Villa Marina. King Chiaullee and The Reeling Stones. Free.

### Manx Music Summer Season

9 August, 7:30pm, Colonnade room, Villa Marina. Sheear and Katie Lawrence. Free.

### Bree Youth Music Session

11 August, 4:30pm, Java Lounge, Douglas. Monthly youth session. Check your emails and keep an eye on [MySpace.com/manxmusicanddance](http://MySpace.com/manxmusicanddance) for venue information.

### Peel Carnival

12 August, 12:30 til 3pm. Manx music and dance performances throughout Peel as part of the carnival celebrations.

### Manx Music Summer Season

16 August, 7:30pm, Colonnade room, Villa Marina. Staa and Bock Yuan Fannee . Free.

### Manx Music Summer Season

23 August, 7:30pm, Colonnade room, Villa Marina. Perree Bane and The Mollag Band. Free.

### Music Masterclasses with Marc Duff

25 August, 11am, Philip Christian Centre, Peel. Bodhran workshop. Contact [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) for more info. Free.

### Music Masterclasses with Marc Duff

25 August, 2pm, Philip Christian Centre, Peel. Whistle workshop. Contact [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) for more info. Free.

### Music Masterclasses with Marc Duff

26 August, 11am, Philip Christian Centre, Peel. Bouzouki workshop. Contact [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) for more info. Free.

### Music Masterclasses with Marc Duff

26 August, 11am, Philip Christian Centre, Peel. Celtic recorder workshop. Contact [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) for more info. Free.

### Marc Duff and Malcom Stitt in concert

26 August, 7:30m, Philip Christian Centre, Peel. Concert featuring Marc Duff and Malcolm Stitt with support from Manx band Sheear. £6 (to include tea/coffee).

# Er y traie forced to consider name change!



Each year, the Cooish festival committee on behalf of Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh organises a gig for Manx bands as part of Port Erin Regatta. With support from the Isle of Man Arts Council, the event brings together top sound-man, Mark Cleator of Red Lyon Studios, with some of the most exciting bands on the trad scene for an open-air gig 'er y traie', ie 'on the beach'. This year was no exception, with a great line-up promised: the Reeling Stones, Pobble, Dogbreath and the Mothers of Melancholy and Skeeal. Blessed with glorious sunsets over the past couple of years which have made posters a joy to put together, the torrential rain came perhaps not as a surprise but very much as an inconvenience. Thankfully, the management at the Bay Hotel, Port Erin beckoned the bands inside so Mark was able to set up the gear in the Vaults, one of the Island's tiniest – but friendliest – venues. The Reeling Stones and Pobble gave great performances, with more exciting sets and songs than you can shake a stick at. Last minute mollag-ettes, Katie and Breesha stepped into Hillary's shoes to join in with Julie, Sarah and the mighty Dogbreath, who had the crowd – and a comedy Elvis – in the palm of his hand. Running out of time but with the masses demanding more, a slim-line Skeeal performed three lively sets with a very happy MHK and MC for the evening, Phil Gawne, at the mic. The music went down so well that the pub booked bands for their

regular Friday/Saturday night spots later in the year – watch this space. As for the name of the event, maybe this year it should have just been called 'sy thie oast – in the pub!'

## Manx Music in the Mags

Manx band Scaanjoon were given a great review in **Hotpress** Magazine last month. Picking up on Nigel Brown's sweet voice, likening him to Tim Buckley and Mike Scott, and his interpretations of Manx songs Scaanjoon's first Album *Creepy Folk Come Down* got a good few column inches devoted to it. Not only was this good publicity for Scaanjoon it was great for Manx music as a whole with the final quote 'The traditional music of the Isle of Man seems to have lost out in the recent wave of popularity of all things Celtic. From the work on offer here, that's a real pity.' Good on you Nigel, keep flying the flag.

This wasn't the only high profile mention of Manx music and musicians in the press. In last month's **Mojo** magazine, Billy Bragg was interviewed about his favourite music. Alongside Ry Cooder and Beethoven, Bragg singled out Charles Guard's *Avenging and Bright* album as his favourite Sunday morning listen, even likening it to an 'aural backrub'. After being recently spotted being played in a hotel in New York is it time for *Avenging and Bright* to be reissued on CD for a new audience?

## Manannan Fantasia



Last weekend [27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July], Peel Footlights Youth Theatre presented a spectacular show of Manx folklore through drama, music and dance. Performed at Peel Centenary Centre, 'Manannan Fantasia' was created by director Christina Kemp and children from several western primary schools. The original script cleverly intertwined several stories from Manx folklore including *The Moddey Dhoo*, *How the Wren became the King of the Birds* and

*the Buggane of St. Trinians*, with a new story about Manannan and Teeval; all of which were acted out through different theatrical techniques. New dances were choreographed to Manx traditional music tracks by Lesley Paxton from Theatrix and the children performed several Manx songs under the direction of Chloë Woolley from the Manx Heritage Foundation.

For more information on Peel Footlights Youth Theatre see [www.fullfathom.co.uk](http://www.fullfathom.co.uk)



manx heritage foundation  
undinys eiraght vannin

For more information on Manx music and dance contact:

Cinzia Curtis: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im  
Chloe Woolley: manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im  
See: www.manxheritage.com or  
www.manxheritagemusic.org  
Call: 01624 695159  
or write to: Centre for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove,  
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LX

## Manx/Frisian Exchange

The end of July saw a group of young Frisians (a language minority from the West coast of Germany) spend a week on the Isle of Man. Approximately 16 young people between 14 and 18 and a number of helpers took part in a number of Manx activities around the Island. Although not managing to get to the Manx Music Summer Season gig, they managed to experience Manx music and dance at a workshop held at their accommodation at Ardwhallin, Injebreck. With dance (and song) tuition from Cinzia Curtis and music from the Reeling Stones the visitors thoroughly enjoyed a fun packed couple of hours, and we left humming 'Haligan, haligan' all the way back to their homeland!