



STOP PRESS: New Manx Music Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural and, in many ways, test run newsletter for Manx musicians and dancers. I for one get irritated 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!)

Cinzia

Yn Chruinnacht

Well, as many of you will know, Yn Chruinnacht 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 across the island 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 Barrovian Hall, King Bills, and Peel Centenary 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.

Possibly the most successful for a new event was Yn Chruinnacht Rocks! at Bar Logo. Although, sadly, it was not as rocking as we'd hoped after Black Orchid were forced to drop out due to illness, Christy D stepped into the breach. This fab night 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 was had by all.

It only leaves the committee to say thank you to all of you who performed, helped out, stewarded 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 tune 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@ynchruinnacht.com

Lost Property

A number of pieces of lost property were collected throughout the week. If you have lost anything please email lost@ynchruinnacht.com Also, if you happen to have found anything please let us know.



SESSIONS: TUES, IRISH IN TRAFF, DOUGLAS, FRI, TYNWALD INN, ST. JOHN'S, FRI, IRISH IN THE MITRE, RAMSEY, SAT, THE WHITE HOUSE, PEEL.

Kirsty & Katie: CD Launch



Sisters Kirsty and Katie Lawrence will be playing at the Centenary Centre at a special concert Tuesday the 29th of August. During the course of the evening, they will be introducing their new CD recording, **Tree Baatyn Beggey**. As well as this special occasion, the event

also marks the return of Mike and Al. Better known as part of the trio 'Mike, Laurie and Al' who performed all over the island in the 80's and 90's, the two have kindly agreed to reform for the event, with Mike coming over specially from England.

Kirsty and Katie have been playing music since their primary school days. They are both trained classically but were also brought up playing folk and traditional music. Both girls are music graduates from Huddersfield University and are now qualified teachers, teaching on the island - Kirsty at Ballakermeen and Katie currently at Ballacottier Primary school. Both girls were a part of Paitchyn Vannin, the Ramsey Grammar School folk group that performed at the Albert Hall in 1995 as part of the Youth Proms.

The girls' parents were first approached by Robin Boyle, fiddle player with the Manx music group Phynodderree, during a festival in Alnwick last August, who offered to do the recording for them. The girls then started working on the recording aspect of the CD in September 2005, but due to various commitments, school and others, work progressed fairly slowly to say the least! However, this followed a sometimes fraught schedule of trying to fit sessions in around rehearsals, school productions and guest musicians, some of whom live off island. During this time, the girls endured many light hearted jokes about the longevity of the project, but finally, after 10 months, in July of this year, recording was finished.



The CD will be distributed to shops and other establishments around the island and will be available for the price of £12.50. Tickets for the concert at the Centenary Centre will be available from Shakti-Man in Ramsey, Celtic Gold in

Peel, Black and Blue in Douglas and Peter Norris Music in Douglas. A limited number of tickets will be available on the door.



Workshops with top Irish and Scottish Musicians

As part of the Manx Heritage Foundation's music policy a week of music workshops aimed at adult Manx musicians has been organised for the end of August. Maire Breatnach (Fiddle/Voice) and Cormac de Barra (Harp) will be travelling to the island in the last week of the summer holidays to run a series of workshops aimed at adult musicians. Malcolm Stitt will also be running workshops as part of the series.

All workshops will be held in the Music Centre, Lord Street (with the exception of one) and are **free of charge**. Own instruments will be required. The workshops will be more toward the 'Master class' style of workshop, but do not be afraid to come along. All levels of adult performer will be welcome.



Monday 28th August - 1:30pm - Fiddle with Maire Breatnach

Tuesday 29th August - 1:30pm - Voice with Maire Breatnach

Wednesday 30th August - 1:30pm - Stagecraft with Maire Breatnach and Cormac de Barra

Thursday 31st August - 10am - Harp with Cormac de Barra

Thursday 31st August - 1:30pm - Arranging with Maire Breatnach and Cormac de Barra

Friday 1st September - 1:30pm - Guitar with Malcolm Stitt



Saturday 2nd September - 1:30pm - Sound Tech for Musicians with Malcolm Stitt

An opportunity for musicians to learn the secrets of the world of sound technicians and how to ask for what you really want.

As well as the workshops Malcolm, Maire and Cormac will be taking part in a concert at Peel Centenary Centre on **Wednesday 30 August, 8pm start** and at a tiny cost of **£5**. An opportunity to see all that you have been and will be taught put into practice.

This series is designed specifically for adult Manx musicians today, and as such we hope to see as many of you there as possible. If you are interested in attending any or all of the sessions or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Manx Music Resource Coordinator via email (mhfmusic@mhf.org.im) or call 673074.



Rink

This section of the newsletter is reserved for dance news – however we don't have any at the moment! I know Perree Bane recently travelled to Llangollen, but I've heard very little about it. Don't forget, if you have any news, photos, reports etc. (no matter if they're a little late John!) please send them in to me!

Oh, well I can tell you that I am about to start writing up my MA dissertation on the revival of Manx dance pre 1970. If you have any information you want to pass on, know of any vital information I may have missed etc. please contact me. Cinzia.



Manx dancers performing Flitter Daunsey, IOM Weekly Times.

BULLETIN BOARD

This section is an opportunity for you to post notes, requests, information, questions etc. to the rest of the music/dance community.

Photos Wanted

There is a distinct lack of good photos of contemporary Manx music/dance events. If you have taken any recently of Yn Chruinnaght or other events that you would be happy for me to use, please contact me: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im or 673074.

CALENDAR - AUG 2006

August 10th, 8pm: Phynodderee and Cliogaree Twoaie in the Colonnade Room of the Villa Marina, Douglas. FREE.

August 17th, 8pm: Staa, King Chiauullee and Bock Yuan Fannee in the Colonnade Room of the Villa Marina Douglas. FREE.

August 18th, 9pm: Moot at Clinch's Celtic Tavern, Douglas. FREE

August 24th, 8pm: Skeel and Caarjyn Coidjagh in the Colonnade Room of the Villa Marina, Douglas. FREE.

August 29th, 8pm: Kirsty and Katie album launch, with Mike and Al at Peel Centenary Centre. Tickets in advance from Shakti-Man in Ramsey, Celtic Gold in Peel, Black and Blue in Douglas and Peter Norris Music in Douglas. A limited number of tickets will be available on the door. £5.

August 30th, 8pm: Maire Breatnach, Cormac de Barra and Malcolm Stitt in concert. Peel Centenary Centre, tickets on the door. £5

August 31st, 8pm: Mactullagh Vannin, Perree Bane and Staa in the Colonnade Room of the Villa Marina, Douglas. FREE

Moot to represent Isle of Man at alternative Eurovision this October

Local band Moot have been short listed for the annual LIET-LAVLUT European minority language song contest which will be held in Ostersund in Sweden this October. The contest was set up around four years ago to promote cultural diversity, bringing together new and challenging music in a variety of styles. Aalin Clague, lead singer with Moot, said: 'We're delighted to have been selected for the final from over sixty entries. The other ten finalists are incredible musicians, many of whom are professional. We're really looking forward to performing alongside them and representing the Isle of Man'. The judges from LIET-LAVLUT were particularly impressed by the quality of entries from small language communities such as Manx and Votian, a language spoken at the Estonian-Russian border.



Moot's success in being short listed has already caught the attention of the world's media, who are excited about music in Manx Gaelic - even Italian TV has been in touch! The song chosen for the final is called 'Gyn Fockleyn' which means 'without words' - it's one of those songs which talks about not knowing which way to turn. Moot are Aalin Clague (lead vocals), Breesha Maddrell (flute and backing vocals) and Rob Cain (samples and percussion). They have nearly finished their second album - those keen to hear some of the new tracks or to catch their live dates should visit: www.myspace.com/mootmootmoot

See also www.liet.nl, www.eurolang.net for more information.

Irish Devils visit Island's Schools

As Yn Chruinnaght fell fully in the school holidays this year, it was decided to bring a group of musicians over during term time to keep the educational element of the festival intact. The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance (Limerick) the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (Glasgow) and Newcastle University were all approached to send students studying traditional music and dance. The Irish World Academy were first to reply, and so with the help of the course tutor for the BA in Irish Music and Dance, Sandra Joyce, a group of students were found to travel to the Island.

The Department of Education were approached to help with funding and pleasantly surprised us all by offering the full budgeted amount. After a few false starts from the Irish end, Dave Brown from the Dept. of Ed. even organised the flights and accommodation.

So, two weeks before the end of school Paddy McHugh (dance, whistle, lilting), Lucia McGinnis (Harp), Nichola Quinn (dance and bodhran), Alan Jordan (guitar) and Niamh Fenton (button accordion and fiddle) began a week long adventure around the island's schools under the band name Na Deabhail.

And an adventure it was. With some slightly shaky navigation skills from Cinzia Curtis and Chloe Woolley, the group found their way round eleven schools in one week: Ashley Hill, Ballasalla, Kewaigue, Ballakermeen Learning Support Unit, Andreas, Marown, Foxdale, Scoill Phurt-le-Moirrey, Albert Road, Fairfield and a secondary schools workshop at St. Ninians for their own pupils as well as Ballakermeen and QEII. The schools chosen were recognised as having been a little neglected by previous events, and the group went down a storm. With a mixture of performance and workshop, music, song and dance the children participating were often so inspired they 'Riverdanced' their way out into the playground! The group were amazed at the musical abilities of the pupils, with every school performing a song or dance from the Isle of Man – from Puff the Magic Dragon to a 3 part harmony choral version of Birlinn Gorree Crovan!



Er y Traie

July 15th saw an ever popular evening of music in Port Erin for the annual regatta weekend. Outside the Bay Hotel, the promenade thronged with people, young and old alike, clutching plastic glasses of Bushy's, or wine or cans of coke to listen to the feast of music on offer.

Starting at 8pm Moot opened with an ever evocative and haunting mix of samples and live music and song. Unfortunately, the billed Mactullagh Vannin were unable to perform and so visiting Irish students, Na Deabhail stepped into the breach. After half an hour of rousing reels and slides, serene harp solos and haunting whistle airs, a relieved Paddy McHugh (whistle) could be heard to exclaim 'I've never played in front of a microphone before!' Next up were Skeeal, with the distinctive voice of Phil Gawne. Although their new album and the election were a common theme throughout their performance, there was still plenty



of time for some of that Skeeal sound with songs in Gaelg, as well as their distinctive flute duets. The evening finished up with a rousing set from King Chiaullee. Although one man down, with Russell away, they lived up to their reputation and made for a perfect finish to the evening.

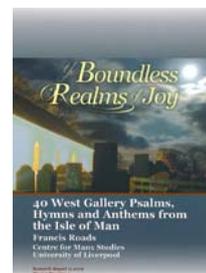
Organised by the Cooish Committee in conjunction with Port Erin Regatta, Yn Greinneyder, Adrian Cain, was in control of the mic and used every possible opportunity to teach the crowds a bit of Manx in between the music. With sound by Mark Cleator and a beautiful sunset it was a perfect summers evening of musical entertainment.

Carval Corner

With a wealth of West Gallery resources, a cornucopia of Carvals and a host of Hymns from the Isle of Man, it seems only fair that these have their own dedicated section. If you have any news or events please let us know at the usual addresses.

Church Crawl

September 2nd sees the launch of Francis Roads' new West Gallery Hymn Book, 'Ye Boundless Realms of Joy' with a musical Church crawl across the parishes of Rushen, Arbory and Malew. Between the hours of 11am and 5pm, and for the small price of £5, enthusiastic singers are invited to accompany Dr Francis Roads of the London West Gallery Quire. The day will be a mixture of short talks and communal singing sessions. Lunch will be available en-route but registration is essential. Please contact the Centre for Manx Studies for more information: 673074.



manx heritage foundation
undyns eiraght vannin

For more information on Manx music and dance contact:

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