



Manx Music Today

June 2007

Kiaull Manninagh Jiu

IOMAC Manx Music Summer Season

After the success of last year's Manx music summer season it has been decided to continue this year. After a number of meetings with representatives of the groups, some changes have been made, but these are all improvements. Firstly, publicity has been upped. As a valued addition to the Villa's summer season it was seen as worthy of additional funds to promote Manx music as an option for the Island's visitors. As a result posters and flyers will be distributed around the island, but the Steam Packet and coach tour operators are being targeted specifically. Also as a further addition, to help promote individual groups a programme will be printed, giving information about each band. They have been requested to pass this information onto the Arts Council themselves to ensure the information is correct in each case. Also, the equipment provided will be increased with collaboration between the bands and the Villa Marina sound technician staff who will provide suitable PA where necessary. One major difference will be the 7:30pm start time. This was decided on to avoid a cross over with events, such as the cabaret and this year, comedy club, that start in the promenade suite below at 8pm.

A sneak preview of the full timetable can be seen here. If you would like any more information on the timetable, bands or season of events overall please contact the Manx Music Resource Coordinator: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im.

Villa Marina, Colonnade Room, 7:30pm

12 th July:	Phynnodderee, Manx Folk Dance Society & Cliogaree Twoaie.
19 th July:	Yn Chruinnaght Manx Bands Night
26 th July:	Skeegal, Caarjyn Cooidjagh, Pobble
2 nd August:	King Chiaullee, Reeling Stones
9 th August:	Sheear, Katie Lawrence
16 th August:	Staa, Bock Yuan Fannee
23 rd August:	Perree Bane, The Mollag Band.

Yn Chruinnaght Schools Workshops

As part of Yn Chruinnaght's continuing commitment to education, this month will see the second, of what will hopefully be a regular, visit by a group of young musicians for schools workshops. With the changes in the format of the festival and the educational calendar, it became very difficult to ensure that workshops could take place during the main festival. It seemed unacceptable to allow these to fall by the wayside, so an alternative was developed.



As an education to both children on the Isle of Man and the visiting musicians, a group of students studying traditional music have been invited to carry out workshops over a week long period. Over the week it is hoped that the students will gain experience in teaching and working as ambassadors for their music, and the children will learn more of the relationship between Manx culture and the surrounding countries.

Last year saw a very successful week of workshops by students from the University of Limerick studying Irish traditional music and dance. This year three young ladies from Newcastle University will travel to the Isle of Man between the 17th and 23rd of June to carry out similar workshops. With fiddle, voice, piano and clog dancing, it is hoped that this group can educate people on the similarities between Manx and Celtic music and the music of Northern England and the Borders.

A record of schools that have been visited recently has been kept, and so schools that have not been visited for a while have been given first refusal. The visitors will have a hectic week travelling from Douglas, to Castletown, to Jurby and back to Douglas to complete the workshops. A special workshop for secondary school's folk groups has been organised also. This venture has been backed both financially and conceptually by the Department of Education, for which Yn Chruinnaght are very grateful. It is hoped that this relationship between Yn Chruinnaght, the Department and off Island universities can carry on for many years to come.

MNHL
Mona Douglas
Bequest Box 29 of 35
9545

Arrane Son Illiam Dhone



Bulletin Board

Jamie & Grainne

Kiaull Manninagh Jiu would like to offer their congratulations to Grainne Joughin and Jamie Smith on the event of the wedding this month. Grainne Joughin is a stalwart member of the Manx music and dance fraternity both as a dancer, singer and musician. Jamie Smith is a key member of Welsh band Mabon, although is something of an adopted Manx musician often seen playing with King Chiuallee. We would like to wish them every success in the future.

Manxbands

Manx music is much more than just folk music, and the Isle of Man has a burgeoning bands scene including rock, folk, punk, blues and many cover bands. If as a Manx musician you would be interested in more cross genre events and mixing traditional music with more contemporary styles, check out the forums on www.manxbands.co.uk.

Groups wanted

Music and dance groups are wanted for a community event at Ballafesson on June 22nd. If interested please contact Annie on 834844.



Rink

Manx Folk Dance Society visit to Wayfarers Dance Group

Several dancers and musicians of the Manx Folk Dance Society travelled to Birmingham over the May Bank Holiday week-end to join in the 40th birthday celebrations of the Wayfarers Dance Group, with whom they have had links for many years. Also attending the festivities were members of Volkstanzgruppe Besse from Germany who are friends of both groups.

On the evening of arrival, everyone joined together for social dancing, supper and the renewing of friendships. The following day there were dance displays by all three groups at Charlecote Park near Warwick, a Tudor House and landscaped deer park. In the evening we met at The Mother Huff Cap pub and restaurant at Great Aline where a carvery meal was enjoyed by all, followed by team games of skittles.

Next day we were treated to a journey on the Severn Valley Steam Railway from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth. A carriage had been reserved for the groups and there was much music on the way to Bridgnorth and more music plus dancing in the aisles on the way back.

On our final day, all three groups performed during the morning at the Botanical Gardens at Edgbaston with a farewell dance in the evening and displays by both Volkstanzgruppe Besse and the Manx Folk Dance Society.

A great week-end was enjoyed by all who attended, and promises of further exchanges with both groups in the near future.

Norma & Dave Hodgson, Manx Folk Dance Society

**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**



Yn Cruinnaght Aeg

There will be young people all over the Island revving up for this year's Cruinnaght Aeg competitions that begin this month. They began, way back when, as part of Yn Chruinnaght festival and many of the current organisers will remember fondly the days, sitting at Ramsey Grammar School and Auldyn, waiting their turn to compete. For those more ambitious students the logistics of managing to take part in simultaneous dance, music and song classes, trying to find your group/accompanist/duet partner and still managing to look calm when you played deserved a medal of its own.

However, as with most things, the competitions have changed and, with greater demand on them, grown. Now run by Manx National Heritage in collaboration with the Department of Education and Fiona McArdle, the competitions are now known as Cruinnaght Aeg ('youth gathering') and are held over two weeks in two locations. June 25th to 27th see voice, instrumental and dance competitions taking place in the South of Island, with a day devoted to each type. The North get their turn (still at RGS) on 2nd to 4th July.

Although competitions, they are more of an opportunity to play with children from other schools and to work towards a performance for the end of the year. With local musicians and dancers adjudicating the competitions, the competitive nature is kept to a minimum. Kiaull Manninagh Jiu would like to wish all participants the best of luck for this year.

For more information contact: Anthea.Young@mnh.gov.im

CALENDAR - JUNE 2007

Reeling Stones @ The Sulby Glen

15 June, 8:30pm, Sulby Glen Hotel, Sulby. Reeling Stones regular spot at the Sulby Glen hotel, followed by a session

Bree

16 June. Venue to be confirmed. Check your emails!

Caarjyn Cooidjagh @ St. Thomas'

27 June, St. Thomas' Church Hall, Douglas. 7:30pm

Skeegal travel to Iona and Mull



Skeegal are travelling to Iona and Mull at the end of TT week to take part in Fèill Chaluim Chille organised by Colmcille (www.colmcille.net). Colmcille was set up to promote a vibrant interactive Gaelic community between Ireland and Scotland, and, for its past few meetings in Belfast and Donegal, they have extended this to include the Isle of Man and Manx Gaelic.

The festival will feature traditional boats, ceili dancing, concerts and workshops. Gàidhlig Psalm Singers from the Isle of Lewis, Cór Árann & Cór Ban Inis Óirr from the Aran Islands and Cór Cuil Aodha from Cork will perform in Iona Abbey, and there will be a huge gig at Torosay Castle on Mull featuring Capercaillie, Kíla, Dàimh, Seamus Begley and Friends, and Aidan O' Rouke and Friends.

Skeegal will be performing and teaching workshops over the festival, island-hopping between Iona and Mull and Oban on the 'mainland'. They will be joined by Fiona McArdle, who will teach some dance workshops through Gaelic. The group will also offer language and singing workshops throughout their stay.



manx heritage foundation
undinys eiragh 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 673074
or write to: Centre for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove,
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LX

DVD of Manx groups

Filming of a DVD to promote Manx groups starts this month. As part of the Manx Heritage Foundation's continuing work to promote Manx music and dance both on and off the Island, the Foundation has agreed to fund the filming of a DVD to act as a showcase of Manx groups to send to festival organisers, agents, corporate conference organisers and those generally interested in Manx music and dance. Each group has been given the opportunity to take part, and have been given free reign to choose a venue that best suits their band for the filming. Each group will record two tracks and then be filmed playing along with the music to avoid the intrusion of mic stands, monitors and leads on the screen.

Eventually the DVD will be accompanied by a 'directory' of the groups including a biography and contact details for each group. There has been a steadily increasing flow in enquires both on and off the Island for Manx groups to take part in events, and it is hoped that this promotional material, alongside leaflets of general information and the Manx Music Database (www.manxheritagemusic.org) will help organisers pick the right group for their event. Each group will be given access to their own clip for their own promotional purposes as well.