



Moot (and Annie) go to Sweden!

Last week Moot returned from representing the Island in Europe at the Liet-Lavlut international song contest for minority languages. We flew to Ostersund, in the North of Sweden, accompanied by Annie Kissack, who was to be the Island's Eurovision style jury member. Along with most of the artists, we were staying at the 'Gamla Teater' hotel, built some time ago(?) by the Swedish 'Good templars'. There was some sort of templar bash on there while we were over; you could identify them by the unusual large medallions round their necks- and I suppose they could identify us by the plastic coated 'Liet' cards round ours, not quite as classy.



The weekend disappeared in a whirl of interviews and rehearsals until the contest got underway on the Saturday night. Breesha proudly told many visibly impressed (or was that stunned?) interviewers about the Manx Gaelic revival and our 70 ish fluent Manx speakers. Realising that many of the groups came from 'minority' language communities of over a million fluent speakers made me determined to make more of an effort with my Manx lessons when I got home. You can see Breesha doing her stuff in a short programme made by a Frisian TV company on the Liet.nl website.

During the rehearsals we got to see and listen to the other bands, and there were some gems. The standards were very high- most of the other groups were professional musicians. My personal favourites were: Arbe Garbe, the Friulian group from Italy who were a real party band, and jolly nice chaps too; the Raud Ants, a crazy 'Votian' singing collective of winsome girls with medieval instruments and hairy blokes playing thrash metal, from Estonia; the Karavan familia a Romany group who had everyone up dancing ;and the winners of the contest- the Sami joikers, whose backing band reminded me of BLK.



The contest ran like clockwork. We were third on and luckily not too nervous after rehearsing a few times in the theatre, so we were happy enough with our performance. Robert had a table draped with a Manx flag to hide his unsightly equipment, a suggestion of the producer (a bloke from Stockholm who had lived on the Island for a while as a child and had gone to Murray's Road school!). When all the artists had presented their song, the audience were sent out into the lobby while the jury deliberated. Here we did our promoting the Island bit and set up a stall with tourist information, Manx flag pins (very popular), information about the Manx language and some advance copies of our new CD which we had rushed out for the occasion.

Breesha gave some Swedes lessons in how to ask for a drink etc in Manx and they looked suitably confused.

We were then called in to stand at the sides of the audience seating while Annie and her fellow jury members stepped onto the stage to give their points, in their minority language. We managed to keep stiff upper lips as it became clear that it was not going to be our night. We got good marks from some judges, but apparently our use of technology didn't go down too well with others. The final result was very popular with the audience, many of whom were Sami people wearing their traditional costume and we all went on stage for a bit of joking to round off the contest.

Highlights of the trip included: meeting one of the organisers of the contest, from Friesland, who came to tell us about his holiday to the Isle of Man when he was a small child. His parents took him to meet Claire Clennell and she gave them a signed copy of her album and continued to send his family all her subsequent recordings; the world premiere of the first Sami joik opera (no honestly, it was great- we are inspired to try something in a similar vein- watch this space...), meeting lots of nice interesting people (especially the ones who thought our song should have won); dancing the night away at the after show party to all the brilliant and contrasting bands; and discovering a wonderful Swedish tea making gadget (come for a cuppa and I will enlighten you).

We applied to the Isle of Man Arts Council for funding, which really helped with the travel costs. I would thoroughly recommend the experience, so if anyone is interested in going next year keep an eye on the Liet.nl website and send them a song!



By Aalin Clague.

CALENDAR - Nov 2006

An Evening with the Mannin Folk presented by The Great Laxey Mine Railway.

3 November, Laxey Glen Gardens Pavilion. Starts 8pm. Tickets £7.50 from Laxey Post Office and Laxey Chemist. Call 862029 for info.

King Chiaullee CD Launch - Nish

11 November, 7pm, Java Café, Strand Street, Douglas. CDs will be available at a special introductory price. See www.kciom.com for more information.

Caarjyn Coidjagh

25 November Performance at St. James' Church Hall, Dalby.

COOISH 2006

25oo Mee Houney – 1ed Mee ny Nollick
25 November – 1 December



The *Cooish* is a celebration of Manx language, music and identity organised by Yn

Cheshaght Ghailckagh (the Manx Language Society), with support from the Manx Heritage Foundation, the Isle of Man Arts Council and local businesses. Taking place during the last week of November, the festival is an eclectic mix of concerts, school workshops, lectures, music and language sessions. The festival is for everybody interested in Manx culture – whether you know any Manx or not, we'd love to see you throughout the week.

The 2001 census showed that 2.2% of Manx residents speak Manx, with a large proportion of them under 20 – that's a ten-fold increase in speakers since 1961!

For more information, contact Adrian Cain on 838527 or Breesha Maddrell on 673074

www.ycg.iofm.net

CLAARE – PROGRAMME

Saturday 25 Jesarn - taishbynyssyn ec yn Ynnyd Shappal Tinvaal, Balley Keeill Eoin

1-4pm Displays and information about Manx language and culture, with music from Skeal and Manx choir Cliogaree Twoaie, Tynwald Mills, St John's (free)

[9pm Seshoon ec y Thie Bane, Purt ny hlnshey – session at the White House, Peel]

Sunday 26 Jedoonee – Fastyr Gaelgagh, Purt le Moirrey

2-4pm Whether you're a beginner or a fluent speaker, young or just young at heart, this is an

opportunity to speak some Manx and grab a bite to eat, Port St Mary Town Hall (free)

Monday 27 Jelune – Oie Ghaelgagh, Ballabeg

7.30-9pm Vel Gaelg ayds? An opportunity for beginners and fluent speakers to come together for a fun-filled evening at Ballabeg Parish Hall (free)

Tuesday 28 Jemayrt – Leaght y Ghaaue ec y Vunscoil Ghaelgagh

7.30pm Lecture in Manx by Walter Clarke at the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, St Johns and a bit of a *cooish* afterwards in the Tynwald (free)

Wednesday 29 Jecrean: Arrane son Mannin! ec yn Ynnyd Kead Blein

8pm Concert featuring competition entries for Song for Mannin together with sets from some of the most stylish Manx bands arounds, Centenary Centre, Peel £3 (£2)

Thursday 30 Jerdein – Leaght Ned Maddrell, Thie Elmwood, Doolish

7.30pm Ned Maddrell Memorial Lecture by Dr Wilson McLeod, Senior Lecturer in Celtic, University of Edinburgh, Elmwood House, Douglas (free)

Friday 1 Jeheiney – Cuirrey Kiaull ec yn Ynnyd Kead Blein, Purt ny hlnshey

8pm Inter-Gaelic concert at the Centenary Centre, Peel, featuring Manx and visiting musicians £5



Rink

Would you like to learn some Manx Dancing?

Perree Bane is offering an introductory course on four consecutive Sunday evenings commencing November 12th for just £12 including refreshments.

No expertise or prior knowledge is necessary. All sessions are accompanied with live music and musicians are welcome to join in.

All you need is enthusiasm and footwear suitable for dancing.

Victoria Road School Hall Castletown. Time 7-8pm.

BREE: a resounding success



Thirty years ago when a session of Manx music first began in Peel no one could have dreamed that thirty years on 18 11 to 16 year olds would be coming together for a weekend of Manx music and dance and having such a good time that they called for it again!

Last weekend (28/29 October) saw what we hope will be the first of many events under the title 'Bree'. Bree means vitality or energy and an apt name it certainly appeared to be.

After a few teething problems trying to contact the young people via the schools a substantial number of musicians, dancers and speakers arrived at 10am at Douglas Youth Centre. The two day course included tuition in melody instruments and singing, Manx for musicians, accompanying instruments, dance and song writing and then group playing and arranging.

To begin, all participants worked on Hop tu Naa to prepare for a final group performance, but the tuition was soon led by the abilities and requests of the students. After a short break all assembled in the main hall with their instruments for a mass 'session' to be conducted in Manx. Paul Rogers had provided sheets of information with phrases (some of which could be deemed controversial, but I think all young people should learn to say 'I like Mactullagh Vannin!'). After a lunch break including musical exchanges, discussion of good tunes and much table football, tuition resumed with accompanying instruments and dance as the focus. The final session of the day saw the participants put into bands and asked to work on ideas for arranging. With the help of the tutors they picked common tunes and songs and arranged them for their new band.



Day two saw a continuation of the work that had been started the day before. The individual instrument tuition concentrated on tunes being used for the group playing. The Manx session was repeated, this time encouraging the groups to introduce their bands, members and tunes in Manx. While breaks were officially breaks it was often impossible to stop the participants (and tutors) continuing to play. The piano group had to be told to stop with only

five minutes of the break left and many groups used the time for more practice.

By the afternoon break a song had been written in the song writing class and while the tutors drank their coffee a musical masterpiece evolved! The song gained a vocal ensemble, accompanists, drummers and finally costumes with hilarious consequences! The laughter stopped for a brief period as the group playing workshop began but was soon to start again after a once in a lifetime performance of how not to play on stage by Katie Lawrence, David Kilgallon, Adam Rhodes and Russell Cowin. Thankfully this was followed by a corrected version to demonstrate to the groups how much of a difference it can make and half an hour for the new groups to practice and hone their arrangements and performance skills.

Fifteen minutes before the end of the workshops and the beginning of the concert for parents a hasty rehearsal of Hop tu Naa took place and the groups readied themselves for the final concert.



This concert was intended to be a very relaxed affair, just to show parents what had been worked on and no expected the excellent level of music and the professionalism of performance. Some volunteers from the Youth Centre arrived to do lighting and record the event and Harry Revell volunteered to MC bilingually.

The concert opened with a performance of Hop tu Naa with a *cappella* choir followed by an amassed band and dance performance. This was followed by sets from bands Kiare Kiaullee, Shenn Chaashey and Sleih Gyn Ennym. Newly formed choral group Kiark Catreaney performed a couple of Gaelic songs and then Almoragh performed another musical set. An all girl dance group, Neenyn Aalin then performed Shooyl Ineenyn, a bit of a feat considering some of the girls had never danced before. The concert finished with a performance of the new Bree song by Ny Mootyn Garaghtee.

The enthusiasm of the participants and tutors made the weekend more fun than anyone could have hoped. Vitality was definitely the order of the day and we hope to make this a regular event with spin off youth music sessions. Watch this space for more information.

We would like to thank all the tutors who made it the weekend it was and the Douglas Youth Centre for allowing us to use their venue. Most of all we'd like to thank all the participants for their effort and making it such a wonderful weekend

BULLETIN BOARD

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

DanceMann

Are you in a Manx dance group? Would your group like to take part in DanceMann 2007? We're looking for adult Manx dance groups for next year's event. Email DanceMann@ynchruinnaght.com

Andy Kershaw Tape

Would you like a copy of Any Kershaw's recent Radio 3 programme? If so please contact Cinzia (mhfmusic@mhf.org.im) to arrange for a copy. Cassette tape format, although possible to arrange transfer to digital.

Support Climate Change Campaign

The One World Centre are looking for musicians to perform this Saturday (4 Nov) between 12 and 2pm at Villiers Square. If you're interested please contact Katie@owciom.org or call 490433

Hop tu naa

A Round in 4 parts

Based upon a 4 bar fragment in the Gill Clague Collection called Hop dy Nai. Words collected by Mona Douglas.

by J.F. Woolley

1 Ta shenn Oie Hou - ney, Hop - tu - Naa!

2 T'an eayst soil - shean, Trol - la - laa!

3 Hop - tu - Naa as Trol - la - laa,

4 Ta shenn Oie Houn - ey, Hop - tu - Naa!

Ta shenn Oie Houney, Hop-tu-Naa!
T'an eayst soilshean, Trol-la-laa!
Hop-tu-Naa as Trol-la-laa,
Ta shenn Oie Houney, Hop-tu-Naa!

This song can be performed as a solo or it can be sung as a round by 2 - 4 singers/groups of singers. The accompanying CD features one verse of the melody sung as a solo, followed by the round with 4 singers. It may be necessary to start the song on a lower note because of the high range.

CreepyFolk Comedown

is the new album from Nigel Brown of The Ken Experiment, who has called himself 'Scaanjoon' for this project - which is Manx Gaelic for Ghost.

Nigel has cleverly used old Manx songs, poems and folklore as inspiration for the songs, but this is no fiddly-dee folk album. The overall sound is more contemporary, with a singer/songwriter vibe, even though some traditional instruments are used, such as mandolin, banjo and bodhran.

The CD begins with a brief, but dark instrumental and then the first song proper is *My Love Has Flown*, which is very loosely based on the traditional Manx song *Loves Flight*, and uses acoustic guitar and melodica. Other songs include *The Ghost* which uses a tin whistle for accompaniment and is a moving story about being metaphorically invisible. *The Phynodderree* is the darkest song on the CD, which suits its theme of the tragedy Manx tale about a fairy falling for a human girl.

Graih My Chree pinches a couple of lyrics from the traditional Manx song, but the tune is otherwise Nigel's. *We Need To Find An Anchor For Our Souls* is about our sense of belonging, home and national identity, with nothing about Freedom to Flourish! *The Goodnight Song* pinches more words from an old Manx song, but stirs it up with Nigels more modern and accessible touch. *Creepy Folk Comedown* is in the style of a Manx Fairytale, and uses sharpening knives as percussion! Eeek!

This album is perhaps more Damien Rice than fiddly-dee in sound - and that is the intention - to put Manx music in a more modern and accessible format. Purists will probably scoff, but anything that introduces people to other music or arts has to be a good thing. You can download the album at www.runningmedia.net, or buy the CD (with a choice of 2 covers) at the Black and Blue clothes shop in Douglas, or Studio 42 arts in Port st Mary.

Also check out www.myspace.com/scaanjoon where an additional track *The Mermaid*, a gorgeous ballad recorded in a live session for Energy FM will be available to download.

Review taken from www.manxbands.co.uk as submitted by Thundercat.



**SESSIONS: TUES, 9PM IRISH IN TRAFF, DOUGLAS,
THURS. 8PM CLINCH'S, DOUGLAS FRI, 8PM TYNWALD INN, ST. JOHN'S,
FRI, 9PM IRISH IN THE MITRE, RAMSEY, SAT, 9PM THE WHITE HOUSE, PEEL**

Yn Chruinnacht



NEEDS
YOU!

After a highly successful festival this year Yn Chruinnacht festival has unfortunately suffered a number of blows. Firstly we have just been informed that the Peveril Plot, traditional site for Yn Chruinnacht's Marquee, will be a building site by next July. Secondly, due to unforeseen circumstances a number of the current committee, an integral part of Yn Chruinnacht festival, are not able to continue for 2007.

We are therefore writing to ask you for help. If you have an interest in Manx culture and some time to give please come forward. The committee is a relaxed affair with only occasional meetings. These meetings can be held anywhere on the island at any time and venues/times will be dependent on the committee's members.

We are looking for musicians, dancers, artists, linguists, poets, singers – anyone with an interest in Manx and Celtic traditional art forms or who feel the festival is important and wants to be a part of it.

The plan this year is to stick to the same basic programme as last year, but take the marquee events into venues in the town. We shall continue to move around the island – although this is again dependent on having committee members who can drive. We will also be making an effort to embrace every element of Celtic culture to include language bands of a less traditional nature as part of the continuation of Yn Chruinnacht Rocks.

Without a committed and enthusiastic committee Yn Chruinnacht cannot and will not continue.

If you would like to be involved with organising the next season of events (Yn Chruinnacht Ghennal 28 December, DanceMann 16 February and Yn Chruinnacht 21-28 July please call 425957 or email committee@ynchruinnacht.com.

Manx Music Across the Atlantic

In September Manx band King Chiaulee travelled to Chicago to play at an interceltic festival. Although they managed to take part without meeting any of the organisers of the festival, the audiences enjoyed their performances, even when watching in the torrential rain! Emma Christian ahs previously travelled to the same festival and as a result the audience were keen to know more about the Island. The festival was not too strenuous, however, and the lads had plenty of time to explore the Chicago nightlife!



During their time away KC also returned to the Bethlehem festival in Philadelphia 'Celtic Classics'. This is a large scale festival with many stages, many catering for audiences of over 1,000 people. The

lads were an integral part of the festival, although spent much of their time on stage being eaten alive by midges on the 'Heritage Stage'.

King Chiaulee would like to extend their thanks to the Manx Heritage Foundation and Isle of Man Arts Council for all their help with funding this trip.

King Chiaulee's latest CD, 'Nish' will soon be available and is to be launched on 11 November at Java café in Douglas as 7pm. See www.kciom.com for more information.



manx heritage foundation
undinys eiraght vannin

For more information on Manx music and dance contact:

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See: www.manxheritage.com or
www.manxheritagemusic.org
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