



Bwoie Doal 30 Years of the Manx Music Session



It may seem obvious to many of the older 'folkies', but with the tune books *Kiaull yn Theay 1* and *2* still providing the staple repertoire for Manx traditional musicians, it's very possible that while our younger members will be familiar with the sketch of musicians in the beginning of book 2, they may not actually know who the characters are. The above sketch by Colin Jerry depicts 'Bwoie Doal', the session group responsible for the modern revival of Manx traditional music, and this Easter marks their 30 year anniversary.

Pictured clockwise from the top are David Fisher [bodhrán], Bob Carswell [flute], Phil Kelly [banjo], Colin Jerry [uilleann pipes], Cristl Jerry [harp], Simon Capelan [banjo] and Mike Boulton [guitar]. George Broderick and Brian Stowell were also founding members but were living away from the Isle of Man at the time of the sketch.

Named after Tom Kermode, a folk-singer of the late 19th century, Bwoie Doal [Blind Boy] consisted of local musicians who had previously played music from the inter-Celtic repertoire, many with the group, Celtic Tradition. After a particularly inspiring visit to North Wales over Easter 1977, some of the Manx musicians and Gaelic speakers decided to establish an exclusively Manx music session on their return. Under the umbrella name, Bwoie Doal, the session was held every Saturday night in the Central pub in Peel, also known as 'Thie Bouyr' [Deaf House] before moving to The Whitehouse, where a Manx music session still exists today. The re-discovery of the 'Clague/Gill Collection' in the Manx museum provided most of the instrumental repertoire for the session group, along with Gaelic songs collected by A.W. Moore and Mona Douglas. Many of these melodies

and songs were then transcribed by Colin Jerry in *Kiaull yn Theay 1* and *2* (1978 and 1979), or as they're possibly better known, the 'yellow' and 'red' (or sometimes orange!) books.

With most aspiring Manx musicians having passed through the session at some point in their lives or having learnt their repertoire from one of its original members or from the books, it could be said that the success of today's living tradition is directly attributable to the inception of Bwoie Doal in 1977. And with most of these pictured musicians still frequenting the Manx music scene (albeit looking slightly older), perhaps the younger generation should request a reunion gig?

Chloë Woolley

[With thanks to Colin Jerry, George Broderick, Mike Boulton, David Fisher and others for their reminiscences]

Bulletin Board

Bands Wanted for Peel Carnival

All Manx bands are invited to take part in this year's Peel Carnival. To be held on Sunday 12 August, a number of stages will feature Manx bands, dance groups and other musicians throughout the day. If your group is available and you are interested, please contact Greg on 843318.

Yn Chruinnaght Photographs

Do you have any photographs of Yn Chruinnaght? The committee are looking for any photographs of the past few years (particularly digital photographs) for use in their promotional material. If you have any that you think may interest them please contact them at photos@ynchruinnaght.com or call 07624 425957.

Obituary

It is with great sadness that Kiaull Manninagh Jiu marks the passing of Brian Wilkinson. An avid member of Perree Band and later Cliogaree Twoaie, Brian was a regular face at all Manx music and dance events. He shall be sadly missed.

Last Night As I Lay Sleeping

Collected in
Scotland 2007
by L. Martin

Gently



1. Last night as I lay sleep - ing, I dreamed that I was



ri - ding to the Isle of Skye on an ap - ple pie and



back a - gain by morn - ing, and back a - gain, my love. —

2. Last night as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed that I was flying
To the Isle of Mull
On a herring gull
And back again by morning,
And back again, my love.

3. Last night as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed that I was sailing
To the Isle of Man
In a frying pan
And back again by morning
And back again, my love.



Rink

Manx dance in 2007

With Spring on the horizon the winters' hard practice will pay dividends as the festival season approaches and the invitations come in.

Perree Bane has several places to go this year, notably Wales and Brittany, in addition to providing colour and music for local events. It is a shame that we could not muster a side for the Norwegian trip, but MFDS and Bock Yuan Fannee are there to show the flag.

Doubtless everyone is aware of the problems facing Yn Chruinnaght and especially cost and accommodation of dance groups and their musicians.

We have always felt that one of the major strengths of Yn Chruinnaght is the dancing, with the participation of the locals and also dance groups from all the Celtic countries; the possibility of a dance-deficient Yn Chruinnaght does not bear thinking about. Two members of Perree Bane are on the Committee, and are garnering support for dancing by the local groups in and around Peel during the shortened festival this year, with what I hope will be a return to Ramsey next year and more dancing. Can we ask all the Manx dance groups (and local Irish and Scots dancers?) to fully support the efforts of Brian and Andy and the Committee to keep dancing an integral and vibrant part of Yn Chruinnaght.

I have received a request from a Festival in Asturias in Northern Spain for Manx musicians and possibly dancers to attend their Festival which runs from 20th to 29th July. This overlaps with Yn Chruinnaght, and most traditional musicians and dancers will be attending that, but if there is a music group or anyone else who will not be at Yn Chruinnaght who can fly the Manx flag in Asturias then they would be very welcome. Accommodation and food is provided, with some help toward travel. Give me a ring on 823047 or 483246 and I will supply more details.

John Dowling
Perree Bane

**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**

Pan Celtic this Month

For those of you who remember the Manx Bucks Fizz, Veih'n Chree, they will be travelling to Letterkenny this month with King Chiaullee to compete in the Celtic Song Competition with an original song in the Manx language, Oir ny Cruinney. Whilst Veih'n Chree will be competing, King Chiaullee will be providing the bulk of the Manx entertainment at the concerts and ceilis. Veih'n Chree's stylist is keeping tight lipped as to their outfits for the event, but photos and a full write up will be included in next month's Kiaull Mannina Jiu. See www.myspace.com/veihnchree, www.panceltic.com and www.kciom.com for more information.

Flitter Daunse – a Manx Easter Ritual?

The only strong dating evidence we have for the collection of this dance is in Douglas' paper of 1937 in which it is stated that this dance is incomplete. This paper the associates dance with Good Friday and a feast of limpets eaten on the shore. According to Douglas' source the remains of the limpets, cake and milk were thrown into the sea with a prayer or charm. A chain dance was then performed in the shape of an S to stamp out the embers of the fire. However, the dance could not be completed from this description. Later, in 1957, Douglas states that the dance has been completed thanks to the help of Mrs Radcliffe in Maughold who was able to demonstrate the steps. In this paper the dance is described as a ritual dance, although Mona Douglas states that very little survives. Mona also then states that Flitter Daunse goes back to pre-Christian spring festivities and constitutes part of a pagan ritual.

A number of informants are referred to in relation to this dance. In a notebook titled *Folklore Notebook: Dances* full of notes on collected dances in Douglas' hand (MNHL 09545 Box 9) the first reference comes from Mrs Callow of Cardle Veg the second from Mrs Teare of Ballaugh. The main informant noted in Douglas' *Folklore Notebook* is an Ada Skillicorn who remembers the dance being performed on Dhoon head in approx 1900. Skillicorn took part in the dance herself and she was able to show Douglas the steps and movements and appears to be emphatic that the dance be danced in an S shape. The dance as noted here is very similar to that which is danced today.

CALENDAR - APRIL 2007

Shennaghys Jiu Family Concert & Ceilidh
30 March, 7pm, Grand Island Hotel, Ramsey. Tickets available on the door £2.

Shennaghys Jiu Displays.
31 March, 10am, Ramsey Town Hall in aid of Cancer Research.

Shennaghys Jiu Music in the Pub
31 March, 12noon, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey.

Shennaghys Jiu Bands Night
31 March, 8pm, Masonic Hall, Ramsey. Tickets available on the door £3.

Shennaghys Jiu 'Unplugged'
1 April, 2:30pm, All Saints' Church, Lonan.

Shennaghys Jiu New Acts.
1 April 9pm, Grand Island Hotel to be followed by a session so bring instruments.

Shennaghys Jiu Children's Workshops
2 April, 10am, Grand Island Hotel, to be followed by a mini concert at 11:30am. £1.

Shennaghys Jiu Music in the Pub
2 April, 12noon, Trafalgar Hotel, Ramsey.

Shennaghys Jiu Live @ Peel Centenary Centre
2 April, 7:30pm, Peel Centenary Centre. Tickets available on the door £5.

Shennaghys Jiu Music in the Pub
4 April, 12noon Clinch's Celtic Tavern, Douglas

Bree @ Shennaghys Jiu
4 April, 4pm, Islander Bar, Grand Island Hotel, Ramsey. This month's Bree session will be held in conjunction with youth festival Shennaghys Jiu. Take this opportunity to play along with the visiting musicians. Parents welcome.

Shennaghys Jiu Ceilidh
4 April, 8pm, Masonic Hall, Ramsey. Tickets available on the door £3

Manx Music in the pub.
15 April, 3pm, Creek Inn, Peel. Afternoon concert as part of a new series. Featuring Moot and Dogbreath & the Mothers of Melancholy. WiFi connection available.

Reeling Stones @ The Sulby Glen
20 April, 8:30pm, Sulby Glen Hotel, Sulby. Reeling Stones regular spot at the Sulby Glen hotel, followed by a session.

manx heritage foundation
undinys eiraght vannin

For more information on Manx music and dance contact:

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