



MANX ENTRY FOR 2009 PAN-CELTIC SONG CONTEST SELECTED!



Katherine Crowe and her band will represent the Isle of Man at the Pan-Celtic Song Contest in April 2009 in Donegal Town with the winning song from the Arrane son Mannin competition. Marking the start of the Cooish festival, the competition nestled within a gig from stalwarts of the Manx scene, Skeel and The Mollag Band. Katherine's self-penned song 'Gollrhym pene' ('Just like me') won her a cash prize of £250 from the Manx Heritage Foundation and an expenses paid trip to the festival. A dark number to say the least, the song tells the story of a woman who has become more than a little fed up of her lover. Taking him to the woods she knocks him on the head and buries him there. In spite of the theme, the sound of the band playing together was great – with Katie Lawrence on fiddle, Mike Reaney on guitar and Dave McLean on bass. Katherine's song was translated by Bob Carswell, who is well-known for writing songs and poetry himself and who is also a very talented translator.

Narrowly beaten into second place was 'Ellan Seyr' ('Island Independant') by Mark Cleator of Tate! With great lyrics translated by Paul Rogers and a gong (!), the song would also have fared well in Ireland.

It was great this year to have entries by artists who don't normally sing in Manx. They worked really hard to practise the pronunciation and learn the songs, both of which were very well received by audience and judges alike. The songs were judged on three elements: lyrics, music and presentation. Judges Annie Kissack, Clare Kilgallon and Stewart Bennett said that they had enjoyed both performances, but had finally chosen Katherine's song with its dark Celtic mood.

The Isle of Man sends a delegation of musicians to the Pan-Celtic festival every year, with Fiona McArdle acting as official delegate. If you're already thinking about next year's song competition, it's never too early to get in touch – songs can be translated by volunteers if they're not already in Manx. Fiona can be contacted on: fmcardle@manx.net

Recycle, reuse! Christmassy words for 'Traa dy ghill dy valley'

There's nothing easier than re-using a popular song like Traa dy ghill dy valley with phrases like Nollick Ghennal erriu (Happy Christmas to you) and Blein Vie Noa (Happy New Year) to make a simple festive song:

Nol-lick Ghen-nal er - riu, Nol-lick Ghen-nal er - riu, Ho ro Ho__ ro, Nol-lick Ghen-nal er - riu!
 Blein Vie No - a, Blein Vie__ No - a, Ho ro Ho__ ro, Blein Vie__ Noa - a!

SESSIONS

THURS 9pm Singing in The Brit, Ramsey

FRI 8pm Tynwald Inn, St. Johns **FRI 9pm** Irish in The Mitre, Ramsey

Last FRI of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary

SAT 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel **SUN 4-6pm** Traf, Douglas



Get your tickets for the Mollag Ghennal!



The mighty Mollag Ghennal is back! New and improved and at a new location at the Peel Masonic Hall, Stanley Road, Sunday 28th December is set to be an evening packed full of music, merriment and a very fine supper. Starting promptly at 7.30pm with a whole host of bands – Skeal, Reeling Stones, King Chiaullee, Harte's Ease and The Mollag Band themselves – the event aims to keep the Kegeesh Ommidjagh (Foolish Fortnight) very much alive.

Yn Chruinnaght had stepped in to fill the gap when Mollags were busy with other things, but with a new look Mollag Band and new material brewing, Greg Joughin felt it was time to bring back the Mollag Ghennal itself.

One word of warning – the Mollag Ghennal used to fill the old Garden Room at the Villa Marina, but space is much more restricted at the Masonic Hall in Peel, so it's essential you get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are £10 (including supper) and are available from Peter Norris in Douglas, Celtic Gold in Peel and Shakti Man in Ramsey.

A Taste of Christmas in Dalby



Caarjyn Coidjagh and the once elusive guru of the Celtic harp, Charles Guard, entertained an intimate gathering at St James' Church Hall in Dalby. With a mixture of songs, tunes, poetry and readings, with wonderful food prepared by the supporters of the church, the evening was a great way to start thinking about the Christmas festival.

(Photographs: Valerie Caine)



Bock Yuan Fannee Christmas Cheer

Sunday 14 December 2008

7-9 pm

Thie ny Gaelgey, St Judes

Mulled wine (& juice) & mince pies

Social Dancing and a sing-along of carols with Clogaree T'woaie.

Stalls & Raffle

Entry: £1.00 adults, children free

All welcome!

Bree Christmas Busk 2008



Bree members and tutors will be entertaining Christmas shoppers in Douglas again next month with a Manx music busking session for charity. Bree have chosen to support ACORN this year; a Manx based charity which helps abandoned children in Romania.



ACORN was founded by Raechel Kavanagh from Crosby three years ago after she had made numerous visits to Tutova in Romania to help in the local orphanage.

Funds raised for ACORN help buy clothes, nappies, food, toys and medicines for the children in the orphanage and those living with local foster families.

The Bree musicians will perform in the Strand Shopping Centre on Saturday 6th December from 3pm till 4.30pm and the group hope to raise lots of funds for ACORN. Bree will perform traditional music associated with Kegeesh Ommidjagh (foolish fortnight!) along with a few well-known carols in Manx Gaelic.

If you are between 11 and 18, play sing or play an instrument and want to join the world's largest Manx folk group, then Bree is for you! Informal sessions take place at Green's on the second Saturday of most months. For more information, see

www.manxheritage.org/bree



Cooish

Celebrating the
Manx language and
our Gaelic heritage

November 9 – 15 **Mee Houney**



Thanks to Valerie Caine for photos from the Centenary Centre gig

This year's Cooish Manx and Inter-Gaelic festival was one of the very best! With a great line-up of musicians and singers and a whole host of language based events, it proved that November's actually a pretty good time to grab some music before the madness of the festive season.

Cooish committee members felt really lucky to have secured such fantastic musicians and singers who were also so focussed on the idea of exploring our shared Gaelic heritage.

Manx groups Skeal, The Mollag Band and Caarjyn Coidjagh all showed off some new material, matching the performances of the visiting artists, sean-nós singer, Máire ni Choilm, and the very fine trio Bruce MacGregor, Sandy Brechin & Brian Ó hEadhra. Brian provided valuable insight into the annual [Nòs Ùr](#) song competition he runs in Inverness each year.

Songs in the three Gaelic languages were shared at a very successful workshop, there were fantastic sessions in local pubs, and the festival attracted media attention from Ireland – there'll hopefully be a piece in Irish Music Magazine soon – watch out for it! Raidio na Gaeltachta also covered the festival.



The Cooish was supported by a hard-working committee, with financial support from the Manx Heritage Foundation, the IOM Arts Council, Dickinson Cruickshank and Cains as well as other local businesses and venues – *Gura mie eu!*



Joseph as e Lorg

Manx song
by R.C. Carswell



1. Shoh Jo - seph as e lorg, Shoh Jo - seph as e lorg. Ta
(Trans) 2. This is Jo - seph and his staff, This is Jo - seph and his staff,



Jo - seph goll gys Beth - le - hem. Shoh Jo - seph as e lorg.
Joseph is going to Beth - le - hem. This is Jo - seph and his staff.

2. Shoh Moirrey aalin veen,
Shoh Moirrey aalin veen.
Ta Moirrey goll gys Bethlehem.
Shoh Moirrey aalin veen.

*2. This is beautiful, gentle Mary,
This is beautiful, gentle Mary.
Mary is going to Bethlehem.
This is beautiful, gentle Mary*

3. As shoh yn assyl dhone,
As shoh yn assyl dhone,
Ta'n assyl goll gys Bethlehem,
As shoh yn assyl dhone.

*3. And this is the brown donkey,
And this is the brown donkey.
The donkey is going to Bethlehem,
And this is the brown donkey.*



This song by Bob Carswell appeared in 1996 in his collection of songs, *Arraneyn sy Ghaelg*. The lyrics are deliberately simple and repetitive to make them easy to learn. If you have any songs or tunes which are copyright free or which you have composed yourself and would be happy to share with KMJ readers, then please send them (in any format – written down or as recorded audio) to Breesha at the address below.

CALLING ALL DIRECTORS... WHITE BOYS IN PEEL UP FOR GRABS!

After long years organising the White Boys play (and music and dance), Fiona McArdle has announced that she won't be doing it this year BUT she's more than happy to provide costumes and swords if someone else wants to take it on! Email: fmcardle@manx.net if you or someone you know is interested. A version of the play is ready-made in the back of *Rinkaghyn Vannin* if you don't have time to write a new one.

HUNT THE WREN MEETING PLACES

on St Stephen's Day, 26 December

PORT ST MARY

10.00am meet outside PSM Golf Pavilion
(includes a wren pole competition!)

DOUGLAS

10.15am meet outside Woodbourne Hotel
for 10.30am start.

MAUGHOLD/RAMSEY

10.30am meet at Dhoon Church Hall for performances in Maughold and Ramsey, aiming to make a final performance at Quayle's Hall, Ramsey at 11.30am.

ALL WELCOME

Rising Fawn Gathering



Norman & Nancy Blake
Boys of the Lough
James & Rachel Bryan

Rising Fawn Gathering

Adopted Manx musician Malcolm Stitt appears on the latest CD from old time country music legends, Norman and Nancy Blake and their record company, Plectrafone. Malcolm, who hails from Scotland but now calls the Isle of Man home, plays guitar with Celtic music stalwarts Boys of the Lough and recorded the album 'Rising Fawn Gathering' during a tour of the States earlier this year. They were also joined by old-time master fiddler James Bryan and his daughter Rachel. During his colourful career, singer and guitarist Norman Blake has performed and recorded with Johnny Cash, Steve Earle and Bob Dylan, but he is perhaps best-known today for performing on the award-winning soundtrack for film 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?' (2000). This latest album, which was the result of a 30 year friendship between the musicians, features a mix of American country, Irish Gaelic, Shetland and Northumbrian traditional music.

For more details or purchase the CD:
<http://www.westernjubilee.com/Plectrafone/RisingFawnGathering.htm>

WANTED: MANX CDS TO PLAY AND SELL AT NEW SAYLE GALLERY

The Sayle Gallery is opening on 11 December in new premises at the Villa Marina Arcade in Douglas. The Gallery plans to showcase Manx music of all kinds - playing music in the shop, selling CDs and featuring live acts to accompany some of the exhibitions. If you can help out, please contact [Anita Hogarth](#).

CALENDAR

Please send in any dates for the months ahead so that we can publicise events here and on various Manx music & dance websites

December

5th Fairtrade Coffee Morning in aid of Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, Eyreton, Devonshire Crescent, Douglas, 10am-12noon, entry by donation

6th Sheear at Oie'll Verree, Quayle's Hall, Ramsey Heritage Trust, tickets on door

10th The Mollag Band at the White House, Peel, from 9pm(ish), free

14th Caarjyn Coodjagh at Family History Society service, Union Mills Chapel, 2.45pm

14th Bock Yuan Fannee's Christmas Cheer with refreshments and singing from Cliogaree Twoaie, Thie ny Gaelgey, 7-9pm, Adults £1, children free

26th Hunt the Wren throughout the Island (am) and Cammag at St Johns

28th Mollag Ghennal at Masonic Hall, Peel, 7.30pm, tickets £10 from Peter Norris, Shakti Man and Celtic Gold.

manx heritage foundation undinys eiraght vannin

For info on Manx music & dance contact:

Breasha Maddrell: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im
Chloë Woolley: manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im
See: www.manxheritage.org or
www.manxheritagemusic.org

Call: 01624 695159
or write to: Centre for Manx Studies,
6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas,
Isle of Man, IM1 3LX

The office will be closed 22 Dec – 4 Jan



It's not just music, it's Manx music...

the perfect gift this Christmastime!

Over the last few years the number of CDs and books of Manx music has grown considerably. Below is a list of some of them – don't forget that they'll make perfect Christmas presents – very lightweight to send in the post, perfect stocking fillers... The majority are available from the Manx Museum Shop, Douglas and in many bookshops around the island. The MHF website has audio samples for most CDs and a link to an online shop: www.manxheritage.org/CDs



CAARTYN COOIDJAGH: SKELLYN 2008

Available online from MHF or in usual outlets.



BERNARD OSBORNE: KIAULL MANNINAGH 2008

Available online from MHF or in usual outlets.



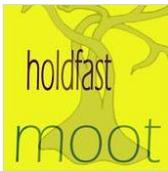
FRANK WOOLLEY: EIGHT AS NISH 2007

Piano arrangements, easy to moderate difficulty. Only £7.50. Available online from MHF or in usual outlets.



JAMIE SMITH: TUNESMITH 2008

£11.50 Great book of tunes, some with Manx connections. Available online from www.mabon.org



MOOT: HOLDFAST 2006

Usual local outlets and online



CLIOGAREE TWOAIE:

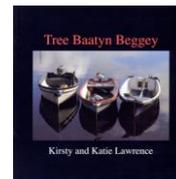
NOLLICK GHENNAL 2006

Usual local outlets and online



KING CHIALLEE: NISH 2006

Usual local outlets and online



KIRSTY AND KATIE LAWRENCE: TREE BAATYN BEGGEY 2006.

Usual local outlets



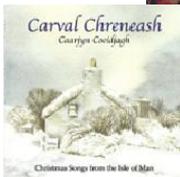
CLIOGAREE TWOAIE: DROGH VRAANE AND A FEW MEN 2005

Usual local outlets



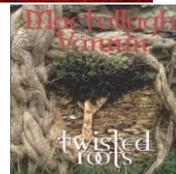
SKEEL: LONG STORY 2005

Usual local outlets



CAARTYN COOIDJAGH: CARVAL CHRENEASH 2004

Usual local outlets and online



MACTULLAGH VANNIN: TWISTED ROOTS 2004

Usual local outlets and online



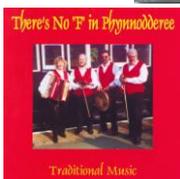
KING CHIALLEE: REEL:ODE 2003

Available online at www.kciom.com or at usual local outlets



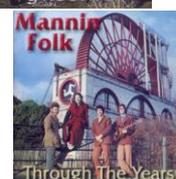
PHYNNODEREE: Y REESHT 2003

Usual local outlets



PHYNNODEREE: THERE'S NO 'F' IN PHYNNODEREE 1999

Usual local outlets



THROUGH THE YEARS: MANNIN FOLK 2000

Usual local outlets



CAARTYN COOIDJAGH: CRONNANE 1999

(Manx Gaelic choral music)
Usual local outlets and online



VARIOUS: THE BEST THAT'S IN

Usual local outlets and online



THE MOLLAG BAND: INTO THE TIDE 1997

Usual local outlets



VARIOUS: COME BACK TO MONA

Usual local outlets and online