

toshiaght arree - february 2011

Fenella Bazin RBV

The Manx Heritage Foundation's prestigious cultural award, the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan, was presented to Ballaugh resident Dr Fenella Bazin in a ceremony in the International Business School on 14th January.

The award was presented by the Vice-Chairman of the Foundation Mr Quintin Gill, MHK.

Fenella was a member of the Foundation for many years, and contributed a huge amount to its work and success but it's perhaps in the areas of music and continuing education that she is best known.



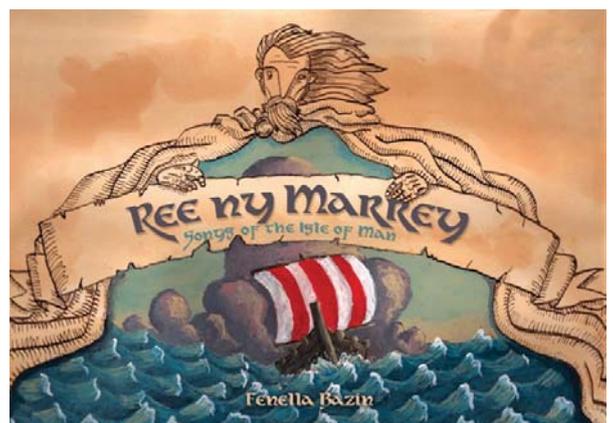
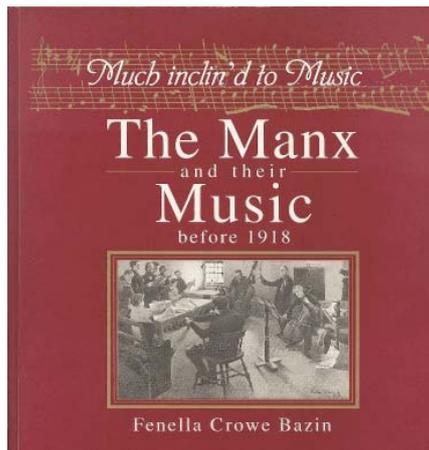
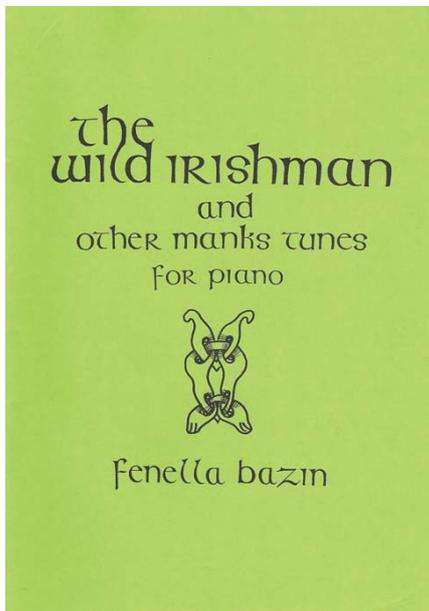
Fenella pioneered academic research into Manx music as Director of Postgraduate Studies at the Centre for Manx Studies. Her own doctoral thesis on Manx music up to 1896 effectively opened up areas of research for other students and put Manx music on the map. Without her work, we would know little about the development of traditional music, West Gallery music, even the

National Anthem. Fenella's expertise in the sphere of Manx music is internationally recognised and she has contributed articles, papers and chapters to leading publications and has spoken at numerous conferences as well as leading workshops. Her research has consistently promoted the Isle of Man and its culture, with special emphasis on the links between the Isle of Man and Norway.

Fenella's accomplishments are not restricted to the world of academia – she has succeeded in making Manx music accessible to a wide range of people of all ages. Well known as an excellent musician – pianist, fiddle player and singer – and as an arranger and composer, she has worked hard for festivals such as the Manx Music Festival and Yn Chruinnaght in the days when Manx culture was definitely not in fashion. Fenella has also represented the Island at festivals throughout Europe – as a performer and as a group leader/teacher.

Her many publications include: *Ree ny Marrey*, *Much Inclin'd to Music*, *Manx Hymn Book*, *Mona Douglas – A Tribute*, *The Promised Land*, *The Wild Irishman* and *John Moore's Music Book*.

She works hard for her local community of Ballaugh, leading the church choir, being a member of Ballaugh Heritage Trust and has acted as a governor for Ballaugh School.





Manx music down under - Carol Lefevre reports from CELTICA 2010

With a location on the dockside of Adelaide's Port River, the festival site was a colourful mix of stalls and bright umbrellas set against the rather gaunt architecture of industrial warehouses, some of which date back to the early days of the colony. Port Adelaide was buzzing all weekend with this celebration of the Celtic presence in South Australia. As well as live performances, there were workshops in Cornish language, Breton Dance, Scottish fiddle, Ceilidh and Irish Set Dancing, and much more. This was the first year that Manx traditional music was represented and it was quite a thrill to see the brilliant red flag with its three legs lazily waving beside the water.

Blind Mary consists of myself, Carol Lefevre (low whistle, guitar), Jane Copeland (high whistle, fiddle), and Mandy Treagus (vocals, guitar, mandolin). We met through Adelaide University, where Mandy is Head of English, Jane works with International students, and I am currently a Visiting Research Fellow. We began playing together a couple of years ago, starting with arrangements of O'Carolan pieces and gradually adding Irish Traditional tunes.

Although I have always loved traditional music, playing it was a new experience, sparked by hearing a low whistle and immediately falling in love with the sound. On recent trips to Ireland I had some tutoring from very patient teachers at Walton's Music School in Dublin. Jane lived for a couple of years in Ireland where, based in Galway, she studied with Mary Bergin, perhaps Ireland's greatest whistle player. Mandy Treagus has played in innumerable folk bands over many years in Australia. How we came to play at the festival was sort of serendipitous. Festival Director, Suzanne Laslett, had attended the opening of an exhibition of Celtic art earlier in the year at which Blind Mary had been asked to play. In conversation, I happened to mention that I had lived for almost 20 years on the Isle of Man and was starting to play a few traditional tunes. Suzanne immediately suggested that we work on a Manx set and play at the festival.

Although none of us is Manx-born, we decided it would be fun to work up the set, while taking care to research the history of the tunes and respect the tradition. The MHF Music Team was incredibly helpful and encouraging, and after quite a flurry of emails, which included audio files so we would be able to pronounce the Manx Gaelic titles correctly, we felt well prepared for our two festival slots.

After a pleasantly cool and damp start to the summer, Adelaide turned on a sizzler for the festival weekend. On Saturday the temperature reached 35 degrees, and under the canvas on the acoustic stage it felt even warmer. Hands were sticky and instruments slippery, but we played pretty well and it was good preparation for the main stage the following afternoon, which was, mercifully, a few degrees cooler. At around this time, Manx friends letting me know how cold it was on the Island, where there was plenty of snow. Playing "Ny Kirree Fo Niaghty" in sweltering heat, we would definitely have welcomed the odd snowflake, although it would not have lasted long.

The set was enthusiastically received by an audience who really sat and listened, which was gratifying. Having made such a good start, Blind Mary hopes to continue slowly adding Manx tunes to their repertoire.





Another highly entertaining **Kirk Michael Oie'll Verree** on 5th January with Ny Fennee, Caarjyn Coidjagh and The Reeling Stones (photos: Valerie Caine)

Survey of Manx Church Organs

The Manx Heritage Foundation was pleased to assist with the publication of the magnificent picture book *Churches of Man*, published by Lily Publications. The Foundation recorded Gareth Moore playing some of the Island's more interesting church organs and a CD was included in the back of the book.

It became clear, during the recordings that the Island possess some fascinating instruments, many of them with beautiful decorative cases and unusual histories, including ones actually built on the Island by a late Victorian builder called Moses Morgan who had a small factory in St. George's Walk in Douglas.

To make sure that the details of these remarkable instruments are not lost the Foundation has embarked on a programme of photographing all of the Island's church organs and providing details of their history.

The photographs are being taken by Peel photographer John Hall, and the background to the instruments is being provided by the Island's resident organ builder, Peter Jones.

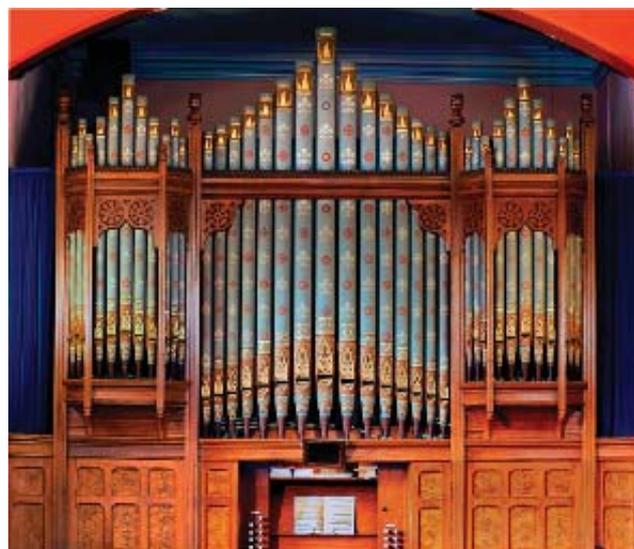
As each instrument is photographed, a PDF is created and placed on the Foundation's website at:

www.manxheritage.org/organs

Here you can download a general background to the Island's instruments, as well details and photographs of each of the individual instruments showing the church, the keyboards and stops, the pipes, and in some cases, the rather more unusual features such as original water-powered pumps for the bellows, or, in some cases, the inventive bending of larger organ pipes to fit them into small organ lofts.

Further instruments will be added from time to time.

Charles Guard



~ SESSIONS ~

THURS 9pm Singing session at The Brit, Ramsey

FRI 8pm Tynwald Inn, St. Johns

FRI 9pm Irish at The Mitre, Ramsey

Folk at the Club (1st or 2nd Fri of month), 8pm, Peel Golf Club

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

SAT 10pm Manx at The White House, Peel

Bree Fiddle and Dance School **Saturday 19th February 2011** **10am – 4pm** **Douglas Youth Centre**

This Spring half term, young fiddlers and Manx dancers in school years 6 to 13 (ages 10 to 18) will be treated to a fun day of workshops with the Island's leading pros. The Bree Manx fiddle and dance school will take place on Saturday 19th February at Douglas Youth Centre from 10am and conclude with an informal concert at 3pm for family and friends where students will showcase their new skills.

The violin (fiddle) players will be led by Katie Lawrence who has a broad experience of performing, teaching and composing. She will focus on instrumental techniques and performance skills using traditional tunes and her own compositions. Gifted dancer and actress, Gráinne Joughin, will direct the dance workshops where she will reveal some of the techniques behind the spectacular dances developed by her modern Manx dance troupe, Perree T.

Although some experience of Manx music or dancing would be useful, it is not essential and the workshops are suitable for competent violinists who want to develop their traditional playing techniques or dancers of any background who would like to learn more about modern Manx folk dance.

The event is free of charge but students must register in advance and bring their own violin (i.e. fiddle!) and music stand or suitable dance shoes, packed lunch and refreshments for the day. Under 16s must bring written permission from parents/guardians if they need to leave the building during the day.

Now in its fifth year, Bree was established by the Manx Heritage Foundation as an umbrella group for young musicians, singers and dancers interested in Manx traditional culture. Open to ages 10 to 18, Bree meets each month for informal music sessions at Douglas Youth Centre, regularly busk for local charities and hold educational workshop events throughout the year. Anyone interested in finding out more about Bree should contact Chloë Woolley at manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im or telephone 695787.

See also:

www.manxmusic.com
www.myspace.com/breemanx



Tutors Grainne Joughin and Katie Lawrence



Young Musician of Mann

Entries are being invited for the 2011 Young Musician of Mann Competition. The competition is open to any instrumentalist under the age of 19 years who was born or has lived on the Island for at least two years. For full details and an application form, please contact the Erin Arts Centre on 835858.

The 2009 winner of the competition was Meghan Quane (Bflat cornet).

The winner of the 2011 competition will be awarded the Malcolm Dickinson Memorial Prize of a cheque for £200 together with a silver cup presented by the Rotary Club of Rushen & Western Mann and a glass goblet presented by the IOM Arts Council.

The first stage of the competition asks musicians to play a free selection of music not more than ten minutes and takes place on Sunday 13th March. The final will be held on Sunday 26th June as part of the prestigious Mananan International Festival.

The closing date for entries is:

4th March 2011

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

see www.manxmusic.com for more printable pieces of Manx music

Untitled

Kitty Gawne

Bree October 2010

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Em Am Bm
- Staff 2: Em Bm Em
- Staff 3: C D Em
- Staff 4: C Bm Em
- Staff 5: Em G A Bm C
- Staff 6: D Bm Em
- Staff 7: C Bm C Bm Em

This fabulous tune was written by pianist, guitarist and uke player, Kitty Gawne, at the Bree weekend in October 2010.

ADULT TRADITIONAL MUSIC WORKSHOP WEEKEND 19 & 20 MARCH 2011

The MHF Manx Music Development Team is planning a workshop weekend for musicians in March (probably in Peel!). Tutors are renowned Scottish multi-instrumentalists Anna Massie and Mairearad Green, who have featured in a whole host of bands as well as performing as a critically acclaimed duo.

Individually, they can be seen performing with a number of well-known artists such as The Poozies, Blazin Fiddles, Karen Matheson, Box Club, Eddi Reader and Karine Polwart, and together in Scotland's one and only Celtic Big Band, The Unusual Suspects!

The pair play fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, piano accordion and pipes, which means that workshops will be arranged according to the greatest demand. A session on general ceilidh tunes can also be included, so please get in touch asap and let us know which instruments you would like to be on offer! Email Breesha on:

mhfmusic@mhf.org.im

The workshop weekend will finish with a gig from Anna and Mairearad - more details in next month's edition of KMJ and from Breesha on 695784 or by email.

Check out the musicians online:

www.myspace.com/shoutyrecords

www.annamassie.com

www.mairearadgreen.com



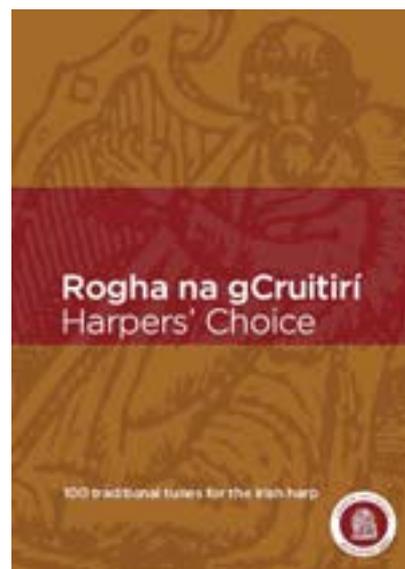
Manx harper features in new publication

Charles Guard is one of only two non-Irish musicians to have been commissioned to arrange a piece of music for a new book *Rogha na gCruitirí*.

His arrangement of Tabhair Dom do Lamh features in *Rogha na gCruitirí, Harpers' Choice*, 100 Traditional Tunes for the Irish harp edited by Áine Ní Dhubhghaill, Anne-Marie O'Farrell and Aibhlín McCrann. Published to commemorate 50 years of Cairde na Cruite, the book was launched by Chair of the Arts Council Pat Moylan on Sunday 12th December 2010.

Rogha na gCruitirí, Harpers' Choice gives a unique insight into 21st century Irish harping and reflects the diverse character of Irish harp-playing today. It features

newly-composed pieces and arrangements of traditional tunes, music drawn from the great 16th and 17th collections of harpers' music, dance music and song airs arranged by leading Irish harpers. *Rogha na gCruitirí* also provides detailed notes and reference sources together with biographical details of many of Ireland's foremost harp players



37.50 euro to UK & Europe

www.cairdenacruite.com/publications.html



CALENDAR

February

5th Permaculture party with Strengyn and The Fecktones, Clarendon Hotel, Douglas, fancy dress optional, 7.30pm FREE

12th Bree traditional music youth session, Douglas Youth Centre, 3pm

19th Bree youth fiddle and dance day-school, Douglas Youth Centre, 10am (see newsletter for full details)

19th Bree fiddle and dance workshop concert, Douglas Youth Centre, 3pm

March

4th Closing date for YOUNG MUSICIAN OF MANN competition (contact Erin Arts Centre for details)

5th Manx Wildlife Trust Ceilidh with the Calor Gas Ceilidh Band, Castletown Civic Centre, 7.30pm, tickets £12.50 including hotpot supper (contact Anne Marie Kilgallon on 801985 for more details)

12th Bree traditional music youth session, Douglas Youth Centre, 3pm

19th Celtic Evening - Oie Celtiagh - faith supper with traditional Irish music from Mary Molloy and Paul Rogers, Erin Arts Centre, Port Erin. Tickets £5, arrive 7 for 7.30pm
www.erinartscentre.com

19th & 20th Trad music workshops with Anna Massie and Mairearad Green, details and venue to be confirmed (prob Peel!)

25th Clive Carroll workshop - composition and arrangement for the solo guitarist (limited places), Peter Norris Music, Douglas, 7.30pm, see www.jonnopromotions.com

26th Clive Carroll in concert (JonnoPromotions in conjunction with IOM Arts Council), Promenade Suite, Villa Marina, Douglas, 8pm. Tickets £16.50
www.villagaiety.com

Please send in any dates for the months ahead so that we can publicise events here & online

April

2nd-9th Manx Music Festival (the Guild), see www.manxmusicfestival.org for full details

8th-11th Shennaghys Jiu Celtic Youth Festival starts see www.shennaghys.org for full details or email the committee on contact@shennaghys.org

'steady as she goes' session

A new session for people who already know how to play their instruments but who want to learn Manx session tunes at a steadier pace has been mooted!

If you want to get involved, please contact Breesha on mhfmusic@mhf.org.im or just come along on **Fridays 6.45-8ish**, Tynwald Inn, St Johns, starting **FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY**, initially for 6 weeks (all being well) according to demand.

You'd be welcome to stay for the Phynnodderree session afterwards (starts 8.30pm).

Manx music can now be heard in Dubai! After a request to the Manx Music Development Team for some instrumental arrangements, pupils at Wellington International School have started performing Hunt the Wren, Creg Willy Syl, Cur dty Vainney and Peter O'Tavy and they plan to add more 'Kiaull Manninagh' to their repertoire soon.

manx heritage foundation ~ undinys eiraght vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Breesha Maddrell**: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im

Manx Music Specialist (Education) **Dr Chloë Woolley**: manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im

www.manxmusic.com

Call: Breesha: 01624 695784 or Chloë: 01624 695787

or write to: MHF Music Team, The Stable Building, The University Centre, Old Castletown Road, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 1QB



Written and edited by Breesha Maddrell for the Manx Heritage Foundation

The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space

PRESS: please feel free to pick up any articles and use them to spread the word about Manx culture



Bree Manx Fiddle & Dance School

A one day workshop

for young fiddle players and Manx dancers

Saturday 19 February 10am – 4 pm

Douglas Youth Centre

Free of charge – places limited

Traditional fiddle techniques and new tunes

with performer and teacher, *Katie Lawrence*

Modern Manx dance techniques and new dances

with Perree T dancer, *Gráinne Joughin*

Students should:

- ♪ Choose FIDDLE or DANCE
- ♪ be in school years 6 – 13 (i.e. minimum age 10)
- ♪ bring their own instrument and music stand OR dance shoes
- ♪ bring their own drinks, snacks and packed lunch
- ♪ bring written permission from parents if they need to leave the building during the day (under 16s only)

A concert for family and friends will take place at the end of the workshops - 3pm

BREE MANX FIDDLE & DANCE SCHOOL 19 Feb 2011

Application Form

Name of Student.....

School School Year

Address.....

Contact tel. no/s. of parent/guardian

Email

(Circle option) FIDDLE or DANCE

FIDDLE PLAYERS

How long have you played the violin (fiddle)? Yrs
 Yes/No
 Have you passed any classical grade exams? Yes/No
 Have you played Manx music before? Yes/No
 Do you perform in a folk music or dance group Yes/No
 If so, which groups?

DANCERS

Do you have any experience of Manx dance? Yes/No
 If so, how long have you danced? Yrs
 Do you perform in a Manx dance group ? Yes/No
 If so, which groups?

* Photos may be taken during the workshop and used for future promotional use. **Parents – please sign here if you object to your child appearing in photos:**



Please return this application form by Friday 11 February to:

Chloë Woolley, Manx Heritage Foundation,
 The Stable Building, The University Centre,
 Old Castletown Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM2 1OB

For more information:

email manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im or tel. 695787
www.manxmusic.com