



Blein Vie Noa! Happy New Year!

The Manx Heritage Foundation welcomes Breesha Maddrell to their team

Ideas, ideas, ideas...

Now that I have started work as Manx Music Development Officer (MMDO), I want to find out what you, the Manx musicians, would like to see me doing. I'm interested in all suggestions, however big or small – the idea is to develop Manx music for you, for the Island's community and for the global market! What hasn't been done yet? What needs to be done again? How can I help? Feel free to pop into see me or email me your ideas – not just over the next few months, but throughout the year.

Lhiu'ish, Breesha: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im



ARRANE SON MANNIN WINNER

The Arrane son Mannin (Song for the IOM) competition was won by Fiona Cain and David Kilgallon with a song 'Bannaght son Mannin' (Salute to Mann) written by David Kelly and Tim Laycock, translated into Manx by Bob Carswell. The duo win £250 prize money, generously sponsored by the Manx Heritage Foundation, and will go on to represent the IOM in the pan-Celtic new song competition at the 37th Pan-Celtic Festival in Donegal Town in March 2008.

The competition was a tightly fought contest, with a great entry by the Reeling Stones called 'Er ny Creggyn' (On the rocks) which was about the wreck of the herring fleet. In the end, the three judges voted for 'Bannaght son Mannin' which praised the Island's landscape. Fiona Cain and David Kilgallon both sing with Cliogaree Twoaie, who will also represent the Island in choral competitions and concerts at the festival.

Even though it seems a long time to the 2009 competition, now's a good time to start thinking about any translations into Manx you may need – the more time you give Bobby Bob, the better – or to start writing your own songs in Manx. After a close second in the last competition, the Isle of Man's got to win one year!! All types of songs are eligible, but they must be in the native Celtic language of the country and must have featured in national competition prior to the Pan-Celtic. More information about the festival can be obtained from Fiona McArdle on: fmcardle@manx.net

[pictured: David Kilgallon, John Kaneen (judge) and Fiona Cain]

SESSIONS: TUES, 9pm Irish in The Rover's Return, 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
Every 2nd SUN, 3pm Irish in the Traf, Douglas

Bree Buskers raise £100 for Friends of Chernobyl's Children



Students and tutors from the Manx youth music group, Bree, gathered in Strand Shopping Centre, Douglas for a Christmas busking session last month (08/12/07). They raised £100 for the local charity, Friends of Chernobyl's Children, by playing Manx folk tunes and by singing well-known carols in Manx Gaelic. Norman Rivers from FOCC was delighted to receive the cheque and said that the donation would make a significant difference to helping bring Belarussian children over to the Isle of Man during the summer holidays. Plans for Bree members to host a Manx dancing ceili for the children are also being made.

Organised by Dr. Chloë Woolley (Manx Music Specialist) and Dr. Breesha Maddrell (Manx Music Development Officer) from the Manx Heritage Foundation, Bree is a collective for 11-18 year olds interested in performing Manx music and dance. The group currently includes students from all of the Island's secondary schools. A weekend of workshops is held each year in conjunction with Douglas Youth Centre, where students receive lessons in Manx music, dance and Gaelic from local experts. The group also meet informally once a month to play Manx folk tunes at a Saturday afternoon session. The session features Manx musicians, young and old, and the public are welcome to come along and listen. The next session will be at **Green's Restaurant** on January 12th 2008 from 3.30pm.

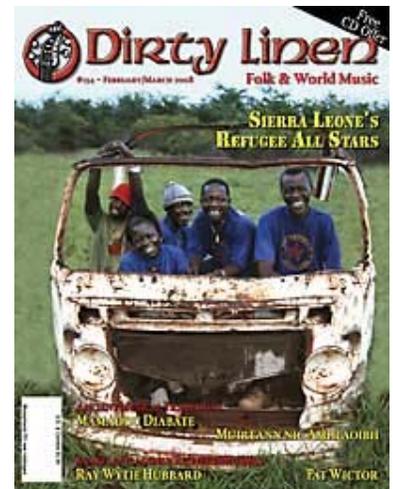


Pictured: Martin Brammer, Christina Kermeen, Chloë Woolley (Bree co-ordinator), Aalish Brew, Norman Rivers (FOCC).

For more information, contact Chloë Woolley:
manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im

MANX MUSIC IN DIRTY LINEN!!

KMJ was very excited to receive an advance copy of Steve Winick's article on recent releases of Manx Music from the USA's premier trad mag, *Dirty Linen*. The article in the Feb/March edition (#134) features reviews of *The Best That's In*, Mactullagh Vannin, King Chiaullee, Kirsty and Katie Lawrence, Skeel and Moot. Much of the two-page article is devoted to detailed reviews of the CDs, likening King Chiaullee to innovative bands such as Shooglenifty and Lunasa, praising Katie and Kirsty for their slower interpretations in particular, and delighting in Skeel's 'springy flute melodies propelled by guitar strums' as well as their songs about the fishing. All in all, it's a great advert for Manx music, reflecting the CDs collected by Steve during his trip to the Island at the end of the summer last year with his partner, Jennifer Cutting. You can buy individual copies of *Dirty Linen* online using their secure webstore: <http://store.dirtylinen.com>



MOD DELIGHT AT AWARDS SUCCESS



Congratulations to our friends from the Scottish National Mod who recently won the award of 'Event of the Year' at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards. Equivalent to our own national festival, Yn Chruinnaght, the Mod is taken place each October and for 2008 will be hosted by Falkirk. Further information see: <http://www.the-mod.co.uk/>

REPORTS FROM KEGEESH OMMIDJAGH 2007



More than a foolish fortnight

Manx music and dance seemed to find its way into all kinds of places throughout December – all the usual carol services, Christmas concerts and parties, and even Pobble slipping off the stage at CRHS Christmas concert, as reported in the Island's press! The Skeealing Stones, aka The Reeling Stones [see picture] and Skeeal, played Bar Logo in Ramsey to a warm reception – River-dancing from the populace of Ramsey notwithstanding! The Ballaghs were nobly supported by King Chiaulee in a packed Creek the night before Yn Chruinnaght Ghennal, with more and more original songs appearing, and Katie Lawrence dazzling everyone with her flashy fiddling. Although its main organiser Gráinne Joughin literally 'missed the boat', Perree T raised some funds with their fun-packed evening, 'Drive-Aid' whilst Cliogaree Twoaie treated the Ramsey pubs to some carols in Manx.

The Perree Bane 25th anniversary celebrations also went brilliantly – hopefully we'll be able to feature some photos in February's issue of KMJ. *In the meantime...*

HOP-TU-NAA Hunt the Wren took place in Port St. Mary, Ramsey, Maughold, Douglas, St. Johns...

St Stephen's day was celebrated by musicians and dancers all over the Island, who bravely got up after the excesses of the day before in order to hunt that smallest of birds.



[Photo of St. Johns courtesy Valerie Caine & Maughold Social Club perform in Ramsey]



YN CHRUINNAGHT GHENNAL

Yn Chruinnaght's festive celebrations took the form of a ceili and open-mic session at the Corrin Hall in Peel on 29th December. The now infamous Purt h'Ninjas ceili band got the packed hall on their feet, dances interspersed with songs and tunes from the band and from the floor. With lots of new faces, it was a great occasion, helped by generous sponsorship from IOM Creameries. The evening also saw the 'Arrane son Mannin' competition (see separate report in this month's KMJ), which was won by Fiona Cain and David Kilgallon.

LAA ILLIAM DHONE

Wednesday 2 January saw the annual commemorations for Illiam Dhone, William Christian, who was shot in 1663. On what was a very blustery day, to say the least, Manx music featured not only in the session in the Viking in Castletown, but also throughout the church service, with hymns in Manx, two songs from just under ¼ of Caarjyn Coodjagh and the solo 'Baase Illiam Dhone' (the death of Illiam Dhone) by Phil Gawne.

KIRK MICHAEL OIE'LL VERREE

All the traditional elements were present at this year's Oie'll Verree at Michael last week (05/01/07) – dancing from Ny Fennee, community singing, recitation and the infamous dialect plays – this time 'Jus' the shy', which was performed with much hilarity, bringing the curtain down (literally) and with it, the house. Caarjyn Coodjagh sang Christmas songs in Manx and English, and Ny Fennee gave performances of the Girl's Jig and Gorse Sticks, as well as some instrumental numbers, most notably a harp solo of 'Tra va ruggit Chreest'.

Manx Studies in Poland

Manx Gaelic music and language have recently been the subject of study at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland.

During November 2007, Dr. George Broderick was the Erasmus Visiting Professor in Celtic Studies and on his visit to Poland he taught modules in Manx Gaelic, the Scottish Gaelic Bardic Tradition and Traditional Songs from Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man, Continental Celtic and Scottish Gaelic. Manx scholar Dr. Broderick is a professor at the University of Mannheim and has published many works on Manx culture and language.

The Polish students were particularly taken with the Celtic music and song and after the lectures, the 'craic' continued at the local student bar. A traditional music week is planned in March at the University of Poznan.



Pictured at the "Corner Pub" student bar in Poznan: Dr. George Broderick, students Adam Bilan, Katarzyna (Kasia) Idec, Bartek Rychlicki, and Professor Amanda Reid (teacher of Irish at Poznan).

New opportunity to sell CDs online

Here at KMJ, we've been thinking for a while that it would be useful to have a central point online to sell Manx music CDs. With more and more tracks being added to www.modo.im the demand for Manx music is undoubtedly growing. Visiting musicians in particular have commented on how difficult it is to actually locate and purchase CDs. In an attempt to rectify this, the Manx Heritage Foundation has offered to feature as many CDs (and tapes?) as possible on their website. This new central point will have a corresponding link to www.isleofman.com so that secure internet sales can be made without any hassle. Even if you are already selling your CDs online, we'd like to include your CDs in the new webpages.



If you want to take advantage of this offer, contact Breasha on: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im or phone 695159. We would need 4 copies of each CD you want to sell, and a short piece about the CD.

Congratulations to Russell Cowin MA!

With a dissertation entitled 'Re-contextualising the tradition: commercial recordings of Manx traditional music', Russell Cowin of King Chiallee fame graduated with an MA in



Manx Studies from the University of Liverpool in December. His 25,000 word dissertation looks at the role played by recordings of Manx music, and includes data collected from interviews with most of those who have made recordings over the years. Copies of his dissertation are available to read at the Centre for Manx Studies and in the Manx National Heritage Library, both on Kingswood Grove, Douglas.



Manx Radio ~ Radio Vannin

Don't forget the programmes on *Manx Radio* which often feature Manx music and reports of Manx culture:

- Tuesdays 21.00-22.00 **The Folk Show** with John Kaneen
- Sundays 20.00-21.00 **Claare ny Gael** with Bob Carswell
- **Shiaght Laa** will return on Wednesdays in March

For more information, check out: www.manxradio.com
You can listen online, but if you do miss a show you can listen to archive recordings from the previous week through 'Listen Again'.

Archibald Knox Festival – February

The Archibald Knox Society is holding a two-day celebration this February to mark the 75th anniversary of the artist's death. On Friday 22 February, Caarjyn Cooijagh will perform in St Matthew's Church, Douglas, 7pm, followed by a lecture by Peter Kelly (admission free). The next day is devoted to the first ever Knox trail (£65 per person), culminating in a reception and dinner at the Sefton, with musical entertainment from Skeal. For more information and to book a place, contact Liam O'Neill on 665459 or email aksociety@manx.net

Transcription of the Month see www.manxheritagemusic.org for more printable pieces of Manx music

MNHL MS5080A
Dodds 1869
Transcribed from
handwritten manuscript (CW)

The Island Minstril



The Island Mistril

"My Island home My Island home.
The lone the lov'd the fair the free
Bright Emerald set in pearly foam
One Island heart beats high for the(e)
Midst pleasures pain or bound or free
Where e'er I be where e'er I roam
My heart shall always point[?] for thee
My Island home My Island home."

(English of the above)
O Mona Dear My own sweet Isle
My hope my comfort night to day
I would not leave for wealth nor state
With thee I'd always love to stay.

(Manx air original)

O Mannin veen my cheer veg heene
My chreist my voggey oie as laa.
Cha naghim oo son chuid ny stayd
She unnyd baare lhym kew my chraa
Er coointey berchys laane amnea
T'ocksyn ta bwirey nool as noal
Baare lym my aigney ve eck fea
Ayns Mannin Veg - Smillish y boal.

In search of wealth how many toil
How many walk in search of ease.
Give me to rest my little while
In Mona dear - how sweet the place.

MOISHE'S BAGEL COME TO IOM

Klesmer band, *Moishe's Bagel* are coming to the Island on Feb 21st to perform at Peel Centenary Centre. Based in Scotland and led by Phil Alexander, (keyboard player with Salsa Celtica), the band promise an 'intoxicating, life-affirming mix of Eastern European dance music, Middle Eastern rhythms and virtuoso performances'!
See www.centenarycentre.com



manx heritage foundation
undinys eiraght vannin

For more information on Manx music and dance contact:

Breesha Maddrell: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im
Chloë Woolley: manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im
See: www.manxheritage.com or
www.manxheritagemusic.org
Call: 01624 695159
or write to: Centre for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove,
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LX

CALENDAR - JAN 2008

Oie'll Verree

Sat 5 January 7.30pm. Kirk Michael.

Manx entertainment including Ny Fennee and Caarjyn Coojdjagh

Christmas Service

Sun 6 January 3pm, Patrick Church.

Nine lessons and carols with Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh, featuring the Bunscoill, Cliogaree Twoaie, Caarjyn Coojdjagh and a whole host of other people.

Bree Session

Sat 12 January 3.30pm. Green's Veggie Restaurant, Douglas
Informal youth music session.

The Ballaghs and King Chiaullee Concert

Fri 18 January at the Bay Pub, Port Erin, from 9ish

