



JANUARY 2009



MANX MUSIC TODAY

BLEIN VIE NOA ERRIU!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A MIGHTY MOLLAG GHENNAL

With five bands, new lights and a comedy smoke machine, 2008's return to the Mollag Ghennal was well worth the scramble for tickets. Harte's Ease started the night with early music on viols, recorders, voice and the like. With Grainne Joughin as MC, Skeeal, King Chiaullee, The Mollag Band and The Reeling Stones all took their turns onstage. New sets and songs and some new band members appeared (if somewhat temporarily where the Stones were concerned) and a relaxing evening of music, food and drink was had by all. A special toast to the late Colin Jerry was made by Greg at the close of the Mollags' set. Thanks to the Mollag Band for having organised another great night!



Photos kindly sent in by Valerie Caine in addition to KMJ's own

SESSIONS

THURS 9pm Singing in The Brit, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Tynwald Inn, St. Johns

THURS 9pm mainly Irish at O'Donnell's, Douglas
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

Giant Finn



To celebrate studying a unit on the Celts for their Manx history lessons, Year 3 at Murray's Road School put on a super show called 'Giant Finn' last month which featured songs about the Celtic legend and specially chosen Manx songs. Chloë was invited to join pupils from Year 4 to watch a special performance. The play tells of Finn being challenged to a fight by another giant called Culcullin which leads to Finn pretending to be his own baby son and biting his rival's finger off! Year 3 teacher Eliza King incorporated the songs 'Are you Ready for a Fight?' and 'Traa dy Gholl dy Valley' (featured in Manx music educational resource *Gow Ayrn*) into the play. The children performed these with actions (as seen in the photo!) Jeant dy mie!

BREE BUSKING

Bree students and tutors entertained shoppers in Douglas' Strand Shopping Centre last month (10/12/08) by performing an hour and a half of lively Manx tunes and carols. This year's Christmas busking session raised a fantastic £120 for ACORN, a local charity run by Raechel Kavanagh which supports abandoned children in Romania.



Raechel receiving cheque from Bree students and organiser Chloë Woolley from MHF

The Bree group performed over 40 tunes including the latest session favourite 'The Tiger', and folky versions of familiar Christmas carols. Raechel was delighted to receive the donation on behalf of ACORN and thanked the wonderful young players for their time and effort.

For information on ACORN, contact Raechel on 477400 or email: acorn@manx.net



Bree also busked at Tynwald Mills along with Manx choir Caarjyn Coojdjagh (20/12/08) to help raise funds for a schools project in Uganda.

MHF buys harp for talented youngster

The Manx Heritage Foundation has recently bought a new Celtic Harp for a pupil in the north of the Island.

Amy Stoutt is a pupil of Mike Boulton, a former teacher at Albert Road School and a pioneer in the teaching of Manx music in schools. Mike continues to help youngsters towards a greater appreciation of the Island's traditional music but such is the demand for harps that he turned to the Manx Heritage Foundation for help.



The Foundation has helped a number of Manx musicians purchase instruments in recent years, and was also responsible for starting the hugely successful harp classes in Douglas, now run by the Department of Education.

The new harp is a hand-built instrument, made by Pilgrim Harps of Surrey, and is strung with traditional gut strings.

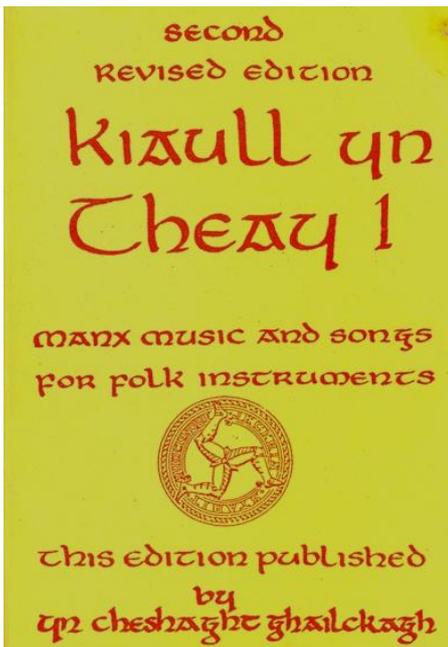
Tribute to Colin Jerry RBV

Whether you knew him as uilleann piper, jazz trumpeter, instrument maker, Manx Gaelic speaker, artist, White Boys actor or teacher, Colin Jerry will be sadly missed. Suddenly taken ill at a session at the Tynwald just before Christmas, he died the same evening in Nobles.

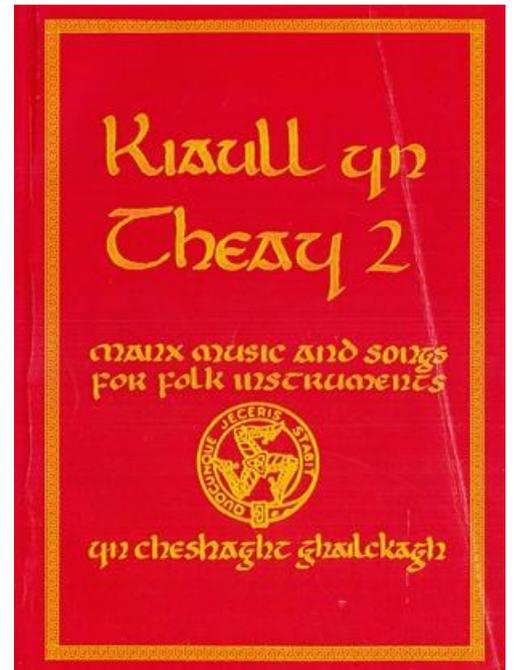
For those of us involved in Manx music, his contribution is both inspiring and staggering. Founding member of Bwoie Doal, one of the most influential groups in the early days of the revival in the 1970s, he led sessions at the White House in Peel and was a regular at the Tynwald and took musicians to festivals such as Lorient. His transcriptions from the Clague-Gill manuscripts as *Kiaull yn Theay 1&2* and later *Kiaull Vannin* have proved the essential sources for Manx musicians and those



interested in Manx music. His 1982 beginners book *Cur Cheb* introduced Manx music to recorder and whistle players. But, as Greg Joughin comments in this month's *Yn Pabyr Seyr*, it was the two *Kiaull yn Theay* books which will continue to form the centrepiece of Manx traditional circles: 'Affectionately referred to as the red and yellow books, they have, without doubt, formed the single most significant contribution to the promotion of Manx Music, since its revival.'

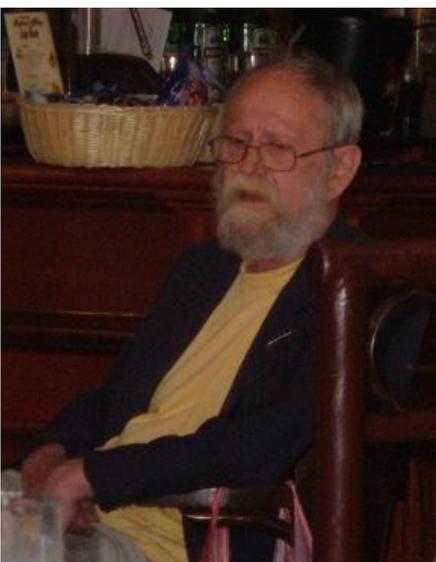


Colin was a gifted Manx speaker who wrote his own songs and translated many others from English. Together with John Kaneen he produced *A Garland for John Clague: A New Book of Old Songs*. His own collection of songs (both original and translations) *Angels, Soldiers, Lovers and Other Folks*



appeared in 1993. His stories and writings in Manx appear in publications like *Skealaght*, *Ny Three Muckyn Beggye*

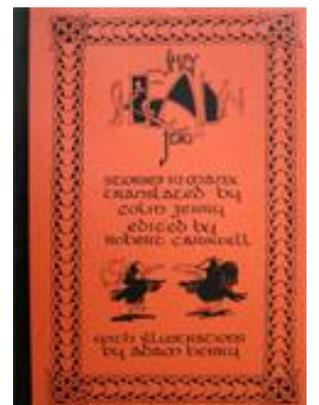
Many years ago at an informal session at the Creg Malin, a somewhat inebriated young man approached the group of musicians. Anticipating a rather less than friendly reception to their tunes, the group was very pleasantly surprised to be asked if they knew a tune like the Mhelliah, or the one that goes like this... And how did the young man know about Manx music? A wonderful teacher at primary school called Colin Jerry – 'he was great'.



Colin was awarded the Reih Bleaney Vanannan in 1991 for his great contribution to Manx culture.



The funeral will take place at the Cathedral in Peel on Thursday 8 January at 2pm and will in all likelihood be followed by a music session nearby.



Hunt the Wren pics



Thanks to
Chloe
Woolley and
Valerie
Caine for
these
photos of
Hunt the
Wren
gatherings
on St
Stephen's
Day in
Ramsey and
Maughold
and St
Johns.

Flook gig cancelled – 7th Feb

The mighty Flook were due to appear at the Centenary Centre in Peel, with support from the Katie Lawrence Band. Unfortunately, news that Flook had disbanded arrived as an early Christmas present (and not a good one) for Dave McLean and the team at the Centenary Centre. Keep your eyes glued to the CC's website: www.centenarycentre.com for news of other equally exciting gigs.



Weekend course on Manx music

'Celtic twilight, Celtic dawn – the changing face of Manx music' is a two-day course offered by the University of Liverpool on Saturday 7 February, 10am-5pm and Sunday 8 February, 11am-4pm at Ballacottier Primary School, Douglas. Costing £24.50 (retirement pensioners £12.25), it aims to be an introduction to some of the latest research on Manx music of the past and present through a mixture of lectures and workshops led by Drs Fenella Bazin, Breesha Maddrell and Chloë Woolley. The practical sessions are suitable both for beginners and more experienced instrumentalists and singers. Want to know more? Contact Helen Kneale on Helen.Kneale@liv.ac.uk or phone 695154 for more details.

Robin Gibb's Ellan Vannin for download



Music legend Robin Gibb and the choir of King William's College perform a special 'Homecoming Mix' of the moving song Ellan Vannin. Profits from the sale of the single will go to Hospice in the Isle of Man, where Robin was born. Download the music and the video here:

<http://dukevideo.streamburst.tv/catalogue>

Willie Clague

Transcribed from the handwritten score of W.H. Gill

or
Playing at Soldiers

Words by P.W. Caine
Music by W.H. Gill

In Slow Marching Time

1. My bon - nie Wil - lie Clague, Are you not a Cap - tain brave?
2. My bon - nie Wil - lie Clague, Are you not an In - dian fierce?

3. My bon - nie Wil - lie Clague, Are you not a sai - lor bold?
Arm and heart are bent to achieve Glo - ry or the grave.
Utter - ing war - whoops dread as e'er Pale - face ear could pierce?
Skilled to cheat the cru - el waves By stern tem - pests rolled?
Down at Sur - by Green There you pitch your lit - tle camp;
Down at Sur - by Roads There you fly with lift - ed spear;
Down at Sur - by Brook There you float your gal - lant bark;

How the dai - sies fall and die 'neath your mar - tial tramp!
How the wa - ving of your hands Fills the fowls with fear!
But her *voy - a - ges all cease When the day grows dark.

rall.

* original text: "voyages ages all..." probably a mistake in the manuscript

This manuscript is in the Manx National Heritage Library amongst Mona Douglas' papers, but it has not yet been catalogued.
At the top of the manuscript, the W.H. Gill wrote: "I hope Mr. Caine will not object to this sub-title to his fine song. WHG"

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.



NEWS FROM PERREE BANE

Perree Bane has moved! As from 4th January, we will be practising on Sunday evenings at Ballasalla Village Hall. Whilst we will not be doing any beginners' classes in

the near future, anyone who would like to see what goes on and maybe join in will be very welcome from 7pm onwards. There is quite a tradition of Manx dancing at Ballasalla. From the late 1980s to the 1990s Perree Bane practised there, and in years past it was where Philip Leighton-Stowell drilled his Guild team, legend having it that he would not let them go home until they got it right!

Perree Bane enjoyed dancing at the Farmers' market at Castletown just before Christmas – some would consider this going back to the roots of folk-dance, when musicians and dancers would often perform at such public gatherings. Despite some of the stallholders being dragged into the last dance, we may well be invited again.

As to the Cammag on St Stephen's Day, Perree Bane, playing, naturally, for the Southern team, were robbed of a well-deserved win by some dubious kicking of the ball by the Northern team. Doubtless they will get their come-uppance next year!

John Dowling



Caarjyn Coidjagh and the Manx Folk Dance Society performing at the House of Manannan before Christmas (Photos: Valerie Caine)



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

CALENDAR

January

5th Oie'll Verree at Ebenezer Hall, Kirk Michael, with music & dance from Cliogaree Twoaie & Bock Yuan Fannee, & a dialect play, 7.30pm, tickets on door
10th Bree youth trad music session, Green's, Douglas, 3-4.30pm.

30th Session at PSM Yacht Club in aid of RNLi SOS day, from 8pm.

30th Kiaull as Gaelg at the Albert, PSM, 9pm

February

3rd CMS research seminar by Laura Payne on ethnomusicological approaches, Elmwood House, 6pm FREE

7th & 8th CE course on Manx Music, Ballacottier School (see newsletter for details) Contact: Helen.Kneale@liv.ac.uk

14th Bree youth trad music session, Green's, Douglas, 3-4.30pm.

17th CMS research seminar by Valerie Kinrade on the music of Harry Wood, Elmwood House, 6pm FREE

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,
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Isle of Man, IM1 3LX