

Capercaillie confirmed for DCCL event at Yn Chruinnaght, Mon 18 July 2011

Scottish supergroup Capercaillie will kick off this year's Yn Chruinnaght festival in a special Dept of Community, Culture and Leisure event at the Villa Marina, Douglas.

Throughout their career Capercaillie have drawn on two great strengths to inspire them. The first of these is the astonishing musical dexterity of the various fiddle, whistle, flute and pipe who have performed with them over the years, lead by the accordion and keyboards of band founder Donald Shaw. The other foundation of the band has been the peerless voice of co-founder Karen Matheson, described by Sean Connery as having "a throat that is surely touched by God". Universally recognised as one of the finest Gaelic singers alive today, Karen's exquisite voice has been at the centre of the band's music, whether breathing new life into 400 year old Gaelic songs or bringing her luscious vocals to the band's contemporary compositions...



There have been many milestones for a band who have sold over a million albums world wide. These include three silver and one gold album in the UK, the first Gaelic Top 40 single, writing the music for, and appearing in the Hollywood movie "Rob Roy", and performing in over thirty countries including Iraq, Macedonia and the Sudan.

Capercaillie have been credited with being the major force in bringing Celtic music to the world stage, and their unique fusion of Gaelic culture and contemporary sound has always stretched boundaries in their quest to keep the music evolving.

The band's greatest achievement has been to mould a central strand of their Gaelic heritage into a fresh, new sound, capable of reaching out to the ears and hearts of people all over the world. It'll be great to welcome them to the Isle of Man!

Tickets are on-sale now priced £16 (plus booking fees) from the usual Villa Gaiety outlets and online:

www.villagaiety.com
www.capercaillie.co.uk

~ 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 Gaalg, Albert, Port St Mary
SAT 10pm Manx at The White House, Peel

Acoustic Duo create first CD for 36 years!

Paul Reynolds and Ken Crellin were once part of a local seventies folk group called "Pocheen". They were as well known as The Mannin Folk for a while , and various line-ups including such well-known artists as Marlene Kinrade (as she was then known - now Hendy) , Martin Burns , Dave Ferguson and Neil Sadler.

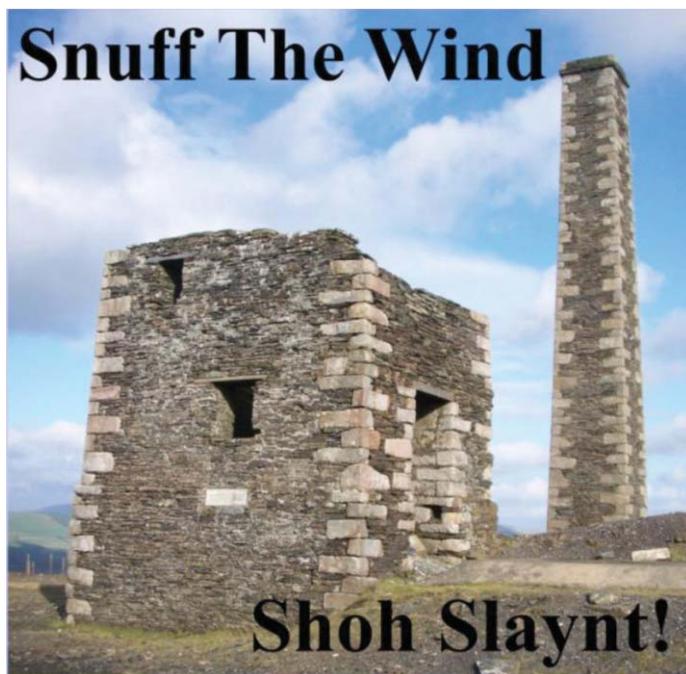
Pocheen produced a cassette tape back then - at a time when there were no CDs in existence.

It was produced by Terry Clough on the "Viking Mann" label. Some ten thousand were produced and sold throughout the UK , mostly in garage shops.

Since then the guys retired from the music scene for more years than they care to remember. Their teaching careers meant they needed all their energy concentrated elsewhere. However , once they retired , they found a new lease of life , and started playing again under the name "Shoh Slaynt!". This is an appropriate name as it is a Manx toast meaning "Cheers" , or "Here's Health".

They run a singers' club at Peel Golf Club every month , and play at The Highwayman in Peel on various Sunday evenings.

The new CD contains fourteen great tracks , recorded by Paul at his home studio in full digital quality. Those people who have been to their gigs will recognise most of the tracks that were written by Paul. The title track is "Snuff the Wind" and is an atmospheric , acoustic song about the well known beauty spot near Glen Maye. It has proved a popular listen on Youtube and Manxtube , along with their other material.



"Manannan's Road" is another track that is popular at their events. The strong Celtic melody and evocative words make it a highlight.

The music of Shoh Slaynt! is laid back yet sparkling and surprisingly contemporary for two older guys (and they say this themselves!).

Paul plays an electro-acoustic Taylor guitar , and does the vocals. Ken plays an Anglo Concertina and plays all sorts of harmonicas that all have different biases.

Ken love Irish tunes , and some are included on the CD. He also plays a mean blues when he gets the chance.

"Snuff the Wind" is now available locally at The Lexicon Bookshop , MNH Sites and Celtic Gold.

This is a worthwhile addition to any collection of acoustic music that is Manx inspired.

New face for the MHF Music Team

Dr Chloe Woolley will be on maternity leave from the beginning of May until October. Laura Rowles, who is a part-time PhD student, well-known musician and teacher, will be providing part-time cover on a flexible basis. She will be available from May onwards on Chloe's normal email and telephone contacts:

manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im
tel 695787



Here's a photo of the excellent *Highly Flung* with piper Ben Gibbs who will be starring at the concert on **Saturday 9th April** at Ree Gorree Theatre 7.30pm (£5 adults £3 children). Sue Jaques writes that it will be a fab night with all of King Chiaulle together again, Ben Gibbs and Highly Flung, Amy Stoutt and stomping Irish music from Smack the Donkey. Make sure you get there early to get a seat.



MAIN EVENTS

Friday 8th April

7.00pm Schools concert, Scoill Ree Gorree, Ramsey

8.30pm Family Ceilidh, Masonic Hall, Ramsey

Saturday 9th April

12 noon Food and Folk, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey

3.00pm Bree Youth Trad Music Session, Ramsey Town Hall

7.30pm Concert, Scoill Ree Gorree Theatre, Ramsey

Sunday 10th April

2.30pm Acoustic concert, St Johns Church

8.00pm Ceilidh, Masonic Hall, Ramsey

Monday 11th April

12 noon Food and Folk, Trafalgar Hotel, Ramsey

8.00pm Rocking at Bar Logo, Ramsey!

See www.shennaghys.org for full details



Congratulations to young dancers from Ny Fennee who wowed judges and audience at the Grand Final of the IOM Arts Council Young Dancer of Mann competition, coming

Runners-up in the Groups competition. The winning group was Dawson's Freaks from Ballakermeen High School, who performed a dramatic and witty routine.



www.iomarts.com

Manx Music in Dubai

Here are some photos of the folk group at the Wellington International School in Dubai with teacher, Claudia Davies, a university friend of Chloe Woolley. February's KMJ reported that they were playing Hunt the Wren, Creg Willy Syl, Cur dty Vainney and Peter O'Tavy and they plan to add more 'Kiaull Manninagh' to their repertoire.



The bells, the bells!

Cathedral handbell ringers are looking for arrangements of Manx music. The handbells that they currently have (this is the national standard for labelling them - 15C being 'middle C' on a piano keyboard):

15C# 14D# 12F# 11G# 10A#
18G 17A 16B 15C 14D 13E 12F 11G 10A 9B 8C 7D

Their aim is to continue raising money to purchase the additional 8 bells to provide them with a full 2-octave chromatic range (18G - 4G).

If any readers are interested in playing handbells or can play them already and can pass on their knowledge, please get in touch with Louise Horsfall on LouHorsfall@aol.com

Many of the handbell ringers also ring tower bells and new learners and experienced bell ringers are always welcome.



CONGRATS TO
NICHOLA HAYES WHO
APPEARED ON THE
'ISLANDS' EDITION OF
BBC'S THE WEAKEST
LINK, KITTED OUT
IN HER PERREE BANE
COSTUME!

Perree Bane at the 2011 Cwlwm Celtaidd in Porthcawl

The Festival this year was held exclusively in the Grand Pavilion on the seafront and proved to be an excellent venue, with the large hall with stage on the ground floor and smaller room below, perfect for workshops and more intimate concerts, with bar and eatery.

The trip down was uneventful, some staying in the Brentwood Hotel and others in the caravan park. The caravans are well heated and combined with two duvets very snug!

Friday was outreach day, with three Primary schools being visited by Perree Bane, whose performances of The Set improved remarkably as the day progressed! The school-kids were attentive and well-behaved, and enthusiastic about joining in dances. The difference in atmosphere in Welsh-medium and English-medium schools was again apparent, the Welsh-medium seeming to have more pride, maybe. An evening performance and various ceilis until 1am concluded a busy day.

Saturday saw some sleepy souls drag themselves to the Pavilion for the 10am (!) Manx workshop, which was provided for one enthusiastic Welsh lady! Why so early...? The street dancing went better, with a good audience in the shopping area, some practice in the Brentwood, and then a clash of timing with loads of Irish girls on the prom; we graciously gave them the spot and saved our legs! The Manx ceili was our last mission of the day, far better attended than the workshop and great fun.



Highlights of the evening were "Rusty Shackle" getting the dance-floor heaving and the superb Dominic Graham Irish dancers from Portrush. The Welsh ceili carried on to the early hours...

Attendance at the Cornish ceili (10:15 am!) was by 3 hardy Manx souls, but for the rest of us the spirit was willing but the flesh oh so weak! The Celtic dance spectacular went well, The Set like a well-oiled machine to the usual rapturous applause. The Inter-Celtic ceili finished off the Festival in the approved fashion despite a domestic between daughter and father callers!. Many thanks to our doughty musicians (Caz, Luke, the two Pauls and Beki) and to Derek Smith and the team for inviting us.

Highlights: the superb precision and inventiveness of the Irish dancers, Rusty Shackle for "bree", the virtuoso harpist Catrin Finch and those Cornish skirts!

John Dowling

Steady as she goes!

A total of twenty musicians came to the six-week 'Steady as she goes session' at the Tynwald Inn, St Johns throughout February and March. Designed as a safe environment to play Manx tunes at a steady pace, the sessions attracted flutes, whistles, fiddles, guitars, melodeons, harps, acoustic bass and autoharps.

Sessions were led by MHF Manx Music Development Officer, Breesha Maddrell, who was delighted to meet and work with such a lovely group of people. Having the support of members from the Phynnodderee session which meets every Friday at 8.30pm, especially Leila Kneale, meant

that new musicians felt encouraged to stay and keep playing.

Many thanks to established musicians such as Leila, John Kaneen and Robin Boyle who came along now and again to support the newer players.

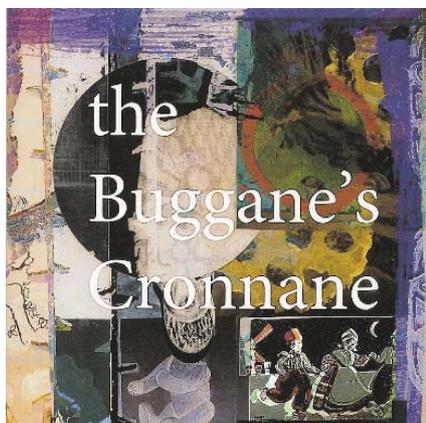
If you're interested in future 'Steady' sessions or have ideas for adult music schemes, please contact Breesha on: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im

Photos from fiddler Heather Hall



The Buggane's Cronnane

Gypo Buggane aka Andrew Clague has composed a new piece of music to go with David Maddrell's latest exhibition 'Carpet Pages' at the Sayle Gallery in Douglas (exhibition is on



until 3rd April). Entitled 'Cronnane' it is a wonderfully layered piece and is available from the Gallery priced £4 (limited edition 100).

<http://david-maddrell.co.uk>

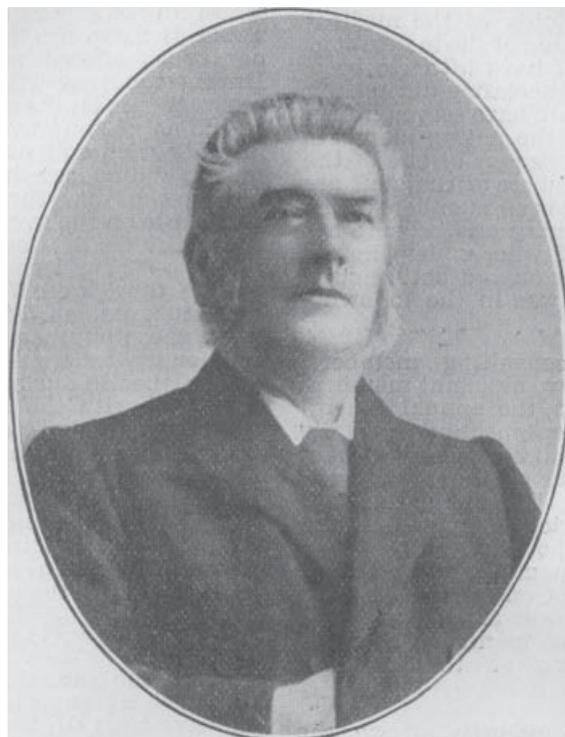
<http://www.saylegallery.com>

Stephen Miller sent in this photo of Dr John Clague.

It seems to be a previously unknown picture of Clague and comes from his obituary in the *British Medical Journal*. The piece is unsigned but Stephen is positive that it was written by Archdeacon Kewley as the same material turns up in his preface to *Manx Reminiscences*.

Anon. [but Rev. John Kewley]. 1908. [Obituary] John Clague, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Castletown, Isle of Man. *The British Medical Journal*, 12 September, 777.

The photograph itself is undated but shows a much healthier Clague than the older picture in *Manx Reminiscences*.



40th Pan-Celtic Festival Dingle, Co. Kerry

Fiona McArdle reports

This year sees the 40th Pan-Celtic Festival, which will be in Dingle from 26th April – 1st May. As it's a special occasion, the local Committee have added some special events, including, on the May Bank Holiday weekend, their local craft May Festival with many and varied workshops to interest all. Our own Phil Gawne, MHK, has agreed to talk at the inter-Celtic seminar organised by Micheál de Mórdha, Director of the Blasket Islands' Heritage Centre, on 'The Role of Local and Regional Authorities in developing Minority Language Areas'.

In the New Celtic Song competition the Isle of Man will be represented by 5-piece band 'Ny Jinnyn' with their song 'Sy Ghrianane' which won the Arrane son Mannin Manx Heritage Foundation sponsored local competition for entry to the Pan-Celtic in November 2010. It will be sung by Dave McLean who shared in the work of composing both tune and lyrics with his wife Lizzie, and Laura and David Rowles. The latter couple, Steve Kerrison and Peter Woodman, together with

Dave himself, make up 'Ny Jinnyn'. Traditional singing has its competition too, where a slightly re-formed group 'Falga' of Clare Kilgallon, Fiona McArdle and Margaid Bird will be participating. All will be playing at the Manx / Cornish hosted evening ceili on Thursday 28th April as well as at several other events. Isle of Man Arts Council has generously given financial assistance to the Manx representatives, as has the Pan-Celtic Festival itself, for which we are most grateful – Dingle is a long way from Mann, especially with the lack of convenient sea transport to Dublin.

Every six years a representative from each Celtic country becomes President of Pan-Celtic – you can only be President once! – and this year Margaid Bird will be Vice-President before her Presidential year at Carlow in 2012. Illustrious names such as Mona Douglas and Brian Stowell have been past Presidents.

If you'd like to compose a new tune and Manx lyrics for this year's Arrane son Mannin in November and go to the Pan-Celtic to represent the Island in 2012 if you're a winner, now is a good time to start – email fmcardle@manx.net Help is at hand for non-Manx/learner Manx speakers. Aigh vie da Ny Jinnyn myleeaney!

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Flitter Jig

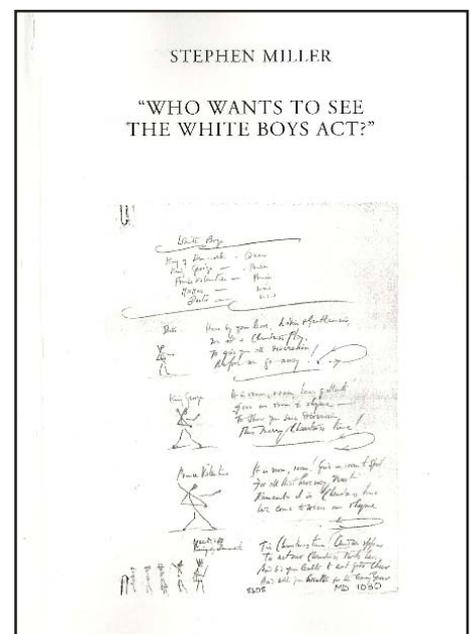
Revised trad Manx (from sessions)

Am Dm7 Em7
Am G Em F
Am Em2nd C F Em
Am Em2nd F Em Am

This is a simple jig version of the Flitter Dance, which can be heard at sessions. Collecting flitters (limpets) is associated with Good Friday. The original Flitter Dance was collected by Mona Douglas from various sources and was complete as a workable dance by 1957 (Cinzia Curtis 2006). A notebook in the Mona Douglas Bequest in MNH Library shows how Mrs Callow from Cardle Veg told Douglas that the dance was performed in an S shape and how another variant was collected from Mrs Teare of Ballaugh. The complete dance was collected from Ada Skillicorn who gave Douglas the figures and verified the use of the S shape. The sidings step were collected from Mrs Radcliffe. Maybe a new dance should be created for the jig!

New Book on The White Boys just published

“Who want to see the White Boys act?” This introductory line is an introduction to the White Boys themselves, familiar at one time all over the Island who performed a piece of traditional drama known as the mumming play, one familiar throughout the British Isles. Until now the White Boys in the Island have been little studied and in order to better understand them and the play Stephen Miller has gathered together all the relevant material relating to them from printed, manuscript and oral sources. The publication also features the play texts themselves. These sources are now available for further research. “Who want to see the White Boys act?” A Compendium of Sources is available from the Lexicon Bookshop and the Manx Heritage Shop at the Manx Museum priced around £20.

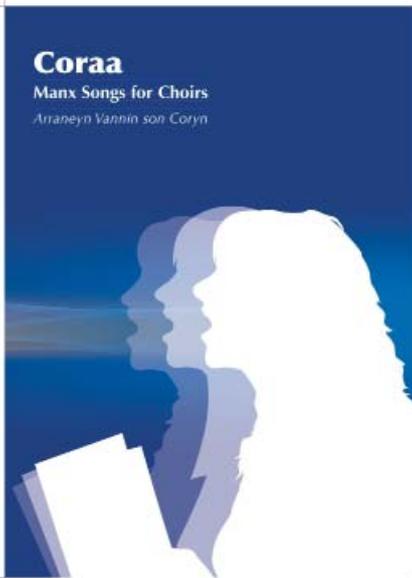


Congratulations to Shoh Slaynt! and other performers at the **St. Patrick's Night** celebrations at Peel Golf Club who raised £620 for the Grace Third World Fund. Paul Reynolds writes: 'Around 70 people all looking for top entertainment. They certainly got it! "Shoh Slaynt!" enjoyed our part, but we have to give HUGE THANKS to the other guys (and girl) who were TOP CLASS and gave their services for free. We had "Al and Geoff" with their laid back, melodic set. Donal McMahon who is so

accomplished, and has a super voice. Finally "Ny Jinnyn", whose lineup was changed near the last minute, to include Alana McClean. Their sound and material helped to give a fabulous climax to the evening. We are proud to say we raised £620 for the Grace Third World Fund. We were informed by the chairman Ray, that the money will be used to stock their newly built school for children in India with books. Many thanks to those of you who were there.'

Coraa – Manx Songs for Choirs Arraneyn Vannin son Coryn

A new educational resource called Coraa has been produced for the Island's secondary school choirs by Manx Music Specialist, Dr Chloë Woolley.



The ten Manx songs selected for the pack represent a range of musical genres in both Gaelic and English languages, and are arranged for various choral settings. The songs are demonstrated (with spoken pronunciation where necessary) by Manx choir Caarjyn Coidjagh on the accompanying CD, and each song also has an information page with vocal warm-ups, performance guidance and background information.

Contents: Manx National Anthem (in Manx and English); Ellan Vannin (in Manx and English languages); Geay Jeh'n Aer (Manx), Invocation to St. Bridget (Manx); Reamyn yn Yrjey Vooar (Manx); The Mother's Carol (English); Yee Reillys Niau (Manx, Latin and English); S'Feayr yn Oie (Manx), Yn Aavioghey (Manx) and Graih my Chree by Scaanjoon (English). Composers and arrangers include Annie Kissack, Greg Joughin, Nigel Brown, Frank Woolley and George Leah.

The pack is available to buy from the Manx Heritage Foundation for £20 (inc. local P&P). Please contact the Manx Music Specialist (see details at end of the newsletter) for more details, and make cheques payable to: Manx Heritage Foundation.

Inspirational musician Alan Pickard passes away

It would be hard to count the number of musicians and singers inspired by Alan Pickard. As Music Adviser to the IOM Dept of Education, he conjured up performances, festivals and tours which expanded the horizons of the Manx community as well as the musicians themselves.

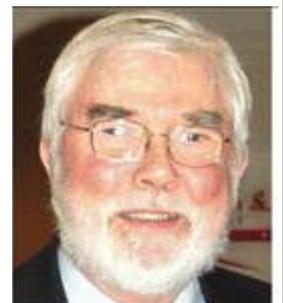
Colleague and friend, Bernard Osborne, spoke on Manx Radio of Alan's ability to inspire musicians to surpass their own expectations.

He had great enthusiasm for Manx music - he followed in his father's footsteps in so many ways, leading the Manx Girls Choir, as well as conducting the Manx Youth Orchestra and bringing orchestras together to perform larger works with the Manx Youth Choir and IOM Teachers Choir. He brought Haydn Wood's Manx suites for orchestra back into the repertoire and taught Manx songs to his choirs. As conductor of the Manx Youth Orchestra, he made Malcolm Arnold its patron and commissioned Arnold's 'A Manx Suite' based on traditional tunes (with funding from the IOM Bank).

His musicality, charisma and generosity of spirit inspired many traditional musicians who also played in his orchestras or sang in his choirs.

Alan passed away at his home in Port St Mary on 26 March, aged 69.

He leaves his wife, Avril, and a family.



Adult trad music workshop weekend



Around 60 adult and Bree musicians attended a weekend of workshops by Anna Massie and Mairearad Green organised by Breesha Maddrell for the Manx Heritage Foundation. Sessions taught covered accordion, fiddle, pipes, guitar, mandolin and general ceilidh tunes. There was just as much focus on technique as tunes, which was very welcome. The weekend concluded with a fabulous gig at the Philip Christian Centre in Peel, with new Manx band, Sannish, in support. Anna and Mairearad had chance to hear Manx tunes from Bree musicians and at the White

House session and were given gifts of tune books to take back with them. The pair were interviewed by John Kaneen and Catherine Nicoll for Manx Radio.



Photographs of the gig from Valerie Caine, other photos MHF Music Team



CALENDAR

April

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

8th Folk at the Club, Peel Golf Club, 8pm

8th-11th **Shennaghys Jiu Celtic Youth Festival** see www.shennaghys.org for full details and ticket prices.

Main events:

Fri 8th

Schools concert at Scoill Ree Gorree, Ramsey, 7pm

Family Ceildh, Masonic Hall, Ramsey, 8.30pm

Sat 9th

Food & Folk Mitre Hotel, Ramsey, 12 noon
Bree Youth Trad Music Session, Ramsey Town Hall, 3pm

Concert with visiting artists at Scoill Ree Gorree Theatre, Ramsey, 7.30pm

Sun 10th

Acoustic concert, St Johns Church, 2.30pm
Ceildh, Masonic Hall, Ramsey, 8pm

Mon 11th

Food and Folk at the Trafalgar Hotel, Ramsey, 12 noon
Rocking at Bar Logo, Ramsey! 8pm

26th Pan-Celtic Festival, Dingle, Ireland

May

13th Cruinnaght Aeg Secondary Groups competition entry deadline

14th Bree Band Camp 1 - free opportunity for secondary musicians and singers to get together in preparation for the Cruinnaght Aeg competitions. Email manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im to book a place (places limited), 2-5pm

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

15th Bree Band Camp 2, Douglas Youth Centre, 2-5pm
16th Cruinnaght Aeg Secondary Groups Competition - Music & Song, Douglas Youth Centre, 7pm
17th Cruinnaght Aeg Secondary Groups Competition - Dance, Douglas Youth Centre, 7pm
24th Caarjyn Coidjagh Manx Gaelic choir, St German's Cathedral, Peel, 7.45pm
30th Manx music at the May Fair, Clucas Orchard, Ballafesson, Rushen, 1-4pm

Ramsey Choral has a new website:
www.ramseychoral.org

The Cruinnaght Aeg Secondary Groups Schools Syllabus is now available. Contact fmcardle@manx.net or manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im for a copy. Copies will go on the Education pages of www.manxmusic.com very soon.

Competitions will be held in May (16th and 17th) with the usual primary competitions taking place in June/July.

Jan Quillin's supermanx t-shirts are now available online together with a whole host of related products. The t-shirts went down very well in Lorient and proved a very striking way of displaying Manx identity at a large festival. Check the products out here: www.mannmad.com



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