KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

manx music today

mee houney - november 2011



Thie ny Gaelgey held its annual Hop tu Naa party at St Judes.

The Albert PSM had a specially themed Kiaull as Gaelg session with food, music and a turnip lantern competition.

MNH had a events at Cregneash and Castle Rushen and the DCCL Wildlife Park's Hop Tu Naa Visitors raised £1,000 for Crossroads Caring for Carers charity.

Ballagroove DJs held a spectacular Monster Mash Horror Disco with Hop tu Naa themed fancy dress at The Falcon's Nest Hotel in Port Erin.

kiaull manninagh jiu 11/11 manx heritage foundation

ANOTHER 'TRADTASTIC' BREE WEEKEND!

Last month (22nd and 23rd October) Bree met for their sixth annual Manx youth music weekend at Douglas Youth Arts Centre. As usual, creativity and fun were at the heart of the workshops, but this year there was an emphasis on 'new' Manx music and this was applied through the performance of recently composed tunes from *Kiaull yn Theay* books 3 and 4, songwriting, improvising and the composition of new tunes and dances.

Music and dance tuition was led by expert tutors Matt Kelly, Caz Dougherty, Beki Collings, Nichola Hayes, Laura Rowles, Dave Rowles, Christa McCartney along with Bree organisers Chloë Woolley and Breesha Maddrell, and talented youngsters aged 9 to 18 brought a multitude of instruments with them ranging from Celtic harp to autoharp!

The eagerly anticipated concert for family and friends on Sunday afternoon was a great success and demonstrated the hard work of the students and tutors during the weekend. To start the show, everyone took part in an arrangement of three recently composed tunes; 'Mynor' by Gilno Carswell and David Kilgallon, 'Polka Drine' by Sharon Christian and 'Slippers' by Laura Rowles, which fitted together to form a dazzling set.

The students had been divided into four groups over the weekend and given a new tune to arrange. Donning relevant (and not so relevant!) costumes borrowed from the Youth Service's collection, Bob Volvic and the Skittle Merchants kicked off the groups with their set based on Annie Kissack's song 'Carval Chreneash'. They were followed by The Yessirs with 'Tears for Ireland' by lan Allen; Gow Shen (Manx for Take That!) with 'Cain's Jig' – an old tune reconstructed by David





Speers; and Tenacious Bree with 'Hidin' in the Woods' by Simone Heath. All groups introduced themselves in both Manx Gaelic and English.

Interspersed with the group acts, the audience was treated to a brand new Manx dance, freshly composed just that afternoon under Nichola's tutelage; the song-writing group performed their gritty new ballad losing your way in life to the tune of 'Arrane gyn Fockleyn' by Sharon Christian; and Matt Kelly's composing class performed a wonderful new Hop tu naa melody.

The grand finale was a spectacular group improvisation led by tutor Laura Rowles. Grioyos if students and tutors were tasked with creating 8 bars of melody, accompaniment and percussion based around a Hungarian folk scale. When all of the groups and dancers met again to join the improvised sections together, the end of result was bree-lliant!

Bree is organised by the Manx Heritage Foundation music team, with the fantastic support of Fiona Helleur at the Douglas Youth Arts Centre.

As well as coming together at large-scale

workshops like this, Bree meets one Saturday afternoon each month for an informal music session, they perform at community events all over the Island and busk for local charities. New members are always welcome.

Bree also has its own snazzy new website designed by talented young members Daniel Quayle and Isla Callister. Check it out at:

http://www.breeiom.tk/

For more details on Bree, contact Chloë:

manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im or 695787 A second tranche of primary schools are now learning penny whistle through the scheme of work, Feddan (Manx Gaelic for whistle). Part of the Primary Music Initiative headed by the IOM Music Service, the 6 week course is being delivered at Marown, Ballasalla, Anagh Coar, Kewaigue and Andreas during the winter term.

Chloë Woolley designed the scheme so that the class teacher could learn the instrument along with their pupils and after these initial lessons, feel equipped to teach the course themselves in the future. With funding from the Manx Heritage Foundation, each participating class has been given whistles to practice on and use in future lessons. The scheme addresses the rudiments of music (such as tempo, rhythm, pitch, melody and harmony) through the use of Manx melodies and songs in Gaelic. It is hoped that all Island schools will eventually receive the tuition alongside the other PMI schemes (which include singing, ukulele and percussion) and five more schools are already lined up for 2012. Last year's pilot of the whistle scheme proved very successful, with many of the class teachers now putting their new whistle playing skills into practice by teaching their own students.

GROUPS WANTED FOR LORIENT

Manx delegate to the Lorient Festival, Aalish Maddrell, is looking for groups (music or dance) who would like to represent the Island at the 2012 festival (3-12 August). If you're interested in applying, please send a promo pack with a recording to:

aalishm@yahoo.com

by 5 December 2011

2012 will be the Year of Acadia

For more info, contact Chloe: manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im or through First Class.

ARRANE SON MANNIN 4 November, Peel Golf Club, 8pm

Due to the Cooish's earlier than normal placing in the year, Arrane son Mannin was moved to the beginning of November. The competition to find a song to represent the Island in the Pan-Celtic Song Contest was kindly hosted by Show Willing at Folk at the Club, Peel Golf Club.

Competition organiser, Fiona McArdle, introduced the concept of writing an original song in Manx before newly formed group, Mooinjerey, took to the stage to perform a set of original and traditional material including Graih Foalsey and The iPhone March. Their winning entry is entitled 'Cowrey ny Croshey' (Sign of the Cross) and was written by Laura and Dave Rowels and translated into Manx by Bob Carswell. The song talks about the stories left on the crosses around the Island, asking what our



Mooinjerey with judges Clare Kilgallon and Fiona McArdle

generation will leave for the future! Cochiaull:

As er crosh v'ad grainney cooid, nagh ragh ee er jarrood

Er clagh v'ad grainney skeeal, nagh gaillagh ad yn cheeayl

Er crosh v'ad grainney cooid, as cha jagh ee er jarrood

Chorus:

And they carved it on a cross so the story would not be lost

They carved it on a stone so the story would be known

They carved it on a cross, and it wasn't lost

For further information about the Pan-Celtic Festival, please email Fiona:

fmcardle@manx.net

Perree Bane at Lowender Peran, Kernow

A great time was enjoyed by Perree Bane and the band at the popular festival in Perranporth.

Unlike previous years, members used most forms of transport, car, plane and boat/ train. Car was useful for families with all their bits, the numerous changes made rail travel somewhat fraught and flying quickest and most reliable, as the bad weather on Monday made most surface travellers' return much later than expected as the boats were cancelled.

All the Celtic nations were represented as usual, with a fine Breton contingent and Scots via London (good dancers nonetheless). Our old friends Pen y Fai were there from Wales and numerous Cornish groups - it was good to see the local dancing so strong. A lot more Cornish language was in evidence since our last visit, too. The Manx were well represented, for apart from Perree Bane there was the Mollag Band, Kipperceili and Kirsty and Katie Lawrence. Most of King Chiaullee were also in evidence, but just down for the jolly.

With the withdrawal of funding, the schools

outreach visits did not happen, nor the road closure for the parade, but ingenuity prevailed for the parade; using the field below the hotel and the prom, a colourful procession wound its way down from the hotel and then split up to take turns at entertaining the public. We were lucky with the weather, some showers of rain but not when it mattered!

Last on for the Dance Spectacular, we were able to see some of the groups beforehand and then the usual trek through the hotel and waiting with



bated breath on the stairs for our entrance. The performance went well, to the usual rapturous applause. It was interesting that we were the only group to do a choreographed performance - other groups did a series of individual dances. All in all, this was another triumph for our Artistic Director, Carol Hayes.

Good to be home again, albeit a day late, thanks again to Merv Davey and the team for inviting us and for the musicians who rallied round at a late stage when the original musicians pulled out. Oh and for future festival-goers it's in the hotel again next year.

Lhiuish - John Dowling



~ SESSIONS ~

THURS 9pm Singing session at The Brit, Ramsey
FRI 8.30pm 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

"PHILLIE THE DESERT" PHILIP CAINE OF RENSAULT, EAST BALDWIN

On the 20 November 1896, the Rev. Robert W. Watson wrote to Deemster J.F. Gill that "[w]ith reference to our Conversation of yesterday I find that Philip Cain died on Sunday July 26 & was buried the following Tuesday." Of all the singers found by Manx song collectors in the 1890s, none seem to have had a greater reputation than Philip Cain of Rensault, East Baldwin, Braddan. For instance, he was recalled as late as 1962, in an interview from the Manx Museum Folk-Life Survey:

They were great for fiddlers in them days. "Phillie the Desert" would play for the dancing—he was one that was going round to play, and he would be telling stories about the fairies. Another fiddler was the blacksmith, he was playing too. These old men were awful for telling stories, and the children would be that frightened. I'd be going along the road at night saying gospels.

Besides the evidence here for dancing in the countryside it is interesting to see that "Phillie the Desert" was not only a fiddler but also a narrator of fairy legends and we would like to know more of the performance context of such recountings. He earned his nickname (so it is said) on account of the poor ground that he had once farmed.

The 1891 census has him aged 70 years and living in Braddan at Renscault, East Baldwin. His occupation was given as a "Retired farmer and shoemaker" and he lived there with his wife, Jane aged 73, and Robert Collister, his grandson, 19 years old, and a farmer. In 1881, he was recorded as being a shoemaker only and living at Ballagraue Cottage in Marown.

James Edward Cowell, in his memories of Baldwin, describes his cottage:

He got the Desert owing to living once at a place in East Baldwin of that name. The cottage in the village where he lived was a very low one with only a cockloft reached by a small ladder for a bedroom, up against the thatched roof. The gable came close to the road, only a pigsty between. Anyone standing on the sty could reach the chimly [sic]. One night some youngsters put a live hen down the chimly, they hadn't a clean house at any time, and wouldn't be improved by that.

He also remembers the man himself:

A lot of people looked upon Philly as an oddity, in some respects he might have been, but I thought differently. He was to me both witty, humorous, and wise, all he needed was a little education and an outlet for his genius. He could play the fiddle, sing, dance, and drink beer to further orders.

When the Gill brothers began their collecting in 1895, they meet with him on 18 April 1895, and this encounter was recounted by W.H. Gill in Manx National Music so: "We were sitting in the cart-shed, and a horse-cloth spread over heaps of dried bracken afforded a homely couch in perfect keeping with the rustic surroundings." This must have been a remarkable sight, a Deemster and a senior Civil Servant sitting on a heap of bracken awaiting Philip Cain to come and sing to them. The next day they were to meet Thomas Cain, his brother, who was aged 79, and lived in Douglas working still as an agricultural labourer. This is the only case we have of a pair of siblings who were singers.

Philip Cain certainly had an established the reputation as a letter from John Callow in Laxey written in 1895 to the Deemster shows:

When with you on Tuesday I omitted mentioning the name of a man living in Baldwin Village who is a likely person to give you some Manx tunes, named Philip Caine better known as Phillie the Desert.

Recorded from Philip Cain were eight tunes: "Yn Bollan Bane," "Carol for Four," [Untitled carval], "Yn Colbagh Breck er Sthrap," "The Loss of the Herring Fleet," "Thurot and Elliot," [Untitled jig], and "Oh! cre ta dooinney." Cain had first been found by (likely) Harry Bridson who acted along with others as collectors for A.W. Moore. Four tunes, were recorded from him: "Yn Bollan Bane," (2nd version), "Car-y-Phoosee," (1st version), "Hop-tu-naa," and "Thurot as Elliot."

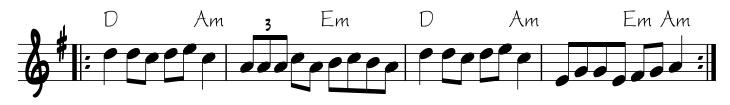
Returning to the letter written by the Rev. Watson to Deemster Gill, what exactly is its context? The content entirely consists, it must be said, of the line quoted at the start which provides no help. Nevertheless, it does show an interest in Cain after he had been collected from in 1895, one left for us to guess at now.

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Mynor Gilno Carswell & David Kilgallon 1996





This snazzy little tune was the first in a set of new material taught and played at the Bree trad music weekend. Written by King Chiaullee members Gilno and David, it works well slowed down as well as played at a rate of knots.

THE RACHEL HAIR TRIO HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR A TRAD MUSIC AWARD, AND IT'S A PUBLIC VOTE, SO EVERY THEY'VE BEEN LITTLE HELPS! NOMINATED FOR SCOTTISH TRAD BAND OF THE YEAR, AND THEY'RE UP AGAINST SOME BIG GUNS! YOU CAN VOTE ONLINE HERE: HTTP://WWW. SCOTTISHCULTUREONLINE. COM/VOTE-NOW-IN-THE-MG-ALBA-SCOTS-TRAD-MUSIC-AWARDS - 2011/

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WJH@MANX.NET IF INTERESTED.

Beki Collings and Caz Dougherty hope to run a new

BEGINNERS' SESSION at the Glue Pot in Castletown on Fridays, 7-9pm. Email Caz on:

caz_dougherty@hotmail.com

to let them know if you're planning to come along - everyone's welcome!

Castletown Christmas Festival will be held on Dec 3rd 4th 10th 11th & 17th all Saturdays & Sundays 10.00am to 6.00pm. Colin Leather is looking for entertainment to fill these hours beit music dance theatre magic etc. He needs to know if entertainers would play indoors or out if they would demand a fee. The venue is Castletown Square, Castle Rushen and around the streets.

If you can help, please contact him on:

colinleather@manx.net

Manx harpist Erika Kelly starred on Come Dine With Me. Catch up with it online:
www.channel4.com/programmes/come-dine-with-me/4od

COOISH MANX AND INTER-GAELIC FESTIVAL A SUCCESSI

Adrian Cain reports...

The Cooish, I can say with some certainty, was a great success this year and I would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the week. We got off to a fantastic start with an information and fun day at the Villa Marina Arcade. King Chiaullee (plus Tom Callister) as ever were fantastic but it did us all good to hear the children from the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh performing in the afternoon. Performances like this remind us of why we are doing all this: a big *gura mie eu* to children, staff and parents for all their support.

Professor Chris Moseley's visit was a great success - he was really impressed by everything he saw and will be spreading the good news of the Manx Gaelic revival throughout the world through his work for UNESCO. COOISH

We had a series of events during the week and an excellent turnout at Greens for some food and Manx. As ever the Cooish concert was a fantastic advert for all the work we do in promoting our Gaelic identity, traditions, language and music. The extended Reeling Stones line-up did the Island proud with new

arrangements of traditional and original material, including a stunning fiddle version of Bob Carswell's Irree ny Greiney. Samling introduced us to a whole new style of music, mixing Norwegian and Scotitsh Gaelic songs and tunes and playing to a full house at the Erin Arts Centre.

The final Saturday was of particular interest to me as it involved a training day for teachers and potential teachers of Manx. Thanks to Elwyn Hughes from Bangor we all went away with much to think about concerning the ways in which we teach Manx Gaelic.

The festival re-found its musical home in the Albert, Port St Mary, where two great sessions of Kiaull as Gaelg - music and Manx - were to be had.

With significant press coverage and the start to two new radio programmes in Manx on Manx Radio, the Cooish continues to play an important part in the lives of Manx speakers and learners: long may it continue to do so.

Finally, a big gura mie eu must go out to our various supporters this year. The festival wouldn't be possible without the financial support of the Manx Heritage Foundation but this year, Long & Humphrey, Cains and Manx Radio have also ensured the festival's success.

Cooish, Gaelg as Mannin aboo!



music at the Villa Arcade:

http://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=8Pp6teSXOfc

Ned Maddrell Lecture:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuUx_DkkCCU



AWARD-WINNING JAMIE SMITH'S MABON HEAD "HOME" TO THE ISLE OF MAN

Welsh band Jamie Smith's Mabon (JSM) will be reinforcing their close ties with the Isle of Man when they head back across the Irish Sea next month on their 11 date UK autumn tour (November 12-December 3).

The all-male line-up will be taking their high energy InterCeltic act to arts centres, theatres and universities across England and Wales this autumn/winter including a date at the Isle of Man's Centenary Centre in Peel on **Saturday 19 November**.

Formerly known simply as Mabon (meaning autumn equinox), the prodigiously talented JSM are fast making their unique and vibrant mark on the roots scene, led by tunesmeister and accordionist extraordinaire Jamie Smith.

JSM launched at the start of 2011 with new band member and "Manx man" Adam Rhodes bringing bouzouki to the band's soundscape for the first time. Currently living in Edinburgh, this will be Adam's first appearance with JSM back on home turf. Adam has spent most of his life living in Douglas where he picked up his love for all things musical. In addition to bouzouki, he also plays guitar and fiddle.

The band already had links with the Isle of Man, with both Jamie and drummer Iolo Whelan having married girls from the island.

Iolo met his wife Rachel Pressley, who hails from Ramsey, at the island's Yn Chruinnaght Festival in the 90s when he was just 17 and the couple now live in South Wales while Jamie's partner is Peelborn Gráinne Joughin, a former pupil of QEII High School. Gráinne has acted in theatre, on TV and in films. Together with Manx girls Ali Carroon and Jen Hampton (part of a Manx dance team called Perree T) Gráinne also sometimes appears on stage with JSM in the fleet-footed dance line-up The Mabonettes! Their last outing – at WOMAD 2011 – proved a great success with the audience.

Tickets, price £12, for the show at the Centenary Centre are available from Thompson Travel (Port Erin), Celtic Gold (Peel), Peter Norris Music (Douglas), Mostly Manx (Douglas) and Shakti Man (Ramsey(. The gig starts at 8pm.

www.centenarycentre.com

This year has seen JSM make a triumphant debut at the world's largest winter music festival – Celtic Connections – as well as their WOMAD debut on the BBC Radio 3 stage, and many memorable performances including Fylde Festival, Priddy



Festival, Llangollen International Eisteddfod, Carmarthenshire's Small Nations Festival, Cardiff's St.David's Hall and Bristol's Colston Hall for the Schumacher Festival's Small World concert. See the band in action at Priddy Festival: www.youtube. com/watch?v=YWnDjPLEbd4

Other band members are stand-out, in-demand fiddler Oli Wilson-Dickson, Bristol's Matt "The Hat" Downer on bass Brittany-based Young Scottish Musician of the Year finalist Calum Stewart on wooden flute and pipes.

While Mabon gained its class act reputation as an instrumental band, JSM marks a new chapter, weaving some songs, penned by Smith, into the set -including the aptly named Yes We Sing Now(!) as well as some exciting shifts in style and sound.

But it is Smith's inspired, eclectic tunes that continue to dominate the material that delves into every Celtic corner – from their native Wales to Brittany, Scotland, Ireland, Galicia and beyond. His prolific and imaginative compositions take audiences on a magical whistle-stop Euro tour with jigs and reels jostling for space alongside other dance-related forms including Breton an dro, French mazurka, Galician muinera and even shades of klezmer in an exuberant, feelgood show.

Mabon scooped the Best Instrumental Album of 2010 title (for their Porthcawl-recorded Live at the Grand Pavilion) in the 2011 Spiral Awards, run by top music website Spiral Earth – an album that captures all the energy and pizzazz of their acclaimed live show and includes a free bonus DVD.

The album not only triggered an instant response from fans old and new but garnered an unprecedented volume of media airplay and reviews for the band, including BBC Radio 2 and 3. Radio 2's Mike Harding called them "a top band led by one hell of an accordion player and arranger" while Radio 3's Mary Ann Kennedy described them as "a breath of fresh air in Welsh music" and the Financial Times praised their "fearsome reputation as a live band".

www.jamiesmithsmabon.com

CALENDAR

November

4th Folk at the Club featuring the Arrane son Mannin competition, Peel Golf Club, 8pm

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

12th Fecktones in the Battle of the Bands competition, Amber, Douglas, from 8pm

19th Jamie Smith's Mabon at the Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm. Tickets £12 from the usual outlets

20th IOM Symphony Orchestra Family Concert featuring Peter and the Wolf, Villa Marina, 3pm. Tickets around £12.50 (concessions available) from http:// www.gov.im/villagaiety/eventinfo. aspx?eventID=1550 or 600555

27th Lion's Club Christmas Fair, Mount Murray with Mannin Folk and Caitlin Bennett, 1pm

December

2nd Caarjyn Cooidjagh at St James' Church, Dalby's Taste of Christmas, 7.30pm

2nd Beginners' music session with Beki Collings, Glue Pot, 7-9pm, all welcome

5th Youth Got Talent, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, 7pm £2.

9th Folk at the Club, Peel Golf Club, 8pm

10th Manx Youth Orchestra Christmas Concert, Gaiety, 7.30pm More details online: www.villagaiety.com

15th Caarjyn Cooidjagh and many other artists, Port Erin Commissioners' Christmas Carol Service, St Catherine's Church, Port Erin, 7pm

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online

Out and about...

Strengyn performed a blistering set at JonnoPromotions' Jackie Oates gig last month. So on form was the guitar/mandolin duo that they sailed through their heat in the Battle of the Bands competition - aigh vie ghuillyn!

The Mollag Band aired a brand new song 'Mr Mole' at The Bay, Port Erin, once Greg had found his voice again (he had lost it sometime during Cooish week - some kind soul must have picked it up). The Mollags went down very well at Lowender Peran Festival in their various guises by all accounts.

Valerie Kinrade's MPhil thesis on the music of the tourist industry 1870-1970 has now been examined and bound - congratulations, Val!

WANT TO DANCE?

PERREE BANE
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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 **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

