

Cooish - Manx Language Week

Manx Language Week, Cooish, will take place this year from the 1st to the 8th of October. Supported by the Manx Heritage Foundation and a number of local businesses such as Cains, Long & Humphrey, Manx Radio and Manx Telecom, the week provides an opportunity for learners and speakers of the language to share its Gaelic language and heritage with the rest of the Island.

There will be a wide-ranging series of events during the week (programme attached) but of particular note this year is the Ned Maddrell Lecture with Professor Chris Moseley which will take place at St John's Mill from 2pm on Sunday 2nd.

Chris is a teaching fellow in Latvian at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at UCL but he is best known for his work as the General Editor of the third edition of the UNESCO Atlas of World Languages in Danger. The Atlas hit the headlines a couple of years ago when it categorised Manx as extinct; given that Manx speakers are very much alive and kicking, Manx was later re-categorised as critically endangered.

Adrian Cain, Manx Language Officer for the Manx Heritage Foundation, commented "this will be an excellent opportunity for us all to find out about the work of UNESCO with endangered languages; whilst it should also help UNESCO to draw some lessons on how to approach the categorisation of such language communities."

The Cooish week will also see the launch of two new programmes in Manx Gaelic on Manx Radio hosted by Bob Carswell and Jamys O'Meara. Adrian Cain said "this is a really fantastic development for the language which will not only raise the profile of Manx but provide original, innovative and exciting material for learners and speakers of the language alike. All those involved with this development at both Manx Radio and the BBC are to be congratulated for their support and enthusiasm for the language".

The other keynote event of the week is the Cooish Concert at the Erin Arts Centre on the 7th which will feature the band 'Samling' together with some exciting Manx support in the form of The Reeling Stones. Samling specialise in combining song traditions from Norway and Scotland and the band is recognised as part of a new movement within the European roots scene commonly referred to as Nu-Nordic. Presenting a new, exciting and uplifting sound of flutes, fiddle, guitar and voices, this collaborative project was inspired by the band's founder, Anne Sofie, a traditional singer from the north-west of Norway who moved to Scotland.

For more information about any aspect of Cooish contact Adrian Cain, the Manx Language Officer, for the Manx Heritage Foundation at greinneyder@mhf.org.im or on 451098.

www.learnmanx.com

twitter.com/greinneyder

<http://cowag.org>

www.myspace.com/cooish

www.unesco.org

www.samlingmusic.co.uk



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

Due to the Cooish's earlier than normal placing in the year, Arrane son Mannin has been moved to the beginning of November. The competition to find a song to represent the Island in the Pan-Celtic Song Contest will take place at Folk at the Club, Peel Golf Club, kindly hosted by Paul Reynolds and Ken Callister. The evening will start at 8pm and will include a mixture of sets as well as the competition songs.

IOM Delegate to the Pan-Celtic Festival and organiser of Arrane son Mannin, Fiona McArdle, is asking if anyone wants to participate in separate traditional song competitions (in Manx) for groups and soloists at the Pan-Celtic. If you are interested, then please check out www.panceltic.ie or talk to Fiona: fmcardle@manx.net

Unfortunately, there is no funding available to assist with the traditional song competitions, although there is prize money up for grabs!

FREE TO GOOD HOME, A
STEPHANELLI BUTTON
ACCORDION IN B/C (USUAL
KEY FOR IRISH TRADITIONAL
MUSIC). IN GOOD CONDITION,
WITH HARD CASE AND
SOME FREE LESSONS IF
NEEDED. CONTACT WENDY
HURST AT WJH@MANX.NET IF
INTERESTED.

NAME THAT SET!

Jamie Smith's Mabon (JSM) are holding a competition for coming up with the best set name for a brand new set of tunes they premiered in Cardiff this month. Suggestions coming through their Facebook page so far include 'Three Legged and Still Dancing', so a good Manx connection could be made here!

The winner will receive a collection of signed material and much kudos!

Check out a video of the new set on YouTube by following the link from their Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/jsmabon> and get your suggestions in!

JSM will be playing in the Peel Centenary Centre on the 19th November, so hopefully we'll see this new set and others then.

Adam Rhodes

Manx music and dance at the Commonwealth Youth Games 2011



Ny Fennee joined a whole host of dancers from the Island for a dramatic presentation of the Island's history through Manannan and the Vikings to the present day at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Youth Games in Douglas Bowl. Dance styles were displayed and then mixed up, in a very well-choreographed event.

The closing ceremony also featured King Chiallee and Perree Bane, even if the proposed culture day had to be modified dramatically with the tail end of a hurricane ruffling things up a little.



DAA CHLAARE LANE-GHAELGAGH NOA ER RADIO VANNIN

Goaill toshiaght veih Jelhune 3ss Jerrey Fouyir, bee daa chlaare noa 'sy Ghaelg rish oor dagh shiaghtin er Radio Vannin.

Hed ad er creeley er Radio Vannin AM (AM 1368) Jelhune as Jeheiney eddyr 5.00-6.00pm.

Jelhune, nee Robard y Charsalagh cur roish claare enmyssit 'Traa dy liooar'. Bee 'Traa dy liooar' ny earish-claare cur roish cooishyn yn laa as cooishyn symoil elley. Nee'n chied chlaare 3ss Jerrey Fouyir jeeaghyn er eiyrtys yn reihys mooar cadjin.

Ver Jamys O'Meara toshiaght maynrey er y chione shiaghtin lesh 'Jamys Jeheiney'. Seiyjaght dy chiaull, cowag, chellvanaghys as feyshtyn aitt vees 'Jamys Jeheiney'. Bee yn chied earroo ry chlashtyn Jeheiney 7oo Jerrey Fouyir.

Bee 'Traa dy liooar' as 'Jamys Jeheiney' ry chlashtyn neesht rish shiaghtin lurg da'n chied chreeley trooid yn stoyr 'Eaisht Reesht' er ynnny eggey Radio Vannin ec www.manxradio.com

Ta ny chlaareyn ny cho-yannoo eddyr yn CCG as Radio Vannin.

TWO NEW ALL-MANX PROGRAMMES ON MANX RADIO

Starting from Monday 3rd October, there will be two new hour-long Manx programmes each week on Manx Radio.

They will be broadcast on Manx Radio AM (AM 1368) on Monday and Friday between 5.00-6.00pm.

On Monday, Bob Carswell will be presenting a programme called 'Traa dy liooar'. 'Traa dy liooar' will be a magazine programme presenting current affairs and other items of interest. The first programme on 3rd October will be looking at the outcome of the general election.

James O'Meara will be getting the weekend off to a bright start on Friday afternoon with 'Jamys Jeheiney'. 'Jamys Jeheiney' will be a mix of music, chat, phone-ins and quirky questions. The first edition can be heard on Friday 7th October.

'Traa dy liooar' and 'Jamys Jeheiney' will also be available for a week after first broadcast through the Manx Radio website's 'Listen Again' archive at www.manxradio.com

The programmes are a co-production between the BBC and Manx Radio.



DON'T FORGET STRENGYN WILL BE SUPPORTING SINGER-SONGWRITER AND FIDDLE PLAYER, **JACKIE OATES**, AT THE VILLA ARCADE IN DOUGLAS ON **SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER** AT 7.30PM. TICKETS ARE £20 FROM WWW.VILLAGAIETY.COM FULL DETAILS ABOUT THE GIG ARE IN LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER (JONNOPROMOTIONS)

~ 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

THE ROBERT GAWNE COLLECTION OF MANX FOLK SONG

by Stephen Miller

The principal manuscript source that A.W. Moore drew on in *Manx Ballads and Music* (1896) was one gathered together by Robert Gawne. Fourteen songs appeared from his collection, namely—"Arrane ny Paitchyn," "Berry Dhone," "Yn Dooiney Boght," "Er Genny Thombaghey," "Fer Dy Clein Click," "Irree Seose," "Isabel Foalsey," "Marish ny Fiddleryn," "Moir as Inneen," "My Henn Ghooiney Mie," "Nancy Sooill-Ghoo," "Nelly Veen," "Quoifyn Lieen Vooar," and "Skeeylley Breeshey."

Of the person we know little, other than he was born at the Rowany in Port Erin, according to Moore; frustratingly, he simply cannot be found in the Island's records. We do know, however, that his collection was at one times in the hands of William Harrison and, furthermore, that it was formed early on. Harrison in his commentary on "Shenn Arrane Ghaelgagh er Mylecharane," published in *Mona Miscellany* in 1869, when writing about other versions of the song mentioned that "I have one by Mr Robert Gawne of Douglas in 1837, with some slight alterations, containing nine verses [...]." This also shows that the Robert Gawne Collection did not appear in full in MBM. It also pushes the dating of some or maybe all of his collecting back, remarkably, into the 1830s. Moore, likely, obtained the collection on Harrison's death in 1884.

Of interest here is the material from the Gawne Collection that did not appear in MBM. Gawne collected songs that were deemed to be bawdy or erotic by Moore (and for that matter were indeed so...)—for example, "Bride Parish," ["Skeeylley Breeshey"] is given for the sake of the music, the adventures of the party referred to being described in the rest of the ballad in language too coarse for publication."

Moore in a footnote to MBM refers to some of the titles of these (eight) songs under the heading of "erotic ballads" and they are: "Ail moor, ail moor mullagh ny chrink," "Ayns earish Cromwell," "Dy bovms as berchys moan," "Moghrey den venainshter," "Quilliam Baugh," "Traa va mee ghuilley beg aalin as reagh," "Va mee baghyn kewt soorey," "Walk mee magh morrey Laa Bauldyn."

They are better known as "Illiam Boght" ('Poor William') or "Quilliam Boght" ('Poor Quilliam'); "Dy beign's ayns berchys mooar" ('If I were in great wealth'); "Moghrey da'n Venainshter" ('(Good) morning to the mistress'); "Tra va mee [my] ghilley beg aalin as reagh" ('When I was a young lad good-looking and randy') "Va mee ?laghyn ceaut sooree" ('I was days spent courting') "Aile mooar, aile mooar mullagh y chrink /ny crink" ('A big fire, a big fire on the top of the hill / the hills') "Walk [Hiooill] mee magh moghrey Laa Boaldyn" ('I walked out May Day morning') "Ayns earish C[h]romwell" ('In the time of Cromwell'). [I am grateful here to Prof. George Boderick for the translations.]

Though thought bawdy or erotic at the time and so to be censored, they probably would not raise an eyebrow today such is the change in tastes but they nevertheless show that a collector such as Robert Gawne was willing and able to record such material; also that such songs were part of the traditional repertoire.

But how widespread was such bawdy or erotic material? Remarkably, Moore had initially intended to publish some or all of this material from the Edward Gawne Collection. The Rev. T.E. Brown wrote to him on 19 February 1896, while working on the preface to MBM, "I have none of the Love songs (indecent), which I think you intend publishing in Manx only." Brown had seemingly canvassed Dr John Clague over such a plan of publication:

According to Dr Clague these are almost all horribly indecent. He says that one verse, or, at the utmost, two, may be tolerated, but invariably the rest is absolute dirt. Moreover he declares that these songs are exceedingly numerous.

Moore's reply to Brown is lost, but in response to his letter Brown wrote, "It is gratifying to think that you have reason for mistrusting Dr Clague's estimate of Manx Love Songs." In any case, the material did not appear in MBM. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that Moore was seemingly able to assume that his audience would be familiar both with the material and titles of this material, and further that Clague himself was aware that such songs were widespread.

Hopefully, one day these songs will be restored to the repertoire of Manx traditional song and sung once again (and with vigour).

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Shooyl ny Shee

Ealee Sheard c.2005

Three staves of musical notation for the piece 'Shooyl ny Shee'. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written in eighth notes. Above the staff are the chords: Em, D, Bm, C, D, Em. The second staff continues the melody with chords Em, Bm, Am, G. The third staff concludes the piece with chords Em, Bm, Am, Bm, Em.

Shooyl ny Shee is a wonderful tune by Ealee Sheard, whistle and harp player and dancer.

MUSIC AND ART - wonderful images from Heather Hall

Fiddle player Heather Hall has been busy since the Steady As She Goes sessions. A regular at the Tynwald sessions, Heather has created some wonderful images - here are just a couple of them.



Leila on autoharp



Jamys on fiddle

CALENDAR

October

1st-8th **Cooish** Manx and Inter-Gaelic Festival - various venues around the Island. More info available online: www.myspace.com/cooish and <http://cowag.org>

7th Scottish Gaelic & Norwegian music from **Samling** and Manx support at the Erin Arts Centre, Port Erin, 8pm £10 / £7 OAPs / £1 U18s from Adrian on 451098 or email: cooish@manx.net

8th Seshoon! Session to finish the Cooish at the Albert, Port St Mary, 9pm FREE

6th The Mollag Band at the Tynwald Inn, St Johns, 9.30pm

7th Folk at the Club, Peel Golf Club, 8pm

8th Bree youth traditional music session, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, 3pm

22nd Jackie Oates, Villa Arcade, Douglas, 7.30pm £20 www.jonnopromotions.com

19th-23rd Perree Bane, The Mollag Band & Kippercaillie at Lowender Peran Festival, Cornwall www.lowenderperan.co.uk

22nd&23rd **Bree youth trad music, song and dance weekend!** Douglas Youth Arts Centre 10am-4pm For an application form, please email manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im

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

19th Jamie Smith's Mabon at the Centenary Centre, Peel, prob 8pm. Ticket price tbc

December

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

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

GURA MIE MOOAR AYDS, LAURA

Dr Chloe Woolley will be back in the office from 3rd October to resume her role as Manx Music Specialist. Her maternity cover has been ably provided by Laura Rowles, who has assisted with a multitude of projects as well as working on a fiddle book for the upper strings peripatetic team with Music Service. More news on this in next month's KMJ...

WANT TO DANCE?

**PERREE BANE
BEGINNERS CLASSES.
SUNDAY OCTOBER 30TH
TO DEC 4TH .
6 WEEKS.
BALLASALLA VILLAGE HALL,
MILL ROAD .
7PM TO 8PM .
£3 PER SESSION.
MUSICIANS ALSO
VERY WELCOME.**

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



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 articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture



Perree Bane

- **Manx Dancing for beginners.**
- **6 classes @ £3 a week.**
- **Ballasalla Village Hall. Mill Road.**
- **7pm to 8pm.**
- **Sunday 30th Oct. to Sunday 4th Dec.**
- **Musicians always welcome.**
- **Just turn up on the evening.**
- **For further information phone Caroline on 833208.**