



Celtic Heritage in Louisiana, USA

Last month [12-14 Oct], Manx traditional music band *Sheear* performed and gave workshops at the annual Celtic Nations Heritage Festival in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Aware that the Isle of Man was not being represented, the inter-Celtic festival invited Chloë Woolley, Breesha Maddrell and Cinzia Curtis to attend their 17th festival. Unfortunately, Sheear's fourth band member, Katie Lawrence (fiddle & piano) could not attend.

Each year, the Celtic Nations Heritage committee stages a jam-packed weekend of entertainment for 20,000 people which includes performances on six different stages, language, music and dance workshops, art exhibitions, a selection of food and drink from the Celtic countries, Highland games, ceilis, stalls on Celtic history and genealogy, the World Cup Curragh Regatta and even a show of Celtic Canines! (No sign of the Moddey Dhoo luckily!)



Acting as 'Cultural Ambassadors' Sheear gave four concerts at the Lake Charles Civic Center where they enlightened audience members about the rich musical culture in the Isle of Man. With a mix of Manx Gaelic songs, instrumental pieces and solo dances, Sheear were very well received by the American audience. The girls gave workshops in Manx dancing, Manx Music and an introduction to the Manx Gaelic language. They also set up a display with information leaflets on Manx culture and tourism and answered questions on a variety of topics about the Isle of Man.



Founded by Irish Gaelic singer Danny O' Flaherty, the Celtic Nations Heritage Festival is very keen to promote the Isle of Man and they hope to continue bringing Manx bands over each year. Financial assistance was kindly given by the Isle of Man Arts Council and the Manx Heritage Foundation.

See www.celticnationsfestival.org

[photo - left - Breesha Maddrell presents Festival Director Tod Ardoin and his daughter Tory *aka* Miss Celtic Nations with Manx gifts. Above - Cinzia, just one hour before the display was completely picked clean of its leaflets and free Manx goodies!]

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

NEW! Every 2nd SUN, 3pm Irish in the Traf, Douglas (i.e. 4th, 18th Nov...)

Bree: Vitality & Youth in Manx Music



Another fantastic weekend of Manx music, dance and language workshops for secondary school age musicians took place on October 27th and 28th.



Now in its second year and organized by the Manx Heritage Foundation, *Bree* [Manx for 'vitality'] took place at Douglas Youth Centre with the assistance of the *Youth Service* and *Sound Check*. Over the weekend, 14 tutors were brought in to teach fiddle, whistle, flute, mandolin, singing, bodhrán, guitar, piano, bouzouki, song-writing, Manx dancing, Gaelic and more! Over 30 students from age 11 to 16 took part in the classes where they performed Manx tunes, worked on performance techniques, invented new arrangements and songs and learnt some Manx Gaelic. Manx music also continued on after the lessons and into the breaks and lunch hours with the students playing in impromptu sessions in the café area.



At the beginning of the weekend course, the students were divided into five random folk groups and instructed to invent a name for their new group. After much hilarity, this led to the formation of 'The Peeling Cobblestones' (geddit??), 'Ammys da ny Spennigyn' (Respect to the Penguins – don't

ask...), 'Niacht Scammlytagh' (Scandalous), 'Ferrishyn ny Scoorit' (The Drunken Fairies) and 'Rollageyn' (Stars – not particularly modest, but at least it was fairly sensible!).

Advised by the tutors, each group then had to create a short set of songs or tunes to be performed at the Sunday afternoon concert and, with the help of Paul Rogers, learn to present their piece to the audience in Manx Gaelic.

All of the groups came up with original sets which were performed to a packed audience of family and friends on Sunday afternoon. The young members of Sound Check did a very professional job with the lighting for the show, particularly for the dance group 'Tree Cassyn Kiare' (Three Left Feet!) who did a brilliant performance of 'Moirrey ny Gainle' complete with electric candles. The Fiddle Group, Singing Group and Beccy & Giverny also took to the stage, along with a performance of a very sinister song created by the songwriting group. All dressed up as ghosts, goblins and skeletons, the songwriters performed their newly penned song 'Creeping Shadows' to the traditional tune, 'Oikan ayns Bethlehem'.



Finally, the whole cast performed an en-masse singing, playing and dancing rendition of 'Hop-tu-naa'.

Bree is designed for 11-16 year olds who sing, play musical instruments or dance, but previous experience of Manx music is not necessary. Tutors are expert Manx musicians, Gaelic speakers and dancers and Bree organizers are very grateful for their assistance and support. Bree members are invited to meet each month for an informal youth music session at various venues.

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

See www.myspace/breemanx.com

MANX MUSIC QUIZ

Test your knowledge of Manx music through a fun online quiz!!

Each quiz has 15 multiple choice questions referring to a wide range of Manx music topics from folk songs to the music hall. This quiz is part of a fantastic new website at www.learnmanx.com produced by Adrian Cain from the Manx Heritage Foundation.



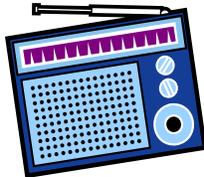
Ynsee Gaelg [Learn Manx] is aimed at those wanting to learn Manx Gaelic and includes a variety of interactive games and audio lessons for the beginner, intermediate and advanced learner.

You can also opt to do the Manx music quiz in Manx!

Go to **Games**
then select **Manx Music** or **Kiaull Manninagh**

Irish Aires

Musical duo Emily and Bill from *Constant Billy* are keen to promote Manx music on a Texan Saturday evening radio show they co-host called "Irish Aires" on **KPFT-FM** www.IrishAires.org.



Despite the show's name, they broadcast a very wide range of traditional material and if any Manx groups would like to have their music aired live in Texas and further afield online, just send some tracks (studio or live) to the team. Contact: mail@constantbilly.com for more details.

Emily Standish (a descendant of the Isle of Man!) and her husband Bill Galbraith also plan to include Manx material in their musical repertoire. To find out more about the duo see: www.constantbilly.com

"O Land of Our Birth..." The Manx National Anthem – The First 100 years

A talk by Fenella Bazin
Ramsey Town Hall
7.30 pm
Thursday November 22nd

www.ramsey-heritage.co.uk

IRISH MUSIC WEEKEND



At the end of the month a mini-festival of Irish music will take place. Organised by Pat Knight and friends as an annual get-together, there will be several informal music sessions from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th November. There'll even be boards down for set dancing, stepping and other frolics. Apparently there was belly dancing involved too a few years back...

Friday 23rd: Session in Douglas – venue TBC. Eve.
Saturday 24th: Session at Laxey Sailing Club.
2pm onwards
Sunday 25th: Session at The Traf, Douglas.
Lunchtime onwards...

All welcome

Dowling Steele

LIVE AT PEEL CENTENARY CENTRE

Thursday November 15th 2007
8:00pm (Doors Open 7:30pm)

Plus their special guest Russ Williams



WWW.ANDYSTEELE.CO.UK

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ANDREWJAMESSTEELE

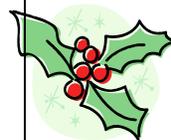
WWW.JDOWLING.COM

Tickets £7.50 available from
Celtic Gold - Peel • Shakti Man - Ramsey
and Peter Norris Music - Douglas

A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS

Concert with Caarjyn Cooidjagh
and Gina Williams

Sunday 26th November
6.30pm
St James Hall, Dalby





Rink

Perree Bane celebrate 25 years!



This month Perree Bane will be holding a party to celebrate their silver anniversary.

The Manx dance group Perree Bane was formed in 1982 by Greg Joughin, Carol Hayes and others, and today they continue in the spirit in which it was formed. i.e "to enjoy ourselves hugely in the promotion and sharing of Manks traditional music and dance".

Perree Bane would like to invite their friends from traditional music and dance circles to help celebrate and continue the enjoyment at their birthday party. **John Dowling**



[Photo of Perree Bane, mid 1980s. Courtesy of David Radcliffe.]

Perree Bane Birthday Party Peel Football Club (opposite QE2)

Friday 30th November
(to get you in the mood for those Christmas frolics!)

8pm

Entertainment by
The Calor Gas Ceili Band (hurrah!)

Bring some food, the bar will be open.

Manx Dancing Classes with Perree Bane

Once again, Perree Bane Manx dance group is offering an introductory course on six consecutive Sunday evenings commencing November 4th for just £3 a session including refreshments.

No expertise or prior knowledge is necessary. All sessions are accompanied with live music and musicians are very welcome to join in. All you need is enthusiasm and footwear suitable for dancing. No need to book, just turn up.

**Victoria Road School Hall, Castletown
6.30 - 7.30pm**

Shiaull y Cheayn/Sailing the Sea

The Return of the Boats

Collected from Mrs Shimmin,
Foxdale by Mona Douglas [no date]
MNH. 9545

Through the mist I see them app-ear-ing; Boats a-hoy! Boats a-hoy!

9 Long the wait-ing the wom-en were fear-ing; Now at last they take joy.

17 Round the Head brown sails are bea-ting; Mak-ing home, Rol-ling home.

25 Soon shall sing the hap-py gree-ting; All a shore, Here they come!

BULLETIN BOARD

E-mail
→ Me ←

Post notes, requests, information, questions etc. to the rest of the music & dance community:

Fiddle lessons:

Laura Payne has a few slots left for violin pupils in the North of the Island – classical or traditional styles

Contact:

L.R.Payne@liverpool.ac.uk

F.Y.I.

Cooish 07

November 11-17 Mee Houney

For those of you who haven't made contact yet, the *Cooish* is a celebration of Manx language, music and identity organised by *Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh* (the Manx Language Society), with support from the Manx Heritage Foundation, the Isle of Man Arts Council and local businesses. The festival focuses on inter-Gaelic links, bringing together speakers, musicians, singers and dancers from the three Gaelic-speaking countries.

Alongside informal sessions, this year's Cooish offers two concerts and workshops. The first concert takes place at the Centenary Centre, Peel, on Sunday 11 November, starting at 7.30pm. The concert will feature the mighty Clogaree Twoaie, Staa, Shear and the Arrane son Mannin competition – the Manx round of the Celtovision spectacle. There will also be the opportunity to hear some of the stories written by talented young Manx speaker, Chris Lewin. Tickets are only £3 (£2 concessions) and are available on the door.

The visiting musicians and speakers this year are the wonderful Margaret Bennett – musician, writer, lecturer, storyteller, folklorist and broadcaster – and a trio based in Dublin, Colm O hArgain (fiddle), Fergal Ó Murchú (voice and box) and Seána Davey (harp and dance). They'll feature alongside Manx performers Skeeal and King Chiaullee at the Inter-Gaelic concert at 8pm on Friday 16 November at the Centenary Centre in Peel. Tickets on the door £5 (£2.50 conc.)



The final Saturday will be devoted to free workshops for adults and secondary age children (singing, language and music) at St John's Mill, 2-4pm. The festival will close with an informal session for Manx speakers and all musicians at the Albert, Port St Mary from around 8pm.

For more details, contact Adrian Cain on 838527 or Breesha Maddrell on 695153 or look online at:

www.myspace.com/cooish or www.learnmanx.com

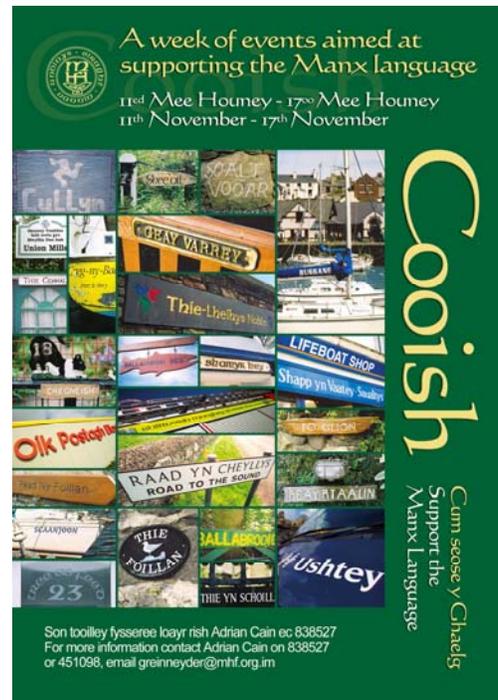
The festival is for everybody interested in Manx culture – whether you know any Manx or not, you'd be very welcome throughout the week. *Cum seose y Ghaelg!*



manx heritage foundation
undinys eiraght vannin

For more information on Manx music and dance contact:

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 - NOV 2007

COOISH MUSIC EVENTS 2007

Manx Concert

Sun 11 November, 7.30pm. Peel Centenary Centre. Clogaree Twoaie, Staa, Shear, Arrane son Mannin, Chris Lewin. £3/£2

Session

Wed 14 November, Eve. Albert pub, Port St. Mary. Informal language & music session.

Inter-Gaelic Concert

Fri 16 November, 8pm. Peel Centenary Centre. Margaret Bennett, Colm O hArgain, Fergal Ó Murchú, Seána Davey, Skeeal and King Chiaullee. £5/£2.50

Workshops

Sat 17 November, 2 - 4pm. St. John's Mill. Singing, language & music workshops.

Session

Sat 17 November, 8pm. Albert pub, Port St. Mary. Informal language & music session.

John Dowling/Andy Steele/Russ Williams

Thu 15 November, 8pm, Peel Centenary Centre. Original and traditional songs & tunes. £7.50
www.centenarycentre.com

Manx National Anthem – The First 100 Years

22 November, 7.30pm, Ramsey Town Hall. Talk by Fenella Bazin.
www.ramsey-heritage.co.uk

A Taste of Christmas

22 November, 6.30pm. St. James Hall, Dalby. Manx Gaelic choir Caarjyn Cooidjagh and harpist Gina Williams

Irish Music Weekend

23 – 25 November. Sessions at various – see feature above.