



*Forget 'Kiaull' Manninagh Jiu – this month we're nearly all dance, and so much the better for it! There's info on joining dance groups, news of trips away to festivals and lots of photos. The Bree youth music weekend also features strongly, with skeet and photos from another successful couple of days. Finally, there's a complete programme for this year's **Cooish Manx and Inter-Gaelic Festival Mee Houney 9-15 November**.*

Manx Folk Dance Society's exchange with Volkstanzgruppe Besse, Germany

26 members of the Manx Folk Dance Society recently had a trip to visit their friends in Volkstanzgruppe Besse in Edermünde-Besse from 20-27 August 2008. Most flew out on 20 August, via Manchester and Frankfurt, and then caught the train to Warbern, near Kassel. They stayed in the homes of the local dancers. That first evening there was a Welcome Buffet and some dancing in the DGH - their local Dance Hall. The next day dancers met in costume, for a picnic in the park of Castle Wilhelmsthal at Calden, followed by a guided tour through the castle. At 5pm MFDS danced at a Senior-Centre in Besse for the elderly residents. Later there was more dancing at the DGH. On the Friday, a coach took everyone to see where the border between West and East Germany had been en route to a top-of-the-trees-trail at Baumkronenpfad followed by a visit to the town of Bad Langensalza to see the Japanese and Rose Gardens. In the evening everyone met locally in small groups. Saturday was a free day with chance to go shopping or sight-seeing. Joan Cowell managed to get to Goslar with a few others, via a Norwegian Stave Church. Later there was wine tasting for the adults and bowling in Kassel for the youngsters.

On Sunday most of the Isle of Man group went to the local church service in Besse, where there was background music from both dance groups. Later we met to drive the short distance to a hotel at Castle Garvensburg, to perform in very relaxed surroundings with several other local groups during the afternoon. That evening there was a barbecue and more dancing at DGH.

There was a fascinating visit to the VW factory at Baunatal on Monday, and on the Tuesday, the group met at the DGH in costume for a drive to Fritzlar for a very entertaining guided tour through the town. Afterwards there was a dance performance in the marketplace, followed by a delightful picnic by the Eder River. Later there was a farewell party at the DGH, including a very amusing and wet performance by some of Volkstanzgruppe Besse. During the evening MFDS gave Volkstanzgruppe Besse a Wren Bush, ably made by Mo Robinson, our Secretary. They were very surprised and delighted to receive this gift and it was put to immediate use as we all danced Hunt the Wren together! All that was left was to make the journey home to the Isle of Man after a very rewarding exchange trip.



A windswept MFDS bravely dancing at this year's Yn Chruinnaght

Joan Cowell

If you're interested in joining MFDS, practice nights are on Tuesdays (except the 2nd in each month) at the Methodist Hall, Main Road, Onchan from 7 30pm to 9pm. Email [Mo Robinson](#) for more info.

SESSIONS: WEDS 9pm Trad session at O'Donnells, Douglas **PUB UNDERGOING REFURBISHMENT SO NO SESSION FOR A WHILE**

THURS 9pm Singing in The Brit, Ramsey

FRI 8pm Tynwald Inn, St. Johns, **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



Juan Garrett declared Cultural Champion!

One of the best known Manx dancers in the North of the Island has been voted Manx Cultural Champion in Flybe Pride in Mann Awards organised in conjunction with IOM Newspapers. Although only in his early 30s, Juan has found time to lead Ny Fennee dance group in Ramsey and organise the highly successful youth

festival that is Shennaghys Jiu. All that alongside his full-time job as a teacher at the then Albert Road School, where he teaches Manx dance and promotes Manx Studies generally. Congratulations to Juan!

Read the full story in IOM Newspapers [online](#)

MFDS at Hembygdsgillet, Malmö 90th Anniversary 2008

Three intrepid members of the Manx Folk Dance Society, Maureen Robinson, Freda Black and Joan Cowell travelled to Malmö, Sweden to help the folk dance group Hembygdsgillet celebrate its 90th Anniversary on Saturday 4 October. They stayed with a local family and after a bit of sight-seeing and shopping early on Saturday, were taken to a large hall near the Turning Torso block of apartments overlooking the Öresund Bridge linking Sweden to Denmark. There was a reception for about 140 members and friends of Hembygdsgillet, many of whom were known to the Manx guests. There was a reunion between them and some members of the Wayfarers from Birmingham, members from Volkstanzgruppe Besse, Germany (see page 1 of this month's KMJ) and members of Sunnerbögillet from Ljungby, Sweden, as well as many members of the local Malmö dancers.

Cards and gifts were presented by all the visiting groups, to the hosts to commemorate their 90th Anniversary. In the hall was a small exhibition of photographs, drawings and information about the past 90 years of Hembygdsgillet and artefacts linked with them. Their musicians provided background music and some of their younger members (the youngest just 5 years old!) gave a dance display for the assembled guests.

At about 6.30pm everyone moved into the adjoining big room, where 5 long tables were set out for a wonderful buffet meal, during which, at regular intervals, Swedish songs were sung - also 1 German and 1 English song (words provided). There was even a new song made up specially for the occasion, covering the history of the group and featuring many of the guest folk dance groups - mentioning their links with the hosts.

Later, part of the room was cleared for dancing. Gentlemen were instructed that they should try to dance with a different partner for each dance! The dancing tried to cover the popular dances over the previous 90 years, beginning with a one-step (like a saunter), which was great fun and progressing through many types of dances including - Polka, Waltz, Long Schottische, Tango, Lambeth Walk, Quickstep, Boogie, Rock and Roll, Twist and many more! There was a short interval for coffee and cake, but it was soon back to more dancing, with the musicians' choice of music for general dancing. Two birthdays were celebrated during the evening - one during the dancing (4 October) and the other just at the end - after midnight (5 October).

The three Manx dancers had a wonderful time meeting so many old friends and at this amazing celebration of folk dancing. They returned on Sunday 5 October very tired, but very happy.
Joan Cowell

Bock Yuan Fannee Manx Dancing

Social manx dancing
for adults and children!
Every 2nd and 4th Sunday

Venue - Thie ny Gaelgey
(Old School). St Judes

Starting- 12th October 2008
7:30pm - 9pm
Contact- Fiona on 471543



Cooish

Celebrating the
Manx language and
our Gaelic heritage

November 9 – 15 Mee Houney

CLAARE ~ FULL PROGRAMME

www.myspace.com/cooish

This year's festival has a great line-up of musicians. We've persuaded the Mollags out to play on the first Sunday (ny mollagyn aboo!), in the company of Skeel and the now infamous Arrane son Mannin competition. Only £4 and a cup of tea and a biscuit to boot. The final Friday and Saturday feature visiting musicians from Ireland ~ award winning sean-nós singer, Máire ní Choilm and the very fine trio Bruce MacGregor, Sandy Brechin & Brian Ó hEadhra (Scotland). With local support from Caarjyn Cooidjagh, the gig is a snip at £6 (£4 concessions).

The Cooish is supported by the Manx Heritage Foundation, the Isle of Man Arts Council, Dickinson Cruickshank and Cains.

Sun 9 November

19.30 Skeel and The Mollags and the Arrane son Mannin competition, Philip Christian Centre £4 (including refreshments)

Mon 10 November

19.30 Quiss son Gaelgeyrn, Arbory Commissioners' Hall, Ballabeg

Tues 11 November

19.30 Launch of Manx Prayer Card with the Lord Bishop, St John's Mill. Music from Caarjyn Cooidjagh

Weds 12 November

14.00 Fastyr Caffee - Coffee afternoon at Thie Eoin (Caarjyn ny Gaelgey), St Johns

Thurs 13 November

19.30 Leaght y Ghaauw with Chris Lewin, St John's Mill

Fri 14 November

20.00 Inter-Gaelic concert with MacGregor, Brechin & Ó hEadhra (Scotland), Máire ní Choilm (Ireland), Caarjyn Cooidjagh (IOM) £6/£4 concessions – tickets in Celtic Gold & Peter Norris shortly...

Sat 15 November

11.00 Arrane exchange, Thie Eoin, St Johns

14.00 Leaght Ned Maddrell with Dr John Walsh – a lecture in English about Manx Gaelic

21.00 Session at the Albert, PSM

PLEASE PRINT & DISTRIBUTE POSTER AT END OF NEWSLETTER IF YOU GET THE CHANCE!

Manx-made arrangements feature at the Mod

Last month, local composer Frank Woolley had a set of his arrangements performed on BBC2 Television and BBC Alba (17th October 2008) as part of the winners' concert of The Royal National Mod, Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail. This was the 6th time Frank had been commissioned to arrange a choral test piece for the prestigious Scottish Gaelic festival which attracts 2000 competitors and 10000 spectators each year. This year's commission was for the Put-a-beul contest with the strathspey 'Siud A Bhalacha' (Go on, boys) and reel 'An Gille Mor Foghainteach' (The big brave lad). The winners of this class were the Glasgow Islay Choir who received the Greenock Cup.

Frank is well known for his arrangements of Manx traditional music. For many years now he has provided choral arrangements for the Island's choirs as well as producing his own book of piano arrangements *Eisht as Nish* 64 Manx Folk Melodies.



Perree Bane and King Chiallee (and most of the available Manx music and dance world) at Lowender Peran, Cornwall



Perree Bane has been away dancing again, this time at the popular Lowender Peran festival in Perranporth in Cornwall. The Pondsmer Hotel on the sea front provides the ideal venue for dance and music performances, ceilis and informal sessions. A strong Perree Bane team of some twenty-five musicians and dancers were a credit to the Isle of Man presenting the dance and music in a lively and interesting manner with lots of opportunity for audience participation. There was also an opportunity to teach some Manx dances at our Manx workshop and this was well attended giving an indication of the interest shown in the culture of the Isle of Man. A specially choreographed fifteen-minute dance performance for the final night received some very positive comments from those watching. The Manx ceilis proved very popular and some new Manx ceili dances arranged by Grainne Joughin were a hit with everyone including our own Manx contingent. No doubt, they will be on the ceili circuit before long!



Some of our more energetic members could not resist the chance to engage in a bit of surfing, which a visit to Perranporth affords. For others just an early morning or evening stroll along the lovely sandy beach was an ideal way of relaxing between performances. The beautiful

setting, meeting up with friends from other Celtic nations and the genuine friendliness of the organisers makes this festival that little bit special and is the reason why people return year after year.

PB Manx Dance Classes

Don't worry if you have missed the first class. If you want to learn or brush up on your Manx dancing then come along to Victoria Road School, Castletown on Sunday nights, 7pm – 8pm. Cost is just £3 including a cup of tea and a biscuit.



BREE ABOO!

Hooray for Bree! – Now in its third year, the Manx music and dance youth movement Bree just gets better and better. At the beginning of winter half-term (25th and 26th October), 22



secondary school students met with experienced Manx traditional musicians and dancers to learn some tricks of the trade during the annual Bree workshops at Douglas Youth Centre. This year, tutors were Matt Kelly, David Kilgallon, Adam Rhodes, Russell Cowin, Julie Matthews, Breesha Maddrell, Clare Kilgallon, Annie Kissack, Carol Hayes and Beccy Hurst (a Bree graduate herself!) Over the weekend, tutors led classes in singing, instrumental and Manx dancing techniques and assigned a young song-writing team with the challenge of writing a new composition about the Celtic sea god, Manannan.

As always, a popular element of the Bree weekend was the group work sessions, where the students were divided into five folk groups with one or two tutors assigned to guide them. As well as inventing an interesting name, each group was tasked with creating a five minute performance set (introduced in Manx Gaelic) which had to incorporate a lesser known Manx song or tune selected from a lucky dip! Hence, very imaginative sets came from *Vel oo Aarloo?* (Are you Ready?) who picked 'The Wind that Shakes the Barley', *The Breetles* with 'Upon a Sunday Morning when Spring was in her Prime' (mixed with 'The Yellow Submarine'), *Sooil y Cheegyr* (Eye of the Tiger) with nautical song 'The Tiger', *Yn Thunnaghyn Scuirrit* (The Drunken Ducks) with 'Bath Medley' and *Ny Roosteyryn Marrey* (The Pirates) who inventively transformed 'There were Two Ships in the North Country'.



At the end of the workshops on Sunday, a concert was held for family and friends to display the hard work of the students and tutors. In-between the lucky dip group acts, there were performances from the singers, fiddle class, Manx dancers with accompaniment from the whistle and flute class, a mandolin quartet, and in full costume (Manannan, clouds, seagulls and sea waves!), the song-writing group performed a hilarious new song called 'Time-Traveller in Disguise' about the Celtic Doctor Who! [see Transcription of the Month]. The Youth Centre's costume and props cupboard was also raided by some the folk groups, with *Ny Roosteyryn Marrey* disguised as pirates and *Sooil y Cheegyr* dressed as heavy metal rockers as they skilfully integrated

Survivor's Rocky III theme tune 'Eye of the Tiger' with their lucky dip melody!

The show concluded with a spectacular performance of 'Hunt the Wren' which incorporated all of the students and tutors dancing, singing and playing. Lighting from the Youth Service's Soundcheck team also ensured the concert looked as impressive as it sounded!

New musicians and dancers between 11 and 18 years of age are welcome to join Bree at any time throughout the year. Informal music sessions are held once a month at Green's vegetarian restaurant in Douglas (next session: Saturday 8th November from 3 - 4.30pm) and Bree members are invited to participate in other performances and community events throughout year. Bree is grateful for the support of the Manx Heritage Foundation, Youth Service and the fantastic volunteer tutors. For more information, contact Chloë Woolley:

manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im

See www.manxheritage.org/bree or www.myspace.com/breemanx



With thanks to Bob Fennell for the photos

Time Traveller in Disguise

Lyrics: Bree song-writing group, October 2008
Tune: Arrane Varree (Manx trad, Mona Douglas Colln)

Em G Bm

1. Ma - nan - nan, King of the Sea Ri-ses in a cloak of mist, En-
2. Time trav-ell - er in dis- guise, The oc - ean and waves his fist, His

Em Bm G Bm

barr his right - eous steed Stri-ding a - cross the waves, A
staff a so - nic screw - driver, His Tar - dis it is the mist! Ma -

G F# Em Bm Chorus

3 leg - ged pro - tec - tor Hid in a wa - ter - y guise, To
nan-nan Time Lord of the Sea He will keep the Da-leks from me (from you!)

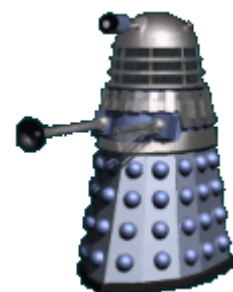
Em C G D

me and you he is Doc - tor Who, A time trav'll - ing kind - a

Em Woo - ooh! Woo - ooh! Bm Em

guy A time trav'll - ing kind - a guy!

This song was the product of the song-writing sessions at the Bree weekend. The group was made up of Ewan Gawne, Ruby Biscoe-Taylor, Chi Hin Cheung and Matthew Brammer, with tutors Breesha Maddrell and Annie Kissack. Given the theme of Manannan and a choice of three traditional tunes, the group hit on the idea that Manannan was in fact none other than the Celtic Dr Who. With a spooky tune collected by Mona Douglas, the lyrics soon materialised (hehe). The performance was ably assisted by Chloë Woolley and Clare Kilgallon as waves, Daniel Quayle as foillan operator and Dr Who sound-effect man and Adam Rhodes as the mighty Manannan. David Kilgallon provided Dr Who-esque music at the keyboard to conclude the piece...



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.

CALLING ALL DIRECTORS...WHITE BOYS IN PEEL UP FOR GRABS!

After long years organising the White Boys play (and music and dance), Fiona McArdle has announced that she won't be doing it this year BUT she's more than happy to provide costumes and swords if someone else wants to take it on! Email: fmcardle@manx.net if you or someone you know is interested.

Reih Bleeaney Vanannan

It's that time of year when the Foundation is seeking nominations for the Reih Bleeaney Vanannan, the annual award for culture. Full details are available at:

www.manxheritage.org/award

where you can also download a nomination form.

There's a form at the end of the newsletter, too. Closing date for nominations is **29 November 2008**

Manx Music Development Team update

The MMDT has been working hard for the Bree weekend, which went really well and was great fun. Inbetween all of the regular bits and pieces, Chloë is preparing a tune book for the Bree monthly sessions and Breesha is working on the final stages of the promotional DVD of Manx music and dance and a re-issue of *Ree ny Marrey* by Fenella Bazin. They're also involved in a fair few Hop tu Naa and Hollantide events around the community.

November shorts...

- Mactullagh Vannin's track 'Three Little Boats' was played at the Commonwealth Youth Games in India on 15 October.
- Wendy Hurst says check out the [live video](#) of IOM Ceilidh Band in action
- KMJ made a visit to Ballacottier School to hear Miss Lawrence's whistle group playing Hop tu Naa and some of the group dancing, too! Chloe and Breesha taught them four verses of the song in Manx which they picked up in record time. Jeant dy mie, oillely!

MANX CHOIR CDs REVIEWED IN DIRTY LINEN

Manx Gaelic choirs Clogaree Twoaie and Caarjyn Coodjagh have had their recordings reviewed in American trad music magazine *Dirty Linen*. Three CDs – Drogh Vraane & Nollack Ghennal from Clogaree Twoaie and Carval Chreneash from Caarjyn Coodjagh – are very nicely reviewed on p.64 of the Dec '08/Feb '09 (#139) issue.

Shout if you want to see it!



CALENDAR

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

November

8th Bree session, Greens, Douglas, 3pm
9th S'keel, the Mollags & Arrane son Mannin at the Philip Christian Centre, Peel, 7.30pm
Tickets on door: £4 including refreshments.
11th Launch of the Manx Prayer Card with music from Caarjyn Coodjagh, St Johns Mill, 7.30pm
14th Cooish's Inter-Gaelic Concert featuring MacGregor, Brechin and Ó hEadhra, Máire ni Choilm and Caarjyn Coodjagh, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm. Tickets £6/4
22nd A Taste of Christmas, Dalby, 7.30pm
28th Kiaull as Gaelg at the Albert, Port St Mary, 9pm
29th Caarjyn Coodjagh (& others, no doubt!) at the House of Manannan, Peel, 3pm

December

6th Sheear at Oie'll Verree, Quayle's Hall, Ramsey Heritage Trust
8th Sheear at Ramsey Music Club, Ramsey Grammar School
14th Caarjyn Coodjagh at Family History Society service, Union Mills Chapel, 2.45pm
26th Hunt the Wren throughout the Island and Cammag at St Johns



manx heritage foundation undinys eiraght vannin

For info on Manx music & dance contact:

Breesha 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,
6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas,
Isle of Man, IM1 3LX

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November 9 – 15 Mee Houney

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REIH BLEEANEY VANANNAN 2008

- 1 Name and address of Proposer:

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.....
.....

- 2 Name address of person who is proposed to receive the Award

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- 3 On a separate piece of paper please describe in detail the work of the person (or persons) nominated. In doing so please work on the assumption that the Assessors have no knowledge whatsoever of the work of your nominee.

Under no circumstance reveal your identity on the separate sheet of paper.

- 4 All nominations to be returned to:
The Administrator, Manx Heritage Foundation, PO Box 1986, Douglas,
Isle of Man, by Saturday, 29th November 2008.

