



## MANX ENTRY FOR 2009 PAN-CELTIC SONG CONTEST SELECTED!



Katherine Crowe and her band will represent the Isle of Man at the Pan-Celtic Song Contest in April 2009 in Donegal Town with the winning song from the Arrane son Mannin competition. Marking the start of the Cooish festival, the competition nestled within a gig from stalwarts of the Manx scene, Skeeal and The Mollag Band. Katherine's self-penned song 'Gollrhym pene' ('Just like me') won her a cash prize of £250 from the Manx Heritage Foundation and an expenses paid trip to the festival. A dark number to say the least, the song tells the story of a woman who has become more than a little fed up of her lover. Taking him to the woods she knocks him on the head and buries him there. In spite of the theme, the sound of the band playing together was great – with Katie Lawrence on fiddle, Mike Reaney on guitar and Dave McLean on bass. Katherine's song was translated by Bob Carswell, who is well-known for writing songs and poetry himself and who is also a very talented translator.

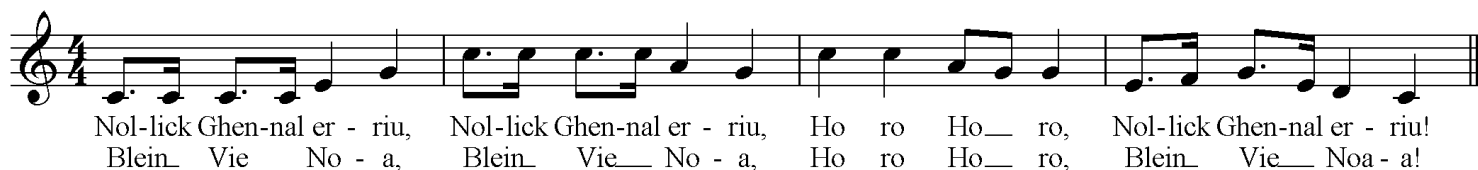
Narrowly beaten into second place was 'Ellan Seyr' ('Island Independant') by Mark Cleator of Tate! With great lyrics translated by Paul Rogers and a gong (!), the song would also have fared well in Ireland.

It was great this year to have entries by artists who don't normally sing in Manx. They worked really hard to practise the pronunciation and learn the songs, both of which were very well received by audience and judges alike. The songs were judged on three elements: lyrics, music and presentation. Judges Annie Kissack, Clare Kilgallon and Stewart Bennett said that they had enjoyed both performances, but had finally chosen Katherine's song with its dark Celtic mood.

The Isle of Man sends a delegation of musicians to the Pan-Celtic festival every year, with Fiona McArdle acting as official delegate. If you're already thinking about next year's song competition, it's never too early to get in touch – songs can be translated by volunteers if they're not already in Manx. Fiona can be contacted on: [fmcardle@manx.net](mailto:fmcardle@manx.net)

### Recycle, reuse! Christmassy words for 'Traa dy ghill dy valley'

There's nothing easier than re-using a popular song like Traa dy ghill dy valley with phrases like Nollick Ghennal erriu (Happy Christmas to you) and Blein Vie Noa (Happy New Year) to make a simple festive song:



### SESSIONS

**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 **SUN 4-6pm** Traft, Douglas



## Get your tickets for the Mollag Ghennal!



The mighty Mollag Ghennal is back! New and improved and at a new location at the Peel Masonic Hall, Stanley Road, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December is set to be an evening packed full of music, merriment and a very fine supper. Starting promptly at 7.30pm with a whole host of bands – Skeel, Reeling Stones, King Chiaullee, Harte's Ease and The Mollag Band themselves – the event aims to keep the Kegeesh Ommidjagh (Foolish Fortnight) very much alive.

Yn Chruinnaght had stepped in to fill the gap when Mollags were busy with other things, but with a new look Mollag Band and new material brewing, Greg Joughin felt it was time to bring back the Mollag Ghennal itself.

One word of warning – the Mollag Ghennal used to fill the old Garden Room at the Villa Marina, but space is much more restricted at the Masonic Hall in Peel, so it's essential you get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are £10 (including supper) and are available from Peter Norris in Douglas, Celtic Gold in Peel and Shakti Man in Ramsey.

## A Taste of Christmas in Dalby



Caarjyn Coidjagh and the once elusive guru of the Celtic harp, Charles Guard, entertained an intimate gathering at St James' Church Hall in Dalby. With a mixture of songs, tunes, poetry and readings, with wonderful food prepared by the supporters of the church, the evening was a great way to start thinking about the Christmas festival.

(Photographs: Valerie Caine)



## Bock Yuan Fannee Christmas Cheer

Sunday 14 December 2008

7 - 9 pm

Thie ny Gaelgey, St Judes

Mulled wine (& juice) & mince pies

Social Dancing and a sing-along of carols with Clogaree Twoaie.

Stalls & Raffle

Entry: £1.00 adults, children free

All welcome!

## Bree Christmas Busk 2008



Bree members and tutors will be entertaining Christmas shoppers in Douglas again next month with a Manx music busking session for charity. Bree have chosen to support ACORN this year; a Manx based charity which helps abandoned children in Romania.



ACORN was founded by Raechel Kavanagh from Crosby three years ago after she had made numerous visits to Tutova in Romania to help in the local orphanage.

Funds raised for ACORN help buy clothes, nappies, food, toys and medicines for the children in the orphanage and those living with local foster families.

The Bree musicians will perform in the Strand Shopping Centre on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm till 4.30pm and the group hope to raise lots of funds for ACORN. Bree will perform traditional music associated with Kegeesh Ommidjagh (foolish fortnight!) along with a few well-known carols in Manx Gaelic.

If you are between 11 and 18, play sing or play an instrument and want to join the world's largest Manx folk group, then Bree is for you! Informal sessions take place at Green's on the second Saturday of most months. For more information, see

[www.manxheritage.org/bree](http://www.manxheritage.org/bree)





# Cooish

Celebrating the  
Manx language and  
our Gaelic heritage

November 9 – 15 **Mee Hounney**



*Thanks to Valerie Caine for photos from the Centenary Centre gig*

This year's Cooish Manx and Inter-Gaelic festival was one of the very best! With a great line-up of musicians and singers and a whole host of language based events, it proved that November's actually a pretty good time to grab some music before the madness of the festive season.

Cooish committee members felt really lucky to have secured such fantastic musicians and singers who were also so focussed on the idea of exploring our shared Gaelic heritage.

Manx groups Skeeal, The Mollag Band and Caarjyn Coidjagh all showed off some new material, matching the performances of the visiting artists, sean-nós singer, Máire ni Choilm, and the very fine trio Bruce MacGregor, Sandy Brechin & Brian Ó hEadhra. Brian provided valuable insight into the annual [Nòs Ùr](#) song competition he runs in Inverness each year.

Songs in the three Gaelic languages were shared at a very successful workshop, there were fantastic sessions in local pubs, and the festival attracted media attention from Ireland – there'll hopefully be a piece in Irish Music Magazine soon – watch out for it! Raidio na Gaeltachta also covered the festival.

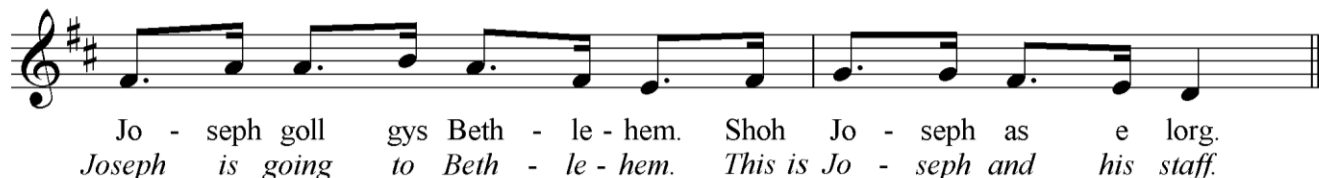
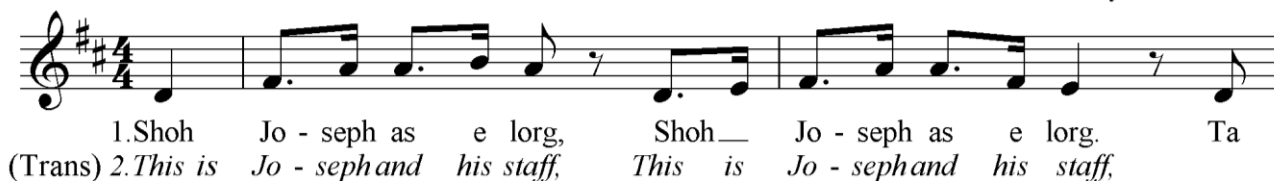


The Cooish was supported by a hard-working committee, with financial support from the Manx Heritage Foundation, the IOM Arts Council, Dickinson Cruickshank and Cains as well as other local businesses and venues – *Gura mie eu!*



## Joseph as e Lorg

Manx song  
by R.C. Carswell



2. Shoh Moirrey aalin veen,  
Shoh Moirrey aalin veen.  
Ta Moirrey goll gys Bethlehem.  
Shoh Moirrey aalin veen.

*2. This is beautiful, gentle Mary,  
This is beautiful, gentle Mary.  
Mary is going to Bethlehem.  
This is beautiful, gentle Mary*

3. As shoh yn assyl dhone,  
As shoh yn assyl dhone,  
Ta'n assyl goll gys Bethlehem,  
As shoh yn assyl dhone.

*3. And this is the brown donkey,  
And this is the brown donkey.  
The donkey is going to Bethlehem,  
And this is the brown donkey.*



This song by Bob Carswell appeared in 1996 in his collection of songs, *Arraneyn sy Ghaelg*. The lyrics are deliberately simple and repetitive to make them easy to learn. 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](mailto:fmcardle@manx.net) if you or someone you know is interested. A version of the play is ready-made in the back of *Rinkaghyn Vannin* if you don't have time to write a new one.

### HUNT THE WREN MEETING PLACES

on St Stephen's Day, 26 December

#### PORT ST MARY

10.00am meet outside PSM Golf Pavilion  
(includes a wren pole competition!)

#### DOUGLAS

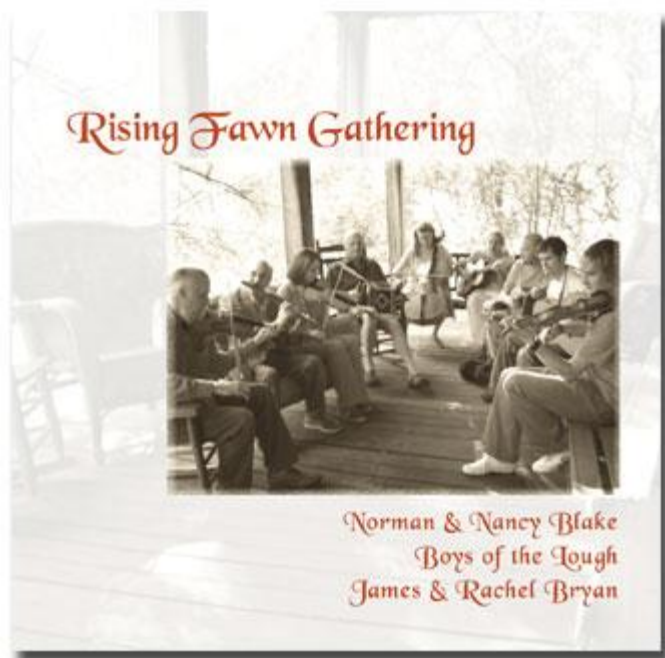
10.15am meet outside Woodbourne Hotel  
for 10.30am start.

#### MAUGHOLD/RAMSEY

10.30am meet at Dhoon Church Hall for  
performances in Maughold and Ramsey,  
aiming to make a final performance at  
Quayle's Hall, Ramsey at 11.30am.

**ALL WELCOME**





## Rising Fawn Gathering

Adopted Manx musician Malcolm Stitt appears on the latest CD from old time country music legends, Norman and Nancy Blake and their record company, Plectrafone. Malcolm, who hails from Scotland but now calls the Isle of Man home, plays guitar with Celtic music stalwarts Boys of the Lough and recorded the album 'Rising Fawn Gathering' during a tour of the States earlier this year. They were also joined by old-time master fiddler James Bryan and his daughter Rachel. During his colourful career, singer and guitarist Norman Blake has performed and recorded with Johnny Cash, Steve Earle and Bob Dylan, but he is perhaps best-known today for performing on the award-winning soundtrack for film 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?' (2000). This latest album, which was the result of a 30 year friendship between the musicians, features a mix of American country, Irish Gaelic, Shetland and Northumbrian traditional music.

For more details or purchase the CD:

<http://www.westernjubilee.com/Plectrafone/RisingFawnGathering.htm>

## WANTED: MANX CDS TO PLAY AND SELL AT NEW SAYLE GALLERY

The Sayle Gallery is opening on 11 December in new premises at the Villa Marina Arcade in Douglas. The Gallery plans to showcase Manx music of all kinds – playing music in the shop, selling CDs and featuring live acts to accompany some of the exhibitions. If you can help out, please contact [Anita Hogarth](#).

## CALENDAR

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

## December

5<sup>th</sup> Fairtrade Coffee Morning in aid of Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, Eyreton, Devonshire Crescent, Douglas, 10am-12noon, entry by donation

6<sup>th</sup> Sheear at Oie'll Verree, Quayle's Hall, Ramsey Heritage Trust, tickets on door

10<sup>th</sup> The Mollag Band at the White House, Peel, from 9pm(ish), free

14<sup>th</sup> Caarjyn Coodjagh at Family History Society service, Union Mills Chapel, 2.45pm

14<sup>th</sup> Bock Yuan Fannee's Christmas Cheer with refreshments and singing from

Cliogaree Twoaie, Thie ny Gaelgey, 7-9pm, Adults £1, children free

26<sup>th</sup> Hunt the Wren throughout the Island (am) and Cammag at St Johns

28<sup>th</sup> Mollag Ghennal at Masonic Hall, Peel, 7.30pm, tickets £10 from Peter Norris, Shakti Man and Celtic Gold.

## manx heritage foundation undinys eiraght vannin

**For info on Manx music & dance contact:**

Breesha Maddrell: [mhfmusic@mhf.org.im](mailto:mhfmusic@mhf.org.im)

Chloë Woolley: [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im)

See: [www.manxheritage.org](http://www.manxheritage.org) or  
[www.manxheritagemusic.org](http://www.manxheritagemusic.org)

Call: 01624 695159

or write to: Centre for Manx Studies,  
6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas,  
Isle of Man, IM1 3LX

**The office will be closed 22 Dec – 4 Jan**



*It's not just music, it's Manx music...*

*the perfect gift this Christmastime!*

Over the last few years the number of CDs and books of Manx music has grown considerably. Below is a list of some of them – don't forget that they'll make perfect Christmas presents – very lightweight to send in the post, perfect stocking fillers... The majority are available from the Manx Museum Shop, Douglas and in many bookshops around the island. The MHF website has audio samples for most CDs and a link to an online shop: [www.manxheritage.org/CDs](http://www.manxheritage.org/CDs)



**CAARTYN COOIDJAGH: SKELLYN 2008**

Available online from MHF or in usual outlets.



**BERNARD OSBORNE: KIAULL MANNINAGH 2008**

Available online from MHF or in usual outlets.



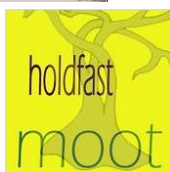
**FRANK WOOLLEY: EIGHT AS NISH 2007**

Piano arrangements, easy to moderate difficulty. Only £7.50. Available online from MHF or in usual outlets.



**JAMIE SMITH: TUNESMITH 2008**

£11.50 Great book of tunes, some with Manx connections. Available online from [www.mabon.org](http://www.mabon.org)



**MOOT: HOLDFAST 2006**

Usual local outlets and online



**CLIOGAREE TWOAIE:**

**NOLLUCK GHENNAL 2006**

Usual local outlets and online



**KING CHIAULLEE: NISH 2006**

Usual local outlets and online



**KIRSTY AND KATIE LAWRENCE: TREE BAATYN BEGGEY 2006.**

Usual local outlets



**CLIOGAREE TWOAIE: DROGH VRAANE AND A FEW MEN 2005**

Usual local outlets



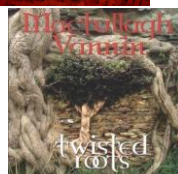
**SKEEL: LONG STORY 2005**

Usual local outlets



**CAARTYN COOIDJAGH: CARVAL CHRENEASH 2004**

Usual local outlets and online



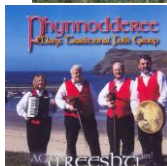
**MACTULLAGH VANNIN: TWISTED ROOTS 2004**

Usual local outlets and online



**KING CHIAULLEE: REEL:ODE 2003**

Available online at [www.kciom.com](http://www.kciom.com) or at usual local outlets



**PHYNNODERREE: Y REESHT 2003**

Usual local outlets



**PHYNNODERREE: THERE'S NO 'F' IN PHYNNODERREE 1999**

Usual local outlets



**THROUGH THE YEARS: MANNIN FOLK 2000**

Usual local outlets



**CAARTYN COOIDJAGH: CRONNANE 1999**

(Manx Gaelic choral music)  
Usual local outlets and online



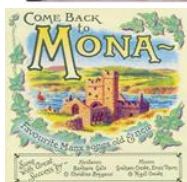
**VARIOUS: THE BEST THAT'S IN**

Usual local outlets and online



**THE MOLLAG BAND: INTO THE TIDE 1997**

Usual local outlets



**VARIOUS: COME BACK TO MONA**

Usual local outlets and online