



*[‘tis a bumper issue and no mistake!]*

## The Caarjyn see the light...

Caarjyn Coodjagh have just released their latest CD Skellyn. The title which means 'rays of light' is taken from one of the tracks on the CD, 'Ayns ny Skellyn', a love song composed by Bob Carswell, one of two of Bobby Bob's songs featuring on this release. The remaining 16 tracks include old and new arrangements of Manx songs, traditional and modern. The songs are mainly arranged by choir director and conductor, Annie Kissack, and mostly sung unaccompanied, however there are a few instrumental surprises here and there. Recorded by Charles Guard and Mark Cleator at the Sayle Gallery in Tynwald Mills during 2007, the CD is instantly recognizable by its striking Art Nouveau style cover designed by southern artist, Mary Gulland. The Caarjyn are also indebted to Adam Rhodes who did a lot of running round to make sure the CD actually saw the light of day this year rather than next.



'Skellyn' is available at RRP of £11.99 from all the usual outlets.



## BREE out and about

Bree youth music session took to the road with a mini tour of the north over the first May bank holiday weekend. Playing at Quayle's Hall for Ramsey Heritage Trust's May Day celebrations and then for Maughold Social Club's 'Queen of the May' event in Ballaglass Glen, young Manx musicians showed everyone else how it was done. At Ballaglass, the mighty Share na Veg were also out entertaining the masses – a magical, musical day in glorious weather. The next Bree session is on **Saturday 14 June** at 3pm at Green's Vegetarian Restaurant, Douglas – all 11-18 welcome to play, everyone else welcome to listen.



**SESSIONS: WEDS 9pm** Trad session (all musics welcome) O'Donnells, Douglas  
**THURS 9pm** Singing in The Mitre, Ramsey  
**FRI 8pm** Tynwald Inn, St. John's, **FRI 9pm** Irish in The Mitre, Ramsey  
**Last FRI of month 8.30pm**, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary  
**SAT 10pm** The White House, Peel



## Ayns cooinaghtyn jeh Roly Drower



Back in 1998, when I returned to the island as possibly the oddest employee of the island's unlikeliest newspaper, Matty Cunningham asked if I'd come to the launch of a CD by some bloke who'd recorded his dad reading an extended poem about space. I agreed - already cringing at the idea.



But the venue was Nine Volt Studio, the bloke was Roly Drower ...and that night I made most of the connections which have made my life funny, purposeful but downright surreal ever since. By the time I went home I'd not only joined the local Amnesty International group but met most of the folk who later formed Isle of Man Freethinkers.



If that happened to me in a single evening, imagine how much this delightful, quirky man did to make the lives of who knows how many people considerably more interesting.

Roly wore his learning lightly. He'd learnt french horn from Bram Wiggins, played keyboards well, was knowledgeable about experimental composers like Steve Reich or Gavin Bryars as well as Manx folk. He dabbled in everything - possibly the nearest we saw here to a Brian Eno figure: equally at ease with poets, sculptors, farmers or scientists, curious about everyone.

His Sulby Phantom Band project could have been an art school obscurity: the Sulby Fringe might have been clever dick Oxbridge satire. But they were not. On different days I can listen to, say, 'Pigs Like Cheese' and hear snatches of Manx folk tunes, farmyard cackles, mocking references to Michael Nyman scores or parodies of Methodist hymns. And how can anyone sum up 'Fermi's Paradox', with the breathy octagenarian tones of Denys Drower musing on life, the universe and everything over exquisite electronica?

Well I can't, but you can access Sulby Phantom Band at [www.manxman.com/spb/index.html](http://www.manxman.com/spb/index.html) and Sulby Fringe at [www.manxman.com/fringe/index.html](http://www.manxman.com/fringe/index.html) and find out for yourself.

That Roly survived a bruising and pointless court case yet never lost his sense of humour, and made probably the most memorable speech on Hango Hill in years.....doesn't surprise me at all.

That was Roly for you.

That he died way too soon? Typical Roly! He couldn't even pop his clogs when he was supposed to.

*Stuart Hartill*



## GaleForce (or should that be GaelForce?!) triumph at the Guild!

GaleForce managed not only to win first place in the Gaelic choir class the Guild but also came away with third place too! They were awarded the 'Clennell Trophy' for Gaelic Choirs under 19. With Mrs Gale indisposed, Helen Robinson ably stepped up to the baton with Richard Corlett playing flute. Adjudicator Jeffrey Wynne Davies said that 'Sea Invocation' was one of the most beautiful Celtic tunes he had heard and that GF sang it with 'conviction and musicality, most expressive'. Dr Brian Stowell was equally impressed by their pronunciation and presentation of Manx Gaelic. GaleForce aboo!



## KING CHIAULLEE TO FEATURE ON LORIENT COMPILATION

THIS YEAR'S OFFICIAL LORIENT FESTIVAL COMPILATION WILL FEATURE A TRACK BY MANX BAND KING CHIAULLEE. 'CONTINENTAL STOMP' FROM *NISH!* HAS BEEN SELECTED TO FEATURE ON THE PRESTIGIOUS CD WHICH MARKS THE FESTIVAL'S MOST TALENTED ACTS EACH YEAR.

## Skeal's Long Story continues...

It's been a busy month for Manx band, Skeal. Not only have they been reviewed very favourably in *The Living Tradition* magazine, they provided live music for BBC Radio Cumbria's live broadcast from the sunny IOM on 5 May at the House of Manannan. Whilst on air, Breesha had the chance to talk about how the Manx music and dance scene is doing at the moment... Next they're off to Derry to Féile Cholmcille at the end of TT week where they'll be meeting up with Gaelic Psalm Singers from Lewis and Anne Martin and Ingrid Henderson, who featured at the Cooish festival here in Mannin a few years ago.

**DID YOU KNOW** that BBC Young Musician of the Year 2008



finalist, Jim Molyneaux, is not only a talented marimba and drums player but also the driving force behind folk trio Heyfeva and now 4 Square, playing accordion and keyboards? Just goes to show that a good start with the wonderful world of folk - in Jim's case through FOLKUS, the Folk Arts Network of the North West of England - can really take you places. Maybe the Manx BREE movement will encourage some of its own rollageyn (stars) in the not-too-distant future!

# YN CHRUINNAGHT SCHOOL WORKSHOPS



Later this month [23-27 June], five students from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow will visit some of the Island's schools to demonstrate traditional music, song and dance from Scotland. The five-day educational tour will act as a precursor to the annual inter-Celtic festival, Yn Chruinnaght, which will take place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of July in Ramsey and Peel.

The all-girl group 'Ca Canny' (Scots for 'taking it easy!') consists of Amber Ives, Marissa Vachon, Caroline Fowlie, Kirsten MacLeod and Shona MacFadyen. Between them, the talented quintet sing, play bagpipes, whistle, flute, bodhrán, guitar, accordion and fiddle. The girls will also demonstrate and teach some Scottish dances to the children (and hopefully teachers!) All students on the traditional music degree at the RSAMD, the group also represent the Scottish Diaspora, as they hail from Aberdeenshire, Ardnamurchan, Ayrshire, Australia and Vancouver Island in Canada!

During the week, Ca Canny will perform at 8 primary/infant schools [Arbory, Anagh Coar, Onchan, St. Johns, Bride, St. Thomas', Manor Park and Ballacloan] and will also lead a workshop for combined secondary school folk groups. Bree members (aged 11-18) are also welcome to participate and should contact their school head of music for more details.

With financial support from the Department of Education, the week-long tour is organised by Chloë Woolley and Breesha Maddrell, both Yn Chruinnaght committee member and music officers for the Manx Heritage Foundation. For details about educational workshops and visits, contact Dr. Chloë Woolley at [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im)



## PREVIEW OF YN CHRUINNAGHT 2008

If you haven't checked out the constantly updated website, click on [www.ynchruinnaght.com](http://www.ynchruinnaght.com) to find out about the bumper crop of gigs, workshops, displays and general get-togethers which make up this year's very special 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Island's largest and longest-running inter-Celtic festival.



The festival will feature a myriad of musical marvels and dancing divas including:

*Niamh ni Charra, Katie & Kirsty Lawrence, Deaf Shepherd, King Chiallee, Hevva, Perree Bane, The Celtic Fiddlers, Never mind the Bocs, Kara Kernow, KaouaD, Manx Folk Dance Society, The Reeling Stones & many more!*

Check out the dance and music workshops, Manx lessons, Bree session and lectures online or when the programmes are printed – Yn Chruinnaght will have a stall on Tynwald Fair Day – come along and get your tickets in advance before they sell out!

In the meantime, enjoy CRUINNAGHT AEG and get



your entries in for the adult competitions at Yn Chruinnaght (syllabus on next page). All literature entries need to be sent to Bob Carswell by **1<sup>st</sup> July** - other entries can be emailed or submitted on the day.

### Academic wanderings...news from Fenella Bazin

Dr Fenella Bazin will be lecturing about and teaching various aspects of Manx music in England over the next few months. Readers who happen to be in England might like to make a note of the following dates:

**Saturday 5 July** West Gallery Workshop at the Friends Meeting House, Paddock, Huddersfield for the West Gallery Music Association. Items from the Colby Notebooks and John Lancaster's Book (which also seems to have belonged to 'Mr Tos. Kewley, Musician').

**22-24 July** 'Reading between the lines: *The Everlasting Hills*, the recently published Manx hymn book' Opening paper at the annual conference of the Hymn Society of Great Britain, to be held in Liverpool.

**6-7 September** 'Which way is north? The changing perceptions of an island's northerness' The University of Leeds *Music and the Idea of the North*

*Well done to Laura Payne who has been upgraded from MPhil to PhD status for her thesis on Manx music at the University of Liverpool!*





## Open competitions

Yn Chruinnaght, the Manx National Festival, will be held 16th - 20th July 2008. However, the performance classes - instrumental, vocal and recitation - will be held at St Paul's Church in Ramsey on Laal Sushin (St Swithin's Day)

### Tuesday 15th July

There are no entry fees and entries will be taken on the evening of the competitions. However it would be helpful if you let Bob Carswell know before hand that you intend to take part. Bob Carswell can be contacted at 'Maynrys', 3 Lyndale Avenue, Peel (telephone 844270 / 429074), or by e-mail at [bob@mooinjerveggy.org.im](mailto:bob@mooinjerveggy.org.im)

Instrumental and vocal classes range from unaccompanied solos to group performances. They include performance by a group of instrumentalists of a short programme of contrasting tunes associated with the Island, and also a class for an imaginative interpretation of a song in Manx Gaelic. As usual, there are classes for newly-written tunes, and for newly-written songs.

Recitation classes are for the Manx Gaelic and for Manx dialect (Manx English). Both classes allow a free choice of material. Literature classes include opportunities for writing a short story, factual article or poem in the Manx Gaelic.

**Please send literature entries by 1<sup>st</sup> July  
to: Bob Carswell,  
'Maynrys', 3 Lyndale Avenue, PEEL**

#### Arraneagh / Vocal

1. **Daa arrane 'sy Ghaelg liorish arraneyder ny lomarcán.**  
Two songs in the Manx language by a solo singer.

2. **Daa arrane 'sy Ghaelg liorish piyr dy arraneyderyn.**  
Two songs in the Manx language by a pair of singers.

3. **Daa arrane 'sy Ghaelg liorish possan dy arraneyderyn gyn greienyn kiaullee.**

Two songs in the Manx language by a group of singers without musical instruments.

4. **Daa arrane 'sy Ghaelg liorish possan dy arraneyderyn ayns reaghys lesh greienyn kiaullee.**

Two songs in the Manx language by a group of singers in an arrangement with musical instruments.

5. **Bree sheiltynagh jeh arrane 'sy Ghaelg.**

An imaginative interpretation of a song in the Manx language.

6. **Arrane noa 'sy Ghaelg.**

A new song in the Manx language.

#### Greienyn Kiaullee / Musical Instruments

7. **Daa charr neuchosoylagh ta cochianglt rish Mannin liorish kiaulleyder ny lomarcán.**

Two contrasting tunes that are associated with Mann by a solo musician.

8. **Daa charr neuchosoylagh ta cochianglt rish Mannin liorish piyr dy chiaulleyderyn.**

Two contrasting tunes that are associated with Mann by a pair of musicians.

9. **Claare ghiare rish jeh minnidyn ec y chooid smoo dy charryn neuchosoylagh ta cochianglt rish Mannin, liorish possan dy chiaulleyderyn.**

A short programme of a maximum of ten minutes duration of contrasting tunes that are associated with Mann, by a group of musicians.

10. **Carr noa.**

A new tune.

#### Aaloayrtys / Recitation

**Aaloayrtys, y reih ayd hene, rish queig minnidyn ec y chooid smoo.**

Recitation, own choice, of a maximum of five minutes' duration.

11. **Aaloayrtys 'sy Ghaelg.**

Recitation in the Manx language.

12. **Aaloayrtys 'sy Vaarle Vanninagh.**

Recitation in Manx English.

#### Lettyraght 'sy Ghaelg

13. **Skeel giare er cooish jeh dty reih hene.**

14. **Art giare er cooish 'irrinagh jeh dty reih hene.**

15. **Daan jeh sorç erbee er cooish jeh dty reih hene.**

MS. 9273  
Transcribed from  
unpublished MS.  
of Miss SA Taggart

# A Manx Boat Song Winds of Summer

Words by Mona Douglas  
Music by W.H. Gill (collected)

Tempo di Barcarolla.

Call, Call, Winds of the dawn. Sweet with the breath of the  
Sing, Sing, Winds of the noon. Songs of the hare-bells and  
Blow, Blow, Winds of the night. Ov - er the rol - ling sea

4

larch - es. Dark-ness had fled from field and lawn  
rose - s. Blow-ing a - mid the fields of June  
bil - lows. Blow me to Dream - land, Blow till the light

7

Un - der the dim for - est arch - es. Dark-ness has fled from  
Where the brown hum - ble bee doze - s. Blow-ing a - mid the  
Dawn in the glen of the wil - lows. Blow me to Dream - land,

10

field and lawn Un - der the dim for - est arch - es.  
fields of June Where the brown hum - ble bee doze - s.  
Blow till the light Dawn in the Glen of the Wil - lows.

Piano

*This was transcribed by Chloë from a handwritten manuscript in the MNH Library. Although accredited to W H Gill, it is also possible that this adaptation or arrangement was by the Barone Nikolai Giovannelli, as the song is accredited to him on private recordings entitled 'Barcarole'.*

*More transcriptions are available online – if you want your tunes/songs to feature, send them to Breesha as audio, handwritten or whatever!*

## DANCE NEWS



- Congratulations to Juan Garrett who has been nominated as Manx Cultural Champion for Pride of Mann for his work with Manx Dance!
- Perree Bane and the Manx Folk Dance Society are dancing on Thursdays at the Royal Hotel, Port Erin throughout the summer.

## Soundcheck Music Project update by Caroline Walter

The young people who are involved with Soundcheck have had an exciting year so far playing regular gigs as part of the Soundcheck Promenade Sessions at the Villa Marina. The next gig is hoped to be after the summer season in October.

Soundcheck is also busy with more bands than we have space to rehearse on a Tuesday evening. If anyone can let me know of venues where they can get together I would be grateful. To this end we have a waiting list and any young musicians 14-18 years who are interested in coming along can contact me if they wish to be added to the list...unfortunately we can't accept any new members who just turn up on the night.

Soundcheck's graduation took place on 20 May when four of our bands were presented with certificates and celebrated their achievements. The bands that graduated were Stone Creation, The Charismatics, The Black Monday Suicides and Depthcharge, all of which are available for gigs – contact me and I can put you in touch with them.

If there are any musicians or technical wizards who are available on a Tuesday 6.30-10pm and would be interested in getting involved with the project I would look forward to hearing from you.

Contact details are:

**Caroline Walter,  
Youth &  
Community  
Worker, Douglas  
Youth Centre,  
Kensington Road,  
DOUGLAS  
tel 615946**

*Photo:  
Stockholm Syndrome*



*Congrats to Manx Voices for getting  
through to the heats of the BBC's 'Last Choir  
Standing' in London – they sang Graik my  
Chree in Manx which wowed the judges!*



## CALENDAR

### June

*6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Skeel at Feile Cholmcille, Derry*  
*from 8<sup>th</sup> throughout month: IOM Arts  
Council Brass Bands series, Villa Marina  
Colonnade Suite/Loch Prom Church,  
Douglas, admission free: [www.iomarts.com](http://www.iomarts.com)*  
*14<sup>th</sup> Charles Guard & Caarjyn Cooidjagh at  
the Bishop's Enthronement, St German's  
Cathedral, Peel (music starts 1.30pm)*  
*14<sup>th</sup> Bree Youth Music Session, Green's  
Veggie Restaurant, Douglas, 3pm*  
*18<sup>th</sup> Caarjyn Cooidjagh Manx choir at St  
Thomas' Church, Douglas, 7.45pm*  
*23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> visiting Scottish trad musicians in  
schools, organised by Chloë for Dept of Ed*

### July

*1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Cruinnaght Aeg comps*  
*5<sup>th</sup> 'Shining by the Sea' – Manx concert  
including Barbara Gale, Cushag Choir,  
Sheear & Geoff Collier, Ramsey Methodist  
Centre, Waterloo Rd, 7.30pm, £5 (incl supper)*  
*In aid of Sailing for the Disabled*  
*12<sup>th</sup> Yn Chruinnaght 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
exhibition starts, Ramsey Town Hall*  
*12<sup>th</sup> Sheear & The Ballaghs at Ramsey Rocks,  
from 7.30pm (see local press for details)*  
*15<sup>th</sup> Yn Chruinnaght open comps, St Paul's  
Church, Ramsey, 7.30pm*  
*16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Yn Chruinnaght Inter-Celtic  
Festival: [www.ynchruinnaght.com](http://www.ynchruinnaght.com)*

manx heritage foundation  
undinys eiraght vannin

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

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

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

See: [www.manxheritage.com](http://www.manxheritage.com) 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