

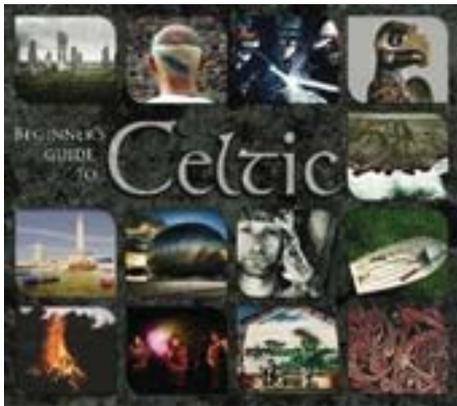
december 2010
mee ny nollick 2010

kiaul manninagh jiu

manx music today

www.manxheritagemusic.org

Brian Stowell and King Chiaullee feature on new 3 CD Beginner's Guide to Celtic



When well-known Scottish Gaelic singer Mary Ann Kennedy was asked to put together a 3 CD collection of the best of Celtic music, she knew she didn't want to follow the usual format. Instead, she decided to put together three discs under three great titles: Lasair (Sparks), Teine Geal (Bright Fire) and Braidseal (Beacons).

Lasair presents the icons of Celtic music, the original sparks that set the Celtic world aflame, Teine Geal the brightest burning contemporary acts, classic artists and major names asserting their Celtic roots and Braidseal, groups who are mixing influences, breaking down boundaries and crossing borders.

Listening to a wide selection of all recorded Manx bands sent to her by the Manx Music Development Officer, Mary Ann chose two tracks - Arrane Sooree by Brian Stowell (from the 1973 LP *Arraneyn Beal-arrish Vannin*) and King Chiaullee's (from *Nish!*). The 3CD set is very attractively priced at £8.99 and can be bought online here:

www.musicscotland.com/cd/Beginner-S-Guide-To-Celtic.html

Manx Youth Choir Christmas Concert

There is a distinctly Manx flavour to this year's Manx Youth Choir Christmas Concert at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th December at All Saints' Church in Douglas. Alongside well-known carols which the audience can join in with, the MYC will be showcasing Manx songs from the forthcoming choral pack for secondary schools, Coraa, edited by Chloë Woolley. To be launched next year, this new pack will feature 10 Manx songs with accompanying CD performed by Caarjyn Coidjagh.

Special guests at the MYC concert include the Ramsey Grammar School brass band who will be playing John Kinley's arrangement of Hunt the Wren with a euphonium solo of Ushag Veg Ruy, The Isle of Man Children's Choir who will be singing a song from *The Chronicles of Mann* by Lin Marsh, and Bree who will perform a selection of Manx instrumental music. Entry is £5 (£3 students) on the door. All welcome!



Nollick Ghennal
erriu as blein
feer vie,
Seihll as slaynt
da'n slane lught
thie!

STOP PRESS!

There will indeed be a **Mollag Ghennal** this year. Taking place on 28th December at the Masonic Hall in Douglas, it will feature a wide variety of Manx bands. Organised by The Mollag Band, tickets usually sell-out all too quickly and the night's entertainment is mighty. More details will follow as the line-up is confirmed...

A Cooish-tastic time was had by all!

Everyone needs something to brighten up those dark winter months and the Cooish Inter-Gaelic festival aims to add its own ray of sunshine. With visiting musician Breannán Ó Beaglaoich joining forces with his former Boys of the Lough bandmate, Malcolm Stitt, the packed audience at the Centenary Centre was not to be disappointed. The duo moved through every dynamic, from the rhythmic whisper of the bellows to the bright shouts of musical exuberance from accordion and melodeon. Songs were in abundance, too, with Breannán's beautiful voice and depth of knowledge of Kerry traditions coming through. Malcolm showcased his skilful guitar and bouzouki playing, with power and sensitivity in equal measure. Support ably came from Caarjyn Coidjagh, who performed a mixture of old and new songs, ending with the evocative Pádraig Colum Killey, St Columba's Prayer. At short notice, David Kilgallon and Russell Cowin put together a new duo of fiddle and double bass, producing new textures and tunes which delighted concert goers. Hopefully we'll see more of them in future. The gig was followed by a very enjoyable session in The White House.

The Arrane son Mannin night was also packed with great performances - this time from The Mollag Band and Mactullagh Vannin, who both performed and introduced their songs and tunes in Manx. The winning song for the competition came from Ny Jinnyn with a song about the Summerland fire. With a very catchy chorus 'Vicky, vel oo cheet dy valley nocht', the song 'In Summerland' should do very well at the Pan-Celtic Festival in Dingle next year.

Breannán Ó Beaglaoich and Dr Rob Amery, the visiting minority language expert who gave the Ned Maddrell Memorial Lecture, both found time to visit the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh.

Breannán gave mini performances to infants and juniors, which delighted and inspired them.

Clips from the festival are online at:

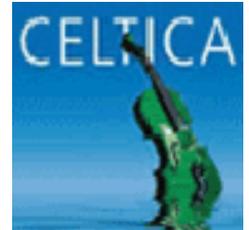
<http://cowag.wordpress.com>

The Cooish wouldn't be possible without the support of the Manx Heritage Foundation, IOM Arts Council, Long & Humphrey and Manx Telecom.



Manx tunes down under!

Former Maughold resident, Carol Lefevre, now works for the University of Adelaide. When asked to play with her band 'Blind Mary' for a Celtic festival, she turned to her red and yellow books of Manx tunes. This means that 'The Sheep Under The Snow', 'Moylley gys Jee my chaarjyn', 'Ta Cashen ersooyl dys yn aarkey', 'Three Little Boats', 'Thurot', 'Peter O'Tavy' and 'Flitter Dance' will feature at Celtica Festival 3-5 December at the historic Port Adelaide waterfront. Nagh vel shen yindyssagh!



The festival site is here:

www.celticafestival.com.au/celticaprogram.html



Just some of the images by Dimitar Pentchev from the Cooish gig at the Centenary Centre in Peel on 20 November. [Clockwise from top: Caarjyn Coidjagh, David Kilgallon, Malcolm Stitt & Breannán Ó Beaglaoich, Russell Cowin]



New Manx music for times past...

KMJ caught up with Charles Guard to find out about the music for the forthcoming DVD The Castles and Forts of the Isle of Man...

KMJ: Mr Guard, KMJ hears that you've just finished a new DVD on castles and forts. What's it all about?

CG: The new DVD looks at over two thousand years of fortified sites on the Isle of Man. Everyone will think of Peel and Castletown when they hear the title, but actually there are many more sites where people have built great ramparts or huge earthen mounds to protect themselves. I start on the summit of South Barrule where there were over 70 houses in the Bronze Age and visit some of the other early sites before going on to the extraordinary period of the English Civil War. If the Island it was going to be able to ignore that, then things took a nasty turn when 44 of Cromwell's warships turned up in Ramsey Bay looking for a fight. That's where Illiam Dhooane came in and I've tried to cover all of that in the film. We've used lots of special effects with computer animation and graphics - Castletown goes on fire (French Pirates in 1377), the sites are rebuilt as they would have been 2,000 years ago, and tapestries and the mannequins in Castle Rushen come alive (and are quite rude about me, it seems).

KMJ: What range of music have you used for the soundtrack?

CG: There's a dramatic main theme, but for the sections on the Bronze Age I've tried to create something more mysterious with human voices and ancient brass horns. For some sections in Castle Rushen I sampled local players of the crumhorn, lute, recorder and rauschpfeife and worked those into the soundtrack. When you put music under a voice-over - there's a trick in not writing anything that is too distracting, or using instruments that have the same frequencies as the voice, otherwise they clash. Editing is difficult for me because I want people to hear my music, but then I'm talking over the top of it! Which do you favour as editor?

KMJ: What was the most difficult aspect of the process?

CG: It's always a challenge making the music the exact length of the music cue - that section of footage that needs music. Often tricks are used to make the musical phrases end at just the right time, even though as composer you might want to indulge yourself by letting it go on. Getting cymbal clashes and the like exactly with the required frame is also a challenge, but the modern technology, with frame-accurate software, makes it a lot easier than in the old days when it had to be done with a stop watch.

KMJ: Did you use any traditional music or did it influence any of your compositions?

CG: No, I didn't directly quote from any traditional piece, but as the landscape and the Island's history inspire everything I write, then, in my mind at least, the music is the Isle of Man.

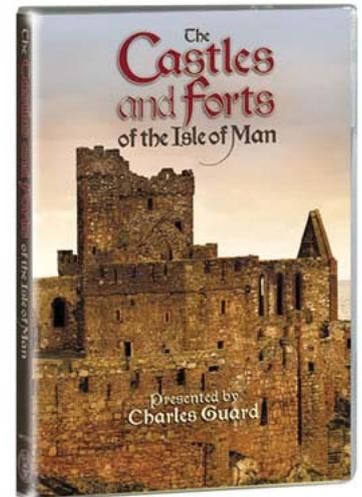
KMJ: What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given in relation to composing?

CG: Don't!

The DVD is available to buy in the shops. Resource pages are under development on the MHF website where you can already hear some of the musical themes:

www.manxheritage.org/castles/

**Manx Folk Dance Society
Christmas Party & faith supper
Ballasalla Village Hall, 7.30pm
10th December
£2.50 (£1 for members)
ALL WELCOME**



Carol Walker's new Manx music CD in IOM shops now!

KMJ readers will well remember the publicity surrounding an exciting new book and CD of Manx music for mountain dulcimer. Excused from duties as roadie on her blues guitarist husband's UK tour for a day or two, Carol crossed the Irish Sea for a return visit to the Island she had fallen in love with. Together with Toby, she arrived literally just in time to wend her way to Thie ny Gaelgey for Bock Yuan Fannee's Hop tu Naa celebrations, where they delighted in the lantern competition, singing and dancing.

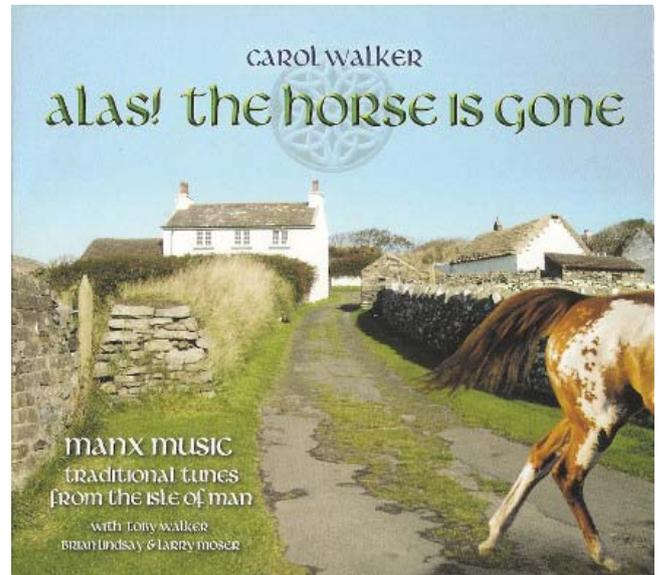
Carol also found time for interviews with Manx Radio and 3FM and met up with Charles Guard and the MHF Music Team. As a trained teacher, she was very keen to see how the Music Team's education officer, Chloë Woolley, was teaching Manx music in the classroom. Luckily her trip coincided with Chloë's 6 week whistle programme and so a visit to Onchan School was arranged. Carol played her mountain dulcimer and Toby his guitar to delighted pupils. Carol also found time to study the original music manuscripts in Manx National Heritage Library which had in turn been the sources she had used - Colin Jerry's *Kiaull yn Theay* series.



Carol also found time to study the original music manuscripts in Manx National Heritage Library which had in turn been the sources she had used - Colin Jerry's *Kiaull yn Theay* series. Carol Walker's CD *Alas, the Horse is Gone!* is now in Manx shops such as the Manx Museum shop in Douglas, good bookshops and soon will be online at: www.manxheritage.org/CDs

Find out more about Carol Walker on her website:

www.MusicLadyCarol.com



PERREE BANE ANNUAL PARTY

Sunday 19th December 7pm
Ballasalla Village Hall

Dance group, Perree Bane, will hold a Xmas party and faith supper. The musicians will play, dancers will dance, friends will chat, children will run around, there will be a raffle and general jollifications. All welcome, no charge - but by all means bring a raffle prize and/or a tasty snack.

ADOPTED MANX MUSICIAN
MALCOLM STITT PLAYS
GUITAR AND BOUZOUKI ON
KATE RUSBY'S BRAND NEW
ALBUM 'MAKE THE LIGHT'
FIND OUT MORE AND BUY IT
ONLINE HERE:

WWW.KATERUSBY.COM

~ SESSIONS ~

THURS 9pm Singing session at The Brit, Ramsey

FRI 8pm 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

Coraa

Manx Songs for Choirs

Arraneyn Vannin son Corayn



Coraa - Manx Songs for Choirs

A new pack of Manx songs for Isle of Man secondary school choirs will be showcased at the forthcoming Manx Youth Choir Christmas Concert (Wednesday 8th December, All Saints Church, 7.30pm £5/£3) and released at the end of January. Coraa (which means 'voice') will feature 10 songs in both Manx and English representing the various genres of music associated with the Isle of Man. The pack will also contain useful information for the conductor, teacher and student with background history on each song, warm-up exercises, chords and performance ideas. Each song is demonstrated on an accompanying CD by Manx choir Caarjyn Coodjagh, along with spoken pronunciation of Gaelic lyrics.

Songs include: The National Anthem, Ellan Vannin, Geay Jeh'n Aer, Invocation to St Bridget, Reamyn yn Yrjey Vooar, The Mother's Carol, Yee Reilys Niau, S'Feayr yn Oie, Yn Aavioghey and Graih my Chree by Scaanjoon.

Chloë Woolley



HUNT THE WREN

Here's a list of the normal meeting times and places for activities around the Island on St Stephen's Day (26th). Everyone welcome...

Douglas Bock Yuan Fannee and friends will be Hunting the Wren (what an elusive bird! we haven't caught one in over twenty years) again on 26th December, meeting outside the Woodbourne Hotel, Alexander Drive, Douglas for a 10.30am start. All musicians, dancers & singers are most welcome - and anyone else who would like to go round. Proceeds to Douglas Lifeboat.

Port St Mary Golf Pavilion meet 10am. Includes Wren Pole competition and dancing in the streets. All welcome!

St Johns Musicians, singers and dancers (anyone who wants to take part) meet at 10.30am prompt at the Arboretum car park.

Ramsey & Maughold Contact Marinda Fargher on 861039

Castletown Singing and drinking but no dancing to be had! Contact Castletown Ale Drinkers - meet near the Union in the Square.

NY JINNYN WIN ARRANE SON MANNIN

Competition organiser and IOM Pan-Celtic delegate, Fiona McArdle, reports:

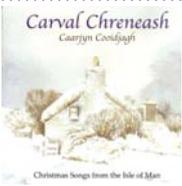
This year's Arrane son Mannin competition, sponsored by the Manx Heritage Foundation, held at the Masonic Hall, Peel, as part of the Cooish Inter-Gaelic Festival may have only attracted one entry, but it's a great song. Written and performed by 'Ny Jinnyn', it relates a tale of one of the writer's family from a night remembered only too well in the Isle of Man - the night that Summerland burned down. "Sy Ghrianane" tells the story of one family's anguish which turned to joy when they learned that their daughter Vicky, thought to be in Summerland, had not actually gone there with her friends and so had a particularly lucky escape. The song was written by Vicky's brother Dave, with help from other members of the group, translated into Manx by Bob Carswell, and sung by Dave's daughter Alanna.

The members of Ny Jinnyn will take their song to represent the Isle of Man at the 40th Pan-Celtic Festival, to be held in Dingle Town, County Kerry in Easter week 2011.

If you want to enter next year's competition, it's never too early to start working on a song with a helpful translator - contact Fiona on fmcardle@manx.net for details.

FUEL THE MANX ECONOMY THIS XMAS!

This new economic climate asks you to buy Manx and give Manx. In buying Manx-made products in Manx shops, you'll be doing your bit for the economy. So give yourself a warm glow by popping down to any good bookshop or the Manx Museum giftshop to pick up CDs or music books as those special presents this Christmas...To make it easier for you to choose the right gift for your cousins in the USA and aunty in Foxdale, here's a quick round up for you. Many are also available online at <http://manxheritage.org/CDs> **Buy Manx, give Manx!**



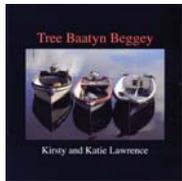
Manx Gaelic choirs Caarjyn Coidjagh have two CDs specially put together for Christmas, as well as other releases:

Caarjyn Coidjagh: *Carval Chreneash* (2004) also try *Skellyn* (2008)
Clogaree Twoaie: *Nollick Ghennal* (2006) or *Drogh Vraane* (2005)



Two of the most recent releases are CDs by bands Staa and Skeal, recordings that mix tracks from vocal and instrumental traditions in gorgeous arrangements:

Staa: *She Lhong Honnick Mee* (2009)
Skeal: *Slipway* (2009) Like this? Try Skeal's debut CD *Long Story* (2005)



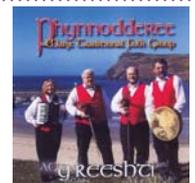
Need a good fix of traditional tunes, played with energy and elegance? Then try out CDs by King Chiallee and Kirsty & Katie Lawrence:

Kirsty & Katie Lawrence: *Tree Baatyn Beggey* (2006)
King Chiallee: *Nish* (2006)...also *Reel:Ode* (2003)



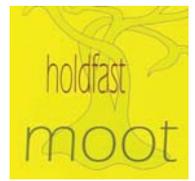
If you want a mix of fiddle, harp and guitar or fiddles, accordion and bodhran, then these two recordings will be right up your street:

Osborne, Guard & Lumb: *Kiull Manninagh* (2008)
Phynnodderee: *Y Reesht* (2003) or *There's no F in Phynnodderee* (1999)



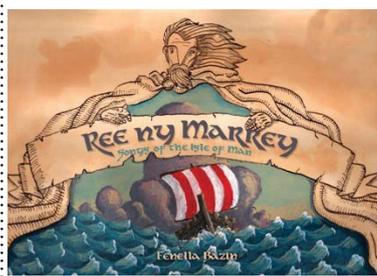
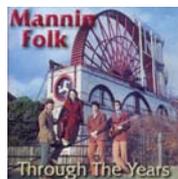
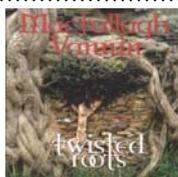
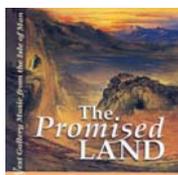
Fancy something that bit different? From the upbeat protest songs (think green, think human rights) to the electronic dub-tinged soundscapes of Moot, Manx music is never dull...

The Mollag Band: *Into the Tide* (1997)
Moot: *Holdfast* (2006)



Mactullagh Vannin's *Twisted Roots* is one of the catchiest introductions to Manx instrumental music - their music has been used for jingles on Manx Radio for years now. The Mannin Folk's retrospective *Through The Years* brings together all the favourites - 'Laxey Wheel' and 'Foxdale Miner' to name but a few.

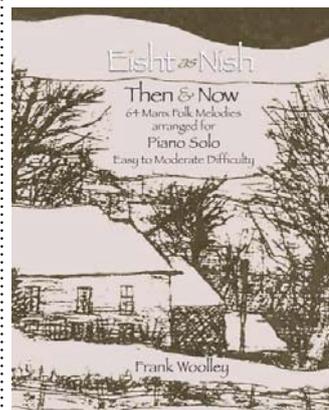
Songs from the *Manx National Song Book* feature on *Come Back to Mona*, and West Gallery church music is the focus of *The Promised Land*. For a mixture of all styles and genres, pick up *The Best That's In!* Don't forget Carol Walker's new CD either - *Alas! The Horse is Gone*.



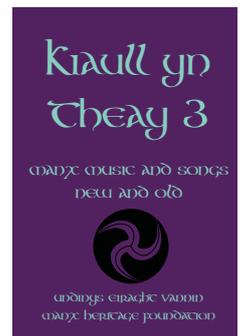
The new edition of Fenella Bazin's *Ree ny Marrey* features over 60 songs arranged for piano and voice in Manx and English and illustrated by Juan Moore - only £12 ??.

If you're interested in a gift for budding pianists, then you should check out the lovely arrangements by Frank Woolley in *Eisht as Nish*, great value at only £7.50.

For all those traditional musicians in your life, *Kiull yn Theay 3* is a collection of tunes and songs, mixing those from older manuscripts with newly-composed pieces by some of the best musicians on the Island.



The tunes are suitable for a wide range of instruments and singers. Priced £5, it's a great gift for anyone interested in the developing Manx traditional music scene.



TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

see www.manxheritagemusic.org for more printable pieces of Manx music

Deiney Creeney

by Bob Carswell
written for St. Thomas'
Christmas play 1986



Deiney creeney, 'nane, jees, tree.
T'ad geiyrt er rollage 'syn oie.
Deiney creeney, 'nane, jees, tree,
Geiyrt er rollage 'syn oie.

Shoh ny gootyn jesh t'ad cur -
Airh as frankincense as myrrh.
Shoh ny gootyn jesh t'ad cur -
Airh, frankincense as myrrh.

Translation:

Wise men, one, two, three
They are following a star in the night.
Wise men, one, two, three,
Following a star in the night.

These are the fine gifts they bring -
Gold and frankincense and myrrh.
These are the fine gifts they bring -
Gold and frankincense and myrrh.

This song by Bob Carswell appears in the children's section of *Arraneyn 'sy Ghaelg* but it's a straightforward song for anyone to learn in Manx. It was written for a Christmas play at St Thomas Primary School in 1986. Bob's pronunciation guide appears below:

DANE-yuh CREE-nuh, nen, JEES, tree.

TAD giet AIR ruh-LAIRG sun EE. [giet as in diet]

DANE-yuh CREE-nuh, nen, JEES, tree.

GI-et AIR ruh-LAIRG sun EE.

SHORE nuh GIOOT-un jesh TAD cur -

AIR az FRANK-in-CENSE az MYRRH.

SHORE nuh GIOOT-un jesh TAD cur -

AIR, FRANK-in-CENSE az MYRRH.

'A Carol of Christ's Coming' Flicking through old copies of the *Journal of the Manx Museum*, I happened upon C I Paton's article on this carval from Archdeacon Kewley's carval book which now is in the archives of Manx National Heritage. Alongside the carvals, the book contains hymns translated from English. Here's the sixth verse as recorded by Paton:

Son corrym rish yn moghrey shoh / Rug Creest veih oghrish yn Ayr.
Dy chosney shin veih pooar yn noid / As dy gheddyn dooin yn eiraght chair
Shin caillit va / Rish mooarane laa / As ayns dangeyr er son dy braa.
[For like as at this morning / Christ was born from the Father's bosom
To win us from the power of the enemy / And to obtain for us the right heritage
We were lost / At the Great Day / and in peril for eternity.]

*Journal of the Manx
Museum Vol V No.
72-73, 1945-1946,
pp.189-191*

CALENDAR

December

4th Bree trad youth music Christmas busking, Castletown, 2pm

4th Caarjyn Coidjagh at Dalby's Taste of Christmas, St James' Church, Dalby

8th IOM Youth Choir Christmas concert featuring Manx songs from the new **Coraa** choral pack and sets from Bree, All Saints Church, Douglas, 7.30pm, £5/£3 on door

9th Bunscoil Ghaelgagh Christmas Service, St Johns Church, 6.30pm

10th MFDS Christmas Party and faith supper, Ballasalla Village Hall, 7.30pm £2.50 (£1 for members) ALL WELCOME

10th Folk at the Club, Peel Golf Club, 8pm

16th Caarjyn Coidjagh at St Catherine's Christmas carol service, St Catherine's Church, Port Erin, 7pm

19th Perree Bane Christmas Party and Faith Supper, Ballasalla Village Hall, 7pm

26th Hunt the Wren celebrations around the Island (see newsletter for details)

28th Mollag Ghennal, Masonic Hall, Douglas, prob 8pm (see the press for details)

January

2nd Illiam Dhone Day - ceremony on hill (usually 2pm) followed by service at Malew Parish Church/session at Viking pub, Castletown - see press for details

5th Oie'll Verree, Ebenezer Hall, Kirk Michael, 7.30pm, tickets on door but arrive early to get a seat!

[?YnCG Christmas service - see press for details]

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

Please send in any dates for the months ahead so that we can publicise events here & online

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 (Education) **Dr Chloë Woolley:** manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im

www.manxheritage.org www.manxheritagemusic.org

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 any articles and use them to spread the word about Manx culture*

Nobles Park Bandstand looking for bands

Martin Higgins from Douglas Borough Council, Leisure Services Committee is looking for bands interested in performing at the Nobles Park Bandstand during the summer season 2011. The format envisaged is Sunday afternoons but we are open to suggestions and are happy to fit in around availability. If you feel this is something that might interest you, please contact Martin who would be more than happy to discuss it in further detail.

Martin Higgins: MHiggins@douglas.gov.im

CASTLETOWN CHRISTMAS

Manx music & dance groups / individuals wanted for "Christmas in Castletown" special activities. These special activities will take place in Castletown on:

4th, 5th, 11th, 12th & 18th December

For further details or to book a stall please contact:

Colin Leather

Castletown Commissioners Office, Civic Centre, Farrants Way, Castletown Tel: **824297**

WEBSITE CHANGES?

I'm busy working on new web resources which should go live later this month. Now is a good time to send me updated or new group details (check your entry on www.manxheritagemusic.org) and any ideas for what you'd like to be able to access. If you're not on the distribution list for KMJ and want to be, please get in touch.

Contact Breesha Maddrell on:

mhfmusic@mhf.org.im