



# Bree 2007

a manx feis for 11 to 16 year olds



On Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th of October, another *Bree* weekend will take place at Douglas Youth Centre on Kensington Road. Inspired by the Feiséan nan Gael movement in Scotland, Bree is a Manx Gaelic youth arts movement for 11 to 16 year olds consisting of workshops in music, language and dance. The first Bree [Manx for 'vitality'] took place in October last year and proved to be not only educational, but fantastic fun for both students and tutors and a great place to make new friends, form new bands and be really creative with Manx culture [see page 3 for a new song composed by a Bree member last year]. Since the last weekend festival of workshops, a monthly youth music session has taken place at various venues around the Island.

The workshops are aimed at young people between 11 and 16 who can already sing or play musical instruments associated with Manx music, but previous experience of Manx music is not necessary. In the optional workshops in solo instruments (fiddle, mandolin, flute, whistle or singing) students will work on Manx repertoire and expand their

technique and performance skills. They will then opt to take sessions in either accompanying & rhythm instruments (e.g. guitar, piano, bodhran etc.); song-writing and arranging or Manx dancing. All of the students will take Manx Gaelic and learn to work in musical groups.

The Bree workshops are led by local Manx musicians, dancers and language experts. They will take place between 10am and 3.30pm on both days but will finish with a concert for family and friends at the end of the second day from 3.30pm. Bree is organised and funded by the Manx Heritage Foundation and the Youth Service.

An application form is included at the end of this newsletter. For more information please contact Dr. Chloë Woolley: [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) or tel. 695159.

***Bree now has its own myspace! To hear some of the performances from last year's concert go to:***  
[www.myspace/breemanx.com](http://www.myspace/breemanx.com)

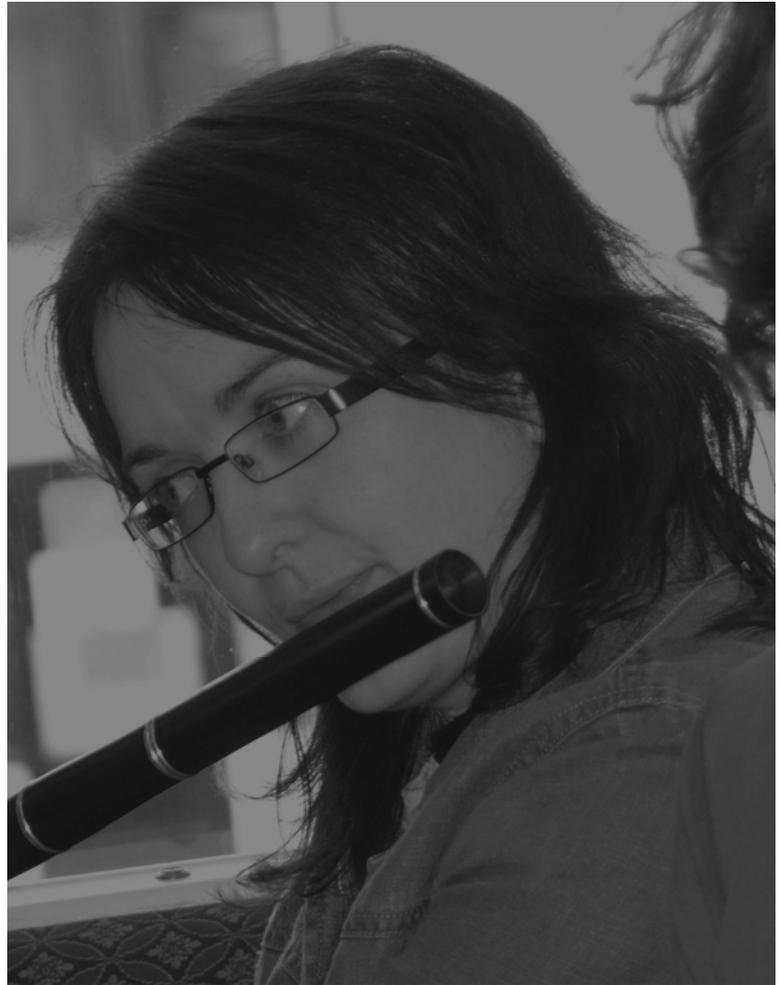
**SESSIONS: TUES, 9pm Irish in The Rover's Return, Douglas,  
 THURS. 9pm Singing in The Mitre, Ramsey,  
 FRI, 8pm Tynwald Inn, St. John's, FRI, 9pm Irish in The Mitre, Ramsey,  
 SAT, 9pm The White House, Peel**

# NEW MANX MUSIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

In January the Manx Heritage Foundation will be welcoming a new member of staff to its small team. Breesha Maddrell will be taking on the position of Manx Music Development Officer, a post which Cinzia Curtis has recently left to pursue postgraduate studies. In her new role, Breesha will continue to raise the profile of Manx music and dance both on and off the Island through the production of promotional materials, liaising with festivals, maintaining the Manx Music Database <[www.manxheritagemusic.org](http://www.manxheritagemusic.org)> and producing this monthly newsletter! She will also work alongside the Manx Music Specialist, Chloë Woolley, to lead and organise workshops and educational projects.

Breesha is already a familiar face in Manx music circles. She is currently in four local groups [Caarjyn Cooijagh, Moot, Skeeal and Sheear] with which she sings and plays flute, whistle and piano. Although she is classically trained and has a degree in music, Breesha has played and sung Manx traditional music from an early age, growing up in Port St. Mary. A fluent Manx Gaelic speaker, she helps organise the annual Manx language festival, the Cooish, and is a member of the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee and the IOM Arts Council. She also enjoys writing new tunes and songs in English and Manx – one of her creations, 'Oirr ny Cruinney' (Edge of the World), came second at this year's Pan-Celtic Song Contest in Ireland.

Currently, Breesha is Director of Postgraduate Studies at the Centre for Manx Studies and is responsible for a wide range of subjects. She looks forward to joining the Manx Heritage Foundation team of officers and focusing on Manx music and its associated culture.





**The Isle of Man Arts Council is part of the Department of Tourism & Leisure and is funded by the Government to develop the arts in all its forms, including drama, music, the visual arts, crafts, film, literature and dance by:**

- funding local arts groups, individuals and festivals with underwriting, bursaries and grants
- promoting musicians and performers of the highest calibre
- supporting arts in education

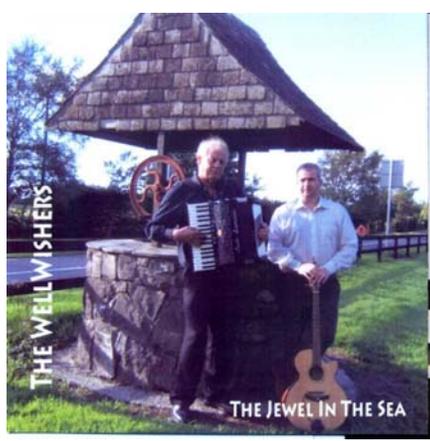
For a complete list of the services of the Arts Council or copies of our leaflets and brochures contact us on 01624 896000

**ISLE OF MAN ARTS COUNCIL**  
St Assam's House, Foxes Lane, Douglas, IM1 2PZ  
Telephone: 01624 894330 Fax: 01624 896000  
Email: [manxmusic@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusic@mhf.org.im)  
[www.mhf.org.im](http://www.mhf.org.im)

## The Jewel in the Sea

A singer-songwriter from Tipperary in Ireland has written a new song about the Isle of Man. P.J. Ryan's self-penned title track features on the new album 'The Jewel in the Sea' recorded by his band *The Wellwishers*. This lively song details all the best places to visit in the Isle of Man and has a catchy sing-a-long chorus.

For information on the CD contact Chloë: [manxmusicsspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicsspecialist@mhf.org.im)



# A new song for Hop-tu-Naa



Written by A-level Manx student Harry Revill during last year's Bree workshop weekend, 'Skeal y Scanjoon' [Ghost Story] is a new song that is perfect for the spooky goings on at Hop-tu-naa!

The song tells of a ghost who roams the skies and through falling stars covers the earth in bad dreams.

The chorus [Co-Chiaull] translates as: "The moon looks at the sun and laughs darkly, the turnips grow fat and laugh too!"

Go to Bree's Myspace to hear 'Ny Mootyn Garaghtee' [The Laughing Turnips] performing this song at Bree 2006:

[www.myspace/breemanx](http://www.myspace/breemanx)

## Skeal y Scanjoon

Screuit liorish Harry Revill  
as mraane-ynsee voish Bree 2006

1. Ta scan-joon shooyl er bod-jal-lyn, Ayns aght fe-agh as ed-drym,

Jeea-ghyn er uin-nag yn theihll, Ta ooil-ley loayrt lesh un cho-raa.

*Co-Chiaull*

Ta'n eayst jeea-ghyn er yn ghrian As gar-ragh tee ayns aght olk,

Ta ny moo-tyn ga-ase rou-yr As t'ad gar-ragh-tee ny neesht.

<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>T'eh rastagh ayns y speyr gorrym doo, Rollageyn tuittym sheese Trooid yn uinnag argid aym, T'ad cheet as brishey ayns daa pheesh.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Ny baatyn speyr t'ad craa mygeayrt Er tonnyn glassey corree, Ta'n scanjoon cooadaghey yn theihll Lesh drogh ashlishyn voish e chree.</p>
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## Hop-tu-Naa Celebrations

On Sunday 28th October between 10am and 5pm, Manx National Heritage will be holding their annual celebration of *Hop-tu-Naa* at Cregneash folk museum. From 10am to 5pm there will be plenty of family activities where everyone can join in the preparations for Hop-tu-Naa, the Celtic New Year's Eve. Discover why this festive occasion was celebrated, carve turnip lanterns and learn Hop-tu-Naa dances and songs. Admission charge applies. Tel. 648000 for more details.

*Don't forget to look out for other Hop-tu-Naa celebrations  
in your area on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.*

## Hop-tu-Naa on Modo

This month Manx Telecom will be adding some Manx Hop-tu-Naa songs to their mobile phone downloads. See: <http://www.moda.im/eup/home>

## All Island 100 Pub Breakthrough Challenge



On Saturday 13th October 2007, The Shenanigans Folk Band will attempt to play a song in each of the Island's pubs!

Playing in 100 pubs (give or take a wine-bar or two) in 12 hours will be quite a challenge... Can they do it? The starting venue is the Queens on Douglas Promenade at 11.00am. They will be heading south and going clockwise round the island.

On the day, you can find out where they are by calling 620783. Go to [www.shenanigansb.com](http://www.shenanigansb.com) for more information.

All proceeds will go to Breakthrough IOM.



# Cooish Preview

## The Cooish Festival November 11-17 Mee Houney 2007

Here's a sneak preview of this year's Cooish inter-Gaelic festival. Details are still being finalised, so expect an update in next month's newsletter and online at: [www.myspace.com/cooish](http://www.myspace.com/cooish)

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. Taking place over a week mid-November, the festival is an eclectic mix of concerts, workshops, lectures, music and language sessions. The festival is for everybody interested in Manx culture – whether you know any Manx or not, you'd be very welcome throughout the week.



This year we are focusing on what direction the Manx language movement should be taking with an opening forum: C'raad nish? late afternoon on the first Sunday 11 November. This will be followed by a concert featuring Manx musicians at the Centenary Centre which will also include the Arrane son Mannin – Song for Mannin competition, starting at 7.30pm. Throughout the week there will be oiaghyn ghaelgagh – sessions for Manx speakers – quizzes, talks and workshops. The visiting musicians and speakers this year are (fingers crossed) 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 at the Inter-Gaelic concert on Friday 16 November at the Centenary Centre in Peel. The final Saturday will be devoted to workshops – more details to follow – and an informal session for Manx speakers and all musicians at a location in the South. *Cum seose y Ghaelg!*

[pictured: Mary Begley teaching Gemma Hurst at last year's Cooish]

## Yn Chruinnaght 30th Anniversary Exhibition



Next year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inter-Celtic festival *Yn Chruinnaght* and the committee is seeking photographs, film footage, stories and memorabilia to go in a special exhibition.

*Yn Chruinnaght* officially came about in 1978 and was modelled on the *Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh* (Manx national gathering), a Manx arts festival organised by the Manx Society and the World Manx Association in the 1920s. Beginning life as an experimental three-day event called *Feailley Vanninagh Rhumsaa* (Ramsey Manx festival) in 1977, which featured a re-enactment of a Manx wedding and a hill race to the top of Barrule, Mona Douglas revived *Yn Chruinnaght* the

following year. The new *Yn Chruinnaght* was to place Manx culture on an equal footing with its Celtic counterparts and today it is officially recognised as the Manx national festival, comparable to the National Eisteddfod of Wales, the Mòd of Scotland and the Oireachtas of Ireland.

Next year's *Yn Chruinnaght* festival will take place in Ramsey and Peel from 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

In the meantime, the festive jollities of *Yn Chruinnaght Ghennal* will take place just after Christmas. More information to come...

If you have any items relating to the past 30 years of *Yn Chruinnaght* that may be copied or borrowed for the exhibition, please get in touch with the committee: Email [anniversary@ynchruinnaght.com](mailto:anniversary@ynchruinnaght.com) or telephone the secretary Chloë Woolley on 01624 695159. Anecdotes and memories of early *Yn Chruinnaght* festivals would also be of interest to the committee. <http://ynchruinnaght.com/>



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For more information on Manx music and dance contact:

Chloe 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

## CALENDAR - OCT 2007

### Bree Workshops

27 & 28 Oct 10am, Douglas Youth Centre. FOC.

### Bree Concert

28 Oct 3.30pm, Douglas Youth Centre. FOC.

### Hop-tu-naa at Cregneash

27 Oct 10am, Cregneash. Tel. 648000.

### Hop-tu-naa

31 Oct Night-time! Everywhere...



# Application Form

# BREE

a manx feis for 11 to 16 year olds

The Manx Heritage Foundation & Youth Service are pleased to present a weekend of workshops for Young Manx musicians, singers and dancers

**Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 October 2007**  
10am – 3:30pm  
Youth Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas



- Fiddle, Mandolin, Whistle, Flute, Singing
- Guitar, Bodhrán, Bouzouki, Piano
- Song Writing & Arranging
- Manx Dancing
- Manx Gaelic Language
- Performing & Group Work

**NO EXPERIENCE OF MANX MUSIC NEEDED!!**

Name of Child..... Age.....  
 Address.....  
 Contact tel. no. of parent/guardian.....  
 Email .....

**Choose which classes you would like to take:**  
(In both cases, please enter a 1 for your first choice and a 2 for second choice)

**Morning Class**

Fiddle  Mandolin   
 Whistle/Flute  Singing

**Afternoon Class**

Accompanying & Rhythm Playing  \* specify your instrument:  
 Guitar / Bodhrán / Bouzouki / Piano / Other .....

Song Writing & Arranging  Manx Dancing

- All workshops are free of charge
- Where places are limited and your first choice of class is not available, then your second will be allocated
- All take part in Manx Gaelic & Performing & Group Work
- Own instruments will be required where applicable
- Students will require a packed lunch on both days

**A short concert for parents and friends will take place at 3.30pm on Sunday 28 October**

**Please return this application form by Monday 22 October to:**  
Dr. C. Woolley, Manx Music Specialist,  
c/o Centre for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas IM1 3LX.  
**For more information:**  
email. [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) or tel. 695159/404455

\* Photos may be taken during over the Bree weekend for future promotional use. Parents – **please sign here** if you **object** to your child appearing in photographs:

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