



# Arrane son Mannin – a song for Mann!

Europe may have the Eurovision but the smaller Celtic world has its own prize once called, yes, you guessed, the Celtovision! Nowadays known as the International Song Competition at the annual Pan-Celtic Festival, songs are invited from each of the Celtic countries to compete for a cash prize valued around 1000 euro.

Each country holds its own national heats in order to select a song to represent it. For the Isle of Man, this comes in the form of 'Arrane son Mannin' which literally means 'A song for Mann!' A cash prize of £250 is awarded to the best Manx song judged by a panel at the Cooish Manx and Inter-Gaelic Festival on **Sunday 9 November 2008**. The prizewinning group will go to the Pan-Celtic Festival on **14-19 April 2009** in Donegal Town, Ireland, to perform the song in the International Song Competition.

So what do you have to do? Well, your song must be in Manx Gaelic with instrumental accompaniment. But there's not much restriction when it comes to genre – it can be rock, pop, folk, traditional – anything as long as it's in Manx. Both lyrics and tune must be a new composition in 2008 and not have been performed previously in public competition in the Island. Unfortunately, previously recorded music and effects are not permitted – instead, the competition asks for a live group performance of three to eight people with no need for the composer to play.

Three elements are judged: lyrics (30 points), music (30 points) and presentation (40 points). The winning group goes on to perform the song at the Pan-Celtic Festival in Donegal Town in April 2009. A proportion of travelling and accommodation expenses will be paid up to a set maximum.

But what if you have a good song but not much or even no Manx? Well, there's help there, too. Contact Bob Carswell ([bob@mooinjerveggy.org.im](mailto:bob@mooinjerveggy.org.im)) who will help to find a translator.

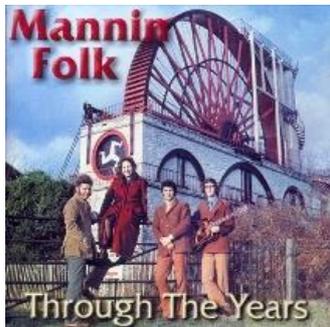
**Entry forms** from: Fiona McArdle Tel: 471543 or email [fmcardle@manx.net](mailto:fmcardle@manx.net).  
KMJ has some too: [mhfmusic@mhf.org.im](mailto:mhfmusic@mhf.org.im)

Return the entry form by **Wednesday 1 October 2008**, submit music by **Friday 31 October 2008**.  
*The 'Arrane son Mannin' prize is sponsored by the Manx Heritage Foundation.*



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

## Tribute to Francie Hughes of the Mannin Folk



Friday 19 September saw a memorial service at the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ramsey, for Francie Hughes, singer, banjo, bodhran and whistle player with the Mannin Folk.

The church was full to overflowing, with at least 80 people outside. His fellow 'Mannin Folk' played 'Wild Rover' and (My Own Dear) Ellan Vannin and Marlene Hendy sang one of Francie's favourite songs, 'Fields of Gold', and Gilbert O'Sullivan played a lament on the uilleann pipes.

The service was followed by a tribute night in The Mitre in Ramsey, which was again as packed as any fleadh. Taking the form of a trad music session and food in the big room downstairs and a singing session in the upstairs bar, Dessie Kelly and anyone who wanted to sing or pay tribute on stage, it was a fitting send-off for one of the Island's stalwarts of the music scene.

Born in Armagh, Francie moved to the Island and married Ann Allen, settling in Ramsey. A chance meeting in a pub with John Little resulted in the birth of The Travelling People – a band with Marlene Hendy and Norman Clague – which soon became the Mannin Folk. Releasing one of the earliest recordings of Manx music in 1976, they celebrated 40 years of performing together earlier this year.

Francie sadly lost his battle against illness – he will be sorely missed.

*With thanks to Sue Woolley and Wendy Hurst for additional information.*

### Manx Morris tour?!

The Singleton Cloggers are a mixed north-west Morris team based in the small village of Singleton, near Blackpool. They are considering a tour of the Isle of Man during 2009, probably around Easter as part of our 60th anniversary celebrations and are looking for local dance team(s) to meet up with and/or assist them in finding suitable dance venues. KMJ has put a shout out to Manx dance groups, but if you're able to help, please contact Derek Matthews on [Info@SingletonCloggers.co.uk](mailto:Info@SingletonCloggers.co.uk)

### Toes itching to do some dancing?

Most of the Manx dance groups are starting up again after a summer of festivals. Details of all groups are available online at:

[www.myspace.com/manxmusicanddance](http://www.myspace.com/manxmusicanddance)

KMJ asked all dance groups to tell them about what's happening this year – here's news from two of them.

The Manx Folk Dance Society have practice nights on Tuesdays (except the 2nd in each month) at the Methodist Hall, Main Road, Onchan from 7.30pm to 9pm, starting on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Starting at the end of this month Perree Bane are running their regular autumn beginners classes for six consecutive Sundays. So if you fancy learning a few of our traditional dances or want a novel way to get fit or just simply enjoy the music and make some new friends then come along and join us. We always welcome musicians too!

Classes start on Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup> until November 30<sup>th</sup> from 7pm till 8pm. Venue is Victoria Road School, Castletown. Just £3 a session and that includes tea and biscuits.

## Preview of the Cooish

The Cooish Manx and Inter-Gaelic Festival kicks off on Sunday 9 November with a concert featuring Skeecal and hopefully the Mollags at the Philip Christian Centre, Peel, 7.30pm. Entries for Arrane son Mannin will also be given an airing that night. After a week of talks and evenings for Manx speakers and learners, there's a fabulous inter-Gaelic concert on Friday 14 November at the Centenary Centre, Peel, starting at 8pm. Cooish is delighted to have secured award winning sean-nós

singer, Máire ni Choilm and the very fine trio Bruce MacGregor, Sandy Brechin & Brian Ó hEadhra.

Together, [MacGregor](#), [Brechin](#) and [Ó hEadhra](#) blend some of the finest



musicianship and singing to come out of Scotland. The trio first performed together as the House Band at Hebridean Celtic Festival 2006 in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. Individually they perform with their own highly acclaimed acts; Bruce in Blazing Fiddles, Sandy in Burach and Brian in Anam.

Máire is a native speaker from Gaoth Dobhair in the Donegal Gaeltacht. In 1997, she won Comórtas Sean-nós na mBan at the Oireachtas in Belfast, and in 2006 the All-Ireland Fleadh. Earlier this year, she won the

Pan-Celtic Traditional Singing Competition in Donegal Town.

The Cooish rounds off with a session for musicians and speakers in the Albert pub, Port St Mary, from around 9pm on Saturday 15 November.



*Hee'm shiu ayns shen! See you there!*

[www.myspace.com/cooish](http://www.myspace.com/cooish)

## Mystery Manx music concert in Japan!

Fenella Bazin returned from a trip away to find an email from her cousin who had just visited her son and family in Japan. She writes:

*'Just a quick note to tell you of something which happened while we were visiting Christopher & family in Japan recently. He was holding a conversation class with some students and one told him that the previous evening she had been to a concert of Manx music and did he know of the Isle of Man?! Unfortunately, the concert was already over - it would have been really good to go to such a concert in Sapporo! I have been wondering since if you had any knowledge/ involvement – even if you were actually there?'*

**Any clues?!**

## Perree Bane at Lowender Peran

This month Perree Bane is looking forward to performing at the Lowender Peran Celtic festival in Cornwall. The festival runs from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of October and is a favourite venue for the members of Perree Bane and many other Manx people who have supported the festival for many years. More information on Lowender Peran can be found at: <http://www.lowenderperan.co.uk/>

## Last Manx night at the Royal Hotel, Port Erin

KMJ popped along to Port Erin for an emotional last night of Manx entertainment for tourists at the Royal Hotel, which will close later this year. Organised by Paul Thompson for an amazing 27 years, the Manx nights have always featured a healthy mix of music, dance, jokes and songs. Different acts have come and gone over the years (KMJ was there around 20 years ago with school folk group...ahem!) but Thursday 25 September saw performances from Perree Bane, Nick Saunders as George Formby, Claire Walker singing music hall favourites like Flanagan, Paul Thompson at the organ and Geoff Corkish MHK at the mic.

## Tullamore Muse - August 2008

I can't recall the number of times I've crossed Ireland from Dublin to Galway in the last forty odd years but it must be quite a few by now. Attracted to the Celtic Ray and in search of our common grail, which is Rince Ceol, I was usually heading for Clare. In all that time however, I never was in Tullamore. Then, this year, the opportunity came to be represented as a member of the Isle of Man Ceilidh Band at the greatest Celtic festival of them all, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in, you've guessed it, Tullamore. So, of course, I had to go away and Google the place! Tullamore, Co. Offaly, slap-bang in the middle of Ireland and slap-bang in the middle of the largest raised bog in Ireland too, the Bog of Allen. Or is it on its periphery? Google wasn't that sure but, either way, at 370 square miles it was going to be hard to miss.

Anyway, come the appointed Saturday, seven of our company met at Ronaldsway airport and clambered aboard the quirky little craft designated to us by Manx2. Then, with the chocks away and the engines revving up, dear, sweet Katie made sure we all understood that, in the unlikely event of any survivors, we were to guarantee that her fiddle be left to a worthy beneficiary. That's interesting I thought, and with Tullamore's record, a distinct possibility. I could see the headline writers making hay with, "Entire folk tradition wiped-out" and references to "Molloy's Babes". Well, it wasn't long before we tumbled out of the sky and with a hop and a skip and a hint of burning rubber we landed, safely enough, in Belfast.

Some time later we arrived at the Tullamore Court Hotel, not by accident but as invited guests and performers at a reception for overseas visitors. Well we were welcomed and fêted like some long-lost Celtic cousins. At last the Manx had arrived, with their three legs and no tail and their strange and wonderful music; and then David danced the men's jig. They loved it, they loved us. It was good and I felt warm and proud, though admittedly, at the time, I was looking at the world through spectacles tinted by large quantities of red wine and prawn sandwiches. Next day was competition day. We assembled early evening and watched and waited as the bands came and went - we were on second-to-last. There was a practice room where we waited, in the annex to the church. Everyone had a rehearsal before they went on. All the other bands were fantastic; loud, crisp and exciting, they made the hairs on the back of your neck prickle. Eventually our turn came. We had our run-through and hey, we were loud and exciting too. Then, too soon, we were sacrificially bundled on to a stage in front of the altar. St Mary's is a big church and it was full, two thousand people or more I would say. We sat close together under the bright lights as the sound-recording fellows from RTE made final adjustments. I could feel the adrenalin rush between us, this was it but it was ok, we were a band, I was elated. The church went quiet, the drums rolled and we launched into our programme.

Ten minutes later it was all over and back outside in the cool night the emotions spilled over. We were good but we knew we weren't good enough. Apart from a slightly faltering start to the hornpipe the programme was executed well. They were good tunes and we had some nice nuances and above all we had played together and stuck together. In these situations it's easy to have recriminations about the mistakes you made yourself but you shouldn't. I made plenty of mistakes and I didn't notice anyone else's, but I'm not sorry, I'm just very proud to be a member of the Isle of Man Ceilidh Band. **Patrick Knight**



### WANTED: DRUMMER

Calling all drummers...well all those who are 'musically open minded' for a band that could be described as folk based but anything goes. Influences include: The Levellers, Pogues, Flogging Molly with bits of Led Zep, Motorhead and Seth Lakeman thrown in for good measure! Not just a cover band, they practise on Monday nights in Peel. If you're interested or know someone who might be, please contact Mike on: **842239**

## CALLING ALL MUSICIANS 11-18!

This October half term sees the third annual Bree Manx music and dance youth weekend. Aimed at 11-18 year olds and organised by the Manx Heritage Foundation and the IOM Youth Service, this year's Bree will take place at Douglas Youth Centre on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Based on the very successful 'Fèis' movement in Scotland which has been promoting Scottish music and the Gaelic language amongst the young population for almost twenty years, Bree [Manx for 'vitality'] aims to both introduce and develop Manx culture within the Island's young musicians and dancers and ensure that it remains a living tradition.

Although Bree students are expected to be fairly competent on their instrument, they do not require any previous experience of Manx traditional music and tunes are either taught by ear or with sheet music during the weekend. Based around the Manx repertoire, classes are offered in instrumental techniques (such as singing, whistle, flute, fiddle, guitar and bodhrán), group playing, arranging, performance skills, song-writing techniques using music technology and Manx dancing.



Students are divided into folk groups for the weekend and tasked with developing their own arrangements of Manx music and dances. These arrangements are then performed in a concert on the Sunday afternoon with the assistance of the Youth Service's Sound Check crew who provide sound and lighting. The use of Manx Gaelic is encouraged throughout the weekend, from choosing their band name [past groups have included 'Ammys da ny Spennigyn' - Respect the Penguins and dance group 'Three Cassyn Kiare' - Three Left Feet!]

to the presentation of songs and melodies at the concert by the students.

The music and dance tutors volunteer their time and consist of accomplished traditional musicians from Manx groups such as King Chiaullee, Skeal and Cliogaree Twoaie and the weekend is supervised by Chloë Woolley and Breesha Maddrell from the Manx Heritage Foundation.

Bree is a fun way for young people to get involved in Manx music in a relaxed atmosphere.

It also provides an opportunity for



students from different schools to get to know each other and learn from more experienced players. Both students and tutors have a great time and we've found that the music doesn't stop between the classes - music-making continues through the breaks and lunch hours!

Throughout the rest of the year, Bree meet once a month for an informal Manx music session in Green's vegetarian restaurant. They also perform as an umbrella group to raise money for local charities and regularly play at community events around the Island.

The Bree weekend is free to attend but due to increased popularity places are limited and **pre-registration is essential**. Students are expected to bring their own instruments and packed lunches. **Application forms** will be distributed through the secondary schools but can also be downloaded from the Manx Heritage Foundation website: [www.manxheritage.org/bree](http://www.manxheritage.org/bree) and there's one at the end of the newsletter, too!

For more information contact Dr. Chloë Woolley: [manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im) or tel. 695159 or see [www.myspace.com/breemanx](http://www.myspace.com/breemanx)



### Snippets from September

- Record number of whistle players turned up to Mike Boulton's group - a whopping 80 of them!!
- John Kaneen's Folk Show on 23 September was all about folk song, music and dance collector, Mona Douglas.

### DON'T FORGET YOUR TURNIPS!

Whether you celebrate Hop tu Naa on 31 October or 11 November, have a fantastic time. Here's a rhyme from Castletown:

Hop-tu-naa, Trol-la-laa / Jinny the witch went over the house to fetch a stick to lather the mouse / Hop-tu-naa, Trol-la-laa.  
[CHANT] I went to London / What did you see there? / I saw a lady baking cakes / I asked for one, she gave me two / The best o' woman I ever knew / Hop-tu-naa, Trol-la-laa.

## Murran 'sy Vainney



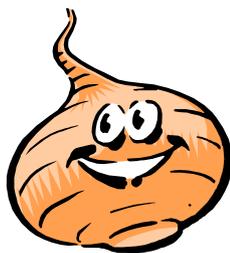
This tune was adapted from an untitled melody in the Clague/Gill Collection (*Kiaull Vainin* no. 177) by Manx musicians who were practising for a ceili at Julie Matthews' house in the early 1990s. Apparently Peddyr Cubberley invented the new title, referring to Julie's cat 'Murran' who was drinking out of the milk jug while they were practising the tune!  
Transcribed by KMJ.

*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.*

## CALENDAR

### October

- 11<sup>th</sup> Pobble and Luke and Tom from TRStones, Traf, Douglas, 8pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Charity Ceili in Corrin Hall, Peel with Daycol at the mike, 8pm. Tickets on door.
- 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Bree Youth Music Weekend at Douglas Youth Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas – details above
- 26<sup>th</sup> Hop tu Naa event at Cregneash Village, 10am-5pm. Tickets £3.30/£1.70.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Hop tu Naa children's event at Maughold Church Hall, organised by Maughold Social Club.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Michael Commissioners' Hop tu Naa party, Ebenezer Hall, Kirk Michael, 6.30 pm.



### November

- 8<sup>th</sup> Bree session, Greens, Douglas, 3pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> S'keel, the Mollags & Arrane son Mannin at the Philip Christian Centre, Peel, 7.30pm. Tickets on door: £4 including refreshments.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Cooish's Inter-Gaelic Concert featuring MacGregor, Brechin and Ó hEadhra, Máire ni Choilm and Caaryn Coodjagh, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm. Tickets £6/4

## manx heritage foundation undynys 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 Manx Heritage Foundation  
& Youth Service  
are pleased to present **Bree** –  
a weekend of workshops for  
*Manx musicians,  
singers and dancers*  
**aged 11 to 18 years**

# Bree

**Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 October 2008**  
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
- All workshops are free of charge

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

## Application Form

Name of Student..... 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 Fiddle  Mandolin  Whistle  Flute  Singing

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

Song Writing & Arranging  Manx Dancing

How long have you played your instrument/s?.....

Have you passed any grade exams on your instrument/s? Yes/No

If so, specify grade/level.....

Have you played Manx music before? Yes/No

Do you perform in a folk music or dance group in or out of school? Yes/No

- Where places are limited and your first choice of class is not available, then your second will be allocated
- All students take part in 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 26 October**

Please return this application form by **Monday 20 October** to:  
Dr. C. Woolley, Manx Music Specialist,  
Centre for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas IM1 3LX  
For more information:  
email: 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: .....