



Faill erriu dys Gaelg Vio -Welcome to living Manx

Cooish 2010

First, a big *Gura mie eu* to all those involved with the 2010 Cooish. The Manx Language Week aims to raise the profile of the language whilst giving us the opportunity to celebrate the linguistic tradition of the Island; it certainly provided us with such an opportunity at the end of last year.

There were many highlights, but both the **Ned Maddrell Lecture** and the **Cooish Concert** which were held on the final Saturday demonstrated how far we've come over the years and what the language can offer the Island in respect of culture and identity.



Video clips of the **Ned Maddrell Lecture** which was delivered by **Rob Amery** from the **University of Adelaide** on his work with Aboriginal Communities together with highlights of the Cooish concert with **Breandán Ó Beaglaoich**, **Malcolm**

Still and **Caarjyn Cooijagh** are all now available at our blog at:

<http://cowag.wordpress.com>

I have some DVD's available of the whole of Rob's Lecture together with highlights of the days other events that people are welcome to borrow from me if they like.



You can subscribe to our Cowag blog for regular updates on what is happening in the world of Manx Gaelic. We hope to develop the blog over the course of this year, so keep checking it out.



Cooishyn elley - other matters

The **Manx Heritage Foundation** continues to be the key funding organisation for all the work we do; indeed, without their continued support Manx culture would be significantly worse off. They've just added a fantastic new web resource at www.manxmusic.com which provides a superb overview of Manx music. Make sure you have a skeet if you haven't done so already.

I'll also give the Foundation a quick plug for the new Castles and Forts of the Isle of Man DVD which was released recently: <http://www.manxheritage.org/>



**Jaaghey
Meelowit**

Also funded by the Foundation are two new resources aimed at increasing the visibility of Manx Gaelic. The first is an adhesive *No Smoking* sign in Manx (**Jaaghey Meelowit**) which we hope people

will display at work with pride! Let me know if you would like one (or more). They are free.

The second, which is available from me at a nominal charge, is a **Manx Gaelic 2011 Events Calendar**. I'll be distributing these

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at my various classes over the next couple of weeks but please let me know if you'd like some...they're very good!

Also supported by the Foundation are the latest booklets to accompany our **Saase-Jeeragh Course**. These will be available over the next week and consist of supplementary material that can be used to support class-room based work. We now have four booklets in total, two that include lesson notes at beginner and intermediate levels, and two further booklets of conversational material with accompanying CDs.

We are presently working on further material for the more advanced learner which we hope to have distributed in the summer. These booklets will all be made available in classes but please let me know if you would like copies. Remember this material is not meant as a substitute to attending classes but as a complement to class-room based material.

Our new **Saturday morning class** has been oversubscribed for a while now. I've had some considerable interest in this class and will be working towards establishing similar such weekend classes in the near future.

There is clearly loads going on the language front at present, far too much for me to go over in any depth in newsletters such as this, but it is rewarding to report that levels of demand for information about the language and the enthusiasm of learners remains high.

Obbyr yn Ghreinneyder mleeaney - the work of the Greinneyder 2011

During 2011 The Manx Heritage Foundation's Language Officer (that's me!) will endeavour to increase the number of adult classes available and work towards improving the quality of language provision that is already on offer. I would hope during this year to work specifically towards the following:

The establishment of a day-time class with crèche facilities

Continue support for Saturday language classes and weekend revision sessions

Expand support for the Possan Aeglagh Youth Group

Provide additional support material for adults studying the language

Run classes for learners and speakers of Manx this summer

Have more training sessions and improved support for adult teachers of Manx Gaelic

Develop the Cowag blog into a professionally looking Internet presence

Support, wherever possible, the work of the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh and Department of Education Manx Gaelic Team

Continue to maintain the visibility and public profile of the language



The very nature of my work means that I have to work on a wide variety of different fronts; nevertheless, the focus of our work will continue to be towards adult language learners with the aim of establishing a professionally ran and administered adult language programme in the near future.

One of the lessons I learned from the **Ned Maddrell Lecture** was just how lucky we are in Mannin compared to many other minority linguistic communities throughout the world. It is very much up to all of us in the language community to remember this and work towards building a sustainable Manx speaking community in the Island; we're getting there, and I hope resources targeted at adult speakers will go some way to achieving this, but there is still some way to go.

Comments and advice on this from teachers, learners and the enthusiastic are, as always, most welcome.

Blein vie noa erriu oooilley