Falírr ýeig / Number twelve / Mee Averil 2009

Falírr erriu dys Gaelg Vio - Welcome to living Manx

Náight as skeet – News and skeet

UNESCO’s Atlas of the World’s languages in danger

You may have been aware of some fun and games regarding the recently published UNESCO on-line Atlas of endangered languages. Given the lively array of events mentioned in this newsletter I think we can definitely say that the Manx Language is far from ‘extinct’. Perhaps there should be a linguistic category for languages for whom news of their disappearance is exaggerated. Hopefully, we’ll get some of the people from UNESCO over to the Island to see what a good job we are all doing!

BBC Isle of Man / Ellan Vannin

We did, however, get a couple of good news stories out of it all. Check out me making a bleb of myself on the BBC at:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/7949479.stm

Also it was good to see on the BBC’s site some Manx in the School Report from students at QEJees:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7940608.stm

Gaelg as Dellal – Manx and Business

Just a quick thanks to a couple of businesses for their continued support for the language.

In particular a big gura mie ayd to all at the Book Company in Castle Street, Doolish. They have some great new bi-lingual signs displayed around the shop, one of which is shown here. Yindyssagh!

Manx Telecom continues to be a fantastic supporter of the language; in particular, their SMS Text messaging service has been a real winner with Manx learners. Gura mie mooar ayd

Also a gura mie ayd to The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company who are supporting a trip of learners to Belfast in July.
Open / Closed Signs

Our open and closed signs have been so popular that I am getting even more produced. They should be available soon. If you would like some then please contact me: the signs are free.

New DVDs available

Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh have recently produced some more interactive learning DVDs for learners.

**Talk Business Manx, Talk More Manx and Talk the Talk Manx** are part of the Euro Talk series which uses DVD broadcast quality video and the latest interactive techniques. These are now available in shops or through our on-line shop at:

www.learnmanx.com/cms/publication_index.html

Learning Manx – Gynsaghey Gaelg

In my role of Manx Language Officer for the Manx Heritage Foundation I would like to, over the next few years, invest a great deal of my time and resources into targeting adults who would like to learn the language.

There are already a number of classes throughout the Island and I have recently established a new lunch-time class at the Thie-tashtee on a Friday. You may already be following John Quirk’s experiences of the class in his regular column in Manx Tails

However, this is only the start of what I hope will be a radical revision of the way we teach Manx to adults.

A number of people are working on a new course and methodology aimed at adults, whilst in March we ran the first, in what is hoped, will be a series of training sessions for adult tutors.

As part of this programme, Elwyn Hughes from the University of Bangor will visit the Island in July to provide some input into one of our workshops.

The Foundation’s aim is to establish a network of trained tutors who, using a particular methodology, will focus on developing spoken Manx.

As part of this new adult language teaching programme the Foundation is looking to establish regular lunchtime classes in Douglas.

I am keen, therefore, to hear from individuals and organizations who would like to learn the language, and in particular, at lunchtime in Douglas.

The classes will be free and run by trained tutors; as mentioned above, they will focus on speaking the language.

Locations for these lessons will be established later but the Foundation is particularly keen to hear from businesses that would like to run regular classes for their staff. You may have a small room free at lunchtime; and as classes work best with a small group of learners (5-6), it wouldn’t take many to establish a regular Manx class.

Please contact me if you would like to learn more about learning the language or about establishing a class at your workplace.
Manx Language Summer School

As part of our new programme aimed at adults we will be holding a Manx Gaelic Summer School from the 27th to 31st of July. This will be held at Eary Cushlin and will consist of a series of events for learners and speakers alike. There will be more information available on this soon. Please contact me if you are interested in attending.

Tooilley naight – more news

In conjunction with developing a new approach to teaching Manx to adults we have a very exciting ‘events calendar’ for those learning the language.

The recent Manx Gaelic lazerblast event was particularly enjoyable whilst we continue to organize a series of talks and walks for learners. The next will be a tour around the House of Keys with Phil Gawne OKF/MHK this Saturday.

The Gaelg as Kiaull at the Albert goes from strength to strength as does our regular language sessions at Java and the Rovers in Doolish.

We have a very large e-mail contact list aimed at learners and speakers, whilst my twitter, provides regular language updates suitable for those learning Manx:

http://twitter.com/greinneyder

We are also getting involved with this year’s Isle of Man Queenie Festival with a special Manx Gaelic quiz and music session at the Albert on Monday, 29th of June. More information available at:

http://queeniefestival.com/

Gaelg er y Radio

Don’t forget the programmes on Manx radio that use the language:

Moghrey Jedoonie with Brian Stowell from 10.00am on a Sunday Morning
Claare ny Gael with Bob Carswell also on a Sunday from 8.00pm
Shiagh Laa form 6.00pm on a Wednesday

Cowrey y vee - Sign of the Month

No surprises here but the Sign of the month award has to go to the Book Company in Castle Street, Doolish. It should really read Signs of the Month given the excellent variety on offer. What they have achieved shows what is possible and puts many a larger firm to shame: it’s good to see local firms supporting Manx culture. Long may that continue.

For more information on Manx Gaelic classes please contact me on the numbers below.

Produced by the Manx Language Officer for the Manx Heritage Foundation / Undinys Eiraghnt Vannin.

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