Failt erriu dys Gaelg Vio -Welcome to living Manx

Manx Learners’ Association – Cowag

We had a fantastic evening a little while ago in St Johns for the launch of our Learners’ Association. This will be run under the auspices of the Manx Heritage Foundation with the aim of supporting and encouraging learners towards becoming speakers of Manx Gaelic.

We came up with the name Cowag, which means chat or chin-wag in Manx, and I’ve established a blog for the group at: http://cowag.wordpress.com/

The blog will keep people informed of all that’s going on on the adult language front and will eventually have embedded music and video files too. I hope it will provide some focus for the work of the Association.

I’ll also be producing a Manx Gaelic Pledge Card and a number of other small projects which, we hope, will go some way to encouraging people to use the Manx they know.

In many respects I hope the group will act as a sort of self-help group for learners; encouraging and supporting them in moving from learning the language to speaking it.

On supporting and developing conversational skills we have now established a regular fortnightly conversational group at Carine’s in Peel on a Thursday evening from 7.30. There was a great crowd
in there recently and we hope this will be an important addition to what is available for learners. Please contact me if you would like more details about this or other conversational groups. Also don’t forget our regular Sunday evening Online chat room. Again contact me for further details.

**Manx Gaelic Graphic Novel:**

y Çhelg

A great development on the publishing front is the release of our first Graphic Novel in Manx Gaelic, y Çhelg (The Hunt).

Y Çhelg tells the epic Irish tale of love and jealousy where Gráinne and Diarmaid are relentlessly pursued by Fionn whose desire for revenge must inevitably lead to tragic consequences.

Written in Irish under the title *An Tóraiocht* by the well-know author Colmán O Raghallaigh and published by Cló Mhaigh Eo, this fantastic addition to the material available in Manx, has been translated by Brian Stowell and is published by The Manx Heritage Foundation

This, will hopefully, be the first of several graphic novels to be published in Manx with assistance from Cló Mhaigh Eo. The next one in the pipe-line is *an Táin*. For more details of Cló Mhaigh Eo check out: [http://www.leabhar.com](http://www.leabhar.com)

**Eary Cushlin Summer Classes**

We’ve had a change to the timetable for our summer courses. They will now be run on two consecutive weekends, the 7th and 8th and 14th and 15th of August. The location is, as usual, Eary Cushlin and the courses will run from 10.00am-5.pm each day. The first weekend will concentrate on basic material and will be suitable for people who have no or very little Manx. The second weekend will be...
more appropriate for those with some Manx and for those who have been learning for a little while. The courses are free and ran by myself on behalf of the **Manx Heritage Foundation**. Please let me know if you would be interested in attending and for more information on which weekends would suit you best.

**Other news**

As I’ve mentioned before in these pages we are very lucky to have the support of a number of high-profile academics who are very keen to support and assist with the work we do. One such academic is **Tadhg Ohifearnain**, from the University of Limerick. Tadhg was on the Island recently and we used the opportunity to hold a Manx Gaelic Seminar for all those involved with the language. This was an extremely useful meeting and some of the points raised will go towards developing our 5 Year Manx Gaelic Strategy. More on the strategy at a later date.

Shortly after Tadhg’s visit the Island hosted the annual **Celtic Congress**. The Congress welcomed a large number of delegates from the other Celtic Nations and hosted a series of excellent seminars and concerts. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the real developments made by those in the language and music communities over the last couple of decades. **Yindyssagh!**

There has been some fantastic feedback for the language and music items now available on **Shoprite’s In-store Radio service**. This has proved to be a really simple but effective way of raising the profile of the language. **Gura mie eu.**

A big **Gura mie eu** also goes to the **Isle of Man Police** for their use of the language in the recent **Isle of Man Community Safety Booklet**. Hopefully, the use of Manx in such brochures can be extended year-by-year.

Another thank you goes out to **BBC Isle of Man** who have established the first, of what we hope, will be a regular feature of articles in Manx and English. These will be of particular interest to those people who have a good grasp of Manx and are looking for additional reading material on a variety of Isle of Man related subjects. On the link below you can find bi-lingual articles on a wide range of topics including, Arthur Caley, The Ellan Vannin Tragedy and the establishment of the RNLI.

This year we'll be holding two weekend sessions of Manx Gaelic at Eary Cushlin.

The first weekend (7th-8th) will be suitable for those with little or no Manx or for people who would like a refresher course.

The second weekend (14th-15th) will be suitable for those who know the basics and for those who are working towards being able to speak the language well.

The classes will be tailored to the needs of the students, so although the course are free, it is important that people book in advance so that we know what level of Manx you have; this allows us to adapt the lessons as appropriate.

Although the courses are free and tea and coffee will be provided please bring along something to eat.

The courses are supported by the Manx Heritage Foundation - [www.manxheritage.org](http://www.manxheritage.org)

These courses are part of our developing adult language programme and are taught using our Saase-jeeragh methodology which is similar to that of Ulpan in Wales.

The classes stress the importance of speaking the language and require very little written work.

The classes are both fun and rewarding.

For more information, contact Adrian Cain on 838527/451098 or at greinneyder@mhf.org.im
The Cartoon Saloon
Colmán Ó Raghallaigh

c'helg
Cha s’aym, agh ta red ennagh quaagh bentyn rish shoh.

C’red ta taghyrt?

Cha s’aym, agh ta red ennagh quaagh bentyn rish shoh.

C’red ta taghyrt?

Trogd y chrianane shen hoal dy chelleeragh!

Ayns ennym yee!

USS!

Y yiarmad o divney! Ta mee cur fo guess oo mish y chur lihat ass y voayl shoh!

Gow my leshtal, y ven seyr... agh cha nel enney aym ort, vel?

Bee enney feer vie ayd Orrym maghey shoh. mish grainney, inneen yn ard-ree.

Nish...

C’red t’ee gra?