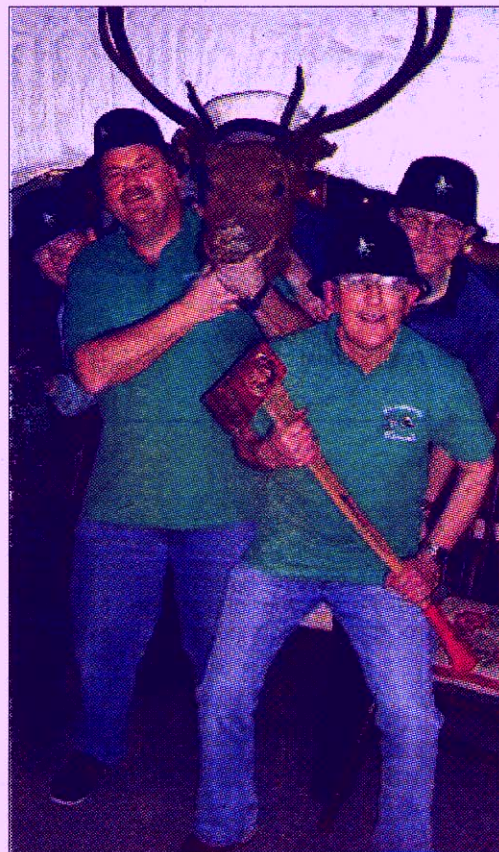


Band Reviews: Black Orchid, The Shenanigans Banned



A national treasure

The Shenanigans Banned ... music's answer to the Purple Helmets!

LIVE REVIEW: The Shenanigans Banned, at the Bridge Inn, Laxey (Friday, January 19)
REVIEWER: Ned Bashen

THE Isle of Man music scene never ceases to amaze.

Considering the Island population is only the size of a small UK provincial town the number of live gigs performed by a variety of bands and artists appears to be endless.

Recently the music media has touted the folk revival, and true to form, the latest band to emerge on the Island is The Shenanigans Banned.

The Shenanigans Banned is essentially a folk band positioned somewhere near The Spinners, The Baron Knights or the Manx classic, Mike, Laurie and Al (for those of us who remember them).

The band reckon they are musical-

ly positioned nearer to the Purple Helmets!

Talking to the lads and one lass at their latest gig at the Bridge Inn, Laxey, they told me that their main aim is to have fun and give the audience an enjoyable evening. What a refreshing view.

All are clearly accomplished musicians but have the extra ingredient of self-deprecating humour that the audience clearly identifies with and enjoys.

When asked why they adopted the name The Shenanigans Banned the reply in unison was 'Well we have been banned from most places ...' Get the idea.

This typifies the folksy banter that makes an evening with the Shenanigans such all-round entertainment. Their music comprises Irish, trad folk, Manx folk and a number of other songs thrown in for

good measure.

They kicked off with good rumbustious, rollicking songs and quickly settled into the gig.

The second set in complete contrast started with All Around My Hat, in a capella style, a number that sent a shiver down my spine. The harmonising was excellent.

The old favourite the Ellan Vannin Tragedy was led by their female singer and again the harmony was particularly haunting.

The star number of the evening was The Laxey Wheel played in blues style that went down a storm with the audience and may well get a Laxey publican offering them a slot for the blues festival.

The band is extremely versatile and they have come up with some very interesting original material.

The audience clearly enjoyed the gig and when asked what she

thought of the evening, one lady said: 'Most enjoyable, these lads play songs I thought I had forgotten!'

Quick as a flash one of the band chipped in, tongue in cheek: 'Well actually, we have forgotten them as well, didn't you notice!'

The band appreciate the support of a number of publicans and in particular their main sponsor Gophers of Ramsey. (I can't believe in this day and age, a band actually sponsored by a generous commercial enterprise!).

Look out for their forthcoming gig at O'Donnell's on Saturday, February 3.

The Shenanigans Banned are an up-and-coming band, a little gem that could just grow into a national treasure ... carry on The Shenanigans.

Remember you read it in WWW first.