



PRESS RELEASE – 11 April 2013

## World first for Manx - BBC Children's TV Series translated into Manx Gaelic

An international DVD producer has translated an award-winning BBC TV series for children in the Manx language, making it the first ever animated Manx programme.

***Friends and Heroes***, or ***Caarjyn as Fenee***, as they'd say in Manx Gaelic (Gaelg) is set in the first century AD and follows the adventures of two children, Macky and Portia. As they engage in countless escapades and fight for justice across the Roman world, they share the timeless stories of the Bible and learn lessons that help them through many trials and tribulations. Each episode uses a combination of traditional hand-drawn and stunning computer generated animation to bring the stories to life.



At a special presentation to mark the launch of the Manx translation, complete sets were given to the heads of two schools on the Isle of Man - Julie Matthews, Headteacher of Bunscoill and Anthony Robinson, Headteacher of Michael School. Over the coming days every Primary and Secondary school on the Island will receive a free complete Series 1 set of DVDs. The gift to schools is being made possible by Friends and Heroes Productions Ltd who produced the animated programmes, which is part of the AFD Group (including AFD Software Ltd,) based in Ramsey on the Isle of Man.

*"We are very excited to be getting a copy of Friends and Heroes in Manx,"* said Julie Matthews, Headteacher at The Bunscoill. *"It sends a message to the children that Manx is for us today, not just something from the past. To have such a high quality resource as this is brilliant!"*

First shown on BBC TV in 2007, Friends and Heroes is already available in 11 language versions including: Arabic; Chinese (Mandarin); English; French; German; Hindi/Urdu; Italian; Korean; Portuguese (Brazilian); Russian and Spanish (South American) and has now been translated into Manx with the help of the Manx Heritage Foundation. The complete series with nearly 5½ hours of animated excitement is available in a 4-DVD set retailing at a subsidised price of just £20.

*"This is 'Yindyssagh erskyn towse' - (Fantastic above all measure) and is a real breakthrough for Manx Gaelic (Gaelg)." said Adrian Cain, Manx Language Officer for the Manx Heritage Foundation. "Each programme features a full Manx soundtrack as well as English and Manx sub-titles, making a fantastic teaching and learning resource and helping give Manx Gaelic a much higher profile both on the island and internationally."*

David Dorricott, MD of the production company said, *"The AFD group has thrived since moving to Ramsey, Isle of Man in 1997 - and our staff have enjoyed the superb quality of life here. The Celtic roots of this Island Nation go back many centuries, and they are interwoven with the Celtic Christianity of the Irish and Scottish Celtic saints. When the opportunity arose to make a Manx translation of the Friends and Heroes Children's animation series, which we first produced for the BBC, we were simply delighted. Not only will this provide the very first children's animation series in the Manx Language; the entertaining adventures of Macky and Portia and their friends also bring the Bible stories, so important to Celtic culture, into 21st Century life."*

To see the first half episode of Friends and Heroes in Manx and to purchase a copy go to [www.friendsandheroes.com/manx](http://www.friendsandheroes.com/manx)

Photo - Presentation of Manx version of Friends and Heroes to School heads.

Left to right: Alison Dorricott - Executive Producer, Friends and Heroes; Julie Matthews - Headteacher, Bunscoill; Annie Kissack Teacher at Bunscoill and one of the voice actors; Anthony Robinson - Headteacher, Michael School; Bob Carswell - translator of the scripts; David Dorricott - Executive Producer, Friends and Heroes.