

THE BALLAUGH MHELLIA 1933 *



**THE BLUEBIRD
CONCERT PARTY**
WILL HOLD THEIR
ANNUAL MHELLIA
IN
Ballaugh Village Hall,
ON
TUESDAY, SEPT. 26th,
in aid of the Ramsey Cottage
Hospital.
TEA, 7-30 p.m.
**WESTERN QUARTETTE PARTY
AND COMEDIAN,
AND
BLUEBIRD CONCERT PARTY
AND COMEDIAN,**
CHAIRMAN: A. E. CHRYSTAL, Esq.
Admission:
Tea and Concert—1/-.
(494).

“The Bluebird Concert Party.” *Ramsey Courier* 22 September 1933: 4a.

Here we have not only the one but two concert parties appearing on the same bill in Ballaugh, with the Western Quartette Party appearing alongside the Bluebird Concert Party, and both parties coming with a comedian in tow. In the newspapers

* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “The Ballaugh Mhellia (1933),” *Ballaugh Heritage Trust Newsletter* 16 (2018), 30–31.

the Western Quartette Party is mentioned just the once apart besides here and that was earlier in the year, when they appeared in Foxdale at a fund raiser for St Paul's Church in the village there.¹ The Bluebird Concert Party merit three appearances in the newspapers, from 1932, 1933, and 1935. The first reference makes it clear that the Bluebird Concert Party comes from Ballaugh and they performed, like the Western Quartette Party, at the same fund raiser in Foxdale but the year earlier.² In 1933, the Bluebird Concert Party donated £3 3s *od* to the annual funds raised for the Ramsey and District Cottage Hospital.³ Payment was made by Miss F.M. Gawne. She is mentioned again in 1935, when the Bluebird Concert Party appeared at the celebrations for the Silver Jubilee that year in Ballaugh. After the King's Speech, "[t]here followed an entertainment by Miss F. Gawne's 'Bluebird' concert party consisting of miscellaneous variety items and the cantata 'The Yarn of the Nancy Bell.'"⁴ There must be any number of such groups spread around the Island and of which the newspapers give only a glimpse of their existence and activities. Questions arise as here. When were they founded and how long did they active? Who was in the Bluebird Concert Party? And whilst the *Isle of Man Examiner* was content to describe their programme to be "consisting of miscellaneous variety items," it is precisely those items that are of interest so we can see just how that audience in 1935 in Ballaugh was entertained by Miss F. Gawne and the Ballaugh Bluebird Concert Party.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

REFERENCES

- Anon. "Foxdale." *Peel City Guardian* 26 March 1932: 8c.
 ——. "Foxdale." *Peel City Guardian* 11 February 1933: 8c.
 ——. "Ramsey and District Cottage Hospital: Annual Subscriptions 1932–33." *Ramsey Courier* 17 November 1933: 7a–c.
 ——. "Ballaugh." *Isle of Man Examiner* 10 May 1935: 8e.



¹ Anon, "Foxdale," *Peel City Guardian* 11 February 1933.

² Anon, "Foxdale," *Peel City Guardian* 26 March 1932.

³ Anon, "Ramsey and District Cottage Hospital: Annual Subscriptions 1932–33," *Ramsey Courier* 17 November 1933.

⁴ Anon, "Ballaugh," *Isle of Man Examiner* 10 May 1935.