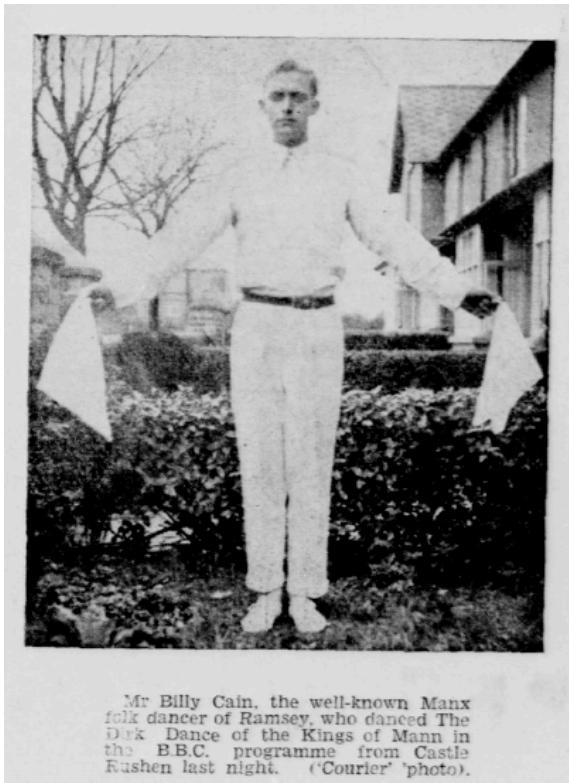


Manx Notes 518 (2021)

“MR BILLY CAIN, THE WELL-KNOWN MANX FOLK DANCER” *
(1938)



Billy Cain is the name most associated with the Dirk Dance and it was due to a performance of the dance as part of a BBC broadcast in 1938, “Manxmen,” from Castle Rushen that this photograph was taken and reproduced in the *Ramsey Courier*.¹ There is also a photograph taken on the occasion of the broadcast featuring him in action,² “Mr Billy Cain, the Manx dirk dancer, who will dance before the

* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “Mr Billy Cain, the well-known Manx folk dancer’ (1938),” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* February (2021), [18].

¹ Anon, “[Photograph] Mr Billy Cain ...,” *Ramsey Courier* 20 May 1938.

² Anon, “[Shots by our Cameraman] [Photograph caption] The Other Side of the ‘Mike’ ...,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 20 May 1938.

microphone, wearing hard-soled shoes so that the steps will be heard,”³ with Joy Sollitt playing on the violin.



The head “intruding” into the photo is that of D.G. Bridson, the director of the programme; incidentally, Joan Littlewood, later of Theatre Workshop fame, was the assistant on the broadcast.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

Anon. “[Mainly about People] Lunching also at” *Isle of Man Examiner* 13 May 1938: 10d.

——. “[Photograph] Mr Billy Cain” *Ramsey Courier* 20 May 1938: 5f–g.

——. “[Shots by our Cameraman] [Photograph caption] The Other Side of the ‘Mike’” *Isle of Man Examiner* 20 May 1938: 20.



³ Anon, “[Mainly about People] Lunching also at” *Isle of Man Examiner* 13 May 1938.