

Manx Notes 256 (2017)

“KANEEN’S ADVENTURES IN FOLKLAND”

(1960) *

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much indeed for the excellent “write-up” you gave the “Ballads and Blues Club” in Teenland. I hope you like the club.

Unfortunately, though being president of it. I am afraid that with being over here in “the Pool,” I am not able to do as much for the club as I should like to.

I am trying to get the Liverpool group the Spinners to come over to the Island sometime about Easter, but, as yet there is nothing concrete, but I am hopeful.

The “Spinners” are very popular over here; they run a club in London Road on a Friday night and, if you saw the *Melody Maker* last Saturday, you will have seen that they recently presented their 1,000th member with a record; so you can see that it really is a thriving club. Last Saturday, the 11th, they were singing in the newly founded “Cellar” in Cecil Sharp House (headquarters of the English Folk Dance and Song Society) in London, prior to making a 12 in. LP of folk songs for HMV on the Sunday.

I went down to London on Friday midnight so as to give the “Spinners” moral support and it was a most entertaining evening. I was talking to Peter Kennedy, son of the director of the EFDSS, while I was down there, and he expressed interest in the Manx folk club. The evening was compered by John Pearse whose LP *Songs Miss Pringle Never Taught Us*, in conjunction with Frank Purslow, is selling very well in the London area, where it is only available from Dobell’s record shop. John introduced Martin Carthy, a young folk singer with a dazzling guitar style; Martin was followed by the “Spinners” and soon after the interval yours truly managed to get his “plug” in by singing T.E. Brown’s “The Manxman and the King,” which went down very well. About 10 o’clock some of the better known folk singers began to do their stuff, notably Robin Hall who, although he wouldn’t sing, gave us a reading of “Tam O’Shanter” by Burns, which he read exceedingly well. Also I noticed in the audience three members of the “Thames-side Four,” who you will probably have heard on either the Light Programme’s *Thursday Roundabout* or *Easybeat*.

Well, I think that’s about enough of Kaneen’s adventures in Folkland, so I’ll say so-long for now, and once again, thanks for printing the article about the folk-club.

Sincerely,

JOHN KANEEN.

15. Western Drive, | Cressington, | Liverpool 19.

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PS—I bet when I sang “The Manxman and the King” it was the first time a Manx song had been accompanied on a twelve-string guitar, which I borrowed from one of the chaps there.

“[Teenland] The ‘Ballads and Blues Club.’” *Isle of Man Daily Times* 20 February 1961: [7]a.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

