

Manx Notes 618 (2023)

“THE MUSICAL PORTION WAS IN THE HANDS OF MR A.E. CORLETT”

A MANX FOLK SONG CONCERT IN LINCOLNSHIRE * (1929)

A very interesting lecture, “Beautiful Manxland,” was given on Monday, in the School, where a large number of people listened with great interest to the lecturer, the Rev. J.E. Callister, M.A., L.Th., Vicar of Sutton St James. The Rev. Canon Hutchinson, M.A., occupied the chair. The lecturer dealt with his subject in a very thorough manner, and was very interesting, since he is a native of the Isle of Man. Ninety-two slides were used to illustrate the lecture, and the lanternist, Mr. C. Hotchkin, manipulated the lantern in a very satisfactory manner. The musical items from the *Manx National Songs*, were rendered by the children, and soloists from Holbeach. They were as follows: “The Sheep under the Snow,” Mr Cecil Watson; “Ramsey Town,” Mr S. Loweth; “Fair Maids of Man,” Miss M. Beddin; “Manx Fisherman’s Evening Hymn,” Mrs J.E. Callister; and the schoolchildren sang “Hush, Little Darling,” “Fairies’ Dance,” and the Manx National Anthem, “O Land of our Birth.” The musical portion was in the hands of Mr A.E. Corlett, who officiated at the piano. The proceeds, which were very satisfactory, were in aid of the District Nursing Fund. Our best thanks are tendered to Mr Corlett for arranging the lecture, and to all who so kindly helped in any way for the success of the lecture. The same lecture was given the following evening at Whaplode, when the lecturer and vocalists took part, with Mr Frank Dring in the chair.

“Saracen’s Head.” *Spalding Guardian* 19 March 1928: 18e–f.

Saracen’s Head, known also as Holbeach Clough, is a village in Lincolnshire, close to Holbeach in the Fens. Whilst the Rev. Callister was Manx, it is clear that there was another Manxman present, A.E. Corlett, the surname a clear giveaway. One wonders what the audience made of the songs and especially when singing the Manx National Anthem. Behind all of this lies *Manx National Songs*, and whilst we might be surprised to hear of a Manx concert in the Fens, one feels that W.H. Gill would regard it as being vindication of what he wished to achieve, that songs from the book would be sung anywhere there were Manx people to sing them.

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