

# Manx Notes 619 (2023)

“WITH A BIT OF A SONG AT HER!” \*

Me oul' gran'mother was always goin' to do the milkin' with a bit of a song at her! There was wonderful singin' goin' in them days. The women would be goin' to milk in the winter on the edge o' dark, and they'd be singin' as they were goin' over the street. There was four girls at Kinnish, Baldhoon, an' if they were all to me cowhouse milkin', man, the fine concert there'd be! Cowleys ones over in the Cronk Mooar wouldn' be goin' to milk till eleven o'clock of a night, but they'd all be singin' too. The place was full of singin'! It was that in the oul' days!

mnhl, manx folk life survey, km g/i. William Kermode, Baldhoon, Lonan. Collector: I.M. Killip (undated, but “around 1950s”).

William Kermode's reminiscence here is a reminder of the occasions when songs were sung and were to be heard, namely when at work. Milking was a daily and repetitive but monotonous task, lightened by singing whilst doing so.

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