

Manx Notes 653 (2024)

“OLD-TIME MHEILLEA AT SULBY” (1947)

An old-time *mheillea* was held in St Stephen’s Church Hall, Sulby, last week-end and created considerable interest. The event was organised by the Sulby Manx group who unearthed old costumes and furniture to stage the event successfully. Mrs Lascelles went to considerable trouble to get correct period details and incorporate old customs and consulted Miss Mona Douglas, the well known authority on Manx folklore.

The ceremony of tying the bridegroom with *suggane* and of presenting the Mheillea Queen, Miss Betty Kewish, with the “babby,” made from the last of the harvest straw, was followed with interest. Mrs Lascelles played the role of an old Manx woman, complete with pipe. Mr Tom Corlett and Mrs Honey portrayed the farmer and his wife, and mheillea dances were performed by the G.F.S.* children under the direction of Mrs W.M. Gale. The Mheillea Queen was duly crowned and refreshments were served during the evening and altogether the function proved most enjoyable.

* Girls’ Friendly Society.

“Old-Time Mheillea at Sulby.” *Ramsey Courier* 10 October 1947: 8a.

Stephen Miller RBV

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