

Manx Notes 719 (2025)

“A GENUINE DUTCH FOLK DANCE” (1957) *

This issue contains pictures of a most enjoyable and picturesque afternoon at Michael Primary School last Tuesday, when the scholars held a hyacinth bulb competition. The idea was born in the mind of Headmaster Gair. He contacted the Dutch Embassy and they supplied all the bulbs which the children “brought up” themselves, finishing them off with charming and most ingenious flower pots. Altogether a hundred flowers were on show. The judges, Mrs H.L. Fletcher and Miss D.V. Stubbs, awarded first prize, a medal, to little Andrea Kneale, and gave diplomas to Juan Quayle, Margaret Barron, Doreen Mayne, Barry Swann, David Corlett and Stephen Higham. The children then entertained their parents and friends, and all the items had a Dutch “flavour”; the children were dressed in the national costume of that friendly country, and the school walls were decorated with Dutch posters and copies of famous paintings. Dutch cheese and other manufactured goods were on view. The scholars had been working on “Holland” as a topic and the afternoon saw the end of the project.

People in Kirk Michael are still talking about the “afternoon which was so different.”

“‘Dutch Bulb’ Afternoon.” *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 1 March 1957: 10e.

It is remarkable what one comes across in the Manx newspapers—and as ever only by chance—as Dutch folk dancing at Kirk Michael Primary School in 1957, is likely not on anyone’s research agenda.

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The choir, in Dutch costume, sing under the baton of Mr J. Gair, the headmaster.



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Children at Kirk Michael Primary School performing a genuine Dutch folk dance at the Dutch Bulb afternoon on Tuesday.

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