

DECEMBER, 1949.
JANUARY, 1950.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN TO ALL MEMBERS.

May I extend to you on behalf of your Committee very sincere good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. For a New Year thought I would ask you all to remember our need for new members. If each one of us brought ONE new member each year we would soon be in a much stronger position. With a larger membership it would be very much easier for us to have the home of our own which we so badly need. Please do make a real effort to see that we double our membership in 1950.

From Miss Ana Lise Rasmussen - our good friend from Denmark - I have received a couple of books on Danish Folk Dancing. They make a welcome addition to my collection which I shall hand to the Society when we have a proper place to keep them. They are too precious to just hand round and, eventually, disappear.

You are all, most probably, aware of the great need of the English Folk Dance and Song Society for funds to meet their rebuilding costs. At our last Committee Meeting we decided to send, on your behalf, Ten Guineas as a small contribution to this good cause. We have now received a very appreciative letter of thanks from Mr. Douglas Kennedy to whom we are indebted so greatly.

Charles Fawkes.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The A.G.M. was held at Carlyle School on Wednesday October 26th - 30 members attended and heard appeals from the Chairman, Mary Butterworth and Irene Price for more members and a better standard of dancing.

The Treasurer, Bert Price was away on holiday and his report was read by the Chairman, in it he said, "the financial standing of the Society was quite firm".

The result of the election for the new committee was as follows:-

Chairman	...	Mr. Charles Fawkes.
Treasurer	...	Mr. Bert Price.
Secretary	...	Miss Marie Le Fort.
		" Mary Butterworth.
		" Irene Price.
		" Gladys Noble.
		Mr. Alun Thomas.
		" Philip Thornton.
		" Henry Schuster.

Marie Le Fort.

On Monday November 14th the Society gave its first demonstration for close on six months. This demonstration meant a lot of really hard work for the people involved. They demonstrated and danced for over two hours, and as several of this group were demonstrating for the very first time, I am doubly grateful to them. The dance took place at the College of Domestic Science, Buckingham Palace Road.

On Monday, November 21st, there is another demonstration at Dorking Halls, Dorking for the Central Council for Physical Recreation. Although the group is not really ready for another demonstration so soon after the other, we have agreed to dance at the request of a valuable friend of the Society, Miss West of the C.C.P.R.

Nevertheless, although we can chalk up two demonstrations for November, our group has still much hard work and self sacrifice to make if we are to return to anything like the high standard of dancing which used to be ours.

We have again been asked to demonstrate at the Central Hall Westminster, on January, 4th.

Irene Price.

Another week-end in Godalming is being arranged for FEBRUARY - please contact Bert Price if interested for details, Bert also wishes to remind you, there are still some Xmas Cards for sale - price, 3d. PLAIN 6d. COLOURED.

The English Folk Dance & Song Society are holding a New Year Festival of Folk Dancing at the Albert Hall on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th JANUARY, 7.30.p.m.

THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING.

CLASSES AND DANCES FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY.

CLASSES AT CARLYLE SCHOOL, HOTENSIA ROAD, CHELSEA, S.W.

FRIDAY	DECEMBER.	2nd.	---
WEDNESDAY	"	7th	Mary Butterworth & Gladys Noble.
FRIDAY	"	9th	Doctor Cyriax,
WEDNESDAY	"	14th	Mary Butterworth & Gladys Noble.
FRIDAY	"	16th	----
WEDNESDAY	"	21st	PARTY -- See News Sheet.

DANCES.

SUNDAY	"	4th	INNS OF COURT, Lymington Lane, Henry Schuster.
"	"	11th	CECIL SHARP HOUSE. Ian Harriss.
"	"	18th	INNS OF COURT. Bert Price.

CLASSES AT CARLYLE SCHOOL.

WEDNESDAY	JANUARY	11th	Mary Butterworth & Gladys Noble.
FRIDAY	"	13th	---
WEDNESDAY	"	18th	Mary Butterworth & Gladys Noble.
FRIDAY	"	20th	----
WEDNESDAY	"	25th	Mary Butterworth & Gladys Noble.
FRIDAY	"	27th	----

On the last three dates, we are hoping to have a visit from a Polish Group of Dancers.

DANCES.

SUNDAY	JANUARY.	8th	INNS OF COURT.	Mourie Pfeffer.
"	"	15th	" "	Henry Schuster.
"	"	22nd	" "	Arnold Meads & Marion Hill.
"	"	29th	CECIL SHARP HOUSE.	Charles Fawkes.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

PLEASE ENROL ME AS A:) FULL MEMBER ... 10s. 6d. per annum
 ASSOCIATE MEMBER .. 5s. 0d. " "
 (strike out as required)

I ENCLOSE HEREWITH THE SUM OF AND HEREBY AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND TO FURTHER THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY AS STATED IN THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

Applicant's FULL Name and Address (CAPITALS PLEASE),

.....

5 SELWYN RD
UPTON MANOR
LONDON E 7

Dances from England, Ireland, Scotland and Denmark. Tickets are available from Cecil Sharp House, telephone No. GUL2206 or Albert Hall, price 2/- to 15/-.

On Wednesday DECEMBER 21st at Carlyle School, Chelsea, we are having a special Xmas Party. The Committee thought it would be a good idea if this was a Dutch Treat, everyone bringing something along to eat. Please wear your costumes and bring your friends. The band has promised to be in attendance, and we are hoping to have lots of fun. Any suggestions towards the entertainment would be appreciated.

Philip Thornton is about to have a rather unpleasant operation. This means that we shall not be seeing him on the dance floor for many weeks-possibly till March.

This news is a nasty shock to him and he has asked us to convey to all Members his deep regret and apology. We in our turn extend our very best wishes for his quick recovery.

That's all for the news - now here is an article we hope you will enjoy.

HERE WE GO ROUND THE MULBERRY BUSH.

When I was asked to call in one evening over two years ago and give a demonstration (I dare not call it a lesson) on the Kolo - lots of you were very bored and some were even annoyed. Now the Advanced Class can scarcely be restrained from doing them whenever I turn up. Why is this?

The circular-dance is the most ancient and primitive of all surviving dance forms; Ring-a-Roses, Nuts in May, Sellingers Round, the Eighthanded Reel, are all members of the same family as the Kolo or Hora or Choro (as it is known in Portugal). In the first dawn of tribal dancing, long before 'steps' were of any importance, mankind linked hands and shuffled round in a circle. Sometimes he formed up in long snakey chain singing and stamping. I have seen this survival of the circle-dance amongst the Pygmies in the Upper Congo areas. Two or three hundred tiny little people who look as if they had stepped out of the tress and cracks in the rocks, holding hands and dancing rather sedately round a dead elephant. I have also seen in Macedonia, whole villages dancing in almost the exact movements of the 4th Century B.C. friezes. What makes them do it and why do we find it still has a magic pull in the austere and completely uninspiring atmosphere of an L.C.C. gymnasium?

I'll try to tell you-and I am very interested to know if you agree (if you have any ideas let's start a correspondence in our News Sheet).

When men and women dance in couples, they dance together as two isolated members of the community-even though there may be two hundred couples on the floor at once. Our 1949 existence here in industrialised England has practically destroyed the communal instinct. Though they rub shoulders every day in the tubes and buses, the nine million Londoners know nothing about each other-but the 80 villagers in a Macedonian hamlet know everything about each other. They dance together as in a circle as one single man, not as 40 couples.

The instinct to 'get together' is still very strong in dancers even though our industrialised life has done everything to destroy it. In the group dance or circular dance our own personalities recede into the dance. We are for the moment swallowed up in it. Twenty legs and twenty arms all move together in perfect time-defeating the intricacies of the rhythm-pattern and the movement patter. The magic 'pull' takes us over; our fatigue is absorbed into the dance, and we suddenly realise that it's terrific fun. The prosaic atmosphere of Carlyle School fades away and quite suddenly our tiny unit of red-faced and perspiring dancers has discovered the most ancient of the secrets-unity of mind and body. It does'nt matter is we make mistakes, it does'nt matter if we are newcomers. Provided that the strength of the group is big enough it absorbs the new elements and they learn by the best and most ancient method - observation and imitation.

You need to find out for yourself a new sort of self-control before you can dance with any freedom. I have been astonished to see how the whole general standard of the dancing has improved, not merely of the circular dances, but of the complicated couples-dances you already know. But there is room for vast improvement yet.

I am grateful to you all for trying my experiment and as the weeks go by, I hope to write further notes that may be of interest to you; but we shall not meet I'm afraid for quite a time, as I have to undergo a rather nasty operation. Meanwhile, you have my records and I shall be thinking of you each week and hoping you won't forget all you have learned. I don't think you will-because you have discovered on your own initiative the magic of the Mulberry Bush.

Philip Thornton.

ROYAL NOTES
LONDON

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