

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING.

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Deadline for News Sheet - The fourth day of each month.

EDITORIAL

The Society for International Folk Dancing was launched in 1946 on a wave of optimism, enthusiasm, and determination, against a strong tide of disapproval from certain diehards. We had been safely drifting along as an activity on the programme of the International Youth Centre, but now we were alone, sink or swim. We were determined to swim, and swim we did; our classes increased in number; our membership grew from a few dozen to nearly two hundred. With the years, however, the enthusiasm ebbed, and with the growing numbers, the sense of closeness and unity faded.

To-day we have a Society with a large membership, a full and varied programme, an ever-increasing repertoire, and a good reputation for authenticity and integrity to the dance, among all authoritative dance organisations in the country. Within the group, however, we find a degree of selfishness, thoughtlessness, and apathy which is making our assets valueless. Classes are badly attended, and dances sadly neglected; as a consequence our financial state is bad. Obviously this state of affairs cannot continue. Our Committee is overworked, our Treasurer's hair must surely soon go grey, and Margery, as Demonstration Secretary, is hard put to fulfil even a minimum of demonstration requests.

Prosaically, but of first importance, is the financial question. If we can pay our way, even make a little profit, we can turn our minds more fully to other internal matters.

With this in mind, the Committee have decided to place our classes under the auspices of the L.C.C. This means that we will be holding our classes, from September, at a venue other than Carlyle School, but in a position as central as possible. It means that our musicians and instructors will be paid by the L.C.C., that we will obtain the free use of a hall and canteen facilities; that the hall will be open to us during school holidays, and for extra rehearsals and meetings, and that the cost to members may well be less. In addition - and of great importance - the classes are allowed to run as Club Meetings, and the control and running of dances is a completely domestic matter.

On the face of things we are now back where we started - an activity on the programme of a large organisation - but our position is better; we now have our assets behind us. It could be a regressive step, or a second chance, or a new phase. It rests with us; the Committee have been bold enough to grasp the nettle of regression, now we must do our share by backing them up and playing our part properly as members. The nettle only hurts if it is lightly brushed, let us not get stung through our own half-heartedness.

JULY FOLK CUSTOMS

The majority of folk customs celebrated in July seem to have comparatively recent origins.

July 4 is the day when the Americans celebrate the Declaration of Independence; a public holiday where displays, fireworks, and speeches are enjoyed by all. (It is also the day when many an Englishman says, 'Damn George III').

July 7 is the fiesta of San Fermin in Pamplona, Spain, where boys run races with bulls, and where for once the bulls stand an even chance of winning.

July 14 is the anniversary of the Fall of the Bastille, where France observes the day with processions, music, and good food. The day starts in Paris with the firing of a cannon 100 times, and the celebrations go on far into the night.

July 26 in Hungary is St. Anna's Day; again a public holiday with feasting, merrymaking, and 'St. Anna's Balls'.

At the end of July, the Lithuanians celebrate 'Vainikinas' - the binding of the wreaths - groups of young people go into the woods at sunset gathering flowers which they drape around their shoulders and weave into garlands for their heads. Then they entwine the branches of two young birch trees together to form an arch, under which couples pass, kissing, and singing traditionally appropriate songs. This among the young people passes as an engagement, although it may only last until the end of the summer.

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

All members are advised that fees are due as from September 1. As agreed at the General Meeting, the new fees are as follows:-

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| Full members | 15/6 |
| Country members | 10/6 |
| Junior members | 10/6 |
| Joint members | 21/- |

As from Monday, September 1, the Society classes will be held at Hugh Myddleton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.3., under a club arrangement with the L.C.C. Time 7.30-9.30 pm. Canteen facilities are available from 6 p.m.

Class fees will be payable per year or per term at the following rates:-

For attendance at one class (on a nominated evening per term) 25/- per year, or 10/- per term.

For attendance at two or more classes 30/- per year, or 15/- per term.

Guests will be allowed to attend a maximum of two evenings at 2/- per evening, but after these two evenings must pay the applicable term or yearly fee. Membership of the Society is obligatory.

Membership fees are payable to the Membership Secretary, Ken Ward. (Address on cover),

Class fees are payable to Margery Latham either at the enrolment night at the school, or on first attendance at any class.

Classes will be as follows:-

Monday - Iberian, Instructor - Margaret Colato
Tuesday - Balkan, Instructor - Philip Thornton
Wednesday - General, Instructor - Margery Latham
Thursday - Orchestral evening,
Friday - Advanced. Instructor - Bert Price.

At the advanced classes, specialist instruction will also be used, and will be advertised in the term programme, and it has been decided, in order to avoid stagnation, not to devote the entire evening to the dances of one country, as in the past.

On enrolment, members must state which class, or classes, they wish to attend, and receipt slips will be issued to that effect. Enrolment will not be accepted without the production of a current S.I.F.D. Membership Card. The receipt slips are for attachment to the Membership Card, and must be produced on demand by any L.C.C. Inspector, or S.I.F.D. official.

Bert Price

Farringdon Street Station on the Metropolitan Line is five minutes from the school, and buses give plenty of choice. Buses Nos. 19, 38, 170, 171, 172 and 63, and Trolley Buses 513, 517, 521, 613, 617, 621, 659, 543 and 643, all serve the area.

THE GOURMET

Eierkichel. (Jewish Egg Biscuits)

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| 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour | 1 table spoon oil |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt | 2 eggs |
| 2 teaspoons sugar | $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon | |

Beat the white of the eggs until foaming, beat the yolks thoroughly and mix eggs together. Mix the flour, salt, sugar and cinnamon together with a little water, and roll out to one eighth of an inch thick. Cut into shapes and brush with oil. Scatter a little sugar and cinnamon over the surface and prick with a fork. Bake in a warm oven until brown.

Are best eaten hot, but may be served cold with mixed fruit puree if desired.

NOTICES

Members are asked to note that Membership cards must be shown at all classes and dances next term.

Albert Hall Festival.

Only five months more to practice for the S. I. F. D. show on December 6. Remember, Margery wants your name as dancers, the Society needs your friends support for audience. Book the date now - December 6.

The grass is always greener.

Margaret, Peter, and baby Anthony Colato, wish to notify their friends and acquaintances that their new address is as follows:-
169 Hamilton Avenue, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

Music.

Ten records covering 38 dances, have been made by the Society and are available from Recorded Sound Ltd., or from the Secretary.

Music and instructions on records 1-5 have been published, also copies of the book 'A selection of European Dances', price 5/-. All are available from the Secretary.

The 'end of term' party is scheduled to be held on Friday, July 18. Since these parties are always a success it was decided to book Cecil Sharp House in order to provide better accommodation. In order to do this, the Committee have placed a charge of 2/- for persons in costume and 2/6 for those in ordinary dress. No cheating though, a pair of Austrian braces or an apron will not pass as costume.

The Editor wishes to remind members that, in accordance with the usual press custom, all information contained in notices or announcements are printed verbatim, and that therefore only those particulars which are intended for the News Sheet should be submitted.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Since the summer holidays and closure of many schools make a change of venue necessary for many groups, visitors are advised to get in touch with the appropriate secretary before paying a first visit during the holiday season.

Opoczno Group - Mrs. C. Siemaszko, 247 Lillie Road, S.W.6.
For addresses of other groups apply to Marie Le Fort (address on cover).

LETTERS

Dear,

A group of South African (Afrikanas) folk dancers visited here this weekend, and I believe they will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall in London in July. They put on a first class show, well worth seeing.

I am enjoying Ken Ward's series of articles in the News Sheet very much.

With best wishes to the Society,
Stephen Ward.

Dear,

I was greatly cheered when I noticed that the News Sheet was broadening its quantity and quality under the new Editor. Now I see that it is gradually slipping back, in quantity at least, and am wondering if there is any valid reason for its so doing.

Edna Balle.