

NEWS SHEET

November 1959

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING.

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

EDITORIAL

Recently an editor friend of one of the members was let loose upon one of our News Sheets, and the finished result of his scrutiny was rather interesting. Approval, disapproval, and suggestions were scribbled all over the page, and this led me toward the consideration of the News Sheet as a recipient rather than a sender-out. Were his comments those only of an outsider or were they comments which many members share? For instance, would the members like to see Christian names in their 'rag' dropped, to be replaced by a dignified Miss or Mr. plus initials - would they even recognise a person if they were deprived of the first name? Would I be pretentious as well as foolhardy to describe my home as an 'Editorial Office'? Would we all like some of the printing to slant across the page as a rest for our eyes from the usual straight lines? I don't know, but I would welcome a few comments.

This is the time when new officers of the Society are being elected, but I do not know of any suggestion that a new editor be chosen. Are we perhaps taking too much for granted the fact that because nearly two years ago no-one wanted the job, no-one wants it now? I am not trying gently to shed the burden, but am simply afraid that I am keeping some more competent soul out.

The A. G. Meeting is to be held on Friday, October 23rd, and it is hoped that very many members will attend. The change in the day from our customary Thursday may mean that several regular meeting attenders will not be present, but it also makes it possible for others to attend instead. We seem to have had rather a lot of meetings this year, but at least it shows that the Society is well alive.

The Albert Hall Show is creeping nearer to us and I must ask all members to co-operate to their utmost with the Society's Albert Hall Committee. Theirs is not an enviable task. On their shoulders lies the responsibility for the successful running of the Show. They are risking your money, and the consciousness of this always with them. Help to make their job easier by your willingness to help them.

THE BEGINNING OF WINTER

In many countries the day of St. Martin, November 11th, heralds the beginning of winter. This day is celebrated with much gaiety since it is the festival before the hard life begins. Signs are watched for on this day as a forecast of what winter will bring forth. A dry clear day foretells a dry clear winter, an extra heavy dew foretells a wet one. In many countries a goose is cooked on St. Martin's day, and in Poland the breast bone of the goose is watched anxiously for if it is white it will mean a hard snowy winter, and if it is mottled it tells of a changeable and uncertain one.

Hundreds have come to the dances. Hundreds have gone never to return.

And I know the first names of exactly 19 people after all this time. 9 female, 9 male, and one financial.

But I can't say that I know anyone at all. It's a poor result after two years; and it's not that I'm an unsociable cuss. More than readily I respond to an opening to talk.

One sometimes wonders: who is this Marie le Forte? And that other name on the front page of the bulletin - what does xxxx look like?

Is the soc too cliquy. Not that one would notice - well not offensively so. It is sometimes said we are an unfriendly lot, but that just isn't true. True, the experts tend to avoid the newcomers, which is a bad thing. Perhaps one graduates to higher spheres and gets to know dancers as one gets to know dances.

But the fact remains, that after two years of mingling with about 250 dancers, I know nothing more than the names of Marjorie Jean Ann Madge Celia Jennifer Celia Barbara Norah Roly Simon Ken Dick Cliff George Bert Don Jack and Penny.

'ME'

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Richmond International Folk Dance Group.

The Group started its new term on Friday, September 18th, in new premises. The building, St. Paul's Church Hall, has just been completed and is reported as being much larger than the previous hall used by the Group. It possesses an excellent piano, and has good facilities generally.

The Group are arranging to send a team to the 'See How They Dance' show at the Royal Albert Hall in December, and has also been invited to give a display in aid of the World Refugee Year during the coming season. Instructors are Joan Walton and Simon Guest.

St. Paul's Hall is in Raleigh Road, which lies between Kew Road and Lower Mortlake Road. It may be reached by 71, 90, 90B buses which halt at Richmond Station, and stop at the corner of Raleigh Road.

The children's group starts at 6.15 p.m., with a subscription of 2/- per session, and at 7.30 p.m. for adults with a fee of 3/- per evening.

Members, new or old, will be welcomed most sincerely.

The Russo-Ukraine Group.

The Russian class started with a high leap this term; object in immediate view, the Royal Albert Hall 'See How They Dance' show on December 9th.

This class which struggled for existence for nearly half of last year is now a strong group with enthusiastic support, justifying the faith of those who believed in the wisdom and necessity of such a class.

It meets at the Hugh Myddleton School on Tuesday evenings, and new members are asked to enrol quickly before numbers are finalised and classes devoted entirely to preparation for the December 9th show.

NOTICES.

The Georgian State Company will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall from Monday, November 9th until Wednesday, November 25th. Tickets from the booking office of the Royal Albert Hall.

By all reports, this show is a 'MUST'.

The English Folk Dance and Song Society.

The E.F.D.S. have now published their Winter Programme, full details of which may be obtained from: The House Secretary, Miss Sybil Lightfoot, The English Folk Dance and Song Society, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1.

The programme includes a Christmas Residential House Party at Bedford College, N.W.1., and their festival at the Royal Albert Hall.

Inns of Court, Drury Lane.

Our tenancy of Inns of Court for the Sunday dances is still very uncertain. Please make sure at the end of every dance that the hall is still to be available to us for the following Sunday.

'See How They Dance'. Costumes.

With the 'See How They Dance' show now only a few weeks away, it is essential that all costumes be available in case they should be required. Anyone possessing any costume or part of costume should return it immediately to Margery Latham, or to any committee member.

'See How They Dance', The Date.

Date - Wednesday, December 9th.
Place - The Royal Albert Hall
Position - Of the utmost importance.

All members and relatives and friends should be at the Show, as dancers, helpers, or as audience.

Don't let the date slip your memory. Advertise it as much as you can.

December 9th - Wednesday - December 9th.

'See How They Dance', S. O. S.

An S. O. S. is sent to all members with respect to the following:

1. Typists to assist with the clerical side of the show.
2. Helpers in any capacity.
3. People who will stick a poster in a prominent place.
4. People to get up parties to see our show.
5. Publicity.
6. Volunteers to help with costumes as and when necessity arises.

FRENCH VISITORS

I am happy to announce that, through the good offices of Simon Guest and our own friendship with our Gallic neighbours across the Channel we shall have four special guests in December.

Pierre Ponis, Georges Simon, Jeanine Mourain and Jeanette Payrayre have accepted our invitation to take part in the Festival at the Royal Albert Hall.

They will arrive on December 4th or 5th and stay till December 10th (Dates to be confirmed). While they are here we hope to hold at least one special French evening for all members as well as the R.A.H. rehearsals.

We would be glad to know whether any Member of the SIFD can offer them accommodation during their stay in London.

It will be best of course if all four can be accommodated together so that when not officially in demand for SIFD functions they may visit London, or be together, with no inconvenience.

If any one can help please let me know at once.

H.J.P.
Chairman.

PROGRAMME

Hugh Myddleton School.

Each Monday	-	Spanish Dancing
Tuesday	-	Balkan Dancing; Russo-Ukraine Dancing
Wednesday	-	General International Dancing
Thursday	-	Orchestral Evening
Friday	-	Advanced class

Christopher Halton School.

Each Thursday - Spanish Dancing

Cecil Sharp House.

Sunday, November 29th Simon Guest

Inns of Court, Drury Lane.*

Sunday, November	1st	Simon Guest
"	" 8th	Richard Beckford
"	" 15th	Ken Ward
"	" 22nd	John Hughes

*Please note that the dances at Inns of Court are subject to cancellation without notice.