

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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The next meeting of the I.C.A.

will be on

Saturday December 7th,

from 7-9 p.m.

in the Club Room of Conway Hall,  
Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1,  
(nearest Underground - Holborn).

As usual on the last meeting of the  
year, members will be invited to join  
in playing

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

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The Committee have given careful consideration to a list of members and others who could be approached to fill the posts which would become vacant in January on the resignation of Frank and Doris Butler. It is now announced with pleasure that at the A.G.M. members will be asked to confirm the appointment of J. Harvey as Secretary and F.J. Hutcberson as Treasurer. Both these members will have the advantage of knowing procedure through experience on the Committee. J. Harvey knows all the concertina personalities and has in recent years travelled to meet many outside London. I hope the Committees recommendations will have unanimous support.

F.E.BUTLER.

This Newsletter is issued for the I.C.A. by the Secretary.  
Frank E. Butler, 60, Mayfield Crescent, London, N.9. England.

REPORT OF THE OCTOBER MEETING (CONTRIBUTED)

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The meeting had been announced to commence later than usual, to allow the Committee time for their serious discussion on the appointment of a new Secretary and a new Treasurer. Many members came early, but they enjoyed a good chat among themselves whilst waiting, and ensured a prompt start for the meeting proper.

Apologies were made for the absence of Frank and Doris Butler, the present Secretary and Treasurer, who had again to be absent owing to an out-of-town engagement.

First to entertain us were Edith Wheeler and Vena McDougall, in a very nice performance of Beethoven's Minuet in G. A. Crook forsook his usual loyalty to classics, and followed with "The Carnival is Over". Mr. Court varied his choice by playing first Schuberts "Ave Maria" and next an entertaining Scottish Medley.

F. Watts contributed an extremely fine performance of a selection from Poet and Peasant. A Bach Minuet and Trio was well played by an impromptu trio made up of Olive Linsell, Edie Wheeler and John Hutcherson. Almost all items other than solos are impromptu, and are a great credit to the adaptability and sight reading of many members.

Tommy Williams was in good form on the Duet. He played his own Queenstown Parade March, and his Kensington Waltz. He confessed that he had originally named the latter The Bread and Dripping Waltz, but he did not say why. This waltz is featured by the Kensington Group, but they call it Tommy's Waltz.

John Watcham, a new member from Chingford paid his first visit to an I.C.A. meeting, giving a very good performance of Three Morris Dancers on an Anglo. Jim Harvey said his performance was "Father Loveless all over again," a remark seconded by many others. John was first introduced by Eileen Jones following a T.V. appearance and finally captured, by Father Loveless earlier this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Crabb were joined by Mr. Meecham in a typical rendering of the Moors of Perth and Heylsius Serenade. We were glad to have our only "maker" in person.

Edith Wheeler's contribution was a surprise. She had borrowed a miniature from Jim Harvey one month earlier, learned to play it, gave a solo on it at this meeting and returned it to Jim. Quick work and well done, Edie!!

Surprise visitors were Dorothy Nicol and Elsie Smith from Burnley, very welcome to their first ordinary meeting. Likewise Brigadier Thornett, a visiting player now an equally welcome full member. The Brigadier gave an artistic performance of Believe Me if all those endearing young Charms and Schon Romaine. Miss Nicol (on a borrowed instrument) twice joined John Hutcherson in Duets by Pleyel and Bach, their joint playing revealing the natural sympathy of two really good musicians.

Herbert Lorne (Mac to most of us) sang The Floral Dance and Glorious Devon. Good songs, good singing, good piano from Vena, good obligate from John - what more could any audience want? We wanted an encore, of course!!

Mr. Chapman, whom we met for the first time in October, proved to be a good pianist and took an encouraging part in the general session of 'busking' of old favourites which twice found a place on the programme, including the enjoyable finale.

THE KENSINGTON GROUP AT THE HOUNSLOW MUSIC FESTIVAL

Maurice Harvey and Tom Jukes came top of their class at this festival, scoring 85 marks with a splendid rendering of Allegro by Fioci. The adjudicators "well done" also praised Maurice's neat work on the accompaniment.

The Kensington Group in their class were only one mark behind the winner. Kensington again played the Slow Movement from Beethoven's First Symphony which has brought them success in the past. The adjudicator, Thomas Hooton, spoke of the sincerity of the performance and particularly admired the baritone playing.

In classes where a variety of instruments were competing, it is splendid to find the concertina so well presented.

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EASTCOTE TOC H

At a concert on November 2nd, to elderly people, and the blind, the Kensington Group contributed an hour of playing from their repertoire.

The audience enjoyed it, quite obviously and so did many other artistes, who stayed to hear what was for them a unique performance.

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CONCERTINAS ON T.V.  
(a letter from Harry\_\_ Crabb)

On Tuesday October the 22nd we were invited to Thames Television where a documentary film was shown of the making of concertinas, this entailed a visit to our premises in Liverpool Road of the camera and sound crew of Thames Television, who spent five hours filming and recording.

We were asked to take eight members of the Friday class along, where we did a live broadcast in the Eamonn Andrews show "TODAY". This show was seen by a great many people, and was approved by all.

It was a great thrill for the class to meet Eamonn, and we were treated with every consideration from his team.

We feel that this has done a lot for our little instrument, and hope it becomes more popular through it. My family and I feel that we have been rewarded for the many long hours and the personal interest that goes into the making of a concertina.

(Signed) Harry Crabb.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

We are sorry to hear that Mr. W. Wrathall is in St. George's Hospital, Tooting. Jim Harvey and Tommy Williams went to see him there, discussed concertinas, the I.C.A. and many other subjects as old friends will. They left him happy in the knowledge that they would return. Mr. Wrathall was the only member to nominate a new Secretary, and proposed Jim Harvey. With Jim's life-long interest and many friends around the country, the choice has much to commend it.

W. Duncan writes also on the change of officials. In his view, some "new blood" would probably be a good thing, but he is content with the "old blood".

Brigadier Thornett was recently in Wigan, where he had a late music session with H. Topping and admired his Wheatstone Duets, and his enthusiasm. The local C.O. joined then for discourse. The Brigadier has also played solos in Plymouth, where there is an outstanding concertina band on which we have previously reported.

Mrs. Fordham's new address is "Windle Brook", Shepherds Hill, Buckhorn Weston, Gillingham, Dorset, where she will doubtless be charming the natives and converting them to concertina playing. We wish her great happiness there.

The Dunhams will be at Hitchin - will have been there by the time this letter goes out and this year they achieve fame by being first with the 1969 subscription.

We report with great pleasure that Miss Felicity Young will be the accompanist at the next I.C.A. Festival.

We note with regret that Kenneth Ranger, the Hon. Organising Secretary of the London Festival will give up his mammoth task in June. Many thousands of musicians have reason to be grateful to him and we all thank him for his wonderful work and wish him well for the future.

Neil Wayne has emerged from hospital after appendectomy. Dick Cross has entered for the same operation. Next please! We wish them both a speedy return to circulation and co-operation with other concertina addicts.

Shop-gazing in Edgware Road, we enjoyed a chat with Arthur Austin of Pimlico, looking young and sprightly as ever, but deploring life in a flat which restricted his concertina playing.

CIRCUSIANA EXHIBITION

It is now two hundred years since- modern style circuses were started in England, by Philip Astley and a commemorate exhibition will be held at Simpson's in Piccadilly, London, W.I. from November 18th to 30th.

We are indebted to Ruth Ware a keen member of the Circus Fans Association as well as the I.G.A. for seeing that the concertina is represented there. On show will be a clown's dress, liberally embroidered with musical signs and a concertina, both at one time belonging to Jo-Jo, elder of the Bros. Webb, outstanding musical clowns of international reputation at the turn of the century. The Bros. Webb always featured concertinas of which they were expert players.

Rute-Tute and Jo-Jo are unlikely to be recalled by members, but many will remember seeing and hearing Jo-Jo's lovely daughters, who appeared professionally as The Fayre Four, playing a variety of instruments, but without doubt the finest concertina quartette it is likely to be our privilege to hear. They are I.C.A. members and played at a Festival Concert seven years ago, featuring Greig's "Morning" and "The Flight of the Bumble Bee".