

The next meeting will be on  
Saturday, February 22nd from  
7 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.  
(Committee meeting at 6 p.m.)  
at Holloway Institute, Hornsey  
Road, London, N.7.  
(Nearest station Finsbury Park).

---

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I am more sorry than I can say, that I am unable for the first time, in many years to preside over the Annual General Meeting - but my preferment as the first full-time Rural Dean in the Church of England is involving me in many duties which did not previously fall to me - and this afternoon I have to attend on the Lord Bishop of London at the London Diocesan Conference at Church House, Westminster - and I cannot unfortunately be in two places at once!

I am taking the opportunity therefore, to write to you and to ask that this letter shall be read at the meeting.

You will all realise that its main purpose apart from conveying my Presidential Greetings to you all, is to say how very fortunate our Society has been in having the services of Frank and Doris" Butler as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Frank for some twelve years, the length of time during which I have been your President - and Doris for some eleven years. They like to describe themselves as partners, and that they have most certainly been both in their everyday life, and in business life, and in the I.C.A. You must all have realised as I did last year, that we could not expect to retain their services for more than another year, for Frank is now retiring from business life, and it is reasonable that he should, with his wife, relinquish also the burden of responsibility for I.C.A. affairs which they have shouldered for so long.

Frank particularly has meant so much to us. Apart from normal secretarial duties, he has edited the Newsletter superbly well, he has published the Directory which, because of his amendments in the Newsletter I for one have been able to keep constantly up-to-date - he has answered many enquiries by letter, he has conducted week-end courses and classes, transcribed music, arranged Carol Services, Festivals - we owe the first one to his inspiration, and perhaps above all, he has been a friend to expert and beginner alike, always offering encouragement and help and his services as an accompanist whenever needed - and all this in spite of recurring bouts of illness which would have long ago have deterred a less devoted and genuine person. I would wish on behalf of you all,

to express our devoted thanks to Frank and Doris - who has; been a model Treasurer, and without whose encouragement Frank could not have continued, for all the services they have so selflessly rendered over so many years - and to wish them both many happy years of retirement, and at least their continued presence at any future meetings, when they will be made most warmly welcome.

In conclusion I add my personal thanks for their friendship which will continue, and their loyal support during my Presidency, of which I am naturally extremely proud.

I wish all possible success and wholehearted support to those who will, this afternoon, be chosen to succeed them and others, in the most vital and important tasks of guiding and administering our Society in the coming years.

I send my loving greetings and good wishes to all, and I wish the Association yet another year of the friendship through music making which the whole world so sorely needs.

Kenneth Loveless,  
President.

25. 1. 1969.

---

RETIRING TREASURERS REPORT - 1969

I resign as Treasurer of the I.C.A. with mixed feelings.

Committee and members have always been kind and helpful, only one member asking me every year if I have bought a new hat out of it yet.

When I took over there was a deficit of £6. I hand over with a credit of only a few shillings short of £150, as at the end of 1968. There is much more money than this now in the bank, because 1969 subscriptions have come in since.

1968 was a difficult year of rising prices, and the increase of subscriptions was only just in time. Most of the higher costs came in the latter part of the year, and so we still managed to make a profit of £20. In 1969 you are very likely to make a loss because it is a Festival Year, in which expenses are always heavy, and it will not be any fault on the part of your new committee.

Your Secretary's plans have always been to establish a reserve equal to one year's expenditure. Both he and I resign happily in the knowledge that for a small society, the I.C.A. is in a very sound financial position, with the reserves we wanted to establish.

DORIS BUTLER.

REPORT OF THE JANUARY MEETING  
(contributed)

There was a good and widely representative muster for this, the Annual General Meeting, which on this occasion had more than usually important business before it.

Our President, Father Loveless, to his great regret was unable to attend and his letter which was read at the meeting, is also at his request given in full elsewhere in the Newsletter. Other apologies were from W.E.Realf, W.J.Court and H. Lorne. Frank Butler the retiring Secretary took the chair.

The routine matters of Secretary's report, Treasurer's report, adoption thereof and vote of thanks to Mr.L.G.Bolton, the honorary Auditor followed their usual course. Frank apologised for an error - the total mailing list of the I.C.A. now exceeds 350. He also explained the loss on Hitchin, where the authorities had at the last minute withdrawn pro-rata charges for people not taking the full course. On appeal, they had halved the extra charges, and the other half was charged to general funds. It was the policy of the Committee to keep this activity self-supporting.

The appointment of J. Harvey as Secretary, and F.J.Hutcherson as Treasurer was unanimously approved, and we moved on to filling the vacant places on the Committee.

A simple show of hands, to which was added the postal votes, elected Mrs. Ruth Ware and Mr. F. Watts by a substantial majority. It was noted with pleasure that Ruth Ware would undertake production of the Newsletter.

The Chairman explained that it was the practice of the Committee to fill an unexpired term of office by co-opting someone with potential to develop. They therefore proposed to co-opt Mr. R. Cross. This was agreed unanimously, and once more the Committee was complete.

The remainder of routine business was quickly despatched, and an interesting discussion followed, full of lively if good-humoured exchanges.

Mr. A. Crook started with a proposal that one-day courses should be held al fresco in a Watford Park. Some members expressed their view that public appearances should be limited to properly rehearsed groups, and that the I.C.A. courses were for tuition purposes only. Edith Wheeler recommended seven or even fourteen day concertina holidays at an address in Shanklin, but a minimum attendance of eighty-five would be necessary.

Frank Butler said the Committee would discuss one-day courses at Holloway Institute, London, where they could be regarded as extensions of the concertina classes there. Probably an autumn course for beginners, end the Spring of 1970. for advanced players. Ten hours of playing and instruction was envisaged. This was most favourably received. There are cheap hotels in the Finsbury Park area, and it was hoped country members would find the trip worth while.

Mr. Harry Crabb asked the Committee to arrange two social evenings each year, and his suggestion was noted.

Mr. W.H.Wrathall asked for tuition to be provided for players of the Anglo and this soon led to comments about the revival of Angle playing among folk dancers. Several members had useful comments to offer, and Neil Wayne was to the fore with apt comment. It was generally thought that the I.C.A. neglected this important branch. Tom Amasanti suggested that the I.C.A. should advertise its existence in the journal of the English Folk Song and Dance Society. The Chairman closed the subject by reminding members that the I.C.A. was for all grades of players on any type of concertina - there were no exclusions - and we would welcome any concertina enthusiast into membership and try and provide for him.

The meeting proper closed and we had time for a little music under Frank's guidance, while the new officials tackled unfamiliar tasks

Only two solos, Duet Concertina by B.Thornett and English Concertina by Vena McDougall, but each a gem. Three concerted items, two easy and one not, provided an opportunity for most others to play.

We welcomed two new members - Mrs, Joan Lambe, new to the concertina, but already a performer on recorder and oboe and Lt. Col. Thornett, formerly a welcome visitor, but now a member whom we hope to find very active with us.

REVISED LIST OF COMMITTEE

Following the A.G.M. the General Committee of the I.C.A. is now comprised of the following:-

President: The Rev. K.N.J.Loveless, V.R.D., R.N.R.

Secretary: J. Harvey

Treasurer &  
Librarian: F.J. Hutcherson

Editor of  
Newsletter: Mrs. Ruth Ware

Distributor  
of Newsletter: Mrs. Vena McDougall  
F. Watts  
R. Cross

All communications; including subscriptions should be sent to J. Harvey .at 42, St. Barnabas Street, London, S.W.1.

SALVATION ARMY CONCERTINA RALLY

This rally will be held for the first time on April 26th, in the Salvation Army Hall, West Norwood, S.W.2. It will commence at 3.30 p.m. until 5.00 p.m. and during this time there will be talks and demonstrations by experts and one or two items when all present will play their concertinas.

This will be followed in the evening by a special meeting conducted by the Plymouth Congress Hall Concertina Band.

All I.C.A. members are cordially invited.

ENTERTAINING THE INVALIDS

Charles Parsley and Arthur Austin spent Christmas Eve playing to patients at St. Andrew's Hospital, Cricklewood. They provided a mixed programme of seasonable items, including carols, of course, and a plentitude of old songs. It was a worthy effort and fully appreciated.

---

MORE NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

Eric Holland, Crowsnest, Worth Matravers, Swanage, Dorset, wrote in kindly terms to our retiring officers, who much appreciated his sentiments. Eric wants a baritone Anglo, 40 key in good condition. Any offers?

---

We are sorry to hear from J.H. Mellor of Ashton under Lyne, that at the age of 82, with some failure of eyesight, he does not wish to have the Newsletter sent to him.

Mr. Bridgen's new address is 87, Chantry Court, Milton Place, Gravesend, Kent.

Harry Minting writes that he recently played for a week with a small band at the Ashcroft Theatre. The show was called 'Mother Courage' and a special part was written for the concertina. He is teaching the Guitar three nights a week and is also kept busy repairing concertinas.

Mrs. Mercer writes about her experiences at the International Celtic Conference at Fougères in Brittany. She and her husband appeared at the open air concerts as members of the Manx Folk Dance team. On one occasion, Mrs. Mercer played solo concertina for the dancers. She says that the Bretons showed great interest in the instrument and it seems that they had never seen one before.

Mr. R.C. Johnson of Bishops Stortford writes that he enjoys reading the newsletter and finds time to play the concertina.

Mr. W.E. Realf enjoyed reading the President's Christmas letter very much. He comes from a musical family - his mother played the melodeon, his brother was at Kneller Hall, and his sister who is 82 still plays the mandoline very well. He and his sister played mandoline and 'tina' duets over the Christmas period.

Herbert Lorne reports that Mr. E. Charlesworth, a friend of his for forty years, has just retired from business. He recalls that, in his youth, Mr. Charlesworth played with the City of London Territorial Band. He joined the I.C.A. as an Anglo player and although self taught soon became a very proficient performer. The I.C.A. wish him a happy retirement with plenty of 'tina' playing to wile away the hours.

We are glad to see Dick Cross is out and about again after his short spell in hospital. Mr. Cross is now a member of the I.C.A. Committee.

Mr. H.R. White of Hove, is 92 years of age and still playing the concertina. He was an old friend of Howard Shackleton and played in quartettes with him. Perhaps some of our older members recall him.

Mr. W, Hardcastle writes that he regrets there are no other members of the I.C.A. in Orpington. He is 88 years of age and cannot get about much.

Mr. Harold Cowlin wishes to be remembered to all his friends, in particular Harry Crabb, Tommy Williams and Mr. Prince. He is now 68 and is fully occupied with his printing business.

Herbert Lorne and Vena McDougall (Mac & Vena) have been entertaining audiences at Enfield, Walthamstow and Ilford with singing and concertina, occasionally accompanied by an electric organ.

Mr. B. Fenton who has spent the last four and a half years in Durban, South Africa is now living at Hango Cottage, King William Road, Castletown, Isle of Man. He misses the sunshine, but hopes to forget the cold and the rain by concentrating on his concertina playing.

---

NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

On behalf of the rest of the I.C.A. members, I should like to thank Frank Butler for all the hours of his precious time that he has spent on compiling and issuing the newsletter. Each newsletter has been read avidly and greatly appreciated by everyone.

To follow in his footsteps is not an easy task and to keep up the high standard he has set seems nigh impossible. I can only do my best and hope that my best is good, enough.

---

This Newsletter is edited and produced for the I.C.A. by Mrs. Ruth Ware, 65, Byron Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex, England.