

INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

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No 321

NEWSLETTER

November 1984

Editorial

What's been happening since the last newsletter? Well, the most important event of the month must surely have been the Taunton and Somerset Music Festival, providing the concertina with a further modest step towards musical respectability.

In East Anglia, Nigel Pickles has been rehearsing his newly formed quartet. Exeter has seen and heard a performance of Alistair Anderson's "Steel Skies". Steve Dickinson, the maker of Wheatstone concertinas has given a talk at the Folk East festival in St Albans, and a recent gathering of players at Nottingham may well develop into a regular regional meeting.

Of course, these are only a tiny sample of the thousands of occasions during the past month when concertinas have been played, whether in folk clubs, for people to dance to, or at concerts. What's been happening in your area?

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Address List

Along with this letter you will find the first instalment of the ICA membership list I mentioned in September. It's arranged geographically rather than alphabetically so that you can see which other members live near you. As you can see 'near' is a relative term. If there are any mistakes, please write.

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Membership

Welcome to six new members. They are:-

June Rosenblum  
41 Belloc Road  
LITTLEHAMPTON  
Sussex BN17

Marian Gillies  
5 Willan Road  
Tottenham  
LONDON N17 6ND

Jack P Maloney  
4903 - 41st Ave South  
Minneapolis  
MN 55417

D Gluck  
49 Holmdene Ave  
Herne Hill  
LONDON SE24 9LB

N J Mikus  
7782 - 15th St  
Westminster  
CA 92683

Steuart Martyn  
229 E King St 4  
Orlando  
Florida 32304

June and Marian, who were at the last Bloomsbury meeting, both play English concertinas. June still considers herself a beginner, while Marian has been playing for about a year.

Jack Maloney has been playing a 48 key Wheatstone English for about eighteen months and says that the English concertina is growing in popularity in the Mid-West, with three or four semi-professional players in Minneapolis.

Steuart also plays an English, and Mr Gluck says he is 'just starting to play'

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Saturday 24th November

#### Dorset Day of Folk

To be held at St Mary's School, Puddletown. Organised by the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Alistair Anderson will be holding a concertina workshop during the morning. Other workshops with Roy Dommett, Peter Dashwood and Brian Willcocks. For further details, ring Peter Talbot on Portland 821715.

### Sunday 25th November

#### Alistair Anderson at Cecil Sharp House

From 11 am to 5 pm Alistair Anderson will be inviting you to look at the playing techniques which apply to the concertina and other instruments. Music will be supplied and refreshments will be available during the day. Cecil Sharp House, headquarters of the EFDSS, is at 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1. The nearest tube station is at Camden Town (Northern Line). Bus services are 3, 55 or 74. To book your place, write to BARBARA GOODRICH, 62 HUDDLESTON RD, LONDON N7 (01 607 8975) enclosing a cheque for £4, payable to EFDSS.

### Saturday 24th November

#### Concertina Convention at St Helen's

Starting at 5.30 pm there will be a Concertina Convention, in memory of Harry Hatton, at THE WAGON AND HORSES HOTEL, CLIPSEY LANE, HAYDOCK, ST HELEN'S, MERSEYSIDE. The evening's activities will include two competitions; one for Classical or Popular - own choice, and one for Folk or Traditional - again, own choice. Prizes will be awarded!

Costs- £1.50 which includes Lancashire Hot Pot and sandwiches. All welcome.

Further details, including a map, are available from:-

Mr P Hurst, 76 West End Road, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside. Tel. St Helens 38790

### Saturday 8th December

#### ICA London Meeting

To be held at St George's Church Hall, Bloomsbury Way. 12 to 6 pm. This will be our CHRISTMAS SOCIAL so please bring some seasonal refreshments. Now's the time to start practising your favourite pieces of Christmas music. Nearest tubes- Holborn. Most convenient pubs- The Plough in Museum St.

### Sunday 6th January 1985

#### New Year's Party at Glastonbury, Somerset

Bob Senior, chairman of the West Country Concertina Players, invites you to a New Year's party at Butleigh Court Towers, Glastonbury, from 12 to 6 pm. Please bring a small offering of refreshments. (I'm told there will be NO left-overs from the Bloomsbury meeting)

### Sunday 24th February 1985

#### WCCP Playing and Committee Meeting

West Country Concertina Players will be meeting at Mount Pleasant Hall, Bradford-on-Avon. 12 to 6 pm. Details from Bob Hayes, 44 Rothesay Rd, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2DX or telephone 0305 66809

### Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th March

#### Concertina Weekend at Halsway Manor, Somerset

Session will be led by Nigel Chippindale and Vic Gammon.

Cost:- £38 which includes your room for Friday and Saturday nights, meals from Friday evening to Sunday teatime, and many, many hours of first-class instruction from Nigel and Vic. If you missed the 1984 Halsway Weekend, make up for it by attending this one. To reserve your place please send your deposit of £5 to Mrs Violet Fordham, Tackers Cottage, Horn St., Nunney, Frome BA11 4NP (rather than Bob Hayes as stated last month) Full payment must be made by 28th February and all cheques should be payable to West Country Concertina Players. Bookings are coming in, so don't delay.

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If you are planning a concertina activity and would like it publicised in the Dates for Your Diary page, please send me the details, however vague, as soon as you are able as I can easily update the information each month as your plans crystallise.

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To reserve your place, write as soon as possible to BOB HAYES, 44 ROTHESAY RD., DORCHESTER, DORSET DT1 2DX, enclosing your deposit of £5.

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WEST COUNTRY CONCERTINA PLAYERS

Bob Hayes reports on the recent WCCP meeting

Our meeting at Freshford, Bradford-on-Avon, on Sunday 16th September attracted 25 players. One visitor who we were pleased to see was Nigel Pickles, who recently made the very attractive record of the Mexborough English Concertina Band, with the original instruments played by himself. Players came from a wide area and enjoyed some stimulating playing under the baton of Tom Jukes. Some time was taken in encouraging members to enter the Taunton Music Festival, as the entry date was very close. It was encouraging to note that all classes had attracted entrants and among the trophies to be presented are a cup from the Telephone Manager, Taunton, for Advanced Classical, one from Marcus Music of Newport, Gwent, for Advanced Folk and one from our Treasurer, Vi Fordham, as a memorial to her grandmother, a great concertina player. Trophies are also promised from the ICA, Brian Tilley and, if necessary, our own association.

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What do you call your Concertina?

Visiting London for the Bloomsbury meeting, I found myself sitting in the 'Plough' chatting to ICA members Polly Clapp and Ivan North. For some inexplicable reason the conversation turned to the names people give to their concertinas. Do you give your concertina a pet name? If you do, drop me a line, and we'll try to discover the most unusual (or dotty, or inane) name.

A few days later I was sitting in another pub - in Peterborough this time - chatting to an Irish gentleman who, when he spotted my English concertina, remarked "Now, that's a real gadget." I've heard concertinas described as "Leather Ferret", "Constant Screamer" and - my favourite - "Box of Delights" but never as a "gadget". I thought I'd discovered a hitherto unknown generic term, but then he went on to describe melodeons, flutes and mouth-organs as "gadgets" too!

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This Month's Music

My thanks to Polly Clapp for supplying the two pieces I've included this month. "Somewhere..", arranged for the Anglo, may look daunting but give it a whirl. English players might like to note that both pieces are within the range of an English Tenor or Tenor/treble, so how about finding another player and splitting them up into melody and accompaniment?

It'd be nice to hear both pieces played at the next ICA or WCCP meetings, so start practising.

THE CONCERTINA MAGAZINES OF THE USA AND AUSTRALIA  
by F E Butler

'THE CONCERTINA AND SQUEEZEBOX'

The Editor, John Townley, has recruited himself District Contributing Editors but he seems to get plenty of contributions from other sources. The book is 7" by 8½", averages thirty-two pages, two columns to the page, quite generously illustrated, the photos of instruments, personalities and events surviving the offset litho process quite well. It is well supported by advertisers; the issue before me carries five pages.

The emphasis is decidedly on concertinas, and Anglos at that, but there is plenty of mention of bandoneons, melodeons and, as the journal itself says, "anything with bellows". Repair hints are featured and there are book reviews, product reviews, music and record reviews. A long and most interesting article in the Spring issue talks of concertinas and whalers and is able to recount the history of one instrument which sailed around the world on the sailing ship "Wavertree", coming ashore in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1907 after, it is thought, more than twenty years afloat - in the nautical sense, of course!

There does not seem to be an association functioning, but there are meetings and festivals (non-competitive) and an enormous amount of enthusiasm.

How much? Twelve dollars, surface mail. Call it two pounds an issue, roughly. Write to:- Box68, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, USA.

'CONCERTINA MAGAZINE'

This is the Australian publication. Smaller in size, but not much, and averaging twenty-four pages, it is a very lively little magazine which has reached a high standard of production in this, its sixth, issue. There has been a regular feature on unusual concertinas and another on repairs, both well illustrated. There are plenty of music examples and, in this issue, a complete reprint of a Blagrove Fantasia as a supplement. Reviews are well done and articles have appeared on Colin Dipper and Steve Dickinson. Malcolm Clapp is a frequent contributor. The historical articles are well done, particularly those about bands, and I have learnt a lot from them.

The Editor is Richard Evans who competed in the ICA festival in 1975 with two others from Australia, a scratch band being pulled together specially to include them as chance visitors. He plays a McCann Duet and must have made considerable progress. The Anglo and folk music are predominant but there is a very worthy exponent of the English in Alex Richards who seems to be featured in meetings and workshops and whose own book has been accepted for publication.

Cost for four quarterly issues:- nine Australian pounds, say seven pounds British.

Write to :- Richard Evans, Lot 5, Sanham Road, Bell, NSW 2785, Australia.

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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:-

D. R. Turner, 1 Brampton Grove, Hartburn, STOCKTON-on-TEES, Cleveland TS18 5HF who plays 'folk music, mainly; on the English concertina, and has been playing for around two years.'

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Please send your Diary Dates, news, views, comments, queries and MUSIC to Colin M Turner, 309 Uggmere Court Rd., Ramsey Heights, HUNTINGDON, Cambs PE17 1RJ