

S I F D

December 1965



1.
To: H.G.F.D.G. &
S.I.F.D.

69 Clementina Road,
Leyton, E.10.

28th October, 1965.

Dear Friends,

Now that the first shock of losing Michael has passed, I feel I must write to thank you all for such moral support over this tragic time.

I knew we had good friends but I was very touched that so many of you managed to take time off from work to come to the funeral and so many found time to write to me.

Michael and I have spent many happy hours folk dancing and, of course, much of the happiness was due to the good company and the warmth within the group.

Thank you all once again. Perhaps one day when I can face our favourite interest without Michael, I shall be back to dance again.

Yours most sincerely,

MARIA H. LA RENCE.

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CLASSES

At HUGH MYDDELTON SCHOOL, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1.

1.	Monday	Spanish	Beginners	7.00-8.00	Margaret Cplato
2.	Monday	Spanish	Intermediate	8.00-9.30	Margaret Colato
3.	Tuesday	Balkan	Beginners & Intermediate	6.30-8.30	Kenneth Ward
4.	Tuesday	Balkan	Advanced	8.30-9.30	Kenneth Ward
5.	Wednesday	International	Intermediate	7.30-9.30	Margery Latham

At CHRISTOPHER HATTON SCHOOL, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, .E.C.1.

+	Monday	International	1st. Year	6.30-8.30	Margery Latham
6.	Monday	Polish	General	8.00-10.00	
7.	Thursday	Spanish	Advanced	7.00-8.00	Margaret Colato
8.	Thursday	Spanish	Flamenco	8.00-9.30	Margaret Colato

At CENTRAL CLUB, Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

9.	Friday	International	Advanced Teachers Course	7.30-9.30	Kathleen Munroe James
+	This class is arranged by the G.L.C.				

Light refreshments are available at all centres

Editor: Ken Blackwood, 523 Commercial Road, E.1. Tel. STE 6237, MUS 3644 Ext. 999
Assistant Editors: Lily Southgate and Stephen Ward.

Material to be with the Editor or Editor's Assistants before the 10th of the month.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

2.

The present Committee has had its last meeting and by the time you read this, the new Committee will have been elected, although it seems it will not be compiled of entirely new faces as several of the members of the present Committee will be standing again for election - the Hon. Treasurer and myself included - not because we are so dedicated but because we feel it helps to have a certain measure of continuity on the Committee.

I am pleased to report that our opening dance at the Dance Centre was well attended and everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves, in spite of certain shortcomings at the new premises, which we hope will be rectified in due course. It remains to be seen whether attendances will keep up. I hope you will give your support and help to make this new venture a success.

The Committee have tried to avoid expenditure on a duplicating machine, but after trying various other ways of getting the news-sheet printed, we have decided that we have no alternative but to purchase a machine of our own. This will be a second hand Roneo at a cost of £65, and Stephen Ward has kindly agreed to house this for us. The machine will be put to good use for printing not only the news-sheet but also our various publicity material, and notices, accounts, reports, etc.

We have now received the amount owing to us for class fees for 1964/65 but unfortunately these were received too late to be incorporated in the audited accounts. We will therefore only be able to issue a statement of account and not audited copy of the accounts at the A.G.M.

So far we have had 50 new members this year and our present membership stands at:-

102 full members
43 country members
1 junior member
23 joint memberships
3 life members

Our Balkan Group gave a very impressive and successful demonstration of dances from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia, at the Royal Festival Hall on the 6th November at which they were able to display the very lovely Serbian costumes which John and Sheila Fisher purchased on their visit to Yugoslavia this year. The item lasted about an hour and was very well received.

The Committee have endeavoured to do their best for the Society during their term of office but are well aware of the things which they just haven't had the time to do. Two of the most important items which will be recommended to the new Committee for their attention are our publicity, which we feel is sadly lacking, and also the structure of our classes which we feel needs overhauling. Any ideas you may have will be welcomed, I am sure, by the Committee.

LILY SOUTHGATE
Hon. Secretary.
52 Banbury House,
Banbury Road, E.9.
Phone Home, AMH 0428
Work, CIT 1212 Ext. 449

ZAPATEADO
by Los Ibericos

Somewhat belatedly, Los Ibericos have resolved to try and contribute something to the News Sheet each month, if possible each contribution to come from a different member.

To all Society members who have already obtained their 1966 diaries please enter on the 5th February, Spanish Fiesta, York Hall. To those who have not yet got their diaries, tie a furlong of rope round their fingers until the 5th February. Further details in later issue.

The Group is now getting into full swing after the Summer recess. We are fortunate to have welcomed several new members, who are showing great enthusiasm and are already accepted as members of the Group.

We gave a demonstration for the Central Electricity Generating Board at the Rainbow Room, Derry & Toms, on Friday the 22nd October, and were well received, although the Group were not wildly excited about their performance, probably a bit rusty after the summer break.

we extend a very hearty welcome to our new guitarist, Gerry Bergman, and his wife. Long may he play and she dance with us.

Don't forget the 5th February. Watch this column next month.

Adios.

HARLEY WHITAKER.

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members into the Society:-

Miss Margaret Arnold	Mrs. Margaret Ellis
Miss Margaret Avis	Miss Shirley Fletcher
Miss Gillian Baker	Mrs. R. Forde
Miss A.F. Beauclerc	Miss Patricia Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Bengman	Miss Janet Loader
Mr. Bill Bradley	Mrs. Kathleen Martin
Miss Rita Brewer	Mr. Charles Middleton
Mr. Derek Clark	Miss. M. G. Ogulis
Miss R.M. Cooke	Miss Anne Richardson
Mrs. P.L. Draper	Miss June Tyler
	Mr. & Mrs. Ian Willson

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Simon and Joan Guest have moved from Crowley to:-

56 Beeches Close
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

198 Gilbert Road,
Cambridge. 7th Nov.

Dear Editor,

In the issues of the S.I.F.D. News which have followed the Grand Midsummer Dance we have read a good deal about some £20 which was lost on the evening, which was a first venture. We have had, however, no word concerning the excellence of the evening. I believe this was one of the best evenings ever organised from the S.I.F.D. No fewer than eleven demonstration groups in addition to the Home Team were collected together, and some splendid displays were given. It was a true dance, however, and not a passive evening for the rest of us. There was abundant opportunity for all, more sophisticated dances for the experts, simple ones for newcomers, and all stages in-between. Even a Bar was available. Four and a quarter packed hours for five bob!

Concerning publicity, it is obvious that this has to be arranged in advance. It seems to me that it would have been more constructive of our Committee to have noticed deficiencies in this direction at an early stage, and perhaps to have appointed an "emergency publicity officer", rather than to expend its wrath demanding reasons for shortcomings after the event.

wish to record my thanks to Richard Beckford for his part in the organization of this splendid event (and also for his past services to the Society). I hope that the Midsummer Festival Dance will become an annual event, and look forward to enjoying one again next year. This time with our lesson learned and adequate publicity. One presumes this is largely directed to those who know little of folk dancing (because this year most of the converted must have been canvassed from members of this Society and the eleven groups.) And what better introduction could one possibly have to folkdancing? Next year I hope we shall gain some members from the Grand Dance and get our £20 back as well.

Yours sincerely,
HENRY TRIBE.

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14 Beechwood Avenue,
Kew. 14th Nov.

Dear Henry,

Our 'News' Editor handed me your letter and I asked if I might be allowed to answer it.

I am delighted to know that you found the Porchester Hall dance so enjoyable think all shared your enjoyment but may I give you a little peep behind the scenes.

The original idea for this dance was put up at the A.G.M. by David Dewhirst as a means of recruiting new members. Richard Beckford spent some months chewing over this idea and it was discussed at several Committee meetings, and Richard was asked to form a Sub-Committee. Marjorie Bracey volunteered but said she would be out of town for a week or two before the dance. David Dewhirst was suggested as the third member. He was written to and no reply received; several people tried to contact him and it was discovered that he was out of London. Richard was asked to co-opt someone else but he preferred to carry on with just Marjorie's help. He reported back at each Committee meeting and his reports were always convincing, and everything we were assured was under control. We brought up 'Publicity' each month and it "was about to go to the printers" etc. We offered to help and to take over anything he wanted to hand over, but we were assured that everything was in order. We were horrified when we discovered that it still wasn't ready at the Committee meeting before the Show. We then had a crash programme to get out as much as we could and many of us worked very hard indeed to repair the damage. We do not criticise Richard for all the hard work he put into this dance but for not co-operating with us and admitting that he was behind schedule.

cont. on page -6.

FOLK DANCING GROUPS FROM USSR.

In the course of the last ten years, a number of folkdancing groups from the USSR have visited London - and there I must correct myself immediately; if we understand "folk dancing" as something anybody can join in on the village green without any rehearsal, then none of these Groups qualifies. But then of course the interest in such purely amateur groups would be very limited indeed, as the standard of dancing is bound to be very low. Therefore we have to accept the groups who come over here to give performances to vast audiences for what they set out to achieve, in Igor Moiseyev's words: "The purpose of the company is to create classical national dances, to reject everything extraneous, to raise the skill of performance of folk dances to the highest artistic level, and to improve ancient dances in such a way as to influence the creation of new national dances.

The Moiseyev Dance Company whose visit to London last autumn was such a great success are the largest folk dancing group in the world. Founded by Igor Moiseyev, it has become a State Company. Igor Moiseyev was one of the organizers of the big folk dancing festival in Moscow 1937, when amateur groups sprang up all over the country, and at the end of this he picked the best dancers from the different companies and invited them to join in his first venture in an all-Russian Company. So far there had been regional groups only, which meant that the dancers could do their own dances, but no others. There were also groups of amateur dancers in the big factories, farms, offices etc., but their standard was not very high. The third group in the nucleus of the Moiseyev Group was composed of ballet dancers, highly trained, but quite new to folk dancing. Moiseyev managed to weld these opposing styles into one ensemble and as there was no precedent of a similar company they had to start from scratch studying not only the existing folk dances, but also the background from which they sprang. As there are 180 different national groups in the USSR, and about 3000 national regional dances it is easy to imagine the staggering amount of work that had, - and still has - to be done.

For a Company of this sort, it is of course impossible to take the dances exactly as they are danced by untrained villagers, just as nobody would dream of taking ordinary villagers singing while they work and just put them on the stage. So instead of mechanically copying, the Moiseyev dancers take the vital and typical elements of the dance, which may exist in several different variations, and emphasise these to express deep-rooted traditions. "I changed the dances, not only to suit my own ideas, but also to eliminate the purely local or superficial elements. Some of the dances were hundreds of years old and I felt it was necessary to take out the atavisms, the useless appendix to them. To know them well enough for that, I had to know the people who created them, the mountain folk, the farmers, the spirit of planting and harvest, the festival air". (Moiseyev).

The programme we have seen here did not, of course, show more than a few of the dances in their repertoire. There were tantalising photos of girls in Sarafans, of a Kazakh dance (by the way, the Kazakhs are a Mongol people living on both sides of the Ural mountains, whereas the Cossacks are warriors, living mostly in the Ukraine, originally composed of escaped serfs, but later banded together in regiments), of Kalmyks etc. It was a wonderful experience seeing this brilliant company. I saw them the first time when they came here ten years ago and enjoyed it very much, but since then I have learned much more about Russian folk dancing and feel very strongly that the more one knows about it the more one gets out of seeing these beautiful dances executed by these marvellous dancers. We hope that they will be back in the not too distant future.

The Ukrainian State Company came to London in 1958 & 1961. Their director and choreographer, Pavel Virsky, is one of the leading lights in the USSR.

Some of their dances for instance, the Bukovina wedding dance, are authentic, but he goes even further than Moiseyev in telling a story, such as the one of the three village maidens who take wreaths from a birch tree in the moonlight but only one meets her true love. It is debatable whether or not this is "right", "not authentic enough", or "too theatrical". Whatever it is it is beautifully danced, and what a dull world it would be if we all had the same taste.

I am afraid that I cannot give any details of when where and by whom, the company was started. The same applies to the Georgian State Group who were in London in 1959. I was told at the time that they were all students, which probably means that their personnel changes fairly quickly. This seems to be borne out by the fact that one of their dancers who was in London with them in 1959 was with the Moiseyev Group in 1964.

The Red Army Song and Dance Ensemble, also known as the Alexandrov Ensemble, began modestly in 1928 with 8 singers, 2 dancers, 1 accordionist, and one stage manager. The first performance they did was so good that Alexander Alexandrov, composer at the Moscow Conservatoire, accepted its directorship. From then on the Ensemble grew and grew until it reached its present number of 275 members. In 1937 the Ensemble went on its first world tour, and during the second world war they gave innumerable performances at the front. When in 1946 Alexander Alexandrov died, his son Boris took over and he directed them for their visit to London in 1956, when they packed the Empress Hall for many weeks. That time they had girls among their dancers, and I think it was a cause for general regret that they were an all-male company on their second visit in 1962. The dances of this Ensemble are based on popular and folk dances choreographed by famous choreographers such as Radunsky and Levashov.

The Black Sea Fleet Ensemble were here this summer for one month touring the country, and for one day at the Albert Hall. For publicity purposes their name was changed to "The Red Navy", thus linking them to the Red Army in the mind of the public. This is quite in line with their character, as the Ensemble was founded by the Red Army Ensemble's director, Alexandrov, in 1932, their dances are choreographed by the same choreographers and their programme is similar. On their first visit here their director was Commander Bogolepov, and their choreographer Alexei Pogrebnoy. The Ensemble is stationed in Sebastopol, and this was their first visit to the West. In this instance, they came without their girls, but promised to bring them on their next visit, which we hope, will be in Summer 1966.

More than ten years ago, the Beryozhka Group came to London. This is an all girl group who specialize in North Russian Dances. "Beryozhka" means birch tree, the typical tree Northern Russia, and the most feminine tree of all. The "Beryozhka" dance is the one they always perform as the first item. The group was founded in 1948 when there was a big competition of folk dancing in Moscow. A group from Kalinin, headed by Nadszhda Nadezhdina, who before was a dancer in the Bolshoi Ballet won it, and the group's success was so great that they decided to stay together. This group is perhaps the least authentic of the groups mentioned. Nadeshda Nadezhdina feels that an artiste of folk dancing should work like the great Russian composers, who took folk songs and made them into something new. It is to be hoped that they too will come to London in the not too distant future.

JENIA GRANIN, Secretary Balalaika Dance Group
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cont: from page 4.

I am sure this sort of dance is well worth doing and should become an annual event. I hope it will.

Best wishes,
MARGERY PATMAN
Chairman.

7.

THE DANCE CENTRE

Built in 1860, "The Institution" in Floral Street has been empty for 50 years. Hardly what one would call an estate agent's dream, it had a gibbet on the first floor; walled-up staircases, ancient banana kilns in the basement, and forty years of dust had made pit-traps of the missing floor boards.

The transformation will have cost over £6,000 and we will eventually have six large mirrored studios, dressing rooms with showers, a restaurant and a library. Classes have already begun, and we are aiming at a 12-hour teaching timetable with a rota of up to 40 instructors. It will be the policy of the Dance Centre to provide a really comprehensive education for developing all dance talent; to assist any individual to meet current demands of the professional theatre, and thoroughly develop creative ability in all facets of dance. Also provided are special children's classes and beginners' classes for those interested in dance, not as a career, but as a hobby.

At the moment, we are holding open classes (beginners & advanced) in:-

AMERICAN MODERN DANCE	(Martha Graham, Humphrey Reidman, Ray O'Donnel technique) GREGG PAYER
SPANISH	(Flamenco) REBO VILLAR
BHARATA NATYAM	(South Indian Temple Dance) MRS IAN BALCHIN
ARABIC DANCE	DELALA BUR
FREE STYLE AMERICAN JAZZ	MARY COCKRELL, DIANE SOUTH, MAGGIE WERSWILL
RUSSIAN BALLET	LISA BRIONDA
MOVEMENT CLASSES FOR ACTORS	LINDSAY KEEP
DANCERS DRAMA CLASSES	BRUCE HIGGINS

Classes are run on completely open and continuous lines. This means that the student pays for each class at the time of taking it and is not obliged to embark on a long and expensive "course" of classes.

Our aim is to break down the attitude that exists in Britain today that each type of dancing is a separate entity in itself and that dancers should limit themselves to one particular style to the exclusion of all others. The dancer's vocabulary should have no limits, each style has something to learn from others. By bringing all kinds of dance under one roof we hope that both students and teachers alike will be able to enrich their own knowledge of technique and interpretation.

VALERIE HYMAN

Co-Director, Dance Groups Ltd.

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No - that you know the background of the Dance Centre and what goes on there - come and see for yourself. Join us next Sunday and every Sunday (except the last in each month) for an enjoyable evening's dancing. It's an opportunity to get together with your friends, and new members, for two and a half hours' non stop international folk dancing. Make it a habit to come along every Sunday from 7 to 9.30 p.m. What better way to finish off the weekend?

L.S.

Musicians and M.C.s at the Dance Centre, 12 Floral Street, (5 minutes Leicester Sq.)

Dec 5th Harry de Caux and Bernard Dixon

M.C. Ken Blackwood

" 12th Cliff Beck and to be arranged

M.C. Cliff Beck

" 19th Alf Horrocks and to be arranged

M.C. Roly Hinton

No Cecil Sharp House Dance in December.

VIRU POLKA - ESTONIA.

A

B

Detailed description: This block contains the first two systems of musical notation for 'Viru Polka'. The first system is labeled 'A' and the second is labeled 'B'. Both systems are written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, typical of a polka.

TILUT - TILUT

MMJ-46

A

B

Detailed description: This block contains the first two systems of musical notation for 'Tilut - Tilut'. The first system is labeled 'A' and the second is labeled 'B'. The first system is in 2/4 time, while the second system is in 3/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes.

POLKA TRAMBLANKA - POLAND

Detailed description: This block contains the first two systems of musical notation for 'Polka Trablanka'. Both systems are written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

JÄMTPOLSKA - SWEDEN.

INTRO

Detailed description: This block contains three systems of musical notation for 'Jämtpolska'. The first system is labeled 'INTRO' and is in 3/4 time. The second and third systems are in 2/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes.

9.

HENDON FOLK MUSIC CLUB

Tuesday, 14th December

A Dance at Sunnyfield Primary School, Hendon Central. All invited.
Admission 2/- At the door.

Margaret Williamson.
Secretary.

The Society's badges (pin-on, stick-on, and bolt-on) are available from the Treasurer and Membership Secretary - Mr. R. Minton - 131 Holly Street, E.8. The two books of European Folk Dances are available from most booksellers at 7/6 each. The six E.P.s produced by the S.I.F.D. are available from Recorded Sound, Bryanston St. W.1. at 15/6 each. Some of these are still available in 78's at 8/6 each. A collection of Balkan Dances (tunes and instructions) is expected soon to be available from the Balkan Group. Enquiries to Ken Ward, 4 Kinfauns Road, Tulse Hill. or John Fisher, c/o the Balkan Group.

Next Cecil Sharp House Dance - 30th January 1966 - M.C. Ken Ward.

CURLE FOLK CLUB, CHERTSEY

Parish Hall, Windsor Street.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Fletcher, 80 Sandalwood Avenue, Chertsey.

Play, sing, dance, from 11a.m. till 11p.m. on the second Saturday in every Month. Everybody welcome. Non-players do come and play! Someone will help you with anything you want to have a go at. Non-dancer do come and dance! A typical Saturday programme is as follows:

11 a.m.	Men: Royton and Rapper
12.30	Women: Handbellringing
2 p.m.	Playing
3.30	Dancing
4 p.m.	Playing
5.30	Guitar (Folk) and Dancing
7.30.	Barn Dance in Parish Hall then Singaround in "Sun" pub.
