

S. I. F. D.

~NEWS~

AUG 66



Articles and information for publication in the S.I.F.D. News should reach the Editor or an Assistant Editor by the 10th of the preceding month. Letters to the Editor which call for a reply or deal with subjects on which the Committee or office-holders of the Society may wish to comment, should reach the Editor before the Committee meeting prior to publication. (Committee meetings are usually held on the last Sunday of the month). Members will realise that it is better to publish both sides of a controversy in a single issue.

Editor Ken Blackwood, 523 Commercial Road, London, E.1. STE 6237. MUS 3644 Ext.999.
 Assistants Lily Southgate and Stephen Ward.

CLASSES FOR 1966-67

At CHRISTOPHER HAYTON SCHOOL, Leystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.

Monday	6.15 - 8.15	European Folk Dancing	Mrs. M. Latham, S.I.F.D.
Monday	8.00 - 10.00	Polish Folk Dancing	Miss B. Harvey, S.I.F.D.
Thursday	7.00 - 8.00	Spanish Dancing, Advanced	Mrs. M. Colato, S.I.F.D.
Thursday	8.00 - 9.30	Flemenco Dancing	Mrs. M. Colato, S.I.F.D.
Friday	7.30 - 9.30	Certificate Class	Miss K. Monroe James, S.I.F.D.

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

Monday	7.00 - 8.00	Spanish Dancing, Beginners.	Mrs. M. Colato, S.I.F.D.
Monday	8.00 - 9.30	Spanish Dancing, Intermediate.	Mrs. M. Colato, S.I.F.D.
Tuesday	6.30 - 7.30	Balkan Folk Dancing, Beginners.	Mr. K. Ward, S.I.F.D.
Tuesday	7.30 - 9.30	Balkan Folk Dancing, Intermediate and Advanced.	Mr. K. Ward, S.I.F.D.
Wednesday	7.00 - 9.00	International Folk Dancing, Intermediate.	Mrs. M. Latham, S.I.F.D.
Wednesday	9.00 - 10.00	International folk Dancing, Advanced and Demonstration.	Mrs. M. Latham, S.I.F.D.

In the nick of time we have received an offer from a member to type the 'NEWS'. This present copy is typed by our new typist - Barney Salmon. We thank Barney for helping us out, and also thank the very few people who were kind enough to offer to help (two male members who live rather too far away, and two girls who are not members but volunteered to give up some of their time.) We also send our very grateful thanks to Maureen Weight who has carried the burden for so long under rather adverse conditions.

AUGUST 2.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Our Editor, Ken Blackwood, has long been threatening to return to his native land and tells us he now hopes to do so in September. We shall be very sorry to lose him but 'The King is dead, Long Live the King', and Stephen Ward will be taking over as Editor of the 'News'. I shall be continuing as Assistant Editor, and we hope all members will give the new Editor every support and plenty of contributions.

Three members of our Committee - Margery Latham, Kathleen Monroe James, and Marjorie Bracey, - will be attending a course of folk-dancing in Switzerland this summer, and the Committee have decided to take this opportunity of adding to our wardrobe by asking them to purchase for us some Swiss costumes. They will be taking a tape recorder with them so we hope to benefit from their visit by adding to our repertoire of Swiss dances, music, as well as costumes.

Attendances at our Sunday dances has fallen during the last few weeks, which is to be expected at this time of the year but we hope that all members and friends who are not away on holiday will continue to support these dances and help us to go some way towards meeting the very high costs of renting the hall. Looking ahead, we shall be holding an ENROLMENT DANCE at Hugh Myddelton School on the 7th September. This is your opportunity to get together again and enrol for the classes you wish to attend during the 1966/67 session. A list of these classes appears on page 1.

Financial situation as at 26.6.66 :-

Cash at Bank	£361. 2. 7	Deposit a/c
	£151. 7. 9	Current a/c
Cash in Hand	£24.10. 4	

We need a reliable and responsible person to take on the job of Secretary as from the date of the next election of officers. This is not a job to be taken on without a good deal of consideration and we would ask only those seriously interested in the welfare of the S.I.F.D. to put their names forward for nomination. The qualifications necessary are:- a knowledge of shorthand and typing, the ability to compose letters and take Minutes of meetings, the willingness to devote a considerable amount of time to the secretarial duties. The qualifications which are desirable, but not strictly necessary, are a good all round knowledge of the people in the Society and connected with the Society, and of the background of the Society. Additional advantages would be easy accessibility by 'phone both during the day and at home. Nominations do not strictly have to be received until the official election date but as this post may take some time to fill we should be grateful for any help in finding a suitable Secretary now and all nominations will be seriously considered. I need hardly add that I shall be more than willing to give every assistance I can to the new Secretary.

LILY SOUTHGATE
Hon. Secretary.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Frances and Wilf Horrocks, who now have another sone, Bruce, and to Pat and Mike Bennett who have also produced a second son. Our best wishes and congratulations to both families.

AUGUST 3.

LLANGOLLEN MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD - 1966

The three winning teams at this year's Eisteddfod Folk Dance Festival at Llangollen were controversial and contrasting in their performances. The team placed first, The Dungeer Mummies from Camross, Eire, who demonstrated the same two dances last year and got less points, were, in my opinion, the over-rated winners. Ethnically their dancing was pure folk-dancing, but dull and lasting far too long. Their first dance, of Celtic origin, had a religious theme of the forces of evil being overcome by the forces of good. The second dance had a similar theme but in the form of a stick dance.

Placed second were the Andra Mori Basque dancers from Spain, who performed a lively athletic stick dance. This is a ritual dance for young men. In contrast, the second dance, by mixed dancers, was also ritual but with an unusual pattern.

This year we saw another Bulgarian team from Sofia, who managed to keep to the rules by dancing two contrasting dances, and in consequence gained a well-earned third place. The first item was a festival dance from the Sofia region, finishing up with a fast Gankino, and the second featured a fast Thracian dance typical of the region.

A French group from La Reoule were outstanding. They performed a satirical dance called "The Midnight Mass", commencing with a slow movement with doleful faces which suddenly transformed into a lively romp in anticipation of the feast after the Mass. This dance, in my opinion, was the highlight of the Festival.

The Israelis, taught by Shoshana Klein, made their debut at the festival. They were dealt with rather severely, being accused of not being true folk-dancers and criticised in their choice of costume. This was rather unfair, considering the newness of the country and the obscurity of their culture.

The overall standard of dancing by the different countries represented was very high and there were some commendable performances by the Swedish, Irish and English teams.

I stayed on the next day to hear the folk instrumental competition. This was well supported by eight items. The winners, the Kosmet group of Albanians from Pristina, performed on home-made stringed instruments and the split-leaf-blowing music typical of Albania, although on this occasion the leaves were plucked from the banks of the river Dee. They accompanied their playing with the plaintive singing of the Albanian hills.

Second were a father and son combination from Northumberland playing folk tunes on Northumbrian pipes.

A Spaniard, playing folk tunes, came third. His instrument was unusual, consisting of two cow's horns connected by a centre piece with finger holes.

It was nice to see so many of our members attending the Eisteddfod and taking advantage of the opportunity of seeing authentic folk-dancing and costumes. See you there next year!

R.V. ROYSTON MINTON.

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R. V. ROYSTON MINTON.

THE EISTEDDFOD.

As a Footnote to Roland's article: I, too, was present at the Eisteddfod and I was favourably impressed with the very severe emphasis placed by the adjudicators on preserving the authenticity of true folk-dancing. The slightest innovation or suggestion of choreography was dismissed as unacceptable. Later in the week, on the Saturday, I went to the Royal Albert Hall to see the Hungarian group, Rajko, and what a complete contrast that was! Hungarian dancing, per se, has not really very much to offer in the way of variation, but by sheer choreography, stage production, and well-drilled rehearsal, this group were able to produce a whole show of dancing that really looked exciting and certainly earned the audience's approval. I am not trying to compare one with the other; I thoroughly enjoyed the pure folk-dancing of the Eisteddfod, and I quite enjoyed the Hungarians' performance, but it seems to me that if to draw the general public and put on a stage show is your intention, then choreography and more choreography, slickly presented, is the answer. It's sad, but true.

LILY SOUTHGATE.

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SUNDAY DANCES

The success of our Sunday Dances depends not on the M.C., not on the musician, not on the hall, but on YOU, the dancers. Make it a habit to round off the weekend with an evening of international folk dancing, and help to make our social dances a success. The more people, the merrier. During August, we shall be dancing in the open-air, under The Arches. We hope to see you there. In September, we shall be back at the Dance Centre, promptly at 7 o'clock, on Sunday, the 4th. Come along and bring your friends. Folk dancing is fun!

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"VICTORIANA"

I've just been examining a most marvellous example of that extravagant age. Would you expect, when handed a rather clumsy but light walking stick, to be told "I've got to get it tuned". Neither would I, but that is what happened. When the handle was unscrewed I expected, but for the weight, a swordstick; instead there was a violin - fiddle stick. The handle unscrewed, the front cover lifted off and there was a full length violin. It was only two or two and a half inches or so wide which would much reduce the sound but otherwise was full sized. The tone, I was later told, was as expected - small but quite sweet.

The stick of mahogany (or something similar) looked normal, though heavy, except for the edges of the front cover which showed as lengthwise slits. The bow stowed inside the stick under the sounding board (in the body) of the violin. It was dated at 1830 to 1840 approximately and thought to be German or possibly English. There are very very few about so the price depends on the demand. The present owner got it from a street market.

Perhaps this instrument explains the exclamation 'fiddlesticks'? It could have begun by someone saying 'that's as likely as there being many fiddle stick' and then shortened to the present single word. (Tongue is now removed from cheek.)

K. Blackwood.

AUGUST 5.

"SEE HOW THEY DANCE" - 1966

Programme planning is well under way and the following items are expected to be presented:-

SCOTLAND	- White Heather Dancers, Hebridean Dancers, Caledonian Society Choir.
WALES	- Clog dancers from Swansea.
ENGLAND	- Hop Ceremony - Folkestone Group.
SPAIN	- Los Ibericos - S.I.F.D. Spanish Group.
YUGOSLAVIA	- Zivko Firfov and Sava Group - S.I.F.D. Balkan Group.
GERMANY	- Hornchurch Group (to be confirmed).
SWEDEN A.	- Oxgangs - all available men.
SWEDEN B.	- Harrow Green Group (to be confirmed).
MEXICO	- Croxley Green Group, adults.
NORTHERN EUROPE	- Croxley Green Group, juniors.
SWITZERLAND	- S.I.F.D. Wednesday class.
IRELAND	- Kavanagh Academy of Dancing.
ESTONIA	- London Estonian Dancers.
POLAND	- Chelsea and Westminster Institute (Polish nationals).
KOREA	- Korean Group (to be confirmed).

The balance between Society Groups and guest groups is roughly that of the previous shows.

Because of the new letting arrangements at the Albert Hall, we have to pay £50 more per performance for many less seats than we previously had. It is therefore necessary to revise our prices to ensure a profit margin on the letting that we can now afford, and to cover a budget of around £1600/£1700.

<u>Matinee performance</u>				<u>Evening Performance</u>			
Grand Tier (30 seats only) ...	16/-	Grand Tier (30 seats only) ...	20/-				
Loggia	12/-	Loggia	15/-				
Second Tier	8/-	Second Tier	12/6				
Stalls	10/-	Stalls	12/6				
Orchestra	6/-	Orchestra	7/6				
Balcony	4/-	Balcony 1st and 2nd Rows ..	7/6				
		Remainder	5/-				

The bonus of one free ticket on every ten purchased will now apply to the matinee performance only.

Rehearsals are planned as follows:-

Hugh Myddelton School

Saturday, 5th November - Chorus items - all participants.

Saturday, 12th November - Production rehearsal for all group musicians, lighting, sound, tape, stewards, stage manager, compere, etc. It is hoped to run through the programme in order (without dancers) so that each member of the production team can make notes on their copy of the scenario, and a rough

AUGUST 6.

check be made on timing.

Cecil Sharp House

Saturday, 19th November. Dress Rehearsal, in strict order for all groups able to attend (exceptions will be those at some distance from London.)

As already stated, no person will be permitted to dance in more than one 'specialist' group, but can take part in chorus items. This decision may at first seem harsh but the gain in administrative freedom and flexibility in the programme is enormous. On the day it will now be possible, if necessary, to change the order of the items with little difficulty. The effect on groups where individuals dance with several other groups has, I think, been over-estimated, and the restriction may even help to improve the standard of dancing. It surely does make us all realize how short of experienced dancers we are, and how great the danger is of losing what has taken so many years to build up. We produce no new teachers and few outstanding dancers, so it is necessary to keep an organization like ours a flourishing one. The show must help.

John Fisher has once again kindly undertaken the important task of assembling the programme and checking all notes and advertisements. We hope to increase the number of 'current' photographs and produce a new cover design and programme layout.

We hope to attempt some unusual, possibly exciting, effects with lighting, and use some sound effects to heighten the effect of some parts of the programme. No gimmicks are planned as such.

We hope that 100% support will be forthcoming, and expect criticism and/or condemnation of whatever we do, but the culmination of so many weeks of planning and worry will be, we hope, very satisfying, and for a few hours we hope all will be transported into another world.

KEN WARD

WEEKENDS AWAY

16th to 18th September - Another folk dance weekend at Uplands, Near High Wycombe.

13th to 15th January 1967 - A folk dance weekend at Bisham Abbey.

Bookings and enquiries for both weekends should be sent to:-

Prof. J. Richardson,
Dept. of Chemical Engineering,
University College,
Swansea, Glam.

AUGUST 7.

I'VE SAEN FOR YOU.....

Our Overseas Correspondent.

"FRULA" - Yugoslav folk dance group.

In June they were in Holland, this marvellous group "Frula" (= also a kind of flute) of 40 members plus 5 musicians. Wonderful! They danced with dynamic verve and happiness (which is so typical of the Balkan people) for two hours non-stop except, of course, for a short interval. Costumes are colourful and gay. Music sometimes slow, sometimes as fast as a rocket. The men dancers are real athletes - one suddenly jumps over the heads of others who stand up straight! A few dances originate from Turkey, others from the Near and Middle East. This can be seen (costumes, movements) and heard from the music.

Some details: Dragoslav Dzadzenic, Frula's artistic director and choreographer, started his career as an amateur.

The female singer of the group is Viktorija Jovanovic. Her voice is beautiful. "FRULA" hasn't been in existence very long. Its members are reckoned to be the best of the country's dancers. They have just completed a tour to (amongst other places) Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Peru and the Netherlands Antilles.

When they visit England - go and see them!!! You will want to see them again and again! They're great! I don't think you'll be sorry. And....by the way, should you be in the possession of a portable tape recorder: take it along with you! The music is haunting!

RON SPYER (The Hague)

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"A SELECTION OF EUROPEAN FOLK DANCES"

Books and Records

A complete list of our books and records can be obtained from Marjorie Bracey, 125, Reigate Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

The records are available from Recorded Sound Ltd., 27-31 Bryanston Street, London W.1. The 7-inch E.P. series is gradually replacing the 10-inch series. Price: 10-inch 8/6, 7-inch E.P. 15/6, plus postage as follows:

10-inch 78 r.p.m.	1 to 3 records	- 4/-
	4 or 5	- 4/6
	6 to 8	- 4/9
	9 or 10	- 5/-
7-inch 33 r.p.m.	1 or 2	- 1/2
	3 or 4	- 1/8
	5 or 6	- 2/2
	7 or 8	- 2/8
	9 or 10	- 3/2.

The books are published by Pergamon Press and are available, to order, through any bookseller. Price: 7/6.

S.I.F.D. members may obtain a rebate of approximately 20% from the Society on presentation of receipts for books or records to Miss Marjorie Bracey.

AFFILIATED GROUPS

AUGUST 8

MEDWAY FOLK DANCE CLUB

which has about 150 members, do mainly English dances and American square, but also some European dances. They meet in St. Andrews Church Hall which is next door to the indoor cricket school on the A.2 (new road) in the centre of Chatham, three minutes from the station. Cost: 2/- including refreshments. Meetings will start again in September and will be at 19.00 to 22.00 on the 10th, 24th September; 8th, 22nd October; 5th, 19th November; 3rd, 17th December.

Special events: 3rd September: Hop Hoodening tour round Kent with the Morris Men.
17th September: Special Dance at Upbury Manor School.
Caller: Francis Hawkins.

Further information from: Ian Hayden,
47 City Way,
Rochester, Kent.

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP

meet at 20.00 every Wednesday throughout the year at Oxford House, Mape Street, E.2. From Bethnal Green Station (Central Line), walk down the Bethnal Green Road and Mape Street is on the left. Each week an instructor teaches dances from a different country.

27th July	French, John Hughes.
3rd August	Swedish, Dr. Cyriax.
10th August	Israeli, Henry Goldstein.
17th August	Balkan, Philip Thornton.
24th August	Balkan, John Fisher.
31st August	A rehearsal evening for the Albert Hall Show.
7th Sept.	A. G. M.

Anyone who would like to be considered for the Harrow Green event in 'See How They Dance' should come along on the 3rd August.

We would like to publish similar information regularly for all six affiliated groups. Letters were sent to HORNCHURCH, CROXLEY GREEN and FOLINGSTONE, but no replies were received. Perhaps they will let us know in time for the September issue.

THE FOLK SONG VIRTUOSO

This radio programme by A. L. Lloyd contained some remarkable examples of vocal and instrumental music in various traditional styles. It will be repeated on the 4th August.

AUGUST 9.

THE THREE COMMONEST FOLK DANCES OF THE GERMAN-SPEAKING WORLD.

During the years spent in Germany and Austria, I found that there were three folk-dances which were danced by most groups which I visited and were far better known than any others. They are also the only three which are wellknown outside folk-dance groups. Curiously, the international folk-dance movement in this country only does one of them, and gets that one wrong.

- 1) The Auftanz, also known as the Schreitreigen or German Polonaise. This is a grand march used to start off a dance. I went to a dance at a girls' hostel at Tübingen which started off with an Auftanz in which we marched all over the house, up one stairs and down the other and out on to the terrace by the river. It was the only folk-dance we did all evening. On another occasion at a large folk-dance gathering at Plienigen near Stuttgart all the dancers assembled beforehand in a side room. When we started, we took partners and went straight into an Auftanz in the hall which was decorated with fir branches and lit with candles. The effect of the slow coiling figures and the singing in the half light of the candles was truly memorable. The Germans do this sort of thing very well.

The dancers sing a series of folk songs for the Auftanz, "Wenn all Brünlein fliessen", "Das Lieben bringt gross 'Freud'", etc. Without this the long complicated figures would be rather dull. This is one thing that makes it not very suitable for introduction to folk-dance groups here. Also, if it is to be used to start a dance a large number of couples have to be there on time. At Plienigen this was achieved by including wine in the admission charge and serving it before the dance started." Those who were late got no wine.

- 2) Rheinländer. (Do not confuse with the Norwegian "Gammel Reinlender".) This is a succession of schottisch figures similar to many which we do, such as the Swedish schottisch. It has, however, an unusual characteristic in that the figures come in no set order, it being the job of the man to lead the girl into the figures as he chooses them.

I have taught this dance on occasions and would like to see it in our general repertoire, just because it is so well known in Germany. Visiting Germans are likely to know it, and it is a useful dance for any of us to know if we are visiting Germany.

- 3) Jägermarsch. This dance originates in Bavaria, Lower Austria and the German-speaking communities of Bohemia. Most people who come to our dances have a rough idea of how it goes, but some faults are common. These points should be remembered:

Hand hold in march: girl's hand resting on man's fingers just below shoulder height, free arms swinging only slightly (another less common form is sometimes seen in which the couples walk arm-in-arm; holding the hands below hip level and energetic swinging of arms is quite wrong.)

End of march: Man bows very slightly to girl but does not stop.

Girl does not turn under.

End of waltz; Girl does not turn under.

The greatest fault is caused by our musicians, who only play half the correct number of bars for the waltz. The waltz tune should be played through twice without a break.

STEPHEN WARD.

The Rheinländer.

Handwritten musical score for 'The Rheinländer'. The score consists of four staves of music in G major and 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The melody is characterized by eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets. The second staff features a melodic line with a fermata over the final note. The third and fourth staves continue the melodic development with various rhythmic patterns and accidentals.

Jägermarsch – an alternative melody.

Handwritten musical score for 'Jägermarsch – an alternative melody'. The score consists of six staves of music in G major and 2/4 time. The first staff includes a 4-measure rest. The second staff includes a 4-measure rest. The third staff includes a 4-measure rest and a 3-measure rest. The fourth staff includes a 4-measure rest. The fifth and sixth staves continue the melodic development with various rhythmic patterns and accidentals.

AUGUST 11.

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Chairman	Mrs. Margery Latham 14 Beechwood Ave., Kew, Surrey	PROspect 7055 WHI 9000 Ext. 636
Secretary	Miss Lily Southgate, 52 Banbury House, Banbury Road, O.9.	ASH 0428 CIT 1212 Ext. 449
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Mr. Roland Royston Minton, 131 Holly Street, O.8.	
Demonstration Secretary	Miss Kathleen Munroe Jones, 14 Oakleigh Drive, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts.	Watford 24323

SUNDAY DANCES

"Under the Arches" for August in Villiers St. near Charing Cross.

	<u>Musician</u>	<u>M. C.</u>
August 7th	Cliff Beck	Cliff Beck
" 14th	Wilf Horrocks	Wilf Horrocks
" 21st	Harry de Caux	Harry de Caux
" 28th	Bank Holiday.	

STOP PRESS

UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES

Dances on the three Sundays in August 7th, 14th and 21st will be in the arches (off Villiers Street). From 1900 to 2130 hours. Nearest stations Charing Cross or Strand.

There will be no dance at all on Sunday 28th August.

CONGRATULATIONS! We are sure you will all want to join us in wishing every happiness to Kay Modi and Peter Lilley who have just become engaged. Congratulations and best wishes to you both.