



S.I.F.D.



NEWS



NOVEMBER 1966.



SEE HOW THEY DANCE

Albert Hall : Saturday, 26 November.

Published monthly by the Society for International Folk Dancing.

Editor: Stephen Ward, 74 Woodside, LONDON, S.W.19. Phone: WIMbledon 3344.
Assistant Editor: Lily Southgate, 52 Banbury House, Banbury Road, LONDON, E.9.
Phone: (Home) AMHerst 0428. (Office) CITY 1212 extn.449.

For publication in the S.I.F.D. News, material should reach the Editor by the 10th of the preceding month. Letters which call for a reply, or which deal with matters on which the Committee or Officers 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.) Brief notices can sometimes be inserted after the publication deadline right up to the day of printing, but this depends on what space happens to have been left blank. We are particularly anxious to include information on all future folk-dance events.

I APOLOGISE FOR:

Getting the time of the General Meeting wrong in the October issue.
The late publication of this issue.

STEPHEN WARD.

CLASSES 1966-67

Our classes are held in schools and are shut during the school holidays. The present term ends on 17th December. Easter term: 9th January - 18th March.
Summer term: 3rd April - 1st July.

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

Monday	18.15 - 20.15	General European	Margery Latham
Monday	20.00 - 22.00	Polish	Betty Harvey
Thursday	19.00 - 20.00	Spanish, Advanced	Margaret Colato
Thursday	20.00 - 21.30	Flamenco	Margaret Colato
Friday	19.30 - 21.30	Certificate Class	Kathleen Monroe-James

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

Monday	18.30 - 19.30	Spanish, Beginners	Margaret Colato
Monday	19.30 - 21.00	Spanish, Intermediate	Margaret Colato
Tuesday	18.30 - 19.30	Balkan, Beginners	Ken Ward
Tuesday	19.30 - 21.30	Balkan, Intermediate and Advanced	Ken Ward
Wednesday	19.00 - 21.00	General European, Intermediate.	Margery Latham
Wednesday	21.00 - 22.00	General European, Advanced and Demonstration.	Margery Latham.

 " S E E H O W T H E Y D A N C E "

Our BIGGEST, GRANDEST, MOST COLOURFUL Demonstration of the year.

Bring your friends, relations, acquaintances, and anyone else
 you possibly can, to:-

THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

on

SATURDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER,

at 14.30 and 19.30 p.m.

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We are relying on you, our members, to advertise this event as far and wide as you can and to give every possible support to help to make it a success. We need to sell every ticket for both performances to make it a financial success, and need the support of every member to make it our most enthusiastic, colourful, polished, and enjoyable performance yet. We hope every member will do his or her best to make this a really good Show, whether as a dancer, musician, organizer, ticket-seller, programme seller, or a member of the audience.

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3.

"SEE HOW THEY DANCE"

The Dress Rehearsal will be held at Hugh Myddelton School on the 19th November at ¹⁶48.00, and all group leaders will be advised in the next few days of their group instructions.

All dancers taking part in the chorus are requested to bring two coloured handkerchiefs for the finale item.

To date some 4000 leaflets have been distributed and a lot of response, if not actual bookings is apparent. But we hope that every member will do his utmost to sell tickets as the new letting arrangements have not left us with the bulk of the best seats. If the show loses money, then the loss must be offset against the Society's assets.

We still think that the show, although pruned, and scaled down from our original plan will be an interesting one. The Society and its associates provide over 50% of the dancing time, but this is really straining its resources and in two years time if this trend continues we will be unable to put on 'See How They Dance'.

We hope, therefore, that the show will stimulate folk dancing and wake up the international spirit which is so dormant at the moment.

Our job is a difficult one, and we, therefore, welcome and appreciate the fullest co-operation at the rehearsals and performances.

Ken Ward
Kathleen Monroe-James.

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FUTURE EVENTS

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| 26th November | "SEE HOW THEY DANCE" at the Royal Albert Hall, 14.30 & 19.30. |
| 3rd December | Traditional Zulu and Swazi Music. Lecture, with film, by David Rycroft at Horniman Museum at 15.30. Admission free. |
| 9th December | Harrow Green Christmas Dance. York Hall, 19.30. |
| 18th December | S.I.F.D. Christmas Dance, Dance Centre, 19.00. |
| 13th to 17th
January | Folk Dance Weekend at Bisham Abbey by the Thames near Marlow. It is a comfortable converted abbey with an interesting history. It has a good dance floor and is in good walking country. Places for 50 people. Cost £2.12. 6d. Bookings (with 10/- deposit) to Prof. J. Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University College, Swansea, Glam., or to Ian Willson. Further details from either of these. |
| 23rd January to
11th February. | Dance and Music of India, at Scala Theatre, London. |
| 17th to 23rd June | Folkestone International Folklore Festival. |
| 28th July to
4th August | S.I.F.D. summer course at Swansea. Price: Members. £15.15. Od
Non-members: £17.17. Od. Deposit: £3. 3. Od. 10/6d rebate for all registrations received by 31st March, 1967. |

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PETER COLATO'S RESIGNATION

During October, Peter Colato offered his resignation as a Committee member on a matter of principle. The Committee accepted it unanimously. (This was from the Committee which has now retired.)

S E C R E T A R Y ' S N O T E S

Membership subscriptions are coming in slowly and at the date of our last meeting, 25th September, membership stood at 120 members and 4 affiliated groups. I hope that by the time you read this we shall have doubled this figure.

Our financial position as at 25.9.66:

Cash in Bank	£638. 4. 7	Deposit a/c
	£136.19. 7	Current a/c
Cash in Hand	£ 52. 7. 8	

The £50 which we lent to the Spanish Group has now been repaid.

We are still planning to hold another Grand Dance next Spring but are having second thoughts about hiring Porchester Hall as this is so expensive. Ian Willson is in the process of looking for another suitable Hall, but cheaper.

Publicity for our Royal Albert Hall Show is being distributed as widely as possible by the sub-committee (Kathleen, Dickie, and Ken), and we hope that all members too are doing their part in publicizing our biggest event of the year. Peter Lilley is not handling the outside publicity for this event, but just the internal S.I.F.D. publicity. The outside publicity is in the hands of the sub-committee. Please give them your support.

I have been asked to point out that the Sunday dances at the Dance Centre start at 7. p.m. but we so rarely have enough people there to start at 7.p.m. that it hardly seems worth while paying for the hall from 7.p.m., but we do not wish to curtail the dancing, so could you please make an effort to turn up at 7.p.m. and so enable us to start on time?

At the Dance Centre on the 18th December we shall be holding a Christmas Dance Party. Ian Willson and Roland Minton are in charge of the organization and we hope everyone will turn up to make this an enjoyable and lively evening. We will give more details of this in our next issue, or possibly in this issue if we have time.

I'm afraid our Treasurer has found it necessary to raise the entrance fee for Cecil Sharp House dances and, from November, the price will be the same as that for our dances at the Dance Centre - 4/- for members, 5/- for non-members.

This will probably be my last Secretary's notes. I should like to thank all members for their support during my term of office.

LILLY SOUTHGATE

Hon. Secretary

5.

DUNAV KOLO FESTIVAL, 17th December, 1966 at 19.30,

at the Serbian Church Hall, Lancaster Road, W.11.
(off Ladbroke Grove, near Ladbroke Grove Station.)

A social evening with dances, music and songs; organized by the Dunav Band.

All interested in Balkan dancing are invited to come and bring their friends.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, SWANSEA

There will be international folk dances at 19.30 on Wednesdays 23rd November and 7th December, in Lecture Room 14. Instruction will be given. Those without previous experience are welcome.

LONDON ESTONIAN DANCERS

This G.L.C. class meets every Monday at 20.00 - 22.00 in term time at Rutherford School, Penfold Street, N.W.1. (Station: Edgware Road). It is run by an S.I.F.D. member: Aili Eistrat. The musician is Donald Campbell. Many who go are Estonian. It is a friendly group and all are welcome.

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.

November 23rd	Dr. Cyriax	Swedish
30th	John Hughes	French
December 7th	Philip Thornton	Balkan
14th	Not yet fixed	
21st	A general dance and party.	Musician Cliff Beck
28th	A general dance and party.	Musician Henry Morris.
January 4th	Aili Eistrat	Estonian

At 19.30 on Friday 9th December, we are running our annual Christmas Dance at York Hall, Bethnal Green.

ABSENT FRIENDS

I finally left and I danced a wee jig as the boat went down. (We were in a lock at Dover). I left late on the 4th October and chugged down to Dover - no trouble of any sort. Then the bike stopped! It took me an hour or so to find that the mixture screw on the carb had worked loose.

On to the boat - to be told there were none, as "we are now on winter schedule". I found a boat was leaving for Dunkirk in two hours, so caught that.

The next day, Calais, Boulogne and on towards Rouen. I camped at Pierreval. The shortness of this hop was due to a kind Frenchman in Dunkirk who pulled out from the kerb in front of me and belted my fairing. He had no English, I've no French, but managed to insist that it was his fault. Surely French law doesn't permit people to have the right to pull out just because they have their lights winking. We parted finally agreeing to forget it. I bent his bumper and scratched his paint - he smashed the lower part of my fairing and cracked other bits. I'm glad I had boots on because even through those I felt it. Tied the bike together and continued.

Tied it better this morning and threw away everything that I could (very little), re-packed, and left very late, at 1.30 p.m. No trouble all day, except that the fairing had to be re-tied. I'll wait till I get to the border and spend my last francs at a blacksmith's.

Camped at roadside tonight. Weather good.

Two days' later.

Had the day off today. Had breakfast and then it began to rain. As I'm only going 100 miles to Turin, I thought I'd wait and see if the weather improved but it didn't, so I had a bath. Ever had a bath in wet grass? The water is a mile away, so I was being economical, but it wasn't raining hard enough, and the trees weren't dripping enough, to get the soap off.

I'm right under the mountains here and lovely it is too. Even a little snow in sight.

Found an old folding chair that I'm adding to the bicycle wheel in my fairing - it might just be sufficient to do the necessary repair. I've been expecting a cop to stop me as it is obvious I've had some sort of bump. Still, if I only have airing trouble I'm not complaining. So far, I'm only a screw, 2 bolts and a filter short. A gradual emaciation.

Had a beautiful Biftek last night - 16 francs per kilo. I had 4.50 francs worth in three slices with onion, fried in butter. French butter smells funny but tastes O.K.

I was going to camp at the roadside, near Nevers, last night but decided that way I'd get to know no-one. Camping at the approved site one still gets to know no-one. Worse than the English. Still Italy tomorrow. Maybe the Italians are different.

KEN BLACKWOOD.

Editor's note: For the benefit of members who don't know, Ken (our ex-Editor) set off to reach New Zealand overland on a very Heath Robinson motorbike.

THE DAILY KOLO

This year, as part of my rather lengthy holiday in Yugoslavia, I spent two weeks attending a Yugoslav Folklore Seminar held in Pula, on the Northern Adriatic coast. Having spent a very interesting and enjoyable week with John and Sheila Fisher in Zagreb, where the first large scale national folk festival in fourteen years was being held, I left them at Koper and travelled by boat to Pula.

The journey was a beautiful one but the approach to Pula was a sad disappointment as it lay through the naval dockyard. Pula's almost only claim to fame is its famous almost complete Roman amphitheatre which occupies a prominent position near the waterfront, and the film festival which is held there annually. I took a private room in a block of flats nearby, and had a twenty-minute walk to 'school' every morning, stopping en route for coffee and arriving by 7.30 a.m. when lectures commenced.

The course, the second of a seven year cycle, was organised by Savez Musickih Drustava i Organizacija Hrvatske Zagreb, which is roughly the Croatian equivalent of the E.F.D.S.S., but was general in substance and covered the whole country including lectures on the dances, music, rhythm, choreography of steps and Laban notation, aesthetics and a short historical summary. The seminar was in two streams, one for beginners (which was the more difficult and more interesting) and a specialization course in Serbian dances from the Morava zone. Because of language difficulties, I was allowed to attend the dance sessions of both streams as well as some lectures. (For interested readers, it is advisable to have a basic knowledge of Serbo-Croat.)

The teachers were Dr. Ivan Ivančan and his assistant Professor Hannibal Dundović, both from Zagreb. Dr. Ivančan is the accepted authority on dances from many parts of Croatia and also for a special study of the dances of Istria where Pula is situated. He is a dynamic personality and a wonderful teacher. From Belgrade came Professor Milica Ilijin, who was very charming and an obvious authority on her subject; as she is not a young person much of the illustrating and also the most energetic dances were in the hands of 'Vito', the trainer of the Serbian State Group "Kolo". (I never did remember his real name).

No choreography was taught, only the basic dances as they exist, plus local variations where time permitted. A little arrangement was hinted at from time to time. One was made to realize that even small subtle steps or movements indicated a different dance or district, and I realize more than ever that some kolos now in current use in the Society are 'bogus'. Individual criticism and help were given, and everyone worked very hard. There were about sixty students on the course, and the 'foreign' minority consisted of dancers from England, Canada, America, Belgium and Egypt, and were made to feel very much at home.

The study period was from 7.30 a.m. to about 12 noon, or later, with a break for coffee or beer, and for lunch most of us went to a Cafeteria near to the school. In the afternoon, I usually sat on my balcony overlooking a tree-lined avenue near the shore, and enlarged the very hurried notes made in the morning. Then I would either sleep or go for a swim, although the beach was a short bus ride from Pula.

On the final morning, we had a little ceremony when one by one we collected our diplomas signed by the tutors. We in return had made a collection and presentations were made to them in appreciation of their hard work. Then after much handshaking and tears the course came to an end.

Now that I am back in England, the problem is now how to use the material from the course in the Balkan Group and the Society in general. I learnt some good ideas on teaching although, the methods used were similar to my own; based on rhythm. These could therefore be the best methods of approach to the problems involved in this type of dancing in which Eastern and Western European styles are combined or contrasted at the same time. It is impossible to teach by numbers, or by the musical sound, as even though Western patterns may be used, the length of dance and musical phrases may not coincide - one must therefore dispense with the sound of the music which becomes a decoration to lighten the general atmosphere. The styles of Western and Eastern Europe are sometimes integrated i.e. Couple formations but purely Slav material - or the dance may have one half Western European and one half Eastern European. One could also commence a big 'clean-up' but perhaps the best solution here is to retain the best of what we have, that which seems in character, with perhaps a few modifications, and gradually discard the remainder. Where something is obviously wrong from every point of view, then it should go, if we are to apply the aims and objects of the Society. More work is needed on basic footwork and style, although the Balkan Group has a good standard in comparison with the dancers on the course. Because of the excellent work on the recording and collecting done by John Fisher, the group has a fantastic collection of music to choose from, and for the group's future folk musicians to study. We have most of the instruments required, but lack the exponents at the moment.

For the future, then, an exciting period of experiment, and application of dancing, music making, and costume research and, where necessary, manufacture.

KEN WARD

"SPANISH FIESTA"

Every time I see "Los Ibericos", our Spanish Group, perform, they seem to be better than the last, and their performance at Toynbee Theatre on the 24th September was no exception. It was a really gay, colourful, well-balanced programme and, although I am no judge of the technique or the intricacies of the steps of Spanish dancing and can only give a layman's point of view, I thought, as a whole, the standard of dancing was very good indeed and some of the items extremely good. The lighting was very imaginative and full use was made of the lighting facilities at this theatre; the dances were made interesting by their arrangement; and the costumes were excellent.

All the items were enjoyable but I particularly liked the solo, Serranas, the Quatro Muleros, Sequiriyas, and above all La Suprema, Margaret herself, who gave a really superb interpretation of Solearea, Cordoba, Taranto and Tanguillo.

LILY SOUTHGATE

We regret that it was not possible to show the diacritics used in the spelling of several names in the above article by Ken Ward. - Editor.

THE NEW COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Chairman: Harry Whitaker
29 Sherbrook Gardens, N.21. LAB 4965

Secretary: Miss J.E. Randall, Home: Medway 51836
37 Beechwood Avenue, CHATHAM, Kent. Work: WHI 9400

Treasurer: Miss Marjorie Bracey,
125 Reigate Avenue, SUTTON, Surrey

Membership Secretary: Roland Minton,
131 Holly Street, E.8

Other members:-

Mrs. Marjorie Latham, 14 Beechwood Avenue, Kew, RICHMOND, Surrey.	Peter Lilley, 68 Tilehurst Road, READING, Berks.	Ken Ward, 39 Harpenden Rd., S.E.27.	Miss Kathleen Monroe-James, 14 Oakleigh Drive, Croxley Green, RICKMANSWORTH, Herts.
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Stephen Ward, 74 Woodside, S.W.19

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SUNDAY DANCES.

Dances start at 19.00. All Sunday dances now cost 4s. to members and 5s. to non-members. PLEASE - NO STILLETTO HEELS.

At the DANCE CENTRE, Floral Street, W.C.2.

	<u>Musician</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
6th November	Cliff Beck	Narendra Kotiyan
13th November	Alan Corkett	Alan Corkett
20th November	Wilf Horrocks	Ian Willson
4th December	Cliff Beck	Stephen Ward

At CECIL SHARP HOUSE, 2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1. (Station: Camden Town)

27th November	Folk Dance Band	Roland Minton
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On 18th December there will be our Christmas Dance and Party at the Dance Centre. This will be our last dance of the year. There will be no Cecil Sharp House dance in December.

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