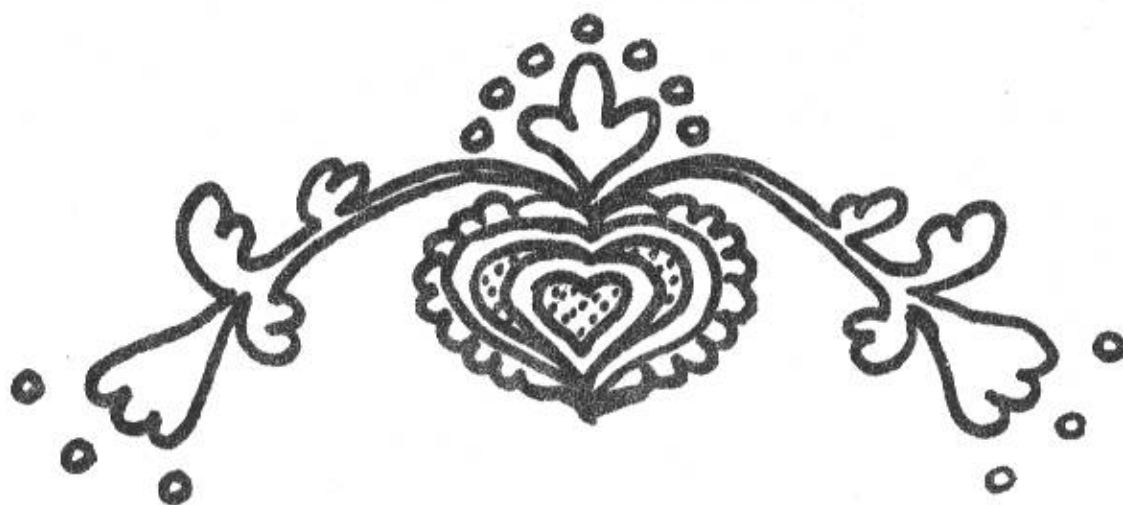


S.I.F.D.
NEWS
JULY 1967



Published by the Society for International Folk Dancing.

Editor: Stephen Ward, 74 Woodside, LONDON S.W.19 Phone: 01-946 3344

Assistant Editor: Arlene Hansell.

NEW EDITOR: Lily Southgate is taking over as Editor, so all material should be passed to her in future. Her address is: 52 Banbury House, Banbury Road, LONDON E.9
Phone: Home, AMH 0428; work, CIT 1212 ext 449.

COVER - This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas.

CORRECTION: THE ENROLMENT DANCE WILL BE AT THE CENTRAL LONDON INSTITUTE, BOLT COURT (off the north side of Fleet Street) not at Hugh Myddelton School. Thursday 7 September. If you are joining or rejoining one of our classes, or are thinking of doings so come to this dance. We hope that the class instructors will be there to give information about their classes.

S.I.F.D. CLASSES

Our evening classes are sponsored by the Inner London Education Authority who pay our teachers and provide premises in their schools. Anyone, whether a member or not, who would like to try a class which he has not previously been to may do so once without charge. Apart from that our classes are open to members only. They follow the academic year, and until Easter a fee for a whole academic year must be paid irrespective of when a member joins the class.

Next year the classes will be:

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

Monday	19.00-20.00	Spanish: beginners	Philippa Heal
Monday	20.00-21.30	Spanish: intermediate and advanced	Philippa Heal
Monday	18.00-20.00	General European: advanced	Margery Latham
Monday	20.00-22.00	Polish	Betty Harvey
Thursday	19.00-21.30	Spanish: Flamenco	Philippa Heal
Thursday	19.00-20.00	Singing as related to folk dancing.	Margaret Colato
Friday	19.30-21.30	Certificate class	Kathleen Monroe-James

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

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: beginners	Margery Latham

Light refreshments are available at both schools.

The changes from last year are: The new singing class.
New teacher for the Spanish classes.
The days of Margery Latham's two classes have been swapped round.

Classes start on 25 Sept. For note on fees see page 3.

EDITORIAL

A MEAN TRICK BY THE CHAIRMAN

Editor to be thrown out.

The Committee voted to accept Lily Southgate's offer to become news sheet editor in October. Those who voted for my dismissal were:

Harry Whitaker
Marjorie Bracey
Roland Minton

The only criticism made was that the news sheet has not come out as frequently as it should.

My predecessor had two assistants and no responsibility for the printing and despatch. I have been both editor and printer. At first Lily helped, then a gap, then Caroline, then another gap without help. I did the best I could but could not get the news sheet out at monthly intervals, and from January to June it appeared about every five weeks, but it was not a question of printing out-of-date material. When the news sheet came out it contained everything that I had received up to the day of printing. The May issue was particularly late as I was ill on the day I was due to print. In June I was able to get a team together: Arlene Hansell as Assistant Editor (and Caroline returning in October) and five people to help with despatch. The whole problem is solved and the Committee knew this. This issue goes out less than three weeks after the previous one. I was looking forward to producing a really good magazine and putting into effect my plans to publish translations of original writings from the countries from which our dances originate.

The most unpleasant aspect of this is the way it was done. Harry had Lily's letter over a week before the Committee meeting. He kept it secret. He waited until we had been talking about the news sheet for some time and then sprung it on the meeting and took a vote. Margery Latham told me afterwards that she had abstained because she needed more time to think it over. In December, at the first Committee meeting I attended I had raised the question of warning us if unexpected proposals were to be made. I was assured it would be done wherever possible.

I phoned Lily the next day. She told me that she had heard me say at the general meeting that I could not get help. She wrote her letter before receiving the June news sheet in which I said I now had a team. She said she hoped she was helping me, as the job had become too much for me. She had not intended that her offer be used as a means of pushing me out against my will when I had enough help to do the job.

Some members feel that controversies should not be aired in the news sheet. I have kept many disputes out, in particular the big row in the Spanish class over whether Harry Whitaker was to be removed from the chairmanship of Los Ibericos. My feeling is that the Society is very sick. If we keep quiet and pretend all is well there will be no hope of putting things right.

The above was read to the Chairman before publication. He did not wish to add a comment.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER ISSUES

If I am to be thrown out like this I am not going to be bothered with bringing out more issues. I have just heard that Lily has agreed to take over in September.

STEPHEN WARD, Editor.

CLASS FEES

The fees for a year's classes will be:

1 class	£1.10s
2 classes	£2
3 classes	£2.10s
4 classes	£3

If a beginners class and an advanced class in the same subject are attended in the same evening, this counts as two classes.

Class fees should be paid at the Enrolment Dance on 7 September, or to the Membership Secretary, or to the Class Secretary of the class attended.

ACCOUNTS

Half-yearly accounts for 1 Sept 66 to 28 Feb 67 were handed out at the last general meeting. They are enclosed with this news sheet for those members who were not there. There are two typing errors in the reconciliation at the bottom:

Left-hand side, line below Loans return should be 559.11.10 not 555.11.10

Right-hand side, final total should be 1178.15.10 not 1177.15.10

Also enclosed are the income and expenditure account for the year ending 31 Aug 66 and the balance sheet at 31 Aug 66.

A SINGERS' CLASS

It is several years since the Society started a new class. Margaret Colato's class will meet at Christopher Hatton School at 19.00 on Thursday evenings and will learn and practise songs relevant to folk dancing. Those attending need not be expert singers.

Enquiries can be made to Margaret at:

169 Hamilton Avenue
Tolworth
SURBITON
Surrey

Phone: 01-399-6987

She would also be pleased to hear from musicians, from those who have collected songs abroad or who have song books, and from those who know the various languages well enough to help with pronunciation.

VISIT BY GERMANS

Some members may remember Werner Wengel teaching at Bolt Court in April 66. From 13 to 16 August he will be visiting London with about 40 folk dancers from Karlsruhe. We were unable to arrange accommodation in London so the group will stay at Surrey Crest and travel up to London each day. Afterwards they will go on to Manchester to visit the Barlow International Folk-dance Group.

They will attend two dances with us: the Sunday evening dance at Floral Street on 13 Aug and our third and last dance at the Cockpit in Hyde Park, at 18.30 on Monday 14 Aug.

If any member is free on any of the days the group will be here, and would like to help show them round London, would he please contact Margery Lathan, Stephen Ward or Roland Minton.

THE FRANCE MAROLT FOLK DANCE GROUP from Ljubljana University are going to visit this country on their European tour. Henry Morris is trying to arrange a dance with them on Wednesday 9 August but has not found a hall yet. Enquiries to Henry at HIL 2613.

HARROW GREEN: Will anyone who has a costume or other property please return it as an inventory is being made. Harrow Green programme is at present being dealt with by Brian and Ingrid Pursall, 700 Green Lane, DAGENHAM, Essex.

FUTURE EVENTS

- Aug 14 18.30 S.I.F.D. open-air dance with visiting German group in the Cockpit which is in Hyde Park on the northern side of the Serpentine, opposite the lido.
- Sept 7 Enrolment Dance at Central London Institute, Bolt Court.
9 Hop Hoodening at Canterbury and other places in Kent.
15-17 Folk-dancers' weekend at Uplands in the Chilterns. Cost: £5.5s. Send 10s deposit to Jack Richardson, Department of Chemical Engineering, University College, SWANSEA, Glam.
- Oct 14-15 1967 London Folk Music Festival at Cecil Sharp House, organised by the London District of the E.F.D.S.S. A leaflet can be obtained from Cecil Sharp House.
21 S.I.F.D. dance at Islington Town Hall. 21st birthday reunion party.
27-29 Folk dancers' weekend at Surrey Crest near Godstone.
- Nov 18 A Harrow Green dance.
- Dec 8 Harrow Green Christmas dance.
- Jan 19-21 S.I.F.D. folk dancers' weekend at Bisham Abbey on the Thames near Marlow. Bookings and enquiries to Jack Richardson, address above.
- Feb 16-17 E.F.D.S.S. Albert Hall show.
24-26 Proposed E.F.D.S.S. Anglo-Israeli weekend at Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, TAUNTON, Somerset.
- Dec 7 Date reserved for 1968 S.I.F.D. Albert Hall show.

20 OR 21

In the April issue I raised the question of when and how the Society first started, as there seemed to be several versions current. I had some informative letters from members who had been in the Society in its early days. I intended to put together an article using this information, but for it I needed the first minute book of the Society. I asked for it at every Committee meeting. Until May I could not have it because it was still with Liz Randall, our former Secretary. At the time of the June issue Harry Whitaker already had it. It was still not produced. I asked at the July meeting when I could see it. Harry's reply was: "When I get round to it." Surely members, and particularly those on the Committee, have a right of access to the minute books. I apologise to those who took the trouble to send material I was unable to use.

Editor.

DUNAV CLUB

For a fee of 5s. a year the club sends its members regular news of the performances of the Dunav Balkan Group and other events of interest to those who like Balkan music and dancing. It also includes articles on Balkan folk music.

Correspondence to: The Dunav Club 12 Lambelle Road
LONDON N.W.3

Phone enquiries to: SWISS Cottage 3739.

PUBLICITY The Society has posters up on Holborn, Leicester Square and Piccadilly Underground station.

ARCHES DANCE The G.L.C. dithered for a year, and finally decided that they could not give permission for open-air dancing in the Pedestrian Concourse near Waterloo station for reasons that seem quite inadequate. We will be under the Arches off Villiers Street for our dance on 20 August. That will be our only dance there this year.

GROUPS AND CLASSES MEETING Instructors of classes and some prominent members of the classes have been invited to a meeting on 3 Sept to discuss the relations between the classes and the main body of the Society.

THE BLACKWOOD SAGA

Another instalment of Ken's overland trip to New Zealand.

On the train between Kanpur and
Calcutta.

As you see, the hitch-hiking didn't last long. I don't like it, and so tend to be defeatist. I spent $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours trying to leave Kanpur and as finally I was directed along by the railway station I decided to go in and bought a ticket. I booked a 3rd-class ticket for a wooden seat and a sleeping shelf, but what a journey. The train left at 3.20 a.m. and does not arrive until 5 a.m. the next day - 800 miles or so, maybe more. I may go up to Darjeeling; although if the job I've been offered does materialise I can see more of India when I come back; I can always keep my eyes shut. You see some appalling things, mutilated animals, legs and hands missing on young kids, and the dirt. Walking along the road, the dust flies all over the place because the asphalt is narrow and there is a wide strip of dust on each side. When you are behind a truck or car that has wandered on to this strip you literally cannot see a thing for dust. Animals and people get rough treatment, but especially the animals. Still, that has been common since Greece.

Manners change from place to place of course. The spitting I don't like but have got accustomed to, but I can't get used to women about my mother's age belching louder, longer and more often than I can at my worst. They are on the other side of the corridor.

I've seen no sign of starvation; food is very cheap, but wages are very low. A servant's food and keep is R4 per month, and a quite good wage is R250 per month (exchange rate R22 = £1).

I've had a haircut. One of the blokes introducing us to a hotel was a barber and he cut my hair short quite decently on the spot. He had his tools with him and, in fact, I don't think he had a shop. Cost R1 - my cheapest ever.

Indian food I've been enjoying, though some is hellish hot. The most unpleasant thing is that all the milk is boiled. I suppose otherwise they would never have any. I've not met any chappaties like those I met with Naren in London. The London ones were greasy as if fried, but here they are baked - while you wait of course. They also do sliced bread but, like Pakistan, it's little cop. Wait till I reach New Zealand, where there's no decent bread at all. Everything has its own fly, it seems. I've given up since Pakistan worrying about the water.

I've not mentioned the cows as yet. They are everywhere. Nice beasts but they seem a bit useless. Udders are very small, but if they just wander around the streets, as they appear to do, then they couldn't get enough food for milk anyway. There's one bloke in the news here who is on a fast, to be followed by self-immolation, about cow slaughter. No-one doubts he'll do it, but what is disapproved of is being involved in politics. The disadvantage, in my opinion, of having cows all over the place is that while they can't fly they can still cover and bathe a very large area. A cow-sized stream in the middle of the bus depot caused me to move hastily.

Stuck in Calcutta,
Salvation Army Hostel.

Why anyone has any trouble on this trip escapes me except for just one reason. Never, but never, depend on anyone or anything to such an extent that their failure, or its failure, stymies one. I've done this with that b-----y bank of mine and I'm now stuck in Calcutta without money. I'll send a telegram to you tonight and if all goes well and you are able to help I may be able to proceed by air in an orderly manner. Christmas being close at hand does not please me as it may make things even worse.

Still, all curses aside, life is not too bad. I'm sitting in the sun - nice and hot. No socks and no jersey, and I don't need my jacket but I wear it for the pockets. One of my regrets is not having done enough smuggling. I looked for a camera in Jugoslavia for £28 and here I could get £60 for it, and no-one has ever checked my pack. If one calls at Kuwait, blood fetches £10 per pint, and gold coins are cheap. In India gold is dear and blood would be worth nothing; after all, life seems worthless. I should also have stopped in Israel and worked on the kibbutzim but I was a little late in the year.

I'm not very fond of Calcutta and wouldn't settle in India or Pakistan at any price. It's the poverty, apathy, filth and inefficiency that appall me. There are plenty of relics of the past but I could rapidly become pro Mao's Red Guard and burn a few relics of Imperialism for myself. It seems wrong to give the appearance of venerating lumps of wood, stone and plaster, to the exclusion of the people around them.

I've seen no dancing at all, except a film or two, but I've heard a little music - very little. There's a chap selling one-stringed fiddles with pottery bowls as bodies. Very small, but he plays it well. He stops the string by touching the upper surface of his forefinger (sheathed in metal) to the underside of the string. Another chap sells flutes, but flutes fitted with a reed. Sounds just like a clarinette. In some book I picked up there is a reference to Greeks as having a liking for any music if loud, noise being their language. I'm inclined to add the Turks, Persians and definitely include the Paks and Indians.

My chance of a free lift, or even a reduced charge, fell through, so I may not bother going to Darjeeling at all. At the moment I'm enthusiastic to leave India.

Still stuck in Calcutta.

If you ever come out here on such a trip as this, never, but never, rely on your bank to handle your money, and arrange some sort of simple telegraphic address and code - you'll save pounds and days. For example, one bloke arranges with his bank in the States to send \$200 to a Barclays Bank so that he can call and prove his identity and collect same. They (Barclays) send the money back to the States as they do not know the gentleman who will collect it! Another bloke arrives in Africa and the Bank denies everything, despite the fact that they hold a guaranteed £200 of his. It takes him three months to return to England. With me, the Bank posted (I asked for it to be wired) the advice, after many letters, and then on calling at the local branch I found they have not been advised. Fortunately, they have paid me the air fare to Bangkok on the strength of the letter the Bank sent me. I was most surprised when the Bank Manager suggested it.

Visited a Pharsi Temple here the other day. The gentleman in charge was most kind. He showed me the bull - one year old and very nice - and the date and pomegranate trees and the well. The actual temple is closed to non-believers, which I thought was an excellent idea. I liked the chalk stencilled decorations to be found on all the steps and other similar flat surfaces.

Hooray, I leave India tomorrow at last.

KEN BLACKWOOD.

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BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP - MANCHESTER

We emerged in January 1966. A few of us had learnt international folk dancing in the past and more recently with friends in the Folk Dance movement in Baden Württemberg, West Germany and we felt that it would be a waste if we could not pass these dances on.

An approach was made to the local education authorities and they were most keen that we should form a class. We have met regularly since then on Tuesday Evenings from 19.30 - 21.30 during school term at Barlow Hall Evening Centre, Darley Avenue, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester 21. We have a regular pianist for class work and also use records. We have collected quite a library of Dance Descriptions, Music and Records in our short life but we are always pleased to receive more.

Very soon after we started we were asked to give demonstrations at charity functions and it was then that we decided that we had better have a name for the class. The ladies of the group made the costumes which are based on those worn by our friends in Western Germany. We have to limit the number of demonstration requests we accept as a lot of our members belong to other groups as well, but during the past season we have given about a dozen. As an experiment we ran an Open International Folk Dance at the end of last term and we were very pleased with the response, so much so, that we are hoping to run similar dances at least once a term next season. Unfortunately, the weather, though sunny, did not permit us to dance outside as planned but nevertheless an enjoyable time was had by all.

We were very pleased to welcome to our last two classes Mourie and Nora Pfeffer who are now living in this area. Needless to say we soon 'roped them in' to teach us some Balkan dances. We hope they will be able to stay with us at least until their son, Jimmy, can take over. (He is now 16 months old).

Any of you who might be living in this area or who may be passing through can be sure of a hearty welcome from our group. Why not give me a ring 061-840-7744 and call round for a 'cuppa' - 19 Ellesmere Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, MANCHESTER 21.

Some of our group are going/went to Swansea to learn some more dances and we look forward to another interesting enjoyable season.

Hoping to meet some of you,

Happy Dancing,

ALAN WILLIAMS

They say 'its an ill wind that blows nobody any good' and in my case this proved to be true!! My name was already down to go on the Swansea Course, when an accident to my hip and ankle made this impossible, and I'd already started saving to this end. My doctor was adamant - No. However, to compensate for the obvious disappointment it was suggested I went to Folkestone to watch the dancing, and it proved to be not only a tonic, but a quite unforgettable experience, and one which I intend to repeat as often as possible!

There was an air of gay informality, which everyone seemed to join in with delight. Roger Stoakley, the Honorary Compere of the Festival, had a charming and delightful personality, which enhanced audience and dancers alike. Every group had their own particular fascination; but the Goizaldi from San Sebastian in Spain were quite outstanding in their costume and repertoire. The footwork of both men and girls made them future candidates for the Bolshoi!! The gay Swiss with their yodelling and Alpen-horns and fascinating flag-dances, gained much acclaim; as also the vivacious Austrian and French Groups. It was a popular moment when the Swedish Group raised their Midsummer Pole on the Leas, and all were invited to join the Langdans, to the accompanment of the key-harp and violin.

As a contrast to the activity of the dancing, the Dutch Group sent a Folk choir from the fruit-bearing lowlands of Zeeland. Most of the members were older, but the youngest member aged nine, sang quite unselfconsciously, accompanying herself with the Rommelpotter a peculiar instrument which snorts like a pig.

The Bulgarian dances were performed by the Gordon Bulgarian Dance Group from Gravesend; these young people have specialised in studying and performing Bulgarian dances and in assembling their authentic and beautiful hand-embroidered costumes. They even brought along their own pet lamb, which was a source of delight to all, particularly the children. There was a slight hitch at the beginning with the 'tape', but it all turned out well in the end.

Representing Britain were the Morris Dancers, The Kentish Travellers, The Kent District Dancers and The Hoodeners Handbell Ringers from Folkestone itself. Also from Folkestone was The Nicolson Pipe Band, and The Trumpeters of the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover. The opening procession was led by Regimental Sergeant Major Brittain, not forgetting the giant Hooden Horse, drawn along by the Boy Scouts. Then each country followed in National costume to the stage on the Leas, where, after the opening speeches and National Anthem of each country, the performance began. Meanwhile the Basque Dancers and Musicians were hotfoot on their way from Dover, and arrived in time to perform towards the end of the evening.

Besides the dancing and singing there was a Well Dressing event, Beating the Retreat on the Leas, a Window Dressing Competition and a Symposium of Folklore. The Grand Finale was the Farewell Barn Dance, followed by the Torchlight Procession and Bonfire on the beach. This year the weather was kind to us - and only one performance had to be held in the Leas Pavilion instead of the open air stage, though the evening of the Farewell Dance was also very wet. However, on the whole it was a wonderful and memorable week, with more people than ever to watch and join in, and I'm sure it will now become a regular feature. It is with gratitude that we not only thank all those who took part, but also those hard-working 'back room boys' who make this Festival possible.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING:

Chairman: Harry Whitaker, 29, Sherbroock Gardens, LONDON N.21 LAB 4965
Secretary: Kathleen Monroe-James, 14, Oakleigh Drive, Croxley Green, RICKMANSWORTH,
Herts. 01-644 0742
Treasurer: Marjorie Bracey, 125 Reigate Avenue, SUTTON, Surrey. 01-644 0742
Membership Secretary: Roland Minton, 131 Holly Street, LONDON E.8.
Demonstration Secretary: Margery Latham, 14 Beechwood Avenue, Kew, RICHMOND, Surrey.
Home: PRO 7055
Work: WEI 9000 ext 636
Publicity Secretary: Peter Lilley, 68, Tilohurst Road, READING, Berks.
Other Members: Stephen Ward, Ian Willson.

A CLASS IN HUNGARIAN DANCING

AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY

Mrs. Ossko has come from Hungary to teach at our Summer School in Swansea. She will hold one class in London.

CECIL SHARP HOUSE

SUNDAY 6 AUGUST
15.00 - 18.30

Tickets at the door: Members 5s. non-members 7/6

SUNDAY DANCES

Dances start at 19.00. Admission: 4s for members, 5s for non-members. Please do not wear stilleto heels, and if you invite someone to come warn her of this in advance.

- 6 Aug. CECIL SHARP HOUSE, Regent's Park Road, N.W.1 Band M.C. Roland Minton.
- 13 Aug. DANCE CENTRE, Floral Street, W.C.2, dance with the German group from Karlsruhe, Musician: Wilf Horrocks; M.C. Stephen Ward.
- 20 Aug. In the Arches off Villiers Street, by Charing Cross station.
Musician: Cliff Beck; M.C. Wilf Horrocks.
- 27 Aug NO DANCE (Bank Holiday weekend).
- 3 Sept CECIL SHARP HOUSE.

From September until Christmas Sunday dances will be at Floral Street, except the FIRST SUNDAY IN THE MONTH, when they will be at Cecil Sharp House.

THE SOCIETY'S NEW RECORD (see page 1 of last issue) will be played at the Cecil Sharp House dance on 3 Sept for members to hear.