

# S.I.F.D. NEWS



OCTOBER 1967

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY THE 15TH OF THE  
MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas.

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BADGES

S.I.F.D. Badges for lapel, scooter and car, at 3/6, 7/6 and 12/6 respectively, can be obtained from our Membership Secretary, Roland Minton (address above).

RECORDS

S.I.F.D. records are available from Recorded Sound Ltd.,  
27-31 Bryanston Street, London, W.1.

BOOKS

Our books are published by Pergamon Press and are obtainable,  
to order, through any bookseller, price 7/6.

Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for  
their own use. Full details from Marjorie Bracey (address above).

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**OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**ISLINGTON TOWN HALL  
UPPER ST. N 1.**

**SIFD**

**TIME**

**ENTRANCE**

**7.0 - 11.0**

**5:0**

**NOT SOLD AT DOOR**



**GRAND  
REUNION  
DANCE PARTY**

**BAR & BUFFET**

WRITE.

**SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING  
14, BEECHWOOD AVE; KEW, SURREY**

THE BLACKWOOD SAGA

(Another instalment of  
Ken Blackwood's overland  
journey to New Zealand)

Thailand

The second day, the hitch-hiking was just as bad. The Thais don't know what hitching is. About 11 o'clock I gave up and caught a bus. Another European joined the bus later. We got off the bus together at the terminus and shopped around and found a little bus up the road but decided to wait for a big bus. While waiting, a middle-sized bus (sounds like the three bears) offered us a 60km. lift. At Ranong, we waited and waited and waited, but no big bus. A Burmese said, "Come with me" (no, not to the Casbah). He had a free room at the local dance-hall cum brothel. The clarinet sounded nice.

Next day, we tried hitching again for a little, but then came a big bus - a lovely orange colour. We climbed on board and argued about the price, which seemed high compared with that of the previous day. Oddly enough, the Conductor retired from the scene, the Inspector inspected not, and we rode 241km. for free. It beats cheating on 4d. fares etc. but I do feel slightly ashamed at twisting like this.

We got to Khok Kloi and got another lift to Takua Thung. There we had to wait for another big bus. While we were waiting I got out my little wooden whistle and soon had twenty or thirty kids and several adults gathered around. One was a flautist and we compared instruments. His was an end-stopped instrument, similar to one of Ken Ward's but with an extra hole in the side and it also had a back hole - the range seemed limited. My playing can't have been too bad because we ended up being offered another free bed - the projection room of the local cinema/village hall. This village hall was only a shed and the room simple and rough but it suited us. Rain has been brewing all day.

Next morning it was throwing it down. Sufficiently so that the heaviest trickle was useful for washing. They don't wear coats here - the rain is warm. We got a little bus up the road - for a change, we paid. Then a big bus appeared just after we'd breakfasted on a sort of pancake thing - nice. We queried the fare, the use of dollars was queried, and once again, no charge was made. We sat quiet and said nothing more. Chun mai sarb Thai (I don't understand Thai) was our main remark. We thought we'd made it because this bus was going to Hat Yai, but alas we got chucked off 150km. from there. No, we weren't inspected, just flooded out. The road was flooded to a depth of 4 to 5 feet.

After lengthy discussions, we walked out of Trang and then stopped a Land Rover. After ½km. we found the road was flooded thigh-deep again. A local tractor driver had seized the opportunity and was washing his vehicle and trailer, but there were no fishermen as we had seen on earlier flooded spots. The Land Rover people, two men, after discussion then offered us a lift to a spot where



we could catch a train. The train leaves at midnight and arrives at 4.30 a.m. - no mossies tonight anyway.

The rain seems even heavier but it's nice and warm. Cold showers in this country are a pleasure. Even in the rain, motor cyclists don't bother with coats.

One hazard is the elephants. Yesterday we saw about eight, all working beasts, and all on the road. The loads on the bikes beat Italy - the most so far is four men on one bike.

At last I'm nearer New Zealand than the U.K., and there's a boat which leaves this Sunday for Palembang on the first island of Indonesia (Sumatra?).

Chinese Y.M.C.A.  
Singapore.

Well, one goes dancing in the oddest places and usually learns of the places by chance only. There was a notice on the boards of a party and I asked about the Group mentioned. I found they met here in the badminton hall - a nice place airy, clean, acoustically good and well floored. They've only records - and the Folkcraft at that. Their dances are mostly semi-old time ballroom stuff, with a bit of Israeli, but there were two Malay dances. The first, 'Tarina', was like Naren's Catalan dances, i.e. step, tap etc. with little additional body movement, and similar to the French line dances in the advancing, retiring and circling opposite partners formation. The second was Leuggang Kangung, with one knee lifted while bending the other, backs kept straight and heads up but arms swinging. The formation as before. I was told they were originally Indonesian but were now Malay. If you're interested, there cord was Bengawan Solo and Keuggang Kangung. I was amused to see that though they, all Chinese or Malays, didn't keep good time on the other dances, they did these two excellently. I'm sure there's a moral. I've given them your name and suggested they write, and I mentioned the many advantages of affiliation. I had a pleasant afternoon with about 50 others. It could have been Cecil Sharp House.

I've finally received the last of my money from the Bank. If they had telegraphed it as I asked, it would have saved me £10, 10 days, and some considerable concern. Indonesia doesn't seem too attractive, so we are trying for Port Moresby in Papua (New Guinea).

Singapore, by the  
boat harbour.

Things are definitely getting adventurous. We, Dave Jones and I, have got a passage to Australia, but on a 38' sailing boat. We had been trying to organize a block booking by air to Darwin, and Dave asked these two Germans. We found they had a boat and Dave promptly said, "How about two more for £90?" and they agreed. I've now seen the boat and it's not too bad. If the cockpit ever fills, the whole hull will be filled, but 'As Allah wills'. I'm still not certain whether we're making for Perth or Darwin, but I don't think anyone else is either. The Germans have been sailing around in Indonesia, so must have some idea. They picked up the hull, and decked and fitted a cabin, and though not cabinet workers standard, the work appears sound.

One of the blokes at the Y.M. has managed to get a working passage to Melbourne, so it's possible, but extremely difficult.

We hear that the boat for Djakarta has been diverted and the travel agent is trying to charter a boat. All I say is that I'm damn glad to be on this boat, the Metior and sailing tomorrow, although destination is still vague, and we've been warned about pirates today by a bloke in the British Embassy.

KEN BLACKWOOD.

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The Committee unanimously agreed to invite David Dewhirst to fill the vacancy caused by Liz Randall's resignation, and Kathleen Monroe James taking over as Secretary. David has accepted this invitation.

At the meeting of the Committee, Group Leaders, and Group members, held on the 3rd September, a very lengthy discussion took place, mainly about the constitution of the specialist groups within the Society and the relationship between these groups and the Society. The result was that a Sub-Committee was formed, of Betty Harvey, Phillipa Heale, and George Sweetland, with Ken Ward sitting in in an advisory capacity. The Sub-Committee will draw up a set of rules to be used as a basis for each Group's constitution.

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On Saturday, 26th August, Los Ibericos gave a demonstration for the Southgate Horticultural Society at their annual show in Broomfield Park Palmers Green, North London. Despite being squeezed in between the Metropolitan Police motor cycle acrobatics, and the Sheep Dog Trials, the team attracted a large audience and were very well received.

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#### 21ST REUNION PARTY

On page 3 we are advertising our 21st Reunion Party. We hope that every member, present and past, will be there to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the S.I.F.D. If you know the whereabouts of any former members, please pass on the word, but PLEASE NOTE - TICKETS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR. THEY ARE OBTAINABLE IN ADVANCE FROM MARGERY LATHAM, 14 BEECHWOOD AVENUE, KIW, SURREY, OR ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER, OR THE EDITOR. Please come in costume, if possible.

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11th NOVEMBER, 1967. Please make a note of this date. It is the day fixed for the Annual General Meeting. At Hugh Myddelton School, at 3 p.m.

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REMINDER: No more News-sheets will be sent to you after this issue unless you have renewed your membership. Membership applications should be sent to our Membership Secretary, Roland Minton, (address on page 2).

Don't be surprised if you see some of our members break into a belly-dance or appear at Cecil Sharp House wearing a djellaba and a fez, as six of our members have just returned from an interesting holiday touring Tunisia on a Y.H.A. holiday - Ann Bartlett, Lily Southgate, Dennis Wood, Les Avery, Johnnie Dear and Roland Minton. We arrived in Tunis to find temperatures soaring up to over 100° but we all managed to survive the heat and humidity and spent a glorious sixteen days visiting Salambo, Bizerte, Sousse, Kairouan, El Djem, Nabeul, Hammamet, Monastir, Sfax, Gabes and Carthage. The hostels on the whole were better than I had expected, and the one at Hammamet was beautifully situated, with the brilliant white chalets literally on a sweeping sandy beach. What the Tunisians lack in hygiene they make up for in friendliness, and they were very keen to show us all there was to be seen - from the ruins of Carthage to the very modern buildings in the larger towns; the Arab souks; the beautiful mosques; the impressive oasis on the edge of the desert at Gabes; the palaces, the catacombs; they even produced a sandstorm for us, and also some of us were lucky enough to be present at a Muslim wedding, but we weren't lucky enough to see much folkdancing - some impromptu belly dancing by children, and by women at the wedding, and by some male Tunisian drummers, and by two luscious girls at a cabaret, were the sum total. Outstanding memories were, I think, the glare of the brilliant sunshine on startlingly white buildings, the seething Arab souks, a native dancer balancing no less than seven large amphorae on his head while dancing, the smell of jasmine everywhere, and Roland riding a camel! I think we all agreed that Tunisia is a country well worth visiting - but remember to take with you a family pack of Entero Vioform!

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#### FOLK DANCERS' WEEKEND AT SURREY CREST

Once again, we shall be spending our biannual weekend at Surrey Crest, near Godstone Green, in Surrey - from the 27th to 29th October. The surrounding countryside is very attractive for walking, there are a couple of good village pubs, and facilities for horse-riding. The weekend is usually a mixture of folk-dancing, walking, playing table-tennis, cards or chess, or what-you-will (mostly what-you-will). If you would like to spend an informal weekend with your fellow folkdancers in pleasant surroundings book your place with Roland Minton, 131 Holly Street, London, E.8. The cost for the weekend from Friday evening until after tea on Sunday is:- Approx. £2.15.0d. Please bring with you your tape recorder or tapes or record player or records or musical instrument - the more variety, the better.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:-

MARJORIE BRACEY'S ADDRESS IS NOW- 30 CYGNET HOUSE,  
BELSIZE ROAD,  
N.W.6.

PHONE: 01-328-1592



DIJON - 2nd to 3rd September 1967  
22e Fetes de la Vigne

My summer holiday finished with the Wine Festival at Dijon. As well as the drinking, the celebration of the grape harvest remains as an excuse for one of the largest gatherings of folk dance teams in Europe.

Twenty-three foreign teams were advertised as being present. Every country in West and Central Europe, Scandinavia and the Balkan States, must have been invited, the latter group being the 'stars' of the show. Notable visitors, not often seen at European festivals were a group from Martinique - a French colony. They were very popular and vocal. There were also fifteen different French teams present. Several teams did not arrive - Italians, Russians, West Germans. The last-mentioned were unfortunately involved in a coach accident on the autobahn en route to Dijon. Fourteen were injured.

The festival officially lasted two days. It comprised numerous processions, continuous folk shows at three large arenas or stadiums. On Sunday morning the church parade was televised complete with blessing of grape harvest banners and collections. It is not often one sings hymns whilst flood-lit!

Each team was allotted so many minutes (e.g. England - Phoenix, Finchley - 6 mins.) At the end of the period the next team danced on! There was an American Air Force Brass Band from Frankfurt who played for 15 minutes (The Saints, Puppet on a String, etc.) The other English-speaking group there were an Irish Figure Dancing Group from Limerick with the usual high standard of footwork etc.

Depending on the prestige of the team was the duration of the visit. The Bulgarians were invited for ten days. England had been invited for three days, which was one day more than last time. There was much conjecture as to what would be required of us for the third day. In the event, it was a free day with a special lunch with the Festival President and Committee. Quite an honour. Acting as interpreter on the top table, I discovered that the committee were very pleased with the English display of Country, Playford and Flamborough. I heard many flattering comments.

As often happens with these events, the enjoyable side of the festival is the coming together of the various teams off-stage. It is this aspect that makes all the months of preparation and rehearsal seem worthwhile. The entertainment during the meals was a feast for any cine and tape enthusiast.

This festival was a success both financially and for the spirit of enthusiasm that gave enjoyment to the 200,000 spectators. It is on occasions like these that one experiences true international friendship.

ALAN B. CORKETT



S.I.F.D. CLASSES1967/68.

Autumn Term: 25th September to 15th December

Winter Term: 8th January to 5th April

Spring Term: 22nd April to 28th June

Fees: For one year's classes (three terms) :-

30/-	for 1 class per week
£2	for 2 classes per week
£2.10s.	for 3 classes per week
£3	for 4 classes per week

The classes are as follows :-

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

Monday	7.00 to 8.00	Spanish; beginners	Philippa Heal
Monday	8.00 to 9.30	Spanish; intermediate & advanced	Philippa Heal
Monday	6.00 to 8.00	General European; advanced	Margery Latham
Monday	8.00 to 10.00	Polish	Betty Harvey
Thursday	7.00 to 8.00 )	Flamenco (with guitar)	Philippa Heal
	8.00 to 9.30 )		
Thursday	7.00 to 8.00	Singing as related to folk dancing	Margaret Colato
Friday	7.30 to 9.30	Certificate Class	Kathleen Monroe

-James

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

Tuesday	6.30 to 7.30	Balkan; beginners	Ken Ward
Tuesday	7.30 to 9.30	Balkan; intermediate & advanced	Ken Ward
Wednesday	7.00 to 9.00	General European; beginners	Margery Latham

Light refreshments are available at both schools.

Our classes are open to members only, but anyone, whether a member or not, may try a class, which he has not previously been to, once without charge.

In order to enjoy our Sunday dances, and also put on worthwhile demonstrations, it is essential that members learn the dances properly. To do this one must have proper tuition by attending our classes. We hope that all members who are within distance will make the effort to attend at least one weekly class. You will obtain far more enjoyment from your dancing and you will be helping to raise the general standard.

The Friday class is a particularly good one for absolute beginners and also advanced dancers who wish to teach, the former to be taught thoroughly and the latter to gain experience in teaching.

PROGRAMME FOR SUNDAYS

			<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
October	1st	Cecil Sharp House	Folk Band	Wilf Horrocks
	8th	Dance Centre	Wilf Horrocks	Roland Minton
	15th	" "	Cliff Beck	Ian Willson
	22nd	" "	Wilf Horrocks	Wilf Horrocks
	29th	" "	Cliff Beck	Roland Minton
November	5th	Cecil Sharp House	Folk Band	Ian Willson

Time: 7 to 10 p.m. Admission: 4/- for members, 5/- for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON

October 7th	Folksinger Josh White, at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, 7.45 p.m. Tickets 10/6 to 22/6.
11th	Caribbean Steel Band, with demonstration of drum tuning, at Horniman Museum, 7.45 p.m. Admission free.
14th/15th	1967 London Folk Music Festival at Cecil Sharp House, organised by the London District of E.F.D.S.S. A leaflet can be obtained from Cecil Sharp House.
18th	Penillion singing - Welsh songs with harp accompaniment. Horniman Museum, 7.45 p.m. Admission free.
21st	S.I.F.D. DANCE AT ISLINGTON TOWN HALL. 21ST BIRTHDAY REUNION PARTY - See page 3.
23rd	The Gay Tyrolese. Free Trade Hall, Manchester.
25th	Music in Vietnam - folk songs and traditional music. Horniman Museum, 7.45 p.m. Admission free.
27th	The Gay Tyrolese. Fairfield Hall, Croydon.
27th/29th	FOLKDANCERS' WEEKEND AT SURREY CREST. See page 7.
28th	Music of the Persian Gulf (with slides and recordings).
28th	The Gay Tyrolese. Royal Festival Hall.
November 1st	Classical Arabic and Folk Music of Morocco. Horniman Museum, 7.45. Admission free.
11th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 3 p.m. Hugh Myddelton School.
11th	Traditional Music of Albania, by A.L. Lloyd. Horniman Museum. 3.30 p.m. Admission free.
18th	Folk Dance run by Harrow Green F.D.G. at Oxford House.
18th/19th	Liverpool Folkmeet. Leaflet & details from E.F.D.S.S.

N.B. The Harrow Green Christmas Dance advertised last month for the 8th Dec. will now be held on the 15th December.