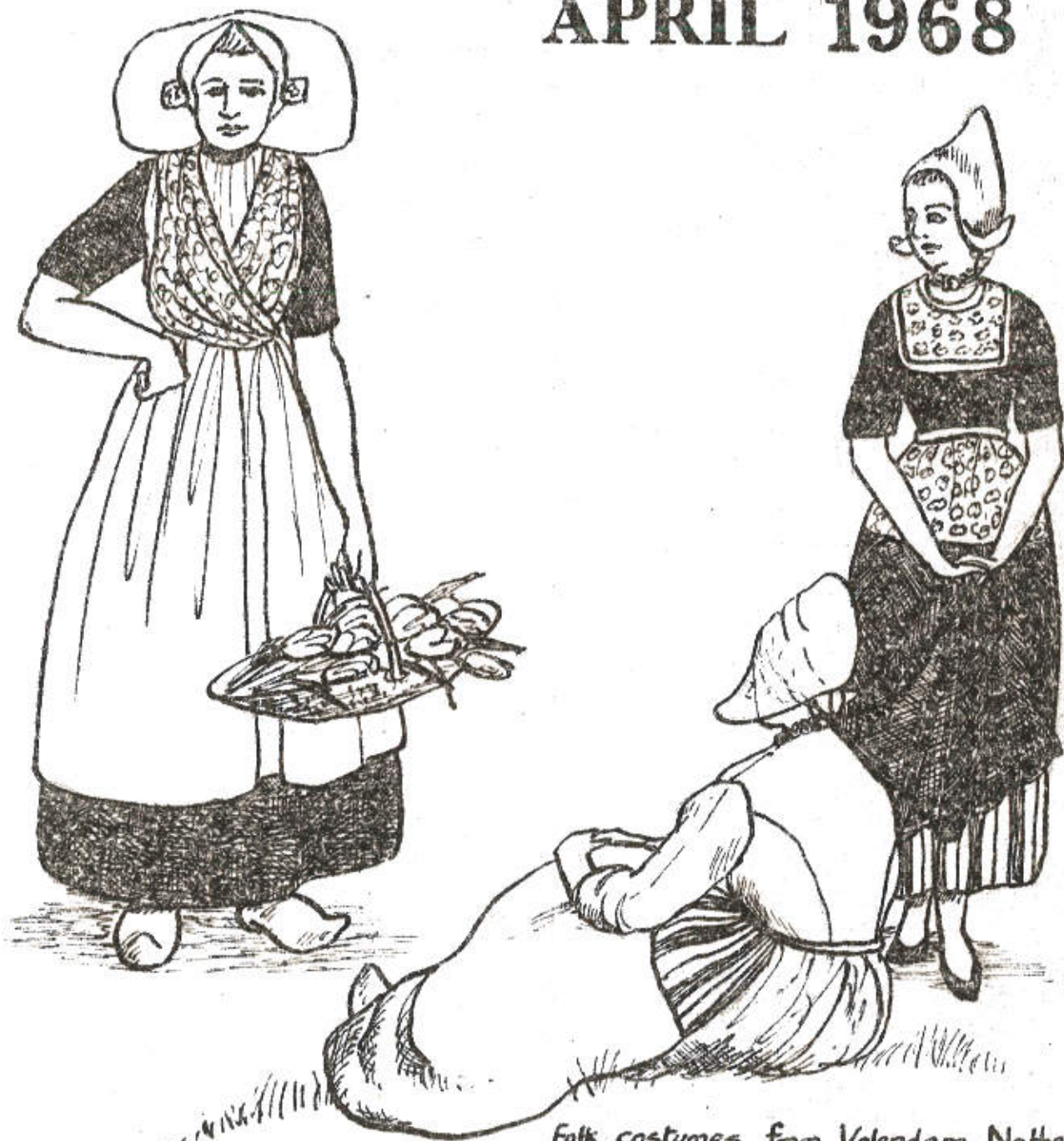


# S.I.F.D. NEWS

APRIL 1968



Folk costumes from Volendam, Netherlands

2.

Editor: Lily Southgate, 52, Banbury House, Banbury Road, London, E.9.  
Telephone: Home - 01-985- 0428. Office: - CITY 1212 Ext. 552.

Assistant: Sylvia Fulton, 22 Landseer Road, London, N.19.  
Telephone: Home - 272 5827. Office - MAN 7800 Ext. 263.

Typist: Barney Salmon.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas, April being tulip time in Holland.

\*\*\*\*\*

Officers of the Committee:

Chairman: Bert Price,  
22 Sunnysdale Road,  
London, S.E.12

Secretary: Kathleen Monroe James,  
14 Oakleigh Drive,  
Croxley Green,  
Rickmansworth, Herts.  
WATFORD 24323.

Treasurer: Marjorie Bracey,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Cygnet House,  
Belsize Road,  
London, N.W.6.  
328 1,92

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

Demonstration Secretary:  
Margery Latham,  
14 Beechwood Avenue,  
Kew, Richmond, Surrey.  
Home: PRO 7055  
Work: WHI 9000 Ext, 636.

\*\*\*\*\*

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).

The HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING will be held on Saturday, 11th May, at 3 p.m. at Christopher Hatton School.

\*\*\*\*\*

We hope to be resuming our open-air dances again this year and hope to be dancing in the Cockpit, Hyde Park on the following Saturdays:- 18th May, 22nd June, 13th July, and 3rd August. These dates will be confirmed later.

\*\*\*\*\*

SUNDAY DANCES

At a meeting held on the 15th March, the Committee gave very careful consideration to the forms returned by members, giving suggestions for improvement of the Sunday evening dances. As you can imagine, this was a formidable task as there were so many different, and in many cases conflicting, opinions to be considered. However, all the complaints and suggestions were read and discussed, and steps are being taken to carry out as many of the suggestions as are practicable.

To those of you who do not like the hall at Floral Street; as we only rent the hall and do not own it, we regret there is little we can do about acoustics, lighting, decor, furniture etc. To those of you who ask us to discourage cliques and get the men to circulate more; we regret we can only ask the men to please co-operate, and ask everyone to make an effort to welcome newcomers.

The Committee, on their part, will endeavour to:-

- 1) Improve the organization of Sunday dances generally.
- 2) Improve the standard of dancing.
- 3) Improve the music.
- 4) Have occasional demonstrations.
- 5) Start the dances punctually.
- 6) Encourage people to wear costume for Cecil Sharp House.
- 7) Give a certain amount of instruction on Sunday evenings.
- 8) Encourage new M.C.'s and improve the M.C.-ing generally.

The Committee wish to thank you all very much indeed for your co-operation in putting forward so many suggestions, which have proved most helpful.

BALALAIKA DANCE GROUP

The Publicity Secretary of the Balalaika Dance Group has sent me the following interesting article of their activities:-

The Balalaika Dance Group can look back on a good year. We have been very fortunate in getting valuable lessons from visiting Soviet artists, and we have had about one fairly big performance a month. Our first contacts were the Red Army and their choreographer, Usher Chmelnitzky. When we approached him and timidly asked whether he would give us a lesson, he asked how many we were and then said, "Bring them all!". So we turned up at the Albert Hall on a Sunday morning, and when we were changed and warmed up Mr. Chmelnitzky asked us to show him what we could do. With fear and trepidation we went into our Hopak. When we had finished, we said meekly; Of course, this was terrible; some things went wrong because we were so nervous, and could he please tell us all the things we should change. But, to our delight, he said; No, on the contrary, it had been very good, and nervousness he took into consideration, and who had done the choreography? What? We ourselves? No, really, it was very good; the only thing he would put in would be "a picture" in the middle of it, as he himself uses in nearly all his dances.

He then proceeded to show us a Horovod (a round dance) he had choreographed for eight couples. There are a great many Horovods in Russia; practically each region has a typical Horovod. He told us that this one was a general one, and should be danced by girls wearing long Sarafans for the first, slow, part and short Sarafans for the second, quick, part. We are in the process of having these "quick change" Sarafans made. A Sarafan, by the way, is the typical Russian dress, with a full skirt, and straps over the shoulder, worn over a white blouse, and the headdress for this is a "Kokoshnik", with a bow at the back of the head, or a veil.

While Mr. Chmelnitzky was giving us the lesson we were amused and envious of his directions, ".... I now need a small boy who plays the balalaika .... now I need a tall boy who plays the accordion...." just like that! Of course in Russia where they have hundreds of applications for every vacancy, he would have the choice of about fifty if he specified a boy with red hair and one grey and one blue eye who could balance a balalaika on the top of his head!

At the end of the lesson he asked us were we working next Saturday? No? Well then four of us should turn up and he would show us the quick part. So eight of us turned up, but he was not there. When an hour later he still had not arrived we tried to ring the hotel but were told that there was nobody of that name staying there. (This turned out to be a case of optional spelling, the letter X in Russian, pronounced like the Scottish ch, can be spelt in English either with a Kh or a Ch). So I went to the hotel and found him sitting peacefully in the lobby looking at me with soulful eyes and saying, "Are you waiting for me? I couldn't remember whether I said 12.30 or 1.30". But then he collected two of

his boys and give us another valuable lesson. Then he asked two of us to come again the next morning and he would show us some steps. So four of us came and learned some rather tricky drumming steps from his boys, as he himself could not come.

It made us very proud and pleased that he actually offered to give us lessons, rather than we having to beg for them, and consequently we were not as nervous as we would have been otherwise, when we were asked to appear in a performance in Surbiton in the same programme as some of the Red Army dancers and singers.

We hope to show the "striptease Horovod" in our new costumes in the not too distant future.

JENIA GRAMAN.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### DEMONSTRATIONS

Teams are needed for the following demonstrations. If you are free, please let me have your names.

#### MAY

Saturday, 18th	4-6 p.m.	Cockpit, Hyde Park
Saturday, 18th	Evening	Hertford Choral Society Dinner; half-hour programme.
Saturday, 26th - 2nd June		Kilkenny Beer Festival (not finally accepted yet).

#### JUNE

Friday, 14th	Evening	Seven Kings Catholic Social; demonstration & audience participation.
Saturday, 22nd	4-6 p.m.	Cockpit, Hyde Park; Midsummer Maypole Dance.

#### JULY

Saturday, 13th	4-6 p.m.	Cockpit, Hyde Park.
----------------	----------	---------------------

#### AUGUST

Saturday, 3rd	4-6 p.m.	Cockpit, Hyde Park; with possible German team as guests.
---------------	----------	--

MARGERY LATHAM.

\*\*\*\*\*

6. BETHNAL GREEN FESTIVAL

What has become of the international folk dance section of the Bethnal Green Festival? This year, the entry was most disappointing, and on the programme only one team was entered in the adult section - the Balalaika Dance Group. Having attended this Festival regularly for many years, mostly as a participant but this year as an onlooker, I can well remember occasions when there have been as many as eleven adult teams entered and we had to wait around until past 10 p.m. for our turn to dance. This year, with only the Balalaika Group entered, it looked as though the Cup was going to be handed over just as a formality. However, at the last minute, there was an entry from an adult Irish team and, although the Balalaika team give a very good performance, so well did the Irish perform their ceiligh dance that they won the Cup.

I was sorry not to see the usual line-up of the Czech Group, the Bulgarians, the Balkan Group, the various Spanish Groups, Indians, Harrow Green, etc., and it might be a good idea if the authorities contacted groups who have enthusiastically participated in the past, to find out why they have all lost interest. It may be that they would prefer to dance in a Festival of International Folk Dancing rather than a competition for a Cup, and also that the adjudication has not always been of a high enough standard. It would be a pity to see this Festival die out altogether, and perhaps, with a little reorganization by the authorities it could be brought back to the high standard it once attained.

However, I was pleased to see the enthusiasm shown by the junior teams, of which there were eleven. They included in their programme Russian dancing, Scottish, English Rapper Sword and Country, Czech, Hungarian, and Bulgarian. At last the schoolchildren are getting away from the uniform of plimsolls, navy blue skirts, white blouses, and the teachers are showing some imagination in making for the children more authentic costumes and arranging dances to suit the character of the country. Particularly good were the Czech costumes, and also the Hungarian and Russian were quite good. The Bulgarians were best of all, in costume, style, and quality of dancing and singing, and inevitably they were presented with the Cup for the junior section. I noticed that the Bulgarian Cultural Attache who was present was particularly thrilled by their performance.

Taking an average of twelve members per team (some had 20), there were 132 young potential members for the S.I.F.D. at this Festival, but, apart from John Lake in the Balalaika team, and Kathleen Martin, who trained the Russian team, I was the only member of the S.I.F.D. there to watch this Festival. Maybe this is why we don't draw in any new young members - we just don't go looking for them. (I noticed Mr. 'Nibs' Mathews of the E.F.D.S.S. sitting with the V.I.P.s).

LILLY SOUTHGATE

\*\*\*\*\*

A NEW FOLK DANCE GROUP

A new folk dance group has been formed at Borough Green, near Wrotham, in Kent. An Inaugural Dance will be held in the VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, BOROUGH GREEN, on SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH 1968, from 7.30 until 11 p.m. All Society members are cordially invited to come and help the group off to a good start.

Tickets at 5/-, and further details, available from Ian Willson, 55 Lewis Court Drive, Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone, Kent.

EALING FESTIVAL OF FOLK DANCING14th February, 1968

The representative of the concert agents, Norman McCann, saw our show for the Barking Arts Council last year and asked us to do a similar show for Ealing Borough Council. This we did on Wednesday, 14th February, this year.

It was a good evening, with the hall packed and people standing at the back, and judging by the applause and the enthusiasm of the members of the audience who penetrated back stage, it was very much enjoyed as a show.

We had two guest groups; The Dunav Band, again supported us and were given a rousing reception which nearly stopped the show; The Malaysians stepped into the gap left by the Thailand dancers, who backed out three weeks before the show. I had spent a week trying to get Indian dancers to take their place, without success, and eventually got the address of the Malaysian team but had another ten days wait while they collected their team. Meanwhile, I had to fill the gap and treat the Malaysians as an extra item if they could eventually dance. They did come, and their item, which some of you will have seen subsequently at the Cecil Sharp House Spring Dance, was a delightful foil to the rest of the programme.

Our Society teams included, (1) the Balkan group, which gave Croatian and Macedonian items, with the fast men's dance, Sopsko, as a separate number, and by special request from the Ealing authorities they preceded the Macedonian item with a folksong; (2) the Polish team gave two colourful items, (we had a panic backstage when one of the Polish coats couldn't be found); (3) Los Ibericos, who came to the rescue to fill the Thailand gap; (4) Austrian; (5) Swedish; (6) French; (7) Swiss (the other extra item to fill the gap), and (8) Israeli as the finale, with the company joining in. We used the new Israeli costumes for the first time and I am told they looked very effective.

Financially, this was also a success, and after paying expenses of all dancers, and the musicians' fees, we shall be able to give small donations to the groups and have a surplus for the Society. Figures are not finalized yet.

We are proposing to do more of these small shows and have already booked the Hammersmith Town Hall for 5th October, and the Commonwealth Institute for 16th November. There is a proposal for an open-air show for Ealing in August, and the agents want to discuss further shows. We are also negotiating a week's dancing at a Festival in Ireland from 26th May to 2nd June. It would greatly ease the organization of these shows if dancers could make every effort to attend classes regularly, so that rehearsals before the shows could be used to polish up performances instead of teaching the dances.

My thanks to all who took part in this show - dancers, musicians, and back-stage staff, for helping to put on a very creditable show.

MARGERY LATHAM.

8.

AFFILIATED GROUPS

Barlow International Folkdance Group

Hon. Sec. Alan Williams, 19 Ellesmere Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester 21.  
Meetings at Bartlow Hall Evening Institute, Darley Avenue,  
Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester 21.

Croxley Green International Song & Dance Group

Hon. Sec. Miss K. Monroe James, 14 Oakleigh Drive, Croxley Green,  
Rickmansworth, Herts. Meetings at Malvern Way School, Croxley Green,  
Rickmansworth, Herts.

Folkestone District National Dance Group

Group Leader: Mrs. Olive Field, Westminster Bank House, 4 Holmesdale Terrace,  
Folkestone, Kent.

Guildford International Folk Dancers

Hon. Sec. c/o 77 Long Gore, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey. Meetings at  
St. Nicholas Small Hall, Millnead Terrace, Guildford.

Harrow Green Folk Dancing Group

Hon. Sec. Mrs. Ingrid Pursall,  
Meetings at Oxford House, Mape Street, Bethnal Green Road, E.2.

Medway Folk Dance Club

Hon. Sec. Mr. L. Pascoe, 58 Blenheim Avenue, Chatham, Kent. Meetings at  
Congregational Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham.

Sussex University Folk Dance Group

Hon. Sec. Miss C. Boyle, 1 Cumberland Lodge, Cumberland Road, Brighton, Sussex.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am always pleased to print news of our affiliated groups if the Secretaries  
would care to keep me informed. Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Harrow Green Group are badly in need of new members if they are to keep going.  
It would be a great pity to see this group close down after more than twenty  
years' active life, and they would welcome the support of present members,  
former members, new members, and friends to prevent this happening.



S.I.F.D. CLASSES1967/1968

Spring Term: 22nd April to 28th June.

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

30/-d.	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	Felisa Victoria
Monday	8.00 to 9.30	Spanish: intermediate & advanced	Felisa Victoria
Monday	6.00 to 8.00	General European: advanced	Margery Latham
Monday	8.00 to 10.00	Polish	Betty Harve,
Thursday	7.00 to 8.00	Flamenco: beginners	Felisa Victoria
Thursday	8.00 to 9.30	Flamenco: intermediate	Felisa Victoria

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.

\*\*\*\*\*                      \*\*\*\*\*

10.

PROGRAMME FOR SUNDAYS

			<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
April	7th	Cecil Sharp House	Folk Band	Wilf Horrocks
	14th	NO DANCE -	EASTER SUNDAY	
	21st	Dance Centre	Wilf Horrocks	Ian Willson
	28th	Dance Centre	Cliff Beck	Lily Southgate
May	5th	Cecil Sharp House	Folk Band	Jack Richardson

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

IF YOU HAVE A COSTUME, OR CAN BORROW ONE, WEAR IT AT THE CECIL SHARP HOUSE DANCES,  
TO HELP MAKE THE SCENE MORE COLOURFUL.

Cecil Sharp House is at No.2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1 (Nearest Underground Camden Town)

The Dance Centre is at No.12 Floral Street, W.C.2. (Nearest Underground Leicester Sq.)

\*\*\*\*\*

WEEKENDS AWAY

May 3rd/5th FOLKDANCERS WEEKEND AT SURREY CREST.

Surrey Crest is situated near Godstone Green, in Surrey. The surrounding countryside is very attractive for walking; there are a couple of good village pubs, and facilities for horse-riding nearby. The weekend is usually a mixture of folkdancing, walking, playing table-tennis, cards or chess etc. 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:- £2.16. 0d. Please bring with you your tape recorder or tapes or record player or records or musical instrument.- the more variety, the better.

\*\*\*\*\*

WHAT'S ON

April 5th An Easter Dance run by Watford International Folk Dance Group.  
See handbill enclosed.

27th International Folk Dance at Borough Green, Wrotham. Details on Page 6.

May 3rd/5th SURREY CREST WEEKEND. See details above.

11th S.I.F.D. HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING. 3 p.m. at Christopher Hatton School.

18th International Folk Dance run by Harrow Green, at Oxford House, Mape Street, Bethnal Green, E.2. Tickets at door: 4/-. 7.30 p.m.

18th FOLKDANCING AT THE COCKPIT, HYDE PARK, FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL APPROX. 6 P.M.