

# S.I.F.D. NEWS

## JULY 1968



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This month's cover is by David Dewhirst.

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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).

SUNDAY, 7th JULY 1968

HUNGARIAN REVISION COURSE

On Sunday, 7th July 1968, we shall be holding a revision course in Hungarian dances as taught by Magda Ossko at Swansea in August last year.

The classes will be held in the Main Hall at Cecil Sharp House; details as follows:-

<u>Time of classes:</u>	11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
	Break for lunch
	2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
<u>Tutor in charge:</u>	Catherine Tribe
<u>Musician:</u>	Donald Campbell
<u>Course fee:</u>	10/-

The course will be followed by our usual International Folk Dance from 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m., with a specially reduced admission fee of 2/6 to students attending the course.

We have also arranged for the visiting amateur Hungarian group known as the Bodrog Folk Dance Ensemble to join us in the evening and to give us a short demonstration of their dances.

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BODROG FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE - From Sarospatak, Hungary.

At the end of June, the Bodrog Ensemble will be arriving in London as the guests of the Education Department of the London Co-operative Society. An exchange visit will be made to Hungary in August by a group of young Co-operators for a holiday and study tour of the Hungarian Co-operative Society movement. Readers may like to make a note of the performances that have been arranged during the Ensemble's visit:-

- July 2nd At the Assembly Hall, Stoke Newington Church Street, N.16.
- 3rd Assembly Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E.17
- 4th University College Theatre, W.C.2.
- 6th Ipswich Co-operative Society.
- 8th Co-operative Centre, Birmingham.
- 10th Lewisham Concert Hall.

As we shall be teaching the Czardas at our Hungarian course this month, it seems appropriate to print the following article giving the history of this exciting dance.

### THE CZARDAS

The world learned to know this word a hundred and sixty years ago. It is the name of the loveliest and most colourful of Hungarian dances, performed by two people; its steps were taken up all over Europe in the forties and fifties of the last century at a time when the Hungarian people were awakening to national consciousness. Up till then, according to periodicals of the time, it was danced only in the "czarda" (a village inn) by peasant lads and lasses on Sundays. At the National Casino in Budapest, at the gay carnival given by the Hungarian Embassy in Paris, in exclusive Viennese drawing rooms, and at balls of the nobility in Prague, everybody fell under the spell of this sprightly, vigorous dance, whose airy unrestricted movements were such a contrast to the stiff formality of the fashionable dances of the period. Unfortunately, however, the "fashion" did not last long. In Hungary, it became a ten-minute solemn national ceremony performed at balls, but it lost its hold on the dancing public. Why? Life changed; the new rhythm, jazz, swept it away together with the waltz, the quadrille, the gallopade, and all the other favoured social dances.

Regardless of all this, however, the czardas survived among the peasantry from whence it came, and invaded the stage and the ballroom. Its short-lived popularity was a good thing after all, enriching the dance and giving it colour. All the Hungarian dances previously known merged into one (the man's solo dance and the recruiting dance for instance) and greater scope was given to women dancers. Hungarian peasant dances flourished most in the period between the sixties of the last century and the outbreak of the first World War. At this time peasant celebrations - weddings, christenings, balls, pig-killing feasts, name-day celebrations, spinning circles - were so rich in songs, dances, and the revival of ancient customs, that visitors from abroad were quite enraptured by them. Unfortunately, the czardas and the old folk-traditions became somewhat drab during the first and second World Wars. In some regions it is a hard and arduous task to unearth these treasures and acquaint the new generation with the legacy of their forefathers. After 1945, a vigorous start was made to trace and record folk-traditions; young ethnographers, dance experts, and research workers in folk music co-operated to save from extinction the vanishing tradition of the Hungarian czardas. They visited the country's best czardas dancers, filmed their dance, recorded popular czardas melodies, and asked people to describe how they used to perform these dances at social gatherings. The work goes on, with ever more information being gathered about how the czardas was danced in certain regions of the country. The collections confirm the truth of the old Hungarian saying that "customs vary from home to home"; each village and region has its own specific style. In the North they dance the czardas with a deep bend of the knee, "squatting" one might call it; in the region between the Danube and the Tisza, the entire body of czardas dancers quiver in time to the music; and around Tokay they dance a straight, formal czardas, clicking their heels for emphasis. Some sixty or seventy years ago the dancers touched fingers only, executing figures before one another. Lately, however, it has become popular to hold one's partner by the shoulder or waist, but even so the man will now and then let go of his partner and whirl on in front of her, showing off his agility and defiance. The accompanying music is heightened by the man beating time by clapping his hands or striking his boot-tops.

There are about 4,000 amateur dance-groups in Hungary. One third of them come

from villages, one third from towns, and approximately one third are students' groups. The town and student groups have close ties with the village groups and many of the agile elderly dancers. Those who have learned the czardas are fond of dancing it along with other social dances in their spare time. A few years ago the ballroom was practically empty when the orchestra played the czardas; now over half the dancers join in. Some of them have acquired the knack of performing the figure with gusto and grace. The czardas is once more returning to city ball-rooms, because the youngsters have an opportunity to learn it and become fond of it.

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#### FOLK DANCE INSTRUMENTS

##### The Vielle (French)

A medieval drone instrument with strings set in vibration by the friction of a wheel. It consists of a box or soundchest having the outline of a guitar, with a wheel inside covered with leather and well resined, which is rotated by means of a crank at the tail-end of the instrument. On the fingerboard are movable frets or keys which, when depressed, stop the strings, much in the same way as the fingers do on a violin, at points corresponding to the diatonic intervals of the scale. The Vielle has been seen recently at the Royal Albert Hall, and the Horniman Museum has one or two fine examples.

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#### HARROW GREEN F.D.G.

I would like all members of the S.I.F.D. and affiliated groups to know that, contrary to current rumour, Harrow Green Group is not closing down. At a meeting on the 3rd March a new Committee was elected, namely Roland Minton, George Sweetland, Ingrid Pursall, and myself, John Dear, who will be Demonstration Secretary.

The Group will meet every Wednesday throughout July and August at Oxford House, Maze Street, Bethnal Green, E.2. There will be no G.L.C. classes during this period and we would ask as many people as possible to come along to our Group. (Ed. Note: Actually there will be some S.I.F.D. classes during this period, see note on page 6). There is a guest teacher every two weeks; we revive many old dances and learn new ones; we have given several successful and enjoyable demonstrations recently, and we always need people in the teams. Harrow Green has been running for many years and we are determined to continue and renew former glories.

JOHN DEAR.

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S.I.F.D. CLASSES

Our classes end officially on the 28th June. However, we have been given G.L.C. permission to continue throughout July, and the following classes will be held during this month :-

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 Letham
Monday	8.00 to 10.00	Polish	Betty Harvey
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

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COMMITTEE NEWS

Our Hon. Treasurer, Marjorie Bracey, has given notice that she will not be standing again as Treasurer, but will carry on until the end of the present financial year.

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CONGRATULATIONS! to Frances and Wilf Horrocks on the arrival of their new son, Duncan, who was born on the 23rd May. We are very pleased to hear that Frances and the baby are now progressing well, and we send our very best wishes to the Horrocks family, now five - Frances, Wilf, Gregory, Bruce, and Duncan.

to Don and Barbara Freeman (nee Wadsworth) on the arrival of a son, John Christopher, born on the 9th June. We send our very best wishes to Barbara, Don, and baby John.

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AU REVOIR! to Angela and Toni Zuger, who are leaving us to take up residence in Toni's native country, Switzerland. Our best wishes to them for a happy future in their new home and we hope we shall see them again at some time in the future.

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ED. NOTE I would once again ask members who change their address to be sure to let the Editor or Editor's Assistant have a note of the new address, to ensure safe delivery of the 'News'.

NEW CLASSES TO BE OPENED IN SEPTEMBER

As reported in the last 'News', I have been taking steps to make extra classes available to members in other Institutes than the Central London Institute, so that members finding the journey to Clerkenwell too difficult may have the chance of learning our dances at an Institute nearer home. Since I have received neither recommendations nor requests from members to use a specific Institute, I have approached several in various parts of London, not too near Clerkenwell to conflict with our established classes, and am pleased to give you advance notice of what classes will be available to you next term, in addition to our usual classes.

Monday	Hungarian 8.00 - 10.00	Westminster	Alan McLean
Tuesday	European National 7.30 - 9.30	Bethnal Green	Peter Oakley
	European National 7.30 - 9.30	Greenwich	Bert Price
Wednesday	European National 7.30 - 9.30	Sydenham & Forest Hill	Bert Price
Thursday	European National 7.30 - 9.30	Fulham & South Kensington	Bert Price
	Spanish 7.00 - 9.00 Flamenco 9.00 - 10.00 Spanish	Kensington	Sandra Escudero
Friday	European National 7.30 - 9.30	Paddington	George Sweetland

We are also endeavouring to start a class at Stockwell Institute, with Lily Southgate as Tutor.

You will note that, at the beginning, I am myself taking three separate Institutes - not because I am a glutton for work but because we have a shortage of teachers. I hope that prospective new teachers will be coming along and that by this time next year I can relinquish one or more of these classes to other teaching members of the Society. I hope also to try to form a panel of national experts willing to visit the new classes occasionally to give them a boost and to keep the standard high.

It will be a great step forward for the Society if we can increase our membership in this way and I would be glad of all the help you can give me in getting these new ventures off to a good start. This means, in effect, please join one or other and help the instructor to produce a good healthy and happy new group.

I am sure many of you will have some very good ideas on how to run a good class and I would welcome your advice and suggestions as well as your active help in the new term. To start the ball rolling, I give you on the next page some of my ideas as to how new teachers might start a class.

NOTES FOR NEW TEACHERS

It is important to work in harmony with your pupils and to create a good morale in the class. You should give them something to aim for and keep the standard of dancing high, not low, yet at the same time not so difficult that they lose heart. Remember that if the class is too easy they will go home thinking "This is for children", but if you give them something to aim for you may well capture their imagination and enthusiasm.

It is a good idea to give everybody your address and telephone number and to tell them that in the event of your being unable to attend one evening you will do all in your power to find a substitute and will advise them through the Institute staff of the reason for your absence. At the same time, you should point out that they on their part have the same responsibility to you and you should ask them to please let you know if they are unable to attend.

To assist matters, it is an excellent idea to create a Class Secretary right at the beginning - someone who will make a note of everyone's address and telephone number for you, who will keep the register and make notes of people's non-attendance etc. It is advisable to find out why people leave the class - have they moved away? - found the class too difficult? - lost interest, and so on. In all these things, a Class Secretary is useful, so appoint one early. Don't ask the class for volunteers ( you won't get one ), but pick out someone who looks bright and ask him or her if they will assist you.

You should also draft out a programme of dances that will be taught, and after some weeks find if students show a preference for one country's dances and then try to interest them in making their own costumes of that country.

Interest them in giving a demonstration, first at a Cecil Sharp House dance to feel their feet, and finally at other public functions.

It would be a good idea to use a guest teacher quite often since a new face and a different approach does wonders to keep a class interested and on its toes. I would recommend giving every student a copy of the S.I.F.D. News before the first class begins and to mention at this stage membership of the S.I.F.D.

BERT PRICE (Chairman)

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FESTIVALS IN JUGOSLAVIA

Ohrid, Macedonia. International Folk Festival commencing 3rd July and lasting 8 days. Apart from Yugoslavia, there will be dancers from Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, and possibly Albania and Romania. A remote possibility also of Hungary, Austria and Italy being represented.

Skopje. July 21 - 27 (dates not confirmed). Festivals and exhibitions for 'Week of Solidarity' commemorating the 1963 earthquake and countries who helped to provide aid. Many folk performances and concerts etc.

Zagreb. July 21 - 28. Smotra Folkloru (folklore festival). Individual and group performances by amateur town and village groups, and the professional groups 'Lado', 'Kolo' and 'Tanec'. Exhibition of folk art and craft.

FESTIVAL IN BELGIUM

At Schoten-Antwerp, July 12th-19th, 10th International Festival of Folk Dancing. Dancers from U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Portugal, Czechoslovakia, etc.



POLISH NEWS

Spurred on by the talk of new dances and costumes the Balkan & Hungarian fans are going forth to find, we have the following news of the Polish.

The Polish class is embarking on the making of a new set of costumes this summer, from the Lowicz region. The materials for these are very expensive, and there is much 'rose' embroidery on the girls' skirts and aprons, and on the blouses for both men and girls, so they don't expect to appear in them for quite some time!

Meanwhile, more pieces are constantly being added to enlarge the Krakowiak set, and recently new headscarves with the correct fringed edges, and some new embroidered blouses were added to the old Opoczno girls' costumes, making them look quite presentable!

During the holidays, the leader of the class, Betty Harvey, is going to Poland where she hopes to see and learn new steps and dances, and perhaps buy one or two items of costume and music unobtainable over here.

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11 Morpeth Mansions, S.W.1.

9. 6. 1968

Dear Editor,

with reference to our Chairman's remarks in the last issue of the 'NEWS' about the fragmentation of the Society at present, may I add one or two comments?

I think most of us agree that it would be a good thing for the Society if all the classes and members mixed more freely, but in a Society of this size one has to accept the fact that some people not only don't want to join in many kinds of dancing and social dances, but simply haven't the time. For my own part, I only wish I'd known about the Society when I was much younger and had more time and energy to have a go at the lot!

Regarding specialist classes; I agree it is a bad thing if they do shut themselves away in their respective "ivory towers", but I don't think they are necessarily as satisfied with themselves as Bert seems to think, or that they wouldn't like their dances to be integrated within the Society's general repertoire. It is only that in some cases, perhaps most of all in Spanish, these dances simply are not suitable for general dancing, so what can one do about it? I know much of this has been said before, but I think it should be said again for the sake, perhaps, of newer members who may feel critical of the specialist classes.

Apart from these points, there is a fact I would like to add. In the case of the Polish class, at any rate, it would be quite untrue to say that its members do not join in general international dancing. I would say (and Margery Latham will substantiate this) that at least 75% of the class do so, regularly, and that a large percentage go to the social dances as well.

Yours sincerely,

BETTY HARVEY

PROGRAMME FOR SUNDAYS

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.'s</u>
July 7	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Margery Latham
14	Dance Centre	Cliff Beck	George Sweetland
21	Dance Centre	Harry de Caux	Ian Willson
28	Dance Centre	Wilf Horrocks	Lily Southgate

Time: 7 to 10 p.m. Admissions: 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 Square)

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N.B. WE SHALL BE DANCING AT THE DANCE CENTRE EVERY SUNDAY DURING AUGUST.

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WHAT'S ON

- July 4th Gital Gopala, music and dances from India, with the Surya Kumari & Company, at Commonwealth Institute, 8.p.m. Tickets 7/6 to 21/-.
- July 7th HUNGARIAN COURSE AND VISIT OF BODROG GROUP TO CECIL SHARP HOUSE. Details on page 3.
- \*July 8th A team of Basque dancers, on their way to compete at the Eisteddfod, will be performing at Associate House, Queens Road, Ashford, Kent, at approx. 7.15 p.m. (For exact time please check with Chairman or Secretary).
- July 9th/14th Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. Details from Eisteddfod Office, Llangollen, North Wales. (Llangollen 2236).
- \*July 13th FOLK DANCING AT THE COCKPIT, HYDE PARK, FROM 4 P.M UNTIL APPROX. 6 P.M.
- \*July 14th BRECLAVAN, a group of Czech singers and dancers, will be performing at Folkestone, and again on Thursday, 18th July. (Details of place and time from Chairman or Secretary).
- \*July 17th BRECLAVAN performing at Hemel Hempstead. (Details of place and time from Chairman or Secretary).

\*Full details not available at time of going to Press.

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The visit to this country by 45 Serbian Orthodox priests announced in the May issue unfortunately had to be cancelled, owing to the illness of the Patriarch.