

# S.I.F.D. NEWS

MAY 1970.



JAVA



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

Assistants: Sylvia Fulton, 22 Landseer Road, London, N.19.  
Telephone: Home: 01-272-5827. Office: MAN 7800 Ext. 208

Barney Salmon, 64 Lincoln Court, 115 Bethune Road, London, N.16.  
Telephone: Office: 01-839-8020 Ext. 759

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

This month's cover of a Javanese dancer is by Caroline Thomas.

\* \* \* \* \*

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING.

Officers of the Committee:-

Chairman: Bert Price,  
22 Sunnydale Road,  
London, S.E.12.  
Office: GRE 3767

Secretary: Dorothy Bryan,  
Flat 1, Braunton Mansions,  
29 Rosebery Avenue,  
London, E.C.1. 837-2438

Treasurer: Harry Whitaker,  
29 Sherbrook Gardens,  
Winchmore Hill, N.21.  
360-4965

Membership Secretary (Ex-Officio member):-  
Roland Minton,  
131 Holly Street, Dalston,  
London, E.8.

Demonstration Secretary: Margery Latham,  
14 Beechwood Avenue,  
Kew, Richmond, Surrey.  
Home: PRO 7055  
Office: WHI 9000 Ext. 523.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Our records are available from Magnegraph Recording Co., Ltd., 1 Eanway Place, London, W.1. Price 17/- each plus postage.

BOOKS

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

Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for their own use. Full details from Janice Wrench, 11 Morpeth Mansions, Morpeth Terrace, S.W.1.

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

When I wrote for last month's News I was up to my eyes with the rigmarole of the Keele Spring School and still wondering as to it's ultimate fate. Now it is all over and I am happy to say that it was a great success. Elsewhere, in the News, you will receive reports, I trust, from various members giving their News and views on the Course but from the point of view of the organisers I can say it was a valuable exercise and that we have learned much to help us in any future Spring School there. From our observations of the various classes we can say that the standard of tuition and the standard of dancing was as high as the students' enthusiasm.

Being only a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -day course it was of course intensive and we recommend that if possible future Spring Schools should be of a week's duration or else confined to one Country. We learned too that the students, when given a choice, preferred to attend the Specialist classes and to relegate the International to the evening Socials. Our International classes received only 4 students! I consider this Specialisation to be a very good thing indeed and one which we should foster to the utmost and recommend that future courses be composed entirely of specialist teachers with the International taught in the evening Socials. Only in this way can the students begin to learn and to appreciate something of the style and character of any one country's dances. If you read the notices at C.S.H. you will see that dozens of Courses are held at various places every year but that they tend always to specialise viz, Courses in Morris Dancing, Flayford, Square dancing, or clog dancing, Courses for Musicians, M.C.'s and so on. We should do the same.

I am going to recommend now that we gird our loins for the next step forward, which will be two separate one week Courses to be held next year. The first in the Spring, at Keele, the second, in the Summer at Swansea. I think that the Keele School should be confined to French and Spanish dances (with International Socials) and the Swansea to Balkan dances - Yugoslav and Greek with a third grouping of Israeli dances if possible. I am prepared to run the Spring School but cannot get away from work for a week's Summer School which I would hope to see Jack Richardson organise for you as in the past. Obviously very few of you will be able to attend both, but a choice of timing and a choice in the venue, and in the dances to be taught, will be a benefit to all.

Since I cannot get involved in a Summer School next August I am already investigating a week's Course at Keele to be held during the week before Easter and I am making enquiries as to which French Teacher to use and which departments of France to specialise in. The Spanish will I hope be a continuation of the regional dances which proved so popular at Swansea last year and at Keele this last Easter.

Once again I ask you to please write if you have any suggestions to make to help me in these deliberations because I don't want to earmark even one of my precious three weeks holiday unless you want it.

At Keele I was very happy to meet Hugh Thurston and his wife Mina, who are on a year's Sabbatical leave from College in Canada and now, after spending some 4 months in Turkey and the Balkans will be in Cambridge until August. Hugh who is an expert in International Dance and Music and a specialist in Greek, Turkish and Balkan dancing has very graciously agreed to come to our Friday class to teach some Greek and Turkish dances. I have just passed this information on to Ann Bartlett, your

Friday Class Secretary, who will be contacting Hugh to finalise the dates and I do recommend you all to keep those dates free and to come and meet Hugh to learn some new and fascinating dances.

I wrote last month about the possibility of inaugurating a Society Dance Company able to present a two hour show of the Society's most spectacular dances. The Committee is keen to proceed with this venture but no one member has as yet approached me with a request to be included and without such support it would be futile to go ahead so please, if you are interested do contact me soon or I'll be forced to drop the matter.

Included with this News Sheet you will find the Notice and Preliminary Agenda for our half-yearly General Meeting on 7th June. I hope you will attend in force and will come prepared to talk about our classes and about my proposed Spring School and Dance Company. I have had no requests so far for applicants for our Teacher's Certificate but am still open to receive names.

On Committee we continually receive requests for information as to this one Country's or that one Country's dances, often from students preparing a thesis in the matter and their letters are awfully difficult to answer. It would help if we had coded information as to each Country's dances. In that respect I wonder whether our Specialist Teachers might help the Committee by providing it with a list of all they, personally, know about the dances of the Country in which they specialise and where these dances can be seen and practiced (even if outside the SIFD class). We do not want dance music or instructions but just general information about the dances and groups.

In time we could have a series of leaflets printed (one for each Country) containing all this knowledge. We could appoint a librarian to keep the records up to date and to add fresh names as they materialise; we could have leaflets giving costume details as well, and use them as News-Sheet material too. Ideally each Specialist Class should have it's own librarian, (in liaison with an SIFD Committee member) since the leaflets would be of immense value to each individual class in it's drive for new members and in keeping it's own records up to date. The job of preparing these leaflets is, I am afraid, too much for your already overworked Committee but if decentralised and prepared for printing by individual classes on the lines envisaged above would be a fairly simple matter since all we want in the first instance is a leaflet giving details of our existing knowledge. Further research would come later.

BERT PRICE.

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

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The Committee Meeting held on Sunday 5th April was attended by all members of the Committee except J. Dear and A. Dell, who sent their apologies.

Membership: 280 members. 51 new members this year.

Matters DiscussedProposed conference of all M.C.'s and Musicians

It was suggested that a meeting should be held for all Musicians, M.C.'s and prospective M.C.'s. Ann is to contact all likely people, and try to arrange this for one of the Friday Classes.

New Amplifier and Speaker

This is being looked into; we are to ask the advice of a sound expert.

Keele

The possibilities of a Keele 1971.

Publicity

Will Green has come up with some very good results, leaflets, membership forms etc. The possibilities of an enquiry envelope was discussed. This is to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Shows for children and young people

The possibilities of Demonstration Teams for schools was discussed. As time was running short it was decided to carry this over to the next meeting, and in the meantime look for some likely person to undertake the task of liaising with schools and teachers etc.,

---

The weekend prior to Keele Ian & Jean Willson, Janice Wrench and I went to the Birmingham Group for their Saturday Teaching Course. It was a great success. The afternoon Teaching Class was very well attended and the Dance in the evening was extremely enjoyable.

To round off the weekend we went for a walk in the Lickey Hills on Sunday morning. The fresh air and the views were well worth the climb up (and what a climb!)

The Birmingham Group is a very enthusiastic Group. The members work as a team and their results were shown on this weekend. Bob Kimmins and his wife went to a lot of trouble to see that we were well fed and enjoying ourselves. Ian and Jean were accommodated by Rosemary and Tony, and Janice and I were looked after by John and Keith and their parents. The hospitality was wonderful.

We also had the pleasure of meeting the Sneed's addition - Victoria. She is a lovely baby and stayed in her carry-cot, as good as gold, listening to the music for most of the afternoon and evening.

SECRETARY'S NOTES (Continuation)

We all enjoyed our weekend and look forward to the next one. Thank you all Birmingham Group. Very well done.

Then off to Keele for some really strenuous dancing. It was lovely to see Swansea faces again. Irene's Spanish Class was full of attractive young dancers. Ken was his usual lively self but poor Aggie broke a string on the last night. Henry Tribe really looked the part in his new Hungarian Costume which Kathy made, and made it very well too!

Three days was not long enough really. It seemed that as soon as you got into the swing of things, it was time to leave. However, I left with a contented feeling. At last Balkan dancing made sense and I loved it, thanks to Ken's very patient teaching.

DOROTHY BRYAN  
Hon. Sec.

\*\*\*\* \*

P O L I S H N E W S

On Monday this week the Polish class enjoyed a delightful visit and some exciting tuition from Miss Alicja Kossobudzka, who was till recently with Mazowsze Dance Company in Poland.

This visit was a particular pleasure for me in the way it came about. We were introduced a short while ago by a mutual friend, neither of us having any idea that we might have met before. However, Alicja immediately remembered having seen me back-stage at Mazowsze performances in Poland two years ago, and it even transpired later that she had my name in her diary before she left Poland - given to her by my friends in Mazowsze, who told her I might give her help if she needed it in London!

She expects to be over here for a few more months, so we are planning some more tuition from her, and we hope to bring her along to Cecil Sharp when we are dancing there at the beginning of May.

We are also in process of trying to arrange a visit this summer from a leading male dancer from Teato Wielki in Warsaw. If he gets his permit to travel, he will be with us in July, and we shall try and fix some general classes if society members would like this, in addition to tuition for the Polish Group itself.

BETTY HARVEY

\*\*\*\*\*

SURREY CREST WEEKEND - 8th, 9th & 10th May

Come and enjoy a convivial weekend of Folk Dancing at Surrey Crest in the pleasant countryside of Surrey. Full board from Friday night to Sunday tea costs £3. 5. Od. There are a few vacancies for both sexes if you hurry! Please contact Roland Minton (address on P.2), or phone 606-8866 Ext. 241. We are hoping to entertain some folk-dancers from Arras, France, and we would like to make it a memorable weekend for them.

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP

We were delighted when Alex and Mary Harris asked us to go to France at the invitation of a French group they had met on a course a couple of years ago. When George Sweetland formed our English Group at the beginning of this year, he had this sort of trip in mind, but nobody had thought anything would happen quite so soon.

As the French group wanted some teaching sessions, Peter Oakley came along to Harrow Green to show us some new dances, but unfortunately just before we left for France, Peter had to go into hospital so he could not come with us. However, John Saxby stepped into the breach which was very good of him, he knew most of the dances as he had been our reserve at the Bethnal Green Festival. With the exception of John, our team was the same that had danced at Bethnal Green:- Sheila Tanner, Margaret Leveridge, Pat Wilson and myself (Alex Beauclerc), Tony Parkins, John Lake and George Sweetland. Harry de Caux agreed to come along as our musician, though it was touch and go for a while because his wife was not at all well. Still, he made it and we were very glad, things would have been very difficult without him.

We already had some very attractive costumes which were made for us for the Bethnal Green Festival, but we added some lace trimmed caps to the girls' costumes and Margaret Leveridge and Dorothy Bryan made the men's shirts.

Alex Harris had made all the travel arrangements and we duly met at the Oval Underground on Friday afternoon, 3rd April. Tony Parkins brought his wife and two sons along, so we were about thirteen in all. Alex drove us to Ramsgate in a hired mini-bus and from there we caught the Hovercraft to Calais. I think this was the first trip by Hovercraft for all of us. It is a fantastic way to travel, only 40 minutes coast to coast. In appearance it is not unlike a flying saucer (or should I say as I would imagine a flying saucer to be), it is very comfortable inside and, once you get going, it is rather like a bumpy bus journey. I have never enjoyed that tedious ferry crossing that we usually have to do in overcrowded boats with never anywhere to sit, so I was completely converted to the Hovercraft.

Once we arrived at Calais, our journey was nearly over as Blanquet, the village where we stayed was only about 25 miles from the coast. Jean Francois, the leader of the group, was at Calais to meet us with a fleet of cars belonging to other members of the Group. The transport problem had been worrying us a little as we had originally intended taking the mini-bus all the way, but Alex was told there was no room on the Hovercraft. Still we were very lucky in that the French group managed to get us around for the whole weekend though it could not have been easy for them.

We had thought that we would be staying in Arras with individual families, but Jean Francois told us he had been able to fix us up at a teachers' training centre which was much better because it meant we were all together. There were two buildings, one very old, an old chateau, and a modern annexe.

When we arrived, we were shown into the old building where we were to spend the first night, and after we unpacked we went over to the annexe to have dinner. As well as ourselves and our hosts, there was a big party of students also staying there; they had just completed a course and it was their last night. Jean Francois asked us if we would dance for them in costume after dinner. This we did and they seemed to enjoy it very much. We did Circassian Circle, Dorset Four Hand Reel, Newcastle,



a Manx Dance (can't spell it I am afraid) and Fandango. Later on the students responded by showing us some of their International dances, two of them I did not know but they did Karapvet and Karabushka, basically the same steps as we do, but with one or two variations.

The following morning, we were a bit late for breakfast, so the group took us out for coffee in the village. The country-side around Blanquet is very attractive, reasonably flat and not at all unlike parts of Kent. They suffered badly in the 1914-18 war when the whole area was simply a battleground, there are military cemeteries for miles around and lots of war memorials with hundreds of names on them. Whole villages must have been almost wiped out.

After walking around the village and looking inside the church, which was beautiful, we went back to the house to start the morning's dancing. Alex Harris assisted by Mary taught some dances, so did George and things really went with a swing. They learnt the rant step much quicker than I did. George taught some of the dances we had done the previous evening, and Alex Harris translated, fortunately he speaks good French. Then we did some more general dancing, Morpeth Rant, Bonny Breast Knots, Thady you Gander, Wiltshire 6 hand Reel, and the Riflemen which Alex had taught us at our last rehearsal. I am afraid I cannot really remember all the dances we did, but everyone seemed to have one up their sleeve which they were able to teach. Sunday afternoon for instance, Sheila, Pat and Margaret taught the Waves of Torey, which was extremely popular.

Lunch was early that day and when we had finished we all piled into cars and went to see Arras, which was about an hour's journey from where we were staying. It is a big town with an interesting history, and of course, it was terribly badly damaged during both wars. The father of one of the French girls was connected with the Town Hall and he offered to take us around it. Apparently during the first war it was almost razed to the ground and the people of Arras re-built it afterwards stone by stone exactly as it had been before. It is certainly a beautiful building now with wonderful wood carvings, and in the main hall are enormous murals showing scenes from everyday life in Arras in medieval times. The town was famous for its weaving, they used an upright loom, rather than a flat one, which was unique to that part of the world. They made beautiful tapestries, perhaps you Shakespearean scholars will remember the Arras in "Hamlet". Being Saturday, there were quite a few weddings taking place, the Civil ceremony that is, which precedes the church wedding. We were asked if we would like to sit at the back of the room and watch the short ceremony. There was just the bride and groom, their families and us. Nobody seemed to think our being there at all odd.

We still had a couple of hours to spare before going back to dinner so we split up and wandered round the town. There was plenty to see, some of us went to the museum and looked at some of the old paintings by artists from the area.

Later that evening we had an excellent dinner and toasted Jean Francois and his wife Denyse with champagne as it was their wedding anniversary. Incidentally all the meals we had were very good and we were plied with drink from the moment we arrived. Beer and wine appeared on the table at every meal as well as an aperitif.

When we first arrived Jean Francois had told us that we would be doing a demonstration for local education authorities who had, of course, helped to make our stay possible. He thought it might be on Sunday morning, but although a lot of rather important people arrived they went into one of the other rooms for a

meeting which took up most of the morning. Meanwhile, we were busy revising the dances we had taught the day before and by this time quite a few other dancers had arrived whom we had not met until then. They showed us some French dances which we enjoyed doing, but most of the time was spent showing our English dances.

Sunday lunch served at midday with, as usual, plenty to drink so imagine our consternation when we were asked if we could change and dance immediately. It all went quite well till we came to "Dorset Four Hand Reel" when we went very wrong and finished up opposite the wrong people (I knew something had gone wrong but I could not think what!). However, we struggled through and I do not think it was noticed too much, at least we looked happy. By the time we had finished and we had done some more dancing it was time to change and pack. Then, one last drink together and it was time to leave. We were driven back to Calais where we waited for our Hovercraft home. There was a bit of a panic when we realized that John Lake and John Saxby were missing, about an hour passed and they still had not turned up, and just when we were getting really worried they both strolled in. The man who had given them a lift into Calais - he was a school inspector for the Calais area - lived in the town, and he had taken John L and John S home to meet his wife and children. While we were getting frantic, they were on their knees doing jigsaw puzzles.

There is a possibility that at least half a dozen of the French group will be coming to Surrey Crest in May. I do hope so, as it would give us the opportunity to return their hospitality. They could not have been nicer to us, they made us feel really at home and they were so interested in our dances.

Finally, I would like to thank Alex and Mary Harris for all their hard work in organising the trip, Harry de Caux for playing for us, Peter Oakley for teaching us the dances (let's hope he will be with us next time) and George Sweetland for organising the team. Everyone worked very hard but we enjoyed it, let's hope it is the first of many such trips.

ALEX BEAUCLERC

\*\*\*\*\*

VISIT TO B.I.F.D.G.

With the prospect of hordes of Society members struggling through Brum on their way to Keele, Birmingham International Folk Dance Group saw a golden opportunity to invite the Society to be their guests for the weekend prior to the start of the course.

Four people gladly accepted the offer of hospitality and the chance to make new friends, and so on Saturday morning, Janice, Dotty, Jean and Myself set off from Holborn, equipped with tapes, accordion, and all the paraphernalia necessary for Keele '70.

We all arrived at Bob and Pam Kimmins' in time for lunch and a quick briefing of the plans for the afternoon teaching session and the evening social dance. Bob told us with some trepidation that this was to be their first venture of this kind, but I feel he was reassured by the greater-than-expected response from his Group and from visitors.

The afternoon teaching session concentrated mainly on revision from the Society books, with additional dances, such as the familiar Serbian suite, thrown in for good measure. The evening social was swelled by visitors from Falvern Wells Folk Dance Group, who brought their accordionist. Nearly all the music was live for the dance, due to a partial failure of the tape recorders, and more enjoyable because of this!

We four were pretty well exhausted by the end of the evening, to say nothing of the Birmingham Organisers, who had been dancing since 2.30 that afternoon. A considerable quantity of home brew (special reserve earmarked for Keele) was consumed during the day, because the Y.M.C.A. whose premises were the venue for the occasion, is a dry organisation! (No disrespect intended towards that worthy body).

After the dance was over, the S.I.F.D. contingent were dispersed to all parts of the city. Jean and I stayed with Rosemary and Tony, both teachers, in the northern suburbs, while Dotty and Janice each had a man carry them off back home to stay with their parents, east and west respectively.

A gruelling ramble of nearly three miles took place the next day in the Lickey Hills, a local beauty spot. The weather was quite fine, and the dozen or so walkers (including us!) enjoyed the fresh air. The party ended at the starting point of the walk, Bob's place, where we were given a meal before leaving, and thanking them for the warm welcome given us by the Group.

We all agreed that the weekend had been a success, and looked forward to perhaps meeting again on the way to Keele '71.

IAN WILLSON

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

#### KEELE SPRING SCHOOL 1970

Congratulations to the Keele Sub-Committee on the successful completion of its first Spring School! Keele was the first of the Society's dance-courses that Jean and I have attended, and we would like recorded the fact that we enjoyed every minute of each very full day.

The University offered clean, modern facilities, and three substantial meals per day, while the Society offered an intensive programme of instruction designed to be of value to both new and experienced dancers. The programme comprised morning and afternoon sessions, during which instruction in the dances of three or four countries was taking place simultaneously. We found that it was only possible to concentrate on Balkan during the time available, and not to split 50/50 with Spanish as we had originally intended.

A social dance took place each evening. The first was thoroughly enjoyable, but as enthusiasm waned due, presumably, to the onset of fatigue, the last was a somewhat lack-lustre occasion.

For those who still had energy remaining after the rigours of the day, there were the late-night sessions in the "elephant house", in whose ultra modern surroundings all the camaraderie of the course was distilled (memo for next year:- treble the quantity of home-brew!). Some people even danced, but most of us just sat singing, chatting, drinking and generally unwinding. These sessions, too, seemed to suffer from the fatigue curve, and I was so tired by Wednesday night that I was obliged to go to bed at the early hour of 12.30.

Yes, by all means, let's have another Keele next Spring, during the week preceding or following Easter, perhaps? Our suggestions for next year's syllabus are French, Ukrainian and Polish; mind you, if all three are accepted and are run concurrently, we will have to devise some way of being in three places at once!

JEAN & IAN WILLSON

AFFILIATED GROUPS

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meet at the Church Hall, Quarry Hill, Borough Green (near Maidstone) every Tuesday from 7.30 to 10 p.m. New members welcome, age 15 upwards. Under 18's - 1/6; over 18's - 2/6. Refreshments included.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP will meet every Tuesday from September 29th when it starts its twentieth season and becomes part of the new Adult Education Centre. Forthcoming events:-

Saturday, 20th June Barn Dance at Folkestone Town Hall following raising of Swedish Mid-summer Pole on Leas at 6 p.m. as usual in the year between Folkestone International Folklore Festivals.

Saturday, 5th Sept. "Hop-Hoodening" celebrating hop harvest annually - Canterbury, Ransgate, Margate, Herne Bay, Wickhambreaux, Barn Dance.

Saturday, 12th Sept. Barn Dance at Folkestone Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Further information from Mrs. Olive Field, 4 Holmesdale Terrace, Folkestone, Kent.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE SOCIETY OF SUSSEX meet every Thursday evening during University term times, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Meetings are held at the University of Sussex, Falmer (on the Brighton/Lewes road) in the Old Refectory, Falmer House. On 2nd May the Group are holding a Dance at the University, when the London University Scottish Dance Society and a group from the E.F.D.S.S. will be dancing. Any S.I.F.D. members who can get down to Brighton for 7.30-ish on that day would be most welcome.

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E.2., every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. Swedish evenings, with "Linnea" Group, held regularly each month, usually on the first Wednesday in the month. Members and visitors welcome.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC GROUP meet at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, W.8., from 7 to 10 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday evening and would be very pleased to welcome new members. The Group perform Czechoslovakian dances and are taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at Crowlands Youth Centre, Romford, on Thursdays, from 8 to 10 p.m.

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Thursday evening at Handsworth Wood Girls School, Church Lane, Birmingham 20, from 7.15 to 9.15 p.m., as an Evening Institute Class.

\* \* \* \* \*

P O L I S H N A T I O N A L D A N C E S

National dances in Poland derive from the ancient tribal dances of the peoples inhabiting the area between the Baltic in the North, the Tatra Mountains in the South, the Odra on the West and the Bug on the East. The tribal ceremonies and dances were in honour of pagan gods and were connected with the cultivation of crops and with family festivities. With the passing of the centuries the dances lost their religious and ceremonial significance and became a communal folk pastime.

The dances have changed with time, have been adapted to meet new needs, and have absorbed foreign influences, but they have never lost the particular characteristics of the nation which created them. Polish dances are marked by their lack of systematic repetition of dance forms and show signs of having been modified according to the individual customs of different districts, resulting in many variations, each with its own motif.

They are group dances with uniform steps for all dancers. The performers sometimes give individual exhibitions of skill but these are always combined with the movements of the whole group. There is also great freedom with the beat, both of music and steps which sometimes fall on the weak part of the rhythm. The rhythmic measure is often prolonged or shortened. A change of pace from two- to three-step is common, or a change of time within a dance. Although built up of simple two or three-beat measures, the metre of folk music is not uniform. The melodies are lively with long intervals demanding wide-flung movements, expansive gestures and freedom in tracing the track of the dance.

The dances are embellished with local costumes or props and are thus influenced by regional conditions and customs. The motif of the movement imitates the actions of tilling the soil, taking the animals to pasture, or the work of craftsmen. Traces of ancient religious and wedding ceremonies also remain. The movement of the dance is often supplemented by songs or contains elements of games. Many dances still show the ancient circle made around a god, person or sacred object; many also feature a leading couple.

The historical tradition of Polish dancing is now maintained chiefly in the regional dances performed in each country district. The motifs of the regional dances have spread throughout the country and the same melodies, rhythms and songs (with minor changes), steps, hand-movements, and number of dancers are encountered in different areas. The dances of the Podhale highlanders are however completely distinctive. In this area at the foot of the Tatra and Bieskiy Mountains, the culture of the nomadic sheep-rearing Volochov tribes intermingled with local custom; the highlanders have maintained, most notably, the male shepherds and robbers' dances.

Apart from the regional folk dances, there is another group illustrating the common traditions of the Polish dance - the national dancing. The forms, music and movements of these dances which were of folk origin have been taken up universally. This group includes the Polonaise, Mazurka, Oberek, Kujaviak and Krakowiak.

The dance tradition is being maintained and popularised today. In the transition to recreation rooms, factory clubs and the stage, the dances are changing in structure and artistic elaborations and combinations are formed on the basis of the traditional, primary patterns. They are performed by a great many amateur peasants', workers', childrens', students', and military clubs run by trained instructors, and they have achieved great success at home and at Festivals abroad. Professional dance ensembles have also been organized, most notably MAZOWSZE founded in 1949 and SLASK set up in 1954 which give programmes of stylized folk dances in an artistically enriched form.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

62 Granton Road,  
Kings Heath, Birmingham 14

Dear Lily,

May I, through the medium of the SIFD News, thank the Society for sending four worthy representatives to Birmingham for our event on March 21st. Thank you again Ian and Jean, Dorothy and Janice for sparing the time to be with us. Organisation of such an event was completely new to us, and our several mistakes have taught us a lot - we hope some of them were not too obvious!

Our visitors, we found, were very helpful not only during the sessions but also in the general folkly conversations we had, both at the respective homes of members of the Birmingham Group before turning in and also on the very short ramble we had on Sunday before our new friends had to leave for Keele. Besides meeting and getting to know stalwart members of the Society, the event enabled us to meet others of our "faith", some of whom hope to be joining us in the Evening Institute class. Thank you also to everyone who did anything however small towards making the weekend such a success. I am reminded, for example, of the husband who can't be persuaded to dance, but who was content to watch us and officiate on the door, yet who insisted on paying his entrance fee. While we do not really regard it as a true guide as to how things went, our calculations put us marginally in the black - which is certainly better than red. We are encouraged to think of a similar session early in the autumn - near the start of the Evening Institute year, but, we hope, after the end of the holiday season! Consideration must also be given to avoid conflict with Roy Haycock's ideas for a weekend in the Malvern area.

While I am not very good at putting words together, surely such an event as the one we had provides at least part of the answer as to the benefits of joining, or affiliating to, SIFD. It is a doing together, a learning together and a drawing together so that we have "Strength through Unity".

Thank you once again,

Yours sincerely,

BOB KIMMINS, (Chairman - International Folk  
Dance Group of Birmingham)

\*\*\*\*\*

Kenwood, Dale Brow,  
Prestbury, Cheshire.

Dear Editor,

I should like to take this opportunity through the NEWS of thanking all those who made the Course at Keele such a success. It was most enjoyable. May we have many more of them! It must have meant a lot of hard work for the Committee to arrange it at fairly short notice. Would it be possible to have the next Course after Easter? More teachers and lecturers would be able to come, thus swelling the numbers. Keele seems an ideal place to hold the Course, but perhaps I am biased as I live only a short way from there. It seems a fairly central place for everyone.

Members of the S.I.F.D. in London seem to be getting a lot out of the Society while those of us up in the North or in the Midlands do not seem to get so much. Would it be possible in one of the issues of the NEWS to give a list of names and addresses of all our members? This would make it easier for some of us to find out who lives fairly close.

How much I agree with Ann Bartlett about the standard of dancing in general dances and the Social Dances in the evenings at the Courses. A few concise points about character, hand positions, footwork, etc., before each dance wouldn't take much time and should help enormously.

This leads me to another suggestion for Courses. In the International section, would it be possible to learn all the steps of a country first, so that we learn the character etc., before we do the dances - then do all the dances of that country before going on to the next. It seems to me, as a teacher, that in the Society we tend to learn steps etc., while doing a dance, sometimes resulting in neither the dance nor the steps being done correctly. For many people it is too much to ask them to concentrate on two things at once - formation and footwork. Split them up and we may get better results in the social dancing. Some of you may disagree violently with these views, so it may lead to more letters in the NEWS.

Yours sincerely,

JOAN GREENFIELD (Mrs.)

\*\*\*\*\*

30 West End Lane, London, N.W.6.

Dear Lily,

Although these days I do not have much time to spare to raise issues, criticise or just comment on S.I.F.D. affairs, I do have time for one small thing. This is a big thank you to all concerned in the production of the monthly News, particularly to you, Sylvia and Barney. From personal experience, I know exactly how much hard work is needed to collect, type and duplicate and then collate all the material which goes to make up the News.

I greatly appreciate all the effort that goes into the News and its prompt arrival each month. I am sure all S.I.F.D. members will wish to join me in thanking you all and trust you will be able to continue this work despite the present accommodation problem.

Yours sincerely,

CLIFFORD H. BECK.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### INTERFOLK PUBLICITY

Enclosed with this month's NEWS you will find a copy of one of the new leaflets we are putting out.

This is a specimen of the first leaflet of a new crop we are busy producing. It is a slightly chatty one, in contrast to a later more formal one. It is for you to pass on to other people. We have several thousands of them and we hope you will either write and ask for more or ask for them at the social dances. If you can spare the odd bob or two to help us to keep up the flow of leaflets, this will please our Treasurer immensely. We are expecting publicity to cost nearly £100 this year.

You will see that a large space is available on one side of the leaflet. We hope that local Groups, especially those affiliated to the S.I.F.D., will buy a few hundred of these leaflets and print their own local information and addresses for local distribution. About 5/- a 100 would help us.

We'd like you to ask your local librarian to put a few on the desk. We'd like you to send some out to your local schools. We'd like you to leave them in trains and buses (one at a time!). We'd like you to take them to your youth Hostels. We'd like you to pass them on in any way you can to other folk dancers.

More from WILL GREEN, 90 WELLS WAY, CAMBERWELL, S.E.5. 01-703-4008.

THE LIFE OF A MAN (In Song)

The Life of a Man, a collection of English Folk Songs from the Home Counties by Ken Stubbs, is a well produced book containing over 100 songs, their words and music.

Some famous songs well known to everyone such as "The Oak and the Ash" and "I've been a Wild Rover" etc., are included. Of particular interest are variations of other well known songs such as "Lansdowne Fair", collected in Sussex. This appears to be based on the famous "Widdicombe Fair" but the unfortunate mare has to carry some new gentlemen under the names of Bill Josie, Harry Hobbs, Tom Brown, Joe Chapman, Ben Blackwell and Old Uncle Tom Cockerel and all. The melody is obviously linked with the more familiar version but, if anything, I prefer this one as it has a slightly better lilt.

Apart from the usual themes of work, love, and deprivations of life in earlier times, there are other subjects covered including the macabre "Folkestone Murder" and an amusing tale in the "Greasy Cook".

I would heartily recommend this book to anyone who can pick out a few notes on the piano or guitar (or what have you), whether or not he can sing in tune. The book is profusely illustrated with reproductions of old etchings and lithographs, all of which add interest and charm to this excellent new work available from E.F.D.S. Publications, 50 New Bond Street, London, W.1. The price is only 12/6d and I think that this represents excellent value today. I am confident that this collection will give a great deal of pleasure and generate interest into an enlightening aspect of our heritage.

"F. Major"

\*\*\*\*\*

FRIDAY CLASS EVENTS

- 1st May Betty Harvey teaching Polish. Betty will be teaching two regional dances, and the Polish Group will be including these in their demonstration at Cecil Sharp House on 3rd May.
- 8th May Instead of the Social evening previously advertised, we have asked Hugh Thurston to teach Greek and/or Turkish dances. This has still to be confirmed, however.
- 15th May Eddie Brandon, of the Gaelic League demonstration team, will be teaching basic steps and some simple Irish dances.
- 22nd May Nothing arranged as this is Bank Holiday weekend.
- 5th June Again we hope to have Hugh Thurston teaching but this also has to be confirmed.
- 12th June On whichever of these two Fridays is most convenient we would like to have an M.C.'s meeting. All those people who M.C. our dances and all musicians who ever play for us, will be invited and anyone else who is interested in becoming an M.C., or coming along to discuss ideas for improving Social Dances, functions of M.C.'s etc., will be very welcome.
- 19th June

The remainder of the June programme is still to be arranged and although the term ends on 27th June we may continue meetings in July if people are interested.

ANN BARTLETT



S.I.F.D. CLASSES

Summer Term - 6th April to 27th June.

Fees for Summer Term:-

For 1 class a week - 15/-  
For 3 classes a week - 20/-For 2 classes a week - 16/-  
For 4 or more classes a week - 23/-MONDAY

		<u>Institute</u>	<u>Tutor</u>
6.00 to 8.00	International Advanced	Christopher Hatton School	Margery Latham
7.00 to 8.00	Polish Beginners	"	Betty Harvey
8.00 to 10.00	Polish General	"	Betty Harvey
8.00 to 10.00	Hungarian	Chelsea School, Chelsea	Alan McLean

TUESDAY

6.30 to 8.30	Yugoslav, Beginners & Inter.	Hugh Myddelton School	Ken Ward
8.30 to 9.30	Yugoslav, Advanced	"	Ken Ward
7.30 to 9.30	European National	Greenwich Institute	Bert Price

WEDNESDAY

7.00 to 9.00	International Beginners & Intermediate	High Myddelton School	Margery Latham
7.30 to 9.30	European National	Sydenham & Forest Hill	Bert Price

THURSDAY

6.30 to 8.30	Flamenco Beginners	Christopher Hatton School	Felisa Victoria
8.30 to 9.30	Flamenco	"	Felisa Victoria
7.00 to 9.00	Flamenco	Kensington Institute	Sandra Escudero
9.00 to 10.00	Spanish	"	Sandra Escudero

FRIDAY

6.00 to 9.00	Hungarian	Millbank School	Alan McLean
7.30 to 9.30	Club Night	Y. W. C. A.	

Club Night will comprise social dances, guest instructors, rehearsals for shows and training for teachers and M.C.'s. Every member should enrol for this night. New dances will be taught and we hope to get a real club atmosphere. Even if you don't join any other class - join this one. Refreshments available on the premises.

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

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

CHELSEA SCHOOL, Glebe Place, off Kings Road, Chelsea.

KENSINGTON INSTITUTE, 97 Lancaster Road, W.11.

GREENWICH INSTITUTE, Charlton Manor School, Hornfair Road, S.E.7.

SYDENHAM & FOREST HILL INSTITUTE, Dalmain Branch, Brockley Rise, S.E.23.

MILLBANK SCHOOL, Erasmus Street, (off Vauxhall Bridge Road), S.W.1.

Y. W. C. A., Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

17.

Programme for Social Dances.

Musicians.

M.C.

Sunday, 3rd May	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Ian Willson
17th May	Dance Centre	Cardine Thomas	Roly Minton
7th June	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Margery Latham

Time - 7.00 to 10.00 p.m.

Admission - Cecil Sharp House 5/- for members, 6/6d for non-members  
Dance Centre 4/- for members, 5/- for non-members.

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

Dance Centre: No. 12 Floral Street, W.C.2. (Nearest Underground Leicester Square)

\*\*\*\*\*

The guest demonstration team at Cecil Sharp House on 3rd May will be the S.I.F.D. Polish Group.

\*\*\*\*\*

WHAT'S ON.

May 2nd & 8th. Commonwealth Institute. 7.30 p.m.  
Balasundari - Leading Dancer from Ceylon and her Dance Group  
Tickets obtainable at the door or phone 01-734-6361 or 01-937-1852.

May 4th Paco Pena discusses the art of flamenco and illustrates it with his guitar, supported by a guest singer from Spain, castanets and hand-clapping.  
7.45 p.m. Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets 8/- to 25/-.

May 6th "From Kiev to Samarkand" - dances, music and songs from U.S.S.R. produced by the Balalaika Dance Group.  
Tickets 8/-, 10/-, 15/- and 20/- from the Camden Festival Box Office; 01-387-0839 or Round House Box Office: 01-485-8073 or S.A.E. 7.45 p.m. The Round House, Chalk Farm, London, N.W.1.

May 7th The African folk-singer Miriam Makeba will be appearing at the Royal Albert Hall. 7.30 p.m. Tickets 5/- to 25/-.

May 8th/10th. Surrey Crest weekend (see P.6)

May 15th/17th. Halsway Manor Weekend. Bookings should be sent to Michael Clark, 14 Weldon Close, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants.

\*\*\*\*\*

Apology from the Committee - for the non-appearance of the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society at Cecil Sharp House on 5th April. This was because of a confusion over dates. We now hope to be able to arrange for them to visit us in September.