

SIFD NEWS



JULY 1970

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

This month's cover showing Welsh costumes is by John Rigby.

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Officers of the Committee:-

Chairman:	Bert Price, 22 Sunnydale Road, London, S.E.12 Office: 01-852-3767	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		

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BADGES

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

RECORDS

Our records are available from Magnegraph Recording Co, Ltd., 1 Hanway 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 each.

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.....

A very successful General Meeting was held on 7th June and the business completed in good time for the dance, or, in the case of some sporting members, in time to watch the Brazil v England match on television.

During the meeting, I was pleased to learn of a growing interest in the Dance Company which I proposed in the June NEWS and was asked for further details. This Company cannot be got under way until I can compile a list of names of dancers keen to demonstrate and prepared to learn, rehearse, and practise, to a high degree of perfection, those dances which we shall choose for our initial repertoire. We want some solo items, some line dances, some couple dances, some group dances, and some comic items as well.

The repertoire will be chosen from a list of dances, which I will compile from suggestions received from members of the troupe. These dances will all be suitable for showing on a stage, otherwise they will not be accepted. Rehearsals will be held on Thursday evenings as soon as we can get ourselves organized, so please will all members interested in this project write or telephone me so that they may be considered for inclusion in the Company. Admission will be selective and we shall expect all applicants to have a basic knowledge of most dance steps and to be willing to practise new ones. Specialists in any one country will be very welcome but will be expected to double up at performances.

Once again, the need for such a Company as I envisage was brought home to me last Sunday when I enjoyed watching a Morris team from Essex dancing outside the Princess of Wales public house on Blackheath (they had been inside first of course). Their performance was watched by an appreciative small audience who cheerfully donated to the club funds when the hat went round. While not suggesting that we specialise in busking, one or two such jaunts would be fun as a trying-out of the repertoire before offering the Show to the Town Hall authorities or an agent for occasional one-night theatre or club appearances.

BERT PRICE

DANCE CENTRE, 19th July

We hope that as many people as possible will make an effort to come along to the Dance Centre on Sunday, 19th July, when we are arranging a special dance for a group of West Berliners who are taking their summer holidays in this country. Members may remember the very enjoyable evening we had entertaining another German group last year. This year the visitors are a folkdancing group so they will enjoy joining in, and we may learn some new dances. Do turn up and help us make this into a really good evening.

31 East Grove Road,
Newport, Mon.

Dear Lily,

This month's (June) S.I.F.D. NEWS was of particular interest for me. The letter from Ricky Taylor expressed my own views on the value of the news-sheet in helping to keep we country bumpkins in touch. Long may it continue.

Will Green's letter was also of interest since it promises us a list of "out of town" groups and classes. I am trying to make contact down here and so far have met John Rigby, who runs University classes in Cardiff and evening classes in Welsh folk dancing also in Cardiff. The letter I have been invited to join and hope to go this week. If there is any information I can pass on, I will do so.

It has been suggested that I try to form a small international group here. It seems a good idea and I would welcome any suggestions that S.I.F.D. members care to offer in this field. Are there any members in this part of the world who would like to form a group? If so, perhaps they would contact me.

In the meantime, may I extend an open invitation to all my friends in the Society to 'drop in' if in this area.

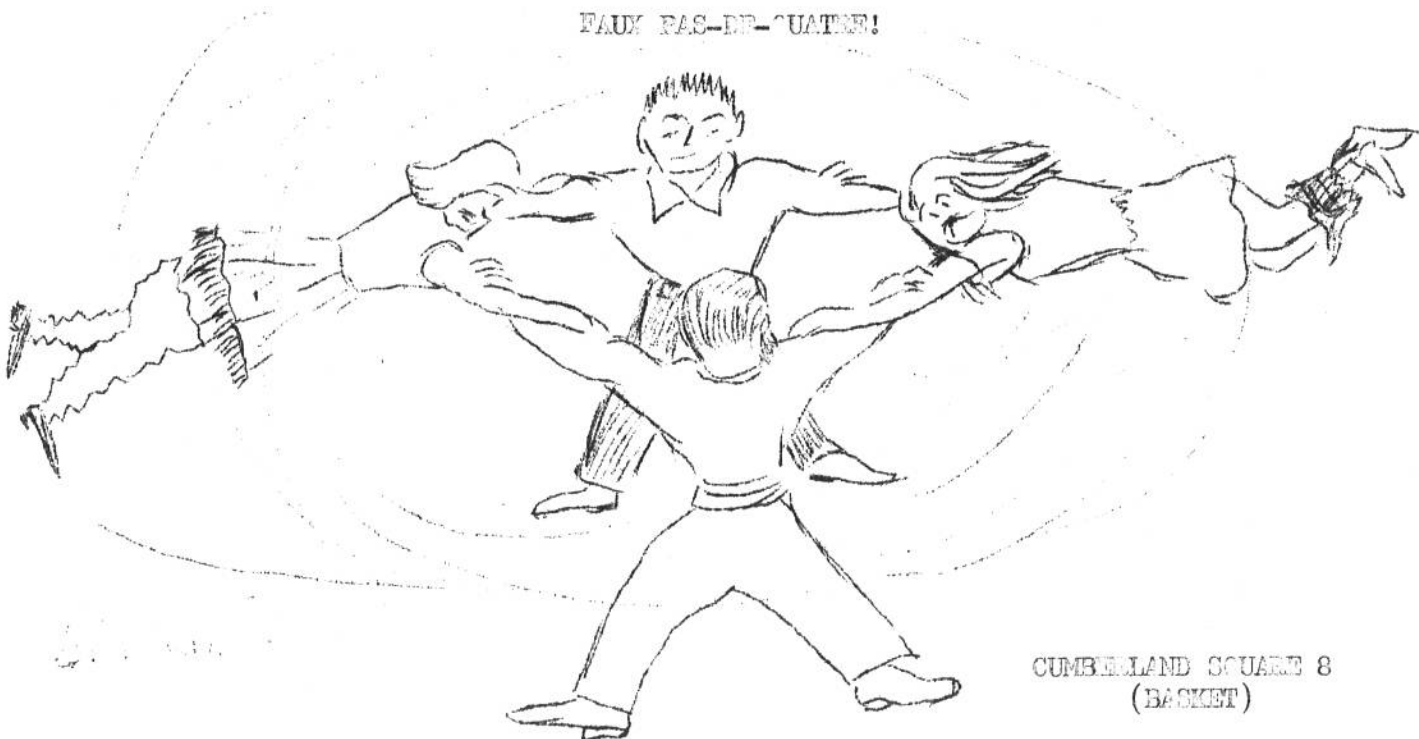
Yours very sincerely,

SUE CLARK.

P.S. Anyone going to the Eisteddfod?

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FAUX PAS-DE-QUATRE!



CUMBERLAND SQUARE 8
(BASKET)

TREASURER'S REPORTBalances as at 31.5.70

Deposit Account	434.12. 8	
Current Account	366.18. 7	
Cash in Hand	15.16. 5	
Membership Secretary's Cash in Hand	10. 0. 0	
Editor's Float	<u>7. 0. 0</u>	
	834. 7. 8	834. 7. 8

Loans & Deposits:

Balkan Class	75. 0. 0	
Harrow Green Group	10. 0. 0	
Uplands Deposit	40. 0. 0	
Surrey Crest Deposit	<u>20. 0. 0</u>	
	145. 0. 0	<u>145. 0. 0</u>
		979. 7. 8

Outstanding account due to Keele University		<u>289.16. 0</u>
		<u>£689.11. 8</u>

The cash balances reported to the Half-Yearly General Meeting on the 7th June show an increase of £170 over the balance twelve months ago, and an increase of £104 on balance at the start of the financial year on 1st September 1969. This improvement has been made despite two quite heavy expenditures on records, e.g. expenses for making record No.9, £86.10.0d., and purchasing quite a large stock of records for our own sales, £136. Of course, all of the latter will come back to us in due course.

The improvement in our financial position is due partly to making a profit on our projects, e.g. Chatham Show £36, Keele Course £25, and mainly to stopping losses on Shows etc., as compared to last year. On Social Dances this year we are just breaking even. For eight months since 1st September (i.e. 16 dances) we show a loss of £9.13. 0d compared with a loss over the whole of last financial year of £150. It is very gratifying to me to be able to report this improvement in the Society's financial affairs, but we still have a long way to go before we have the sound foundation I should like to see. I shall not be happy until we have at least £1,000 in the deposit account, and if we continue as we are at present this could be achieved in the next eighteen months.

There is one / facet of our activities that I am sure has great financial prospects but which we are not exploiting at all; that is the books and records. I am confident there is a great untapped market for these, especially to Education Authorities and teachers, but also to Youth Clubs, Y.H.A. Groups etc., in this country, and in Europe and America the market must be astronomical. To reach these markets we need two things, and one or two

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people - that's all. 1. We need a packing expert; our records as presented at present say nothing. We need someone to design attractive sleeves, also a folder or case to hold one of each record and book; 2. When we have made our product attractive, we need a marketing expert to tell us how and where to sell them. PLEASE, are there two such experts in the Society? If so, I implore you to contact the Committee as soon as possible. I would love to have a go at this job myself, but what with the Treasurer's work and helping with Shows etc., I just haven't the time, nor have I the experience. However, I do feel this job should be given No.1 priority.

There is another project connected with books and records which we should be investigating; that is the making of tapes and cassettes. I am sure in three or four years' time cassettes will be replacing records and we should be getting ready for this change now.

The Treasurer does not usually present a written report to the Half-Yearly General Meeting, and I had no intention of doing so this time, but after setting the financial figures out for the meeting, I started to scribble a few thoughts and this is the result. I have asked Lily to put it in the News; call it a report if you like; I prefer "Harry's Appeal" - an appeal to anyone with knowledge of marketing and selling, whether you live in London or Lands End, please come and help us.

HARRY WHITAKER

POLISH EXTENSION CLASSES

The Polish class is expecting a professional dancer from Warsaw to visit London in the month of July and teach both the simpler regional and the more advanced national dances.

We have Monday evenings from 8 to 10 p.m. reserved at Christopher Matton school for the class itself and for anyone else who has done some Polish dancing and would like to join us. In addition, we have the same hall available on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. On Wednesdays we plan to have the more simple dances and would like everyone interested in learning something new to come along whether they have danced any Polish before or not. At the moment of writing we are keeping Friday evenings free to use how we wish, after we have discussed plans with Pan Strzalkowski.

He will be arriving, we hope, on the 7th July, so should be teaching on all the following dates with the exception of the 6th July.

Mondays: July 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th
 Wednesdays: July 8th, 15th and 22nd
 Fridays: July 10th, 17th and 24th.

A charge of 5/- will have to be made for each of the Wednesday classes towards teachers' and pianists' expenses.

Anyone who would like further information about these classes should telephone me in the evenings at 834 2661, or contact any member of the Polish class.

BETTY HARVEY

DANCE ALPHABET

(Further extracts from "Dictionary of the Dance" by W. G. Raffe)

KALAMAJKA (Czechoslovakia)

A pair dance in 2/4 time with the same tempo throughout. Couples face each other, with hands on hips (not touching), but the form of the dance varies in the West (Bohemia and West Moravia) and in the East (East Moravia and Slovakia). The western KALAMAJKA is in two parts, the first using a stamped polka step, and the second the HOLUBICKA step ("the dove"), on which partners, facing each other, link arms and revolve with a running step clockwise, then counter-clockwise. In the eastern version which is quick and vigorous, polka steps are followed by the PRITUKAVANY step in which hops are combined with the clicking together of heels. The couple then circles the room clockwise, inside hands joined, with stamping steps.

Elaborate costumes are worn in both East and West, the men with embroidered breeches and waistcoats; the girls with pleated skirt, white blouse with sleeves pleated like a Chinese lantern. Large red tassels adorn the bodice, and the man's waistcoat. On the other side of the Carpathians, in Poland, a similarly named dance is found - the KOLOMEJKA, which is a coquettish courting dance; while in the Ukraine is the KOLOMAJKA, a pair dance in circular formation.

KALAMATIANOS (Greece)

National dance of modern Greece, popular with the Evzones (the famous Greek regiment with the kilted uniform) in their leisure moments. A variation of the ancient SYRTOS, it is performed in a circle, the leader singing and flourishing a kerchief; the girls following, holding hands. To music in 7/8 time, the chain moves slowly round, the men elaborating on the basic step. From time to time the leader moves into the centre of the circle, to perform complicated steps and movements called SCHERZA, passing the kerchief to another man when he grows tired. The new leader then performs the SCHERZA in his turn, making leaps and turns, and lunging as if holding a sword. The change of leadership in chain dances, and the purpose of the spectacular steps, may be an attempt to ensure that the life-force at the starting-point, passes from one man to another. Such dances derive from the ancient magic-circle dances. When performed in cafes the KALAMATIANOS is accompanied by fiddle, mandoline and zither.

KORSI-KORONI FIRE DANCE (French Guinea, W. Africa)

Danced in a state of exaltation by the KORSI-KORONI - athletic male dancers who perform, naked, for three hours without pause. About ten men, accompanied by an orchestra of tambours, cymbals, flutes, big drums, coras and balafons, dance round a large brazier kept at white heat. With leaping and jiggling steps, they dance without sign of fatigue, becoming more frenzied as limbs and head are flung in jerky movements. At the climax they seize fire-brands and rub them over their naked bodies and on their tongues; then, one by one, each dancer leaps into the fire and rolls slowly over until dragged out by spectators. No sign of burns is afterwards apparent.

CANARY ISLANDS

If anyone is thinking of holidaying in the Canary Islands and wonders what are the possibilities of seeing any folkdancing, I can say from my recent two-week stay there that the opportunities are quite good.

We stayed on the island of Tenerife, at Puerto de la Cruz, and were fortunate enough to see several different groups. The costumes were delightful, particularly those of the girls, who wore white peasant blouses threaded with red ribbon, red embroidered sleeveless jackets, multi-coloured striped heavy skirts caught up at the side with a cluster of coloured woollen pom-poms; white lace aprons, white stockings and black bootees. On their heads they wore a most attractive headdress of white scarf tied under the chin, surmounted by a saucy straw boater tilted on the side and with flowing red ribbons. The men were in red and white, with bright red breeches and embroidered waistcoats over white shirts. The dances were similar to those of Portugal, but with more controlled movements, and those we saw were mostly couple dances, in lines or circles of couples, and one particular dance with one man and ten girls forming very complicated patterns. I'm afraid we did not manage to get the names of the dances or learn them, so I am not able to offer anything to our repertoire but the dances were certainly delightful to watch and, I am sure, great fun to do. The instruments were mostly guitars, tambourines and, if I may call them instruments, the loud, rather raucous voices of the performers. The singing was of the strident, peasant type (not quite so un-European as the Balkans but of that type) which you either dislike intensely or love. Personally I love it, and we tried to find a good record to buy, but unfortunately, as frequently happens, when these performers get into a recording studio they feel they have to sing in a more restrained, refined, style, and their voices lose the quality that they have at open-air performances, so we came away without any recordings. I am only sorry we didn't take George Sweetland's advice to take a portable taperecorder with us.

Incidentally, I now realize how near to the real thing was Margaret Colato's attempt to copy the Canarian Islands' costumes, singing, and dancing in the item she put on for our Royal Albert Hall Show a few years ago. In fact, the song that she made us sweat over to learn the words is the most typical of the islands and is sung by dancers everywhere, there.

Apart from Canarian folkdancing, there is also quite a lot of flamenco dancing of a very high standard to be seen at the hotels and nightclubs.

Dancing apart, the attractions of the island of Tenerife are the really superb scenery, ranging from the enormous volcanic lunar-type craters surrounding the towering mountain of Teide (12,163 feet) to the gorgeous sub-tropical plants, flowers, and birds; miles and miles of banana plantations; oranges, lemons and citrus fruits; hundreds of basking lizards; and the bays with, surprisingly, black sand.

LILY SOUTHWATE

Note for etymologists: the name "Canary" comes from Latin "canis - dog" (one of the islands being noted in Roman times for large dogs) and not from the bird. The bird gets its name from the island and not vice versa.

AFFILIATED GROUPSHARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP

Our demonstration at Cecil Sharp House was, I think, well received, although the absence of our usual musician, Harry de Caux, caused some problems. Alan Humberstone and the band kindly stepped into the breach at the last moment and, thanks to them, we did not have to perform entirely to taped music. Following the demonstration, Harry Whitaker organized the draw for our raffle and we are pleased to announce the winners:

Occasional table: J. E. Vigurs, Malvern Group (Green 23)
 Bottle of sherry: K. Leggett, Medway Group (Green 83)

We should like to thank members of the Society for their co-operation and I am sure they will be glad to know that the raffle was very successful and the proceeds enabled us to repay the Society's loan and have a little in hand to add to our costume fund.

On Saturday, 11th July, at 7.30 p.m. we have arranged a Social Dance at Oxford House. Entrance will be 2/6d for members and 3/- for others. It is hoped that any teams from the Llangollen Eisteddfod who will be passing through London will accept an invitation to attend, so we would like to see a "full house".

July Programme at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E.2. on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m.:-

July 1st	Swedish (Dr. Cyriax)	July 15th	English (Peter Oakley)
8th	To be arranged.	22nd	General International
		* July 29th	English (Peter Oakley)
		* This will include Rapper Sword, and men are particularly invited.	

During July and August, all S.I.F.D. members are welcome at the reduced rate of 2/-.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday evening at the South Kent College of Technology, Folkestone. Full details from Mrs. Olive Field, 4 Holmesdale Terrace, Folkestone, Kent.

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 1/6d; over 18's 2/6d. Refreshments included.

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.

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 FOLKDANCE 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.

FRIDAY 'CLUB NIGHT' NEWS

I was delighted to see so many people at Hugh and Nina Thurston's class. Perhaps there is hope for the Friday Class after all. We are looking forward to a session of English dancing with Peter Oakley on the 19th June and on the last Friday of term to a second class from the Thurstons.

Encouraged by the response to the Greek/Turkish evening, we shall be keeping the Friday Club Night going next term - so please help by enrolling for the class if you possibly can.

There are no classes after 26th June, so I will wish everyone a happy holiday and look forward to seeing dozens of people on Friday evenings next term!

ANN BARTLETT

FESTIVALS IN JUGOSLAVIA

The main festivals in Jugoslavia this summer are:-

3rd to 10th July	Ohrid, Macedonia (Folk Festival)
10th July to 25th August	Dubrovnik (Folk and Cultural Festival - provisional programme available from the Yugoslav National Tourist Office, Regent Street, W.I.)
19th to 26th July	Zagreb, Croatia (Folk Festival)
21st to 25th July	Skopje, Macedonia (Folk Festival)
26th to 27th July	Dakovo, Slavonia (Manifestation of folk customs, dances and songs of the province Slavonia).

N.B. All these dates are based on latest information available - subject to alteration.

UPLANDS WEEKEND - 11th/13th September

We shall be having another weekend of dancing and walking from the 11th to 13th September. As most members already know, Uplands, with its comfortable accommodation and good dance floor, and lovely surroundings, is likely to get booked up fairly quickly, so if you would like to go would you please send a deposit of 10/- as soon as possible to: Prof. Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University College, Swansea.

Total cost: Friday evening dinner to Sunday tea - £5. 5. 0d
Location: Three miles from High Wycombe, Bucks.

ANOTHER BEE IN MY BONNET

I was beginning to wonder whether I was the only S.I.F.D. member (apart from the editorial staff) who ever read the NEWS, but my effort in last month's issue has in fact brought a few responses. Good. Some of the responses, however, provoked in me some further thinking. I asked why should groups affiliate; well, why should anyone become a member? Why are you a member of S.I.F.D.? I presume you are, if you are reading this. If you aren't a member, why are you reading this Newsletter which is one of the things members get for their £1 subscription. What else do they get?

First of all, cheaper admission to all Social Dances. In a full year, this could add up to about 25/-, which is a fair return on £1. It means 25%, which is more than the Building Societies pay!

If you buy records and books published by the Society, you get a rebate on the price paid, and this too could amount to a couple of pounds you know. So, by joining for a year you might get a profit of about £3, which is pretty good going.

And there are still other benefits; if you join a course, like the Swansea or Keele courses, you might get more than your annual subscription deducted from the course fee. All in one fell swoop. This seems a little mad to me, but then I've only just come on to the Committee.

What else? Well, classes. Classes are supposed to be for members of S.I.F.D. A non-member joining a London class is supposed to pay an extra £1 to become a member, but we have not insisted on this for years. We do not want to scare people off by charging them more than other G.L.C. classes. However, as they are 'club' classes and not strictly G.L.C. classes, why not charge non-members a small supplementary fee (say 5/- per annum for beginners' classes, 10/- for intermediate or advanced classes) in return for which class members could attend Social Dances at members' rates. This would be the only concession a class member would get. This would encourage class members to come along to the Social Dances, and would add to the advantage of being a full S.I.F.D. member.

There are also folkdance weekends, such as those at Surrey Crest and Uplands, which are supposed to be S.I.F.D. weekends and are advertised in and through the NEWS. I think members should be given a concession on the fees for these weekends.

£1 a year for all this isn't much is it? And what is the biggest benefit of all? THE S.I.F.D. NEWS.

WILL GREEN

ABSENT FRIENDS

Jane Riddle, with her husband and children, has left this country to take up residence in Nairobi for the next three years. We wish them a happy sojourn there. Jane wishes to be remembered to all her friends in the Society and would be pleased to see any of you should you be passing that way. Her address is: City Hall, P.O. Box 30037, Nairobi, Kenya.

NOTES ON THE MEETING FOR "M.C.s, Musicians, etc." HELD ON 12TH JUNE

The M.C.'s function is to run the evening's dancing for the best enjoyment of everyone present. He is not merely an announcer; it is his duty to see that everyone dances most of the time and he should remember that wallflowers are not so by choice. To this end, he should:

- a) have a flexible programme of dances already prepared.
- b) be able to demonstrate the dances for the benefit of new people - or, failing that, arrange to have someone present who can do so.
- c) remember that the musicians need guidance, particularly the Cecil Sharp House band. They need to be told the number of repeats, tempo, etc.
- d) make sure that the musicians have all the required music available.
- e) when announcing the dance, ask the musicians to play the opening bars of the music.

The following suggestions were put forward. I should emphasize that none of these represents firm policy - yet.

- 1) M.C.s should attempt to introduce new dances into the repertoire. To do this successfully, they need to co-operate with each other and with the teachers. It was suggested that a set of new dances be introduced at the beginning of a six-month period, for example, and during that six months they be repeated at each dance until everyone knows them; i.e. initial teaching, followed by consolidation, during the social dances.
- 2) When announcing dances for more experienced dancers, the M.C. should politely ask newcomers to watch.
- 3) The first half-hour of any dance should be set aside for Balkan dancing, and the Balkan dancing in the Interval limited to a definite period of time.
- 4) There should always be a tape recorder available and we should build up a stock of tapes.
- 5) There should be opportunities for M.C.s to practise - possibly at end-of-term parties (well organized and publicised in advance).
- 6) There should be opportunities for new musicians to practise. In fact, there should be new musicians! Any offers?
- 7) Teaching demonstrations might be introduced.
- 8) Requests for dances could be written on a sheet of paper provided.
- 9) Class members should get into dances at reduced rates.

ANN BARTLETT

13.

Programme for Social Dances

			<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
Sunday,	5th July	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Peter Oakley
	*19th July	Dance Centre	Wilf Horrocks	Ian Willson
	2nd August	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	George Sweetland

Time: 7.00 to 10.00 p.m.

Admission: Cecil Sharp House 5/- for members, 6/6 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)

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The guest demonstration team at Cecil Sharp House on 5th July will be the Kensington Slavonic Group, dancing Czech dances.

* See note on Page 3 regarding the dance on 19th July.

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WHAT'S ON

1st to 5th & 8th to 10th July	A Bharatha Natyam (South India dancing) programme at the Place, 17 Duke's Road, W.C.1. Tickets 10/- to 30/- from the Box Office.
6th to 12th July	International Eisteddfod at Llangollen, North Wales.
7th July	An evening of Punjabi Songs and Dances, in the Lecture Theatre, Victoria & Albert Museum (entrance Exhibition Road), 7.30 p.m. Tickets 5/- and 10/- from Mr. P.C. Govil, India House, Aldwych, W.C.2.
11th July	Social Dance at Oxford House, organized by Harrow Green Group (See page 9)
19th July	Special dance for a visiting group of West Berlin folk dancers. Dance Centre, 7.00 to 10.00 p.m.
19th July to 2nd August	Teesside International Eisteddfod at Middlesbrough. Details and programme from Eisteddfod Headquarters, 21 Albert Road, Middlesbrough, Teesside. ****
<u>Classes</u>	

Classes closed at the end of the G.L.C. term on 26th June and will not re-open until the autumn term in late September, apart from any special meetings that may have been arranged by individual class teachers.