

# S.I.E.D. NEWS

AUG. 1970





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\* THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE WILL BE EDITED AND PRODUCED BY SYLVIA FULTON \*  
\* AND BARNEY SALMON. WILL YOU PLEASE SEND ALL MATERIAL FOR \*  
\* PUBLICATION TO SYLVIA BY THE 15TH AUGUST. (Address above). \*  
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This month's cover is by Eddis Thomas and is based on a photograph of a Czechoslovakian dancer dancing "ODZEMEK", a stamping dance from Slovakia.

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#### SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

##### Officers of the Committee:-

Chairman:	Bert Price, 22 Sunnydale Road, London, S.E.12 Office: 01-858-3767	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. 01-360-4965	Membership Secretary (Ex-Officio Member):-	Roland Minton, 131 Holly Street, Dalston, London, E.8.
Demonstration Secretary:	Margery Lathan, 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.

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.....

I am now looking forward to the Billingham Festival which will be held from 14th to 21st August. The visiting teams are from Israel, France, Spain, the U.S.A., the Congo, Slovakia, Jugoslavia, and the Ukraine, and we hope to learn two dances from each of these countries. It is going to be most interesting to have a whole week in which to absorb individual styles and to make notes on costume and steps, not only while we are in class but throughout the week while watching the performances, as well as in the street, hotels, and bars where we shall meet socially.

I am particularly interested in meeting the French Group since there is a need in the Society for a greater knowledge of French dancing. Our present repertoire was begun in 1951 when I met Jeanine Mourrain, who was dancing with the Martelle team from La Vendee at our first Albert Hall Festival for the United Nations Students Association. We met again the next year in Ireland and she taught me L'Angoise while we were in Cork. Subsequently, I brought Jeanine twice to London to teach Vendee dances to the Society. On her second visit, at my request, she brought Pierre Giraudin with her and it was he who first taught us the Bourree step.

By good luck we then received an invitation to attend a French Dancing Course in France and, although I couldn't get time off to go, Dr. Cyriax and Simon Guest were able to do so and they came back with an impressive number of new Bourrees. From this visit sprang our first expansion into the French folk dance world. Simon continued to attend French Courses, as did many other S.I.F.D. members. A small group of les amis des dances folkloriques de France was formed by Simon. It was called "Les Escargots" and flourished for many years. Simon learnt and taught some French Basque dances; Pierre Panis and Pierre Goron were in turn invited to teach in London and at Swansea, as were Genevieve His and Annie Berard. The number of French dances taught was mounting but, alas, even while new dances were being added to the repertoire, older ones were being forgotten. Simon moved out of the London area and Les Escargots ran out of steam. Today we are left with a couple of Bourrees plus the Branle de Cosnay in fairly general use, but that is about all.

From time to time, noises have been made about getting some French dancing started but nothing happens so - wait for it - I have decided to fly a kite!

(In the 1914-1918 war, kites, with a soldier strapped on, were used to enable us to have a look at the enemy in his trenches 300 yards away. The soldier usually got shot at, but even this was a help since it disclosed the whereabouts of the enemy gun emplacements! Later, Observation Balloons were found to be more practical but the expression "fly a kite to see what happens" remains.)

So, with a desire to get a French Group going, with the hopes of forming the new Dance Company talked about in previous issues, and with the wish to follow up on the Turkish dances which I asked Hugh Thurston to show to the Friday class, I have decided to open a special Club Night every Thursday from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m., open to members with an existing knowledge of some dances. The club will be held at a school in Chelsea, which I will name in the September NEWS. The first Thursday in the month will be exclusively French and the third Thursday will be exclusively Turkish, while all other Thursdays will be devoted to demonstration items for the Dance Company. I need the names of all interested members and I need musicians, so please drop me a postcard if you wish to join me in this new venture.

BERT PRICE.

## DEMONSTRATIONS

### June & July

The General Demonstration team has been busy during June and July. We are always very much in demand in these months and they are, of course, the most difficult because of holidays. This year we have also been bedevilled with illness and accidents and people booking up for two things on the same day and withdrawing at the last moment.

On 20th June we went to Oakdale School, South Woodford, for an International Fete. We did a 40-minute programme and the children of the school did a world tour in 80 minutes. Some of their costumes were ingenious and the whole programme must have taxed the teaching staff to the limit. The amplification was extremely poor and as it was worked from inside the school and we danced outside it was of no use to us at all. Neither our music nor our announcements carried very far.

We went straight on from South Woodford to Canonbury, Islington, where we demonstrated dances and taught simple ones for two hours at the Evening Adult Institute Language Club's Social. Continental food and wine was provided and a gay, if very hot, time was had by all!

On 27th June, we danced in the afternoon at a World Christian Aid Garden Fete, Lansdown Road, Holland Park, in aid of Homes for Mums and Babies. We danced in a lovely walled garden and changed in a delightful tiny library-theatre, with curtain and footlights. If it had rained, we should have danced on this stage. It would have accommodated two couples with a squeeze, and the auditorium would perhaps have seated fifty. It was a hot sunny afternoon and we baked in the open instead.

Most of the team went on to Reigate in the evening, to dance for the Parents/Teachers Association Social at the school where member Janet Loader teaches. There is a very enthusiastic group at this school, and Janet hopes to teach them dancing. There was a Barbecue in the playground, well away from the school buildings, where devoted Mums cooked aromatic beefburgers and Dads served cider. This was our second visit to the area, and we wish Janet every success with her group when it starts.

We went to Welwyn Garden City on 11th July for another International Garden Fete at St. Joseph's School. There is a large immigrant population there and they all seem very well integrated. I have not seen so many Indian and African Mums and Dads so obviously enjoying themselves.

I should like to thank all the dancers and musicians for giving up their very precious Saturdays to dance at these demonstrations. I have had letters from all the organizers saying how much the dancing had been appreciated. We were sorry Tom Breveter had to withdraw from these demonstrations. He was rushed into hospital and I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing him a quick and complete recovery.

MARGERY LATHAM

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

The last Committee Meeting was held on 1st July. All members were present except the Chairman, who sent apologies. The Editor and Membership Secretary also attended.

Balance in hand as at 30.6.70 £650.5.7d. Membership: 290

Harrow Green Folk Dance Group have now repaid their £10 loan.

Chatham Show. Harry Whitaker has been in contact with the authorities at Chatham and the Committee are planning to hold another Show there within the near future. Details of date, production of the Show, etc., are yet to be discussed.

Musicians. We are very sorry that Wilf Horrocks will not be playing for us at the Monday and Friday classes next term, but thank him very much for all his help in the past. Wilf has other commitments and feels he cannot spare the time to continue playing for these two classes. However, we are pleased to welcome Caroline Thomas, who has agreed to play for the Monday class. At the moment, we haven't a musician for the Friday Club Night and the matter is still under discussion.

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Once again the annual pilgrimage to lovely Llangollen took place this month (July) and how I was looking forward to another visit to the International Eisteddfod. Alex, George, and I piled into a Mini - me with all the camping luggage on the back seat! The weather was glorious on the way down. On arrival, we pitched our tents, and I will add that I am getting quite a dab hand at pitching a tent - but my feet get a bit sore with stamping in the pegs that hold the tent in place! Then down to the field for a walk about and to see the opening concert, which this year was the Festival Ballet - in itself worth the journey.

The international folkdance competition was as enjoyable as ever. The Punjabi dancers (from Walsall!) were a hoot, with their drum with "Punjab, Walsall" sewn in sequins! I think they were the most colourful group and it was the first time I had seen that type of Indian dancing. As usual, the week went quickly, there is so much to see. We ended our stay with a visit to one of the Social Evenings arranged by the Round Table, as an opportunity for all nationalities to get together in an informal dance, with all sorts of dancing, even Knees Up Mother Brown with a French boy on one side and one of the Basque dancers on the other!

Polish News. Girls, don't throw away the mini skirts when you buy your winter middies. Save them for the Polish Christmas Fair and Jumble Sale which, by many special requests, we shall be holding once again, on Saturday, 5th December, at Oxford House. Also, no doubt we shall need stuffing for soft toys, so let's have your old tights.

Happy Hols,

DOROTHY BRYAN (Hon. Sec.)



LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD

Those of you who have never been to the Eisteddfod held at Llangollen, in North Wales, may be interested in a few facts and figures on what it is all about.

It is an annual event held in the first week in July in a very lovely part of North Wales. The town of Llangollen, situated in a valley by the River Dee, has 3,000 inhabitants, and the Festival attracts upwards of 10,000 competitors each year from about 30 different countries. Audiences each year total more than 180,000! How such a comparatively small town can organize such a tremendous undertaking each year is amazing but the people of Llangollen work the whole year round to organize this event and as soon as one Eisteddfod is over, work is started on the next one. Entry forms for 1971 are now available, and tickets will be on sale on 1st October!

Seating is in a huge marquee holding 9,500 people. There are usually about 2,000 unreserved single session seats available. Admittance to these or to the Eisteddfod ground is 4/-; reserved seats are 7/6 and 10/- (to be raised to 9/- and 12/- in 1971); season tickets, which mean you can reserve a seat for the whole session, are £5.5.0 and £3.10. (to be raised to £6.6.0d and £4.4.0d in 1971).

The Festival starts on the Tuesday evening with an opening concert by a professional group of dancers. This year it was a group of dancers from the Royal Ballet, the Festival Ballet and the Kirov Ballet. Then, on each of the following five days from 9 a.m. until about 6.30 p.m. competitions take place, followed by evening concerts from 7.30, sometimes until midnight. There are competitions for choirs of mixed voices, male voices, female voices, of 25 voices, 60 voices, 80 voices, youth choirs, folksong solos, instrumental folk solos or groups, piano solos etc. etc., but the most interesting from our point of view is the international folkdance competition for parties of not more than 20 dancers. Folk dancers from many countries take part, and this year they came from:- Sardinia, France, Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, Spain, India, Scotland, Germany, the Pyrenees, Poland, Austria, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Denmark.

Adjudication of the folkdance section was by Mrs. Lucile Armstrong and Dr. Felix Hoerburger, and the first three prizes went to the following:-

Valdreslaget Dancers from Oslo, Norway..... 92 points  
Enal Provinciale di Nuoro from Sardinia.... 91 points  
Orce Nikolov from Skopje, Yugoslavia..... 90 points

The instrumental folk music section was won by Orce Nikolov from Skopje. Mrs. Lucile Armstrong has kindly given me permission to print her introductory remarks on the international folk dance section, which I have done on the next page.

I personally feel that because of the strict adjudication of the folkdance competition and the insistence on authenticity, this is one of the very very few places one can see true folkdancing. (All the shows one sees on the stage at various times in London and the provinces have been choreographed, modern instruments are used, and costumes 'tarted up' for the stage.) That is why I enjoy Llangollen so much and think it is well worth the effort to go there.

LILY SOUTHGATE.

LLANGOLLEN, July 1970

Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod has come to mean to many groups of folk dancers and musicians, a standard of authenticity difficult to find in similar competitions elsewhere. Llangollen has built up this reputation over a period of 23 years of hard work on the part of organizers, adjudicators, and performing groups alike. The organizers have always been careful to admit only groups who have a responsible attitude towards the traditions they are perpetuating; groups whose leaders do not aim for spectacular performance in order to win a prize, but whose deep research into customs in their own region has meant they can be relied on to present a performance as near as ever possible to how the dances and music have been performed over the years; also, in keeping to traditional regional costumes - not to a uniform or a fancy dress. A uniform never was a regional costume. A regional costume was the fashion at one time in a particular region which became fixed, for special reasons connected with that region.

Each dance was created for a particular purpose at a particular time, evolved from beliefs or for a social necessity - there are many ritual dances which demonstrate parts of ancient religions. Music was created to fit the dance and steps, and not necessarily to fall into set phrases of 8 bars, or any other fictitious reason which modern instrumentalists may imagine. These points are vital for keeping up traditions, and I cannot emphasize too strongly how important it is for the Press, the radio, and T.V. not to accept items which are not traditional just because they happen to be spectacular.

Dr. Hoerbarger and I have inherited from our predecessors a standard of judging here at Llangollen, which we endeavour to carry out to the best of our ability. That is, to be fair to all; to judge, not by comparing one dance with another, but by giving points for each dance in accordance with authenticity (first), performance of a style traditional to the region; for items of folklore interest retained in the dance meaningful to the purpose for which it was created; for music of that region in the style and on instruments of that region, performed in the costumes usual to that part of the world. The two dances must be contrasting to show the wealth and range of expression of a region.

We do not know who will get the three prizes till the end, when we have to count which group has obtained most points. If two groups have the same number of points we give the prize to that country which has not yet received a prize. On the other hand, if an authentic group does not obtain a prize one year but it did on a previous occasion, it does not necessarily mean that it is worse than it was previously, but only that another group may have one point more this year for, say, folklore interest; that is, perhaps it has retained some valuable item of traditional interest.

As there are only three prizes available each year, some have to win and some have to do without prizes, but let those who do not get a prize not be disheartened; they must be proud of the wonderful work they are doing in preserving to the best of their ability the treasure house of folk traditions of their own region. That is a tremendous achievement in itself in this age when so many valuable links with the past are disappearing so rapidly.

LUCILE ARMSTRONG



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mandalvej 16,  
9800 Hjørring, Denmark.

Dear Lily,

I've been here in Denmark for three months now, and although I'm hoping to be back in England soon, there's just time for me to send a letter to the NEWS before I go home.

My parents-in-law moved up here to the North of Jutland from an ideal spot just outside Copenhagen which was within minutes of the Royal Deer Park, the sea, and a short train ride to the Capital. So it was with some trepidation that I thought of spending all our future Denmark visits here. This, however, is just as lovely and, to my great surprise, I even understand enough of the Jutland dialect to feel quite at home. Nicoletta, when she's playing with the local children, sounds like a Danish "Farmer Giles". The twins now are beginning to speak the language quite fluently; we had never been here long enough before for them to learn properly.

Strange to remember that when we arrived on 2nd April the weather was arctic and remained so for about a month. Suddenly then, summer arrived, spring was overlooked this year, and although we had only intended to stay a couple of weeks, it's nice to be here enjoying the fresh air in lovely weather. We're at least a minute's walk from the nearest country and ten minutes from town. Hjørring is rapidly becoming one of the larger Jutland towns, modern and elegant houses and buildings.

After a couple of weeks on Zealand, and seeing two demonstrations of Danish folkdancing, we came back up here where I contacted a group of dancers who were training for a folkdance weekend on an island nearby. I was very lucky, as usually all classes stop at the first sign of summer and don't start again until the autumn. The leader and members of the class made me very welcome although there wasn't much time for talking as the sessions were all hard slog, from start to finish, and only a couple of extra men were allowed to sit out. By all accounts there are about 800 dances, "not all equally exciting", to use the leader's own words, but the ones we danced were mostly quite simple and much gayer than I'd anticipated. The men take their partners with a little Germanic heel click and bow (very gallant) and each dance finished with the man taking the girl's right hand in his left and giving it a gentle whack with his right! The season has really finished now, so there's no more dancing until we get back to London, which is of course something to look forward to.

Very best wishes to everyone,

from Denmark, and

GAYE SAUNTE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - Contd.

4 Holmesdale Terrace,  
Folkestone, Kent.

Dear Miss Southgate,

Folkestone International Folklore Festival  
19th-25th June 1971

Yielding to persuasion by the Corporation, which does not, at this stage, amount to more than promise of physical help and guarantee, we have decided to run the festival again next year. Having had such a run of good fortune over ten years, we may be pushing our luck to try again, but there seems to be a growing goodwill in the town towards this festival which is still unique and not comprehensible to many. (They have been seeing many more French and Belgians trail in from the quay this year, however, with their shopping bags!)

We are also encouraged by the comments made by the S.I.F.D. after the last festival proved to have eaten into our kitty. Without the spontaneous personal help from Society members last time, and in fact in former years too, we should have been somewhat "up the fjord".

So there it is; we're under way again. We felt the international trade fair held here this Spring might have displaced us in the use of facilities. It seems however that it is not expected to recur in 1971 although some 105,000 people attended and a very large percentage were intrigued by the six life-sized models in national costume (thanks to S.I.F.D. help) round the Swedish Mid-Summer pole on the National Westminster Bank stand.

We have had an inaugural meeting, set up the three main committees, and the twelve sub-committees are being activated. We shall have to economise a bit this time but Folkestone International Folklore Festival will again turn the town "Continental" from 19th to 25th June 1971 and we hope to see our English friends too.

Yours sincerely,

BARNETT FIELD

Hon. Festival Director

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31 East Grove Road,  
Newport, Mon.

Dear Lily,

Again the S.I.F.D. NEWS arrives, and again I feel bound to comment.

Harry Whitaker has given us an encouraging account sheet and an interesting report, in which he mentions the sales of books and records. I'm sure he is right, but without wishing to participate in mudslinging I must

point out that some five or six weeks ago I wrote asking for full details and am still waiting for a reply. I would like to buy the records and the books but have no idea as to the contents or price of either. Perhaps you could help by publishing from time to time a list in the NEWS?

Yours sincerely,

SUE CLARK

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Janice Wrench, who looks after the sale of books and records at this end, has asked me to point out that neither she nor Harry Whitaker has received a letter from Sue. We can only think that either it is still somewhere in the post, as seems to happen frequently lately, or that the letter may have been addressed incorrectly, (letters are sometimes sent to 11 Morpeth Terrace instead of Morpeth Mansions). Anyway, Janice has now written to Sue apologising and sending a list of records and books, and, in response to Sue's request, I am publishing on Page 12 a similar list. Janice has also asked me to point out that Book 4 is not available as it has still not yet been received from Pergamon Press despite repeated requests for information. There are several people waiting for Book 4 but there is nothing Janice can do about it - especially with the state Pergamon Press seem to be in at the moment. In the meantime, the Committee apologize for the unavoidable delay.

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CZECH DEMONSTRATION - A note of appreciation.

At the July Cecil Sharp House Dance, a very enjoyable demonstration of Czech dancing was presented by the Kensington Slavonic Group. The lively dances, attractive costumes, and obvious pleasure of the dancers, produced an enthusiastic reception from the audience. I look forward to seeing these Czech dancers again soon.

SYLVIA FULTON

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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.

AFFILIATED GROUPS

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E.2. Programme for August:-

5th August	French (Demonstration Class)
12th August	English (Peter Oakley)
19th August	Israeli/Balkan (Demonstration Class)
26th August	English - Playford & Sword (Peter Oakley)

As you can see, a series of Demonstration Classes is being arranged. The dances to be taught are intended to form a basis for general demonstrations and will include simple choreography to make the programme more interesting and less 'bitty'. The classes will also be suitable for beginners who would like to acquire a working knowledge of our dances fairly quickly.

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.

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\* EDITOR'S NOTE: \*  
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\* I have received a verbal complaint that one of our affiliated groups, \*  
\* Guildford International Folk Dance Group, is not included in the above \*  
\* list. May I once again point out that unless the Secretaries of the Groups \*  
\* send me the information, I have no way of knowing when and where they meet. \*  
\* If affiliated groups wish to be included in this magazine it is up to them \*  
\* to send me what information they would like printed and I will do the rest. \*  
\* Also, may I ask the above groups to keep me informed from time to time of \*  
\* any changes they want made in the above wording, or any alterations etc. \*  
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Book No.

Record No.

4	{	Kol Dodi, Palestinian Hora, Bona Habanot (Israel)	}	E.P. 9
		Ridee de Baud (France), Fist Polka (Finland)		
		Kadrilj fran Ovraby (Sweden)		
		Bourree de la Chapelotte (France)		

As mentioned on page 10, Book 4 is not yet available.  
Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for their own use. Full details from Janice Wrench, 11 Morpeth Mansions, Morpeth Terrace, London, S.W.1.

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PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL DANCES

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
Sunday, 2nd August	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	George Sweetland
16th August	Dance Centre	Harry de Caux	Peter Oakley
6th September	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Bert Price

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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WHAT'S ON

- 31st July to 7th August Sidmouth International Folk Festival. Full details from E.F.D.S.S., Cecil Sharp House.
- 15th to 22nd August Billingham International Folklore Festival, and folkdance course. Tickets for the Festival from the Festival Director, Arts and Recreation Dept., Municipal Buildings, Billingham, Teesside.
- 5th September for 1 week International Wine & Folklore Festival at Dijon, France. Main Folkdance events and processions on 5th & 6th, followed by a week of evening concerts. The Festival takes place mainly in the centre of Dijon, but also in surrounding towns.