

SIFD NEWS



JUNE '71



1948



1948

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This month's cover showing dancers from Sudtiroi, Meran,
was donated anonymously.

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Officers of the Committee:-

Chairman:	Bert Price, 22, Sunnysdale Road, London, S.E.12. Home: 01-852-0509	Secretary:	Dorothy Bryan, Flat 1. Braunton Mansions 28, Rosebury Avenue, London E. C. 1. Home: 01-837-2438
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Treasurer:	Harry Whitaker, 29, Sherbrock Gardens, Whinchmore Hill, London N.21. Home: 01-360-4965	Membership Secretary (ex-office Member) :-	Roland Minton, 131, Holly Street, London, E.8.
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Demonstration Secretary: Margery Latham,
14, Beechwood Avenue,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey,
Home: 01-876-7055
Office: 01-930-7022 Ext.3447.

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BADGES S.I.F.D. Badges for lapel, scooter and car, @ 17½p, 37½p and 62½p
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 85p each plus postage.

BOOKS Our books are published by Pergamon Press and are available, to order,
through any bookseller, price 50p each.

Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for their own use.
Full price should be paid at the time of purchase, and then discounts can be claimed
by applying to Frances Horrocks, 112, Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

Closing date for all contributions to the Silver Jubilee Booklet is 30th June, 1971.

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

It is very pleasant to be enjoying an early Spring heat-wave and I envied the Surrey Cresters their sunbathing last weekend. My time was spent on the allotment, with Shirley hoeing away in a bikini to many a raised eyebrow from the other more soberly dressed gardeners. We are very pleased to acknowledge all the good wishes we have received and hope to see you all at future dances to thank you personally.

Shirley has been co-opted to the Committee and we other Committee Members are glad to see a new face at the meetings and look forward to receiving some new ideas.

I like very much her suggestion that a greater sense of participation would be felt by all at our Jubilee Dance if every Group and class were asked to identify itself in some way during the evening. Her idea is not to stage a series of demonstrations, but for each group or class to take the floor in a central circle and lead two or three dances of their own choice while all the other dancers dance the same dances in an outer circle.

Group Leaders will liaise with the M.C.'s to ensure that any slight hitches are quickly overcome and will, of course, submit the names of the dances they propose to 'lead' to the Dance Sub-Committee at an early date.

In this way all Groups will be able, at some stage of the evening, to take the lead and, by choosing their own favourite dances, will decide the programme for all. I have already spoken to members of my Tuesday class about this and they were immediately enthusiastic, so, if all other Groups are of the same mind we are in for a really great Jubilee and Re-Union Dance with everyone joining in - not performing, but dancing.

I noticed in the May News that Bob Kinnins of the Birmingham Group asked for ideas for a general all-purpose costume. Well, Bob, we can help, since it is a problem which my Tuesday class members have recently resolved. For the men, a simple shirt made to the same pattern as the blue denim shirts favoured by the Whitby and Norwich fishermen. For the girls, a charming and simple country dress which is very, very, easy to make. It is Butterick pattern No.6080, which is all you really need to know, but if in trouble, write to Shirley at Flat 1, No.148 Burnt Ash Hill, London, S.E.12, and she will do her best to help. I suggest that you use plain colours and a fairly light-weight cotton or terylene lawn material.

Our interfolk Safari to be held on the 13th June promises to be a very popular event so please book early to make sure of a seat on the coach. Maybe we shall even need two coaches!

The idea of promoting a childrens class is still very much with us and, as you will read elsewhere, the Committee are sanctioning an inaugural dance to see what support is forthcoming and to decide on what lines the class should run. Alan McLean has been promoting this idea for many years now and with Will Green just as enthusiastic, we are taking a hesitant step forward. I say hesitant because we need your help to establish what exactly the need is.

/contd...

Is it for a creche for 5 - 7 year olds? Or is it for a formal international dance or class?

The ideas are many, the possibilities are great - but we must remember that it is difficult to mix age groups, and that if the idea does take definite shape and a regular meeting is held, we shall need someone to be in charge regularly, and the class or dance will have to stand on it's own feet after the initial first few meetings.

BERT PRICE (Chairman)

SECRETARY'S NOTES

A Committee Meeting was held on 2nd May, 1971 and attended by all the Committee Members.

Balance as at 30.4.71. £835.29

Membership: 312

Requests for Life Membership were received from Marjorie Bracey and Jean Simpson. Both these applications were approved.

Matters Discussed

Folk Safari. It seems there is quite a lot of enthusiasm for this venture and we hope to see a great many people on 13th June.

Folkdance Instruction Courses. A lady Romanian teacher, E. Popescu, will be visiting us in mid-September. Exact date to be arranged.

Silver Jubilee Re-Union Dance. This was discussed at great lengths. Lots of ideas have been put forward.

Children's Evening. It seems that we have deviated from the original idea and the biggest demand is for a Saturday afternoon Dance. So far we have quite a number of parents interested and one teacher guarantees to bring more than 20 children. Will and Alan are going to investigate suitable halls and we shall try to arrange the dance for sometime in July. (The date decided on was July 3rd - see elsewhere in the News for details).

Also discussed were the half-yearly A.G.M., Publicity, Books and Records.

I hope you all enjoy the holiday,

DOROTHY BRYAN (Hon. Secretary)

P.S. Now you have all had adequate notification of the Safari. It will be good to have a whole crowd of us tramping round Essex. I am looking forward to it very much. It is a chance to dance, admire the scenery, swim in a river (not for me) and have a sing-song (how about it Ian?). We do hope to see lots of you there and we hope that you all have a very enjoyable day.

OBITUARYKATHLEEN MUNROE-JAMES

It is with deep sorrow that I have to announce the death on Tuesday, April 20th of Kathleen Munroe-James, after a rather protracted illness, which took her out of active membership from last August.

She had been a loyal and hard working member of the Society since our early Chelsea days, serving on the main committee for many years, and sitting on a number of sub-committees. She helped with the production of two of our Royal Albert Hall Shows, with the compiling of Books 3 and 4 of our Selection of European Folk Dances, and with the orchestra for our last record. She also struggled manfully with our small Certificate Class which produced 3 certificated teachers before finally closing.

Her own successful group at Croxley Green had been one of our earlier affiliated groups and danced in many of our Shows.

It is very sad to think that all the extensive knowledge of dancing, costumes and folk music which she had so painstakingly accumulated is now lost to us.

The Society has lost a valuable member and we who knew her well miss a very dear friend.

MARGERY LATHAM

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR FOLK SINGERS,
DANCERS AND MUSICIANS.

26th to 31st July 1971. The Hill Residential College, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire. From 6.45 p.m. on the Monday to 10.00 a.m. on the Saturday.

This Summer School is designed to provide a comprehensive programme of lectures, workshops and soirees with an international flavour. It will cater for both beginners and the more experienced and will include in addition to opportunities for dancing, sessions on The History of Folk Music and its associated lore and legend. Two sessions will be allocated each day for three parallel workshops for (1) musicians, (2) singers, (3) dancers. Course members are asked to state their preference when enrolling.

Course fee £13.00. (£10.50 if resident in Monmouthshire). Bookings c/o the Warden, Hill Residential College, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire. Cheques and P.O.s payable to Monmouthshire County Council.

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18th/20th June HALSWAY MANOR. A midsummer weekend at this very comfortable old manor house between Minehead and Taunton. Full details from Michael Clark, 14 Weldon Close, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants. The cost of the whole weekend:£3.65. Please send a deposit of £1 per head when booking.

CHILDREN WELCOME at a special Children's Event.

DATE 3rd July 1971. TIME 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

MILLBANK SCHOOL, ERASMUS STREET, S.W.1.

(behind the Tate Gallery)

Vauxhall and Victoria Stations. Buses 2, 36, 50, 181 and 185.

The price is just 10p for children, and adults free. Adults will not be catered for and any who come must expect to give a hand if asked. Cold drinks will be available. Numbers will be limited to about 70.

CLIFF BECK WILL PLAY.

No age limits, but the programme will be aimed at schoolchildren. Such dances as Alunelul, Djatchko Kolo, Snuff Dance, Cumberland Square, Kleine Schottische, Swing Dance, Mayin Mayin, various ring dances, Danish Schottische, and Jager March will be included. If you would like to teach a dance, be prepared to supply music. You can also request dances. Wear costumes if possible.

BUT

CAN WE PLEASE KNOW IN ADVANCE HOW MANY WILL BE COMING. IF WE ARE OVERBOOKED (and forty are certain) WE SHALL HAVE TO SAY NO TO LATE BOOKINGS AND ANYONE WHO TURNS UP ON SPEC.

Ring Will Green 01-703-4008

NEWS FOR BALKAN DANCERS

According to the OBSERVER, an exhibition of old Yugoslav costumes being held at 47 Chiltern Street, London W.1. is all the more mouthwatering because the aprons, embroidered blouses and "that whole peasant bit" is currently actually wearable (by some). The costume illustrated on the page was priced at £65 for the skirt, £28 for the blouse, and £55 for the apron, but they say that modern, cheaper copies will be available soon. So don't be surprised if, walking down the King's Road, you bump into young mods wearing copies of your coveted Serbian, Croatian or Macedonian ensembles. We may even have an influx of new members, wanting to learn the dances that go with the fashion!

L. S.

Surrey Crest Weekend May 7th - 9th

Once again a very enjoyable weekend was had by all. The weather was lovely, the dance on Saturday evening was very successful thanks to our numerous and welcome musicians and slight inconveniences resulting from the new management did not deter us from fixing the date of the next visit to Surrey Crest.

Remember, Remember, the 5th of November!

S. F.

7.

FOLKESTONE INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

19th to 25th June 1971.

Folklore Festivals are a great holiday attraction on the Continent: but why go abroad when the same folklore groups will appear at the 1971 Folkestone International Folklore Festival?

The 6th Folkestone Festival will bring gaiety, colour, exotic dancing and music to the spacious lawns and theatres of the delightful English holiday town of Folkestone. There will be more than two hundred participants at this biennial Festival including six or seven national groups from all over Europe. These groups travel at their own expense. They delight in presenting their own traditional songs and dances, some romantic, some symbolic, but always curious and exciting.

The folklore groups will include some old friends and new National Groups. The Austrians bring Schuhplattler from the beautiful festival city of Salzburg. The Dutch bring old costumes and wooden shoes from the Low Countries; the Swiss their Alpenhorns and flags from the Engelberg mountains; the Swedes raise their huge floral pole as they do at home at Mid-Summer. Fresh Groups come each time, and this year, apart from those countries already mentioned, teams will be coming from France, Portugal, Spain, and, we hope Poland. Great Britain itself duly plays its part, with Scottish pipes, Welsh song and harp music, Irish dancing and English folk dancers, Morris Men, Handbell Hoodners.

The programme for the 6th festival will follow, with minor modifications, the pattern which has proved so successful in the past. The main events, which are supported by many other folklore features are generally distributed over the days as follows:-

Saturday,	19th June.	19.00hrs.	Grand Procession to Festival Stage on the Leas; Official Opening, Fanfare and Performance.
Sunday,	20th June.	10.00hrs.	Special Service at Parish Church.
		15.00hrs.	Folk Band Music at Bandstand - Folklore Society Symposium.
		20.00hrs.	International Folk Music Concert in Leas Cliff Hall.
Monday,	21st June.	16.00hrs.	Outdoor performances.
		20.00 hrs.	Folklore Performance in Leas Cliff Hall.
Tuesday,	22nd June.	16.00hrs.	Outdoor performances.
		20.00hrs.	Folklore Performance in Leas Cliff Hall.
Wednesday,	23rd June.	15.00hrs.	Mid-Summer Eve Performance on Leas. Raising the Floral Pole.
		21.00hrs.	Great Bonfire on the Beach.
Thursday,	24th June.	15.00hrs.	Performances at Leas Festival Stage.
Friday,	25th June.	19.30hrs.	Grand International Farewell Barn Dance in Leas Cliff Hall.

This is a week of festivity for the town itself. There will be special exhibitions and shopping displays.

The above is a preliminary programme, subject to slight modification. The Official Souvenir programme of the Festival is on sale from: The Official Information Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent. (Tel: 53840) 15p. Further particulars from the Official Information Centre. Seat reservations from Leas Cliff Hall, The Leas, Folkestone, Kent from 5th June.

FOLK DANCING ON THE STAGE - Authentic or Choreographed?

Following on Bert Price's article of last month regarding authentic folk-dances as opposed to folkdances presented on the stage, I was very interested to read what Clement Crisp, theatre critic for the FINANCIAL TIMES, had to say about the Dora Stratou Group of Greek Dancers who appeared at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in May. I quote :-

".....It is my usual contention when faced with some ethnic entertainment, that the folk dances have been so tricked out for the theatre that authenticity disappeared as the sequins were stitched on to the costumes. These traitorous thoughts I unreservedly withdraw in respect of the Greek dancers at Sadler's Wells. Anything so patently not for the theatre must be the real thing. I would hazard that on a summer evening in Greece, in the open air, and with a plentiful supply of retsina, a third of these dances would seem very beguiling; but set on the stage, with dance relentlessly following dance - and the permutations of performers linking arms and trotting round in a circle, waving handkerchiefs is not infinite - the impact and interest of the offerings is in inverse ratio to their number.

Although the troupe's director has sought to provide a broad apercu of the national dance of her country, from Cappacodia to Crete, and the costuming is handsome and varied, the choreographic choice seems to fall between curving chains of dancers, with or without handkerchiefs, and occasional bouncy interludes for the men, Amis such a plethora of dances, which to this uninitiated eye were in the main indistinguishable one from another, a few items stand out.....

It is, I suspect, really an evening for the committed folklorist, who will find the care that has been taken to preserve the authenticity of the dances and songs extremely rewarding. The performers are reportedly dedicated amateurs; they work with a will, and the costuming, as I have already noted, is excellent, but the undemanding and unsophisticated nature of the dances is not well suited to the theatre; they need to be seen on their home ground, and not in such abundance."

I couldn't have said it better myself.

LILLY SOUTHGATE

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SLAVA

SLAVA, the combined show performed at the Commonwealth Institute by the Balkan and Polish classes in March, was a great success. Profits are estimated at around £100.

AFFILIATED GROUPS

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC GROUP. meet at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, W.8., from 7 to 10p.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.

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GUILDFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS. meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday every month from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. at St. Nicolas Small Hall, Millmead Terrace, Guildford, Surrey. General European dancing. Beginners welcome. Meetings 15p weekly. Full details from John Driver, 77, Long Gore, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey, Telephone: Godalming 6259 (Home); Wormley 2122 (Work).

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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. Secretary: Miss P. Baker, 27, Wernon Avenue, Birmingham B.20.

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WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE 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 7½p; over 18's 12½p. Refreshments included.

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FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP. meet every Tuesday evening at the South Kent College of Technology, Folkeston. Full details from the Secretary, Mrs. Evra Jordon, 62, Marine Parade, Hythe Kent.

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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. Secretary: Miss Janet Liddell, Falmer House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex.

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HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB. meet during term time, as an evening class on Mondays at Pinner Park School (Melbourne Avenue entrance) off Headstone Lane, Harrow, Middx., 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. and out of term time as a Club (usual admission 15p, students 10p). Enquiries to Harrow Folk Dance Club, 29, Tenby Avenue, Harrow HA3 8RU or telephone 01-907-7354 or 01-863-1594.

AFFILIATED GROUPS.....Contd.

HARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP. meet every Tuesday evening throughout the normal school terms from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Barlow Hall Evening Centre, Barley Avenue, Manchester 21. International Folk Dances are also run regularly during the season usually on the second Saturday of each month at Barlow Hall Evening Centre. Further information from the Secretary, Miss. Elaine Duffett, 185, Brooklands Road, Sale, Cheshire.

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

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HARROW GREEN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP. regret to announce that, owing to re-administration at Oxford House, they will no longer be able to there, and are in the process of arranging another meeting-place. They hope to announce their new venue shortly but in the meantime all enquiries regarding their activities should be addressed to: George Sweetland, 2B. Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, S. E. 5. Telephone (during the day) 580 4468 Ext. 2405.

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FRENCH.

The French Group, organized by Bert Price and taught by Alex Harris, meet every Thursday evening (except the third Thursday in each month) 8 to 10 p.m. at Pimlico School, Lupus Street, Chelsea, S.W.1.

TURKISH.

A Turkish class is held on the third Thursday in each month, from 8 to 10. p.m. at the above school. The teacher is a very competent Turkish dancer and the classes are really enjoyable. Everyone interested in learning Turkish dancing is welcome.

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TURKISH FOLK DANCES.

A Turkish folk dance class is held at the Marylebone Evening Institute) Gateway School, Lissom Grove, (near Edgware Road Station), on Tuesdays from 6.30 to 8.30. p.m. The teacher is Attila Karahan, from Istanbul, where he taught various groups, and also at Robert Colloge, near Istanbul. Everyone interested in learning Turkish folk dances is welcome. Attila is helped by his young wife Aydon, who was a leader in a folk dance group in Istanbul. (but 159 passes the door, Frampton Street from Edgware Road will take one to Gateway School)

Attila Karahan, 134 Tottenham Lane, N.8.
Tele: 348-5910

HARROW GREEN NEWS

Harrow Green held a jumble sale at St. Matthew's Hall, Hereford Street, Bethnal Green, on 24th April to raise money for costumes. We were to have held it at Oxford House but their charges were rather high so we decided to have it elsewhere. As it turned out, this was a good thing as we had to leave Oxford House anyway so if we'd booked in there we'd have been left with a load of jumble on our hands!

The St. Matthews Hall is vast, complete with stage, so there was plenty of room. We collected most of the jumble during the previous weeks apart from the things that people gave us personally. It's the collecting that's the problem, or rather the transport for the collecting, it's a bit difficult if you don't have at least two cars. Still we managed, and we collected some really good stuff.

We had a lot of helpers, some Harrow Green members and some not, we were very grateful for their help and interest.

The sale itself went off very well, though we hoped for a few more people to come and buy. We had plenty of publicity out so it wasn't that people didn't know about it. Still, we made about £25 clear profit, we had to pay £10 for the hall.

A lot of the stuff was left over, and we got a bit desperate as we couldn't get a dealer to come and shift it. Fortunately for us the vicar was holding a jumble sale a couple of weeks later, so we offered him our left-overs, but there was some good stuff there so he did quite well.

Harrow Green have certainly been around quite a few church halls recently, what with one thing and another, but it looks now as if our accommodation problems are over but George will write about this later. Anyway thanks to everybody who helped us out, we did achieve our object, and we have enough money to pay for some new costumes, so it was well worth while. - ALEX BRAUCLERC



ISRAELI

PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL DANCESMusiciansM.C.

Sunday June 6th	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Wilf Horrocks
June 20th	Dance Centre	Harry de Caux and Cliff Beck	Bert Price
July 4th	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	To be arranged

Time 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Admission: C.S. House 25p members, 35p nonmembers
Dance Centre 20p members,
25p non-members

Cecil Sharp House: No.2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1. (Nearest Underground
Camden Town)
Dance Centre: 12 Floral Street, W.C.2. (Nearest Underground: Leicester
Square)

On June 6th there will be a demonstration of English Dances at C.S.H.
by Harrow Green International Folk Dance Group.

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WHATS ON

- June 7th "FIESTA". Manolita y Rafael Aguilar & their Spanish Ballet.
Holland Court Theatre, London. 7.30 p.m. (Thursday &
Saturday 2.30 p.m. also). Admission 35p. Monday evenings
20p. Ticket office open half an hour before each perform-
ance - no advance booking.
- June 14th "OLE". Different programme of dances, but otherwise details
as for June 7th above.
- June 15th-26th "LADO" - THE Yugoslav Folk Dance Ensemble will be at
Sadlers Wells. (No details as to times and prices as yet).
- June 18th-20th Halsway Manor Weekend (See p.5)
- June 19th-25th Folkestone Festival (See p.7)
- June 25th KAPOŠ Dance and Music Ensemble from DOMBOVAR, Hungary will
visit England for two weeks. There might be a performance
at Cecil Sharp House - date not yet known. Appearances
in July will be as follows:-
- July 5th 7 p.m. Beechem Grove Hall, Watford
- July 7th 7.30 p.m. Bishops Park Open Air Theatre, Hammersmith
- July 9th 7.30 p.m. Chingford Assembly Hall.

DON'T FORGET THE HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING - JULY 4TH - C.S.H. 5 p.m.



Russell Hotel
Kings Karaoke
Bogart