

# S.I.F.D. NEWS

JANUARY

1972



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This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Officers of the Committee:-

Chairman:	Bert Price, 22 Sunnydale Road, London S.E.12 Home: 01-852 0509	Secretary:	Dorothy Bryan, Flat 1, Braunton Mansions, 28 Rosebery Avenue, London E.C.1. Home: 01-837 2438
Treasurer:	Harry Whitaker, 29 Sherbrook Gardens, Winchmore Hill, London N.21 Home: 01-360 4965	Membership Secretary (Ex-officio member):	Roland Minton, 131 Holly Street, London, E.8.
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, and also from Frances Horrocks, 112 Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

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

Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for their own use when purchased direct from the S.I.F.D. (i.e. from Frances Horrocks), but not when purchased from Magnegraph or booksellers.

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

Here's wishing you all a very Happy New Year and I hope we can make it as busy as was 1971. The Committee is girding its loins in preparation for the approval and organizing of at least one special event every month, which is where we need your help. Any ideas as to how to improve our social meetings will be welcomed, as will any suggestions for new and additional attractions. To begin with, already in the pipeline, we have our Chatham "See How They Dance" Show fixed for the 5th February and I hope you have made a note of the date and will turn up in force to support those teams who will be dancing. I promise you that a most enjoyable Show is being presented.

Next, we are arranging for Pierre Panis to come to London in February to take a Course in French dancing, and I recommend you all to watch for details in the February NEWS. I should like to give you the information now, but Pierre, with typical Gallic disregard of the necessity of being definite about dates, has yet to confirm his E.T.A. (estimated time of arrival), not to mention his E.D.A. (estimated day of arrival)! This difficulty of quickly confirming final dates happens so often when making arrangements to bring somebody from abroad and it plays havoc with our attempts to book halls and to plan social events for the visitors. However, Pierre Panis is an old friend whom I look forward to meeting again, as will all you older members who remember his previous visits. Those who have not as yet had the pleasure of dancing in one of his classes are very much recommended to seize the opportunity in February. My own private hope, and that of Alex Harris, is that we can follow up his visit to England by organizing a few trips to France to meet and dance with some of the groups on the other side of the Channel.

Our Children's Socials have been the subject of much discussion, especially in Committee, the general census of opinion being that we are doing a valuable educational exercise in arranging them. We hope to see them extended to other schools and will support any member who is able to organize a similar event. Ideally we should have at least four such class/socials running every month, on different Saturdays in the four quarters of London. In the November NEWS I asked for your views in regard to the dances most suitable for teaching to children in the hopes that we could compile a list of these dances to be used as a basic repertoire for all such classes. Only one letter was received, from Frances Horrocks, and I was disappointed in the lack of response from the rest of you. Can I ask those who are teachers, trained in the techniques of teaching children, to please put pen to paper and give us the value of their experience either by letter to the NEWS or personally to me. Alternatively, would any student teacher like to do an essay on the subject? Why teach dancing to children? What are our aims and objects? How should we go about it? At what age can we expect children to show an interest? My own opinion is that at under nine years of age no dances should be taught except as dance-games; that a repertoire of suitable dances should be drawn up and that a tape recording of the music should be made available to teachers at an economical price so that follow-up sessions can be organized privately by these teachers in the periods between our class/socials.

Thanks to Will Green, our November walk in Epping Forest was well organized and enjoyed. Where shall we go next? Well, I have offered to lead a walk on the 15th February, most likely in Kent, details of meeting points to be published

next month. After that further walks should be organized, preferably to be led by a different member each time. Volunteer leaders are required and we anticipate a good response from all you walkers with a favourite bit of country that you wish to share with others.

A Safari is being considered for early summer, and blossom-time in Kent has been suggested. It will be hard to equal the Essex Safari organized by Peter Oakley, aided by Dorothy Bryan and Will Green, but we shall do our best. Suggested routes will be welcomed, as will the names of any pubs able to accommodate 60 to 70 dancers. To start the ball rolling, I suggest the Old Jail in Biggin Hill as first port of call.

I look forward to hearing from you.

BERT PRICE, Chairman

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#### TEACHING WEEKEND AT SHEFFIELD

On the 3rd December, Ken Ward, the teacher, and eleven other members of the Tuesday Yugoslav class travelled up to Sheffield for a teaching weekend course in Yugoslav dancing at Lady Mabel College.

We were all overwhelmed at the splendour of the building where the college is housed - Wentworth House, owned by Earl Fitzwilliams. Marble floors and columns, magnificent crystal chandeliers, valuable paintings, wide thick-carpeted staircases, niches housing marble statues and precious china, satin brocade couches, etc., and when we were told we would be using the "Marble Saloon" for our lessons and performance, we wondered whether we could do it justice. Five of our party were accommodated in sumptuous rooms in the main building, while the other seven were driven out to Grindleford where we were most comfortably looked after in the lovely hillside home of one of our members, Marina Wolstenholme, who teaches at the Lady Mabel College and had arranged the weekend for us.

The course started with lessons at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday until lunch-time and continued with further lessons in the afternoon. In the evening the group gave a performance, in full costume, of dances from Serbia and Macedonia. During the interval, when the dancers were changing, Ken gave a slide show of costumes and dancers from various parts of Yugoslavia and there was also a colourful display of costumes laid out in one of the withdrawing rooms. Then, further lessons were given on Sunday morning from 9.30 until about 11.30, and the group left for home after lunch.

The students, all training to be teachers of P.E. and dancing, were young, lively, and full of enthusiasm. They were quick to pick up the steps, although some of the rhythms they found very strange, and were very keen to learn. At the last lesson, on Sunday morning, they were able to show us what they had learnt during the weekend and we felt the visit had definitely been worthwhile. The Show on Saturday evening was very enthusiastically received and everyone was clearly delighted to see the costumes, both those being worn by the dancers and those on display. After the performance, the audience were invited to join in general dancing, and it was difficult to get them to stop! The "Marble Saloon", I am sure, had never before reverberated to anything as exciting as the zurla and tapan! We were quite sorry to leave, but I hope we have left behind an idea of how interesting, colourful, and exciting Yugoslav dancing can be.

LILY SOUTHGATE

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The first meeting of the new Committee was held on the 5th December, and the following duties were allocated:-

Bert Price - Chairman  
 Harry Whitaker - Treasurer  
 Dorothy Bryan - Secretary  
 Roland Minton - Membership Secretary (ex Officio)  
 Will Green - Publicity Secretary  
 Margery Latham - Demonstration Secretary  
 Angela Dell - Wardrobe Mistress  
 Alex Harris - Representative for Country Members, Affiliated Groups  
 Shirley Rogers and Alan McLean - Children's Section  
 Auditors: Dennis Wood and Sheila Tanner

Matters discussed

Children's Dances were discussed and it was agreed to continue with these. We shall be booking the hall for the next six months. The Children's Party Dance went off very well.

Los Ibericos. Accounts have been received from this group, which has been disbanded, and it was proposed that having received these accounts no further action be taken regarding tracing the assets of this group.

Demonstrations. We have been asked for teams for the Islington Festival. Margery Latham is negotiating with them. (See page 8 of last issue).

Books and Records. Jack Richardson attended the meeting and presented the Committee with an account of the present position regarding books and records.

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Happy New Year to you all.

DOROTHY BRYAN

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 \* WANTED - Volunteers to help with the SIFD NEWS. Help is required on two \*  
 \* evenings each month - usually between the 26th and 29th of the month. On \*  
 \* the first of these evenings, the NEWS is printed on the Roneo and one \*  
 \* person is required to assist the Editor - preferably the same person each \*  
 \* month so that she/he can learn to operate the machine. On the second \*  
 \* evening, two or three people are required to help with folding, stapling, \*  
 \* putting into envelopes etc. Volunteers should be willing to help regularly, \*  
 \* and be able to be at Will Green's office in Camberwell by about 6.15 p.m. \*  
 \* (I could pick up anyone in the City area between 5 and 6 p.m. and drive them \*  
 \* there if necessary, or Will may be able to pick them up at the Elephant or \*  
 \* Oval underground stations). Would anyone able to spare either one or two \*  
 \* evenings a month to help, please contact me. \*  
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 \* Lily Southgate, Editor \*  
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Beginners' Notes on Macedonian Dancing

Macedonian dances are danced in lines or open circles, the dancers linked together by hand-hold, shoulder-hold or by holding one another's belts. The line is led by the leading dancer who signals changes in patterns of movement either by word or by waving a handkerchief. The leading dancer was traditionally a man of substance in the village, say the elder, or the person for whom the festivities were given. Or the leading dancer may well be the person paying the musicians bill or simply the best dancer needed to get things going. The open circle dance is known in Macedonia as the ORO, and the word is associated with 'kolo' in Serbia and 'hora' in Bulgaria.

The principal difference between Macedonian dancing and western dance tradition lies in the relationship of music to dance. In Macedonia the musicians follow the dancers or leading dancer and much of the 'dance' depends on the successful rapport built up between the leading dancer and the musicians. Unlike the modern dance hall or stage the dancers do not 'follow' the music.

The main instruments are:

Tapan - large drum      Zurla - shawn or primitive oboe      Gajda - bagpipes  
 Tambura - mandolin type string instrument      Kaval - long open ended pipe  
 Tarabuka - small pottery drum

The chief combination of instruments for dancing is two Zurlas with a Tapan. The Gajda is usually played on its own for dancing, but it is sometimes accompanied by the Tapan.

The drummer follows closely the leading dancer and the zurla players follow the tapan player. One of the zurla players tends to play drone to the other and the zurlas are inevitably of the same size and length. Musicians are usually only men; no women play.

The tapan is a double sided side-drum hung in front of the player from a strap over his shoulder. It lends itself to the formation of patterns of irregular rhythm. One side of the drum is skinned with a thick skin (probably bear) and the other with a thinner skin (say goat). The thick skin is struck with a heavy stick (cukalka), which is usually fashioned with a carved head. The thinner skin is struck with a thin switch (vrez) giving a sharp sound. The essence of tapan playing is the interplay of deep and short sharp beats. A stick struck on a drum skin if held free tends to follow through with a 'roll', the length of which gives the long beat. This long beat is the extra interval of time which forms the basis of the irregular structure of Macedonian rhythms.

The popular rhythms are:

11/16 Osogovska - short short long short short 1,2 1,2 1,2,3 1,2 1,2  
 7/16 Makedonska - Long short short 1,2,3 1,2 1,2  
 12/16 Pusteno - long short short long short 1,2,3 1,2 1,2 1,2,3 1,2  
 4/4 Bufcansko - even beat 1,2 1,2  
 9/16 Cucuk - short short short long 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2,3  
 13/16 Postupano - short short short long short short 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2,3 1,2 1,2 (one of several versions)  
 5/16 Pajduska - short long 1,2 1,2,3

There are also combinations of two rhythms as when 7/16 precedes 11/16 and you get 1,2,3 1,2 1,2/1,2 1,2 1,2,3 1,2 1,2 or long short short/short short long short short.

The proportionate length of long to short beat is instinctive and cannot be written down successfully in western musical notation.

Contd...

The appreciation of Macedonian dance is best approached by learning the dances rhythmically without reference to melody or tone. They can all be danced to the drum alone, and once you can move freely within a rhythm it is a natural progression from basic steps to the more complex movements. The greater the assurance of the rhythm you have the more possibilities there are to improvise, and improvisation is the living source of a dance. Although folklorists can 'set down' recognised movements of traditional dance, the heart and life lies in the improvisation the leading dancer creates within the limitations of the rhythm.

Ethnically Macedonia covers an area that ignores present day national boundaries. It spreads from the Yugoslav Federal state of that name east into Bulgaria (Pirin region) and south into Greece (down to Thessaloniki). Her common inheritance is embodied in the Macedonian language (one of the many Yugoslav tongues), and thousands of folk songs have been collected in the region.

David Swanton, Tuesday Yugoslav Class, Hugh Myddelton School, ECL.

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### TOWER HAMLETS DANCE FESTIVAL 1972

An exciting and colourful International Folk Dance Evening is planned for York Hall, Bethnal Green, London E.2, on Friday, 4th February 1972, as a curtain-raiser to the annual Tower Hamlets Dance Festival. As in previous years, it is hoped that many Ambassadors will be in attendance from the countries represented as well as many other distinguished guests and VIPs.

The emphasis will be placed on enjoyment and active participation but some endeavour has been made this year to try and reconcile the conflicting feelings over holding competitive or non-competitive sections. Entrants will now be able to decide whether they wish to participate on a competitive or non-competitive basis. Groups who dance on a purely non-competitive basis will be given a reasoned criticism by an authoritative adjudicator but those who wish to enter competitively will have the usual criteria of performance, style, presentation, knowledge of rhythm, steps, costume, and music applied.

Although this Festival might not be considered to be one of the major events in the folkdance world, the organizers hope the new format will contribute to improving the standards of folkdancing by competition, yet at the same time retain the friendly relaxed atmosphere enjoyed by both dancers and audience.

Closing date for entries for the International Dance Section has now been put back to 15th January 1972.

Syllabus and entry forms are now obtainable from:-

Mr. H.M. Howard,  
Entertainments & Recreation Officer,  
Town Hall,  
Bethnal Green,  
London E.2 9LN

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP'S VISIT TO  
BELGIUM, NOVEMBER 1971

At Llangollen this year we met the Volkskunstgroep "Dophei" from Vossellar, Belgium. They were an extremely friendly group and we got on with them very well and it was suggested that we should visit them in Belgium. Herman Proost, the leader of the group, thought it might be a good idea for Peter Oakley, George Sweetland and myself to visit the group first so that Peter could teach some English dances and George and Herman could discuss the possibilities of taking Harrow Green over there next year.

I've never been abroad before in winter, and it's quite a different experience. For one thing there are, of course, not nearly so many people travelling, so there's plenty of room on the train and the ferry. On the way to Dover we sat between a Frenchman carrying two huge packets of cornflakes and a German lady eating fish and chips out of a paper bag. We caught the midnight ferry to Dunkirk; it was a French boat, very comfortable, and we managed to get sleeping berths for the four-hour journey. For some reason the boat was late arriving in France - it had been a bit rough but not that bad - so we missed the train. We asked a porter which train we should get on and, with much gesticulating and shouting, he directed us to a train which appeared to consist of only two carriages. The passengers had dwindled by now to about 20, most people having gone on to Paris. We had a long, chilly wait; the train wasn't heated; but eventually we started, only to stop again at Lille where we were told we must change. We walked down the platform trying to find out what train we should get; everyone was very helpful, waved their arms a great deal but unfortunately we couldn't understand a word. At last they told us to get back on the train we had just left. Ah, the mysterious ways of foreigners; perhaps they thought a brisk walk down the platform would do us good. Having re-established ourselves and our luggage, the train left Lille. We settled back to have a sleep until we arrived at Brussels, but it was not to be. About three miles outside the station we stopped again. By now it was very cold and rather foggy. After what seemed an interminable length of time, a man came in and asked us where we were going (we could understand this one), then reappeared about 10 minutes later and counted us, very ominous. Apparently there had been an accident further along the track, the line was blocked and it was impossible for us to continue, but, he said, they were arranging for taxis to take us to the next station along the line. That was all we needed - a drive through thick fog with a French taxi driver. However, it was quite a smooth trip, except that the driver kept asking us the way which was a bit disconcerting. Once on the train, we went straight through to Brussels without a hitch, then changed for Antwerp where we arrived exactly  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours late.

Herman had arranged to meet us at 9.30 a.m. It was now 1 p.m. but we hung around for a while then George put a message over the Tannoy but no response, so he made enquiries about the local buses and we had some coffee before setting out to Turnhout, about 20 miles from Antwerp where Herman lives. The journey took an hour and we took a taxi straight to Herman's house. I think he was quite surprised to see us, no more surprised than we were to have actually arrived. He had waited for us till 11 then given us up. He gave us a large Cognac, which was very welcome, and took us to the houses where we were to stay. George and I stayed with one of the musicians and Peter with the 'President' of the group.



Belgian houses seem to be very comfortable; everyone was so kind and we felt very much at home. Our hosts were very keen on television; they receive a lot of B.B.C. programmes; it seemed very strange watching 'Coronation Street' in Flemish; apparently it's very popular there.

It was intended that Peter should teach the Children's Group in the afternoon but because of our disastrous journey we were too late for that. There are three groups altogether, the Children's Group who meet on Saturday afternoons, Herman's group who meet one evening a week, and an older group, consisting largely of the parents of members of Herman's group, and they meet once a month. It is almost ten years since the group was formed; in fact they celebrate their 10th anniversary next year. To begin with they did only international dances and the group was quite small, but about four years ago they introduced Belgian dances into their repertoire and lots more people became interested and joined. They travel quite a bit, going to Folk Festivals etc., and they seem to have contacts with quite a few groups in other countries. They meet in a hall in a village called Vossellar near Turnhout, and the group are mostly local people. The hall used to be a carpenters' shop and the group practically rebuilt it, laid a new floor and put new beams up on the ceiling. They even have a bar with a deepfreeze for beer. They're such a friendly group; as Peter said, he felt he had known them all his life. We started dancing in the evening at about 7 after we had been taken out to dinner in Turnhout.

They are very keen on English dances, and Peter's teaching went down very well indeed. He taught lots of dances and they picked them up very quickly, including The Bishop, Picking Up Sticks, Dargeson, along with some simpler ones like Circassian Circle. Everyone wanted to dance every dance and with plenty of drink flowing we had a marvellous evening. On Sunday, Herman had intended to take us sightseeing after an early lunch, but the weather was so terrible we decided to arrange more dancing for the afternoon. This is where you can see the advantage of having a group so concentrated in one area. In the morning Peter and the 'President' of the group went round telling all members that Peter would be teaching again in the afternoon and to come if they could. Imagine being able to do something similar in London! It would take all day. Anyway, a good number turned up and we danced till it was time for us to have a meal, pack, and set off for our journey back to London.

We were sorry to leave, we had so enjoyed ourselves. George and Herman discussed plans for taking Harrow Green over in the summer. They think a weekend is not long enough so we hope to go on a Bank Holiday weekend giving us an extra day. In the meantime, we hope some of their group may come over in late February; we should like to repay their hospitality.

The journey home was almost as bad as the journey out, only quicker! We reached Ostend without any mishap but on arriving there found a terrific gale blowing and very rough seas. It took us some time to find the ferry. We seemed to be the only passengers coming in by train, but after a brisk trot around the harbour (so refreshing before turning in), we found it but had to wait some time to board. We had a very rough crossing to Dover and were late in arriving. We got to Victoria at 9 instead of 6, so straight on to the tube to work - ah, the joys of folkdancing! But seriously, it was worth every minute.

AFFILIATED GROUPS

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. Details from Bob Kimmins, 62 Granton Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 6HQ.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC GROUP meet at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, London W.8., from 7 to 10 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday evening. They learn and perform Czechoslovakian dances and are taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, London W5 5BU.

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP - details from George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London S.E.5.

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S.I.F.D. CLASSES

Next Term commences on 3rd January 1972.

Fees: For one class a week .. .. £2.15      For two classes a week .. .. £2.40  
       For three classes a week .. .. £2.90      For four or more classes a week .. £3.40

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

TUESDAY

6.30 to 8.30	Yugoslav, Beginners & Intermediate	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
7.00 to 9.00	Hungarian & Romanian	Pimlico School	Alan McLean

WEDNESDAY

6.30 to 7.30	International, Beginners	St. Albans Hall	Margery Latham
7.30 to 9.30	International, Intermediate	"	Margery Latham
7.45 to 9.45	Israeli	Pimlico School	J. Barkan

FRIDAY

6.00 to 9.00	Hungarian & Romanian	Millbank School	Alan McLean
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CHRISTOPHER HATTON SCHOOL, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.

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

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

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

PIMLICO SCHOOL, Lupus Street, Chelsea, S.W.1.

ST. ALBANS HALL, Baldwin Gardens, Grays Inn Road, W.C.1.

Diary 1971 - Tuesday Yugoslav Dance Class - Zivko Firfov Group

1971 was a very full and successful year for us, and it is worth looking back at some of the main things we did.

In March we enjoyed working with the Polish Group in presenting a concert at the Commonwealth Institute, and the experience helped us when at the beginning of the summer in the Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre, Crayford, the class staged its first full-length show. Our fears at coping with the wide scope of the performance proved unnecessary on the night. Persistent stage management saw us through trying costume changes, and the audience appreciated the commentary that introduced the different parts of the show. The programme catered for everyone's interests and items were included from Croatia, Dalmatia, Serbia, Kosmet and Macedonia, accompanied by folk instruments and singing wherever possible. The group's enjoyment of what they were doing communicated itself to the audience and added to the overall success of the evening.

The concert in July at the Skopje International Festival and the preceding television show were quite different in character. The Programme was limited to Macedonian songs and dances, and without doubt it was artistically the most satisfying thing the class has ever done. It was a wonderful feeling dancing to the music of the Radio Skopje Folk Ensemble (who came with the Mirce Acev Dance Group to London and Llangollen two years ago), and who of course used only traditional instruments - zurla, tapan, gajda, kaval and tambura. They treated the concert in an authentic manner by following the leading dancers, and some of the most valuable experience was gained by those who had the opportunity to lead. Where possible a different member of the class led each dance, and it was a compliment to Ken's teaching and the group's ability that the musicians were happy with the programme after only three rehearsals. All those we met from the ensemble and the 'Makedonija' dance group were very friendly towards us and the journey abroad has given the class a deeper feeling for Macedonian music and dance.

In December a dozen of the class travelled to a college in Sheffield to teach dances and to give a full concert. The students were an appreciative audience and enjoyed also the exhibition of costumes and instruments which we arranged.

As far as the present structure of the group is concerned, it looks as though the dearth of trained musicians will be a blessing in disguise. Class members have taken up various folk instruments and, with their working knowledge of the dances, they are beginning to play with some sympathy for the irregular form of much Yugoslav music. It will be interesting to see how this side of the class develops in the new year.

While in Skopje the girls were given useful guidance on their singing and this is yet another aspect of the music which is being developed. Also, with the enlargement of the costume collection and the care that has to go into preserving the weaves and embroidery, some of the girls have started to copy traditional handwork.

At the beginning of the Autumn term the group for the first time elected a committee to help Ken Ward with the work of handling demonstrations, costumes, library, etc, which is helping the class to run smoothly. Outside activities of the group can be looked after by the committee, and the teaching and social life of the Tuesday class is not interrupted. We now have a method of voicing new ideas and criticisms and

anything we do is a group responsibility.

It is felt that new ground has been made in these last months and the development of the singing, playing and craft-work has given the group greater scope. Let us hope the new year is as kind to us.

DAVID SWANTON

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Dear Madam Editor,

May I say "Thank you" to all who arranged the day of Polish and Balkan dancing in November. I found it very helpful and I'm sure others did too. Also, it was nice to meet so many old friends. Did the organizers find it worthwhile? I hope so, and look forward to other such days in 1972.

Happy New Year to everyone,

LIZ BRIDLE, 4 Falcon Gardens,  
Minster-on-Sea, Sheerness.

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#### A CHALLENGE HAS BEEN MADE

I have just returned from Majorca where I have visited a group which I've known since 1961 and my group in Thurrock have visited and danced with since 1962. They meet in a very large house belonging to the Oliver family. Jose Maris Oliver is the leader of a group of folk dancers, singers and musicians. He is trying very hard to establish the house for the centre of folklore in Palma. The Casa Oliver group give performances every day. Everything has been done to bring the house of Oliver to the notice of the public and officials, and now time has come for something even bigger to be organized to really establish this centre. The suggestion is that about the middle of March a Festival like 'Llangollen' is organized in Palma at Casa Oliver and other centres. It would take place at a weekend. This would mean that groups could take advantage of the cheap weekend trips to Majorca, have an enjoyable weekend, and folkdance to their hearts content.

Now, are there enough groups in England who would be prepared to lay the foundation of such a Festival? It will not be sponsored by any organization or official body. It is a 'do it yourself' festival. We need as many groups as possible, dancing national dances in costume, with bands or musicians. Groups will be able to say how long their performance will last, how many performances they want to do, and if they would like extras thrown in, perhaps in night clubs etc. If you feel your group is only small and would only be prepared to do a short item, then we will put a number of items together to make one performance. This will not be a competition; it will be a Festival of International Dance, Song and Music. If you would like to learn Majorcan folkdances whilst there, please let me know; classes can be arranged. If you wish to take the family, they can be catered for also. The suggestion is that we hold afternoon and evening performances, different groups making up the programmes. Folk Dance parties for general dancing after the evening performance. (Don't forget they keep late hours). In early March the weather is good, plenty of sun, and water warm enough for swimming and not too hot for dancing. Groups would make their own travel arrangements. There are plenty of inexpensive air trips, or Kentways do a cross-country coach tour to Palma. Administration cost would be £2 per person; this would be your season ticket to all performances and all outings arranged by Casa Oliver.

I hope you will discuss this challenge with all your members and friends. I hope to get all SIFD groups to say they will try to get even a small team from each group, and any other groups not within the SIFD, a very warm welcome to you too.

Would any groups or individuals wishing to take part, or to know more about this festival, please contact me IMMEDIATELY. IVY ROMNEY (Mrs.) 38 Tulip Tree Close,  
Tonbridge, Kent.

PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL DANCES

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
Sunday, 2nd January	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Margery Latham
16th January	Dance Centre	Wilf Horrocks and Caroline Thomas	George Sweetland
6th February	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Roland Minton

Time: 7 to 10 p.m. Admission: Cecil Sharp House, 25p members, 35p non-members  
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)

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WHAT'S ON

- January 21st/23rd BISHAM ABBEY WEEKEND. Bookings to be sent to Prof. J.F. Richardson, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, Glam., with 50p deposit.
- February 4th TOWER HAMLETS FESTIVAL See page 7.
- February 5th SEE HOW THEY DANCE, Chatham Town Hall, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
Admission: for afternoon performance, Children 12½p, Adults 25p.  
Evening: 30p, 45p, 60p, 75p.

Provisional date for the next Surrey Crest Weekend: 12th/14th May 1972.

We are particularly announcing this in advance in the hope that anyone who is thinking of arranging a folk dance event around that time will try to avoid clashing with this date. We often find that events do clash and if we have notice of dates well in advance it does help to prevent this happening.

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

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WE WISH ALL OUR READERS

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

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STOP PRESS

At the Cecil Sharp House Dance on 2nd January 1972 there will be a short demonstration of Basque Dancing.

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ZBIGNIEW STRZALKOSKI sends Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the S.I.F.D., particularly those who attended the Swansea Course.