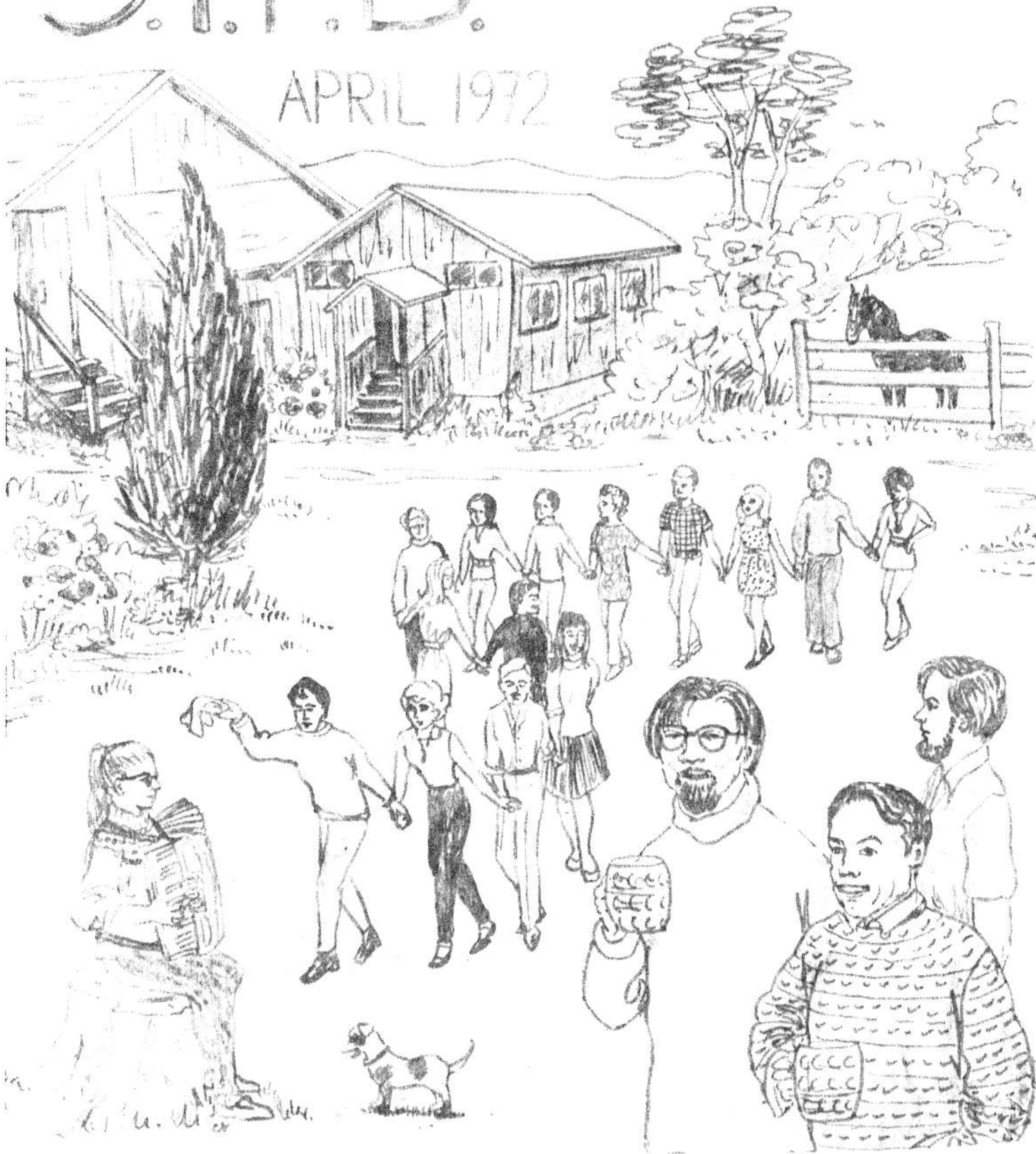


S.I.F.D. NEWS

APRIL 1972



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This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas (See "Surrey Crest Cancelled"
on page 8).

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Officers of the Committee:-

Chairman: Bert Price,
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Secretary: Dorothy Bryan,
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Treasurer: Harry Whitaker,
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Membership Secretary (Ex-officio member):
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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, © 17¹/₂p, 37¹/₂p and 62¹/₂p
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.

3. THE CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

I wonder how you enjoyed the annual E.F.D.S.S. Festival at the Royal Albert Hall? I was there on the opening night when the programme was cut short by a power cut, but even without this aggravation I was disappointed in the Show. I am beginning to doubt my often-repeated statements that "England has as many and as varied a collection of folkdances as any country could wish to boast", for there was little here to prove it and much to puzzle over. Why, for instance, give away four precious items (half an hour of the programme) to two guest teams? The Irish, the Scots, the Loftus Sword Dancers, the Colne Royal Morris Men, and others were allowed but one appearance yet the emigre Hungarians and Ukrainians were given two appearances each. Why?

There was also a nightmare of boredom to be suffered in a Fantasie item in which some poor loon, dressed as a ballet dancer, cavorted about the arena with his balletically dressed boy friends while trying, so the programme told us, to propose to his ballerina. At the same time, there were dozens of E.F.D.S.S. dancers wandering about the arena like bored couples in Hyde Park on a wet Sunday; they didn't seem to see the ballet dancers in their midst but their hobby horse did. This gallant beast, guessing the hero's dilemma, very kindly whispered something in his ear which seemed to solve his doubts, giving him the courage to propose and so end this silly saga. I spent the interval which followed in first getting myself a much needed drink and then in trying to guess what it was that the horse had whispered. Was it Resurrection? (The poor man was obviously dead and needed some message of hope), or was it simply that if he didn't hurry up the beer would run out? Alas, we shall never know. Neither shall I ever know why this item was included in a Festival which purports to show its audience something of English folk song and dance. Mind you, the dancers themselves were good, very good indeed, and when we were privileged to be shown some folk dancing that too was good.

The Tony O'Sullivan Irish dancers ('Himself' with two young girls) gave a fascinating exhibition of Irish tap dancing which went on, and on, and on - showing tremendous stamina especially by Tony and great expertise with the steps, but there was a sameness about it from beginning to end. I liked the Loftus Sword Dancers and the Chipping Camden Morris, and of course Bill Ireland's Royal London Scottish Group who danced as superbly as ever - so precisely correct in fact as to be almost offensive. I longed for someone to make just a wee error, but no, not this team. They danced to music by McBain's magnificent band so we were spared the bagpipes but, contrarily, I missed the eerie wailing and wished that I could have had the pipes as well. There was no Welsh team, and again I wondered why?

I liked the chorus items and the informal way the dancers were grouped on the floor around the singers, The High Level Ranters. It made a pretty tableau which compensated for my not being able to hear a single word that was sung. Humbly, the organizers included a questionnaire with the programme asking for views of the audience, which may possibly influence next year's offering, and if it gives us a Festival with more traditional dances, of which we have a-plenty, I for one shall be pleased. Otherwise, it seems to me that Cecil Sharp bicycled around the country in vain.

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I gave a brief mention to the Tower Hamlets Festival last month, expecting that someone would have given a more lengthy report elsewhere in the NEWS. Alas this was not so, and it is left for me, at this late stage, to tell you that the accolade in the senior section went to the Syrenka Polish Group which is run by our own (our very own) Joan Guest. Her dancers overcame the limitations of a very sticky floor; they rose above their own self-imposed limitations in respect of their lack of a traditional orchestra (probably because they prefer to be carried along by Donald Campbell's superb strict tempo on the pianoforte) and, although showing visible signs of tiredness well before the end of their marathon item, they nevertheless carried on to a triumphant finish. They were well-costumed, they danced well, and they managed to convey something of the bravura and daredevil semantic splendour which one associates with all Polish folk dancing. Perhaps this is why they won. All honour to the Syrenka Group and to Joan Guest*. I must add that I don't much care for these competitive festivals, especially in the children's sections, and I trust that the S.I.F.D. is never inveigled into bringing competition into its own children's events. Badges yes, but for attendance, not for ability. As I have said before, we aim to encourage dancers and dancing, not star performers.

*(Actually, this was a double victory for Joan as the children's team of Basque dancers she had taught came first in the children's section).

You will be glad to learn that we are continuing the children's socials at Millbank School, and the dates are announced on page 12.

Last Sunday, with Shirley, I made a reconnaissance of the route we shall take on our walk in Kent. We enjoyed it; it was not too muddy, not too long, and included a couple of suitable stops for refreshments. We hope that many of you come and that one brave soul will offer to lead another such walk in June.

Please note that there is no Cecil Sharp House dance on the first Sunday in April since that is Easter Sunday and the House will be closed. The next Cecil Sharp House dance will be on 7th May. I am M.C. and am bringing our Israeli Group to perform and to teach, so please tell all your friends and let us see if we can gain a record attendance.

The Spring Safari is going to be heavily overbooked so if you want to be in on it you should contact Roland Minton immediately.

It was gratifying to receive so many compliments on our Chatham Show, some of which were published in last month's NEWS. Criticism seems to be muted and focussed mainly on the insistent banging of that Balkan drum. I suppose that in an enclosed hall it really is too overpowering for comfort and induces a wild hope that it will soon cease, which is a pity for it is indeed a very arresting and powerful item. Dare we suggest that in future (enclosed) shows a less lusty drummer might be a relief to the audience, especially if it is a young audience. Children do not like too many loud bangs as was evidenced by the numbers at Chatham who were protecting their ears with their hands. Apart from this small criticism, I think we can all be proud of our efforts at Chatham and I hope very much that we can produce a similar Show elsewhere in the autumn or early winter. It would be nice to take it North

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but probably easier and more economical to stage it in Central London and to offer free hospitality to any Northern friends prepared to come South to see it.

I am sorry that our French Course was not quite so successful as one could have wished, and regret now that we carried it over a whole week of evenings. It seems to me that we should have been content with a weekend course held on the Saturday and Sunday which would have been more convenient for country members and less expensive to the Society but alas we did not think of this till afterwards. Nevertheless, we learn by experience and I think now that a series of weekend courses held in London should be our next priority. For the first one I would recommend a refresher course in Israeli and Romanian. I envisage courses of three sessions per day of only $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours per session (not our usual marathon 6-hour class) and that a limited number of dances be taught, since the course value lies in what can be remembered and not in how many dances can be got through in a day. A series of such courses would be very helpful to all our out-of-town members and to our affiliate groups and might help to improve our own standard of dancing here in London as well.

BERT PRICE, Chairman.

SAFARI - SUNDAY, 30th APRIL 1972

Coaches will leave Charing Cross (Embankment) at 10.30 a.m. sharp.

Route:	Biggin Hill (The Old Jail Public House)	11.30 until 12.30
	Tunbridge Wells (The Pantiles)	1.15 " 2.30
	Tonbridge (Castle Park)	3.30 " 6.00
	Meopham Green	7.00 " 8.30

<u>M.C.'s:</u>	Biggin Hill	Bert Price
	Tunbridge Wells	George Sweetland
	Tonbridge	Peter Oakley
	Meopham Green	Ian Willson

Musicians: Wilf Horrocks and Caroline Thomas (to be confirmed).

Price: 50p Adults, 25p Children. PAYABLE IN ADVANCE to Roland Minton (address on page 2).

Please book early as last year some people were disappointed. We shall once again have to limit the numbers to two coaches. Bring your picnic lunch etc. but sandwiches, ices, etc., will be available at the Old Jail.

WEEKEND IN FRANCE AT EASTER. At the last Committee Meeting, Alex Harris stated that as he had not received many applications, and as there had been difficulty in hiring transport at a reasonable rate, the proposed trip to France at Easter had been cancelled.

THE DANCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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The author's interest in these dances was first aroused by seeing performances by students in Sydney a few years ago. The intriguing thing was the obvious European origin of many of them. This led to trying to learn more about them, and these notes are a result of these studies. The author has not, unfortunately, had the opportunity of partaking in any Filipino dances.

The Philippines provide the dancer with an interesting and varied range of dances which reflects to some extent the past history of the islands. The isles were Spanish from the middle of the sixteenth century until the end of the nineteenth and the large majority of extant dances seem to belong to this period. Such titles as "Habanera", "Jota", "Malaguena" etc., could only have come from Spanish connections, while names like "Lanceros", "Mazurka", "Polka", "Escotis", "Chotis" etc., betray European origins. Although the Spanish occupation succeeded in converting the majority of the population to Christianity, there are still Muslims living in the southernmost island who also still practise their dances. There are also dances belonging to other small groups and to earlier times. There are numerous social couple dances with a few quadrilles and dances for threes, as in Europe. Some of the more unusual dances are briefly mentioned below.

In "Maglalatik", eight male dancers wear coconut shells on their chests, backs, waists and knees on which they beat out a complicated rhythm with two more coconut shells held in their hands. When one learns that it is described as representing a fight between Christians and Moros (the Filipino term for Muslims), and further that it used to be the custom for the dancers to go from door to door dancing this dance for money or gifts, one wonders whether one has come across the remains of the European Morris dance tradition. The Morris dance form was taken by the Spanish to South America (where it was modified) so that it is not too far-fetched to suppose that such dances travelled further across the Pacific to the Spanish Philippines. "Pukol" is another dance with coconuts, but this time for ladies and gentlemen, and each has only one pair of coconuts held in the hands.

"Sayaw sa Palaton" is a solo dance on plates. One man steps only on the plates, so that the dance requires skill, lightness, and perfect balance. It is obviously not a dance for those of us with two flat left feet! Girls can display their skill, balance, and grace by dancing the "Binasuan". The girl dances with three glasses of water, one on her head and one held in each hand. The dance includes fast turns and sitting down, all without spilling the water or dropping the glasses. A similar dance occurs throughout Asia, sometimes with candles in place of glasses. Still on the subject of dances of skill, there is the "Sayaw Ed Tapew na Bangko". This is a dance for one couple performed on a bench. "Pateado" is a sort of Filipino hat dance. Near the end of the dance, the man has to pick up a hat from off the ground with his head by bending over backwards.

There are a number of dances that require the use of special musical instruments to provide rhythmical accompaniment. For example, "Katlo" uses two wooden mortars, three light pestles and a heavy wooden sledge hammer. Four players beat out the rhythm with these. It should of course be pointed out that originally all the dances would have been accompanied by percussion sticks, clappers, drums etc., and that the present day musical accompaniments are

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fairly modern arrangements. In "Tinikling", horizontal bamboo poles 'operated' by two players are moved apart and clapped together, while pairs of dancers step in and out of the space between the poles so as to avoid getting their feet trapped. When this dance is well performed it is beautiful to watch and listen to. Some members may remember seeing this dance performed by the girls of Camp C.P. School (St. Albans) at the S.I.F.D. 1963 Royal Albert Hall Show.

There are many more of these dances, far too numerous to mention here, and it is hoped that the readers' interest has now been aroused sufficiently to wish to find out more about them, and even dance them. Fortunately, there are a comprehensive set of books describing many of them. The books listed below are all published in English. Between them they describe some 140 dances and variations, and those by Aquino and Fajardo include music. Mrs. Aquino's set does not explain the steps, holds, positions or terms, and her "Fundamental Dance Steps and Music" is required as a key. However, Mrs. Fajardo does include such notes in Volume 1 of her two-volume set below. These books include some black and white photographs (plus a few line drawings) of costumes, but these are not very well reproduced. The descriptions are fairly well detailed, certainly better than the usual run of folk dance books. However, the dancer relying on these books alone would probably wish for more notes on aspects such as correct posture; but this deficiency should not put off the average dancer. Moreover, as a general comment there is always the danger of suspecting the existence of special characteristics where none exists. The two books by Miss Tolentino (who incidentally is Mrs. Aquino!) have so far evaded me (Has anyone a copy?) but I have included them to make the list as complete as possible.

Lidster's and Tamburini's book "Folk Dance Progressions" is a general collection of dances, but does include descriptions of the following Filipino dances: "Apat-Apat", "Polka sa Nayon", "Haplik", "Polkabal", "Liki", "Hinig Sa Nayon", "Mazurka Boholana", "Tinikling" and "Maglalatik". It also includes a chapter giving the background material to Filipino dances. The descriptions are quite detailed but music is not included.

G.D. TOWNER

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aquino, F.R. Philippine Folk Dances I; 25 dances, 121 pages. (Kayumanggi Press, Manila)
 " " " II; 35 " 138 " "
 " " " III; 26 " 113 " "
 " " " IV; 22 " 109 " "
 Fajardo, L.V. Visayan Folk Dances I; 15 dances, 110 pages. (Manila)
 " " " II; 20 " 101 " "
 Tolentino, F.R. Philippine National Dances; 53 dances; (Silver Burdett Co. New York)
 Tolentino, F.R. and Ramos, P. Philippine Folk Dance and Games; 20 dances.
 (Silver Burdett Co. New York)
 Lidster, M.D. and Tamburini, D.H. Folk Dance Progressions; 9 Filipino dances.
 (Wadsworth Publishing Co., California)

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ED. NOTE: Dr. Towner also includes a record list, which I shall be pleased to pass on to any interested reader but for which space does not permit inclusion here.

WEEKENDS AWAY

- 5th/ 7th May HALSWAY MANOR. A weekend of dancing and walking in Somerset. Cost £4.20, with reductions for children. For further details, or bookings, write to Michael Clark, 14 Weldon Close, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants. Please send deposit of £1 with booking.
- 16th/18th June UPLANDS WEEKEND. A weekend of dancing and walking organized by Jack Richardson at this very comfortable country house, near High Wycombe. Bookings to Prof. J. Richardson, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, Glam. Total cost of weekend £5.75.

SURREY CREST CANCELLED

The weekend of 12th/14th May planned for Surrey Crest has been cancelled. During our visit in November I re-booked as usual for our next weekend 12th/14th May. On the 5th March, when I phoned the owner to settle details, he told me he had accepted another group for that weekend.

On our last few visits we have had some misgivings on continuing Surrey Crest on account of the higher prices, poorer food, restrictions and less welcoming attitude, and the structural "improvements" which many felt had spoilt the atmosphere. As we have been let down like this, I think we should not book again.

It looks as if a long tradition has ended. Many of us have happy memories. Here are some of mine; meeting at The Bell on Friday night; dancing by the light of the log-fire; the Saturday morning walk to the pub in Bletchingley; the visit of the French group and their dancing with the Morris men in the village street; John Hughes as a fallen angel in the fancy dress parade; bonfires in the early days; Eric Craig's unmistakable laugh heard across the dining-room; two Austrian girls who sang yodelling songs; Hamdi playing Turkish music on our last visit.

Jack Richardson runs excellent weekends which I thoroughly enjoy, but Surrey Crest was something completely different. Does anyone know a similar place where the Surrey Crest tradition could be continued? We want somewhere in the country, fairly near to London, providing simple accommodation for about thirty, with no irksome restrictions. Cost, £5 at the most.

The cover of this issue was designed to advertize the Surrey Crest weekend but in spite of the cancellation we decided to use it anyway as a reminder of some of our happier times there.

STEPHEN WARD,

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Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8JN
Tel: 01-390 0727

A SHORT FOLK DANCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

It is intended to present in the SIFD NEWS at regular intervals, as space permits starting next month, a list of folk dance instructional books, which it is hoped will prove useful to readers. The bibliography is 'short' because the compiler wishes to include a basic amount of data on each book; this information has been obtained at first hand for most of the books listed. It would be possible of course to extend the list considerably by drawing on the bibliographies given by many of the books listed, but at the expense of omitting much of the data considered necessary as basic. For these reasons, the list will undoubtedly be unbalanced.

It is anticipated that the majority of readers will try and borrow books from their library. All but a few of the English language books should easily be obtainable through the National Inter-Library Lending system. However, those readers contemplating purchasing any of the books through their local bookseller should not be put off by the stated date of publication. Books published as recently as 1960 may well be out of print now, yet books bearing dates as long ago as 1928 are still available to order.

In using instructional books, the folk dancer must heed one warning. It is probably impossible for any book (and this certainly applies to most of the books listed) to convey to the dancer subtleties of style or character. This can probably only be passed on to the dancer by other dancers, although it is anticipated that the use of Labanotation or Benesh dance notation will remove this difficulty as it becomes more widely known. However, this problem should not be exaggerated, since quite often a dance requires no special styling beyond what comes naturally.

The difficult question concerning what exactly constitutes a folk dance will not be dealt with here. The books will certainly not be confined to genuine folk dances. There will be no attempt to comment on the authenticity of the descriptions. The reader should always bear in mind that descriptions of foreign dances in English have often been written down from observations made on performances by refugee or migrant groups (particular in the U.S.A.) so that they may often deviate from the original. A not uncommon deviation, if it can be called such, is that the description is authentic as far as it goes, but that it only covers a few of several figures. Books written for teaching children often simplify steps and figures. And of course there are authentic variations as well.

The books will be listed country by country as far as possible, but some general groupings will be unavoidable. Books listed under, say, Sweden will not be repeated under Scandinavian Collections. The aim is to give: TITLE; AUTHOR; PUBLISHER; DATE OF PUBLICATION (this will usually be that of the edition consulted by the compiler, and is therefore not necessarily the first or the latest); NUMBER OF DANCES; MUSIC or RECORDS indicating that the book gives music or lists of suitable records. An * against a book indicates that the information has been compiled secondhand from other sources.

G. D. TOWNER

SECRETARY'S NOTES

A Committee Meeting was held on the 5th March and attended by all members of the Committee and the Editor.

Membership now stands at 315.

Matters Discussed

Chatham Show. It was agreed that this had been a success, and financially we hope to break even.

Polish Tape. Betty Harvey attended the meeting to discuss the making of a tape of Polish dances. It was agreed, in principle, to go ahead with this. Details of the contents, price etc. of this tape will be announced eventually and it is envisaged that classes, groups, etc., will wish to make use of it.

Addressograph. The Editor has looked at the question of buying a small addressing machine for use on the envelopes, but the smaller machines did not appear to be worthwhile. It was agreed to look around for a secondhand Addressograph or the possibility of hiring one.

French Course. Unfortunately we suffered a financial loss on the French Course, which was not very well attended during the weekdays.

Future Events. Another walk in the country will probably be arranged; the Safari route has been worked out (see page 5); the weekend at Hollowford is being arranged and Alex Harris will be going to see the place and finalize the booking if it is found satisfactory.

Junior Section. At the Children's Dance held in February there were about 40 children (25 from one school), and Joan Guest and Frances Horrocks helped with the teaching. The school has been booked for 18th March, 22nd April, 20th May and 17th June for further Children's Dances.

Costumes. The Committee are considering requests from the Israeli and Hungarian groups for help with costumes.

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Once again, I am looking forward to the Safari. Those of you who came to the last one will, I am sure, be looking forward to this day out dancing at various stopping places. We have tried very hard to cater for everyone in our choice of these stopping places. We did ask for suggestions of suitable places after the last Safari but, as usual, there was very little response, if any, to our request for suggestions. Ian and Jean Willson were kind enough to go and size up the situation at Bodiam Castle but as this would have been a bit far off our track we decided not to include this. However, it would be an ideal place for an afternoon out and Alex Harris is sorting this one out. Our thanks to Ian and Jean.

So, see you at the Safari. Those wishing to take the waters, please bring your own receptacles!

Happy Easter,

DOROTHEE BRYAN (Hon. Sec.)

AFFILIATED GROUPS

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP now meet every Thursday evening in the Church Hall of St. Mary Magdalen, Hazelwell, at 7 p.m. Secretary: Miss Christine Butler, 76 Headingley Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 9QD.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC GROUP meet every Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. On Wednesday they meet at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, London W.8., and on Thursdays at Isaac Newton School, Lancaster Road, W.11. (50 Yards from Ladbroke Grove Underground). They learn and perform dances from Czechoslovakia and are taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, London W5 5BU. Everyone welcome.

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

GUILDFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS meet on the first Thursday in each month from 8 to 10 p.m. at St. Nicolas Small Hall, Millmead Terrace, Guildford, Surrey. Secretary: John Driver, Kilndown, 11 Mary Vale, Godalming, Surrey. Tel; Godalming 6259 (Home), Wormley 2122 (Work). Any offers in the way of local musicians and/or M.C.s would be welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS to Alan Corkett who has recently become engaged to Christine Mortimer and who is to be married at St. Michael's Church, Melksham, Wiltshire, at 2 p.m. on the 27th May 1972. We send them both our very best wishes for their future happiness.

A NEW LEAFLET

A special leaflet has been produced to give away at demonstrations. Several thousands have been printed, and the intention is to tell people who have been watching a demonstration by an S.I.F.D. group or class who you are and how to get in touch with you again, how to get hold of books and records, and how to join a class or group. You can ask for a supply of these when you are giving a demonstration so that they can be handed out immediately afterwards, with permission of the sponsors of the event of course.

The S.I.F.D.'s secretary's address is already on the leaflet, but a space is left for you to stamp your group's address. The leaflets are obtainable from Will Green, 90 Wells Way, S.E.5. and you can have as many as you like. They are free, but the Treasurer never says "No" to donations!

CHILDREN'S DANCES

The hall at Millbank School, Erasmus Street, S.W.1., has been booked for the following dates:-

Saturday, 29th April
 " 20th May
 " 17th June

from 2.30 to 5.00 p.m. Admission: 10p including refreshments.

Dances to be taught will include Mayim Mayim, Haake Toone, Sadala Polka, Meitschi Putzdi, Kleine Schottische, Datchko Kolo, Hora Mare, Cuileandra, Alunelul, etc. Children are invited to wear national costumes.

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S.I.F.D. CLASSES

Summer Term commences on 10th April 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

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	Fimlico 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.

HERE AND THERE

I spent the weekend of 11/12th March in the Peak District, and if that makes anyone envious, their envy is justified. Britain has few spots which are as relaxing, yet at the same time exciting. As for the pubs, and the people.....

Coming to the point; the Committee had decided to fix a Surrey Crest-cum-Bisham type weekend in a conference centre known as Hollowford, at Castleton. Arrangements were made by post, and it was perhaps because of this that we were somewhat puzzled by some of the details. A visit seemed to be the best solution, and the Committee decided that the final decision would be left to Marine Wolstenholme and me. I was duly impressed by Hollowford, which in my opinion is better (from the Society's point of view) than Bisham - what it lacks in oak beams it makes up for in smaller dormitories with hot showers close by, splendid views, and in being nearer to the pub. However, my enthusiasm must be curbed, since "they" decided that our dancing might ruin "their" floor and so it is off. Marin, however, is not easily discouraged, and I hope that we shall still have a weekend in the Peaks. She has a strong ally in her husband, Roy, who does not dance but nonetheless took an active interest in our project.

It was no coincidence that my visit coincided with the monthly dance held by the Barlow International Folk Dance Group. The Group has for President Lt.Col.Baldrey (retired), who since 1941 has devoted his tremendous energy to the encouragement of folkdancing groups. During these years he has published masses of material and he still annually presents a silver cup to a group whose efforts he deems worthy of encouragement. His first contact with the Society was around 1950 when he invited us to send a team to dance at Belle Vue, Manchester (Over to you, Bert!). The Colonel no longer dances or teaches. Barlow Group is run by its Chairman, Alan Williams, with a Committee of eight. Alan is a very able and energetic instructor, and although he no doubt offends some of the purists my sympathy is with Alan. To have pulled together this group of people, and helped them to maintain and perhaps even increase their enthusiasm is no mean feat. As an M.C., there is room for him at our Sunday dances.

The group, like all groups, has a male/female ratio which leaves the men feeling wanted, the women frustrated, and the demonstration secretary downright suicidal; however, I counted no less than twelve competent male dancers, which makes the Barlow Group quite strong. It was agreeable too, to see so many "Swansea faces". An interesting member of the group is George Wignall who, with his charming (American) wife, makes a very dancing couple indeed. They have invented something called a "Folk Party" when it has to be called anything. People go there to teach and/or be taught, or simply to dance. A kind of folkdance happening. I look forward to attending one - does any ne want to help fill a mini-bus? Another interesting event undertaken by the Barlow Group is a trip to somewhere where they walk up a great hill in the afternoon to see something called a Pike (not a fish). Alan said it had been left there by an Armada. Descending to more normal levels, they "Eat a hot-pot" and then spend the evening dancing in a barn. Like most affiliated groups, they keep us in the dark about their goings on. Can they be so good that.....? The next one is to be in April, and I expect to be there.

I hope that these little pieces of information have been of interest. I also hope that someone in Manchester will continue to favour the NEWS with advance notice of their activities.

PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL DANCESMusiciansM.C.

Sunday, 2nd April	N O D A N C E - E A S T E R S U N D A Y		
16th April	Dance Centre	Wilf Horrocks & Cliff Beck	George Sweetland
Sunday, 7th May	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Bert Price

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

- April 4th DANCE-FOR-EVERYONE COMPANY. An entertainment for children from 5 to 11, including folk songs, authentic folk dances etc. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. 3 p.m. Tickets 30p to 65p.
- April 9th UKRAINIAN DANCE COMPANY "DUKLA", 7.30 p.m. Royal Albert Hall. Tickets 50p to £2.00
- April 29th CHILDREN'S DANCE. See page 12
- April 29th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE at The Village Hall, High Street, Borough Green, Kent. 7.30 to 11 p.m. Tickets 30p, half-price under 18. Run by Woodvale Folk Dance Group.
- April 30th FOLKDANCE SAFARI. See page 5.

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FESTIVALS IN YUGOSLAVIA

Readers visiting Yugoslavia this year may be interested to know of the following:-

- 3rd to 9th July Balkan Festival at Ohrid, Macedonia, organized by Zivko Firfov.
- 10th to 20th July Course in Macedonian Dancing and Music/Singing organized by Zivko Firfov and Pece Atanasovski at Otesevo on Lake Prespa adjoining Lake Ohrid.
- 20th to 26th July International Festival of Folkdancing at Skopje, organized by The Students' Union of Macedonia.

International Festival of Folklore at Bitola, organized by Zivko Firfov and Pece Atanasovski, following the above festival at Skopje after an interval of a few days.

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