

# S.I.F.D. NEWS

January 1974



New Year folk ritual, Bulgaria

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Secretary: Dorothy Bryan, Flat 1, Braunton Mansions, 28 Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.  
Telephone: 01-837 2438 (Home)

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This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas and depicts some of the characters in the "Sirvaskari" carnival celebrated in Western Bulgaria on New Year's Day. Other characters, such as the man-woman and the doctor, are reminiscent of the English mummers.

Last month's cover was a design of an early 19th century Christmas decoration from Germany. Unfortunately this information was received too late to be included in the December issue.

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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEXT ISSUE TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY 15TH JANUARY 1974.

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

Once again it is a pleasure to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and to express the wish that it will be one during which we shall continue to meet and enjoy our folkdancing to the full.

Last April, after my Easter holiday in Wales, I talked in a light-hearted mood about the possibilities of a shortage of fuel and tried to envisage some of its consequences. I suggested that the present trend of a one-culture all over the world would be halted and that regional differences would again emerge. Well, we now have to live with a long-term energy shortage and I wonder how this will affect our future operations. I purposely said "energy shortage" in preference to the popular Press phrase "energy crisis" since the word "crisis" implies a point in illness when one either dies or gets better, and the impression is that one will suffer a few days' misery and then get better. This will not be the case with the present energy shortage. We have to live with it and it is going to affect us in many ways. The first and foremost will be in the difficulties and expense of travelling. Already it costs more to travel to a dance or class than to get in, and in the coming year this situation will worsen. On top of this we may well find that the Evening Institutes will close to save heating or at best be open but with no heating provided, and in this connection I must tell you that we have already been advised that there will be neither lighting nor heating at the Hugh Myddelton School on the day of our Turkish One-Day Course on 26th January (see page ). (Although, with the energetic Turkish dances, we will probably not need any heating!) Whether this will apply to future children's classes and to our evening activities in general I cannot say but it is obvious that all our activities in 1974 will be affected, so I would ask you all to keep in touch one way or another, preferably by making a decision to reserve the first Sunday in the month for a get-together at the Cecil Sharp House Dance. In the beginning of the S.I.F.D. this was our only point of contact, and it may well be that fuel restrictions during 1974 may make it once again our only meeting place.

Last month I asked you for your opinions on the expansion of the Society in respect of the formation of branches outside London but, with the exception of one letter from Dr. Towner, I received no intimation of an interest in this project. Inevitably this makes me wonder whether or not we should proceed and doubt arises in my mind as to whether the idea is sterile. We are a group of people who have banded together because of our love of international folk dancing. Our getting together has helped us, here in London, to make approaches to national folk dancers of many other countries to come to teach us their dances and to show us how they should be danced. We have built up a small organization which is possibly unique in Europe, dedicated to the enjoyment of other countries' dances. We have tried to preserve the different national styles in all our dancing. We have opened our doors to all who have shown an interest in the dances of other countries and we have organized classes where they may learn to dance these dances in the manner of the nationals of those countries. Many out-of-town people with a love of international folk dancing have joined us over the years and have benefited from our different courses. Many have joined the Society to identify themselves with our aims to continue to perform the folk dances of other countries in their national form. In offering to open branches all over the country we are offering all out-of-town members an opportunity to band together with the London organization and to create the

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nucleus of a countryside organization. The strain on your Committee would be great but every member of the Committee has indicated a willingness to go ahead in spite of the extra load. Your Committee is keen to go ahead, but no response has been forthcoming to my appeal to out-of-town members, not even from Birmingham where some of our funds have already been spent in promulgating the opening of possibly our first branch. Well, as there is no response from out-of-town members, I can only conclude that we are flogging a dead horse, in which case I must insist that no more of our capital be spent on a stillborn project. An increased membership such as your Committee envisaged from the formation of branches would have placed a strain on our organization but we were prepared to accept this. Now, with no response from the membership, my own opinion is that we should go ahead and create the framework (i.e. rules and regulations) for the formation of branches and leave it at that until such time as members show an interest in taking matters further.

Similar thoughts arise in regard to the Children's Classes, which are run primarily for the benefit of members wishing to introduce their own children to the enjoyment of international folk dancing, and also to help members who are school teachers by giving them an opportunity of bringing their school-children to these classes to stimulate their interest. The best that has come out of our Children's Class in Millbank School has been the opening of a second children's class by Frances and Wilf Horrocks in Wimbledon. If more children's classes are opened elsewhere then I shall think that success has been achieved. What I like most about our children's classes is that the organizers, teachers, helpers, parents, all give their services free for love of the project. It reminds me of the S.I.F.D. in its beginnings, and I hope that these classes will continue and expand, not by greater numbers at Millbank, but by more classes, organized on the same lines, by members in other parts of London.

I hope in the New Year we can all pull together and introduce the pleasures of international folk dancing to more and more people.

Happy New Year

BERT PRICE.

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ONE-DAY COURSE IN TURKISH DANCING

Place: Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1.

Date and Time: Saturday, 26th January 1974. 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fee: 50p.

Tutor: Hamdi Ataoglu

If you have never done any Turkish dancing, now is your chance to learn some of these exciting rhythms and steps. The music is fascinating and the dances among the most exciting anywhere in the world.

Don't let the lack of heating in the school put you off. You will generate your own!

### SUNDAY DANCES

There will be no more Sunday evening dances at the Dance Centre. The Committee announced this at the Annual General Meeting and said that the reason for this was that the numbers of people attending these dances did not justify the expenditure. The dances had been heavily subsidised for a long time and it was felt that as members did not support the dances sufficiently we could not go on subsidising them.

At the meeting, George Sweetland said that he felt many members would be disappointed that we were going to discontinue these dances and he thought efforts should be made to find another hall. He volunteered to take on the job of finding a hall and, if successful, running these Sunday dances in future. See George's article on page 6.

The dances held at Cecil Sharp House on the first Sunday in each month will continue as before.

### ISRAELI CLASS

Fiona Howarth is pleased to announce that her Israeli Class has been accepted as an official I.L.E.A. class. The class will begin next term on 10th January 1974 at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m., every Thursday. Nearest Underground - Oval. Bus 36, 185. New members will be very welcome.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Patricia Wilson and Barney Salmon who are now engaged to be married. Barney has been a tremendous help to the Society in giving a great deal of his time each month for the past six years or so, helping the Editor to produce the SIFD NEWS, and for the past few months Patricia has also been helping each month. I am sure all members will join me in thanking them for their help, congratulating them on their engagement, and wishing them every happiness. ED.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ann Boseley and Cliff Beck who were married in November. We send them both our best wishes for their future happiness.

### AFFILIATED GROUPS

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday evening at Wilbraham Road Congregational Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further information from either The Chairman, Alan Williams (061-881 7744) or The Treasurer, Philip E. Lloyd (061-881 3613).

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Wednesday from 7.30 p.m. at Daneford School, Turin Street, London E.2. First Wednesday in each month Swedish, other Wednesdays, English/International/Norwegian. Details from George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London S.E.5.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC DANCERS meet every Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. On Wednesdays 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.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Thursday in term time from 8 to 10 p.m. at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Essex. All details can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Eve Wildy, 52 Slewins Lane, Hornchurch, Essex.

WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday at Borough Green Village Hall, Borough Green, near Wrotham, Kent, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. All details from The Secretary, Mrs. Jean Willson, 55 Lewis Court Drive, Boughton Monchelsea, Nr.Maidstone, Kent.

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### SUNDAY DANCES

As was announced in the last issue of SIFD NEWS, the Committee have reluctantly decided not to continue with the Floral Street dances because the subsidy required has reached the high figure of approximately £8 for each meeting.

I feel so strongly that these dances are an important part of the Society's activities that I have persuaded the Committee to allow me to continue to run them on their behalf with limited backing.

I have several ideas on how to make it economically viable and to make the dances more attractive, but they all hinge on the necessity of acquiring a central venue at a cheaper rate. At the moment of writing there are several possibilities in view, but nothing has yet been settled.

It is to be hoped that we shall be able to arrange for a hall by the third week in January and that all interested parties will support us if they possibly can. If you cannot attend Cecil Sharp House in January and would like to know if the third Sunday is "on", please telephone myself (01-701 3785; Home), or a member of the Committee (Telephone Nos. on page 2) sometime about the 14th January 1974.

GEORGE SWEETLAND,  
28 Hayes Court,  
Camberwell New Road,  
London S.E.5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Editor,

Living in the South West of England is very fine in most respects, but it's a very bad place to be if you are addicted to folk dancing. So I've decided to take the plunge and attempt to start my own group. I'm long on enthusiasm but very short on leadership, teaching, or administrative ability. So I'm asking your readers for advice. I've got five other interested people, a room, music, and possibly something to play it on. Where do I go from there? Any help would be greatly appreciated. You, too, may someday be miles from the nearest dancing!

Sincerely,

LINDA SINGER,

Badgers Folly,  
Lower Broad Oak Road,  
Westhill, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

Dear Lily,

The receipt of the October issue of the SIFD NEWS reminds me that it is time we made a contribution to the Newssheet, if only to show our appreciation of our monthly copy. As ex-SIFD members we are interested in reading of events taking place, courses organized, visiting instructors, members' reactions to visiting dance groups (who sometimes, quite often now in fact, include Vancouver on their American tours).

I see we missed a Reunion in October - we should have liked to be in London for that. I hope it was well attended. Dancing with friends must be one of the best ways of renewing old friendships. I see for that one you had "live musicians as usual". What other kinds of musicians do you have? A Danse Macabre on Hallowe'en perhaps? How many have you worked to death? This terse statement conjures up all kinds of questions.

I come across the letter of appreciation to Jack and Joan Richardson; fully deserved by them I have no doubt. How many weekends combining dancing and the Sunday morning Jack-organized ramble have you organized? I can remember some.

Congratulations to Jackie and John Hughes - we can empathize with you as we have a six-month old daughter, Jane. (ED. NOTE: For Canadian 'empathize' read English 'sympathize').

Our own group, the Vancouver International Dancers, holds three evenings of dance teaching a week - beginners and two intermediate sessions. After December it is hoped the beginners will integrate with the other two classes and Monday will be organized for demonstration purposes. A monthly Saturday night dance party is held.

New material comes to us via the folk dance camps - several of our members went to the camp at Mendocino, California, this year, one on a V.I.D. scholarship.

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November bestows on us two visiting folk dance groups - one 'Feux Follets', a Montreal group (the write-ups preceding them are good), and a group from Jugoslavia.

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, and joy in dancing.

BERYL and LEN SAWYER

1541 West 28th Avenue,  
Vancouver 9, B.C.,  
Canada.

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#### COURSES IN POLISH DANCING

Following the article in the November issue, Betty Harvey wrote to Mr. Roderyk Lange regarding the Polish dance courses to be held in Jersey and has received the following information.

One course has already been fixed from 2nd to 7th April 1974. The tuition fee is £15 plus approximately £2 per day for food and accommodation. Mr. Lange says "The two courses on Polish Traditional Dancing will include a graded study of Polish national dances, and, if time will permit, some of the folk dances".

Members requiring further information should write direct to Mr. Roderyk Lange M.A., Les Bois, St. Peter, Jersey, Channel Island.

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#### VISIT TO BELGRADE

It was to have been a very Happy New Year, with plenty of kolos and slivovic, for Ken Ward's Yugoslav group, who were invited to go to Belgrade for a four-day visit over the New Year as guests of a Students' Association. They were to have danced at the Yugoslav New Year's celebrations there, and were to have been joined by members of Harrow Green Folk Dance Group, who would have helped to provide a varied programme by dancing some English folk dances. Unfortunately, at the last minute the trip had to be cancelled because of the fuel shortage. There was not enough fuel to bring the 'plane over from Jugoslavia and back again. However, the invitation is to be renewed for next Easter, when we hope the fuel situation will have improved.

#### ADVANCE NOTICE

The next INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD at Llangollen will be held from 2nd to 7th July 1974.



TURKISH DANCE CLASSES take place at Gateway School, Lisson Grove, N.W.1., on Thursdays from 7 - 9 p.m. Hamdi Ataoglu is the instructor, as in the past. Buses Nos. 159 (and along the Edgware Road to Frampton Street, Nos.16, 60). Further details from Hamdi Ataoglu, Tel: 01-455 7597

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S.I.F.D. CLASSES

S.I.F.D. Classes are held under the auspices of I.L.E.A.

Annual fees are as follows:-

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

There is a reduction for students who have attended the same Institute for three successive years.

Spring Term: 7th January to 6th April 1974

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	Greenwich Institute	Bert Price
*7.30 to 9.30	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 (on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month)	Charlton School	Bert Price

FRIDAY

*6.30 to 9.30	Hungarian & Romanian	Pimlico School	Alan McLean
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\*There is no fee payable for the classes marked with an asterisk. ATTENDANCE IS FREE.

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.

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

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

Please note the change of venue for Bert's Wednesday Israeli Class:

CHARLTON SCHOOL, Lombard Wall, Woolwich Road, S.E.7

PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL DANCES

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
Sunday, 6th January	<u>NEW YEAR PARTY</u> at Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Simon & Joan Guest
Sunday, 3rd February	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Roland Minton

Admission: 30p members, 40p non-members.

Cecil Sharp House is at 2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1. (Nearest Underground: Camden Town)

It is hoped that a demonstration of German and Austrian dances will be given at the Cecil Sharp House dance on 6th January by members of the Woodvale Folk Dance Group. However, petrol and train difficulties may make it impossible for them to attend, but they will do their best.

The demonstration for 3rd February should be very popular as we are having a return visit of the London Maori Club. Many of the people who saw them before have asked us to invite them again. Do your best to get there, and bring friends for a treat.

WHAT'S ON

January 6th	<u>NEW YEAR PARTY</u> at Cecil Sharp House.
19th	<u>CHILDREN'S DANCE</u> . Millbank School, Erasmus Street, S.W.1. 2.30 to 5 p.m.
February 8th	<u>TOWER HAMLETS FESTIVAL</u> at York Hall, Bethnal Green, E.2.
February 15th/ 16th	<u>E.F.D.S.S. FOLK FESTIVAL '74</u> . Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, S.W.7.

Future dates for Children's Dances: 16th February, 16th March.

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\* WE WISH ALL OUR READERS HEALTH, PROSPERITY, \*  
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\* AND MANY HOURS OF HAPPY DANCING IN THE NEW \*  
\*  
\* YEAR. \*  
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