

S.I.F.D.

NEWS

MARCH 1974



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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Chairman: Bert Price, 316 Somercotes, Basildon, Essex.
Telephone: Basildon 412371 (Home)

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

Treasurer: Harry Whitaker, 29 Sherbrook Gardens, Winchmore Hill, N.21.
Telephone: 01-360 4965 (Home)

Membership Secretary: Roland Minton, 10 Benyon Court, Balmes Road, London N.1.

Demonstration Secretary: Margery Latham, 14 Beechwood Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.
Telephone: 01-876 7055 (Home)

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This month's cover, showing a Spanish dancer, is by Lesley Boorer.

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BADGES

S.I.F.D. badges for lapel, motorcycle, or car @ 17½p, 37½p, and 62½p, respectively, can be obtained from our Membership Secretary, Roland Minton (address above).

RECORDS

Our records, cassettes and tapes are available from Frances Horrocks, 112 Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey. Prices: Records 85p each; cassettes £1 each; tapes £1.50 each. All plus postage.

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 booksellers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Lily,

"London Dancers Are Lucky Again" reads the insert in my February NEWS, and this is my thought each month when I read of all the activities organized on their behalf. Since the A.G.M. though I have been wondering if they really appreciate their good fortune in having people willing to work to put on Dances etc. I came to the A.G.M. at the Dance Centre from Birmingham and heard all the debate on the future of the "Third Sunday in the Month" Dances and thought to myself that at least this evening's dance will pay for itself when all the people at this meeting are joined by others after the meeting. Imagine my surprise therefore when at the end of the meeting a good number of those present did not stay on to the dance in spite of being, one would think, the people who should set the example.

Now to the lucky Londoners who are aspiring (or perspiring!) to earn a Teacher's Certificate; that is fine for them, they are near enough to attend a Day Course once a month, but how do Mancunians and others manage to qualify? How do we form a branch without qualified teachers, and how do we qualify as teachers without a branch? The chicken and the egg again. Naturally, some of us are teaching - certificate or not - it is that or nothing, but if a way could be found for us to take a Teacher's Certificate either without going to London or going only for the test, the formation of branches would be that much nearer and we would have a certificate of competence to show to Principals, Head Teachers and Group Leaders who sometimes want to know what our qualifications are.

Finally, in case you think I only write to grumble, I should like to say how much I appreciate the "NEWS" each month and the hard work which goes into producing it.

Yours sincerely,

PHILIP E. LLOYD,

268 Upper Chorlton Road,
Manchester.

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Daar Lily,

With reference to Bert Price's letter in the February "NEWS" regarding Saturday Day Courses; I feel that one a month would be too much of a good thing. As it is at the moment, the Day Courses are very special and enjoyable events, to be noted carefully in one's diary. I can't help feeling that if they were presented every month they would soon become just another class. I would agree though that revision courses for dances already taught would be a very good idea.

Incidentally, a friend of mine takes her children to the Saturday Children's Dances which they enjoy immensely. I think everyone concerned does a marvellous job and I do hope that these classes are not too much affected by the lighting and heating restrictions.

ALEX BEAUCLERC,
28 Hayes Court,
Camberwell New Road, S.E.5.

Dear Editor,

I think that what the Chairman wrote last month was one of the most practical articles we have had in "SIFD NEWS" for a long time.

It really is time we sorted out ourselves with regard to better and more authentic style, and I shall be glad to take tuition at Courses by some of those experts we have in our orbit. Bert Price's suggested first list will be a good start, and for the whole of the summer till the beginning of next winter's classes we will do well to revise rather than add more and more new dances to a repertoire which is so replete with undanced dances that it is beginning to give us a sort of indigestion. We learn scores of dances which are never performed or enjoyed in the social dance evenings.

Also, the attempt Bert is making to revive interest in the Teacher's qualification must be given encouragement. We need to think this out very carefully, however, and it seems wise that we should appoint a Sub-Committee specifically to deal with the matter right away.

WILL GREEN
90 Wells Way,
Camberwell, S.E.5.

ED. NOTE: May I add to what Will says in his second paragraph by saying that I feel it is essential for M.C.s to attend the Day Courses as well as the dancers, so that they may be able to lead the way in reviving those dances that we no longer perform, as well as new dances, and demonstrate them properly.

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Dear Lily Southgate,

It would be imprudent to draw any conclusions on members' views on the formation of S.I.F.D. branches on the strength of the letters to the NEWS. However, in writing "Surely all those who are already operating groups..... are doing so in a way which suits their circumstances best" Sue Clark is expressing a Universal Truth which cannot be denied. Further, in writing of her own dances, "The emphasis is on fun and not on technique" she is surely reflecting the situation in many of the folk dance groups. This is certainly true of the successful Cambridge International

The standard of such groups must necessarily fall short of that required by the S.I.F.D. There is thus no place for such groups in the S.I.F.D., unless the latter is prepared to lower its standards to accommodate them, but there is a place for such groups in the International Folk Dance Movement. Personally, I do not think the S.I.F.D. should lower its standard, but rather that it should consider launching a new countrywide organization (federation?) to bring together the various groups including the S.I.F.D. This would not prevent the S.I.F.D. from seeking to form branches with certified teachers when it feels that this is practical (I suspect that it is not practical at the moment), but in the meantime it does enable them to encourage the promotion of interest and practice of international folk dancing.

It would be interesting to learn of the state of international folk dancing outside London. Are there many active groups, or are the majority of country members like Sue Clark (February issue) or Linda Singer (January issue), enthusiasts trying to get groups off the ground? In Cambridge, international folk dances are held twice weekly throughout the year by the Cambridge International Club. Attendances vary and are currently around 20 dancers per evening, but 40 is not uncommon. Music is mainly provided by records (S.I.F.D., Folkdancer, E.M.I., Folkcraft etc.) but sometimes by accordion and violin.

Yours,

GUY D. TOWNER,
41 Water Street,
Cambridge.

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TURKISH DAY COURSE

Although I enjoyed the Day Course in Turkish Dancing held in January, I do think this enjoyment would have been greater had there been some authentic Turkish music, be it recorded or taped, to dance to. Hilton Calpine was very kind to help out by playing the zurna, and indeed I don't know what we would have done without him, but one cannot really get the feel of the Turkish rhythms and full pleasure from the dancing without more than just a zurna. Also, some group leaders came quite a long way to attend the Course and were hoping to be able to tape some music so that they can teach the dances to their respective groups.

May I earnestly request all teachers on future Courses to come prepared with music so that people attending can (a) get more pleasure from the dances and (b) be able to tape the music or buy the records?

My thanks, anyway, to Hamdi and Hilton for an enjoyable day.

LILY SOUTHGATE

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CONGRATULATIONS: to John Lake and Carol Horsman who announced their engagement last month. Our best wishes to them for their future happiness.

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

WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP

invites you to their

TWINNING with ASSOCIATION FOLKLORIQUE CHAALONNAISE

The ceremony to take place during an
INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE at The Village Hall, High Street,
Borough Green, Kent.

on

SATURDAY, 30TH MARCH 1974, 7.30 until 11 p.m.

M.C. Ian Willson. Musicians: Wilf Horrocks & Caroline Thomas. 40p.

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POLISH DANCE COURSES

Further to the information given in previous issues of "SIFD NEWS" on the Dance Courses to be held in Jersey this year, Betty Harvey has received the following from the organizer, Roderyk Lange:-

DANCE COURSE

11th to 21st April 1974. Tuition fee £20.
How does movement become dance? Rudiments of dance analysed practically.

KINETOGRAPHY COURSE (Intermediate)

21st to 27th April 1974. Tuition fee £20.

POLISH DANCE COURSE

2nd to 7th April 1974. Tuition fee £15.
A graded study of Polish national and regional dances.
Several talks on the background.

POLISH DANCE COURSE

First two weeks in August.

Meals and accommodation £2 daily if staying at Les Bois. If staying at a hotel, prices have to be arranged accordingly.

Registration fee £1.

Further information from Roderyk Lange M.A., Les Bois, St. Peter, Jersey, Channel Islands - who states that the only standard of knowledge expected from his students is "intelligence and interest only"!

TOWER HAMLETS FESTIVAL, 1974

The adjudicators at the Festival this year were our Chairman, Bert Price, and his sister, a longstanding, and, I believe, founder member of our Society, Irene Fyffe. They introduced a new note in that they issued to participating teams a printed handout stating on what basis they would be judging the teams, what they would be looking for, and how the marks would be allocated. In this they closely followed Lucile Armstrong's example of adjudicating at the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen, placing emphasis on authenticity in style, steps, figures, music, costume, and deducting points from each team for failing to reach the required standard of authenticity in each of these things. However, they were forced to temper their judgment on this occasion as the organizers of the Festival had stated in the printed programme that "emphasis would be placed on enjoyment". Nevertheless, quite a good standard of authentic dancing was maintained.

This year there were four Classes - three junior sections and one adult. In the junior sections the standard was, I thought, very good indeed and has, in fact, improved each year. The teachers or group leaders had chosen better dances, the costumes were much better, and the standard of performance was higher than it has been in recent years. The only criticism I would make is that boys' dances should be left to the boys, and I cannot accept that girls doing the sailors' hornpipe and sword-dances is true folkdancing. Also, girls should not be dressed as boys, but I realise that in an all-girls' school it is otherwise impossible to perform couple dances. Apart from these points, I very much enjoyed the performance of the youngsters' teams, which included dances from Sweden, Scotland, England, the Basque country, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Ireland.

The classes were: School teams over 13 years of age; Junior teams under 13 years of age; Junior teams over 13 and under 16, and Adult teams. The first prize in the first class was won by a team of boys from Culverhouse School who performed a Rapper Sword Dance from Yorkshire. This was an excellent performance and well deserved first prize, although the team of girls from St. Angela's who came second were almost as good. They did four Basque dances, and danced very well indeed. They were taught by Sister Anne Marie Frearson, a member of our Society. In the next class the first prize was won by the Bulgarian team of girls from Gordon School. It seems inevitable that these girls should walk off with first prize each year as they really are superb dancers, with an excellent sense of rhythm instilled in them by their teacher, Honor Levine, and lovely costumes. Second in this class were another team from St. Angela's, this time dancing Swedish dances, again dancing very well indeed. In the Over 13 section, more of Honor Levine's girls from Gordon School walked off with the accolade for another marvellous performance of Bulgarian dances, and second place was won by a team of Irish dancers from St. Patrick's. Irish dancing is, I think, lovely to watch and usually performed faultlessly by the well-rehearsed teams but, for me, lacks the spirit of true folkdancing. However, the whole section of these junior teams was very enjoyable indeed to watch.

The adult section which followed was not up to the standard, comparatively speaking, of the Juniors. Most adult teams will insist on introducing stage effects and music which is either canned, or played on unsuitable instruments. One exception to this was Harrow Green Folk Dance Group, who just came on and danced six straightforward Norwegian dances, in a good style, with good costumes and an accordionist. A little more effort by the men in the lifting sequences, and

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perhaps, a little more 'life' in the performance as a whole would, I think, have improved it, but I think the team well deserved second place, which they were awarded, if not indeed first place. The first prize went to "Syrenka" Polish Dance Group, taught by another of our members, Joan Guest, who gave a very lively and colourful performance, although I would have preferred a more simple presentation; third place went to an excellent team of Irish dancers from Bowler School. Other teams dancing in this class were Clan Clinton, British Czechoslovak Friendship League, Balaton Dance Group (S.I.F.D.), and Oskar Kolberg Polish Dancers.

On the whole, in the adult section there was a little too much choreography in some items, some of the music was dead, and there were far too many lost hats, ribbons, belts, which distract. (Why can't performers ever be convinced that these trimmings have to be well and truly welded on before going on stage?)

Having made these criticisms, I must say that the evening was most enjoyable; nearly all the teams had lovely costumes; and all the items went smoothly without any obvious mistakes or hitches. My thanks to Bert Price and Irene Fyffe for the very good job they made of the adjudication.

I am sorry the Tower Hamlets Festival does not attract a larger number of spectators, as dancing to an audience of 'mums and dads' whose numbers dwindle as the evening goes on must be dispiriting. I don't know whether it is due to lack of interest, lack of advertising, or poor organization, but the Festival certainly deserves a bigger audience than the handful who usually attend. Also, the floor does seem, each year, to be much too slippery and dancers must constantly be worrying about losing their footing. I think the team leaders should complain about this.

LILY SOUTHGATE

SUNDAY DEMONSTRATIONS

Apologies are due to those people who came specially to see and hear the London Maori Club at Cecil Sharp House in February. Blame the G.P.O. for an undelivered letter, and for a delayed letter too, for this. However, the London Maoris have agreed to make a new date - in May.

The demonstration at Cecil Sharp House on 7th April will be of Estonian dances, led by our old friend Aily Eistraat. This will be a link-up with our Chairman's hope to start a series of revision classes by making the first country to be revised Estonia. We shall see on 7th April just how we should be dancing, and perhaps learn a new dance or two.

WILL GREEN

SELPAR GROUP

We are pleased to welcome twelve new members this month, inspired to join the S.I.F.D. by Sybil Chapman who runs the above-named group which meets at Selly Park Centre in Birmingham every Tuesday evening. As the numbers of the group are currently around the 20 mark, this means that more than half have applied for S.I.F.D. membership. Our thanks to Sybil, and welcome to the new members whom we hope to see from time to time at some of our Social Dances or Day Courses.

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.

ISRAELI & INTERNATIONAL DANCING CLASS meet at Hiller House (basement) 1/2 Endsleigh Street, Euston, W.C.1., every Thursday at 8 p.m. Admission fee 10p. Further information from Maurice Stone, 13 Adelphi Court, 297-299 High Road, East Finchley, N.2.

(This is not a complete list of all affiliated groups, but only those who have given me information about themselves. ED.)

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. 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

Spring Term ends on 6th April 1974.

MONDAY

	<u>Institute</u>	<u>Tutor</u>
6.00 to 8.00	International, Advanced	Christopher Hatton School
7.00 to 8.00	Polish, Beginners	"
8.00 to 10.00	Polish, General	"
		Margery Latham
		Betty Harvey
		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

N.B. Owing to domestic circumstances, Alan McLean regrets he has had to close his TUESDAY Hungarian class for the time being.

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

THURSDAY

7.30 to 9.30	Israeli	Henry Fawcett School	Fiona Howarth
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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.
 ST. ALBANS HALL, Baldwin Gardens, Grays Inn Road, W.C.1.
 CHARLTON SCHOOL, Lombard Wall, Woolwich Road, S.E.7.
 HENRY FAWCETT SCHOOL, Bowling Green Street, Oval, S.E.11.
 PIMLICO SCHOOL, Lupus Street, Chelsea S.W.1.

PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL DANCES

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
Sunday, 3rd March	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Ian Willson
17th March	Trevelyan Hall	Wilf Horrocks	George Sweetland
7th April	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	To be announced

7 - 10 p.m.

Admission: 30p members, 40p non-members for Cecil Sharp House
25p members, 30p non-members for Trevelyan Hall.

Cecil Sharp House is at 2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1. (Nearest Underground: Camden Town)
Trevelyan Hall is at St. Anne's Lane, Great Peter Street, S.W.1.

The demonstration at Cecil Sharp House on 3rd March will be given by the
S.I.F.D. Yugoslav Group.

WHAT'S ON

- March 2nd The S.I.F.D. YUGOSLAV GROUP and the S.F.B. BULGARIAN GROUP will be presenting a full show of Balkan dancing, singing and music, at the theatre at Crayford, Kent. 7.45 p.m.
- 2nd DANCES OF KOREA. Free lecture by Dr. Won Kyung Cho with demonstration, at Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, S.E.23., at 3.30 p.m.
- 9th ALEXEYEV BALALAIKA ENSEMBLE. A programme of traditional Russian folk music, singing and dancing. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. Tickets 60p to £1.25.
- 16th CHILDREN'S DANCE at Millbank School, Erasmus Street, S.W.1. 2.30 to 5 p.m.
- 16th SAHARAN PEOPLES OF NIGER AND THEIR MUSIC. Free lecture with colour slides and recordings by Prof. Lichtenhahn at Horniman Museum, 3.30 p.m.
- 22nd & 23rd THE BALALAIKA GROUP will be presenting a programme of folk dance music and song from various regions of the U.S.S.R. including a Russian folk tale "Dove Maiden", at the Collegiate Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, W.C.1., at 8 p.m. Tickets 60p, 80p, £1 from Miss Janet Smith, 55 Eardley Crescent, S.W.5. (Please send s.a.e.)
- 30th WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP International Folk Dance & Twinning Ceremony with Association Folklorique Chaalonnaise (See Page 6)

ADVANCE NOTICE:

The S.I.F.D. Polish Group will be holding an INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE evening at Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, London E.3., on SATURDAY 11th MAY 1974, from 7.30 to 11.15 p.m. Make a note of the date now. Further details later.