

S.I.F.D. NEWS

APRIL 1974



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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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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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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).

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This month's cover is by Lesley Boorer.

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

Congratulations, Lily, on your excellent review of the Bethnal Green Festival. You saw it almost with the same eyes as Irene and myself, and you shared our exasperation at having to watch various dancers lose their ribbons, hats, shoes, and a switch(?) - perhaps impedimenta is a more apposite word than costume! Like you, we were impressed by the Norwegian item presented by Harrow Green which on our marking system virtually tied with Syrenka, who finally gained the accolade by a mere half-point in deference to the organisers' edict that the emphasis on the Festival should be on enjoyment. Enjoyment is not shown by artificial grins or shouts, and thank God none of the groups bothered us this way. Enjoyment is conveyed by the relaxed fashion in which the dancers show their items and we thought that Harrow Green danced a little too carefully and were too mindful of their places whereas Syrenka just danced; but there was very little in it.

Like you, Lily, I am emphatic that girls should not dress as boys. If girls have to dance the boys' part let them do it in their own dresses, as is customary on any ballroom floor, but keep your girls in their skirts and if you have a need to differentiate them from their partners, use different coloured skirts.

In regard to the Irish dancers, they were judged on their dancing ability in those dances and in those costumes which are currently favoured by the Irish Dance Society. As a folklorist, I am puzzled at the origin of the costumes which I doubt can be authenticated from old dresses or pictures of such in any museum in Ireland, and I feel that the dances are the product of various Irish Dancing Masters but, not being fully qualified to pronounce on this, I have written to an Irish Dance Teacher in Eire for clarification. In Lucile Armstrong's words, the Irish dance costume that we see so often is a 'uniform' for the dance which was never worn in the country, where a long skirt and a pink petticoat would be more likely, and bare feet. How I would love to see an Irish item dressed like that. Years ago I asked John Armstrong to present a Scottish item in our Royal Albert Hall Festival and requested something different from the usual absolutely perfect kilted and bagpipied presentation. He gave us the Hebridean Weaving Lilt, danced in fisherman's gear, barefoot, and it was absolutely marvellous. I wonder if the Irish have any such dance jewels that they keep hidden under a bushel, and I wonder what dances are performed in that country's farthest points West, the Arran Islands?

Yes, it was a good festival at Bethnal Green, and though I regret that the emphasis is not on authenticity, I do applaud the Tower Hamlets Council for its support of dancing and wish that all our Town and Borough Councils did the same.

In the beginning of your review, Lily, you mentioned that my sister Irene might have been a founder member. She was. What happened is that, before the Society was ever dreamed of, Frances Waight had already organized, with the assistance of Douglas Kennedy, an International Folk Dance at Cecil Sharp House on the last Sunday in every month. My sister was one of those who attended and she introduced me to these gatherings in February 1946. I was immediately captivated by the dances and well remember my first dance

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which was 'Napoleon'. At the end of that evening, I was fired with the desire to do more, and horrified to be told I must wait a whole month before the next dance. Later I learnt that a small group of aficionados met every Sunday afternoon at an International Youth Club meeting held in Pont Street, which inner circle I gatecrashed and was welcomed with normal English reserve.

About June 1946, Frances Waight announced that she was going to America, on an exchange of teachers basis, and we were faced with the end of our dance meetings. I remember Irene saying to me, "What are we going to do when Frances goes? I think we should form a Society of those who want to carry on dancing." Some other people were thinking the same and a meeting was called in a Bloomsbury Hall to discuss what could be done. After a lot of talk, a vote was requested on those who felt that we should form an International Folk Dance Society and it was carried by a majority of one. (By some quirk of fate I had taken a non-dancing friend with me who put his hand up at the same time as I did, and it could well be said that he, the non-committed Horace Sharp, was our founder since a negative vote might well have taken the steam out of those who wanted to carry on dancing.)

Having agreed to form our Society, we proceeded to vote for two teachers to take the place of Frances Waight and we proposed Eva Grant and Mary Butterworth since they "knew" the dances and, being schoolteachers, should be able to "teach" them. We formed a Committee to run the Society affairs. I was not on it but was co-opted after four months when Kurt Eisinger, our first Treasurer, returned to look for his family in Germany.

It was then that I introduced our first Membership Card in the format of a Driving Licence, with stick-in pages for every year, and I also numbered them. There was some keenness to be the proud possessor of No.1 so, to take the heat out of this embryonic argument, I said, "Well, I'll be No.19; that is a number which, in the game of cribbage, means the unattainable, or nothing". I think we gave No.1 and No.2 to our wayward stars of the day, Alice and Franta, and my sister Irene took No.9. I think sometimes that it would be very interesting if our Membership Secretary, Roland Minton, could find time to write to all of our past members, starting from No.1, and asking after their wellbeing and for their reminiscences, which could make quite interesting reading for us all.

Having formed the Society, we continued the "First in the month" Sunday Meeting at Cecil Sharp House, and we also hired a hall at Carlyle School where we held a class once a fortnight. Later, this became a weekly class which was strengthened by the addition of a regular Friday and then a regular Tuesday class. Irene Hales played the piano and, if she was absent, I stood in for her. Kurt Eisinger, Henry Schuster, and then Mourie Pfeffer, all played for us on their accordions and, much later, Marian, again on the piano, until we finally got Barbara Dulebe as regular pianist. But all that is another story.

Now, I am very pleased that the Saturday Courses have obtained such general approval and am disappointed that my programme was halted owing to the fuel crisis which prompted the I.L.E.A. to veto all further Saturday lettings. Fortunately, the ban seems now to have been lifted since our application for a Saturday in April has been granted. We are booked for Saturday, 27th April, when Hedda Jolly will be taking a one-day course in Czech dancing. This will

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be the last of the new innovations and all future Saturday Courses will be devoted to those countries whose dances have formed such a basic part of our repertoire, viz. Sweden, France, Austria/Germany, Estonia, Yugoslavia, Spain and so on.

I am glad that there is a large measure of support for my proposed method of re-introducing our S.I.F.D. Teachers Certificate which, to avoid future doubt, I will recapitulate. First, we shall offer a badge for knowledge in the dances of any one country, viz. Austria/Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Holland, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, France, Israel, Yugoslavia, and so on. Aspirants for these badges must apply to the Committee for examination and will be adjudged by a member of the Committee in conjunction with a National teacher of the country concerned. These badges will be granted solely on the applicant's knowledge of the dances of the particular country concerned. All members, whether they wish to teach or not, should be encouraged to aspire to become the proud possessor of a badge in one or more countries. I think that if this idea is properly followed up it will give a new impetus to our aim to improve the quality of our dancing. I think that all our teachers should be encouraged to recommend members of their class to attempt to gain a badge and should groom them for one.

Application for the Teachers Certificate will be open to any member who has acquired five badges. Since the possession of the badge is sufficient attestation to their knowledge of the dances, their examination for the Teachers' Certificate will be assessed solely on their ability to take and teach a class. On receipt of their application the Committee will make one of the S.I.F.D. classes available to them for one evening, mutually agreed. They will be given a free hand to teach whatever dances they wish and will be judged on a points system for those qualities which are required of a teacher, i.e. class control, good method of teaching, ability to inspire the class members, and so on.

I think that a fee of 50p should be charged to all applicants for a silver 'countries' badge and a fee of £1 for all aspirants to the teachers' Gold Badge. The dance badges should consist of a simple silver circle, of the size that would fit a girl's little finger, with the name of the country diagonally across it; it could be worn on a pin or even, without a pin, on a finger. The teachers' badge would be similar but in gold, with the letters "S.I.F.D." across it. It is essential that the badges are of good quality and valuable.

We need teachers, people who know the dances and can inspire other people to perform them properly. We have many such in the Society and it is our duty to help them to acquire a Teachers' Certificate. It is for this reason that the emphasis in their knowledge of the dances must be placed on style and not on the number of dances they may know. For instance, there are over 200 dances in the Estonian National Dance Book. Aily Eistraat probably knows them all, I probably know 60 to 70, but a teacher to the S.I.F.D. would not be expected to prove a knowledge of more than a dozen to gain a badge, provided he or she could perform them like an Estonian. In other words, we must be realistic and while not giving the badge away with a pound of tea,

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we must not insist on so much national knowledge as to make the acquiring of it too arduous. With regard to some countries, such as France, we may have to qualify the badge according to regional dance knowledge, giving a badge for Bourrees from Berry, or dances from the Vendee or from Brittany and so on. The certificate which will accompany the badge will be worded according to the region from which the dances shown by the applicant come.

I hope very much that we can proceed on these lines and that we can agree a system that will be not too heavy with rules and regulations.

BERT PRICE

DEMONSTRATION REPORT

March 1st, Friday.

We were invited by Dr. Hingarani, the Indian Eye specialist, to dance a Swedish item for the London School of Economics Indian Society and Asian Club in aid of the Blind Orphans of India. It was a programme of Indian dancing, poetry and music, with a recital by a young boy on the sitar. The Chinese Lion Dance and our Swedish item made it 'International'. The L.S.E. "Old Theatre" is a very pleasant little theatre, holding some 400 people. The stage is small, about 17ft square with the apron bit, but the curtain cuts it in half when its down. We were nervous about the programme, not being rehearsed on stage or to Wilf's playing for this programme, but the affair was casual and friendly, started late, and the Indian dancers were under-rehearsed, so we relaxed and enjoyed ourselves. Our item went over very well as a complete contrast to the rest of the evening, and we have already had another request for a demonstration in Wandsworth as a result of it.

March 2nd, Saturday.

We were invited to dance an Italian item for the Amici d'Italia of the City Literary Institute. We are a little thin on Italian dances, so I dug out my notes on some Billingham Course dances and checked them against Marina Wolstenholme's notes and resurrected one that Howard Hornfield taught us way back at a Reunion dance, and we managed to produce a programme of seven dances. With audience participation this lasted the half-hour asked for. Among the audience was past member, Ron Steventon, who asked to be remembered to any members old enough to remember him (way back in the 1950's!). The audience enjoyed it all very much, and again from enquiries received and leaflets given out it looks as though we may receive more invitations for this item.

My thanks to Wilf and Caroline for playing for us on these evenings, and to all the dancers who took part.

MARGERY LATHAM

POLISH PARTY

ON

SATURDAY, 11TH MAY 1974

7.30 to 11 p.m.

at

BROMLEY PUBLIC HALL, BOW ROAD, E.3.

(Opposite Poplar Civic Theatre)

Come and dance some of the old favourites and learn some new! We are planning an evening of international dancing with the emphasis on Slavonic, plus some good food and drink. The hall is easy to find, just before Bow Church and the Bow Flyover going East. Parking is available in adjacent side streets. Nearest Underground Station is Bow Road (5 minutes). Buses to Bow Church - Nos. 25, 10 and 8.

Tickets 60p, including all food and drink, available from any member of the Polish Group or by post from Betty Harvey, 30 Regent Square, London E.3 3HQ. Apply early as our numbers have to be limited, and please wear a costume if you have one.

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NEWS FROM MERTON PARK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

Our group, which Steve and I started just over three years ago, is now flourishing very well. We have a regular attendance of 24, about 12 of whom started with us right from the beginning. We have now progressed nicely from things like Alunelul and Djatchko Kolo to Tulyak and Daldans. It is a very friendly class; there are no cliques, thank goodness; everyone dances with everyone, and newcomers are always made to feel welcome. As the class seems a permanent fixture now, quite a few of the girls have made themselves authentic costumes.

We have also been keeping alive the Spanish dances that we know. One of our girls now demonstrates, very nicely, the Aragonesa with Steve, and we are teaching simple Spanish dances during the first half-hour of the class. One of our greatest assets is having Wilf to play for us, with his extensive knowledge of the folk dances.

We are quite well known locally and run many dance/demonstration evenings, on average once a month. We find the One-Day Courses very useful and would like to see more of them. Steve thinks it would be helpful if music and instructions could be made available at the time of the Course.

JOYCE STEVENTON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Lily,

Just a few lines to tell you my news. Firstly, I shall be moving to a new area from 1st April 1974; with Local Government reorganization I have got a job in the Newark District Council. My new address will be: 7 Bakewell House, Bakewell Close, Balderton, Notts. This is just outside Newark and I should be interested to know of any members and activities in the area - within 30 miles or so.

The second piece of news, which may be of interest to the members who went to Swansea and the Birmingham Halsway weekends, is that Iris McCrann and I got engaged on St. Valentine's Day and are getting married on 1st June 1974. We both hope to keep dancing and hope that you can help us to dance internationally regularly.

Yours,

KEITH BROWN

ED. NOTE: Would any reader who knows of any international groups within the Newark area, please contact Keith Brown.

Dear Lily,

Guy Towmer's letter (in last month's issue) strikes me as being very sound. Certainly I feel an attachment with S.I.F.D. would be a good thing (if I ever get a group going) and the door could always be kept open for one to become a 'branch' or whatever, if the standard became high enough. That may seem a little contradictory to my earlier statement when I spoke of 'fun' emphasis rather than 'technique'. Let me explain that there should always be an emphasis on fun or enjoyment but one can introduce technique if and when sufficient interest is shown. Right now I am, in fact, through the keep-fit movement, preparing a three-dance demonstration and, believe me, we are all working like mad to attain perfection. The absence of men in our team does not prevent us from aiming at character and style in the dance. The almost no-cost outfit we'll be wearing doesn't deter us either. If anything, it encourages us to try to overcome our problems. Who knows, this might be the nucleus of a folk group here in Newport. Wish me luck.

SUE CLARK

31 East Grove Road,
Newport, Mon.

A WALK IN THE COUNTRY

Sunday, 28th April 1974. Chessington to Esher. About 8½ miles.

Meet at 10.45, Chessington South Station.

This is a surprisingly rural walk for somewhere so close to London. We will go through Prince's Coverts, Arbrook Common, Esher Common and West End Common and then Northwards along the bank of the Mole.

Train: 10.14 from Waterloo; 10.25 from Wimbledon.

Bus: No.65. Ealing Broadway 9.29, Richmond 9.50, Kingston 10.9, Surbiton 10.17.

Unlike our other walks this one will not finish at the starting point. Those with cars are advised to leave them at Wimbledon or Surbiton and come on by public transport.

Bring sandwiches; there may be no chance of getting refreshments en route.

Anyone is welcome; just turn up if you are free. Further information from Stephen Ward, 01-390 0727.

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UPLANDS, near High Wycombe, 21st/23rd June 1974

I received a few cancellations because of the increased price of £8.25 for this weekend, with the result that there are a few vacancies. The booking has been confirmed, however, and I shall be pleased to hear from any new members who would like to join us for a weekend of dancing and walking.

JACK RICHARDSON

Dept. of Chemical Engineering,
University College, Swansea SA2 8PP

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MAORI DANCERS

Those who were disappointed at not seeing the London Maori Club at Cecil Sharp House in February will have their chance to see them on 5th May. This popular team which has given over 200 performances, will sing for us and show us some of their skill with poi, as well as perhaps teaching us a few simpler movements. This is so unlike the demonstrations we usually enjoy that you can recommend any friend to come and see them.

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.

MERTON PARK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, London S.W.20. 7.00/7.30 p.m. Spanish (Beginners); 7.30/9.30 p.m. General International. Details from Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, London S.W.19. Musician: Wilf Horrocks.

(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.

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. Summer Term: 22nd April to 29th June 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

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.

SUNDAY DANCES

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
Sunday, 7th April	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Bert Price
21st April	Trevelyan Hall	To be arranged	Sylvia Fulton & Lesley Vale
4th May	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Margery Latham

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 7th April will be of Estonian dances, led by Aily Eistraat.

WHAT'S ON

April 1st HUNGARIAN STATE DANCE COMPANY, Budapest Ensemble. For one night only at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. 8 p.m. Tickets available from 90p to £2.20 from the Box Office, Tel: 01-836 8108.

April 27th ONE-DAY CZECH COURSE. Czech dances to be taught by Hedda Jolly. No details to hand but we hope to enclose a separate notice with this issue of S.I.F.D. NEWS. Enquiries to Bert Price, or Margery Latham

April 28th A COUNTRY WALK. See page 9.

May 3rd/5th HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND.

There is no CHILDREN'S DANCE in APRIL. The next one will be held on 18th MAY.

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ADVANCE NOTICE

A Safari is being arranged for 9th June 1974, when it is hoped we shall dance outdoors in the Chiltern Hills. With Eileen Begbie, I have been looking over a route leaving London along the M.40 reaching as far as Wycombe, returning perhaps via M.4.

WILL GREEN

ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEXT ISSUE
TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY 16TH APRIL 1974.

