

SIFD NEWS



MAY

1974

Editor: Lily Southgate, 52 Banbury House, Banbury Road, London E.9.
Telephone: 01-985 0428 (Home); 01-248 1212 Ext.552 (Office).

Assistant Editor: Barney Salmon, 64 Lincoln Court, 115 Bethune Road, London N.16.

Helpers in printing, collating etc. last month: Sylvia Fulton, Roland Minton
and Les Avery.

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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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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, showing a Welsh harpist, is by Caroline Thomas.

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

You will be glad to know that the Committee has decided to inaugurate the introduction of Teachers' Badges and Certificates on the lines envisaged in the last SIFD NEWS. We have formed a sub-Committee of Margery Latham, Shirley Rogers, and myself to adjudicate all applications, and I have asked Shirley to act as secretary of the sub-Committee.

The acquisition of a Teachers' Certificate will be as follows:- First, you must gain five dance proficiency badges proving your knowledge of some of the dances of any five of the countries in the following list -

Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Yugoslavia.

The proficiency of applicants will be adjudicated by Margery Latham and myself, with the assistance of a national expert should we require one. The applicant may also refer the sub-Committee to an outside national expert if there is a dispute on any points. The number of dances which you are required to know will not be large - four or five at the most - but the Committee does expect you to be able to dance them in the style of the country concerned. The emphasis will be on style and on dances in the S.I.F.D. repertoire.

Having gained five badges, you will be eligible to apply for a Teachers' Badge and Certificate. Since ability to teach, and to inspire a class to learn, requires different abilities from those of a dancer, and since the techniques can best be assessed by a specialist, the adjudication of applicants for a Teachers' Certificate will be the prerogative of Shirley Rogers.

There is one point I should like to emphasize and that is that our aim is to help you to gain dance badges, not to hinder. We are being realistic in not asking for a comprehensive knowledge of any one country's dances - just four or five dances plus the correct style. I hope that many of you will 'have a go' and that between us we can create a little competition as to who has the most badges. Existing teachers and dancers, such as myself, should also apply and should lead the field in the wearing of a badge or badges. To help this new venture off the ground, your Treasurer has agreed that no charge will be made to people who apply before 1st September, so your chance of acquiring badges at no cost to yourselves should be seized with both hands (and acquired with both feet). I ask all you dancers to write quickly to Mrs. Shirley Rogers, Flat 1, 148 Burnt Ash Hill, London S.E.12. State your application, name the countries you are interested in, and leave the rest to us.

I hope that we shall have a big attendance at the Czech Course by Hedda Jolly in April, and I hope also that we can continue to use the G.L.C. schools for our Saturday Courses. The next one after Hedda's will be devoted to Estonian dances and will be taken by Aily Eistraat, so already here is a chance to polish your Estonian style and to acquire a badge. Details of the Course are on page 4.

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These Saturday Courses will, I trust, be continued in June and July and will be renewed in September, giving everyone, including all our out-of-town members, an excellent opportunity to learn all they need to know to acquire their dance proficiency badges.

In last month's NEWS, I gave you some of my recollections of the beginnings of the Society, and I hope very much that those early members who are still with us will find time to add some of their reminiscences to mine. It is inevitable that we may remember things differently, so I should be very interested to hear about those events which have stuck in the memory of other early members.

The dances we enjoyed back in 1946 were all taught by Frances Waight (now Frances Brown) and seem mostly to have come from American sources. Some of those that I remember are Napoleon, Swedish Masquerade, Kreuz Konig, Weggis, Meitzi Putzdi, Austrian Open Waltz, Boulangere, Potku Mazurka, Neda Grivnoy, Whispering Kolo, Zaplet, Tarantella, la Danza, Karapyet, Russian Waltz, Palestinian Waltz, Butterfly Polka, Steamboat, La Russe Quadrille, and Sanftenburger. As I said in the last NEWS, Frances had gone to America, leaving us on our own with a good repertoire of dances and, recruited from those people whom she had gathered around her, a healthy membership. There was Alice and Franta, Kurt Eisinger, Mourrie Pfeffer, Hans, my sister Irene, Laurence (our first secretary), Chris and Jill Prooth, Eva Grant, and Mary Butterworth, Victor Korner, old Jack who used to bring his granddaughter (our youngest member in those days); there was Kenneth Clark, John Armstrong, Jack Richardson and Joan White, Ian Harris, Charles Fawkes, Audrey and Rita Hancock, Irene Hales, Enid, and many more besides. It was 1946; we had emerged from six years of blackout, service uniforms, and isolation. We knew nothing of other countries' dances but we had a burning desire to learn. Our men danced in white shirts, white cricket flannels and plimsolls (at demonstrations) and our girls had made skirts from blackout curtaining with two or three bands of coloured ribbon at the hem. In those days the E.F.D.S.S. did the same because we had yet to discover the wealth of costume that could be worn and even to learn that real people danced in walking shoes or boots, not plimsolls. Clothing was still on ration, as were sweets, petrol too, but practically no-one had a car anyway.

So, after six years of darkness in more ways than one we were poised for a leap forward into the daylight. New dances, new costumes, new members and the beginnings of an emphasis on authenticity. But this widening of our horizon is yet another story.

BERT PRICE

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ONE-DAY COURSE IN ESTONIAN FOLK DANCING

Date: 18th May 1974
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Light refreshments available lunchtime.
Tutor: Aily Eistraat Fee: 50p
Place: Rutherford School, Penfold Street, London N.W.1

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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SAFARI - 9th June 1974

As announced last month, we shall be arranging another 'Safari' in June - on Sunday the 9th. Full details will be given next month, but the programme will probably be as follows:-

Leave Charing Cross, on the Embankment, at 10 a.m. Two pickup points en route. Return to Embankment at 10 p.m. A route has been mapped out, permission to dance at various places is being sought, and a coach or two reserved.

Apart from three hours dancing in four or five villages and towns, there will be runs through the scenery of the Chilterns. So far, it seems likely that we shall stop at Chalfont St. Giles, Great Missenden, Risborough, Stokenchurch, and West Wycombe, though these places have still to be confirmed. We hope musicians will come to play for us, and M.C.s will be asked to take charge at each place.

You would be advised to bring your own food for picnic lunch and tea. There are pubs around but they are not being made the main feature this time.

Possible cost will be around 85p for members.

It would be a help if you could book with Roland Minton (address on page 2) as soon as you can as we must book a second coach early if we need one.

HUNGARIAN STATE DANCE COMPANY

On 1st April I saw a performance of Hungarian dancing by the Hungarian State Dance Company from Budapest. I went along half expecting to see a sort of "Swan Lake Balaton", from past experience of State Dance Groups, but was pleasantly surprised. I do not know how this group would have fared at the Eisteddfod; probably they would not have rated among the top teams for authentic folk dancing; but this was not Llangollen but the stage at the Royal Theatre Drury Lane, and they gave an enjoyable show which was a mixture of folk dances and stage dances.

Unfortunately, the programme (geared, I suspect, to what they think is a typical English theatre audience) did not give much information about any of the dances, or their names, but listed them under such naive translations as "Lads Dance", "Shepherds Dance", "Gypsy Dance", so I cannot identify the dances beyond saying that they included the usual czardas, girls' bottle dance, and men's mountain shepherd dances.

All the dancers were excellent; very energetic and beautifully costumed. Most of the dances were good; some, particularly the men's dances, and a delightful couple dance of different rhythms called in the programme a "Slow-Hungarian" dance from Transylvania, were very good indeed; and some kept very close to what we recognize as "folk".

On the debit side was a "Gypsy Dance" which I thought was terrible and a folk doll dance which was not particularly well done. However the programme as a whole was quite enjoyable and not as stagey as most theatrical groups.

The dances were accompanied by a very good orchestra of 13 musicians, including of course the inevitable cymbalon (and I think I shall write to the "Dancing Times" to say I have heard my first 'skylark'!).

LILLY SOUTHGATE

Others of you may have seen this group, which gave a series of one-night stands around the country during April but unfortunately I did not have the full itinerary until too late for publishing. If any of you do hear of a visiting group, do please let me have details as early as possible so that I may announce them in good time. ED.

Visit of WHITE ROSES FOLK DANCE GROUP, from BUDAPEST

We have now had confirmation that Magda Ossko will be bringing her White Roses Folk Dance Group over to the Sidmouth Festival, which starts on 1st August. It may be possible for the group to put on a number of performances in London and elsewhere after the Festival and for Magda to teach some of her dances. In any case, I know that many of her friends will be anxious to meet her again, and I shall be pleased to hear of any ideas which you have for entertaining her.

JACK RICHARDSON

CHILDREN'S DANCES, MILLBANK SCHOOL

It was pleasing to read Alex Beauclerc's comments on the work done in this class in a recent issue of the SIFD NEWS. It was appreciated by all concerned, although I think it is true to say that the adults concerned enjoy these events as much as the children.

We have just completed another successful term, with an average of thirty children attending each session. For the most part, the pupils have been children of Society members or those of parents who have had the class recommended by a member. The school parties that had made up the numbers in the past have diminished, but on the whole this has meant more continuity of pupils as very often the school parties came from far afield - Folkestone and Fleet - the cost of the journey making regular attendance prohibitive. We are of course very pleased to see them when they can make it.

We have missed Alan McLean's help very much this term, due to the illness of his mother, and we do wish her a good recovery. Gaye Saunte has kindly agreed to help Joan in future in Alan's absence - in fact on one occasion when Joan was attending a wedding, Gaye taught throughout the session most successfully.

Joan has continued with her high standard of teaching, with Simon's assistance with the tape recorder; we are most grateful to both of them. I never cease to be amazed at Joan's ability to sum up the age and dancing skill of each class, and rapidly produce dances suitable for that particular group of children. In fact, Joan made such an excellent job of describing a French dance that one eight-year old withdrew almost tearfully, explaining that she would be unable to join in since she couldn't speak French!

The classes for the Summer term have been booked for May 18th, June 15th, and July 20th. For the last dance of the session we are inviting Sister Anne Marie Frearson and a group of children from St. Angela's School to perform the Swedish dances that they danced so well at the Tower Hamlets Festival. We shall probably round off that particular session with a picnic in a local park, as we did successfully last July.

So, to those with children, mark off the third Saturday of the month in your diary and come along - there's no charge for accompanying adults!

SHIRLEY J. ROGERS

UPLANDS - June 21st to 23rd

Dancing and walking weekend

There are a few vacancies for our next weekend at Uplands, which is about three miles from High Wycombe in the Chilterns. The house has comfortable double and single bedrooms and has a good room for dancing. There will be dancing on the Friday and Saturday evenings, some dance instruction during the day and walks in the local countryside. The best way for new members to get to know people in the Society is to come away on our weekends.

The inclusive cost, Friday evening to Sunday tea, is £8.25. Bookings to Jack Richardson, Chemical Engineering Dept., University College, Swansea SA2 8PP.

DEMONSTRATION NOTES

On Friday, 5th April, we were invited to make a return visit to Stanhope Institute to take part in a German Evening for the German Language Club. This time we had a buffet meal with German wine, instead of the sit-down affair and candle-lit tables of last year. This gave us more room for dancing but took away some of the atmosphere. We all ate and drank first and then Caroline played some German songs to get us in the mood. After this we danced and got the audience to join in the simple ones, had an interval for more drinking, and then another session of dancing. A very convivial evening which we all enjoyed.

The following night, Saturday, 6th April, we paid another visit to the International Students Association of Enfield, but at a different venue. Last time we danced in the Mayor's Parlour, on a very lush carpet in an overheated room, which was exhausting. St. George's Church Hall, Fox Lane, gave us more room and a wooden floor. This time it was a French evening and we had French wine and excellent pate and French bread. The Mayor and Mayoress were in attendance and joined in the dancing. Two very interesting French travel films were shown, one on Paris and one a trip down the Loire river; neither had any folkdancing! Again, this was a very enjoyable evening.

My thanks to Caroline Thomas, who played for both evenings, and to the team who danced for both evenings. Does anyone feel inspired to join us? Polish up your dancing at a mere 75p for one class a week for the rest of the term?

Future Demonstrations

Saturday, 18th May	Tooting Bec Hospital Patients Social Centre
Wednesday, 22nd May	Highbury Fields Open Air Theatre, Islington.
Saturday, 1st June	Afternoon: Redhill, for Handicapped Children Evening: Wandsworth Council for Community Relations
Saturday, 29th June	Eynesford Castle, Kent.

MARGERY LATHAM

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SUNDAY DEMONSTRATIONS

The demonstration team for 2nd June at Cecil Sharp House will be the Providence Convent Basque team. They are girls from the convent school's folk dance club which has a membership of about 80 or 90, and they meet after school hours. They raise their own money to buy costumes and help pay travelling expenses. About 18 girls will dance for us. Recently they took second prize in the Tower Hamlets Festival.

I have not yet booked a team to demonstrate for us at the August Cecil Sharp House Dance, so if readers would like to suggest a group, or an individual, whom I might approach, would they please telephone me at 01 703 4008.

WILL GREEN

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 Slewings 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

Summer Term ends on 29th June 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

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	Pinllico 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

Sunday, 5th May	Cecil Sharp House	} 7 to 10 p.m.
19th May	Trevelyan Hall	
2nd June	Cecil Sharp House	

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 5th May will be given by the London Maori Club.

WHAT'S ON

May 3rd/5th HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND

May 11th POLISH PARTY and International Evening. Bromley Public Hall.
See page 5.

May 18th CHILDREN'S DANCE. Millbank School, Erasmus Street, S.W.1. 2.30 p.m.

May 18th ONE-DAY ESTONIAN COURSE. See page 4.

HUNGARIAN FOLK DANCE COURSE

There will be a Course in Hungarian Folk Dance, taught by Magda Ossko, at LADY MABEL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, near ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE, from MONDAY 12TH AUGUST to FRIDAY, 16TH AUGUST 1974. Residential or non-residential bookings accepted. Further details and application forms from:- Marina Wolstenholme, Lady Mabel College of Education, Wentworth Woodhouse, near Rotherham, Yorkshire.

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