

# SIFD NEWS

MAY

1976



IN MEMORIAM

Most members will have heard by now of the sad death of Bert Price. This is a tragic loss to me, his sister, and also to the Society.

Bert worked always for the good of the Society and the furtherance of its aims. He was the prime mover in its conception, nursed it through its teething troubles, coped with its tantrums and adolescent moods, and steadied it in its adult state.

It is almost entirely due to him that we have such good relations with many ethnic groups. He possessed the rare and wonderful gift of empathy, and was able to break down the barriers of reserve and suspicion, and establish friendship. Indeed, to many of the ethnic groups, Bert was the Society.

Members will have various memories of Bert. Whether it will be of his wonderful dancing ability, or of his tossing a girl to the ceiling in the Open Waltz, or of playing the piano with gay abandon, and increasing speed, or just a helping hand and a kindly thought. Whatever, they will be, I know, affectionate thoughts.

I should like to thank those people who have written to me, and particularly Simon Guest, who made the journey to Grimsby at such very short notice, and then had to make the return journey to work immediately after the service. It gave me much comfort to see him in the chapel, representing Bert's friends and Bert's Society.

IRENE FYFFE

Many of Bert's friends will be sorry that we were not able to let them know of this tragic news in time for them to arrange to go to Grimsby for the funeral. However, we are grateful to Simon for travelling to Grimsby at such short notice to represent us and take a floral tribute. Thank you, Simon.

LILY SOUTHGATE

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Collating, stapling, packing and posting done by the Working Party organized by Will Green.

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Chairman: Simon Guest, 65 Crescent Road, New Barnet, Herts.  
Tel. 01 440 4862.

Secretary: Edna Foster, 116d Marlborough Road, Bowes Park, N.22.

Treasurer: Dennis Wood, 12 Alpha Court, Hillside Road, Whyteleafe, Surrey.

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

Demonstration Secretary: Margery Latham, 14 Beechwood Avenue, Kew,  
Richmond, Surrey. Tel. 01 876 7055.

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This month's cover is by Norman Goldsmith  
and shows a Macedonian dancer

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I HAVE MOVED

Having lived in Hackney for more than 40 years, I have moved to.....Hackney!  
But a different House, a different Road. My address is now:-

31 Barbrook House,  
Chatham Place,  
Hackney,  
London, E.9.

All material for publication in the SIFD NEWS should be sent to me at this address, and you can delete 52 Banbury House from your Address Books. The telephone number stays the same.

LILY SOUTHGATE,  
Editor

SECRETARY'S NOTES

At the April Committee Meeting we finalized the arrangements for our first Dance at the British Council - details on page 5. We look forward to seeing you there.

A Music Sub-Committee has been formed. They will look at (or rather listen to) the present standards of our recordings and make plans for new records and re-issues. Dennis Wood is leading this Committee, so if you have any comment to make, please contact him. His address is: 12 Alpha Court, Hillside Road, Whyteleafe, Surrey.

Plans are in hand for a two-hour "workshop" session at Cecil Sharp House on the first Sunday in each month - proposed to start in the autumn.

The Committee will be discussing second-Saturday Courses for September 1976 to June 1977 at the next meeting. Several ideas have been put forward and we hope to include them all.

Membership this month reached an all-time high of 392. Carry on dancing!

EDNA FOSTER,  
Hon. Secretary

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HALSWAY MANOR

Most of our members do already know Halsway Manor and have been there several times, and we have from time to time given a description of the Manor. However, for the benefit of newer members, I give below some details of the facilities etc. which have been sent to me by a member of one of our affiliated groups, who also happens to be the Hon. Public Relations Officer for the Halsway Manor Society Ltd. ED.

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Halsway Manor is a beautiful building in a lovely situation, nestling at the foot of the Quantock Hills about mid-way between Taunton and Minehead. It is owned and controlled by a group of members of the English Folk Dance & Song Society and it is the only residential Folk Centre in the country. Open throughout the year, there are weekend and week events covering all aspects of folk dancing, singing and music-making, while painting is also catered for in the summer months.

The current programme leaflet covers the period to the end of September 1976, and it includes two weekends of International Folk Dancing. In addition, Halsway Manor is convenient for day-visits to the Sidmouth Folk Festival during the first week of August. Copies of the programme and details of charges can be obtained from:- The Managers, Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, Taunton, Somerset. (stamped addressed envelope please)

### THIRD-SUNDAY-IN-THE MONTH DANCES

We are hoping that the new location of the "Third Sunday" Dances, already announced in the "NEWS" will attract those London members who found our last venue somewhat inconvenient and Spartan.

The British Council Assembly Hall is opposite the side entrance of Broadcasting House, Langham Place, and is on the first floor of the building. We shall be starting at the usual time of 7 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m. Refreshments will be available, and I am reasonably certain that parking space is not too difficult to find.

Although, depending on the number of students from the Council who are present, we shall have to include some teaching of the more simple dances, it is not intended to change the general outline of our programme; that is the proportion of circle dances - Israeli and Balkan together, including the interval period - will be about 40%/50% of the total; the remainder will be couple, foursome, longways sets. etc. We have always tried to reserve an interval for the benefit of more advanced dancers, which has tended to be either Israeli or Balkan, but this is by no means essential, the choice depending entirely on if there is sufficient demand. For instance, a Polish, French or Hungarian session would be welcomed, provided there were enough "experts" present and they provided the tape (reel to reel). However, the arrangements for this session would be the responsibility of the M.C.

Fiona Howarth will be guiding us through the Dance on the third Sunday in May and Frances Horrocks will take over for the June Sunday.

We look forward to seeing you all there. Remember - Folk Dancing For Fun And Fitness!

GEORGE SWEETLAND

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### VOLUMES OF "SIFD NEWS"

For many months I appealed in the NEWS for back numbers of SIFD NEWS with a view to getting complete volumes bound for posterity. Posterity will be pleased with the result, for we now have about fourteen handsome books, mostly holding a single year each. These will be on show for all to see soon. Many members sent in very old material going back as far as 1958, and where possible these have been bound. One or two even earlier issues could not be bound in this series but have been preserved. Inevitably there were some duplicates, and a lot of spare copies remain. Would donors who sacrificed their copies like them back? Or could they help other people to make up a year's set? There was no record made of who contributed what. If you sent in some copies and would like them back, or others in return, please specify. There is a total of about 100 copies, including many duplicates, all spare.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Lily,

If readers of the "NEWS" want to know where they can find international folk dancing not only alive but positively thriving, I'd say to them - Go up to Birmingham and visit the Selpar Group. We went up there for their April Dance and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It must have been folkdancing because everyone could join in - Mums, Dads, kids, grandmothers, newcomers, regulars - there was something to please everyone, with members of the Group leading different sections of dances - "old favourites" and new acquisitions - and you couldn't help but be caught up in the enthusiasm and the friendly atmosphere. It was a great attraction to ask people to bring along items of craft or costumes obtained abroad, to put on display, and to enter their own items of handwork, art or photography in a competition. There's an amazing amount of talent around up there; you should see for yourself, they'd make you very welcome.

There has been a fast-moving traffic in Day Course Dances of late, and this will surely please a lot of teachers in the Society who have been working towards this aim. I hope the next step will be a similar traffic in silver and gold badges! After that, who knows which other groups might be inspired to follow Selpar's example?

Incidentally, we've just come back from a visit to Lampeter, the other side of the Brecon Beacons, where the Welsh Folk Dance Society were holding a Course. As a newcomer, I was interested to observe how, as in Birmingham, there always seemed to be room for everyone, and each person brought something special to the occasion. The elderly founder members, no longer quite so agile, administered from the sidelines; the experienced dancers brushed up their knowledge and sorted out any difficulties; parents partnered their children in suitable dances, and one of the nicest sights was the Secretary's two-and-a-bit-years old daughter trotting rhythmically alongside the circle of practising clog dancers, examining their feet and their faces with equal wonderment, and never once being made to feel "in the way".

I was asked quite apologetically at one point if perhaps I didn't think the standard of dancing was rather low, compared with E.F.D.S.S. or International Courses. Truthfully, I had to say that if we had just been a select group, exclusive in our perfection, there would eventually be no-one left to be exclusive with, although it is nice to indulge in exclusivity now and again. It did help that the older teenagers had a lot of talent too, and brought their own fun to the dancing, and the younger ones were quite boisterous in their enthusiasm to learn. In fact, everyone enjoyed themselves - at whatever level they had reached at that particular time - and found others to share their enjoyment with, whilst still having something to aim for in the future.

All this may not help anybody towards an academic definition of "folk dancing" but it may help put it back in its more natural context, as an activity in which all members of the community can participate. For me, at any rate, its real value lies not solely in the personal satisfaction

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one gains from having performed a difficult dance as well as one possibly can, but rather that one has shared the joy of music and movement in a form which all ages can understand. There can't be many activities of which it can be said that it's good exercise for the body; it's pleasing to the eye and ear; it relaxes day-to-day strains and stresses; it quickens the mind; it restores the spirits and is quite definitely good for the soul. No wonder it has stood the test of time! No wonder it defies analysis! We'll probably still be looking for a solution a hundred years hence - so long as we continue to pass it on so that there will be something left to discuss, and don't just keep it to ourselves. Perhaps that should be our next main worry.

ELEANOR OAKLEY,  
24 Arun, East Tilbury,  
Grays, Essex

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Dear Lily,

As a new member of the Society I am interested in contacting other members who have special knowledge of Scandinavian folk dances, as I am attempting to make a collection of dances with a view to starting a club in the Portsmouth area. I already have about a hundred dances but many are incomplete and for many I have no recorded music, which makes learning them almost impossible. I would therefore be glad to hear from anyone who can assist me with details of dances (I'm particularly short of Finnish ones) or anyone who would be prepared to record some of the dances I already have so that I can understand them.

I already have about twenty people interested in forming a group here but that is not really enough to guarantee success, so if there is anyone locally who is interested, please do get in contact with me.

Yours faithfully,

J.I.M.ROBERTSON,  
38 Ireland Way,  
Waterlooville,  
Portsmouth, Hants.

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SIDMOUTH FESTIVAL

This year's International Folklore Festival at Sidmouth will take place from 30th July to 6th August. Information from Festival Office, 44 Queen Street, Exeter. Tel: Exeter 74768

## AFFILIATED GROUPS

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Wilbraham Road United Reform Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester, from 8 to 10 p.m. Further information from Alan Williams, 47 South Drive, Manchester (Tel. 061 881 7744) or Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester (Tel. 061 881 3613).

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB meets every Friday at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, from 8 to 11 p.m. Details from the Secretary, Mrs. Janet Heathfield, 29 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, Herts. Tel. 01 368 5345.

CANONBALLS FOLK DANCERS meet every Tuesday during term time at Stanburn School, Stanmore, Middx. 7.30 to 10 p.m. (nearest station: Canons Park). Secretary: Miss J.G.S. Goodman, 13 Woodgrange Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middx.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday during term time at South Kent College of Technology, Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone, from 7.45 to 9 p.m. Details from the Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Warwick, 32 The Crescent, Sandgate, Folkestone. Tel. 38338.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC DANCERS meet every Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, W.8. and every Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Isaac Newton School, Lancaster Road, W.11. Dances from Czechoslovakia taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, W.5. Tel. 01 567 2346.

MERTON PARK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Wednesday in term time at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, S.W.20. 7 to 7.30 p.m. Spanish Beginners; 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. General International. Musician: Wilf Horrocks. Details from Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, Merton Park, S.W.19. Tel. 01 542 3831.

WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday at Borough Green Village Hall, Borough Green, near Sevenoaks, Kent, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. All details from Mrs. Eileen Nolan, 16 Dryland Road, Borough Green, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Tel. 0732 883380.

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ED. NOTE: A few months ago a reader asked for any folkdance contacts in Nova Scotia. I have now been informed of a publication called "Nova Scotia Dance Federation Newsletter", edited by Pat Kent, 13 Digby Crescent, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2W 2G1, Canada, to whom all enquiries should be addressed.



## TWO NEW WEEKEND RESORTS FOR S.I.F.D. DANCERS

As older members know, we have over many years been to various weekend dances/courses at a number of different houses. Two more have now been added to the list and as both of them are new to us it seems a good idea to tell prospective weekenders what there is around the area to attract them, apart from the houses themselves and the dancing and the social goings-on.

DINTON. Weekend 19th/21st November. (For bookings, contact Margaret Joyner, 39b Addison Rd., London, W.14, or David Trenaman, Penn, Egley Rd., Woking, Sy.)

The village has a lot of interest; so much so that various buildings are under National Trust. Hyde's House is part-Tudor, part-1725. Little Clarendon (Tud) and Lawes Cottages are two more old houses. In Downton there is a Saxon "moot" in a garden. Fonthill Gifford has a folly of the 18th century called Fonthill Abbey. Great Wishford (pleasant village) has old houses, and in the church wall are stone panels telling the price of bread per gallon as it rose over the past hundred years or more. Of course, Salisbury is only a few miles away, and Amesbury, with Stonehenge and Woodhenge, a few miles the other way. Stourhead has much National Trust land including the great Stourhead Mansion and gardens, King Alfred's Tower and Follies, Bridges, and a 14th century High Cross.

Within about ten miles of Dinton is a series of villages. Tisbury has a large tithe barn and Wardour Old Castle, but Wardour New Castle is only 18th century. Wilton carpet factory often welcomes visitors, and there is a ruined church in the market square. Gravely Forest offers walks, and apart from Gravely Lodge there is a Roman Road and Iron Age ancient camp. Shaftesbury is nearby, a lovely little town.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER. Weekend 26th/28th November. (For bookings, contact Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Rd., Enfield, Middx.)

Bourton is a very attractive village in the Cotswolds; typical stone houses, river Windrush flowing through village green, with pretty miniature bridges across, and, they say, relics of witchcraft round about. Exotic birds in "Birdland", and a scale model of the village in the New Inn.

Within a dozen miles are many pretty villages. Chedworth has an excellent Roman villa (remains of); Chained books in St. Andrew's Church. You can walk in Chedworth Woods. Other villages with good old churches are North & South Cerney, Calmsden, Sevenhampton, Whittington and Withington, which also has a dovecote and the Old Mill Inn. Daglingworth has remains of Godstone Abbey and a Tudor dovecote.

Greystone Stow on the Wold is within walking distance; it has stocks in the market place, a village cross, old buildings, and St. Edward's Hall Museum. Walking country all round, with one walk up the hill to Wick Beacon, another to the village of Slaughter. Walks to West and South of Dinton. Northleach is also within walking distance - another typical Cotswold town, with an old church (which has a collection of sheep brasses) and wooded hills. Burford is extremely attractive, full of stone houses. Tolsey Museum is in one old stone house; there are almshouses, Burford Priory, and an attractive pub - The George.

WILL GREEN

DUNFORD, SEPTEMBER 1976

I regret to say that it has been necessary to alter the date of the Dunford weekend in September, because they have a course which spans our original weekend. We are now booked to go for the weekend of 17th/19th September in place of 24th/26th September. I will transfer all bookings to the new date unless I hear to the contrary from the members.

JACK RICHARDSON,  
Dept. of Chemical Engineering,  
University College of Swansea,  
Singleton Park,  
Swansea, SA2 8PP

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WORKING GROUP

The Working Group for May will meet on 28th May at the flat of George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London, S.E.5., from 7 p.m. onwards. As this is the Friday before the holiday weekend, we may be short of helpers. If you can make this a special date for a visit, please do.

We have had no offer for a central address for 25th June. Can anyone help? We need space (tables and floor) and helpers.

Write or telephone Will Green, 90 Wells Way, Camberwell, S.E.5. Tel: 01 703 4008.

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PROGRAMME FOR ADULTS AT HORNIMAN MUSEUM

A series of practical courses in various subjects is being held at the Horniman Museum later this year. Among other subjects (pottery, sculpture, archaeology, etc.) is a course in Central European Folk Embroidery to be held on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m., beginning on 22nd September 1976. Course fee for a 12-week term is £2. Course tutor is Mrs. S. Newton. Anyone free on Wednesday afternoons and who would like to attend should apply direct to the Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, London, S.E.23.

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ERRATUM

I have been asked to point out that the name of the Polish Group should be spelt "JACY TACY" and not "YACY TACY", an error which crept in, in the course of attempting, at one stage, to spell it phonetically. ED.

## SIFD ASSOCIATED CLASSES

We now have four Associated Classes, which are as follows:-

### ISRAELI

Every Thursday, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, behind Oval Cricket Ground. Advanced. Tutor: Fiona Howarth.

### JUGOSLAV

Every Tuesday at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1. Beginners 6.30 to 8.30 p.m., Advanced 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Ken Ward.

### POLISH

Every Monday at Christopher Hatton School, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1. Beginners 7 to 8 p.m., Advanced 8 to 10 p.m. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

### INTERNATIONAL

Every Wednesday at St. Alban's School, Baldwin's Gardens, Grays Inn Road, E.C.1. Tutor: Margery Latham.

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### DANCE DIRECTORY

The response to the appeal in the SIFD NEWS for addresses of groups that do international dancing has been poor. Many groups that we believe are in existence have given us no information. Therefore we will have to extend the list slowly by postal enquiry. In the meantime, we have listed what information is available. If you would like a copy of the Directory as it stands so far, please send a 9" x 4" stamped addressed envelope to me and I will make available the number of copies required.

Thank you very much to those members who kindly wrote, as some of the addresses received were new to us and we were able to bring our records up to date.

FRANK FLANAGAN,  
124 Fairbridge Road,  
Upper Holloway,  
London, N.19.

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BIRMINGHAM BRANCH OF S.I.F.D. (Selpar) meet at Selly Park Centre, Pershore Road, Birmingham, every Tuesday 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. Enquiries to Miss Christine Butler, 76 Headingly Road, Birmingham.

SUNDAY DANCES

- May 2nd Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Rd., N.W.1.  
M.C. Ernie Nolan.
- May 16th British Council Student Centre, 11 Portland Place, W.1.  
M.C. Fiona Howarth.
- June 6th Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Rd., N.W.1.  
M.C. Not yet arranged.

7 to 10 p.m.

Admission: 40p members, 50p non-members for Cecil Sharp House.  
Admission FREE to the British Council for the first Dance there on 16th  
May.

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WHAT'S ON

- May 3rd/22nd "BRASIL TROPICAL" 40 dancers and full Bazilian orchestra,  
Sadlers Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1.  
7.30 p.m. Matinees Thursday & Saturday 2.30 p.m. Tickets  
60p to £3.00.
- May 8th BALALAIKA DANCE GROUP will be giving a performance of  
Russian folkdance and song at Haymarket Theatre, Basing-  
stoke, Hants. 7.30 p.m.
- May 8th ONE-DAY COURSE IN ROMANIAN DANCING Hugh Myddelton  
School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1.  
10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Alan McLean.
- May 11th FALLA AND FLAMENCO An illustrated talk by Lina Lalandi,  
at Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, London. 5.55 p.m.  
Tickets 55p.
- May 13th SCARLATTI AND SPANISH FOLK MUSIC Illustrated talk  
by Jane Clark. Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, London.  
5.55 p.m. Tickets 55p.
- May 21st ALEXEYEV BALALAIKA ENSEMBLE Russian music, songs and  
dancing, at Fairfield Hall, Croydon. 8 p.m. Tickets:  
75p to £1.50.
- May 21st/23rd FOLKDANCE WEEKEND AT WINDMILL HOUSE near Wythall,  
Worcs. Organized by Selpar Group.

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JUNE ISSUE MUST REACH THE  
EDITOR BY 15TH MAY. PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS ON PAGE 3.