

# S.I.F.D. NEWS



AVGVST

1974

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ТЭУОВА

АТЭТ

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Les Avery helped with the printing last month, and the collating, stapling  
and packing etc. was done by the Working Group organized by Will Green.

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

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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. Tel: 01-876 7055.

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This month's cover was donated anonymously.

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Books, records, tapes and cassettes are available from Frances Horrocks,  
112, Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey. Tel: 01-683 3629.

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WOULD ALL MEMBERS CHANGING THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY  
THE EDITOR, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We are pleased to announce that Charles Steventon has agreed to act as Chairman of the Badge Sub-Committee, and all future communications on this subject will be channelled through him. From now on, the silver and gold badges will be known as the Bert Price Proficiency Awards.

The Music Sub-Committee have met and arranged for a listening session during July, when all our master recordings will be vetted.

Saturday Courses for September/<sup>1976</sup>to June 1977 are being planned; details so far available are on page 11. In addition to the monthly courses announced we are planning a one-day course for school teachers who are not members of the SIFD, and a teach-in/seminar/discussion group for present and aspiring M.C.s. Detailed plans for these sessions will be announced in due course.

Membership now totals 398. Can we find two more anywhere?

EDNA FOSTER,  
Hon. Secretary

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S.I.F.D. MEMBERSHIP  
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Your SIFD membership expires at the end of this month. We hope you will decide to renew your subscription, and for this purpose are enclosing a membership form with this issue. Please complete the form and send it with your remittance to our membership secretary, Roland Minton, at 10 Benyon Court, Balnes Road, London, N.1.  
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TO DUNFORD WEEKENDERS 26th/27th JUNE

It was with such pleasure I received all your kind wishes from Dunford. It made me realize once more how lucky I am to know the members of SIFD. I was extremely disappointed not to be able to join you, and of course I am not enjoying being immobile, but I am hoping someone, soon, will come up with an answer that makes me able, once more, to dance with the "FOLK"!

Lovely holidays to you all and, perhaps, see you soon.

DOREEN BRAMICH,  
71 Brickhall Drive,  
Fordbridge, Birmingham.

## SILVER BADGE EXAMINATION

Everyone who attended the Bert Price Silver Badge examination on 3rd July, including dancers, judges, partners, administrators, musicians etc., deserved a silver badge - just for spending the whole of what must have been one of the hottest days of the heatwave in a school hall in the centre of London, dancing, adjudicating, playing, and generally administrating.

The day went well, with 17 contestants taking part in the examinations, some having travelled from as far as Birmingham. They were judged in dances from Austria, England, Sweden, France and Jugoslavia, and were awarded the following number of 'passes':-

Austria - 9; England - 16; Sweden - 3; France - 3;  
Jugoslavia - 6 (Macedonian & Serbian, not Croatian).

The standard of dancing, generally, was quite good, but the Croatian 'Drmes' step beat the contestants for the Yugoslav badge, so it was decided by the judges to qualify this award by stating on the certificate "Macedonian and Serbian". The styles of the various areas in Jugoslavia are so different that perhaps we ought to make this a regional certificate. Certain steps in various countries' dances do need a lot of practice and teaching, and members do not always have the opportunity to attend regular and frequent practice sessions.

What was noticeable at these examinations was how much the standard had improved of various people who had tried for a badge before and failed, but who had not given up and had made an effort to work on the style sufficiently to come up to standard this time.

Also noticeable was the fact that some people did not really know the dances they had elected to do; so, when applying for the badge examination, do please make sure you know the dance thoroughly, and have mastered the style and steps, and then if you find that the standard is not quite good enough, don't be discouraged for it is always worth trying again. Our aim is not to discourage people but to improve everyone's standard and make the dances more enjoyable for everyone, and eventually to find new teachers to carry on.

Thank you to everyone who attended to dance, to stand in as partners, to organize the music, judging etc. and a big thank you to Peter and Eleanor Oakley who did a really good job in 'stewarding' people and making sure everyone was in the right place at the right time and had someone to dance with, etc.

We were very sorry indeed to hear that Frances Horrocks had been unable to take her place as one of the judges, owing to the tragic death of her mother, who was killed in a motor accident. Our deepest sympathy to Frances and her family, and our thanks to Wilf Horrocks who still came along to provide the music for the Austrian, English and Swedish dances.

LILY SOUTHGATE

(See also Kay Leighton's letter on page 5)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Lily,

This is to thank once again, through the NEWS, the Badge Sub-Committee and all others who were concerned in running the Badge Examinations on Saturday, 3rd July - one of the hottest days of a very hot summer.

Just how much work is involved is known only to those who do it, but the following things occur to me. A date has to be fixed, when all members of the sub-Committee and all judges are able to be present, and the hall booked. The countries and dances have to be decided, a syllabus formulated setting all this out, which Lily Southgate then types and duplicates, plus an application form. The Sub-Committee then has to deal with the applications, sort out the choices people have made, and make some sort of plan and timetable, and then send out instructions to each candidate. The music has to be sorted out and made available. The judges have to be elected - and a big thank-you to Simon and Joan Guest who provided each judge with beautifully ruled sheets listing dances and candidates' numbers (no names!) done with meticulous care. Simon also did a rushed last-minute job of taping all the music in case Wilf Horrocks could not be present - and taping music takes a very long time.

We were all most grateful to Wilf for coming in the morning to fulfil his engagement, in spite of a family bereavement. Thank you, Wilf, it was much appreciated.

Peter and Eleanor Oakley did a marvellous job, worthy of a computer, in sorting out who was whom, and who was which number, issuing numbers on twill tabard-style garments or on cards to be pinned to backs, lining people up and generally coping with questions in a calm, unhurried and reassuring manner, not to mention working out how 9 or 10 women could dance with 3 or 4 men in Picking Up Sticks. Thank you, both.

Thank you to the judges (including those mentioned by name above, i.e. Lily, Simon and Joan, plus Joan Richardson, Ken Ward, Margery Latham and Charles Steventon), who had the difficult task of watching everyone at the same time, while writing down marks and comments. Margery did a stint of nearly three hours in the morning and staggered out into the fresh air exhausted and goggle-eyed, but she still managed to organize cups of tea and coffee (helped by Joan Guest). Again, the comments of the judges, after the tests, were very helpful and we shall try to remember them.

There was, of course, one person who was sorely missed - Bert Price, whose idea it all was. Indeed we miss him all the time at SIFD functions. He was at the last Badge Examinations and one must just be glad that he did live long enough to see his project well started, with numbers of candidates increasing. I am sure that his hopes are being justified and that standards of dancing are improving through the Badge Tests. This time about twenty people worked hard at the set dances for some weeks, sometimes being very tiresome about wanting to be correct in every detail, but it must all have done some good, and it is to be hoped that more and more people will be encouraged to do likewise. Do join us - it's really great fun! And think how wonderful you will feel when you can wear your silver/gold badge at Cecil Sharp House and elsewhere! This will be the very best way of remembering Bert.

KAY LEIGHTON

IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAPPEN IN POLAND!

Over the years I've met and worked with many different folk dance groups during my journeys through Poland, from the big professional "MAZOWSZE" to some small, primitive, village groups. Always I've set out with a plan, and nearly always something goes astray, but somehow the situation is usually retrieved and something exciting happens. This time my plan was laid with the Polish Cultural Institute, who were to arrange with the Minister of Arts & Culture in Krakow that I, and a small party from "JACY TACY", should meet and work with the big group "KRAKOWIACY". In addition, an acquaintance of mine in Krakow was to renew, if possible, contact with another group I'd previously met there.

The first hitch on this occasion was "Magic of Poland" informing me no less than a fortnight before our departure, that due to a Film Festival we couldn't after all stay at the hotel they had confirmed was available to us, but must accept accommodation at another outside the city. Though I wrote off immediately to the various 'go-betweens', I didn't have much hope they would hear in time to prevent the groups we hoped to meet wasting time looking for us in the wrong place. That wouldn't have been so important except that we were only to be there for less than a week and we needed to get going quickly.

As I feared, there were no messages for us, and no-one to meet us, when we arrived at the hotel, or early next morning, so rather disconsolately we set off to try to find someone at the Ministry of Arts & Culture who might help us; on a Saturday, what a hope! It was raining buckets, and as we splashed our way towards our destination one of our group said "Look, there is someone in costume just over there". That galvanised me and I led my platoon at the double to that figure and asked her if she was anything to do with the group "KRAKOWIACY". She nodded, but muttered something about being "too busy"! I wasn't going to give up, of course, having got on to the scent, so waited until another figure emerged and asked him the same question. He gave me a long look and said in good English - "You must be Betty Harvey! I was looking in every hotel in Krakow for you yesterday, but nobody could tell me anything". We made a hasty date for 8 a.m. to go with the group the following morning to a performance they were to give in Zakopane, and retired to consider our fantastic luck at being in just that spot at that time.

It was all sunshine for our drive up into the Tatra mountains the next day, and being Sunday there were many people in costume to admire en route, and best of all a marvellous village wedding procession with decorated horses and carriages. From then on we were busy during the following few days attending group rehearsals, meeting for discussions and costume sessions, and being entertained to endless glasses of tea, cups of coffee, vodka etc. We also had private dance tuition, which was great fun. There were four of us and they brought in the right complement to make us up to four couples, including their manager and their dance instructor. The latter was a fat, compulsive chocolate eating, immensely cheerful and charming character.

In a flash the week was past. We never did make contact with the other group but it didn't matter. I left for Warsaw to visit friends, and the others returned to London with the precious music in their bags (and a few other trophies) and the dances in their arms and legs (I hope).

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Soon, a few of us will set off for Holland and a festival at Brunsum, where we hope to meet our friends from "KRAKOWIACY" again and learn a little more from their dancing. I wonder if the plan will work out well this time - I hope so.

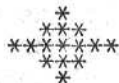
BETTY HARVEY  
(Leader of JACY TACY Polish Group)



WANTED - DANCERS

I have recently moved to Letchworth, Herts., and am hoping to start an international folk dancing club somewhere in the Stevenage, Hitchin, Letchworth area. I would be pleased to hear from other interested dancers in the area.

JILL BRANSBY,  
59 Baldock Road,  
Letchworth, Herts.  
Tel: Letchworth 4843



SELPAR (Birmingham Branch of SIFD) meet at Selly Park Centre, Pershore Road, Birmingham, every Tuesday, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. Enquiries to Rod Perkins, 3 Linnet Close, Bournville, Birmingham, or to Sybil Chapman, 20 Pelham Road, Droitwich, Worcs.



IN MEMORIUM

We are very sorry indeed to have to announce that Honor Levine died last month. Although not a member of the SIFD, Honor has been known by us for many years. She specialized in Bulgarian dancing and was a brilliant teacher to a group of young girls at Gordon School, near Rochester. I say 'a group' but actually, as the older girls left school and younger ones stepped up, it was a different group each year but Honor's enthusiasm, dedication, and expert teaching, each year produced a team of Bulgarian dancers that were unsurpassed. Her death is a very sad blow, and a loss to Bulgarian dancing in this country that can never be replaced.

LILY SOUTHGATE



## LLANGOLLEN

It is synonymous that the name of this small but very lovely Welsh town is the only title needed for members to know that the subject of this article is, in fact, the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod; this year celebrating its thirtieth anniversary.

Probably the most unusual ingredient of this year's festival was the weather. Instead of the wind and rain that seems to be the normal expectation of those who attend the festival, we had the cloudless blue skies that the rest of the country enjoyed. As a result, the stage was very warm to dance on, I was told, in spite of the extractor fans that were used in the large marquee for the first time. Friday lunchtime brought the change in weather, however, and as I left it started to rain. I hope that this was only a shower and that those who stayed on for the rest of the choral singing were able to enjoy it as much as I enjoyed the dancing.

Opening the festivities with the Tuesday evening concert this year were "Lublin" the Polish National Song and Dance Company. As is usual with countries from the 'Eastern Bloc' now, the dances were all choreographed so that it was difficult to pick out and compare the dances as we know them. Nevertheless, the performance of this company was not all practised gloss, and the 'feel' of folkdance came over to us, along with the obvious enjoyment of the dancers. As a dancer, I admired the fact that they could perform the dances at such speed and still have enough breath to sing as well. There were 32 dancers and musicians, and a trained singer, in the company. During the evening they displayed about 400 costumes, making rapid changes from one regional costume to another. The girls' dresses were much shorter than is traditional, coming to the knee and not the calf. For those members who saw the company in London either before or after the Eisteddfod, the programme was essentially the same. Suites of dances from Lublin, Rzeszow, Rozbark, Opozno, and the Highlands Region, plus the national dances, Kujawiak, Oberek and Krakowiak.

Wednesday, the day of the dance competition, brought as usual the biggest crowds of the week; coach loads piling in from an early hour to fill the ground with something like 12,000 people including some SIFD members up for the day in the 'Canonballs' coach. There were 19 teams entered this year, but 3 of those were withdrawn - The American Heritage Dancers from Illinois State University, no doubt busy elsewhere with their bi-centennial (they came second last year); the Cercle Celtique de St. Thoïs from Brittany (so we had no-one at all from Brittany this year); also the Val d'Akragas Agrigento from Sicily. As well as these groups, the Romanian group "Ciobanasul" from Buzau didn't report for judging, which left just 15 teams.

The trophy and First Prize went, with 88 marks, to an English team, The Killingworth Sword Dancers from Newcastle. They danced a long-sword dance from Flamborough and a Northumberland Rapper Sword Dance, both danced with speed and high precision. The second dance was accompanied by the 'Doctor' singing, and the 'Old Woman'.

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## LLANGOLLEN - FOLK INSTRUMENT COMPETITION

This small competition for musicians playing folk tunes on regional instruments comes late on Thursday morning after the Youth Choirs have sung, the elimination hearing taking place elsewhere while the choirs are on the stage. There were five entrants this time, and as a tribute to the quality of all of them, no-one was eliminated. The final results were as follows:

First, with 90 marks, came Giuseppe Cuga, the leader and musician of the Gruppo Folkloristico from Nuovo, Sardinia. His instrument was the bidulass, which is made of three pipes of thin cane 'strengthened' with beeswax and horsehair, which was also used in the making of the mouthpiece. Breathing is done through the nose, a reservoir of air being kept in the cheeks, to give a continuous supply to the mouth, to keep the largest pipe playing all the time as a drone. The test pieces chosen were two lively dances and a slow air. It was a really wonderful sound, coming as it did from a home-made instrument, which impressed the judges as much as the music. Dressed in costume, this swarthy Sardinian had long black hair and a full and bushy beard. Over his back, he wore a whole black sheepskin. Believe me, he was as impressive on the eye as his music was on the ear.

Second, with 87 marks, came the man and wife team of Mats and Gunilla Andersson from Sweden. Mats played the 13th century keyed fiddle called a nyekelharpa, and his wife, the flute, for two dances. Then Mats took up a clarinet for a slow air. The use of modern instruments spoiled the effect of the quieter but beautiful tone of the nyekelharpa.

Third came the dancer musicians of the "Kamolins" Latvian Group. They played the Latvian kokle, a very lovely carved harp-like instrument played held across the lap like a dulcimer. These instruments had been made in this country by a Latvian emigree. The group of four played two dances, the sound so gentle that the microphone had to be adjusted for them to be properly heard. They were awarded 86 marks.

The remaining two entrants were both given 84 marks. First, an interesting group of a music teacher and three schoolgirls from the Abraham Derby School, Telford. They were using home-made pipes. The girls' were made of bamboo and the master's of aluminium. Playing their tunes as one suite, the sound made had a wonderful organ-like quality, in spite of the fact that the girls were obviously very nervous in front of such a large audience. Also, the hot weather had split and spoilt some of their instruments; one had to be scrapped altogether. With a little better luck they would have had a higher marking, I feel.

So lastly to Erik Eyllott, the Bristol shantyman, playing the Anglo-concertina and singing halyard shanties and 'fore biters'. A colourful figure in sailor's uniform of the Victorian era. What a pity he lost himself in the medley of 'forebiters'. If I remember rightly, he made a mistake in his performance at the last Eisteddfod. Ah, well, for musicians and dancers alike there is always next year to make amends.

FRANK FLANAGAN

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

It may help groups planning events, to know that the following weekends have been provisionally booked:-

19th/21st November	Philipps House, Dinton	Organized by Betty Harvey
26th/28th November	Bourton-on-the-Water	" Roy Clarke
17th/19th December	Dunford	" Jack Richardson
<u>1977</u>		
18th/20th February	Hawkwood	" Roy Clarke
3rd/7th June	Dunford	" Jack Richardson
8th/10th July	Easthampstead Park	" Roy Clarke
23rd/30th July	- Summer Course at Edinburgh -	
16th/18th September	Dunford	Organized by Jack Richardson
7th/9th October	Charney Manor	" Roy Clarke

All dates subject to alteration

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## CHRISTMAS 1977

A house party at Dunford, for Christmas 1977, is being planned by Roy Clarke. Anyone interested, please write to Roy at 33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

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## DAY COURSES 1976/77

Courses are being arranged and halls have been booked for the second Saturday in the month, as shown below. Where subject and teacher are confirmed, they are shown. Other details will be announced as they are finalised. All courses are at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, London, E.C.1., commencing at 10.30 a.m.

11th September 1976	ISRAELI	Tutor: Fiona Howarth
9th October 1976	POLISH	Tutor: Betty Harvey
13th November 1976		
11th December 1976	SPANISH	Tutor: Irene Whitaker
8th January 1977	DANISH	Tutor: Gaye Saunte
12th February 1977		
12th March 1977		
* 2nd April 1977		
* first Saturday, to avoid Easter		
14th May 1977		
11th June 1977		

## 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, Konton, 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.

GLEN EYRE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP (SOUTHAMPTON) meet every Monday during term time at the Glen Eyre School, Violet Road, Basset, Southampton, from 8 to 10 p.m. Details from Audrey & Charles Dellow, 25 Roman Way, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton. Tel. Hythe 846040.

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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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE MUST REACH  
THE EDITOR BY 15TH AUGUST

SUNDAY DANCES

August 1st Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1.  
M.C. Ernie Nolan

September 5th Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1.  
M.C. Roland Minton

7 to 10 p.m.

Admission to Cecil Sharp House: 40p for members, 50p non-members.

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WHAT'S ON

Aug. 14th/21st BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL  
Information from the Festival Director, The Forum,  
Town Centre, Billingham, Cleveland.

July 30th/Aug. 6th SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL  
Information from I.F.F., Sidmouth, 44 Queen Street,  
Exeter.

July 21st/Aug. 14th MAZOWSZE Polish Dance Company, Royal Festival Hall,  
London. 7.30 p.m. matinee 3 p.m. Saturdays.  
Tickets £1.00 to £3.50.

Aug. 28th TRADITIONAL CHINESE FOLK DANCERS FROM HONG KONG  
Holland Park Court Theatre, London. 2.30 & 7.30 p.m.  
Admission 50p, children 20p.

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The Working Party to send out the September SIFD NEWS will be held on 27th August, at Margaret Joyner's flat, 39b Addison Road, London, W.14. I realize this is the Friday before Bank Holiday weekend but hope that volunteers will make every effort to turn up, otherwise Margaret will be on her own! Please be there by 7 p.m. if you can - earlier if you want, or later if you must.

WILL GREEN