

SIFD News

JANUARY 1978



MINHO, PORTUGAL

WOMEN OF THE

JANUARY 1978



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Frank Flanagan helped with the printing last month, and the collating and packing etc. was organized by Gaye Saunte.

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

Secretary: Edna Foster, 33 Orchard Avenue, Southgate, London, N.14.

Treasurer: Dennis Wood, 16 Barnfield Close, Old Coulsdon, Surrey.

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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Enquiries and orders for SIFD books, records and cassettes should
be sent to Mrs. Audrey Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts.

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This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas,
and shows a girl's costume from Minho, Portugal

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN FEBRUARY ISSUE
MUST BE WITH THE EDITOR, IN WRITING
BY 15TH JANUARY

The Annual General Meeting was held on 4th December, and the Committee elected for the current year. All Officers and Committee Members stood for re-election and were duly elected. The Committee therefore remains the same as last year:-

Chairman: Simon Guest
Hon. Treasurer: Dennis Wood
Hon. Secretary: Edna Foster
Committee Members: Audrey Whiteley
Kay Leighton
Margery Latham
Dorothy Bryan
Frank Flanagan
Wilf Horrocks
Alan McLean

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WEEKENDS AWAY IN 1978

February 24th/26th WESTHAM HOUSE Barford, Warwicks.
July 14th/16th EASTHAMSTEAD PARK, Bracknell, Berks.

All bookings received for the above two weekends have been accepted, and a few vacancies remain.

Sept. 15th/17th THE WHITE HOUSE, Ashdown Forest, Sussex

This weekend is fully booked and there is a waiting list. If you applied, you will be informed of the position in due course.

ROY CLARKE,
33 Cedar Park Road,
Enfield, Middx.

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HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND 28TH/30TH APRIL 1978

There are a few vacancies for this weekend. Please apply direct to Michael Clark, 14 Weldon Close, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants.

The weekend has been extended to include Monday, 1st May, which will be a public holiday. Guests will be asked to choose in advance whether they will stay for the normal or extended period. The charges will be £14.58 and £21.87 respectively, including V.A.T., plus a small charge to cover overheads.

Everybody who applied for this weekend on the form returned to Jack Richardson has had a place reserved for them.

"JACY TACY" JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY, 28TH JANUARY 1978 AT 2.30 P.M.

BROMLEY PUBLIC HALL, BOW ROAD, E.3.

Please contact me or any member of the group if you have unwanted clothing, books, bric-a-brac, gifts, etc., and collection of them will be arranged. This sale is to help us refurbish and replace costumes, and pay for musicians and transport when giving charity demonstrations.

BETTY HARVEY,
Tel: 01 980 9650

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S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

ISRAELI

Every Thursday at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London, S.E.11. 6.15 to 7.15 p.m. beginners. 7.30 to 9.30 advanced. Tutor: Fiona Howarth.

Every Wednesday at Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, London, S.E.3. 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Gaye Saunte.

EUROPEAN NATIONAL

Every Tuesday at Henshaw's School, Bogs Lane, Starbeck, Harrogate, Yorks. 7.30 to 9.45 p.m. Tutors: Jean & Ian Willson. Contact Harrogate (0423) 55006 for details.

Every Wednesday at St. Alban's School, Baldwirs Gardens, 6.00 to 7.00 p.m. beginners; 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. general and advanced. Tutor: Janet Woolbar.

Every Monday at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, London, S.W.20. Beginners 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Every Wednesday at the same school. Advanced 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Charles Steventon, Tel: 01 542 3831.

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. NEW MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO SEE KEN WARD BEFORE ENROLLING FOR THE ADVANCED CLASS.

HUNGARIAN

Every Friday at Pimlico School (Chelsea/Westminster Institute), Lupus Street, London, S.W.1. 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Alan McLean.

POLISH

Every Monday at Christopher Hatton School, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1. 6.45 to 7.45 p.m. beginners. 8 to 10 p.m. general & Advanced. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

SIFD AFFILIATED GROUPS

CANONS FOLK DANCERS meet every Tuesday at Park High School, Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middx. (nearest station Canons Park) from 7.45 to 10 p.m. during term time. Further details from Joan G.S. Goodman, 13 Woodgrange Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middx. Tel: 01 907 9857.

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB meet every Friday from October to June at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, 8 to 11 p.m. Further information from Janet Heathfield, Tel: 01 368 5345.

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Wilbraham Road United Reformed Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester 21, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further details from Alan Williams, 47 South Drive, Manchester (Tel: 061 881 7744) or Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester (Tel: 061 881 3613).

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday during term time at Daneford School, Turin Street (off Bethnal Green Road), London, E.2. 7 to 9.15 p.m. General International with some English. Tutor: Kelsey Blundell plus occasional guest teachers. For further information contact the Secretary: Alex Beauclerc, Tel. 01 701 3785.

RAINFALLERS INTERNATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. at The Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Old Stevenage, Herts. Enquiries to Roy Bowtell, 9 Beech Drive, Stevenage, Herts.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Thursday in term time at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Romford, from 8 to 10 p.m. Further information from Miss Doreen Grew, 31 Marlborough Road, Brentwood, Essex.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday at Borough Green Village Hall, 7.30 to 10 p.m. Chairman: Jan Bryce, "Windy Nob", Staleys Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tel: Borough Green 882457. Secretary: Heather Dobson, 8 Holmesdale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tel: Sevenoaks 57455.

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WOULD ALL MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE
NOTIFY THE EDITOR, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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On the sleeve of a record of Court Dances of Medieval France is quoted another piece of advice from one of the Dancing Masters, Arbeau: "... when you dance in company never look down at your feet to see whether you are performing the steps correctly. Keep your head and body erect and appear self-possessed. Spit and blow your nose sparingly, or if needs must turn your head away and use a fair white handkerchief. Converse affably in a low, modest voice, your hands at your sides, neither hanging limp nor moving nervously. Be suitably and neatly dressed, your hose well secured and your shoes clean"

"SELPAR" DEMONSTRATIONS

In October, the group was invited to Marston Green to give a full evening's entertainment of mixed international dances. It was a beautiful hall to dance in, though rather lofty, and we gave a programme of some 22 dances with audience participation in two of them, enjoyed by everyone.

Then we were asked to be the main attraction at an International Festival of the Sparkhill Council of Churches. This entailed two "spots" of 15 minutes each, and we were able to show Israeli and circle dances in Israeli costumes, then changed during the "Comedian and Ventriloquist" act to show mixed costumes and a greater variety of dances. Again, we included the audience in an item. In this very mixed community the organizers had also produced European, Asian and West Indian refreshments. Then, a steel band. It's quite amazing how well a slow Greek dance can fit into a Rumba rhythm!! A most enjoyable evening for us all and a happy get-together for the community.

On 16th and 17th November 12 members of Selpar, splendidly dressed, showed their paces in Birmingham Central Hall in two evenings of demonstration given by all Movement & Dance Groups affiliated to the West Midlands Sports Council. In amongst the Margaret Morris ladies and the Women's League of Health & Beauty, Junior Gymnasts and College Laban studies, appeared Scottish dancers, Morris dancers, Irish dancers (one girl was everyone's idea of the fairy at the bottom of the garden - an absolute delight) and, of course, international dancers, in Polish, Hungarian, Austrian and Swedish costumes - a colourful bunch and much admired by other teams. There weren't so many there on the first evening - about 1,200. (What could compete with Italy v England on television?), but many more for the second evening. It was good to see so many there; the last similar occasion was the night of the Birmingham bomb disasters. However, that's in the past and all was lighthearted and enjoyable.

Selpar danced in with Little Man in a Fix, continued into Kreuz Konig, Kapuvvari Csardas, and danced away to Kuma Echa and much applause. The "Family Hunt" were welcomed very warmly by the announcer, and so they should be; Austrian father, Basque son, Austrian daughter and Ukrainian mother (costumes, of course) with accordion, violin and tambourine. Our thanks must go to Dennis for his hard work and family enthusiasm.

To all SIFD members, from all at Selpar - A Happy New Year.

SYBIL CHAPMAN

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A REMINDER

Margery Latham's Demonstration/Costume-making Class will be held on 6th JANUARY at Chequers Centre, Chequers Street, Off Bunhill Row, E.C.1., 7 to 10 p.m., and thereafter on the Friday immediately before Cecil Sharp House Sunday Dance each month.

DATES FOR DAY COURSES AND EXAMINATIONS

JANUARY → JULY, 1978

- January 14th - Day Course of Danish dances.
February 11th - Bert Price Proficiency Award Examination.
March 11th - Day Course for Prospective Teachers.
April 8th - Day Course of Greek dances.
May 13th - Day Course for Prospective Teachers.
June 10th - Day Course of Norwegian dances.
July 8th - Teachers' Badge examination.

All the above will be held at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, London, E.C.1., from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Fee: 50p for SIFD members.

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SOME IMPRESSIONS

I was not able to attend the afternoon course of Polish dances on December 3rd and I even managed to arrive late at the evening party. Had I arrived earlier, however, I would have missed the colourful impression, viewed through the window from the outside, of a room full of dancers in varied and beautiful costumes. To a folk dancer it was a lovely sight and I am told that many passers-by were seen to be looking in interestedly during the evening. I was disappointed a week later when I arrived at the Balkan Party, late again, to find that the curtains were all closed.

Another memorable moment at the Polish party was the sight of fourteen couples dancing Krakowiak immediately followed by a further 14 as there was not room for everyone who wanted to dance to do so in one 'sitting'. A few Finnish dances were included in the evening's programme, brought home from the Edinburgh Course (plus the showing of some excellent films by friends from Edinburgh) but otherwise the evening's dancing was entirely Polish. Personally I would like to see more so-called 'specialist' dances included in general dance programmes, such as Sunday Night at C.S.H., as well as more 'new' dances learned at day courses and Summer Schools. I am sure that dancers who come only to social dances must sometimes, like me, get just a little tired of always dancing all the 'old favourites'. I don't think a teaching session would be necessary, which is what many fear would happen - a quick demonstration by couples who know the dance and whom others could follow would be sufficient and, provided the dances were introduced often enough, dancers would soon pick them up and they too would become old favourites. Another facet of social dances I would like to see revived is the wearing of costume generally. I am told this was always a part of Sunday night dances once upon a time. Nowadays only a few M.C.s (notably Margery and 'Steve') wear costume and some of the rest of us at the New Year's Dance. And on the subject of New Year, a happy one to everyone!

KELSEY BLUNDELL

SUNDAY DANCES

January 8th Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1.
Four M.C.s.

February 5th Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1.
M.C. George Sweetland.

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: 50p members, 75p non-members.



WHAT'S ON

Jan. 14th DAY COURSE IN DANISH DANCES at Hugh Myddelton School,
Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, London, E.C.1. 10.30 to 4.30
p.m. Tutor: Gaye Saunte. £1 non-SIFD members, 50p members.

Jan. 20th JUMBLE SALE organized by Rainmakers International Dancing Group
at The Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Old Stevenage, Herts.
7.30 p.m. Would anybody wishing to donate articles please con-
tact Roy Bowtell, 9 Beech Drive, Stevenage, Herts.

Jan. 21st NEW YEAR DANCE organized by Barlow International Folk Dance
Group, Manchester, at Embassy Rooms, Sale. 7.30 to 12 o'clock.
Tickets £1.60 including buffet supper. General international
dancing in a superb suite of rooms.

Jan. 28th JUMBLE SALE organized by Jacy Tacy Polish Group. See page 4

Jan. 28th HALF-DAY ISRAELI COURSE and INTERNATIONAL PARTY organized
by Anachnu Israeli Group, at Invicta School, Invicta Road,
Blackheath, London, S.E.3. Course: 2.30 to 6 p.m. 40p.
Party: 7 to 10.30 p.m. £1 (SIFD members 80p). £1.20 combined
ticket. Tickets from the Group or from Gaye Saunte, 50a
Lewisham High Street, London, S.E.13.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

April 8th 1978. Havering International Folk Dance Group will be holding an
International Folk Dance at Ardleigh House, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch,
at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £1.25 including refreshments. SIFD and EFDSS members
£1.00. The Dunav Band will be playing and singing.

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