

SIFD

News

MARCH 1978



VALENCIA,
SPAIN

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Frank Flanagan did 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.

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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 Valencia, Spain.

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WOULD ALL MEMBERS CHANGING THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY
MICHAEL AND EDWINA HOLDUP, 16 NETHERBY GARDENS, ENFIELD, MIDDX.

BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY AWARDS

SILVER BADGE

The Silver Badge examinations were held on 11th February for dances from Austria, Portugal, Basque and Sweden. Unfortunately Margery Latham was unable to be present to judge the Italian, and the Badge Sub-Committee therefore decided to postpone this section of the examination. This meant that the Croatian was also cancelled as the members who had intended to participate in the Italian and had to withdraw were also those who were to have danced the Croatian. Both these countries will be included at a later date.

The Austrian went well, and all five who took the examination gained their Silver Badges. I thought the standard of dancing was quite good but needed a little more life.

The Portuguese was better, and ten of the twelve participants gained Silver Badges. The dances were very enjoyable to watch and considerably enhanced by the vocal accompaniment of Lucile Armstrong. The style was quite good, but I must say I would very much like to see these Portuguese dances performed in the proper footwear - backless mule-type shoes, which would change the style considerably.

Kelsey Blundell passed the Basque (Fandango and Bastan Dantz) and Swedish (Hambo) with flying colours and was a pleasure to watch.

TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE

As previously announced, it is proposed to hold an examination for an SIFD Teacher's Certificate on 8th July 1978. Copies of the syllabus were sent out with October 1977 SIFD NEWS. Since then, the Badge Sub-Committee have made two amendments to the syllabus. Would all members please amend their copies.

Amendment 1. First paragraph to read "not more than 30 from any one of the five regional groups" instead of "not more than 25".

Amendment 2. Regional classification of countries. Mexico and the Philippines to be added to list No.3; Turkey to be added to list No.4.

The first Day Course for prospective teachers was held in October 1977, when the morning's programme consisted of talks on Recorded Music (types of recorders and amplifiers, indexing etc.), Planning a Term's Syllabus and Evening's Programme, Writing Down Instructions, and Recognizing Costumes. In the afternoon, practical methods of teaching dances were demonstrated.

The second Day Course is to be held on 11th March 1978 when the morning's programme will be talks on Reading Dance Instructions, Evening Classes for Adults, Music from Various Countries, Costumes, How to Treat your Live Musician. The afternoon will again be on practical teaching methods, and people attending are asked to come prepared to teach a dance themselves.

As before, the Course will be at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1, from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., fee 50p. To assist in the arrangements, we would like members intending to come to notify Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, Merton Park, S.W.19, by 7th March. This is not a commitment to take the examination.

SPECIALIST TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE

It is proposed to hold an examination for a POLISH SPECIALIST TEACHER's certificate. This will be held in the summer of 1979. A pre-requisite for candidates will be a Silver Badge in Polish dancing, and Polish will be included in the next Silver Badge examination, due to take place in February 1979. Members who might like to take the Polish Specialist Teacher's certificate would find attendance at the Teacher's Day Courses beneficial. The Polish Specialist syllabus will be circulated as soon as it has been finalized.

MY FIRST DAY COURSE

Not really a Day Course at all, but just a Half-Day Course; and on the other side of London through all the worst traffic; and where do we park the car if we ever get there; and will we look out of place; and what if we are the only hopeless ones among a lot of experienced dancers; and will we have to dance barefoot and get splinters in our toes; best take a first aid kit.

We set off, armed with the Master Atlas of Greater London. My navigator unerringly guides us through the unknown streets and across busy traffic junctions without a hitch until we reach the cool and open eastern uplands of Blackheath, and here is Invicta School - single storey, modern, spacious, in a pleasantly quiet tree-lined road - no trouble at all with parking.

Introductions to Gaye Saunte - change into dancing pumps - a quick look round, no bare feet in sight. Am I the only man here? Not to worry, about 70 people turn up, women and girls predominate but a good sprinkling of men, and off we go.

Two simple dances to start with - Uri Zion and Haya Ze Basadeh; the first a circle dance with grapevine steps and some leaping and clapping, and the second a progressive dance consisting of a succession of four running steps with changes of direction. Nothing too difficult so far, and we have learned a couple of nice easy dances. Next comes a more difficult dance, Tefilat Hashachar, a circle dance with the dreaded Yemenite step, but it is a very good dance testing our skills of instant assimilation and translation into graceful movements of foot and hand, and indeed the whole body. The set faces and furrowed brows show the intense concentration of novices learning from the hands of the master (or do I mean the feet of the mistress?). After that we are allowed to dissipate our tension in a one man-two ladies dance with the man progressing, called Te We Orez. Nothing too hard about this one, and it gives us a chance to smile at our fellow students and receive smiles in return from young (under ten) and old (well, not too old) alike.

Then comes a tea-break, and we need it too. It is a chance to chat to each other. "Where do you come from?" "I come from Switzerland." "I come from the keep-fit class." and "No, I have never done any folkdancing before." Indeed, nobody seems to have done any folkdancing before except Naomi and I, and as for S.I.F.D. WHATEVER IS THAT? How did they come to hear about the class then - why, from a friend who knows a friend of course. But there are one or two familiar faces about - usually seen at Cecil Sharp House on the first Sunday of each month.

The tea is superb, and with a sandwich and a cake or two to replace our spent energy we are off again, but this time we split into two groups and an advanced class is led away (yes, there are about a dozen or so who must have done this sort of thing before). The beginners are doing Kol Dodi which we already know so a hurried consultation with Naomi and the class teacher and we join the advanced class. It is step and leap and

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turn and twist and my feet refuse to behave themselves but others seem to be doing all right, including lithe Naomi, but we decide to return to the beginners and learn two more simple dances. We then all join up again and Gaye Saunte and Frances Horrocks and another demonstrate a slow graceful dance in the dying light of the afternoon, and all is silent except for the flowing music accompanying the beautiful and inspiring movements of the dancers; and then it is our turn - not so peaceful or graceful but satisfying all the same. Then straight through all the dances we have been taught, and when we get to the advanced we join in to do the one we learnt but, surprise surprise, it is not the same one and we are racing round the circle quite lost. I manage to glance at Naomi and she shrugs; I want to drop out but it is too late and we are caught up in it, step-hopping and clapping and grape-vining, two steps behind everyone else. It is over and we crawl away abashed but, wait, it is now 'our' dance and off we go again, only one step behind everybody else this time. We finish the afternoon with a social progressive dance - Mitzvah Tans - and it is all over apart from taping the music.

We drive home through the darkened streets by a different route with no bother at all and we are home in forty minutes. Did we learn anything? Was it worth going? Did we enjoy it? No doubt about it. Yes!

DAVID RACKHAM

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

You will have seen in the February SIFD NEWS that Margery Latham was taken ill at the end of January. The latest news is encouraging, and she even sent me a note that the nurses at the Hospital would not let her climb over the balcony to attend the committee meeting! We hope Margery continues to respond to treatment, and that it will not be too long before she is in circulation again.

We are planning to publicize our new record album in various journals and one or two other helpful suggestions have been received. Remember we must find 1,000 customers quickly. We will, of course, be publishing full details of contents and price in the SIFD NEWS as soon as we are sure of the release date.

By the time you read these notes a small section of the Committee will have started on the amendments to the Constitution to include the formation of Branches - our project for 1978.

The Treasurer reported cash in hand of £5,199 - but we have a big commitment in the production of the record. At the February meeting our membership totalled 377.

EDNA FOSTER,
Hon. Secretary.

ISRAELI COURSE and INTERNATIONAL PARTY

A very good time was had by all at the Israeli Course and International Party on Saturday, 28th January, at Invicta School, Blackheath. We were very pleased to see so many old friends and were delighted that you brought many of your friends with you.

It was a very lively and cheerful day - all fun and no hitches. We learnt many new Israeli dances in the afternoon and enjoyed lots of international favourites in the evening. It was especially nice to see that there is no age barrier in folk dancing - all the children joining in the dancing unselfconsciously. It was obviously a family occasion for many of you.

If you would like to come to Gaye Saunte's Israeli class at Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, London S.E.3, on a Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. you will be very welcome.

The Anachnu Israeli Group wish to thank all those who came for their support, the Greenwich Institute for making their most suitable hall available, and Gaye Saunte for being such an inspiring teacher.

DELIA MATTEY

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ken Ward's Yugoslav Group, ZIVKO FIRFOV, will be giving a Day Course in Yugoslav Folk Dancing, and will be appearing in a Concert in the evening at Cannon Hill Arts Centre in Birmingham, on 20th May 1978. Further details will be published at a later date.

There will be a Half-Day Course in Spanish Regional Dancing (not Flamenco) at Watford Central Library (opposite the Town Hall) on 22nd April 1978, from 1.45 to 4.45 p.m. Tutor: Irene Whitaker. Admission 40p.

A Hungarian Course will be held at Millbank School on 22nd April 1978, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and a Romanian Course at Millbank School on 20th May 1978. Tutor: Alan McLean.

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S.O.S. FROM HAMA'AGAL ISRAELI GROUP

Wanted urgently for our costume stock -

BLACK HOMBURG HATS

Condition immaterial. We are willing to pay reasonable prices (but charity would not offend!). Contact: Fiona Howarth, 6 Cromwell Avenue, Bromley, BR2 9AQ. Telephone: 01 460 0468, or any member of the Group.

HERE AND THERE

There is to be an Exhibition called "Mind & Body" at Olympia from 29th April to 7th May which will include a large variety of folk and other types of dancing. Two sessions a day, 1.30 to 3.15 p.m. and 4.30 to 7.15 p.m.

A Romanian Professional Dance Company will be visiting this country in June.

Two guest teachers from Magda Ossko's Hungarian Group will be visiting London in mid-June, when open classes will be held.

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'JACY TACY' JUMBLE SALE

Many thanks to all those who contributed by turning out unwanted belongings for us, and to those who came along as usual and gave us stalwart help. We made over £100 after paying expenses and letting in Old Age Pensioners free of charge. There were many moments of hilarity and very few of chaos. We are getting to be such old hands at the game we are thinking of setting up as consultants!

Thank you again everybody.

BETTY HARVEY

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FROM MARGERY TO ALL HER FRIENDS.....

Thank you all for the lovely cards, letters, and good wishes which have been arriving each day in their dozens, much to the astonishment of the staff here. They seem to think I am having a birthday every day. I cannot answer them all individually, There isn't time between all the sweet little tortures they think up in here, Anyway, I am responding to treatment and, am told, doing very well. So my love and thanks to all of you, and see you soon.

MARGERY LATHAM,
Bud Flanagan Ward,
Royal Marsden Hospital,
Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey

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DANCE STUDIES - VOLUME 2

The second volume of "DANCE STUDIES" has just been edited and printed by Roderyk Lange. This edition contains articles on Dance Folklore and the urbanized world, which indicates the different roles acquired by original peasant dances when they are adopted by a different social group. Dora Stratou, the director of Greece's leading folk dance company, tells how Greek dances are discovered, taught and presented. John Blacking, Professor of Anthropology at Queen's University, Belfast, has written on Venda Traditional Dances; this studies the importance of dance in the life of an African tribe. Part II of the book contains articles on notation.

"Dance Studies" is available from: Centre for Dance Studies, Les Bois, St. Peter, Jersey, Channel Islands. Price: £3.00 plus 45p for postage.

SIFD AFFILIATED GROUPS

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).

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.

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.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday at South Kent College of Technology, Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone, Kent. 7.45 to 9 p.m. Leader: Mrs. O. Field, "Schlupfwinkle", Cannongate Road, Hythe, Kent. Tel. 0303 67737.

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.

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.

KAROMA FOLKDANCE GROUP meet at Franklyn Mount School, West Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, on Wednesday afternoon. Tutor: Kay Poole. Tel. Wylam 2495. Secretary: Brenda Ross, 26 Waterloo Road, Wellfield, Whitley Bay.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC DANCERS (Czechoslovak dancing) meet every Wednesday (Beginners) 7 to 9.30 p.m. at Fox School, Notting Hill Gate. Tutor: Mrs. H. Fromings. Enquiries - Tel. 01 699 8597. Also every Thursday (Advanced) 7 to 9.30 p.m. at Isaac Newton School, Ladbroke Grove, W.10. Tutor: David Wells.

RAINMAKERS 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.

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.

WYCOMBE FOLK DANCE CLUB meet every Monday, except public holidays, at Guildhall, High Wycombe, Bucks. 7.45 to 10.15 p.m. March and August alternative meeting place. Leader: Terry Reid, 3 Selwood Way, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks. Tel. High Wycombe 37758.

S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

EUROPEAN NATIONAL

Every Tuesday at Charlton Manor Junior School, Hornfair Road, Charlton, London, S.E.7. 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Peter Oakley, 24 Arun, East Tilbury, Grays, Essex.

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

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. Albans School, Baldwins Gardens, 6.00 to 7.00 p.m. beginners, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. general and advanced. Tutor: Janet Woolbar.

EUROPEAN GENERAL and HUNGARIAN

Every Tuesday at New Hall (College), Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. 7 p.m. for Hungarian, 8.45 p.m. for European General. Tutor: Katharina Tribe.

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.

ISRAELI

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

Every Thursday at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London, S.E.11. 6.15 to 7.15 Beginners. 7.30 to 9.30 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. NEW MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO SEE KEN WARD BEFORE ENROLLING FOR THE ADVANCED CLASS.

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 and Advanced. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

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SUNDAY DANCES

March 5th Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1.
M.C. Ernie Nolan.

April 2nd Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1.
M.C. to be announced.

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

At Cecil Sharp House on 5th March a demonstration of Albanian folk dances will be given by Hursley Folk Dance Group. They will also be leading dancing during the interval.

Future demonstrations: The Irish Group who were prevented from coming in February owing to illness will be invited for a later date, possibly April; and in May, Jacy Tacy Polish Group will be giving a demonstration - in their new costumes.



WHAT'S ON

March 4th ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP & PARTY at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street (near the Oval), London, S.E.11. 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. ALL TICKETS SOLD.

March 10th/12th POLISH WEEKEND at Philipps House. Enquiries to Margaret Joyner of Jacy Tacy Group.

March 11th DAY COURSE FOR PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS. Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1. See page 3.

March 18th MIDLANDS BRANCH DANCE at Swanshurst School, Brook Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham. 7.30 to 10.30 p.m.

April 8th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE run by Havering International Folk Dance Group at Ardleigh House, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, 7.30 p.m. Tickets available from Mrs. E. Wildy, 52 Slewins Lane, Hornchurch, Essex. Tel. 52146.



ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE APRIL ISSUE
MUST REACH THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 15TH MARCH