

SIFD

January 1980
NEWS



AUSTRIA

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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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.

SIFD T-shirts, small, medium and large, available at £1.85 each from Kay
Leighton (address above). Cheques and Postal Orders to be made out to
S.I.F.D.

This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas and shows
dancers from Austria.

WOULD ANY MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY EDWINA AND MICHAEL HOLDUP,
16 NETHERBY GARDENS, ENFIELD, MIDDX. AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We held the Annual General Meeting on 2nd December, which was attended by over 30 members of the S.I.F.D. We were pleased to see representatives from outside London. Minutes of the meeting will be sent out early in the New Year.

We would like to record a vote of thanks to Dennis Wood who has been our Treasurer for four years, and to welcome Judith Holloway to that office. Another new member of the Committee is Hazel Cheal, and we look forward to sharing our duties with her.

At the date of the A.G.M. membership totalled 368, which is higher than the normal figure for this time of year. We hope you all have a very happy 1980, and it looks as if our membership figure will break past records.

EDNA FOSTER
Hon. Secretary

A FIXTURE DIARY for organizers to check for duplication on dates, and also to confirm those arranged by them, is kept on behalf of the S.I.F.D. by Frank Flanagan. His address is: 124 Fairbridge Road, Upper Holloway, London N.19. Tel: 01 272 5003 (suggest between 5 and 6 p.m.).

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE IN ENGLISH FOLK DANCING

SATURDAY 12TH JANUARY 1980

This month Peter Oakley will be revising and/or teaching the following dances for the Bert Price Proficiency Examinations to be held on July 12th, 1980:-

Duke of Kent's Waltz, Dorset 4 Hand Reel, (Peter will teach
Morpeth Rant, An Adventure at Margate, other dances if
Picking Up Sticks, Ruffy Tufty, time allows)
Yorkshire Square 8.

As usual the course will be from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, London E.C.1.

Fee: £1 members, £1.50 non-members. Tea and coffee available. Please bring a packed lunch.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret we have to announce the demise of "Les Escargots" after 20 happy and successful years.

SIX THOUSAND HAIRDRESSERS CAN'T BE WRONG

Connoisseurs of the slightly bizarre will be well-acquainted with some of the out-of-the-way doings of the Zivko Firfov Group. Their spectacular incarceration in the snow in Halsway Manor in February 1978, for example; the way they turn up in odd places - squelching through Ovcepolsko in the rain outside Winchester Cathedral in June 1978; lined up in full costume in a drab Victorian schoolyard in Waterloo for the benefit of a film crew from Radio-Television Skopje in June 1979, and of course triumphantly carrying coals to Newcastle by performing Macedonian dances in front of a roaring crowd of Macedonians at the Bitola Festival last year.

Guy Fawkes Night 1979 in the Royal Albert Hall saw them involved in something a little different. The occasion was nothing less than the finale of the L'Oreal Colour Trophy Competition. Now, as an SIFD member you may be none the wiser, but if you're a hairdresser as well, you'll recognise this event as one of the highlights of the hairdressing year. It represents the climax of a competition organized by one of the biggest hair colour manufacturers in Europe with the aim of encouraging young hairdressers and, quite incidentally of course, of promoting a new range of colouring products.

Into this glamorous world, a far cry from the blue rinses of yesteryear, stepped the Zivko Firfov Group. The finale lasts from 5 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., and part of the programme is a cabaret. This year it starred sexy Peter Gardeno and his even sexier dancers, a comedy acrobatic team called Johnny Hutch and the Halfwits, and "in costumes specially flown in from Yugoslavia", or so the compere said, Ken Ward's fearless boys and girls.

When we arrived at about 6 p.m., the hair competition was in full swing. We gladly forsook our rather spartan dressing-room in the bowels of the hall to goggle at the "creations" on view. For your ageing correspondent, having your hair done means a short-back-and-sides, a quick singe, and a squelch of Brylcreem over the remains. The scene in the Albert Hall arena that evening looked like a casting session for "Star Wars", Miss World and "Alien" all rolled into one. Girls with hair in all colours of the rainbow, in shapes lop-sided, corkscrew, baroque, flying-saucer, girls with dresses slit up to the thigh, down the front, round the back, and in all other directions, girls in make-up reminiscent of the Mona Lisa before they cleaned the varnish off. It was a knockout!

But down to business. We were on first in the hour-long cabaret. We had to take the audience from cold and had had no time for a rehearsal. With no more than a technical run-through earlier in the day, we had entrusted lighting and sound to the unflappable contractors and technicians of the R.A.H. Waiting with bated breath in the "bull-run", we wondered what we had let ourselves in for. We needn't have worried. With a minimal build-up from the compere, our girls led the way onto the floor, brilliantly spotlighted in their gorgeous embroidered Posavina dresses. We always like to surprise our audiences, and the strains of that haunting Croatian song Tancec must have sounded weird indeed. You could hear people muttering and fidgeting and wondering just what had arrived. But a great cheer went up when the men walked on, dressed in what to the uninitiated must have looked like long white pyjamas with fringes. More fidgeting during our close-harmony rendering of Polegala trava detela, and then over the enormous loudspeakers came the tinkly sound of Zagreb tamburicas leading us into Letovanic, and as soon as we got to the fast bit, the whole audience was with us, clapping and stamping its feet in time to the music.

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Doing a show, or even a 15-minute set such as ours, before thousands of people in the Royal Albert Hall might seem like a daunting experience. If you've danced there, however, you'll know it's not. In contrast to the frigid formality of the Festival Hall, say, the Albert Hall wraps itself round you in a warm and motherly embrace. The most striking characteristic of that vast cavern of a place is its intimacy. To dance on the sprung parquet floor of the arena with multi-coloured light cascading down from follow-spots on to swirling red and white costumes, and with the vital rhythms of Croatian music commanding the attention, and participation, of the audience, is a simply thrilling experience.

After we had whirled through Repa, swung through Kalendara, done the quick Staro Sito shuffle, and Ducec jump, we wound in a Posavski Drmes around the arena, and escaped downstairs. Once in mufti, though, we gents sneaked back to gawp at Peter Gordeno's girls gyrating away, and at one point doing something called "Greek dancing" which wouldn't have disgraced a restaurant in Charlotte Street. Joking apart, Peter Gordeno was very smooth, very professional, beautifully dressed in an ebullient silk shirt open to the waist, and trousers so tight you could hear them twanging at thirty paces.

There were plenty of nice things to follow; the "L'Oreal Cabaret", for example; a display and parade of the work of six top hairdressing teams, and their latest colour creations. It was virtually unbelievable; the commentary (sample: "Truth is Beauty, Beauty is L'Oreal") was totally unbelievable.

And after the parade, and the announcement, with full fanfares from the Kneller Hall Trumpeters, of the competition winner - she screamed as though she'd been stabbed when called - there was the immortal Joe Loss and his orchestra, getting everyone on the floor for two hours of non-stop disco-type dancing. "But this isn't disco, it's live", yelled Joe Loss as, rather despairingly, he tried to get the teenyboppers to applaud his singers and band.

Whatever you felt about the dubious pseudo-world of promotion and marketing, you had to admit it was a superbly well-organized show. "Cost well into five figures, y'know, old man", one of the promoters confided to me over a chicken leg and a glass of plonk in the Green Room afterwards. Just as well then that a bit of the money involved is going into the Zivko Firfov Group fund to further the cause of Yugoslav folkdancing in the real world outside.

JOHN WHITE
Secretary, Zivko Firfov Group

ALL MATERIAL FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY
15TH JANUARY

THE MONTHLY FRIDAY CLASS AT CHEQUER CENTRE

The programme for the next two monthly Friday classes at Chequer Centre is:-

- 4th January Czech dances plus, if there is time, Syrtos,
Tsamikos, Pentozale and Daichevo.
- 1st February A special French evening - with Simon and Joan
Guest.

Everyone welcome. 6.45 to 9.30 p.m. Chequer Centre, Chequer Street, off
Whitecross Street, off Old Street, London E.C.1.

"FOLK COSTUMES FROM EAST EUROPE, AFRICA AND ASIA"
BY MAX TILKE

PUBLISHER: ZWEMMER. PRICE: £30.

Available from Zwemmer, Charing Cross Road, London.

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40 pages of text. 128 colour plates.

From the flyleaf:

"Each costume is reproduced in full colour and shows in detail the cut of the individual pieces, with accompanying notes on fit and assembly. Such clear presentation is the hallmark of Tilke's work, and is the result of a thorough analysis of the structure of each garment. The author describes his approach in a paragraph from the original edition of oriental costumes: "The key to understanding a costume lies in the identification of its main seams, which are usually marked by some form of ornamental decoration. The simplest shapes with the fewest seams indicate clothes from the earliest civilisations, and even the most complicated garment can be traced back to a typical basic form. The shape of the sleeves, the type of neckline, the fastenings, trimmings and colour should then be studied to give additional information about the history of the garment's development .

Folk Costumes presents this information as completely as possible by reproducing all Tilke's available watercolours. The material should be taken as a starting point, from which the reader, using his own knowledge and judgement, can trace a pattern of development and discover a source for study which makes a valuable contribution to the history of folk costumes".

For those who already possess Tilke's "Costume Patterns and Designs", it is still worth buying, as the Eastern Europe section is larger and more detailed.

FRANCES HORROCKS

WHERE HAVE ALL THE YOUNG ONES GONE?

From a brief analysis of various groups in England, it seems that folklore here is dying, as it is in Europe. Will it die out with your generation? We spend our time learning so meticulously style, foot patterns, music, etc. Who will it be passed on to? Where are the young people? How many are there in your group? That is the measure of a successful, healthy group - the young. How many do you have, and most important, how many actually stay? With due respect to the S.I.F.D. work in schools; this is a "captive" audience, and the proof is when young people leave school and have a free choice. The population of Great Britain is approximately 60,000,000; yet the S.I.F.D. has approximately 400 members!

Why don't the young follow? Perhaps it is not enough to attain a qualification as a folkdance teacher. This only qualifies you to teach steps. What about a further qualification on teaching methods? Many young people's opinion, once in contact with S.I.F.D. and I.L.E.A. classes, is - "It's boring". It is not enough just to teach steps. Ethnic is exciting, and not another word for boredom. Folkdance is exciting and should be presented in such a manner.

If you look at most groups of today, you will find a majority of middle-aged people with a similar way of life and way of thinking. Is there any room for young people? People will come to a "boring" class and even endure a whole weekend workshop just to learn the steps and dances. This gives a false impression that certain teaching methods are right, due to the large attendance, so no change seems necessary. But the people come to learn in spite of the teacher - that's dedication and shows that the dance is more powerful than personalities, or lack of them.

There is a need for urgency as "radical surgery today keeps the autopsy away". If you care about folklore, then these points must be seriously considered and acted upon. If you think that none of them is valid, then ask yourself one question, "where are the young?"

CHRIS GUNSTONE.

ED. NOTE: This is ground we in the S.I.F.D. have covered many times Chris. We know all the questions; it is the answers we want!

FOLK DANCE INSTRUMENTS

The BINIOU is a species of bagpipe, a primitive kind still in use in Brittany. It consists of a leather bag inflated by means of a "sutel", a short valved insufflation tube; a chanter with conical bore with a double reed concealed within the stock having seven holes, the first being duplicated to accommodate left-handed and right-handed players. The Biniou is still the traditional and popular instrument of the Breton peasants and is seen at all the festivals, at the wedding feasts and threshing dances.

S.I.F.D. BRANCHES

"SELPAR" (Midlands Branch of SIFD). Classes on Tuesday evenings in term time: 7.15 to 9 p.m. at Selly Park School, Stirchley, Pershore Road, Birmingham. Teacher: Sybil Chapman. Further details from Rod Perkins, 30 Knighton Road, Bournville, Birmingham B31 2EH. Tel: 021 475 3440.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Although the Wycombe Folk Dance Club has been affiliated to the S.I.F.D. for some time now, I think this is the first time any of us has written to you.

The club was founded over six years ago by Terry and Margaret Reid, and has thrived on a mixed diet of dances from England, America, Europe and more recently parts of the Middle East. Margaret's death last year was a sad blow for those of us who had come to know and like her, and now Terry is leaving us to take up a new job in Bedford - too far to travel down for a regular Monday evening.

Almost all of us owe them our first introduction to the pleasures of international folk dancing, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank them very sincerely on my own behalf and on behalf of all other club members for starting us off, and for doing so much to promote the teaching, dancing and enjoyment of folk dances from many countries.

The job Terry did singlehanded is now going to be split between two people; the new Chairman is to be Ken Poyton, and I shall be leading instructor. We shall, of course, continue to extend a very warm welcome to any S.I.F.D. members who come our way.

MARION GERSON

6 Park Lane,
Hazlemere, Bucks.
Dalton, Huddersfield.

Dear Madam,

Would you please pass on my thanks to the teachers and organizers of the Teaching Course held at Hugh Lyddelton School on 27th October, which I enjoyed very much and found most helpful.

I hope another such Course may be organized in the not too distant future, as I would welcome further ideas.

Yours sincerely,

JANICE LEAM
454 Wakefield Road

TURKISH FOLKDANCING

Bora Ozkok is organizing, in co-operation with the Turkish Folklore and Cultural Organization, a course of Turkish folkdance, music, culture and folklore, in Turkey from 13th to 21st June 1980.

Following the course, there will be a tour of Turkey, from 19th June to 9th July 1980, covering various towns and villages in Turkey, and including visits to folkdance groups etc.

You can book for one or other, or both. For full details and booking forms etc. please write to Bora Ozkok at P.O. Box 10182, Austin, Tx. 78766. U.S.A.

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If any group or class is interested in booking up a Turkish folkdance teacher, for an evening, day, weekend, or week's course, would they please contact Chris Gunstone, 75 Baizdon Road, London S.E.3., who is in touch with a Turkish teacher who would like to visit England.

EAST EUROPEAN RECORDS, TAPES, CASSETTES, FILMS

One of our members, Kate Platt, visited Eastern Europe last year as part of a Royal Society of Arts travel award. She is a choreographer of modern dance but teaches folkdancing at the London School of Contemporary Dance. While on her travels she made some films, with sound, at various festivals she visited and of various dances that she saw, as she is interested in folk dance as a source of inspiration for modern choreography. She is also concerned for the preservation, development, and right use of folklore as it leaves its traditional roots. She has very kindly offered to let any of our members who would like to do so, to listen to her records and tapes, perhaps record from them, borrow her books and see her films. Would anyone interested please contact: Kate Platt, 33 Devonia Road, Islington, N.1. (Tel: 01 359 4768). The material is from Greece (Macedonia, Thessaly), Bulgaria (Haskoro village group festival) Romania (very little) and Hungary (village groups).

POLISH JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY 1980 AT 2.30 P.M.

AT BROMLEY PUBLIC HALL, BOW, E.3.

Once again, "JACY TACY" will be holding one of those celebrated Jumble Sales! Funds are required for renovating and renewing some of our costumes (in use now for a very long time) and for more extensive recording of our music.

If you have any old clothing, books, bric-a-brac, etc. you would like taken off your hands, please contact any member of the Group or me - Betty Harvey.

S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

DANISH

Monday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, London S.E.3. Tutor: Gaye Saunte. Tel: 01 318 0237.

ISRAELI

Wednesday evenings. Beginners 7 to 8 p.m. Advanced 8 to 10 p.m. at Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, London S.E.3. Tutor: Gaye Saunte. Tel: 01 318 0237.

Wednesday evenings. Basic Israeli Dance Course 6.15 to 7.15 p.m. Advanced 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London S.E.11. Tutor: Fiona Howarth. New members should consult Fiona before enrolling for the Advanced Class.

POLISH

Monday evenings. Beginners 6.45 to 7.45 p.m. Intermediate 8 to 9 p.m. Advanced 9 to 10 p.m. at Christopher Hatton School, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, London E.C.1. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

EUROPEAN NATIONAL

Wednesday evenings. Beginners 6 to 7 p.m. General & Advanced 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. at St. Albans School, Baldwins Gardens, London, E.C.1. Tutor: Janet Woolbar.

Monday evenings. Beginners 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. (two classes 15-30 and over 30s).
Wednesday evenings. Advanced 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, London S.W.20. during term time. Contact: Charles Steventon. Tel: 01 542 3831.

YUGOSLAV

Tuesday evenings. Beginners and Intermediate 6.15 to 8.15 p.m. Advanced 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. at West Square Branch of South Bank Institute, St. George's Road, London S.E.1. Tutor: Ken Ward. Secretary: John White, 10 Durnsford Avenue. London S.W.19 8BH (01 947 2417).

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Tuesday evenings, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. at St. Marylebone School, 64 Marylebone High Street (off Baker Street) London. Tutor: Alan McLean.

HUNGARIAN (including Transylvanian)

Friday evenings, 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Millbank School, Erasmus Street, Pimlico, London (behind Tate Gallery and 5 minutes from Pimlico Station). Tutor: Alan McLean.

S.I.F.D. AFFILIATED GROUPS

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

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday (except end of July and all August) at Wilbraham Road United Reformed Church Hall (corner of Withington Road), Chorlton, Manchester, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further details from Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester M16 0BN.

CANONS FOLK DANCERS meet every Tuesday 7.45 to 9.45 p.m. at Park High School (in term time only), Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middx. Nearest station: Canons Park. For further information please contact the Secretary, Miss J.G.S. Goodman. Tel: 01 907 9857.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC DANCERS (Czechoslovak dancing) meet every Wednesday at The Fox School, Kensington Institute, Kensington Place, London W.8. (Nearest underground: Nottinghill Gate) from 7 to 9.30 p.m. Beginners and Advanced. Tutor: Hedy Fromings. Tel: 01 699 8597.

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday during term time at Daneford School, Turin Street (off Bethnal Green Road) London E2. 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.

NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m., except August and Bank Holidays, at Kirk Hallam Community Centre, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Secretary: Gillian Coulton, 53 Tulip Road, Awsworth, Notts. Tel: Ilkeston 303665.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Borough Green Village Hall, 7.45 to 10 p.m. Secretary: Miss Sue Douglas, 20 Normanhurst Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

RAINMAKERS CLUB FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING meets every Friday at 8 p.m. at the Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Stevenage. Secretary: Mrs. S.M. Leavy, 40 Shephall Green, Stevenage. Tel: Stevenage 65918.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday during school terms, 7.30 to 9 p.m. at South Kent College of Technology, Folkestone. Leader: Olive Field. Secretary: Frances Cox, 24 Darnley Close, Folkestone. Tel: Folkestone 39774.

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Monday, 8 to 10 p.m. at Blackfriars, 64 St. Giles, Oxford. European, English, Balkan & Israeli. For further information contact Miss Diana Jean Porteus, 105 Southmoor Road, Oxford. Tel: Oxford 57543.

WYCOMBE FOLK DANCE CLUB meets every Monday except Bank Holidays from September to mid-July at The Guildhall, High Wycombe, Bucks. Leading instructor: Marion Gerson. Chairman: Ken Poyton. Tel: Marlow 2194.

SUNDAY DANCES

- Jan. 6th Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, London N.W.1.
M.C. Ernie Nolan, with Woodvale Group. Please wear costume to make this a "special" New Year Dance.
- Feb. 3rd Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, London N.W.1.
M.C. Simon Guest.

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

WHAT'S ON

- Jan. 12th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - English. See page 3.
- Jan. 12th BARLOW GROUP, Manchester, will be holding their Mid-Season Dance at Allen Hall, Fallowfield. Admission: 75p. 7.30 p.m.
- Jan. 15th OLE ESPANA. "Manolo" with supporting company of Spanish singers, dancers, guitarists. Stoke Newington Assembly Hall, London. 7.30 p.m. Admission free by ticket from libraries and information bureaux in Hackney and Stoke Newington.
- Jan. 27th POLISH JUMBLE SALE. See page 9.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

It is hoped to hold an Armenian Workshop on Saturday, 23rd February, when dances learnt recently from Tom Bozigian will be revised. More details next month.

Hama'agal Israeli Dance Workshops, run by Fiona Howarth, will be held at Henry Fawcett School, Oval, London, as follows:-

- March 1st Beginners and simpler dances for teachers, etc. (no evening party).
- March 29th Advanced Workshop; Evening Party for all.

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* WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND LOTS OF DANCING IN 1980 * *

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