

S
-
F
-
D
-
N
-
E
-
W
-
S



BULGARIA

JULY 1980

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Southgate, 31 Barbrook House, Chatham Place, London, E.9.
Tel: Home - 01 985 0428. Office: 01 248 1212 Ext. 552.

TYPIST: Joy Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, London S.W.19.

The printing, collating and packing etc. is organized by Douglas Wells and family.

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

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

TREASURER: Judith Holloway, 53 Swiss Avenue, Watford, W.D.1. 7LL.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Dorothy Bryan, Flat 1, Braunton Mansions, 28 Rosebery Ave., London E.C.1. Tel: 01 837 2438.

DEMONSTRATION SECRETARY: Kay Leighton, 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts.
Tel: Kings Langley 62763.

A FIXTURE DIARY for organisers 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 (suggested time to ring - between 5 and 6 p.m.)

Enquiries and orders for 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 Dorothy Bryan and shows costumes from Bulgaria.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The Treasurer has drawn our attention to the fact that we are suffering a loss each month on our Dances at Cecil Sharp House. After detailed discussion, the Committee agree that we will have to raise the entrance fee to 75p for SIFD members and £1.00 for non-members, commencing in September 1980, the beginning of our financial year.

Whilst writing of financial matters, I think I should remind you all that the Committee's current policy is to try to make all events and services self-supporting, but not to make a profit. Our profit comes entirely from the sale of books and records, and interest on investments.

Total membership is now 432, well above our previous highest figure.

EDNA FOSTER
Hon. Secretary

HELP WANTED

The Committee of the S.I.F.D. needs secretarial help - taking minutes and some correspondence. Please contact the Chairman or Secretary, addresses on page 2, if you are able to help.

WYCOMBE DANCE PICNIC, SUNDAY 20TH JULY

Wycombe Club will be holding a Summer Picnic Dance on Sunday, 20th July and invite SIFD members to join them. It will be held in the splendid setting of Old Jordans, the historic Chilterns centre which has strong associations with Wm. Penn and other early Quakers. There are pleasant grounds with a sheltered lawn for dancing. If the weather is poor we can use the magnificent and comfortable Mayflower Barn.

Dancing, mainly international but with some English, will be from 3 p.m. to about 7.30 p.m. with a break for tea. Please bring your own picnic - tea and cold drinks provided. Cost 60p payable on the day (children under 14, 10p).

Old Jordans Centre and Barn are situated in Jordans Lane between Chalfont St. Giles and the A.40 - about 1½ miles from both. For map readers, NGR SU974913.

Further information from Ken Poyton, Tel: Marlow 2194.

ALL MATERIAL FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 15TH JULY

ED. NOTE

It isn't often I receive a pat on the back - in fact, hardly ever - so I feel justified in publishing the very nice little note of thanks received from Ken Poyton, Chairman of Wycombe Folk Dance Club.

"Whilst writing, may I take the opportunity of expressing my personal thanks for the very fine job which you do and have done for so long in producing, as Editor, the SIFD NEWS. It is a most important factor in the strength of the Society, and the quality and regularity of its production have been unflinching since you took the job on".

Thank you Ken.

LILY SOUTHGATE

HOLIDAY IN DENMARK, EASTER 1981

In July 1979, a group of Danish dancers and musicians spent a few days in London and while over here were entertained for a day by Woodvale International Folk Dance Group in Borough Green. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and its success has encouraged us to start planning a trip to Denmark in April 1981.

At present, it is our intention to take a coach from Borough Green, via London if necessary, to cross from Harwich to Esbjerg, and then travel by coach across to Jutland, to stay in chalets near Vordindborg, the home town of the group who visited us.

We shall be demonstrating mainly English dances and we hope there will be plenty of opportunity both for exchanging dances and sightseeing.

The dates are 11th to 20th (Easter Monday) April, and the approximate cost would be £180 each inclusive of ferry, accommodation, coach and food.

If anyone would like more details about this trip, please contact me at 20 Normanhurst Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8HT. Telephone: Borough Green 882865.

SUE DOUGLAS

Secretary, Woodvale Group

BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL will take place this year from 9th to 16th August. Teams are expected from Columbia, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Mexico, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka and England, Ireland and Scotland.

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

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 Judith Holloway, 53 Swiss Avenue, Watford, Herts. Tel: Watford 25480.

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 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.

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, Awworth, Notts. Tel: Ilkeston 303665.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at The Church Hall, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green. 7.45 to 10 p.m. Secretary: Miss Sue Douglas, 20 Normanhurst Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tel: Borough Green 882865.

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 and 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. Leader: Uri Gerson. Chairman: Ken Poyton. Tel: Marlow 2194.

AFFILIATED GROUPS - continued

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday, in term time, at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Romford, from 8 to 10 p.m. Nearest station: Harold Wood. For further information, contact Miss Doreen Grew, 31 Marlborough Road, Brentwood, or Eve Wildy at Hornchurch 52146.

KAROMA FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at South Wellfield Middle School, Whitley Bay, each Wednesday in term time from 12.30 to 2 p.m. Tutor: Kaye Lewis Poole, 50 Antonine Walk, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 5OEE. Tel: Wylam 2495.

BULGARIAN FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday, 7 to 9 p.m., at Johanna School, Johanna Street, London S.E.1. Tutors: Danny Lumley, Diana Waller, Moni Sheenan.

WIGGINTON INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday during term time at Wigginton (near Tring) Junior School at 8 p.m. Further details from Margaret Cullen, Hemel Hempstead 58277.

S.I.F.D. BRANCHES

"SELPAR" (West 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. Also a "Club Evening" on Wednesdays in term time, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. at Lyndon School, Daylesford Road, Solihull. Further details of both from Rod Perkins, 30 Knighton Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2EH. Tel: 021 475 3440.

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.

SIFD ASSOCIATED CLASSES- continued

EUROPEAN NATIONAL

Wednesday evenings. Beginners 6 to 7 p.m. General & Advanced 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. at St. Albans School, Baldwins Gardensm 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 SW19 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.

TURKISH

Every Thursday in term time only, at Gateway School (Marylebone Evening Institute), Frampton Street, London (near Edgware Road Underground) 7 to 9 p.m. Tutor: Sait Serifoglu. Secretary: Pauline Welch, 15 Boleyn Avenue, E. Ewell, Epsom, Surrey. Tel: 393 1919 (Home), 393 6976 (Work).

FOLK DANCE INSTRUMENTS

BANDURA (Ukrainian)

A string musical instrument of very ancient origin. It is difficult to say where it originated, but it is thought to have some connection with the Bandora of Italy, or the eight-stringed instrument to be found in the East in Uzbekstan. The Bandura was used in the 16th and 17th centuries by Ukrainian Cossacks and later by wandering blind singers (repatriated Cossack prisoners) reciting "Dumy" to musical accompaniment on the Bandura. "Dumy" was a lyrical epic work about the life and heroic fight between Ukrainian Cossacks and neighbouring enemies, for the freedom of the country. Just as there were wandering troubadours in Western Europe, so there were wandering bandurists in the East. The playing of the Bandura was usually handed down from father to son. The present-day Bandura has fifty-six strings.

DANCES OF MODERN EGYPT AND OF
THE TIME OF THE PHARAOH

When thinking of oriental dances, the Western amateur thinks instinctively of a single aspect of the art of dancing in the Arab countries; the "belly" dance. Although known everywhere in the world, up to the remote islands in the South Seas, as being an Egyptian invention, many authors have denied that the "belly" dance is of pharaonic origin. It is true that it flourished mainly in the Middle Ages under the Mameluks and under the Turkish domination. It has survived, in a more refined form, to our days.

Following recent researches, the problem of the origin of the "belly" dance has been discussed again. One favours again the theory that it was known to the ancient Egyptians. It is true that very few representations have subsisted showing girls in the characteristic attitude of the "belly" dance. It has not that strongly erotic character, but seems to have had a ritual meaning, perhaps even magic; that of a very old dance of fertility.

Whatever it may be, the belly dance is an artistic dance. It does not belong to the Egyptian folk dances. Similarly, the "Iba" dance, which reminds one of the "Chess ballet" of the Middle Ages, was a dance of the Court which has not left any traces in the popular customs of the Nile valley. If we find in certain Nile tribes some dances that look like it, we believe that they are at the origin of the "Iba" dance, the raised arms of the dancing girls imitating the horns of the cow, holy animal for these peoples, symbol of the goddess Hathor in ancient Egypt.

A few inscriptions noted on sarcophagi and illustrations found in tombs, allow us to reconstitute the "dance of the four winds" known since 2,000 B.C. Contrarily to the other dances mentioned above, the last-named has left traces in the modern popular traditions. A French traveller observed it at the end of the last century, and recorded it.

Another curious phenomenon is that of the survival of very old cults of Osiris. One does not know precisely how far back goes the veneration of this god of fertility and of wheat, the god of the dead and of the resurrection, Osiris. We know, however, that this cult was very widespread, which is natural with a population comprising mainly country people.

The festivities relating to the cult of Osiris have also struck the imagination of the Greek travellers. It is surprising that Egyptian farmers still celebrate today, in Middle Egypt and the Said, certain ceremonies recalling this millenary cult of Osiris. What a strength of tradition, tried by centuries, which enables us today to be present at scenes which happened exactly in the same way several thousand years ago, in the centres of the Isirian cult, scattered more or less everywhere in the country.

We know also the representation of some dances with castanets which anticipate the Spanish dance by several centuries. The castanets had been known in the Egypt of the Pharaohs since the Middle Empire, therefore long before their appearance in Spain.

The Egyptians have known, since the beginning of the 3rd Millenary, dances which they have represented in the bas reliefs of their tombs. We have

Contd...

reconstituted two of these dances; the first one is executed by boys, the second one by young girls holding mirrors. This study has been possible thanks to several representations showing the various steps which we needed for the reconstitution. The mirror dance does not exist any longer in modern Egypt, but some travellers have observed very similar dances in the Sudan.

I would mention lastly a folkdance very widespread in the modern High-Egypt; the dance "au nabout". This object is a big stick which the farmers use during the dance, simulating a kind of very simplified fight. It finds its like in a war dance known among the tribe of the Bicharin nomads living in the desert near Assouan.

Seen as a whole, the repertory of Egyptian dances shows us, exactly like the music, the most differing influences coming from the centre of Africa or from the Middle East; influences due to the evolution, political, cultural and social, of Pharaonic Egypt. We notice, however, among all the forms and the different aspects of the Egyptian folkdances, that they have their roots in the pharaonic dances. The folkdance student can only be pleased; it is very rare, in the whole world, to find folk customs loaded with so many millenary traditions.

JEAN TOUDIC

Acknowledgement to "THE FOLKLORIST"
(Apologies for the stilted English,
due to rather crude translation).

DAY COURSE OF ROMANIAN DANCES

Date: 12th July 1980.

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring packed lunch - drinks available.

Place: Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London.

Tutor: Frank Dowling.

Cost: £1.50 (half-day 75p).

Everyone is welcome. Those who came to Frank and Francis' course last year will need no persuading; the teaching is clear, with much informed background material, and authentic music. Frank will be teaching on his own this time as Francis cannot come. The dances will be new to SIFD members, but some of the previous course's material may be revised if requested.

Further details and enquiries to Fiona Howarth, 01 460 0823.

MONTHLY FRIDAY CLASS AT CHEQUER CENTRE

The programme for Friday, 4th July, will be Catalan dances, plus some or all of the dances for the Norwegian badge examination. If anyone would like to come along and take the opportunity of practising other "badge" dances from other countries, in addition to the Norwegian ones, they would be very welcome. Please either bring along your own cassette, or let Kelsey Blundell or Frank Flanagan know in advance and we will do our best to see that music is available.

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

MACEDONIAN FOLK DANCES

AND YUGOSLAV SONGS

The folklore group "IZVOREN" gave a very nice little display of Macedonian dances at Cecil Sharp House on 30th May. I was only able to stay for the first half of their programme, which included five dances, Ramo, Dimena Napred Shareni Chorapi, Ela Mi Veleche, Tojche Devoyche and Staro Povratano; an instrumental item, Baba Georgia, and a song, Sto Mi e Milo, all of which I enjoyed very much. The music especially was very enjoyable, with gajda, kaval, tamburas, kemenes and tapan, and the costumes lovely - some of them dating back to pre 1914-1918 war.

The musicians were excellent and, using other instruments including the vielle, also played for the "general" part of the evening. They played some beautiful French dance music, but I was horrified to see what the dancers did to it!

LILY SOUTHGATE

MACEDONIAN CASSETTES

Thank you to all those who ordered the Orkestar Grupa Pechalbari Macedonian Double Cassette of 30 Folk Dances (88 minutes). The cassettes are being imported and will arrive this month.

CHRIS GUNSTONE

TOURS TO YUGOSLAVIA

The Slavic American Society, based in San Francisco, organise many tours to Yugoslavia including one to the International Folklore Festival at Zagreb, 19th to 26th July, and a Summer School of Folk Dances at Arandjelovac (50 miles South of Belgrade) 27th July to 10th August. If anyone would like further details of these, the Editor would be pleased to send them a copy of the leaflet giving full information.

SUNDAY DANCES

7 to 10 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, London N.W.1.
Admission: 50p SIFD members. 75p non-members.

July 6th M.C. Fiona Howarth.

August 3rd M.C. Jack Richardson

WHAT'S ON

- July 4th SUMMER PARTY at Barnet International Folk Dance Club, Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet. (Last meeting of this season). 8 to 11 p.m. Musicians: Henry Morris and friends. Tickets £1 including refreshments. Enquiries to Janet Heathfield, 01 368 5345.
- July 12th BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY AWARD EXAMINATION at Hugh Myddelton School.
- July 12th ANNUAL GARDEN DANCE (English & International) at "Brooklands", Mayfield Grove, Baildon, Shipley, W.Yorks., 3 to 8 p.m. Callers: Edith Ackroyd (English), Philip Lloyd & Ian Willson (International). Accommodation can be provided if necessary. Further information from Gladys Gaskell, Bradford 593444. All SIFD members welcome.
- July 12th ROMANIAN DAY COURSE. See page 9.
- July 15th/19th SANSKRITIK - FESTIVAL OF ARTS OF INDIA. Five individual programmes of songs, music, dance and drums in classical and traditional styles from different parts of India, including various dance styles, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, 7.45 p.m. Tickets: £1.35 to £3.70. Full details from Sanskritik Centre of Indian Arts, 17 Holdenhurst Avenue, London N.12.
- July 18th/20th WEEKEND AT DUNFORD
- July 20th WYCOMBE DANCE PICNIC. See page 3.
- July 21st to Aug. 9th MAZOWSZE. "Poland's Greatest Dance Company". Royal Festival Hall, London, 7.30 p.m. Saturday matinee 3 p.m. Tickets £1.75 to £7.00. (No performance on 28th July and 4th August).
- July 29th BALLET FOLKLORICO AZTLAN DE TEJAS. Company of 20 in varied programme demonstrating Mexican song and dance in costume. Fairfield Hall, Croydon, 8 p.m. Tickets £1.50 to £2.50.
- Aug. 3rd/8th ISRAEL FOLK DANCE ASSOCIATION SUMMER CAMP at Hatfield Polytechnic, Herts. Non-Residents welcome for whole or part-time attendance. For details send s.a.e. to IFDA, c/o 72 Lupus Street, London S.W.1.
- Aug. 10th "DANCE FOR JERUSALEM" featuring Municipal Dance Troupe from Safed, Israel, and Oranim Israeli Dance Troupe, at a Central London Concert Hall, 7.30 p.m. For tickets (adults £2.50, children £1.00) send s.a.e. to IFDAS, Flat 6, 92 Holden Road, London N.12. (Cheques to be made out to "I.F.D.A.". Tel: 01 446 2360 (Maurice Stone).