

# S.I.F.D. NEWS

October 1981



LATVIA



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Southgate, 31 Barbrook House, Chatham Place, London E.9.  
Tel: 01 985 0428 (evenings Monday to Friday)

The printing, collating and packing is organised by Douglas Wells and family. The stencils were typed this month by Kelsey Blundell.

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CHAIRMAN: Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, London S.W.19.  
Tel: 01 542 3831.

SECRETARY: Joan Rackham, 16 Bathurst Avenue, Wimbledon, S.W.19.  
Tel: 01 543 1891.

TREASURER: Judith Holloway, 28 Shepherds Road, Watford, Herts., WD1 7HX.

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

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

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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 SIFD 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.

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

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SIFD T-shirts, small, medium and large, available at £2.50 each from Kay Leighton (address above). Cheques and postal orders to be made out to SIFD. PLEASE NOTE INCREASED PRICE.

This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas and shows a Latvian costume.

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### SECRETARY'S NOTES

At the September Committee Meeting arrangements were made for the Annual General Meeting - see below.

Frank Flanagan reported that applications had been received from five groups for affiliation and from three for association with the SIFD. Other groups who wish to enrol should contact Frank at 124 Fairbridge Road, Upper Holloway, London, N.19.

The Society has been invited to join the Movement and Dance Liaison Group of the C.C.P.R. and are now members.

JOAN RACKHAM,  
Hon. Secretary

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Preliminary Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Society for International Folk Dancing, to be held at Cecil Sharp House on Sunday, 6th December, 1981, in "Storrow", commencing at 4.30 p.m.

- 1) Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Sunday, 7th December 1980, at Cecil Sharp House.
- 2) Matters arising.
- 3) Chairman's Report.
- 4) Treasurer's Report.
- 5) Auditors' Report and Consideration of Accounts.
- 6) Announcement of Newly Elected Committee.
- 7) Any other business.

Members wishing to submit Motions to be added to the Agenda for the A.G.M. must submit them in writing, duly seconded, to the Secretary by 12th November 1981. Proposers and seconders of Motions must be fully paid-up members of the S.I.F.D.

Nominations for the Committee must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by 12th November 1981 and must contain the written consent of the nominated member to act if elected. The proposer, seconder and person nominated must all be fully paid-up members of the S.I.F.D.

#### Present Committee:

Charles Steventen	Chairman
Judith Holloway	Treasurer
Joan Rackham	Secretary
Dorothy Bryan	
Frank Flanagan	
Kay Leighton	
Alan McLean	
Audrey Whiteley	
Hazel Cheal	

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

How did you spend your summer holiday? Travelling, dancing, resting, spectating, or catching up on the many "do-it-yourself" chores awaiting you and accumulating no doubt as the days go by. However you chose to spend your "holiday" I hope you enjoyed it and I envy those who still have theirs to come.

Rod and I and four others from the Birmingham group (or should I say, the West Midlands Branch?) spent the first week of our holiday at the Swansea Summer School with many friends, torturing ourselves with endless hours of dancing (and enjoying every minute of it!). When the dancing stopped, the singing began; an endless pattern that was to repeat itself daily. Many's the evening I vowed I'd have an early night, but that never evolved. I'm trying to catch up now on many hours lost sleep, but there's not much chance of that with Rod serenading me with many of the French tunes he's trying to work out on his hurdy-gurdy (I think I'll have to invest in some ear plugs.), and asking me what the girls did in the Romanian dance "Roata din Oas" as he goes through his notes.

Please don't let many happy hours of dancing pass into the archives to be "stored" for the future. Let's dance them here and now, and not lose them, as Frank Dowling, Françoise and Michel Piot and Hedy Fromings worked very hard to teach them to us. How about some Revision Day Courses in the near future? Roy Clarke is organising a "Swansea Reunion" in November 1982, which is a smashing idea, but if we wait until then to revise these dances many will already have disappeared. What do other people think? Also, on playing through Frank's Romanian tapes there are many hypnotic tunes, the dances to which Frank didn't have time to teach us. Wouldn't it be nice if, having completed the Revision Courses, we could learn the dances to those lovely tunes - hint, hint!! We did so enjoy his teaching and watching him dance. I only hope, Frank, that we do credit to your teaching and Romania when we dance these lovely dances.

That was our first week. Our second week was supposed to be a rest cure after a hectic Swansea, but that was not to be as we seemed to spend a lot of time at the Sidmouth International Folklore Festival, rushing to "Meet the Instrument" or "Meet the Team", or a singaround in the "Anchor". Sidmouth is a unique festival as there is a lot of opportunity to sing and dance, and when you feel like a rest to sit on the sidelines and watch others dance and sing. We met many friends at Sidmouth and had many memorable evenings, one of which took place in the back room of the "Balfour Arms" (it all happens in pubs!) with a group of French people who had come over independently for the festival. They danced, sang and played instruments (one of which was a mouth-blown French bagpipe), and with the help of an interpreter had us all up dancing and creating a real "sweaty French cafe" atmosphere - a great evening!

Sidmouth has everything (except the weather) - the chance to play Macedonian tapan with a Scottish bagpipe; a French bagpipe player playing an Irish jig tune with an English melodeon player; there's even a place for a humble tambourine player to join in! Musically, Sidmouth was really good; the participating side of the dancing was not quite so good, unless you really are an ardent fan of English dancing (if I'm desperate to dance, it's O.K. as a second best, as long as I have metal toe caps in my shoes and can put up with a square foot of space in which to move!).

I loved the Czech group - their dancing, singing and music was superb; the Swedes were also delightful (as most Swedish groups I've seen); the French



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group from Nice were like a throw-out from the "Follies" (the "Knicker Brigade" we christened them!) - they couldn't teach us any of their dances (I think the "routines" were too long!). The Dutch had some lovely old costumes but what a pity they were a bit like a turn from a Music Hall - why do they massacre their own and often other people's dances? I overheard one comment about their age; they were all very young, and I'm sure younger people's style varies from their elder peers, but I don't think this would excuse their so-called "folkdancing" as it wasn't the style that was "off", it was what they were actually performing as folk dances, but perhaps that is what the majority of people want to see. The group from Senegal were very lively; I think we ought to have an SIFD day workshop in Senegalese dancing as it would certainly help throw off any stress and tensions from day to day living - mind you, you would probably be suffering a headache at the end of it! I didn't go to the Senegalese "Meet the Team" workshop as I was feeling a bit frail that day and not able to do the movement justice. Did anyone brave the Senegalese "Meet the Team"?

Generally, Sidmouth was "fun" despite the lack of sun, and Merton Park and friends certainly encouraged holidaymakers to join in and dance with them, and provided their own brand of "sun", which we certainly need in this country.

Happy holidays everyone.

BARBARA AND ROD PERKINS

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MERTON DAY COURSE AND EVENING DANCE

Date: SATURDAY, 3rd OCTOBER 1981.  
Place: RICARDS LODGE HIGH SCHOOL, LAKE ROAD, WIMBLEDON, S.W.19.  
Time: DAY COURSE - 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
EVENING DANCE - 7.30 to 10.30 p.m.

Charles Steventon and Frances Horrocks will be teaching dances from SIFD records EP12 and EP13 at this Day Course, organised by the Merton Institute of Adult Education. Fee: £4 including tea/coffee/squash. Please bring packed lunch.

The General International Folk Dance in the evening is being run by the Merton Park Folk Dancers, with M.C. Charles Steventon, Musician Wilf Horrocks.  
Tickets: Adults £1.50, Under-16s 80p, including refreshments.

Please reserve tickets for Day Course and/or Dance by telephoning Joy Steventon on 542 3831.

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AN EVENING OF INTERNATIONAL DANCES

As mentioned in the Secretary's notes this month, the SIFD is now a member of the Movement & Dance Liaison Group of the Central Council of Physical Recreation. This Group has organised an "Evening of International Dances" on Friday, 16th October, at the Little Ship Club, Bell Wharf Lane, London E.C.4. There will be an evening meal (salad), cabaret, music by "The Jumblies" and M.C.s from:-

British Association of American Square Dance Clubs;  
English Folk Dance & Song Society; Royal Scottish Country Dance Society;  
S.I.F.D.

7.45 for 8.15 p.m. Licensed Bar till midnight. Tickets: £8.50 - obtainable from our Secretary, Joan Rackham (address on page 2).

Dear Lily,

I would like to say how pleased I am by the response to my letter in the July NEWS asking for a truly advanced course at Swansea. This is the one occasion - only one week in two years - when the teachers and expert dancers are truly catered for and can get together and really enjoy learning without hindrance. All those who spoke to me at Swansea were in favour. Maybe those who didn't say anything were against, but then they didn't say. In this respect I think the classes at Swansea did work both ways. The Intermediate group learned some beautiful dances and the teachers were most impressed by their hard work and searching questions. Perhaps we could hear some comments from those who attended the different classes? I think Shirley Rogers' comment that Intermediate dancers may be inhibited by the presence of Advanced dancers would be more true of Day Courses. If so, then it really is up to members to get rid of their inhibitions and speak up, though admittedly this takes courage in front of others who obviously have no difficulties. I'm sure no teacher will object to going over a step again, and indeed will be glad to do so - if asked.

Perhaps this question of ability should also be a recognised factor at Cecil Sharp House. This has always been a somewhat haphazard arrangement, if indeed arrangement it can be called; certainly for individual groups to perform their "special" dances, but never for the entertainment of others. Its very haphazardness and unpredictability is part of its charm, and I would hate to see this formalised. As far as I am aware, this circle session was introduced for the benefit of partnerless persons and musicians' "widows" who otherwise might not dance all evening in the days when M.C.s so sadly ignored this type of dance. Surely it is well known that according to etiquette the best dancer available leads the line. Why not? Otherwise it would indeed be chaos. Standing further along the line makes it easier to see the leader's feet and therefore easier to follow the steps. With knowledge and proficiency one moves up the line. Beginners barging in at the front are breaking an unwritten law and do indeed spoil the dance and destroy the "magic" I spoke of before. If one can't bear to be a tail-ender, one can always dance solo behind the line, thus having a good example in front and interfering with no-one. However, George being deprived, I cannot imagine. Deprived of what, George?

In response to Roy Clarke's letter, I would like to ask how he expects to achieve the highest possible standard for public demonstrations, which he advocates, if restrictions are not to be made? Where there are advanced classes within the SIFD these are clearly stated, so members know where they stand. As to "What standard?", I would say that it is a matter for the teacher of that particular class. Who else? If this is what is meant by exclusion, then yes, it is, openly and for a purpose. These advanced classes all have beginners classes also, where there is no bar to joining, so those with talent who work hard do not lack for opportunity. The monthly Day Courses were instituted with the idea of raising standards, with a Proficiency Badge to prove it, and these have always been open to everyone, with a chance to try every country, not even restricted by ticket sales. I don't organise or generally attend weekends away, so I don't know what restrictions operate there, if any, but obviously they are very popular events so naturally they are quickly booked. It seems to me that all events organised by and on behalf of the Society are well advertised and open to all, but surely this doesn't mean that a group of friends are barred from going away for a weekend together if they feel so inclined, just because they also happen to be SIFD members?

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One doesn't have to be a twinkle-toes in order to organise events. One does have to be willing to work hard on behalf of others and to have great administrative ability, and in this respect I would like to pay tribute to Jack and Joan Richardson and Simon Guest for the organisation at the Swansea Course. It's generally only when things go wrong that one realises that the organisation is lacking in some respect, but nothing did go wrong, so the organisation was excellent - so excellent that participants don't realise just how many hours and hours of so-called "spare" time have gone into the making. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it, even the minutes when I didn't have time to draw breath between one event and the next. I hope others who also enjoyed it and found such a wealth of material so expertly taught will also express their appreciation.

The majority of members are not Advanced dancers, but where would we be without the majority? They are the people who support the Society, who indeed run it, and are certainly not second class members as Roy seems to imply. Without them there would be no Society, and don't let's forget it. However, let us also be aware of our talents and limitations. After all, nobody in their right mind would ask me to bake a special birthday cake.

Sincerely,  
FRANCES HORROCKS,  
53 Southway,  
Carshalton Beeches, Surrey

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Dear Lily,

Various letters written to the "SIFD NEWS" during recent months have contained many talking points. The quiz made me realise the extent of my own ignorance - I could answer less than half the questions! Thank you for printing Lucile Armstrong's interesting article. A certain amount of knowledge does add interest to the enjoyment of dancing.

In the early 1950s I watched an SIFD performance at the Albert Hall and longed to participate. But it was about ten years later that I met people who actually belonged to the Society, and attended my first "Swansea" Course, up at Clyne Castle. We learned Yugoslav dances from Ken Ward, South American and Mexican from Robert Harrold, Israeli from Kathleen Munro-James and European from Margery Latham, these last two now, sadly, no longer with us. There I felt the spirituality of Israeli dances mentioned by Leonora and discovered the "magic" of circle dances - with the added bonus that one didn't have to wait to be asked but could just stand up and join in!

This year I was sorry to miss the Swansea Course, owing to family illness. There is far more than dance tuition in these Courses - the whole atmosphere of enthusiasm, camaraderie, meeting with far-flung friends, live music, costumes, films, all superbly organised.

Over the years I have attended many Summer Schools, Day Courses, weekends, but still consider myself a beginner, as I forget so many dances through lack of regular practice, living too far out to belong to a weekly class or group. I would love to take some Bert Price Proficiency Examinations but find I rarely know the compulsory dances. This may be because these dances are taught only at

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the Advanced class at Summer Schools. Two writers have said that too many dances are taught, many being lost to the Society repertoire. A number of those lost are taught to the Elementary class only. Yes, there is a certain element of elitism and snobbishness about these two classes. Would a solution be to teach the same basic syllabus to both classes but, as the advanced people learn more quickly, they could then progress to add other more difficult dances?

Lastly, may I express thanks for the many days of pleasure during these years which I have experienced through the S.I.F.D., to all those people who do the hard work, and to all the patient teachers and ordinary members who have been so helpful.

Best wishes to you and all friends,

ELIZABETH BRIDLE,  
56 Chequers Road,  
Minster-on-Sea,  
Sheerness, Kent

oOo

Dear Lily,

With amazement I read in last month's issue that Kingsway College is asking £24.50 for a Day Course without heating, and £80.40 with heating. Anyone who, like me, goes there for an evening class will have noticed that once the heating is on it is kept full blast - never mind the outside temperature - all the time. Windows are opened, and stay open through the night, and even from Friday to Monday morning, and the expensive heat goes out into the open. If the school authorities could see their way to using a little common sense I am sure their heating bill would drop dramatically.

Yours disgustedly,

JENIA GRAMAN,  
39 Stanley Road,  
East Sheen, S.W.14

oOo

Dear Lily,

Sorry you couldn't be at Llangollen this year. Well done, George, for writing it up for us all. Was it intentional to miss out Gwerinwyr Gwent from Newport who got 85 marks for their rather slow Playford-like dances accompanied by a very faint violin, tambourine and accordion? I can't believe you could have forgotten the Dungeer Mummies from Camross, County Wexford, who got 94 and came 2nd (as usual). They are certainly one of those whose marking and placing is a foregone conclusion, and I must say I agree with George that this "standardisation" (although understandable) is somehow depressing and suppressive. Particularly when the programme offered by the group is exactly the same (well certainly when I have seen them). I wonder, in fact, if it's the dances rather than the dancers being judged.

Just in passing, I found a wedge of paperwork bearing testimony to the long hours of work I put in as Secretary and joint organizer of a few of the old Royal Albert Hall Shows, which were an annual event in the 60s. Anyone

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interested in seeing how much seats cost in those days may like to know - Grand Tier and Loggia 7/6. Balcony 2/6. Top price 10/6 for the evening - wow, that was expensive - the same price as a couple of stops on the tube these days. Who was in it? Old friends like Harrow Green, Folkestone N.D.G., Hornchurch I.F.D.G., Croxley Green with the late Kathleen Munroe-James, Los Ibericos, London Estonian, etc. A meeting of group leaders used to be held in the Coffee Pot Room, I remember. We got £26 for a television fee and made £5 on advertising in the programme. A total of £10 was spent on food and drink for the dancers - a little boxful each. The usual enormous surcharge of £50 for late running. Some names appearing prominently then are still with us and working hard for the Society; others like Penny Leach and Dennis Sobrielle seem to have vanished from the scene.

I don't know why I kept it all for so long - well, I do - a well-trained secretary used to filing things away for future reference! But surely it's just rubbish now isn't it? and time it was thrown away.

Yours,

DIKI GLEESON,  
Oak Lodge,  
Theobalds Park Road,  
Enfield, Middx.

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Dear Lily,

On the query from Judy Ingram concerning "Hakke Toone"; I think it will be found that the title is just a dialect rendering of "Heel-Toe". This Terschelling dance was first published in 1930 in the collection "Nederlandsche Volksdansen (Vol. 2) by Sanson-Katz and De Koe. Preceding their detailed description of the figures is a summary of the steps, which hardly needs translation:- "Hakke-toone met Schotse pas en polka rond". The SIFD version of the dance is broadly similar and uses the same tune. S. J. van der Molen in his book "De Friese Tjalk" (Den Haag 1970) states that the first instance he found of the name is "Hakketoontje" in a (manuscript) music book of Andrew Kiers dated 1864. It is not clear whether this was the SIFD tune or a different Friesland tune which he prints.

It does seem that the SIFD spelling "Hakke Toone" has sound historical justification.

Yours sincerely,

HILTON CALPINE,  
1 Fairfax Road,  
Chiswick W4 1EN

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S.I.F.D. BRANCHES

"SELPAR" (West Midlands Branch of SIFD). Classes on Tuesday evenings in term time, 7.15 to 9.00 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.

WORM'S EYE VIEW OF SWANSEA

Observations of woodworm disturbed from its hibernation by strange noises - stamping of feet, odd screams and shouts, and the beating of sticks heralding the biennial summer ritual of some masochistic members of the human race.

This unbelievable ritual begins with the convergence on a pre-selected area of alert and energetic humans equipped for all contingencies. (Why is it, I ask myself, that these creatures while apparently having only two feet need enough footwear to equip a family of centipedes?). I understand there is no compulsion to attend this ritual - these humans are not conscripted but are here of their own volition. (How is it then that they accept unquestioningly all that is offered?).

They are programmed into an unceasing cycle of events: eat - dance - drink - dance - eat - relax - dance - eat - dance - (repeated six times). I note a time for relaxation, a time to rest in comfortable armchair or feather bed. But no, this is not so. I observe that for armchair is substituted coach seat, for feather bed, bed of sand or stones. Definitely an element of masochism is essential!

Something is missing from this schedule. Have these creatures found a way to survive without sleep? Have they been so programmed that sleep, that period of complete mental and physical relaxation essential to all other creatures, is unnecessary? Would a break in their cycle of exercise and sustenance disorientate them? But wait, there does appear to be a pause in this programme, an unaccountable break. After close observation it is found not to be filled by sleep but by such extra curricular activities as immersing themselves in water, exercising vocal chords or, unbelievably, more dancing. For those involved in this ritual, sleep is obviously not considered essential.

More of that oft repeated item, dance. What do they mean by it? They use it for so many different things. Ah! I spy a common factor - a rhythmic cavorting to the accompaniment of strange sounds. Occasionally a piece of wood (not occupied by one of my friends, I hope) is beaten against another piece - or even against a human.

Is it for pleasure that they continue untiringly, or because they are so programmed that they cannot stop? By the third repeat these beings who arrived so alert and energetic are subtly changed - a quietness descends on mealtimes, limbs appear bandaged, muscles appear where they have never been before. Continuation into fourth repeat only seems possible if accompanied by grim determination, but still they go on. Fifth repeat - by now it is mechanical. They pursue the programme relentlessly, not even pausing to wonder why. In fact, they seem to be gaining momentum - perhaps with thoughts that after one more repeat they can escape.

Then peace will descend once more - I will crawl back into the woodwork until -----

ANON.

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

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

Members will have seen from Frances Horrocks' note in last month's NEWS that ILEA are now proposing to charge us for the use of Hugh Myddelton School for the Saturday Day Courses. We have appealed against this and have pointed out that the object of the Day Courses is to improve our knowledge of folk dances and to enable teachers to increase their repertoires. There is no question of running the Courses to make a profit. Regrettably, ILEA have turned down this appeal, which means that the hire charge for Hugh Myddelton for the winter months would be £98.50 per Day Course. The resulting course fee would be about £3.50 to £4.00 per person. We think this is too high and we are exploring other possibilities. One is to hire the main hall or the lower hall at Cecil Sharp House - but at this late stage the usual dates for our Courses have already been taken. Frances has been working hard, contacting local councils and sifting through possible halls - so far without any breakthrough. I am very grateful to Frances for the effort she has put in.

In the circumstances, we have decided to cancel the October Day Course, to allow more time to find alternative accommodation. If anyone knows of a suitable church hall or similar hall, near the centre of London, would you please ring either Frances on 642 3629 or myself on 542 3831.

The alternative is to accept the charge for Hugh Myddelton or some similar school and to put up the Day Course fees to about £4. We would like to have members' views on this.

CHARLES STEVENTON,  
Chairman

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11TH BIENNIAL FOLKESTONE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

I would like to thank all those who organised and made possible this year's Biennial Folk Festival at Folkestone. What a shame that there is such a poor coverage of the International Folk Festival scene outside S.I.F.D. and the International Folk Music Council.

The group that I felt stole the Festival were the Sardinians, with their music and costume. Another very lively group were the Spaniards; they seemed to enjoy every bit of the weekend. It would be nice to be able to see the Festival on Southern Television, although I do believe the Festival got a mention on Radio Medway.

Another angle of the International Folk scene that I feel is sadly lacking (in London) is a group for the appreciation of the music, considering that many visiting groups are now appearing on Television, at the Royal Festival Hall and various concert halls throughout the British Isles. I suspect that part of the problem may be that guest speakers are limited and difficult to book. If there are any members who are aware of any group that gives lectures, apart from the International Folk Music Council's Bulletin, I would very much appreciate it if they would kindly contact me; I would also like to have other members' comments and views on the question of a folk music appreciation group.

DAVID HUNTER,  
22 Pondfield Road,  
Orpington, Kent



Some of our members may remember Pierre Panis, who came over to England some years ago to teach us French dances, and whom some of us met in France on various Courses. Alan Holland met up with him again this summer .....

This July, on the Summer Course with Musique Traditionnelle et Danse Populaire, Pierre Panis came and watched us being put through our paces on dances from Berry. Folklore was the subject at the lunch table, where we were joined by Mme. Panis, who could hardly contain her excitement at seeing 90 French dancers and musicians and 30 Irish all together sharing their common interest. (The French side included a sprinkling of German and Dutch friends, and me - the sole Englishman). Mme. Panis chatted away at full speed, French style.

A couple of evenings later, the Irish dancers from Anthony Nolan's School, Limerick, put on a very good Show indoors. M. and Mme. Panis obviously enjoyed it. We were to see the Irish dancers again, when they put on a folklore exhibition in a cottage in Vesden, "village fleuri", and this provided some quiet respite from dancing, 9 a.m. to 1 a.m.

I asked Pierre Panis whether he still dances. "No" he said, "I have so many other things to do." His two books, "Good Eating" and "Sayings and Writings of Pierre Panis", were on sale, 90F and 70F respectively. He is writing still and was busy taking orders for the new book. He sends his kind regards to his English friends. Here is an extract from "Ecrits et Dires de Pierre Panis":-

"Le Branle de Cosnay - populaire en Bas Berry vers la fin du XVII<sup>ème</sup> siècle. En Bas Berry l'appellation "branle" est appliqué un peu "à tort et à travers". Certaines bourrées sont appelées branles sans raison apparentes car elles n'en ont absolument aucune caractéristiques. Le Branle de Cosnay ne comprend pas de pas de bourrée, il se danse en deux fronts.....

"Aéroplane" (à la fin de la guerre de 1914). Les paroles (les seules convenables que j'ai pu recueillir) nous aiderons à comprendre la danse, tout ou moins pour la première partie:

1<sup>ère</sup> partie. "Marie si tu veux  
Nous irons tous les deux  
Dans le grand jardin  
Ceueillir des violettes.

Marie si tu veux  
Nous irons tous les deux  
Dans le grand jardin  
Ceuiller du jasmin."

2<sup>ème</sup> partie. .... en tra-la-la.

L'expression "chanter en tra-la-la-la" est berrichonne. On dit aussi "danser en tra-la-la-la" quand on n'a pas de musiciens et que la mélodie n'a pas de paroles."

We practised this latter on this Course more than we had before, and in one dance in particular, Marcel Glever, our instructor, led the dance singing a line or two, and the dancers then followed, singing a response. It certainly had charm and, of course, its a practice that goes bak to before musical instruments were used for dancing; also reminiscent of childhood days in London where we danced to simple songs, seldom interrupted by a passing horse and cart!

ALAN HOLLAND



S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

POLISH

Monday evenings. Beginners 6.45 to 7.45 p.m. General & Advanced 8 to 10 p.m. Christopher Hatton School, Laystall St., Rosebery Avenue, London E.C.1. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

EUROPEAN NATIONAL

Monday evenings. Beginners 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. (two classes, 15-30s and over-30s) at Willows High School, Central Road, Morden SM4 5SE. Wednesday evenings, Advanced 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Sir Joseph Hood Centre, Whatley Avenue, London SW20 9NS, during term time. Contact: Charles Steventon. Tel: 01 542 3831.

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S.I.F.D. AFFILI GROUPS

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 21, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further details from Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester M16 0BN.

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SIFD Affiliated and Associated Groups/Classes are reminded that if they wish to be listed in SIFD NEWS they must send details direct to the Editor.

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NEWS FROM MERTON PARK

August is normally the "rest" month for us, but this year 22 members of Merton Park went to the Sidmouth Festival and practically took over a hotel there. We wore our folk costumes and danced informally on the Esplanade. We were joined by quite a few SIFD folk, including some of the Estonian Group, Rainmakers, Nutbrook - not forgetting Joan & Jack Richardson - some of whom joined us for the torchlight procession. We all went to different workshops - Dutch, Czech, etc. etc. - and also concerts. I particularly enjoyed the concert of Czech music. It was a busy, friendly and enjoyable week.

Now we are into September and the calendar is really getting full. We have three dance/demonstrations in September, including one for our Mayor, and three in October. One of these is something new for us - the Merton Day Course on 3rd October. Then on 17th October we return somewhat to the festive atmosphere of Sidmouth in that we shall be busking in the streets of Banstead and running a Dance there in the evening (see "What's On").

A piece of good news this year is that the fee for our classes has gone up by only £1, and that out-county people need only pay the same fee as Merton folk, so it's a drop in price for them this year - perhaps someone up there is on our side!

JOY STEVENTON

The fourth book in this very interesting and useful series has just been printed. This volume contains The Development of Anthropological Dance Research by Roderyk Lange, Structure and Substance in Dance by Alan Salter, and Forms and Types of Serbian Folk Dances by Olivera Mladenovic. The latter article is well illustrated with black and white photographs and gives a great deal of detail and information on the various kolos from this region. These books are designed for the serious student of folk dance and are full of useful information. Price £3.85 plus p. & p. Write to Roderyk Lange, Centre for Dance Studies, Les Bois, St. Peter, Jersey, Channel Islands.

ROBERT HARROLD

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THE RAINMAKERS

Having read with interest in SIFD NEWS of the activities of some of the groups, I thought some members might like to know more about Stevenage's International Folk Dancing Club, known as "The Rainmakers".

It was founded on 10th September 1976 by Jill Bransby and four other people who advertised in a local newspaper their intention of starting a club. Twenty-two people responded to this. The drought of that year was still with us and we decided to learn "Mayim, Mayim", an Israeli dance calling for water, and to end every dance evening with it. The first evening was fine when we started but after dancing "Mayim", when we left we found the heavens had opened. When the same thing happened the next week, after another completely dry week, we began to wonder, and a third shower convinced us, so when we chose our name it had to be "The Rainmakers".

Most of the founder members are still with The Rainmakers, and we now have a class of thirty regular attenders, plus others. In some cases, enthusiasm has to make up for agility and skill, but it is a very happy club. Jill teaches us a range of dances, mainly from Europe and Israel (we have 231 dances in our repertoire). We also run Day Courses, ably taken by visiting teachers, including Janet Woolbar and Betty Harvey from the SIFD. A wardrobe of costumes has been built up, mostly home-made but giving as authentic an effect as we can manage. Polish, Israeli, German, Sicilian, Basque, Romanian and Ukrainian costumes are worn for parties and demonstrations.

Though we meet to dance for our own enjoyment, we are frequently asked to put on displays. Many of these invitations are refused for various reasons, but since the club was founded we have given sixty-one demonstrations in costume, mostly for handicapped people, the elderly, United Nations Association, and other local clubs.

We meet every Friday at 8 p.m. in the Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Stevenage Old Town. Any SIFD members and others will be warmly welcomed whenever they can manage to come.

Thank you for this spot of advertising, and for the support of the SIFD.

BETTY LEE

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR, IN WRITING, BY 15TH OCTOBER.

SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, London, N.W.1.

- October 4th M.C. Peter Oakley.  
November 1st A "Woodvale" evening, with Woodvale Group providing M.C.s and a demonstration.

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: 75p for SIFD members, £1 for non-members.

At the Cecil Sharp House Dance on 4th October, Gaye Saunte's Danish Class will be organising a session of Danish dances for the whole of the interval period.

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WHAT'S ON

- Oct. 3rd MERTON DAY COURSE & EVENING DANCE (See page 5)  
Oct. 10th SIFD DAY COURSE CANCELLED (See page 11)  
Oct. 16th BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB presents an evening with Henry Morris, at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet. Enquiries to Janet Heathfield. 01 368 5345.  
Oct. 16th AN EVENING OF INTERNATIONAL DANCES (See page 5)  
Oct. 17th HUNGARIAN AND GENERAL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE DAY COURSE AND EVENING PARTY organised by Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group. Details given last month. Tickets from J. Morral. Tel: Sandiacre 393204.  
Oct. 17th DAY COURSE OF GENERAL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING organised by Rainmakers Group, at Dame Alice Harpur School, Cardington Road (A603), Bedford. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Teacher: Janet Woolbar. Course Fee: £1.50. L quid refreshments & biscuits on sale. Booking details from Mrs. S. Leavy, 10 Orchard Road, Hitchin, Herts. Tel: Hitchin 52502.  
Oct. 17th BANSTEAD ARTS FESTIVAL. International Folk Dance by the Merton Park Folk Dancers 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall (Vallins Hall), The Drive, Banstead, Surrey. M.C. Charles Steventon. Musician: Wilf Horrocks. Tickets: 75p (including refreshments) Tickets must be ordered in advance from Joy Steventon, 01 542 3831.  
Oct. 31st WOODVALE GROUP'S ANNUAL DANCE at Borough Green Village Hall, 7.30 to 11 p.m. Tickets £1.50 (including refreshments) available from any Woodvale member or at the door.

Advance Notice - West Midlands Branch Weekend

The West Midlands Branch is organising a dancing weekend at Knuston Hall, Northamptonshire on the first weekend in October 1982. Further details and booking instructions to follow.