

SIFD News

June 1984



Marburg region, Hessen, W. Germany

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery, 33 Thornton Crescent, Old Coulsdon, Surrey.
Tel: Downland (71) 54377.

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

*

*

This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas and shows costumes from Marburg Region, Hessen, West Germany. Thanks are due to Dennis Belford of Edinburgh who sent Caroline a photograph and descriptive details of the costumes.

*

*

CHAIRMAN: Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, London, SW19. Tel: 01 542 3831.

SECRETARY: Joan Rackham, 16 Bathurst Avenue, London, SW19. Tel: 01 543 1891.

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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: 10 Benyon Court, Balnes Road, London, N1.

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 SIFD by Frank Flanagan. His address is: 124 Fairbridge Road, Upper Holloway, London, N19. 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 Audrey Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts.

*

*

SIFD T-shirts, small, medium and large, available at £2.50 each (while stocks last) from Kay Leighton - address above. New design T-shirts £2.70 (£3 by post), available in small, medium, large and extra-large sizes.

Car stickers available from Judith Holloway (address above) 30p each. Please send s.a.e. 4" square.

*

*

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

TOM BREVEFOR

Members who knew him will be sorry to hear of the death of Tom Brevefor, after a long illness. We have known Tom for many years, first meeting when we used to go walking together with the Y.H.A. Central London Group. We then became interested in folk dancing and visited Cecil Sharp House for the E.F.D.S.S. Saturday evening dances, and the S.I.F.D. Sunday dances, usually after a walking weekend. Although latterly Tom was not able to participate very much in the dancing activities, he was wellknown throughout the Society, having been a member for a great number of years. He was an active member of Dr. "Pug" Cyriax's Swedish class, and for many years a faithful member of Margery Latham's and Janet Woolbar's Wednesday class. Over the years he took part in various demonstrations; he was always conscientious, reliable and very helpful; it was a pleasure to be his partner. The S.I.F.D. played a big part in his life and he regarded it with great affection and esteem. We send our condolences to his wife, Gladys, on her sad loss.

IRENE KEYWOOD, JEAN MARSHALL, KATH FRENCH

* * * * *

DIRECTORY OF FOLK FESTIVALS

Michael Ridout has been compiling a list of folk festivals in Europe, to issue in the form of a Directory. The Directory will not be completed until some time next year but Michael has issued a summary of information gleaned so far. Instead of printing the summary as part of this month's NEWS, we are enclosing it as a separate item so that members can keep it for reference. A lot of work has gone into the preparation of this summary, and we hope it will prove useful to members visiting Europe. As the summary is rather thick, and also because it has involved extra work for our "staff" - typist, printer, collator etc. - we are sending out a thinner SIFD NEWS this month. ED. ~~Sorry! Even with the thinner NEWS they won't fit into the envelopes. The rest of the summary will have to be enclosed next month.~~

* * * * *

DANCE TUITION - WEEKEND AWAY - 22ND/24TH MARCH 1985
MARYLAND COLLEGE, WOBURN, BEDFORDSHIRE

Postal Address: Maryland College, Woburn, Milton Keynes, MK17 9JD. Tel: Woburn 688

The weekend will be part of next year's programme of weekend courses at Maryland College and the SIFD programme of weekends away. There will be an emphasis on dance tuition during the day and, as part of the college programme, the weekend will be open to non-members. Both beginners and experienced dancers will be welcome. The teachers will be Joan Guest and Janet Woolbar, with Caroline Thomas as musician. There will be dancing each evening.

Maryland College has good access to the Midlands and London by both road and rail, being sited close to the M.1 and with access to British Rail stations Leighton Buzzard (bus), Bletchley (taxi) and Bedford (bus). Woburn Abbey and Safari Park are nearby. The college has a good room for dancing and the accommodation is in single and double rooms with washbasins. There is a bar. The current cost of a weekend at Maryland is £42.50 with a reduction for anyone living in Bedfordshire. The cost for next year should be known by the end of June.

Booking: Forms are available from me, now, in advance of publication of the college programme in July. Bookings are direct to the college with a deposit of £5.

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

WANTED - Pictures of dancers

One of our members has a daughter who is a Brownie and who has to compile a scrap-book of pictures of as many different types of dancing as possible. If anyone has suitable pictures they can spare, would they please send them to Gail Catterick, The Chappell Croft, 33 Christchurch Road, Worthing, West Sussex, who would be very pleased to have them, to help her obtain her Brownie "Dancing Badge".



S.I.F.D. MALLORCAN DAY COURSE, SATURDAY, 9TH JUNE

As announced last month, our SIFD Day Course this month will be Mallorcan. Kelsey Blundell and Charles Steventon will be teaching some of the dances from the last Swansea Summer School, and the following is the order of the dances they plan to teach, time permitting:-

Jota Redonda
Jota Antigua
Bolero Mallorquin
Parado de Valdemosa
Copeo Matanse

Either soft shoes or "national character" shoes can be worn. Please bring castanets if you have them. There will not be time for a lengthy practice of these, but you can pick up some hints for further practice at home.

Members at the Swansea Course will recall that Jaime was always trying to teach dances that were not included in the pre-recorded cassette. He managed to teach one of these (Jota Redonda) before we could stop him and this dance proved to be very popular and is also very suitable for general dancing. We are therefore keeping it in the repertoire, and an opportunity will be given during the Day Course for those attending to take a copy of the recording for this dance if they wish. The other dances are all included on the "Swansea" tape, and copies can be ordered on the day, at a cost of £3.50.

Some members may already know a version of "Parado de Valdemosa". The dance taught by Jaime Beltran has the same format of three dancers, and the chorus figure is the same, but the three verse figures are different. It lacks much of the symbolism and ritualistic quality of the earlier version, but Jaime assured us that his was the way the dance is performed in Mallorca and that during his 60 years of dancing he has known no other. We feel justified, therefore, in including it in our programme since, although on the difficult side, it proved popular at the Swansea Course and has been requested by several people.

Much, of course, will depend on the time element and it is possible that we may not have time to learn all five dances in one day. Kelsey and Steve intend to follow the above order of dances but are prepared to be a little flexible if there are very strong objections and/or requests.

Date: SATURDAY, 9TH JUNE 1984
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Place: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London, NW1.
Fee: £3 for SIFD members, £4 for non-members.
Tutors: Kelsey Blundell and Charles Steventon.

Refreshments available, including lunches.

* * * * *

If the kind lady who lent me a pair of turquoise woollie mittens would care to give me a ring, I will send them back to her. SUE LAMB (Bristol 673104)

MAORI DAY COURSE

As Frances Horrocks so aptly put it at the end of the SIFD Day Course of Maori Dances, it was a day of "Elegance and Poise" - although some of us were less than elegant when it came to manipulating those soft balls attached to a string.

It was a delightfully relaxing day of Stick Games, Poi Dances and Action Songs.

Stick Games used to be practised by young Maori warriors to improve their dexterity, alertness and rhythm - and we found that these qualities were certainly needed to keep up the movements of juggling with the sticks, and throwing and catching with a partner opposite, in time to the music. Tough knees are also required as some of these Stick Games are performed kneeling the whole time.

The Action Songs are posture dances in which a story is told in actions and words. Popular themes are Welcome and Farewell, as well as commemoration of great occasions.

In contrast to the Action Love Song we learned, we were also schooled in the more warlike Haka - a traditional posture dance. Although it is thought of by many people as a war dance, and it certainly looks like one when performed with wild gestures, rolling of eyes and poking out of tongues, it is also a dance of Welcome.

Then we came to the Poi, and discovered just how difficult it is to keep control of one poi and manipulate it to go where you want it to - let alone two, going in different directions! We had a lot of fun tying ourselves up in knots and learning Figures of Eight, Sideways Movements, Verticle Circles, etc. To do all this and swing your hips and remember to sing at the same time must be quite a feat!

I should like to thank Frances Horrocks very much for finding someone to teach us Maori dancing. We on the Badge/Day-Course Sub-Committee work hard to keep the Day Courses going, and to make them interesting, but most of the work done in finding outside teachers is done by Frances. It is easy to suggest countries, but finding teachers and arranging for them to come to us is much more difficult and takes up a lot of Frances' time.

It was particularly good to go outside Europe for a change, for a completely different type of dancing as, although we pride ourselves on being "international", we are really mostly European. So I feel we have really trodden new ground with our brief taste of the Antipodes.

LILY AVERY

* * * * *

SAFARI THROUGH THE COTSWOLDS

On Sunday, 1st July 1984, The West Midlands Branch of the SIFD have arranged a Safari through the Cotswolds. We would be very pleased to welcome all our friends to join in the dancing. There will be live music, so bring your musical instruments with you to join in the Band. The programme is as follows:-

10.30 a.m. Coffee at Bidford on Avon
1.00 p.m. Lunch at Broadway
4.00 p.m. Tea at Chipping Campden

Please bring picnic Lunch and Tea. There are plenty of pubs for Lunches if required. En route, we will be collecting for the British Kidney Patients' Appeal. Any further information from Mrs J. Mackintosh 021 777 4300.

* * * * *

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Will Green's new address is: 202 Dunkery Road, Mottingham, London, SE9.
Tel: 01 851 7420

Dear Editor,

I and my friends went to the Eastbourne Folk Festival and on the first night bought a Programme which gave details of all attractions, visiting teams, and workshop leaders. There was a great deal written about the EFDSS; there was not one mention of the SIFD!

If we are unable to "advertise" in the programme - a sure way of attracting interest and new members - can we not produce an Information Sheet? This could include:-

- 1) A short history and aims of the Society.
- 2) Names of the workshop leaders with short biographies.
- 3) Probable dances to be taught and any notes the leaders might think interesting or useful.
- 4) Society events that have been advertised already in the NEWS, in which others might be interested.
- 5) Events at Eastbourne in which the Society is involved.

This type of information could be produced on the NEWS system and be made available at the Festival.

Since this is one festival in which the SIFD takes a major part, can we not take an initiative in making the effort to attract those badly sought new members?

Yours faithfully,

TINA MEECH,

75 Revelstoke Road,
Wimbledon Park, SW18

ED. NOTE: This letter has been passed to the Committee for their attention.

* * * * *

THOUGHTS ON A WET AFTERNOON

Here we are, all ready and waiting with some excitement to be taught some folk dancing. What is it all about? Well, we have some idea, of course, Jo Bloggski is the expert. He knows all about it and is going to teach us what the peasants in some country do when they have a party, or a harvest festival, or, or

Clever Jo Bloggski, here he comes. I say, he does not look much like a peasant. Quite goodlooking in fact. Intellectual face - must be a good teacher; well-dressed, well-fed; looks as if he could understand a joke. A bit heavy - still, he isn't a chicken any more. Big flashy car - bet he does not walk more than he has to.

Oh, I loved the first dance. Jo is such an elegant dancer. Whatever he does looks good. I don't know why he bothers to teach folkdancing; he would look all right in any ballroom or even on the stage. Such grace, and when he tells you how to move or where to put your hands, you feel sure that he must be just right. Such air of confidence

Trouble is, I can't quite do the dance exactly as he says. Not much difference, mind you. Nothing you could put your finger on. The steps are the same, the style, everything in fact. Even Jo could not fault me and yet, when we danced together, it didn't have quite the right magic about it. Shame!, and I have always been considered such a good dancer by everyone. I've got all the certificates to prove it. Not that I didn't understand his instructions, you see, it is just something very small.

Never mind, I think I am doing the dances as well as or better than anybody else in the class - which is just as well because I shall have to teach them in my own class next week. It will not be quite the same but then, I am not Jo. In fact, from that film I saw on television the other day I think that my style is a little bit closer to the peasant style. Stands to reason, my dad was a farmer, and I still spend my holidays on the farm. If only I could have Jo's elegance though

URI GERSON

SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1

June 3rd M.C. Fiona Howarth

July 1st Musicians' Choice - C.H.S. Band

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: £1.80 for SIFD members, £2.30 for non-members.

* * * * *

WHAT'S ON

June 2nd DOINA DANCE GROUP are organising a SUMMER PARTY at Stanhope Theatre, Central Institute, Longford Street, London, NW1. 7.30 to 11 p.m. East European dancing and refreshments. Tickets £2.50 from Bob Cole, 38 Shirlock Road, Hampstead, NW3. (Please send s.a.e.) Enquiries to Victoria Solt, 01 742 1465 (evenings).

June 7th to 9th ANCESTRAL VOICES: MUSIC FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH. Five folk musicians, who have never before left the Himalayan region, will sing and perform dances, at the Arts Centre Theatre, Commonwealth Institute. 7.45 pm. Admission £4 (Students, the unwaged and Senior Citizens £2.50.) A supporting programme of workshops and talks is scheduled.

June 8th VIVA ESPANA. A programme of regional, classical and flamenco dance and music. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. 7.45 p.m. Tickets £2.50 to £6.50

June 9th SIFD MALLORCAN DAY COURSE. See page 4.

June 22nd THE TURKISH FOLK DANCE GROUP will be performing and teaching (Tutor: Adnan Kurtulis) at Barnet International Folk Dance Club at 8 p.m.

June 22nd/24th WEEKEND AT STAFFORD HOUSE, HASSOCKS, SUSSEX

June 24th AN EVENING OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING with Liz Mellish at Harrow Folk Dance Group, 7 to 10 p.m. at Harrow Arts Centre (opposite Harrow Weald Bus Garage), 356 High Road, Harrow Weald, Harrow.

June 25th BULGARIAN STATE DANCE COMPANY - "VARNA". Fairfield Hall, Croydon, 8 p.m. Tickets £3.50 to £4.50.

June 26th to 30th BULGARIAN STATE DANCE COMPANY - "VARNA". Holland Park Open Air Theatre, London, 7.30 p.m. (Saturday Matinee 2.30 p.m.) Admission £2 (Children under 16, full-time students, unemployed and OAPS 50p).

This group is also appearing at Malvern, Bristol and Ramsgate as well as at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

* * * * *

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

INTERDANCE Group, Worthing, are planning to hold the following Day Courses:-

Sept. 30th 1984	POLISH, Tutor - Joan Guest
Oct. 28th 1984	ISRAELI, Tutor - Uri Gerson
Nov. 25th 1984	HUNGARIAN & CZECH, Tutor - Janet Woolbar
Dec. 16th 1984	GREEK, Tutor - Natassa Drossou
Jan. 20th 1985	SPANISH & PORTUGUESE, Tutor - Kelsey Blundell
Feb. 3rd 1985	AMERICAN SQUARES, Tutor - Gordon Brooks
Mar. 17th 1985	SCANDINAVIAN, Tutor - Janet Woolbar
Apr. 28th 1985	To be confirmed
May, 19th 1985	CHALLENGE/ADVANCED DANCES, Tutor - Frances Horrocks
June, 23rd 1985	Not yet decided

Full details nearer each date.

* * * * *

ALL MATERIAL FOR THE JULY ISSUE MUST BE RECEIVED
BY THE EDITOR, IN WRITING, BY 15TH JUNE