

# SIFD NEWS

## JULY 1985



Costume from Drágszél, Hungary.

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Tel: Downland 54377

The typing this month was done by Hazel Cheal. The printing was done by ILEA, and the packaging and posting was done by Doug Wells.

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This month's cover is by Rachel Novak and shows boys' costumes from Hungary.

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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, N19. 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  
Audrey Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts.

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

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

## ENCLOSURES

From time to time, members (both individuals and groups) have notices which they wish to be included in the envelope with SIFD NEWS. Sometimes these are sent direct to Doug Wells, without asking the Editor or the Committee.

Would members please note that while we are usually willing and able to help, this is not an automatic free service, particularly when it involves extra printing, purchase of stencils and extra paper etc., and also the difficult task of sometimes having to stuff more than one extra sheet in the envelope. Anyone wishing to send out enclosures should first contact the Editor.

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## JOAN WOOD

Members will be sorry to hear of the death on 16th May of Joan Wood, one of the founder members of the Merton Park Group. Joan and her husband, Hugh, were stalwart loyal members in those early days and took part in most of the Group demonstrations. Later, Joan helped Hugh to run a Beginners' Class at Merton. Among her other activities, Joan also found time to act in and support the local amateur theatrical group, the Parish Players. Her unflinching calmness and good humour were great assets in all these pursuits. She will be sadly missed by her many friends in the Society and elsewhere.

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## BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY AWARD

On 18th May we held the Silver Badge Examination for the above award for dances from the following countries: France, Italy, Israel, Serbia and Poland.

For the French we had 8 candidates. The overall standard was quite good - in some cases very good - and we were pleased to award the Silver Badge to 7 of the candidates.

For Italian there were four candidates and we were very pleased that they all passed. The style was lively and the standard good. The item was a pleasure to watch.

The Israeli was a little disappointing and the standard not as high as the judges would have liked. Nevertheless all five candidates were given a pass, but with reservations and a little advice on how to polish up their steps.

For Serbia, there were three entries, only one of whom passed. The style is rather difficult to show in such a short line of three, but the one member who passed danced very well, and we hope the other two will not be discouraged.

There was just one entry for the Polish badge, so the judges just had one couple to watch. It was a smooth and competent performance, very pleasant to watch, and there was no hesitation in awarding a pass to the one brave candidate.

We were very pleased to be able to award a Silver Badge to the youngest candidate so far - Marion Long, aged 11, and also to congratulate David Rackham on achieving his fifth Silver Badge, and therefore the Gold.

Many thanks to all the organizers, judges, helpers and candidates for all their hard work, and of course to Wilf Horrocks, our musician. The Silver Badge examinations are certainly a very worthwhile project and over the years the standard of dancing has improved enormously.

LILY AVERY

We apologize in advance if this issue of SIFD NEWS reaches you later than usual. Please bear with us in our "experimental period" of trying to improve the system.

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ED.

### THE QUESTIONNAIRE

I see that I have not reported on the Questionnaire since last December, which just goes to show how time flies and how other demands on one's time can sweep away one's good intentions. To continue:-

Many members have expressed their satisfaction with Day Courses, holiday courses with the Holiday Fellowship and Countrywide Holidays Association, weekends away, courses at the Earnley Concourse, and the Swansea Summer School. Beginners' Dances are also praised. However, there is a demand from some members for an increase in courses outside London, and the cost and difficulty of getting to London is mentioned. One member would like SIFD teachers to visit groups and take classes as a guest teacher. The discontinued courses at Falmer come in for special mention, and an annual Summer School has been asked for. It has been requested that teachers from abroad visit the provinces as well as London. Apart from teachers, there is a suggestion that Committee members visit groups to talk about the Society.

On a different point, it has been asked why there is not closer contact with ethnic dance groups. There is also a suggestion that we should have a thinner membership card similar to a credit card in size, shape and thickness.

In view of the criticism at the A.G.M. that my own views appear in my analysis of the Questionnaire, I shall let others explain that Society teachers do visit groups by invitation; that Committee members are currently in the process of visiting groups; that there is an international folkdance group near Eastbourne which if expanded could possibly resuscitate the Falmer course; that there is also regular international folkdancing in Cambridge for the Cambridge member who can only get to London occasionally; and that the Ukrainian Dancers at this year's Eastbourne Festival are an example of an ethnic group who ought to be at least known to the Society.

DAVID RACKHAM

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### SUNDAY SOCIAL DANCES AT HAMPSTEAD

The problem of an alternative and cheaper venue for folk dance activities in London has been on my mind for some time, and as a result I have now booked two dates at the Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Road (very near the Underground Station), from 7 to 9.30 p.m. on Sundays, July 21st and September 22nd. The hall was obtained through the good offices of Mrs. Lucile Armstrong and Juanita, and the dances will follow on from their Spanish and Portuguese classes in the afternoon in the same hall.

These events are experimental and, for the time being, are a personal project by myself. Their success will depend on the support of SIFD Members, and the format of the evening will be largely to suit the wishes of the dancers. It is expected that dancing will be to tapes, although I shall try for 'live' music if possible. Also, there will be some teaching, probably between 7 and 7.45 p.m.; generally it is intended to be an informal evening, filling the gap between the members' and beginners' dances at Cecil Sharp House. It is hoped to attract some local residents, who can be encouraged to join the Society and the Central London general and specialist classes. Admission will be around £1.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Editor,

Following a marvellous weekend at Eastbourne Folk Festival, I should like to record a special appreciation of the very happy sessions of international dance run by Karim, from Holland. Further, thanks to Roy le Croisette, we had our own "private" dance in a small room on the Sunday evening, with help and guidance from several stalwarts, particularly Tina Meech who played so well for us. Roy is battling hard for International dance in Eastbourne.

Yours truly,

JACK CHADWICK  
81 Elmhurst Drive, Hornchurch.

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Dear Lily,

At the beginning of May, Rod, Anna and I spent a very enjoyable weekend at a folk camp in Gt. Alne, near Alcester, and feel we would like to share a little of our experiences there.

The people who came to the folk camp were of varying ages and during the weekend many showed that they had numerous talents - some were dancers, some musicians, some were great with the children, etc. etc. Most were only used to English folk (music and dance) but wanted to sample some international dances and music, which they did and appeared to enjoy.

During the mornings there were two music workshops. The first was basically English folk music and the second was International. Each morning there were between 12 and 20 musicians, of varying ability, playing together, and the sound was great. Even "beginner" musicians and "percussion" players gained lots of confidence playing with such a large band. Most people can bang a drum or shake a tambourine in time with the music.

I know the Swansea Summer School is basically for dance, but I do know several people who are going and who are quite musically talented, and others who like to have a "dabble" on the music side, especially when they are very tired after dancing. I hope these people and many others who play instruments will take them to Swansea and have the occasional music workshops or get-togethers, and perhaps play sometimes during the evening dances. There are many people who will hide their light under a bushel unless encouraged, and have a great deal of talent to share and to bring alive dances which if only played by one or two musicians seem very dead.

Folk Camps are, by the way, a cheap way to enjoy folk music and dance, and people, if you are prepared to put a little in yourself. You don't notice the weather if you've got a Village Hall to escape to, and kind people who make soup, sausage baps, baked potatoes etc. for you, to save slaving away over a camp cooker - a meal can take you half the day when your camping equipment is as primitive as ours!

An International Folk Camp might be a way of encouraging younger people in this country to participate in international folk dancing (and all those young at heart!)

Have an interesting and enjoyable summer ~~wherever~~ or whatever you may be doing.

BARBARA PERKINS  
30 Knighton Road,  
Northfield, Birmingham.

P.S. Musically, I am one who can only bang a tambourine but enjoy the opportunity to "have a go".



Dear Lily,

As I was very annoyed about the lack of coverage by television of our part in the CCPR Show I wrote (1) to the television company who made the film of the Royal Albert Hall Show and (2) to the man who gave the brush-off to Steve when he appeared on our behalf on the "Right to Reply" programme. Below are copies of my letters and the replies I received. They are of interest, I feel, in that they tell us everything but nothing. I know that other members of the SIFD have written to Channel 4 and I wonder how the replies to my letters compare with theirs?

WILF HORROCKS  
53 Southway,  
Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

To the Manager, Independent Film Production Associates:

"Dear Sir,

Today, on Channel 4 T.V., I saw the programme "covering" the Central Council of Physical Recreation's Festival of Movement and Dance which took place at the Royal Albert Hall last month, and which I had the pleasure to attend.

Why did not your programme show all the groups who actually took part at the Albert Hall? Whoever selected what was to be shown on television was not very fair. Some groups had a large slice of the action, some had very little and some had nothing at all. You did not show much of the folk dancing. Why did you not, for example, show the European dances by the Society for International Folk Dancing? In my view, and apparently in that of many of the audience, judging by some very complimentary remarks I heard, that particular group was one of the most interesting, with their cheerful music, their colourful folk costumes from many countries and lively dancing.

One person in the audience was heard to say about these folk dancers, "Wonderful! How much nicer than all those heaving boobs and bottoms in leotards". Perhaps that was the answer; perhaps it was the latter that the television cameras preferred - or can you give me another reason?

Yours in anticipation,

W.J.L. HORROCKS

"Dear Mr. Horrocks,

Thank you for your letter of 19th May.

I'm not aware that our cameras preferred "heaving boobs and bottoms in leotards" - and I was the producer!

Basically, I recall, the item by SIFD was not included because we felt we had covered the folk dancing part of the festival adequately. Had we included the SIFD item and not included the EFDSS item we would be getting letters of complaint from them. In other words, you can't win.....

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES THOMPSON  
INDEPENDENT FILM PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES

Contd.....

"Dear Adrian Metcalfe,

While viewing "Right to Reply" tonight, I was interested in the query raised concerning the reason why a folkdance group was not included in a Channel 4 programme of Movement & Dance even though the group took part in the original display at the Royal Albert Hall.

I was even more interested in your answer. You may have the "right to reply" but I consider that the reply you did give was childish and, together with your condescending manner, sounded downright rude. Personally, I feel that those folk-dancers should receive an apology for this. They won't get one, of course, but perhaps instead you could tell them the real reason why they were omitted from the performance.

Yours truly,  
W. HORROCKS

"Dear W. Horrocks,

My reply was edited by the producers of the programme to fit the time available - as were the performances at the Albert Hall. If I am so condescending, please tell me why I was so eager to cover the Festival in the first place when no other television channel would?

Yours sincerely,  
ADRIAN METCALFE  
Editor - Sport, Channel 4 T.V.

Dear Lily,

The most important point arising from recent letters is that we need to attract more young people to the SIFD. I doubt that they can all be put off on financial grounds (though some - and O.A.P.s - may well be). More likely they just don't know we exist. Last month Rachel Novak thanked the SIFD "for opening our eyes to a world of dance that we previously didn't know existed".

Lately, I have been limited to "minimum participation" - sitting at home reading the SIFD NEWS (for which many thanks to all who produce and distribute it). But in almost 20 years of membership I have seldom danced at Cecil Sharp House because of distance. Saturday courses were possible, but even so I spent more time (and money) travelling than actually dancing.

It is sad that the lady who wrote from Bristol cannot afford to go to Swansea, but at least she will be able to learn the dances later from other members of her group. She is fortunate to have classes and even day courses locally. The Summer Schools are a wonderful experience and great fun, but Oh! the frustration felt by us isolated country members on returning home, wondering if or when we would be able to do those dances again.

A pen-friend writing enthusiastically last year how much he had enjoyed a week of international dancing led by Philip Lloyd at C.H.A. Whitby said that if there were a local group (Durham) he would join the SIFD. More local groups in different areas are needed, but I do appreciate the difficulties. I have tried in vain to interest people here (Sheerness/Sheppey). When teaching I sometimes include a few simple European or Israeli dances but with limited success. Children say, "Miss, can't we do pop, disco, go-go (according to the current craze) dancing?". There is no continuity for those few interested, as folk dancing on Sheppey consists of a tiny group of middle-aged and elderly people who dance Scottish, and a small group of ladies, mostly elderly, who dance English. No incentive for young people there; they go to discos.

Contd.....

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Young people are influenced by what they see on television. Is there any possibility of publicising ourselves in that way? What about Susan Tupper's idea of a marathon dance, maybe combined with next year's London Marathon?

Certainly we need to expand or, as Will Green says, the SIFD will fizzle out. A Society which gives (and has given over the years) so much pleasure to so many is well worthwhile.

Best wishes to all friends,

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

Nice to hear from you again, Liz. ED.

Dear SIFD,

I must admit to being related to one of your musicians; further, I have some little knowledge of the musical theatre. I was therefore a reluctant (and curious) member of the audience on 20th April at the CCPR at the Royal Albert Hall.

Bearing in mind the scale of the venture, I went as a sceptic and left a most enthusiastic fan. It was a splendid well-organised evening all round. The SIFD item was particularly good - well-produced, interesting selection of music/dances, all well executed. If any of you have any doubts as to the worth of the venture, these should be dispelled. It was a super venture and was a first-class advertisement for the SIFD.

ARTHUR C. MEECH  
75 Revelstoke Road  
Wimbledon Park, S.W.18

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FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN 8 AND 12 YEARS OLD, Frances Horrocks will be running a three-session course of International Folk Dance at Horniman Museum, London, on 6th, 7th and 8th August from 10.30 to 12.30. Fee £2. Children are asked to wear plimsolls or "trainers".

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Extra "What's On" items (no room on page 13):-

July 23rd to 27th SANSKRITIK - Festival of Arts of India, including songs, music, dance and drums in classical, traditional and folk styles. 7.15 p.m. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. Tickets £2.75 to £5.75. Details of programmes from Sanskriti Centre of Indian Arts, 17 Holdenhurst Ave., London N12 (please send s.a.e.)

July 24th to 28th MALLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK GATHERING IN IRELAND. Details from the Secretary: Margot Wilson, "Ackworth", Navigation Road, Mallow, Co.Cork. Tel: (022) 22015.



## THE LONG TERM FUTURE OF THE SIFD

At the last A.G.M. a motion was passed to "Form a sub-Committee to consider the long-term future of the SIFD and how it can best be organized to achieve its ends". This sub-Committee is now in existence and includes Ed Whiteley, Will Green, George Sweetland, David Rackham and myself.

One of the first minor hurdles to efficient operation of our sub-Committee (I will call it L.T.F. for short) was the following: We are not dealing with hard facts. The long-term future of the Society is a matter of taste (even the need for larger membership can be argued for or against, depending on your personality). Once we decide what the membership wants, we have to recommend ways of achieving it. This too is a matter of opinion, and though it is easy to criticise the present organization it is more difficult to suggest alternatives, or to say with any degree of certainty that these alternatives will work.

It follows that it is pointless for the L.T.F. to argue points at length, or even to insist on presenting a majority report at the end. Instead, we are going to try to talk to as many members as possible, both in London and "far away places". Our first objective is to gather opinions. I know there has been a Questionnaire, but what we need is not answers to questions someone else has thought of. We want your own problems, big or small, and good points too! Many people have already been approached, and though it is early to summarise, it is interesting to have a glimpse at what has been said. Criticism includes not only the structure but the Constitution itself (indirectly). The objects of the Society are stated to be, "preserving folk dances, encourage the practice, promote knowledge etc. etc.". The word "fun" is not even mentioned. To many people, the reason for dancing is fun, and if we are to "encourage the practice of folk dancing" we must surely try to make it look like fun.

A major structural feature has caused a lot of talk recently; the distinction between Affiliated group, Associated class, and Branch, is not understood by some people and others find it irrelevant. Connected with this is the question of teachers' badges. An Associated class must have an SIFD approved teacher, and we might lose some Associated classes because approved teachers are retiring and new ones either cannot or will not take the badge examination. If we do lose them, the loss will be ours - not theirs.

Communication between the various constituents of the Society is another major area of concern, e.g. communication (or lack of it) between the centre and the various clubs, and the lack of communication between the SIFD and other bodies, and in particular similar organizations abroad.

The above is just a sample of what has been said, and much abbreviated at that. If you have any thoughts, please contact me or any other L.T.F. member. We will be most grateful.

URI GERSON

14 Curlew Close, Downley,  
High Wycombe, Bucks.

Tel: High Wycombe 23434.

ED. NOTE: I would like to make one comment/correction. Uri says that Associated Classes must have an SIFD approved teacher. This is correct. But he implies that the teacher must take the badge examination. This is not necessarily so.

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

SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL, 28TH JULY TO 4TH AUGUST 1985

The final list of teachers on the Course will be as follows:

Olivera Vasic	Serbian
Garry Karner	Turkish and Transylvanian
Victors Grigulis	Latvian
Aili Eistrat	Estonian
Ballarini Raffaella	Italian
Simon Guest with specialist teachers	General International

Enrolments now exceed 120 and it is necessary to close bookings. Further names can be accepted only for the Waiting List.

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WANTED - SOUTH LANCASHIRE FOLK DANCERS!

Are there any SIFD members in the Wigan/South Lancs. area, just waiting for a chance to join a local group? I have been up here in the North West for two years now; during this time I have been able to dance weekly with the Barlow Group in Manchester, and occasionally this last season with the LOIDIS Group in Leeds. This has been most enjoyable, but does involve at the very least a round trip of some 50 miles (only possible with the excellent motorway links). It would be splendid to be able to start a local group, so I'm using the NEWS to canvass for 'homeless' SIFD dancers in the area.

As a way of introducing the activity to newcomers, I've been asked to start a Balkan dance class for the local Education Evening Programme, in September. If anyone is interested, please contact me at the address below. I shall also be at Swansea in July.

JULIE KORTH  
88 Chorley Road, Standish,  
Nr. Wigan. WN1 2SX  
(Tel: 0257 421554)

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"SELECTION OF EUROPEAN FOLK DANCING" - BOOK 3 (Revised Edition)

After nearly two years' work, the revised edition of our best-seller, Book 3, will appear in mid-July. The dances have been carefully checked, and amended if necessary, and the music has also come under close scrutiny. Our grateful thanks are due to Lucile Armstrong, Aili Eistrat, Simon Guest, Wilf Horrocks, Fiona Howarth, Joan and Jack Richardson, Charles Steventon and Caroline Thomas for all their painstaking work.

As 1,000 books will soon be landing on my doorstep, storage will be quite a problem. I am therefore proposing a special offer to members - £1.50 for a brand-new, up-to-date Book 3 (plus 40p postage and packing). Prices are bound to rise in the foreseeable future, so get your copy NOW!

The next book to be revised will be Book 2. If you have any points you would like to be considered (re Bourree Poursuite or Sicilian Tarantella, for instance), please let me know before the end of the year.

AUDREY WHITELEY  
(Address on page 2).

BULGARIAN TEACHER

Miss Sasha Alexandrova from Sofia will be teaching Bulgarian Folk Dancing at the dates and places shown below. Her visit has been organized and sponsored by the British-Bulgarian Friendship Society.

Friday 5th July 8 to 10 p.m. at Barnet International Folkdance Club  
(Brian Dowsett, 0922 52717)

Sunday 7th July 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at IBMs Hursley Dance Group at Hursley School. (Jackie Hodges, Eastleigh 610 053)

Tuesday 9th July 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. at Doina Dance Group (Alan McLean, 01 422 6498)

Thursday 11th July 8 to 10 p.m. at Oxford Balkan Group (Gill Loveday, (0865 58482)

Friday 12th July 8 to 10 p.m. at Barnet International Folkdance Club  
(Brian Dowsett, 0922 52717)

Saturday 13th July 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. SIFD DAY COURSE. See below.

For further details, contact the group representatives or Cathy Meunier, 01 527 6232.

For information about the British-Bulgarian Friendship Society, contact Mrs. Dutton (Secretary), 69 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0NY (Tel: 01 359 0507).

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SIFD BULGARIAN DAY COURSE

SATURDAY, 13TH JULY 1985

Place: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.  
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
Tutor: Sasha Alexandrova, from Sofia  
Cost: SIFD members £3. Non-members £4.

Refreshments, including lunches, are available from Cecil Sharp House Canteen.

We haven't any details of which dances Sasha Alexandrova will be teaching, but they will probably be new to our repertoire. We suggest you bring a strong leather belt as quite a lot of Bulgarian dances have a belt hold.

There will be no SIFD Day Course in August. The Day Courses for September, October, November and December will be "follow-ups" to the Swansea Summer School, depending on the availability of each teacher.

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INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING WITH THE HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

This year, Charles and Joy Steventon are teaching General International Folk Dancing at the Holiday Fellowship Centre at Scarborough from 30th August to 7th September. Music by Wilf Horrocks. Details are given in the "Hobby Holidays" brochure obtainable from H.F. Holidays Ltd., 142-144 Great North Way, London NW4 1EG. Tel: 01 203 3381.

CCPR GOLDEN JUBILEE

I was very disappointed that our item was not included in the television programme. However, it does not detract from the performance on the day, which the 'live' audience enjoyed. We must remember that it was the live show that counted and not the taste of the television producer. The following is an excerpt from a letter to the SIFD from Peter Lawson, General Secretary of the CCPR: "I know that you must have been very disappointed that the subsequent television programme did not broadcast your particular item, and of course the CCPR shares the distress, but I am sure you will understand that when it comes to film-making and television, the executives concerned always retain absolute editorial control and there was nothing we could do about it. This setback apart, the whole of my organisation are enormously impressed with what was achieved, and I would like to take this opportunity to say a very sincere thank you for making our fiftieth anniversary such a happy occasion. I don't think Channel 4's editing should take away our satisfaction of a job well done."

JILL BRANSBY

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WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP, VISIT TO CHALONS-SUR-MARNE, FRANCE.  
17th to 20th May 1985

Woodvale has been twinned with the Association Folklorique Chaalonaise since 1974 and we have had regular exchange visits until 1977, when it became too much for our small group. Despite this, we have kept in touch, and this year we were invited to take part in their 15th Anniversary celebrations.

When we arrived in Chalons we found that it was also the 7th International Arts Festival and so there were also groups from Holland, Ireland, Bulgaria, Austria and other regions of France (Bourgogne, Lorraine, Auvergne). Our group consisted of 12 dancers (5 of whom are under 17), a borrowed musician (Tina Meech kindly agreed to play for us), two "old members" and a "mascot" (Alison's Mum). It was very useful having live music even though the first chance we had to practise dancing to Tina's playing was just before our first display!

We travelled to France by coach, leaving Borough Green at 7.15 a.m. on the Friday and arriving in Chalons at 6 p.m. We were put up with families - actually they put up with us, as we couldn't speak much French and they spoke little English, but we muddled through, using that great international language - sign language.

We had a very packed programme arranged for us. A concert of Hurdy Gurdy playing on the Friday evening, a visit to the Mercier Champagne cellars on Saturday morning, a procession through the town, and a display in front of the Mayor - with an exchange of presents - on Saturday afternoon, and a "mammoth" display by all the groups on Sunday, lasting from 3 p.m. until after 8 p.m. Saturday evening and Sunday morning were free to spend with the families.

This was quite a hectic schedule, yet despite this we still had enough energy left to dance in the car park at Calais for an hour whilst waiting for our ferry - much to the bemusement of people coming off the ferries. It was a great weekend, and it was so nice to see all the other groups and their costumes; the host families were very good to us, and my French has improved no end! Also, I must say a special thank you to Tina for playing for us.

A bientot,  
DAVID MCKIE  
(Monsieur le President de Woodvale).

ED. NOTE: It is very nice to read of interchange visits such as this, which, I feel, are more in keeping with the aims of our Society than some of our other activities, which tend to be conducted more "in isolation". It would be nice if more of our dancers could make similar trips.

SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.

July 7th M.C. Eleanor Oakley (please note change of M.C)

7 to 10 p.m. Admission £2.20 for SIFD members. £2.80 for non-members

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Although the SIFD will not be running a Dance at Cecil Sharp House in August, Uri Gerson will be running a dance there on AUGUST 11TH as a private venture, and invites everyone to come. The dancing will be to tapes, with predominance given to line and circle dances, but some couple dances will be included. If anyone who plans to go would like a particular dance to be included, Uri will be pleased to do so provided he is contacted soon enough. (address on page 9). Admission will be £2 for everybody, 7 to 10 p.m.

WHAT'S ON

July 5th to 13th VISIT OF BULGARIAN TEACHER. See page 11.

July 7th A DAY OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK MUSIC & DANCE at Waltham Forest Theatre, Lloyd Park, Forest Road, London E.17. Vehicle entrance in Winns Road, off Forest Road. 10.30 to 12.30. 14.00 to 17.30. 19.00 to 22.30. The morning session is Great Britain (Morris etc.) Afternoon and evening are International with performances by music and dance groups including Beskydy Dancers (Czechoslovakia) at 19.00 and Dunav Balkan Group at 21.15.

July 9th to 14th INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD AT LLANGOLLEN

July 13th SIFD BULGARIAN DAY COURSE. (See page 11).

July 14th DANCING ON WIMBLEDON COMMON, 3 p.m. An afternoon of general international folk dancing near the Windmill. M.C. Charles Steventon. Musician: Wilf Horrocks. Come in costume if possible. Car park and cafe nearby.

July 20th ROMANIAN DAY COURSE at Friends Meeting House, 150 Church Road, Watford. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Celia Stone. £3 at door, half price for OAPs and UB40s. The two main dances to be taught are Dragaica (not to be confused with Dragaicuta) and Banat - both possibly new to the SIFD. Bring packed lunch. Tea, coffee, squash available throughout the day. Further details from Audrey Whiteley (0923 21696).

July 20th SOUTHFIELDS SUMMER SHINDIG at Scout Hall, Pirbright Road, S.W.18. General International Dancing - quite a few walked through. M.C. Steve Steventon. Musician: Tina Meech. 7.30 to 10.45 p.m. £2.75 (including refreshments and wine). Tickets from Tina or Joan Meech, 75 Revelstoke Road, Wimbledon Park, SW18 5NL. (01 947 0839). Please send s.a.e.

July 21st WYCOMBE FOLK DANCE CLUB SUMMER PICNIC DANCE at Taplow Court, Berry Hill (B476), off the A4 between Slough and Maidenhead, Grid Ref. SU907 822. 3 to 7 p.m. Cost: 50p. Please bring picnic and come prepared to dance in a pleasant surrounding, or even just to watch.

July 28th to Aug. 4th SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL AT SWANSEA (See page 10)

Aug. 2nd to 9th INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL AT SIDMOUTH. Teams invited from Belgium, Egypt, India, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. Details from Festival Office, The Krowle, Sidmouth, Devon.