

S.I.F.D. NEWS

JAN 1986



BORDEAUX, FRANCE

40th. Anniversary Year

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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The typing this month was done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting was done by Doug Wells.

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This month's cover was drawn by Rachel Novak and shows French dancers.

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CHAIRMAN: Janet Woolbar, 6 Wye Court, Malvern Way, London W.13.

SECRETARY: Audrey Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts. Tel: Watford 21696.

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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Roland Minton, 10 Benyon Court, Balmes Road, London N.1.

DEMONSTRATION SECRETARY: Kay Leighton, 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts.
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A FUTURE DIARY for organizers to check for duplication on dates, and also to confirm those arranged by them, is kept on behalf of the S.I.F.D. by Frank Flanagan. His address is: 124 Fairbridge Road, Upper Holloway, London N.19.
Tel: 01 272 5003.

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Enquiries and orders for books, records and cassettes should be sent to
Joan Rackham, 16 Bathurst Avenue, London S.W.19

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S.I.F.D. T-shirts (white with new design in red and black) £2.70 (£3 by post), available in small, medium, large and extra large sizes from Kay Leighton (address above). Old design ('Legs') - a few available in small size only, £2.50.

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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.

EX-SECRETARY'S NOTES

Many thanks to the 57 members who attended the A.G.M. on 1st December, especially those who travelled a long way to be present. I hope that everyone felt it was a worthwhile journey and I am glad that so many people were able to air their views so freely. I have always thought that one of the strong points about our Society is its friendliness, and I felt that this A.G.M. was a friendly pleasant meeting. The day finished in splendid fashion with the excellent Dance run by Simon Guest.

My congratulations to Janet Woolbar and Audrey Whiteley on their election to the posts of Chairman and Secretary respectively. My best wishes to them and to the newly-elected Committee as they lead us into our 40th year.

JOAN RACKHAM

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THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

As you have read in the ex-Secretary's notes, the mantle of Chairman has fallen upon my shoulders, and Audrey Whiteley is the new Secretary. Other members of the Committee are: Judith Holloway (Treasurer), Kay Leighton, Sue Tupper, Frank Flanagan, Uri Gerson, Alan McLean, Mike Ridout.

I would like first to take the opportunity to voice the thanks of the Society to Charles Steventon and Joan Rackham for their work as Chairman and Secretary for the past five years. Looking back over this time, the Society has moved into several new fields of activity and has encouraged the growth of international folkdancing in many parts of the country.

As the new Committee starts its term of office, we are about to embark upon a milestone in our history, namely the celebration of our 40th anniversary, an occasion for jubilation but also a challenge. So if you enjoy your dancing, introduce somebody new, try something new yourself. Make a New Year resolution to support your new Committee in their efforts to provide an interesting and varied diet of dancing for your enjoyment. We are always pleased to receive constructive suggestions but only the support of individual members - THAT MEANS YOU - can make the Society a success.

JANET WOOLBAR

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BOOKS & RECORDS

I have been in charge of sales of Books and Records for over 8 years. During that time EPs 12 and 13, and cassettes to match the books, have appeared, and there has been a new edition of Book 3. The work has brought me into contact with many members of the Society all over the world. I am looking forward to my new position as Secretary of the Society and making contact with many more. Joan and David Rackham have agreed to take over the Books and Records sales, and I hope they will enjoy the work as much as Ed and I have.

AUDREY WHITELEY

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RUBY RECOLLECTIONS

Several members read my appeal for memorabilia of the past 40 years of S.I.F.D., and one or two even responded by offering me some very good exhibits for the Anniversary Dance in May. I did hope to cover about half an acre of space; so far I could just about cover a page or so of this S.I.F.D. NEWS! So, please tell me you have some items for me - dance tickets; early badges; photographs galore; your treasured programmes; group T-shirts; portraits of early members; music; and what-nots - loads and loads of what-nots. And soon, please! Telephone or write me at 202 Dunkery Road, London SE9 4HP. 01 851 7420.

WILL GREEN

BACK TO BULGARIA
by Frances Horrocks.

Having accepted with alacrity Eddy Tijssen's invitation to join him again for a joint dance course and sightseeing tour, Cathy Meunier and I set out on 12th October, to fly to Bulgaria. At Heathrow we scanned the departure board to find that our flight was delayed by an hour. Never mind, we thought, not so long to wait at the other end, as we were joining the Dutch group at Sofia and their flight was due in two hours later than ours. On arrival in Sofia we were greeted unexpectedly and effusively Eddy, so much so that even the cashier in the "bureau de change" had difficulty in suppressing the glimmer of a smile. Needless to say, the Dutch flight was also delayed, but it was great to see familiar faces from my last visit to Bulgaria two years ago. Greetings over, and having collected luggage, teacher, guide and driver, it was 9.45 p.m. before we set off for a two-hour journey in our coach for our first night stop at Koprivchitsa. Naturally, it was dark, so we couldn't see any of the countryside, though there was an impression of open, flat roads, gradually changing to steep wooded hillsides.

This impression was confirmed next morning as we wandered round the picturesque old town, and were dutifully pointed in the right directions by our painstaking and meticulous guide, Toni. After lunch, we continued on our way, climbing up and up into the mountains, round tortuous hairpin bends, with breathtaking views into steep, wooded valleys and ravines, clothed in autumnal hues. At the top we were flagged down by an un-official looking official who apparently imparted the information that the road ahead was under repair and unfit for heavy vehicles. He was right. The surface gradually disintegrated and the edges of the hairpin bends at times tumbled into the ravines below. When you see the warning sign for falling boulders, it really means it. Soon we came across a little cluster of cars. Road closed. Road under repair. Road open again at 6 p.m. when the workmen finish for the night. The idea of lane closures and contra-flow systems has evidently not yet infiltrated the Bulgarian mind, and it's only 3 p.m. We sit and wait, wondering what ideas the drivers are swapping amongst themselves, when we see a car coming across the fields. The intrepid driver is immediately pounced upon, and shortly a car, followed by a van, bounce their way along what is barely a track in the indicated direction. Not so bad, perhaps for a car or a van, but surely not a coach? Our driver climbs in and we are off, bumping and swaying at an alarming angle until we turn a sharp bend and head down a steep slope to the road and come to an abrupt stop. All out. We scramble down to the road side while the coach inches and slithers its way down until it comes to a sickening halt with the front wheels in a dip, the front bumper grounded, and the back wheels spinning helplessly. The road ahead is closed and the short cut is blocked and a few more cars are gathering - you can't call it a traffic jam, there aren't enough cars for that, but the number of interested bystanders is increasing. The coach is jacked up and people gather large, flat stones to jam under the wheels. Another un-official looking official tells us we must not take photographs. Too late, we already have, but we don't tell him so in case he gets even more upset. The front bumper is removed, some more stones are added, and with the help of a tow-rope from one of the tarmac-carrying lorries, the coach is eventually freed and hauled on to the road. With surprisingly little damage to the coach, and an hour later, we resume our journey.

Our next stop, scheduled this time, is at Trojan Monastery, at the moment under renovation. The tiny church is famous for its paintings and icons, which take up every inch of the interior, and the area is famous for its ceramics. Because of the delay we have only a brief stop, enough to wonder at the glory of the church, and to buy some ceramics, before continuing to Veliko Turnovo, ancient regional capital of Bulgaria.

The next morning we have our first dance lesson from Atanas. He explains the Pirin style to us in great detail, and we do our best on the carpeted hotel dining-room floor, minus the musician who has been delayed, and with curious hotel staff passing through to the kitchens.

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After lunch, the musician arrives and it's "koffers in de bus", our catch phrase for the week. "Koffer" (phonetically anyway) being Dutch for a suitcase. Then we travel on to Preobazenski Monastery, which nestles in a hollow in the mountains. We peer into the little church with its beautiful paintings and icons, to discover a wedding ceremony in progress. Poor souls! Fancy having one's wedding invaded by a coach load of foreign tourists.

We wander back down the road to the coach, mingling with some Bulgarian ladies who have been attending the wedding. We are intrigued to discover that they are not wedding guests, but are also tourists, and they are intrigued to discover that we are learning Bulgarian dances. "Like this?", says one, grabbing the nearest hands, and a Pravo gets under way. Out comes the accordion and for the next half hour we dance together, not much caring about the steps, just enjoying the laughter and spontaneous friendship of sharing the dance. Our carefully timed schedule is ruined again, but who cares? Only the guide, who doesn't dance.

Now it's on to Bozentsi - a preserved museum village with beautiful old style architecture. Being Monday, the museum show-house is closed; so is the post-office, but he obligingly opens up for us, so we buy some postcards and stamps and wait in the cold main square where two years ago we danced in sunshine, while those who have not been before have a look round. Someone comes to draw water from the well (so, it's not just for show) and although the water looks sparkling and crystal clear we are told it's not suitable for drinking. The woman fills her bright-green, plastic buckets from the ancient wooden one, covers up the well-shaft, and carries her water back up the road.

We walk back to the coach which is not allowed into the centre of the village, and travel on the short distance to Gabrovo, our dance centre of two years ago. Here we have a half-hour stop, which Cathy spends in the nearest bookshop, emerging with a large two-volume dictionary which plays havoc with the packing, plus two or three smaller items. Back to the coach again, and it's ten minutes up the road to the craft village of Etar, to be met by old friends, and where we are to spend the night.

Great, we think. Arrive 6.30 p.m. Dinner at 8 p.m. Time to get showered, changed, things sorted out. We find our room and start to unpack, when suddenly the lights go out. Not only that, the water is turned off as well. Chaos. We can't see a thing, and luggage is strewn all over the room. We grope our way to the door and find other people groping their way, we know not where, by torchlight, an item that was not on my packing list, nor Cathy's either. There's nothing else for it; we find our way somehow, along with everybody else, to Eddy's room for an impromptu concert on bagpipes and two kavalas. Piet, who has come for the sightseeing, and is sitting next to the musician, decides that he does like the kaval and would probably like it even more if it weren't at quite such close quarters. An hour and a bottle of wine later, the lights come on again and we can have dinner. After dinner, there's just time for another impromptu concert and another bottle (or two) of wine before climbing into bed, which is still partially hidden under unpacked luggage. Somehow, unpacking has become unimportant.

The next morning we return to Gabrovo, to the familiar studio in the Culture Dome, and to the familiar face of Sviatko, our previous teacher who has come to greet us. We have a good lesson with Atanas, though not as hardworking as Sviatko's would have been. Ivan is now playing for us, and we are able to hear and see how the steps, learned yesterday on the carpeted floor of the dining-room, fit in to the music. We meet old friends for lunch in Gabrovo and return to Etar to look round the village at the different craft shops, and then we are on our way again to Plovdiv, via the Shipka pass and Rose Valley. We visit the Shipka church whose golden domes stand out brightly against the dark, wooded hillside, and whose bells are made entirely from shell-cases after yet another battle in this country's troubled history. We stay in a sumptuous hotel in Plovdiv, take over the dining-room disco in the evening, and the staff plead with us to leave as Cinderella hour approaches.

S.I.F.D. ESTONIAN DAY COURSE

On SATURDAY, 11TH JANUARY, Aily Eistrat will be revising Estonian dances taught at the Swansea Summer School last year.

Place: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London N.W.1
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Cost: S.I.F.D. members £3, non-members £4.

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

Next month the S.I.F.D. Day Course will be French. Please make a note in your diaries now that (a) the date is the 22nd February (not the usual 2nd Saturday) and (b) we are arranging a special visit from a teacher from France, for a particularly interesting programme. More details next month.

In August we listed the dates for Day Courses for the rest of 1986, but are repeating them to remind you, and for the benefit of new members :-

April 12th	Sept. 20th
May 10th	Oct. 11th
June 14th	Nov. 15th
July 5th	

- N.B. 1) July, September and November are not the 2nd Saturdays.
2) It has not been possible to book dates for March and December.

A NEW PUBLICATION

Lucile Armstrong's book on the origins and meanings of folk dance in general and the Iberian Peninsular in particular, is now available. Diki Gleeson will have a few signed copies at each Dance Day in London, to save you postage and delay. The book is called "Window on Folk Dance", published by Springfield Books, and retails at £8.95. Much of Lucile's lifetime's study of folk dance in all its aspects and her vast experience of Spain and Portugal in particular, are included in this very interesting book. Diki's address is Oak Lodge, Theobalds Park Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 9BN.

QUADRAGINTA ANNI MIRABILES
FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DANCE
10TH MAY 1986

Tickets for this event, about which members have now read so much, are now available on sale from me, Ed Whiteley (a) at all main functions of the S.I.F.D. or (b) by post from: E.Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts. WD1 3BE. The cost is £3.50 (£2 for children under 16) and covers entry to the Dance, refreshments (the portion stamped R on the ticket is the token for these), and reduction of 50p on the cost of the Day Course on the day of the Dance.

The realistic number we can cater for is 300, although, in order to provide for any group requests for tickets on a sale or return basis, tickets bearing a number above 300 may have to be issued. Group requests will be most welcome, but I must have monies and/or returned tickets by 30th April, to finalise catering arrangements. We aim to make the Dance memorable and enjoyable, and look forward to your full support.

ED. WHITELEY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Editor,

After attending my first-ever A.G.M. of the Society, I stayed for the evening Dance which for me, a relatively "oldie" (27 years' dancing) was superb; an excellent mixture of old couple dances, newly learnt line dances, and plenty in between. The evening was slightly marred, however, when on explaining that I belonged to the Heart of England Group (one of the West Midlands Branch groups), I was referred to as "one of those from the breakaway group". I wish to state most emphatically that I do not belong to a breakaway group; my membership fees go to the Society for International Folk Dancing; our aims are exactly the same. I should be grateful if the situation between the central body and any branches (we are the only one at present, with three separate groups) could be sorted out and made public so that everyone understands the arrangements.

Yours sincerely,
YVONNE HUNT
27 Baginton Road, Styvechale,
Coventry CV3 6JX.

Dear Lily,

As a new member of S.I.F.D. (and a young one at that!) I have been hesitant about writing to you, but I feel at last that I should "stand up and be counted".

I was introduced to folk dancing five years ago, largely through the "Heart of England" group in Birmingham. Unfortunately I am no longer in Birmingham, but I still regard myself as a member of the group! An evening Dance in Birmingham would, I am sure, delight Roy Clarke, as he would see his concept of Internationalism put into practice. We do not have the advantage that London enjoys, of having several specialist clubs, so we try to cover as wide a range of styles and countries as possible. Everyone, including the young people, has the chance to practise dances which truly appeal to them. It is possible, though of course not easy, for an evening made up of Line & Circle dances and Couple & Set dances to satisfy at least most of those present.

Above all, our dancing is a social activity. We are there because we like the people. I am well aware that the S.I.F.D. aims to practise dances in their "traditional form", but I agree with Rod Perkins that we must regard ourselves as borrowers. The "traditional form" of folk dances is as danced by people of a particular culture; we should not forget that we are dancing because we enjoy it. If this is Barbara Perkins' wilderness, I would like to continue to share it.

Until recently my dancing experience was limited almost entirely to Birmingham, where I believed that the S.I.F.D. was a society which accepted all its members as equals, and where personal preferences were gladly catered for. The impression I receive at the moment, however, is of a group of people who persist in petty squabbling to the point where they forget their common interest - dancing. Could we please celebrate the 40th anniversary by uniting to make the Society one where everyone feels welcome? There is so much potential there, it would be a shame to waste it.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN ROGERS
16 The Ring Road, West Park, Leeds

Dear Lily,

I would like to thank Jill Bransby for inviting me to play for the Rainmakers demonstration at Covent Garden in November. I always find it great fun playing for a demonstration with the audience all the way round.

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Having played at Covent Garden twice, I feel it would be a wonderful venue for regular S.I.F.D. demonstrations. It would also be a marvellous opportunity for us to gain outsiders' support and new members. It was most unfortunate that Jill didn't have any "Dance With the World" leaflets.

We also made quite an impact on an elderly American couple who tried a few hesitant steps of one of the circle dances, but finding they couldn't, the lady wiped away a tear and they settled back to watch.

Yours,

TINA MEECH

75 Revelstoke Road, Wimbledon Park,
London S.W.18.

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Dear Lily,

Reading through the Y.H.A. magazine, I was interested to read under the section "Hostel Events", a sub-heading "Dancing" which included a Morris Dance weekend and a Country Dance weekend. What about an International Folk Dance weekend? Could this be an area where the S.I.F.D. could publicize itself and interest and acquire some of the vital younger members required to carry on the activities of the Society? It was basically through our membership of the Y.H.A. that Peter and I first started international folk dancing - Y.H.A. group dances on Friday evenings at Cecil Sharp House and, after a weekend hostelling, the Sunday evening dances at Drury Lane.

Within the last few months we have had occasion to dance with members of two affiliated groups. Whilst on holiday in Newcastle we went to Whitley Bay where we enjoyed an evening dancing and learning two Mexican dances which were new to us - and Peter especially enjoyed himself as the only male dancer that evening! Recently we stayed with friends in Sussex and took them to a Saturday dance run by Interdance at Worthing which we all enjoyed - we hope our friends will now join a class there.

Sincerely,

JESSIE DAVEY

7 Link Rise, Corfe Mullen,
Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3QP

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Dear Lily,

It is not often I get around to writing to you despite my avid reading of the letter column each month, to see what all the learned people are writing beautifully long spiels about. But I would like to say how very much we enjoyed the Balkan Party in December. As country members we have to rely heavily on the kindness and tenacity of friends to get tickets, the demand is so great these days. To us, the success of the Christmas season is assured if it begins with the Balkan Party. The food is so good, especially this year, thanks to a clever system of holding back some of the goodies until the chatterboxes, belatedly realising that supper is served, join the queue to see what is left!

I admit to being a circle dance fan and especially enjoy having a go in a party atmosphere among expert dancers clad in beautiful costumes, who really don't mind helping out when the going gets fast. I must also mention the group singing which was especially appreciated. As someone who only sings in the bath with the taps running, that loud harmonious sound I thought was lovely!

Thank you very much, Zivko Firfov group, for all your hard work. More, please!

Best wishes for 1986 to everyone,

LEO DENHARD

16 Strand Close, Meopham, Kent.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

1ST MARCH 1986. Mexican Day Course at Chatsworth Centre, Long Eaton, Notts./Derbyshire border. Further details to follow.

FOLKDANCE GROUPS IN HUNGARY (Continued from November issue)

Amateur Groups

Vasas Kozpont. Choreographer: Antal Stoller. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6 to 9 p.m. at Gutenbergter u.12, Budapest.

E.L.T.E. (Budapest University),
Choreographer: Istvan Gyaptas.

Dombovar ("Kapos" Group). Choreographer: Clari Lebenyi. Kulturhaz.

Dunaujvaros. Choreographer: Janos Bohm. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6 to 9 p.m. at Szorad Marton u.20

Kecskemet Group at Kodaly Iskola

Veszprem (Vaev). Choreographer: Peter Ilyes. At Hazgyar u.1.

Mezokovesd. Choreographer: Tibor Varadi. Muvelodesi Haz. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6 to 9 p.m.

Erkel. Choreographer: Laszlo Vasarhelyi. Rehearsals, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6 to 9 p.m. at Szent Kiralyi u.26, Budapest.

Szombathely ("Ungaresca"). Choreographer: Erno Pesovar.

Sopron ("Lajto Laszlo" Group)

Sarospatak. Choreographer: Gyorgy Sipos. Tanifokedzo Intezet.

Kalocsa. Choreographer: Ferenc Toth. Istvan u.2/4.
Kalocsa School Group, Micsurin u.3.

Szekszard. Choreographer: Szabadi Mihaly. Muvelodesihaz.

Bekescsaba (Balazso Gyarmati Group).
Choreographer: Miklos Born. Rehearsals at Bartok Bela u.11.

Eger meet at Gyuricza Ottone, Lenin u.142.

Szolnok. Choreographer: Lajos Varhely. Muvelodesi Kozpont. Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Mehkerek. Choreographer: Janos Ruzsa. Meet at Kossuth u.69, Gyula.

To be continued next month.

BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE COURSE 9TH - 15TH AUGUST 1986

This unique course is again being arranged to coincide with the Billingham International Folklore Festival. The programme is not yet finalised but groups from Hungary, Romania, Mongolia, Syria, Ecuador, West Indies, Korea, New Zealand, Sardinia and the Soviet Union have been invited.

This is a practical course intended for organisers, specialist teachers and others interested in international folkdance. Each group attending the Festival visits the Dance Course and gives tuition to the course members. The cost of the course is £50 which includes lunches and ticket for the opening ceremony.

Application forms and further particulars are obtainable from the County Education Officer, Education Offices, Woodlands Rd., Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

The Spinners have put up a purse of £100 for the event which, in the opinion of the Judges, takes folk music and dance to a wider audience. Members of the S.I.F.D. who are also members of the E.F.D.S.S. will find full details on page 7 of the E.F.D.S.S. Magazine Vol. 47 No.3. If groups are interested and do not have access to that magazine, please contact Joan Rackham, 16 Bathurst Avenue, London S.W.19. 01 543 1891.



HAMA'AGAL COMES TO TOWN

On 3rd November, Fiona Howarth's Hama'Agal Group entertained the Sunday Dance with a performance of Modern Israeli, Yemenite and Debka dances, and afterwards invited everyone to take part. It was very nice to see so many young people. I know it involves a lot of work for leaders and teams, so clearly we cannot expect a show too frequently, but here is an opportunity to put a real gem into the evening programme and at the same time demonstrate the style of a country or historic region to a "standard setting level". Could the inclusion of a colourful costume show like this be an answer to failing attendances? Well done, and thank you, Fiona, and all the Hama'agal team.

ALAN MORTON



FOLKRAFT SEMINARS

Folkraft are organizing folk dance and music seminars in Greece (23rd to 30th March and 30th March to 6th April), Hungary (19th to 28th July) and Bulgaria (31st July to 11th August and 7th to 18th August). Full details from Folkraft Europe, Rue Saint-Norbert 6, B-1090 Brussels, Belgium.



WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH OF S.I.F.D.

International Folk Dances: 31st Dec. Balsall Common Village Hall
19th Feb. Westward Club, Westward Heath Rd., Coventry.

- Dance Groups:
- 1) "Selpar". Classes on Tuesdays, 7.15 p.m. at Selly Park School, Pershore Rd., Stirchley, Birmingham. Tutor: Sybil Chapman.
 - 2) "Heart of England International Folkdance Group". Wednesdays 7.30 p.m. at Lyndon School, Daylesford Rd., Solihull.
 - 3) "Arden International Folkdance Group", fortnightly on Tuesdays at the Village Hall, Station Rd., Balsall Common, Nr.Solihull,Warks.

Further details of these activities from the Secretary of West Midlands Branch S.I.F.D., Dennis V.Hunt, 27 Baginton Rd., Styvechale, Coventry CV3 6JX. Tel: 0203 413854.



AFFILIATED GROUPS NOT LISTED LAST MONTH

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday evening during winter and spring terms, 7.30 to 9 p.m. South Kent College of Technology, Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone, Kent. Further details from the Secretary: Pat Clarke, 51 Chichester Rd., Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent CT19 3BW. Tel: Folkestone 39199.

LYKION TON HELLINIDON GREEK FOLKDANCE GROUP meets Tuesday to Friday at The Crypt, St. Sophia's Cathedral, Moscow Rd., Bayswater, London W.2. Classes: Tuesday 4.30 -5.30 p.m. Children (5-12 years); Wednesday 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. Advanced, adults, mixed; Wednesday 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. performing group; Thursday 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. Beginners, adults; Thursday 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. Intermediate, adults; Friday 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. Men only, advanced; Friday 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. performing group. Fees: £18 per term, reduced for students. For further details please contact Mrs.L.Galatis, 81 Corringway, W.5. (01 997 5729.

ALL MATERIAL FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 15TH JANUARY. PLEASE NOTE EDITOR'S NEW ADDRESS ON PAGE 2.

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21st ANNIVERSARY OF THE DUNAV GROUP

On 21st October 1985, the Dunav Group celebrated its 21st Birthday. A great crowd of members of the S.I.F.D. met in the evening at the Edison Centre in London, to take part in this festival of Bulgarian, and other Balkan countries', music and dances. For this momentous occasion the Pirin Group of musicians and two lady singers were specially invited to come and join in the celebrations. The instruments used were the Tamburas, Contre-Bass, Accordion, Tarabuka and Baraban (also the wonderful Ocarina, played later by a Dunav musician). The Bulgarian group wore their regional costumes, and one must admit that those of the two women were outstandingly lovely, colourful, and enhanced by the stupendous workmanship of the embroideries - not to mention the jewellery.

After some dances, the Pirin Group performed several of their folk tunes in unusual and charming rhythms, as well as singing solos, duets, and all of the instrumentalists joining in. Then the Dunav Balkan Group performed on its own, followed by both groups joining to play for more dances, thus giving everyone plenty of opportunity to dance to their hearts' content in those entrancing dances. The consensus of people present rushed forward to join in the interminable chains of happy folk which stepped and hopped round and round the large hall. Everyone was smiling happily and it was remarkable how the majority of this large crowd of people knew the often complicated steps and rhythms. Even the musicians took it in turns to dance too, taking part happily, as everyone was overjoyed at this wonderful opportunity to celebrate the founding of the Dunav Group.

But who first thought of founding the Dunav Group? It was Henry Morris, John Baldwin, and later on joined by Narendra Kotiyan, who produced for the first time in the U.K. the Festival of Balkan Music in 1967, and this gave the Dunav Balkan Group its first public performance. I must add here for the benefit of those new members who have not been told yet, that the Dunav Group has contributed considerably to the knowledge of the Balkan folklore field over the last 21 years for both dancers and non-dancers, as the Dunav it was who propagated Balkan folk music to music societies, to folk clubs, festivals, B.B.C, radio folkweave programmes, and to television.

To go back to the 21st Birthday..... halfway through this delightful evening refreshments were available, and very much appreciated they were, after so much expended energy on everyone's part. Some of the clever musicians, both Bulgarian and English, could play more than one instrument and went from one to the other in seconds, so we heard a great variety of instruments as well as tunes.

The work of organizing this wonderful evening fell mainly on the shoulders of Naren, John, Brian and the team spirit of Dunav. Among the pillars of the S.I.F.D. such as the teachers present, were: Jack and Joan Richardson, Frances Horrocks, Uri Gerson, Fiona Howarth, Brian Dowsett and others, and they all danced and seemed supremely satisfied and happy to be there. There were even some babies present. We owe this unforgettable evening to Naren, for having started the Dunav Group, so we extend our wholehearted thanks to him and to his Band and colleagues, who work so well together, for having given us all so much delight. We all look forward to another "Birthday" festival of the Dunav Group in 21 years' time!

LUCILE ARMSTRONG

VISIT OF TOM BOZIGIAN

Tom Bozigian, from Los Angeles, who teaches Armenian folkdances, will be coming to Europe for a teaching tour in April/May and would like to teach at a few sessions in England. Would any groups interested in having him for a teaching session of either Armenian, Russian, Bellydance or Lebanese Debki dances please write to Dalila Loussararian, 10 Randall Avenue, London NW2 7RN, or to Tom Bozigian direct at 6555 La Mirada 24, Los Angeles, Ca.90038, U.S.A.

S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

GENERAL INTERNATIONAL

Tuesdays. Beginners 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Cheam High School, Chatsworth Rd., Cheam, SM3 8PW. Tutor: Joy Steventon, Tel. 01 542 3831.

Tuesdays, in term time. Canons Group. 7.45 p.m. usually at Park High School, Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore. For details contact Miss Judith Holloway, Watford 25480.

Tuesdays, in term time, 7.45 p.m. in Senior Common Room, College House, Swansea University. (Swansea University Folkdance Group). Contact: Joan or Jack Richardson, 0792 403153 or 295194.

Most Tuesdays, 7.45 to 10 p.m. Mixed abilities, i.e. Beginners & Experienced. Oddfellows House, 22 The Avenue, Watford, Herts. For further details, telephone Joyce Sharp, Watford 28080.

Wednesdays, Beginners 6 to 7 p.m. General & Advanced 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. St. Albans School, Baldwins Gardens, London E.C.L. Near Chancery Lane Underground Station. Tutor: Janet Woolbar.

Wednesdays, Advanced 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Merton Institute of Adult Education, Whatley Avenue, Merton SW20 9NS. Tutor: Charles Steventon. Tel: 01 542 3831.

Thursdays 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Durrants School, Manor Way, Croxley Green, near Watford, Herts. Emphasis on neglected dances. Tutor: Audrey Whiteley, Tel: 0923 21696.

Friday afternoons, 2 to 3.45 p.m. Mixed abilities, i.e. Beginners & Experienced. Croxley Green Community Association, near Barton Way, Croxley Green, near Watford, Herts. For further details telephone Joyce Sharp, Watford 28080.

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. Doina Group. Y.W.C.A. Gymnasium, Great Russell Street (Tottenham Court Road Station), London W.C.1. Tutor: Alan McLean, 01 422 6498.

HUNGARIAN

Thursdays 8 to 10 p.m. Balaton Group. Central Adult Institute, Longford St., (behind Capital Radio, Warren St.), London. Tutor: Alan McLean, 01 422 6498.

ISRAELI

Wednesdays 7 to 9 p.m. Intermediate/Advanced. Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London S.E.11. Tutor: Fiona Howarth. Tel. 01 460 0823. Please see tutor before enrolling.

POLISH

Mondays 7 to 9 p.m. Regional & National dances. Christopher Hatton Centre, Laystall St., off Rosebery Avenue, London E.C.1. Tutor: Tony Latham, 01 992 9445.

YUGOSLAV

Tuesdays 6.15 to 9.15 p.m. at West Square School, St. Georges Road, London S.E.1. Next door to Imperial War Museum. Tutor: Ken Ward. For information, please ring the Secretary, Ken Glover, 0892 870795 (evenings).

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

Jan. 5th M.C. Charles Steventon

Feb. 2nd M.C.s Liz Mellish & Mona Graham

7 to 10 p.m. Admission £2.20 for S.I.F.D. members; £2.80 for non-members.

On Jan. 19th there will be an extra Dance at Cecil Sharp House run by Uri Gerson, with Dunav Balkan Group playing. Emphasis will be on Eastern European dances but others will also be included.

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WHAT'S ON

- Jan. 4th MERRY ANDREW CLUB'S HALF-AY COURSE & NEW YEAR DANCE. 3 to 6.30 p.m. Introduction to Israeli Dancing, with guest teacher Fiona Howarth, (bring snack lunch or visit cafe) £1. 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. General Dancing including American Square, English & International, £2.50 including food. Joint ticket, Course & Dance £3. Sherrard Hall, United Reformed Church, Court Rd., Eltham. Buses 21, 108, 124, 126, 160, 161, Eltham Well Hall Station. Parking easy. Enquiries to Will Green, 01 851 7420 or Henry Garfath, Orpington (66) 71494.
- Jan. 4th NEW YEAR DANCE organized by Croxley Green International Folkdancers at Malvern Way Infants School, Malvern Way, Croxley Green. Nr. Watford, Herts. 7.45 to 10.45 p.m. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. Tel: Watford (0923) 41441 or 28080.
- Jan. 11th S.I.F.D. ESTONIAN DAY COURSE. See page 6.
- Jan. 11th EAST EUROPEAN DAY COURSE. Doina Dance Group have invited Sybil Chapman to teach Hungarian, Czech and Polish dances in London. Would anyone interested in attending please contact either Dave Cook (01 989 9591) or Victoria Solt (01 724 1465) for details.
- Jan. 11th DUNAV BALKAN GROUP will be playing in the foyer of Royal Festival Hall, London 12.30 to 2 p.m. S.I.F.D. members welcome, for spontaneous dancing. Entrance free.
- Until
Jan 26th FOLK CUSTOMS & COSTUMES FROM FINNISH KARELIA. An exhibition at Museum of Mankind, The Ethnography Department of British Museum, Burlington Gardens, London W.1. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 2.30 to 6 p.m. Also a programme of films. Tel. 01 437 2224 for details.
- Feb. 1st DUNAV BALKAN GROUP will be playing at Barbican Centre, London, in the foyer on Level 5, 12.15 to 1.45 p.m. S.I.F.D. members welcome, for spontaneous dancing. Entrance free.
- Feb. 1st DAY COURSE OF TURKISH & ROMANIAN DANCES organized by Bristol Folkdance Group, at Henleaze United Reformed Church Hall, Waterford Rd., Bristol 9. Tutor: Garry Karner. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £3.25 (non-members £3.50). EVENING DANCE 7 to 10.30 p.m. £1.25 (non-members £1.50). Combined ticket: £4 (non-members £4.50). Reductions for unwaged. Tea, coffee, squash available. Please bring packed lunch, but Takeaways nearby. Tickets (s.a.e. please) and further information from Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0272 621802.

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION NEWS

The big news is that WE ARE THERE! This is our 40th Anniversary year at last, and I am looking forward to hearing about the various special events which our groups will be putting on all round the country.

Progress so far

Our Banner made its first appearance at the Cecil Sharp House dance on 1st December - many thanks to Ed Whiteley for getting it done.

New T shirts will be on sale at the January dance, with a lovely design by Lesley Boorer showing a line of dancers with a banner. Very many thanks to Lesley for all the beautiful art work she produces for us.

I have had several forms back from groups who will be performing in the Victoria Embankment Gardens in the summer.

History of the SIFD - For some months George Sweetland has had his nose to the grindstone, along with some other people! A booklet of reminiscences of the early days of the SIFD is nearing completion, and we hope to get it printed in the New Year.

RIVER THAMES BOAT TRIP

Every bit as surprising as some of the early SIFD exploits was the adventure which befell Ed Whiteley and Kay Leighton on a grey December morning, when we found ourselves delicately poised on a mooring on the waters between Big Ben and the Festival Hall, waiting for some passing craft to rescue us. With us was the owner of the Royal Princess, which boat, for your sakes, we had leapt on to view; and off again on to the mooring craft. As there was a vast expanse of water between the mooring barge and dry land, we needed a ferryman. The police boat ignored us, so did the helicopter and a jumbo jet plane. Eventually a pal of Mr. Boat Owner came by, and with a wide grin increased his speed, circled towards us ('Hold tight! yelled Mr. Boat Owner) and confirmed his prowess at steering by missing us by half an inch, whereupon he firmly proceeded to Westminster Pier, ('Come back! shrieked Mr. Boat Owner) unloaded his passengers, and took 15 minutes for his coffee break before eventually picking us up from what was by then a chilly position.

However, the result of this escapade was that we have now made a firm booking for Sunday, 11th May (the day after the dance at the Porchester Hall) for a boat trip on the River Thames in the Royal Princess, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Attractions are: a boat trip in historic scenery; dancing on the upper deck, and on two tiny decks fore and aft; and full bar facilities on the lower deck, with tables and chairs for resting. Embarkation will be from the Festival Hall pier.

Food will not be available on board, but the area round the Festival Hall is suitable for picnics, and there are restaurant facilities in the Hall itself. You may, if you wish, take small amounts of food on the boat, such as crisps, biscuits, sweets, etc.

We want to make this event a publicity exercise for the SIFD, so we hope as many people as possible will come in costume.

Tickets are strictly limited to 200, and must be bought in advance. They are £4 each, and £2 for children under 16, OAP's and UB40's. Get them from Ed Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts, WD1 3BE. Cheques should be made out to the SIFD.

It will obviously not be possible for 200 people to dance all at the same time on the boat, so we hope you will regard the event as primarily a River Thames trip, which includes dancing, sightseeing, and chatting to your friends. The dance programme will be carefully arranged to try to cater for all tastes at some stage of the proceedings!

Kay Leighton