

SIFD NEWS



JÕRI COSTUMES FROM NORTHERN ESTONIA

Edmund Kvietkauskas

JAN 1987

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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This month's cover was sent in by Aili Eistrat and shows Estonian costumes. (See Aili's article on page 5).

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WOULD ANY MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

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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.

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

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S.I.F.D. T-shirts in various designs and sizes available from Kay Leighton.
(address above).

Also available from Kay are copies of "The History of the S.I.F.D.",
price £1.50, or £2 by post.

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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 15TH JANUARY.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Some 59 members of the S.I.F.D. attended the Annual General Meeting on 7th December, and it was good to meet people from various parts of the country who were able to come - we did appreciate their support. Minutes of the A.G.M. will be circulated as soon as possible.

The Committee now has two new members in Liz Mellish, from Harrow, and Pam Khan, from Mitcham; Sue Tupper had to resign because of home commitments. The full list of Committee Members now is as follows:-

Janet Woolbar - Chairman
Audrey Whiteley - Secretary
Judith Holloway - Treasurer

Frank Flanagan, Uri Gerson, Pam Khan, Kay Leighton, Alan McLean
Liz Mellish - and Mike Ridout as a co-opted member.

Alan Morton is Membership Secretary, and George Sweetland is
Publicity Officer

Our 40th Anniversary year ended with two most successful dances - our first Tea Dance at Baden Powell House on 6th December, with Kay Leighton as the main M.C., and the Sunday Dance following the A.G.M. at our latest venue, the Queen Mary Hall at the Y.W.C.A. in Great Russell Street, with Simon Guest as M.C. The Queen Mary Hall was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and with more than 80 people present, many in costume, everything went with a swing. The S.I.F.D. Players were present in force on both occasions and their music was greeted with enthusiasm.

Please feel free to approach any member of the Committee with your views on both venues. We need some feedback from musicians, dancers and M.C.s as to the suitability of the respective halls.

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary.

EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL FRIDAY, 1ST MAY, to MONDAY, 4TH MAY '87

This year at the Eastbourne International Folk Festival there will be two workshops run by the S.I.F.D., apart from other international workshops. For dancers there will be Estonian, and for musicians there will be the first International Musicians' Workshop. More details next month.

Jeff Stone will be looking after our advertising, as a co-opted member of the Sub-Committee.

TINA MEECH
Secretary, Eastbourne S.I.F.D. Sub-Committee

S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL SWANSEA, 25TH JULY TO 1ST AUGUST 1987

We now have confirmation that Anna Cidu from Gavoi in Sardinia, and Alix Cordray from Delo, will be teaching us dances from Sardinia and Norway respectively. We are still awaiting a reply from Bulgaria.

Consideration is being given to the inclusion of a General Class. Please let me know if you support this idea.

JACK RICHARDSON, Department of Chemical Engineering, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 0792 295194 (work), 0792 403153 (home).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Lily,

We have an assurance from the 'City Lit' (London) that, with their takeover of the Central Institute, there will be no alteration to the classes and venues of the Central Institute at least until next June. I have therefore decided to postpone the formation of a specialised Romanian dance group at the Y.W.C.A. in Great Russell Street (announced in last month's SIFD NEWS) until next March. I am intending to make a tour of Mexico, down through Central America to Venezuela, Colombia, then Ecuador and Peru, and finally across country through Bolivia and Paraguay to finish at the Rio de Janeiro Carnival at the end of February. I should be back in this country by 7th March 1987. On the way round, I hope to learn enough of their folkdances to be able to start a new South American group here, which should be an exciting addition to our international repertoire.

So, as I shall not be using the hall, from 9th January Galina Tucker will be teaching Bulgarian dancing every Friday evening from 7 p.m. in the Y.W.C.A. gymnasium until and including 6th March. Thereafter, we will revert to Romanian dancing, taught by me, from 7 to 9 p.m. every Friday at that venue, and hope that members and friends will support this new venture. Remember that the Romanian classes will be free, and so will the Bulgarian.

To stimulate interest, I am holding a Day Course of Romanian dancing on SATURDAY, 14TH MARCH 1987, from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the Grays Inn Resource Centre, Rosebery Avenue, Holborn, London. This is close to the junction with Grays Inn Road, and next door to Christopher Hatton School. A selection from the following dances will be taught:-

Mîndrele (circle)	Doiul (1 man, 2 girls)
Facioreasca (men)	Hodoroaga (circle)
Geamparalele (circle)	La Mîița (couples)
Suite: Purtata, Oas	Dromnia (circle)
Jaraneasca, Banat	Rustemul de la Hunia (circle)
Hora Mare (circle)	Someșana (couples)
Jianul (circle)	Vicoveanca (circle)
De a Lungul (couples)	Crihalma (girls)
Invirtița de la Sibiu (couples)	Muiereasca (girls)
Ciuleandra (circle)	Sirba Draganesti (circle)
Ca la Breaza (couples)	Jaraneasca (circle)
Ca la Ușa Cortului (circle)	Batuta (men)
Oltenian suite: Stavaru, Ceasu Hora, Barabancea, Briulet, Ca la Rașeanca, Itele, Ciuleandra	

Cassettes of all the dances taught will be available, price £2. Dance course fee: £2.

On another matter; I would like to inform all Associated and Affiliated groups/classes that I shall be sending out reminders for renewal of their subscriptions and group membership of the S.I.F.D. during May 1987, so that all groups can get the benefit of publicity well before the new education year starts in September.

I still haven't the exact details of dance courses in Hungary and Romania next summer, but if members are interested, please write to me. I should have all the information about dates and prices when I get back to England in March.

Happy Christmas to you, Lily, and to the membership as a whole.

ALAN McLEAN
6 Epsom Close, Northolt, Middx.

ED. NOTE: Alan left this country to start his tour on 14th December.

ESTONIAN FOLKDANCE

Dance in Estonia has played a big role in forming traditions. The most important, perhaps, are the wedding traditions. A good wedding about 100 years ago lasted at least three days, and sometimes more. Therefore, there are many traditional wedding dances. First the bridegroom has to find a good musician, who played an important role in all happenings, be it hiding the bride, finding her again, or handing out presents (the bride had to give a present for almost everyone - hand-knitted mittens, socks, etc.).

The first dances were simple - holding hands and moving in circle or making patterns with the circle (voortans), later chaining was added (Oige ja Vasemba). Dances were also inspired from work-movements (Targa rehealune - thrashing the corn; Vurr-sahkadi - sawing wood; Kingsepapolka - cobblers' dance), or imitating animals (Konnatants - Froggies; Kiitsakatants - Magpies) from which some were not so very respectable (Karutants - Beardance). There are also acrobatic dances (Stickdance).

Polonaise and Mazurka (ca.1800) became "Labajalavalss" (flat-foot waltz), and now people started to dance with partners (the church found it sinful and did not approve). In the second half of the XIX century came the polka, reinlender and waltz again. Now the polka became most popular, but there were also influences from the East (Tuljak) and chain anglaise - ingliska quadrilles (Pikk Ingliska).

The Estonian polka has small bouncy steps, because it was danced on grassland or on uneven floors. Polkas come with the hop on the first beat of the bar or on the fourth, and sometimes without the hop. The step-hops come in all combinations (Hüppetants). The flat-foot waltzes are done with flexed knees and heels down on the floor, bringing the feet together on the 2nd beat of the (3/4) bar. Hiiuvalss is rhythmically somewhat like hambo, and there are mazurka-type little waltzes like Väandra Polka or Eideratas.

We also have national dances, somewhat choreographed like Tuljak, Viru Polka, Kosjatants etc. but they are mostly put together from smaller dances. The Estonian Dance is still fairly ethnic and uncomplicated and it has been said that Estonian Folkdance, even in its moments of gay abandon, should be danced with dignity and inner tension!

Dancing was first accompanied by singing only (mostly in minor key). Then came primitive instruments like little whistles made out of willowbark, and rhythm sections rubbing two pieces of wood together or beating them. Later came bagpipes, violins, and letterly accordion-type lödtsapill and zither-type kannel.

Like everywhere, so also in Estonia, XIX and XX century folkdance is somewhat connected with ballroom dance and dance-masters making up new dances, which appear in villages in different variations. Although today folkdance is not danced so much in town-ballrooms in Estonia, the influence of folkdance and folk music in Estonian latter-day song and music is enormous.

AILI EISTRAT

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MARITSA BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE GROUP - TEMPORARY NEW VENUE

I hope it is not too confusing, but the Maritsa Bulgarian Folkdance Group will be moving to a new venue. The good news is that it is much more central for those living or working in London. The new venue is the Y.W.C.A. (Gymnasium), 16 Great Russell Street, London W.C.1. Tel: 01 580 4827. The new arrangement will also mean a change of evening for the group - from Thursday to Friday. The first meeting will be on 9th January 1987, and the class will be FREE. Everyone is welcome.

See you in the New Year. Chastite Nova Godina.

GALINA TUKER

THANK YOU, S.I.F.D.

This means you, you, and you - the members who make up the Society for International Folk Dancing, individuals and groups. Very grateful thanks to all of you for your co-operation and terrific support during our year-long celebrations of our 40th Anniversary. All events were successful because of YOU, and your participation and enjoyment made it all worth while.

I am not going to detail everything we did - Janet Woolbar has done that very ably in her Chairman's Report, and as you read it you will get some idea of what a vast number of people planned events, helped in the running of them, and came in hundreds to dance together. We particularly came to the notice of the 'man and woman in the street/park' through our displays at the Victoria Embankment Gardens, London. These performances were a great success - thank you to all who took part in any way.

The year ended for us with a Tea Dance on Saturday, 6th December; a Balkan party in the evening; our A.G.M. on Sunday, followed by a Dance at the Y.W.C.A. All events were well attended, even though, with the exception of the Balkan Party, refreshments were practically non-existent!

SO, WHAT NOW?

Plans are well ahead for 1987 - festivals at Eastbourne and Sidmouth; a week-long Summer School; several dancing weekends in the country; day courses; more demonstrations at the Victoria Gardens, plus some other venues; plenty of group activities. All this is just to start with, and the Committee, the Editor etc. would be very pleased to hear from YOU of the Society if you want to organize a dancing event of whatever kind, or if you know of any event which would welcome our presence. There are all sorts of dancing outlets which we want to explore with the assistance of you, the S.I.F.D., so let's get on our racing bikes now, and set off for our Golden Jubilee!

KAY LEIGHTON



A CENTRAL LONDON BALKAN AND INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP

From WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH 1987, there will be a new folkdance group meeting at the Netley Annexe of the Central Institute of Adult Education, Netley Street, Hampstead Road, London N.W.1. (5 minutes' walk from Warren Street Underground Station). We will meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Our programme will include dances from all the Balkan countries, and also some popular dances from other parts of the world. We hope to have some special guest teachers including Natassa Lemos who taught Greek dances at Swansea in 1983. We invite those with musical ability to bring their instruments and join our talented young musicians, Nick and Helen Green. We also invite dance enthusiasts to share their favourite dances with us and enrich our repertoire.

As well as the Wednesday evenings we shall be arranging parties, weekends away, social events and occasional performances. And it won't cost you much to join us: 50p per evening if you live within the I.L.E.A. area, or 75p if you do not. Come and join us on the 14th.

Leaders: Nick and Helen Green, Jane and Julian Sinton, Liz Mellish, Cathy Meunier, More details from 01 527 6232 or 01 863 7807.

CATHY MEUNIER



CONDOLENCES

We send our sincere condolences to Kaye Poole, of Kayroma Group, on the death of her husband, John, in November; and to Frank Flanagan, S.I.F.D. Committee Member, on the death of his father in December. Our deepest sympathy to both Kaye and Frank.

CULTURAL VISIT TO TURKEY

I am planning to arrange a group travel (consisting of 30-35 people) to Turkey during the first or second week in March, provided there is sufficient interest.

This unique opportunity to visit Turkey has two main objectives.

- Sightseeing
- Folkdance Workshop

The trip will cost approximately £285.00 per person and will include flight, accommodation (based on 8 & 8), workshop sessions and all transfers.

The Planned Schedule will be as follows:-

- MARCH 1987 Day 1 - Depart from London
Free afternoon in Istanbul
- Day 2 - Guided tour of Istanbul
National High School folkdancing competition
- Day 3 - Depart for Bodrum via Izmir and Efes. Stop at Efes for 3 hours. Arrive in Bodrum early evening.
- Days 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 - Bodrum Workshop
The workshop will be run by an experienced and qualified dance tutor. I also hope to arrange visiting group to demonstrate some of their dances. There will also be video sessions in the evenings.
- Day 9 - Depart for Istanbul
- Day 10 - Arrive in Istanbul and flight back to London.

N.B. Exact dates will be fixed in accordance with the exact date of the national folklore competition which at present is unknown. Please call me on the number below after 7 p.m. if you need more information.

NO PAYMENT - NO OBLIGATION.

I'll let you know during the 3rd week in January whether or not there was enough interest.

If you are interested, please cut out the slip below and return it to me :-

Mr.Halil Celebioglu,
 14 Clapham Common North Side,
 London SW4 0RF
 Tel: (01) 622 3406

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I am interested in joining the group during - March
 Easter
 For person(s)

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

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Telephone: Day Evening

S.I.F.D. AFFILIATED GROUP to be added to the list send out last month:-

KAYROMA INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Friday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. during term time at Whitley Lodge First School, Whitley Bay, for General International folk-dancing. Tutor: Kaye Poole, 50 Antonine Walk, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 0EE. Tel: Wylam 2495. Pianist: Nancy Willis.

SUNDAY DANCES at Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, London W.C.1. (Queen Mary Hall)

Jan. 4th M.C. Janet Woolbar
Feb. 1st M.C.s Alan Cant and Dave McKie

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

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WHAT'S ON

- Jan. 3rd HALFDAY COURSE and NEW YEAR DANCE organized by Merry Andrew Folkdance Club. 2.30 to 6.30 p.m. Scottish Dance Workshop. Teacher: Lorraine Chase. £1.50 (bring snack or visit cafe). 7 to 10.30 p.m. General Dancing, including American Square, English and International. £2 including food. Joint ticket (Course & Dance) £3. Sherard Hall, rear of United Reformed Church, Court Rd., Eltham. 'Buses 21, 108, 124, 126, 160, 161. Eltham Wall Hall Station. Parking easy. Enquiries: 0689 71494.
- Jan. 3rd NEW YEAR PARTY organized by Croxley Green International Folk Dancers at Malvern Way Infants School, Malvern Way, Croxley Green, near Watford, Herts. 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Please come in costume. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. Tel: Watford 41441 or 28080.
- Jan. 17th DAY COURSE, MAINLY BALKAN & ISRAELI DANCES run by Uri Gerson at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Rd., London N.W.3. from 11 a.m. Suggestions for dances to be included will be most welcome. Uri's intention is to revise material which is already part of the repertoire of Balkanplus and/or S.I.F.D. Followed by BALKANPLUS evening (see below) when at least some of the Day Course dances will be included.
- Jan. 17th BALKANPLUS at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Rd., London N.W.3. M.C. Uri Gerson. Dunav Balkan Group. Other musicians welcome. Admission £2 including light refreshments. Further details from Liz Mellish, 01 863 7807.
- Feb. 7th UNIVERSITY OF LONDON DANCE GROUP is holding a NEW YEAR PARTY. Balkan (mainly Bulgarian) in Manning Hall, U.L.U. Building, University of London, Malet Street, London W.C.1. (opposite Dillon's), 7 to 10.30 p.m. Dunav Balkan Group. £3.50 including food & drink. Tickets available from Kathy Martin, 150 Bethune Road, Stamford Hill, N16 5DS. Please include s.a.e.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Tina Meech, of Merton Park Group, and Jeff Stone, of Hama'agal Group, on their recent engagement. We wish Tina and Jeff every happiness for their future together.