

# SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting is done by Doug and Maureen Wells.

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This month's cover is by Lesley Boorer.

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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 are available from Judith Holloway (address above), 30p each (please send s.a.e. 4" square)

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(£1.75 by post).

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF S.I.F.D. NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

IN WRITING BY 15TH DECEMBER

#### SECRETARY'S NOTES

At the last meeting of the year, the Committee reviewed its work over the past twelve months. Among the matters raised were:

West Midlands Branch. A full review of the Branch's work and progress since its inception has been carried out by the Central Committee in consultation with West Midlands. All problems both of structure and finance have been discussed and resolved. The Committee has every confidence in the Branch, and gives it full support. As they go from strength to strength, perhaps others will be encouraged to form a Branch.

Greater London Arts. A submission for an Annual Grant has been made, and will be considered for the next financial year which runs from September 1988.

<u>Membershio</u>. You will find on the next membership form and the "Dance With The World" leaflets that there are now two main kinds of members - "Town" and "Country". This is felt to make members' status clearer than the previous term "Full".

We anticipate an increase in membership this year.

<u>Donations</u>. The greater part of the £3,000+ left to the Society is to be spent on amplification equipment including a radio microphone and other microphones. Members with technical "know-how" have been asked to make recommendations in this regard.

Finally, we say "Farewell" to Uri Gerson and Mike Ridout who are not standing for the Committee this coming year. We thank them for the very valuable work they have both done for the Society for the last few years. Their advice and help have always been sound and given unstintingly.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 6th December 1987, in the Hampstead Room at the Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, London W.C.1., at 4.30 p.m. (not 4 p.m. as stated in the Preliminary Agenda). I hope that as many members as possible will attend.

AUDREY WHITELEY Hon. Secretary

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As we come to the end of another S.I.F.D. year, I should like to express my gratitude to the people who have helped me to produce the SIFD NEWS throughout the year. Once again, a very big Thank You to Doug and Maureen Wells who carry out the mammoth task of getting the NEWS photocopied, and then folding, packing, stamping and posting it, so that it arrives regularly on your doormat each month. It is a thankless and laborious job, and I am very grateful to Doug and Maureen for their loyalty and all the help they give, and have given so generously over many years.

Thank you, too, to Michael and Edwina Holdup for all their help, and time given, in labelling the envelopes and seeing that Doug gets them on time; and to Alan Morton for providing the labels promptly and keeping the addresses up to date. Thank you also to the people who provided cover designs (seven different contributors this year, acknowledged each month). Please keep them coming! And, lastly, to those members who provide us with articles, letters, and news items. Keep writing.

LILY AVERY Editor

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MUSIC. Two more tunes this month from Wilf Horrocks on page 12. Please let Wilf know if you have any special requests for music you would like published in SIFD NEWS. His telephone number is: D1 642 3629.

# S.I.F.D. BULGARIAN DAY COURSE

Place: St.Paul's Centre, Rossmore Rd., Marylebone, London N.W.1. (Off Lisson Grove,

near Marylebone and Edgware Road Underground Stations).

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Date: Saturday, 12th December 1987.

Tutors: Brian Dowsett and Frances Horrocks.

Fee: £3 for S.I.F.D. members, £4 for non-members.

Brian and Frances will be revising the Bulgarian dances on the Silver Badge syllabus:-

Kjustendilaka Ručenica Kamišice Pravo Trakijsko Horo Ruka

Bavno Dro Tervelska Tropanka

Sadi Moma Eleno Mome

Dospatsko Horo Sitno Severnjaško Horo

Recording will not be allowed but orders for cassettes may be taken on the day, to be posted later. Please bring a strong belt. Bring packed lunch; squash available. If tea/coffee required, please bring your own provisions; kitchen available.

The next S.I.F.D. Day Course, on 9th January 1988, will be Basque.

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#### FOR SALE

Women's Mexican dress, from Acapulco area, made entirely of bands of staggeringly brilliant orange lace (5" deep) between bands of white ribbon, machine embroidered with flowers (3" deep). Square neck. Neck to hem 52", waist up to 40" (to be belted in), bust 38". Threequarter sleeves, 10" deep. Requires belt/sash. Fit anybody! Christmas bargain - £50. I wish to donate 10% of the asking price to the S.I.F.D. promotion fund.

Can be examined in Fulham, five minutes from Underground Station.

Philip Thornton (a/c 20886009) Barclays, 137 Brompton Road, London SW3 1QF. Mark letter "please forward". Give telephone number if available; saves time!

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<u>Barnet</u>, for its December dances. Regular dance evenings will take place on 4th and 11th December from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m., and the Christmas Party will be on 18th December, B to 11.15 p.m. Admission to Party will be £2.50 including party food and wine. Music will be provided by Dunav Balkan Group. For further information, contact Brian Dowsett, 0992 582717.

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#### CASSETTES AND DANCE NOTES FOR SALE

The following are still available:-	Cassettes	Dance Notes
Paul Mulders' Course, Oct. 1987, Macedonian dances & songs	£5.00	£3.00
Course held at Patcham, Feb. 1987, Turkish & Bulgarian dances	£6.00	-
Belcho Stanev's Course, Swansea 1987, Bulgarian dances	£7.00	£2.00
Jaap Leegwater's Course, May 1986, Bulgarian dances		£2.50

Please include 50p for postage & packing. Apply to Cathy Meunier, 1st Floor, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. Tel: 01 482 0906. (Please note new address and telephone number).

Our regular readers will know that Frances Horrocks has written previous amusing and interesting accounts of her visits to Bulgaria. She has recently returned from yet another visit and has again provided us with the following entertaining blow-by-blow account. ED.

# WHAT! AGAIN?

Once more I am off on my travels to Bulgaria, and it's not even half-term. As this is likely to be the last course organized by my Dutch friends, Henk and Eddy (at least for the time being), I have pleaded my case with the Headmaster, and much to my surprise and delight, leave of absence has been granted; so, weaving in and out of fallen trees following the ravages of "the storm", I'm off to meet Cathy Meunier, and Tricia Strain from the Hursley Group, at Heathrow.

First stop Amsterdam, where we meet up with Henk (Eddy has already gone on ahead) and the rest of the group. There are twenty-four of us all told, and I am delighted to see the autumn "regulars", my third trip with some of them, plus a sprinkling of new faces. The flight to Sofia leaves on time; we consume, resignedly, our first in-flight Balkantourist meal, and descend somewhat rapidly, owing to the mist and cloud, for the stop-over in Vienna. Henk, who has been talking to the pilot, warns us that there will be a delay, so we are quite surprised when the flight is called and we resume our seats on the 'plane. However, Henk and the pilot are right and after ten minutes we have to get off again and return to the terminal building. Rumours are rife - a landing light has fused and Bulgarian bulbs aren't the same size as Austrian ones, they haven't enough money to pay for the fuel, they're sending another 'plane from Sofia (how can they? - they haven't got another one). We get a free drink on production of our plastic boarding pass - Cathy suddenly finds she has two - and after two and a half hours' delay we resume our journey, by now quite glad of another in-flight meal. To give them their due, the meals have improved - slightly. A coach is waiting for us at Sofia, so is Eddy, and we continue on our way to Haskovo which takes about another two and a half hours, arriving around 3 a.m., not exactly on schedule.

We are staying in a student hostel of some kind, but at that hour of the morning we don't take much interest. All that matters at the moment is that our rooms are on the seventh floor and only one of the two lifts is working. The best solution is to put all the luggage in the lift and walk up and meet it at the other end, which we do. The rooms have four beds each, so we establish the English headquarters with one bed to spare, locate the "deep plie" type toilets and find the water has been turned off for the night. Exhausted and somewhat disgruntled, we flop into bed.

Next morning there is a plentiful supply of hot water, my new travel jug works a treat, and so we have a cup of good, hot coffee; breakfast isn't until 9.30 a.m. and the morning is free. Things are looking up. We wander down into the town to have a look round, but as it's Sunday there isn't much going on. Haskovo lies approximately 280km. to the south-east of Sofia, in the mountains of Southern Thrace. Most of the time we are there the weather is overcast but quite mild during the day, but with a nip in the air at night. Parts of the delightful old town with its houses of mellow brick and red roof tiles can still be seen, but these are now surrounded by anonymous concrete high-rise blocks. The centre of the town boasts a large modern town hall, a large modern cinema, a small shopping area, some busy streets and a mosque. A river flows through the centre of the town, except that at this time of year there is hardly any water. Haskovo is not a tourist centre and I don't see or hear any other nationalities around. We are aware of curious, but not unfriendly, glances from passers-by to whom I suspect our colourful clothes and equally colourful shoes and trainers especially, are a novelty. More and more children wear track suits and bright colours, but not the adults, except floral patterns among the sprinkling of Muslim women.

Having had a look round, we climb back up the hill to our hostel which is part of a large school complex, and where we have lunch in the dining room which we share with the school children. Our meals are fairly plain but plentiful. Breakfast is usually tea or coffee, bread, butter, jam, cold meat, cheese and yoghurt. Lunch is soup or tomato salad, a meat dish, yoghurt and fruit. Most of our evening meals are eaten out.

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The children whose complex we are sharing range from about 6 to 16 years. The first we see of them is at 7.45 a.m. when serried ranks of under-12s do their morning exercises to canned music, including the "chicken" song. Some of our group can't resist it and join in at the back. Older children are studying Russian, English, and French. Some of them live some distance from Haskovo and have to board, hence the accommodation.

There always seems to be an item or event which looms larger than it ought, and this time it's the lift. At first only one lift is working and the lift buttons go like this:—() 2(365) (29) As we are on the seventh floor, we press which we recken ought to be No.7. It isn't, we arrive on Floor 6. We decide the best thing to do is to get out and walk up one flight. This happens several times until we realise that what is marked as (1) is actually the ground floor and therefore we ought to press (2). Sometimes it actually works. Eddy, of course, has the perfect answer. You press (9) and go up to the top; then you press (1) and on the way down press the emergency stop at just the right moment and there you are. Perfect. We decide not to emulate his example. Having got to the top it is extremely difficult to go down again. Pressing the call button seems to have no effect and we have to walk down.

On Monday the lift repair man comes. He installs himself with a chair and a screw-driver and rides up and down half the day and is not averse to picking up passengers on the way. Things improve — until I get into lift No.2 and go up to floor  $7\frac{1}{2}$  and can't get out and have to go all the way down again. A student joins me on the ground floor, somewhat surprised when I don't get out, and we try again. She wants No.4, so I decide it's safer to join her and walk the rest. On Wednesday, the lift man is back with his chair and his screwdriver, and then we are actually able to call the lift in order to go down. Life in Bulgaria is full of vagaries — without them it wouldn't be Bulgaria.

So what about the dancing? Yes, there was plenty of that too. We started on Sunday afternoon with our teacher, Anna Dimitrova, beginning with the compulsory exercises and moving on to a Rucenitsa and a Pravo. The arm and hand movements of the Rucenitsa need practice; the necessary co-ordination seems to desert one at the vital moment and one has to make a split-second decision as to whether to concentrate on the feet and vaguely wave one's arms around, or whether to keep the arms going and fudge the feet and hope no-one will notice. We are all still a bit jaded after our long journey and not exactly abounding in energy, and the low-ceilinged room doesn't help. Our next class on Monday morning is in the school gymnasium on a floor with a somewhat uneven concrete base which is a bit hard on the knees and ankles, but it is light and airy. We also start to learn some of the simple village dances of the local area, as well as Vlasko and Bučimiš. We have 3-hour classes again on Tuesday and Wednesday morning, and Thursday afternoon, and our list of standard and village dances grows to fourteen, a useful and interesting programme.

Between morning class and evening meal, various other events have been arranged for us. On Monday afternoon we go to the small but interesting ethnological museum where there are displays of local folk costumes, jewellery, copper and tin ware, musical instruments, old farm tools and a huge oil press. There is a guide who speaks German and we are allowed to take photos.

On Tuesday the Haskovo musicians come to the school with old folk instruments and play for us. They have two kavals, gajda, gadulka, tambouritsa and tapan (respectively, open-ended flutes, bagpipe, bowed string instrument, long-necked plucked string instrument and large drum). The combination of instruments produces a distinctive sound, uniquely Bulgarian. At the end of their performance they present everyone with records. What a marvellous souvenir. In the early evening we go to visit Anna's children's class. There are three groups dressed in different colours according to age, ranging from 7 to 14 years and about 150 of them altogether. This is only a section of the classes. There are about 600 children altogether from 4 years to performing group. They do the same warming up exercises that we have been doing and we recognise some of the step routines. Then they progress to some of their display items with little seven-year olds already highly proficient, and doing their

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best for the visitors. Eddy is video-ing them and at the end he looks like the Pied Piper with all the children crowding round, wanting to see themselves.

FRANCES HORROCKS
To be continued next month

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# THE LORD MAYOR OF WESTMINSTER'S BIG PARADE 1st JANUARY 1988, 2 TILL 4 P.M.

If arrangements go as planned, the S.I.F.D. should be participating in this event. Some people have expressed interest, and there is still time for others to join in. See the November issue of SIFD NEWS for details. Start is at Berkeley Square, then Piccadilly, Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street, Oxford Circus, Langham Place, Portland Place to Park Crescent. Even if you don't want to join the Parade, it would be well worth while watching, especially as 1st January is a national holiday.

Information from Kay Leighton (address and telephone number on page 2).

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# E.F.D.S.S. DAY OF DANCE - CECIL SHARP HOUSE

# 30th January 1988

The S.I.F.D. has been asked to participate in this, with a demonstration in the morning and a workshop in the afternoon. So far (as at middle of November) no firm details have been supplied, but perhaps members could bear the event and the date in mind pending further information.

KAY LEIGHTON

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# TROIKA - FORMERLY WILD BORSCHT

Members will probably know the name "Wild Borscht" as we have on previous occasions mentioned their cassettes in SIFD NEWS. The group have now announced that they are reverting to their former name of "Troika".

They play a variety of instruments: accordion, bayan, violins, domras, clarinet, recorders, kobza, and the music they play is derived from the Slavonic countries, particularly those around the Carpathian Mountain area — Ukraine, Moldavia, Romania and Czechoslovakia, plus Russian and Gypsy music and Hassidic tunes. Their cassettes are available, £4.50 including postage, from the address given below, and although they play mostly in the South-West area of England, they do venture out of the area occasionally and would be pleased to hear of anyone wishing to book them for any function as it is often possible to tie in with other bookings to offset the cost of travel etc.

They would also be delighted to hear of any dancers in their area.

The person to contact is Basil Bunelik, at Bellever, Cross Park, Totnes, Devon. Tel: 0803 862393.

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#### CONGRATULATIONS

We are happy to announce that Tina Meech (Merton Park Group) and Jeff Stone (Hama'agal Group) were married on 23rd October 1987 at Merton Register Office. Best man was Keith Perrin, also a folkdancer of course. Our very best wishes to Tina and Jeff for their future happiness together.

#### FORTY YEARS ON .... LOOKING SLIGHTLY BACKWARDS

So the S.I.F.D. has completed forty glorious years, and at the tag end of those years we are to witness (short of Divine intervention) the deliberate destruction of our "foster home", C # House, as we oldies still call it.

Very few readers of these words were born, let alone attended the fantastic International Folk Dance Festival organized in the summer of 1935, by the E.F.D.S.S., then at the peak of its glory. I had already spent two years wandering about the Balk ns, collecting and recording folk music and dances in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania and Albania. They were the four countries that gave positive support to a bona fide sthno-musicologist. The Athens mob couldn't care less. Nor were the big U.K. recording companies interested in using the unique material I had recorded, quite efficiently, on my neolithic cylinder apparatus. Who bought the master recordings? The Germans of course — Odeon, Polydor and Polyphon. Why? Because Hitler had planned a war for 1939, and Thornton was the ideal dotty academic who might be used to collect other information. Mercifully that moment never came as I reported all my other information to a certain department in Whitehall, and when the War did come (bang on time) I was whisked into so-called Intelligence. But I digress ...

The 1935 event was a breathtaking awakening for thousands of E.F.D.S.S. members. It went on for eight days; we danced in Hyde Park, Lambeth Palace Gardens, and in the Royal Albert Hall, to jam-packed audiences. It was not just one single team from all the countries we invited. Three totally different teams came from Russia, three from pre-Franco Spain; a vast team of 84 Hitler Jugend, plus brass band, turned up (and flatly refused to perform next to the French, who sent four teams!). The remote and unknown Baltic States all sent teams. The Yugos backed out at the last moment but the Bulgars sent a remarkable team from Sofia, whose musicians all went on strike for more pay on the second day! But it was the Romanians who stopped the Show each time they appeared. An all-male team of magic Calusari dancers came from central Arges. I vividly remember the Press, totally confused by the ritual shouts of the dancers, writing "these peasants appear to know all about Bernard Shaw, as they call out his name very frequently, - Bernard Shaw, Bernard Shaw". This is the nearest they could get to the word Cal-u-shar, Cal-u-shar (Calusar) which the dancers did indeed call out with terrific power every so often. It is their "trade name", little horse dancers.

Where has all this energy gone? Why have we never seen another International Festival? Where has all <u>our S.I.F.D.</u> energy gone? Don't tell me it's all a matter of rising costs ... it isn't! We, the S.I.F.D., were busy packing the Royal Albert Hall with our own highly successful international festivals year after year in the late 50s and early 60s.

Now, we see the ppor E.F.D.S.S. split into two factions. The song <u>and</u> dance brigade, and the non-dance brigade who have taken a fatal step backwards into cellars and clubs, into grass and flabby guitars and third-rate imitations of American "folk" that hit this country in the 60s. No, it's matter of total change in the past forty years, even in the past fifty-five years, to what I call folk activity. The 1939-1945 war put the tin hat on unrestricted travel in Europe; the Iron Curtain did not merely cut Germany in half. For a clear five years after 1945, travel in Eastern Europe, and the Balkans (except Greece) was only allowed for commercial purposes. I know only too well; I tried to go back there! Then, suddenly Tourism, the magic word, exploded. Tourism = Money, and Money = Hard Currency. Dear old Yugoslavia was the first to react. She was now five mini-states within one frontier, and she loathed the wave of Stalinism that had swept her neighbours.

I was invited to go to Romania as a "guest" in the summer of 1957 to Bucureşti, to a Conference where we were to discuss the place of the Folk Arts in National Development (if indeed that topic has any meaning whatsoever in a Commie organization?). I was revolted by what I saw and heard. Most of my pre-war pals were either dead, in prison or in hiding, for a start. Three quarters of the folk garments worn by the dancers were machine made, machine embroidered from man-made fibres, the work being done by "detainees". The words "political prisoner" were avoided.

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I went on to Bulgaria. The situation was even more hideous. Wellknown folk songs, and an assortment of man-made new folk songs, had been provided with new texts that suited the Party. These were sung with great gusto by genuine peasant choirs. They had no choice in the matter; after all, they wanted to eat. But the crowning glory of Stalinism was to change the sacred fire dancing ritual of Vulgari, which I had seen in 1938 with Raina Katzarova. It was performed by a young man and a young woman, on the concrete backyard of the hotel where I stayed. They had had their feet specially prepared, and had practised for weeks before doing the fake ritual in public, for thirty seconds at a time.

So great was the suspicion of any person who knew Bulgaria before Stalinisation, that Raina Katzarova, whom I'd first met in London in 1935, dare not invite me to her house, but we met and talked in a Kafana fifteen miles from Sofia in the country; and we only ever spoke French.

I went back to Romania in 1968, some thirty—two years later. It had turned into the Bureaucrats' Paradise, whilst occasionally sticking out its tongue at Big Brother, on the other side of the river Prut. Their folk dancing was now totally standardised. The Caluşari functioned solely under State control.

You may be wondering what on earth this rigmarcle has to do with the S.I.F.D.? Way up in the North of Aberdeenshire there is a place called Findhorn. It celebrates its 25th anniversary this very week. Because I'd heard that they were doing "our" sort of Balkan dancing I went there, way back in 1967. I came away after three days. It was a shambles. BUT, time tells. Today they have perfected and exported an adulterated mock-up of horas, kolos and horos, with the trade mark "Circle Dancing". But, stranger than that, they have concected, for the inner clique, an extra special carry-on called Sacred Dance. This latter cultus was put on the road by a German ex-ballet dancer, now deceased.

The Circle Dance movement is with us to stay. It is well established in the Home Counties and South-West England. Let them get on with it; after all, we are supposed to be living in a free country. But let <u>US</u> in the S.I.F.D. keep a very sharp watch that after forty years of patient devoted work and development, it does not do a secret unseen invidious "stalin" on us. We have our hands full in the S.I.F.D. just to stay alive. We can do without pollution of our stream and tradition.

PHILIP THORNTON

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#### ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS

- T-Shirts. All poly-cotton. Most in Small, Medium, Large, X-Large. £3 each for black & white line of dancers (as 40th Anniversary design). £3 each for red, black & white circle of dancers. £3.80 for new design (motif of 'SIFO' figure) in red/white/black or blue/white/black. Add 30p to all prices if by post.
- Notelets. Packet of ten notelets with envelopes for £1.10. Each packet is mixed —
  five notelets of Moldavian couple and five notelets of Dutch (Volendam)
  couple. Postage: 1 packet 20p; 2 packets 24p; 3 packets 37p; 4 packets
  43p; 5 packets 47p.

"History of the S.I.F.D.". Price £1.50, postage 25p.

Mugs. Neapolitan costume design, price £1, but not by post.

All items available at most S.I.F.D. events, or by post from Kay Leighton (address on page 2). Cheques to be made payable to S.I.F.D.

NEW: Ready soon will be strong calico bags with design in one colour. Cost will be in the region of  $\pounds 2$  or slightly more.

# S.I.F.D. AFFILIATED GROUPS

ANACHNU ISRAELI DANCE GROUP meets during term time on Wednesdays, 7.45 to 9.45 p.m. at Kidbrooke Comprehensive School, Corelli Rd., Blackheath, London S.E.3. Teacher: Judy Ingram. Tel: 01 858 5436.

BALKAN & INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets during term time on Mondays, 8 to 10 p.m. in the Dance Studio at Camden Institute, Longford St., London N.W.1. Teacher: Cathy Meunier. Tel: 01 527 6232.

BALKANPLUS meets monthly on Saturdays from 7 p.m. at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Rd., London N.W.3. Mainly Balkan dancing. Contact: Liz Mellish, 15 Lancaster Rd., North Harrow, Middx. Tel: 01 863 7807 (home).

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday from the first Tuesday in September to mid-July, except Christmas week, at Wilbraham-St.Ninian's United Reformed Church Hall, Wilbraham Rd. (corner of Egerton Rd.South), Manchester, 7.45 to 10.15 p.m. Further details from Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Rd., Manchester M16 OBN. Tel: 061 881 3613.

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB are meeting for the time being at Church House, Wood St., Barnet, on Fridays, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Leader: Brian Dowsett. For information, contact Kathryn Fuller, 01 203 5750.

<u>BESKDY DANCERS</u> (Czechoslovakia) meet on Wednesdays during term time. Beginners 7 to 8 p.m. Advanced 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. Singing 8.15 to 8.30 p.m. At Fox School, Edge St., Notting Hill Gate, London W.8. Tutor: Hedy Fromings. Tel: 01 699 8597 (evenings).

BRADFORD HUNGARIAN DANCE GROUP meets most Sundays, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. at Willowfield School, Legrams Lane, Bradford. Teacher: Eva Gazday, also visiting specialist teachers. Secretary: Rachel Novak, 88 Legrams Lane, Bradford BD7 2AH. Tel: 576903. Warm welcome to all ages.

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Thursday during term time, at Henleaze Infants School, Park Grove, Bristol, 7 to 9 p.m. Further information from Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Rd., Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0272 621802.

BROMLEY INTERNATIONAL CLASS meets in term time only, Mondays 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. At St. Marks C.E. Primary School, Aylesbury Rd., Bromley (off Westmoreland Rd., near Bromley South Station). General Class, mainly line & circle dances. Tutor: Fiona Howarth, 17a Ravensbourne Rd., Bromley BR1 1HN. Tel: 01 460 2305.

DANCEFOLK meet on Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m. at Newcastle University (small gym, P.E.Dept.) Kings Walk, Newcastle.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets for General International folk dancing in Stockbridge House, Cheyne St., Edinburgh. Mondays from end-September to mid-May, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Further information from Dennis Belford, 031 449 5325, or Kirsty Evans, 031 312 6688.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday during autumn and spring terms, 7.30 to 9 p.m. at South Kent College of Technology, Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone, Kent. Further details from the Secretary - Pat Clarke, 51 Chichester Rd., Sandgate, Folkestone. Tel: Folkestone 49199.

HARROW FOLKDANCE CLUB meets at various venues on most evenings for English/Playford/ American Square/Clog and includes some International dance on Mondays. Contact: John Lawes, 01 907 4700.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets most Thursdays during term time, 8 to 10 p.m. at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Nr.Romford, Essex. Tutor: Eleanor Oakley. Secretary: Sheila Hall, 0277 821808.

HURSLEY INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS meet at IBM Clubhouse, Hursley Park, nr.Winchester. Thursdays 7.30 to 10 p.m. Mainly Balkan dancing. Tutor: Roger Ayres. Secretary: Terry Clowes, MP161, IBM U.K. Labs Ltd., Hursley Park, Winchester, Hants 5021 2JN. Tel: D962 844433 Ext.6550.

INTERDANCE EASTBOURNE meets 1st and 3rd and 5th Fridays of each month, 7.45 p.m. at St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, Broad Rd., Willingdon, near Eastbourne (off A22). General International dancing. Contact: Roy le Croissette, 26 Westfield Rd., Eastbourne, E.Sussex BN21 2QU. Tel: 0323 32237.

INTERDANCE WORTHING meets every Friday, 7.15 to 10 p.m. at Field Place, Pavilion (Southern end of the Boulevard). Nearest B.R. station Durrington. Partners not essential as line and circle dances are very popular. Leader: Iris Birch, 11 Merlin Court, Littlehampton Rd., Worthing, W. Sussex. Tel: Worthing 691651. For Contemporary, American Square Dance Club details, ring Iris.

KALINKA DANCERS learn, practise and perform folkdances of the U.S.S.R. At present, Russian, Ukrainian, Moldavian and Tertar. Mondays all through the year, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at the Church Hall, Unitarian Church, Ormond Rd., Richmond. All grades, Tutor: Jenia Graman. Tel: 01 876 0514.

LDIDIS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB meets on Thursdays, 7.45 to 10 p.m. at Moor Allerton Memorial Institute, off Stonegate Rd., (opposite the Fire Station), Moortown, Leeds 17. General International dancing. Check at time of school holidays. Tel: Leeds 664384 or 787837 (evenings 5 to 7, or weekends).

Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. at The Crypt, St.Sophia's Cathedral, Moscow Rd., Bayswater, London W.2. Teacher: Elina Antonakou. Enquiries: Mrs.C.Vergos (01 486 3430) or Mrs. L.Galatis (01 997 5729).

MERRY ANDREW FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every 2nd, 4th & 5th Monday, 8 to 10.15 p.m. at Sherard Hall, United Reformed Church, Court Rd., Eltham, London S.E.9., excluding Bank Holidays and August. British, General International, American Square, Contra and Sword dancing. All welcome. Enquiries: 0689 71494.

MERTON PARK BEGINNERS CLASS meets on Mondays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. in term time. Liberty Middle School, Western Rd., Mitcham, Surrey. Contact: Hugh Wood. Tel: 01 540 5533.

NEW MILTON FOLKDANCE GROUP meets in New Milton Arts Centre, Old Milton Rd., New Milton. Thursdays 1.45 to 3 p.m. in term time. Contact: Diana Steer, 59 See Rd., Barton on Sea, New Milton, Hants.

NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Thursday, 7.45 to 9.45 p.m. for General International folkdancing at Kirk Hallam School & Community Centre, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, near Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Teacher: Celia Stone (AISTD), Bottle Kiln, High Lane, West Hallam, Derby DE7 6HP. Secretary/Leader: Gillian Morral, 114/116 Nottingham Rd., Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8AR. Tel: Sandiacre 393204.

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets throughout the year on Wednesdays at 8.15 p.m. at St.Giles Church Hall, 10 Woodstock Rd., Oxford. For further details, contact Diana Porteus, 98 Fairacres Rd., Oxford OX4 1TG. Tel: Oxford 241584, or Teresa Blunt, 13 Upper Fisher Row, Oxford. Tel: Oxford 250308.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP. No details received for the NEWS.

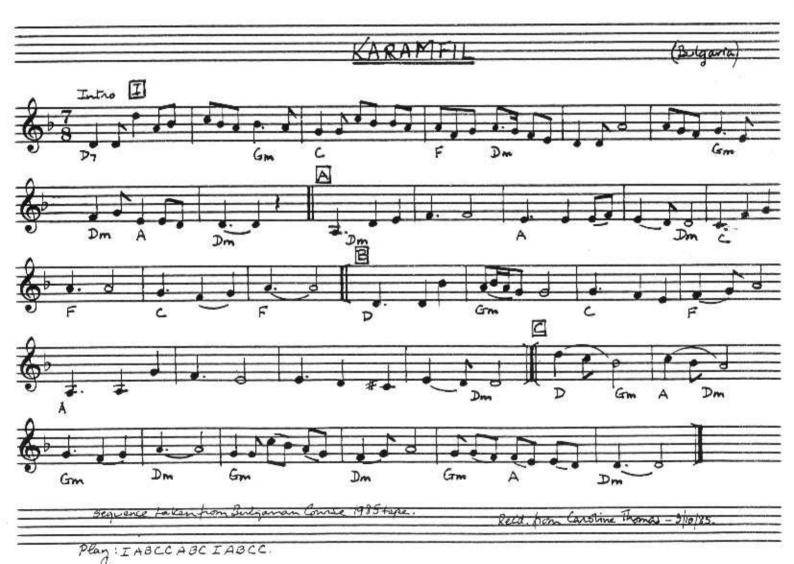
WIGGINTON INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Thursday during term time, 7.45 p.m. at Wigginton School, near Tring. Details from Margaret Cullen, Hemel Hempstead 58277.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Tuesdays, 8 to 9.30 p.m., at Parish Hall, Quarry Hill Rd., Borough Green, nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. General International folkdancing. More details from Jenny Cant. Tel: Borough Green (0732) 883405.

WYCOMBE FOLKDANCE CLUB meets every Monday except Bank Holidays and August, at Sir William Ramsay School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, nr. High Wycombe. 7.45 to 10.15 p.m. Contact: Uri Gerson. Tel: 0494 23434.

ZYC ISRAELI FOLKDANCE GROUP. No details received for the NEWS.





-12-

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

Dec. 6th M.C. \*Simon Guest. Interval dances will be led by Joyce Sharp. Jan. 3rd M.C.s Members of the Committee

\*This is an alteration to last month's announcement of M.C.s.

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: £2.50 for S.I.F.D. members. £3.00 for non-members.

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# WHAT'S ON

- Dec. 1st "BISTRITSA" Concert at Islington Town Hall, Upper St., London N.1. 7.30 p.m. Ancient vocal harmonies sung by a group of village women, also soloists and traditional instrumentalists. "The Real Sound of Bulgaria". Presented by the British-Bulgarian Friendship Society, c/o Finsbury Library, 245 St. John Street, London EC1V 4NB. Tel: 01 837 2304. Admission £2.50; concessions £1.50.
- Dec. 6th <u>S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</u> at Y.W.C.A. (Hampstead Room), Great Russell Street, London W.C.1. 4.30 p.m.
- Dec. 6th GREEK DAY COURSE organized by Julie Korth at Edge Hill College of Higher Education, Ormskirk. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Lillian Galatis. Details from Julie Korth, 0942 831141.
- Dec. 12th S.I.F.D. BULGARIAN DAY COURSE. See page 4.
- Dec. 12th

  ZIVKO FIRFOV CHRISTMAS PARTY. Moorfields Primary School, Bunhill Row,
  London E.C.1. 7 to 10.30 p.m. Admission by ticket only £5, including
  refreshments. Tickets from Fred Wood, 43 Gillmans Rd., Orpington, Kent
  BR5 4LB. Tel: 0689 27363 (home). Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov,
  s.a.e. please.
- Dec. 18th BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY. See page 4.
- Dec. 18th/20th WEEKEND AT DUNFORD. Enquiries to Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University College, Swansea SA2 8PP.
- Dec. 19th <u>BALKANPLUS</u> at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Rd., London N.W.3. 7 p.m. M.C. Frances Horrocks. Dunav Balkan Group. Other musicians welcome. Admission £2 including light refreshments. Further details from Liz Mellish, 01 863 7807.
- Jan. 2nd HALFDAY COURSE and NEW YEAR DANCE organized by Merry Andrew Folkdance Club. 2.30 to 6.30 p.m. Workshop Mexican folkdances led by Robert Harrold £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 (Workshop & Dance) £3. Sherard Hall, rear of United Reformed Church, Court Rd., Eltham, S.E.9. 'Buses 21, 108, 124, 126, 160, 161. Eltham Well Hall Station. Parking easy. Enquiries: D689 71494.
- Jan. 2nd NEW YEAR PARTY organized by Croxley Green International Folkdancers at Malvern Way Infants School, Malvern Way, Croxley Green, near Watford, Herts. 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Come in costume if you have one. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. Enquiries: Watford (0923) 228080 or 241441.
- Dec. 21st CHRISTMAS PARTY organized by Wycombe Folkdance Club at Sir William Ramsey School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, near High Wycombe. 8 p.m. Admission £1 including refreshments. All are welcome.