

SHIP NEWS

JAN
1988

JACKET, WAISTCOAT AND
BREECHES - DARK BLUE
SHIRT - WHITE

CHAINS AND
DAGGER -
SILVER

DOLL -
STICK ON
THIN CARD,
COLOUR AND
CUT OUT



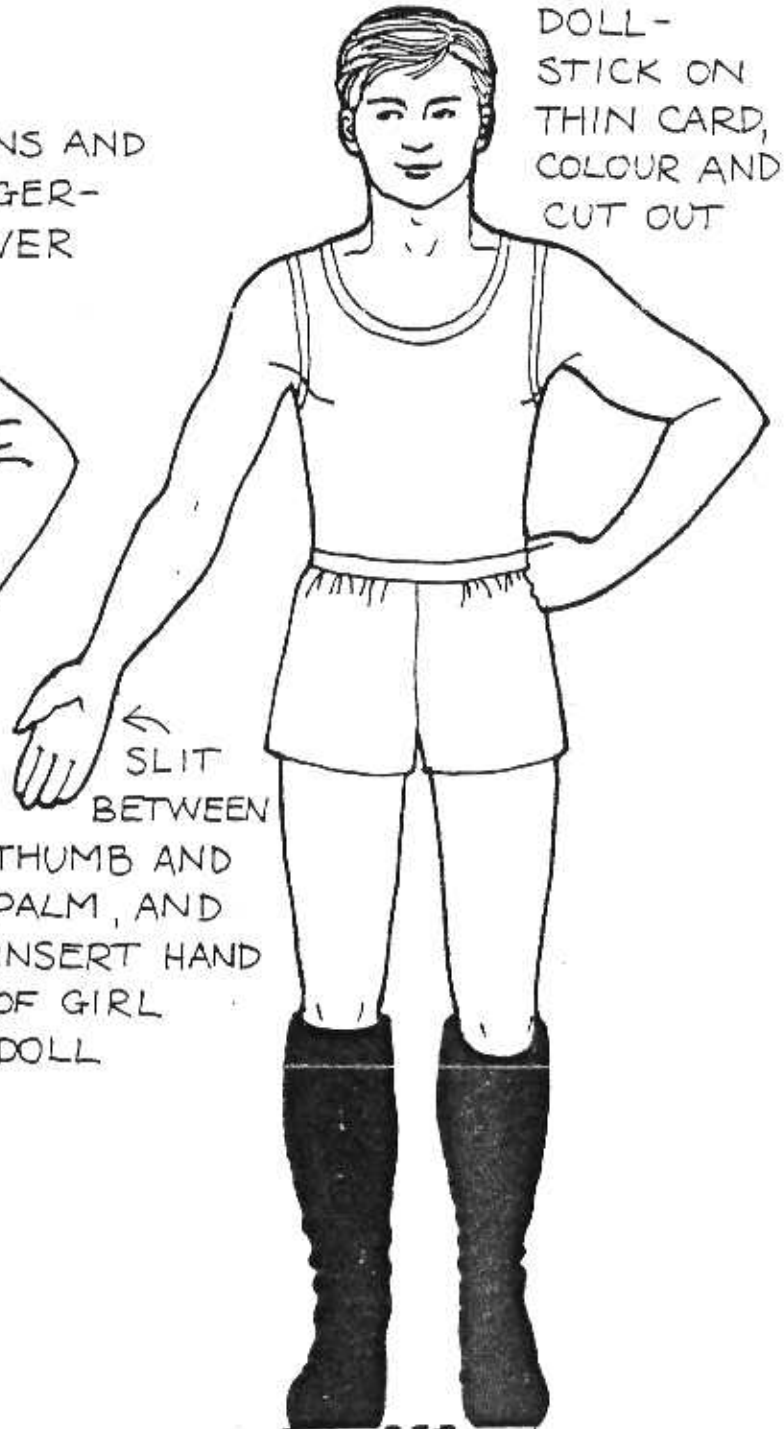
SASH -
RED

SLIT
BETWEEN
THUMB AND
PALM, AND
INSERT HAND
OF GIRL
DOLL

HEADRESS - BLACK



COSTUME FROM CRETE



BASE -
BEND BACK
ALONG
DOTTED LINE

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+ We have to announce the very sad news that our dear friend and mentor, Lucile +
+ Armstrong, died on 6th December 1987, aged 87. Her death was sudden, and she +
+ was very active up to the end, for which we must be thankful, but the loss to +
+ the folkdance world in general and to her friends in S.I.F.D. is irreparable. +

+ It would really require a book to do justice to the richness of her biography, +
+ to her contribution to folklore, and to her determination to keep the tradition +
+ and authenticity in folkdance, a cause from which she never wavered. +

+ Her parents taught her music and, at the age of 4, to dance the polka, waltz +
+ and redova. Her father wanted her to be tri-lingual, and would read to her each +
+ night, one night in English, the next in French and the next in Spanish. Her +
+ father was a geographer and botanist and travelled extensively, taking his family +
+ with him - from France to Paraguay, to Central and South America, and Lucile's +
+ educational background was enriched as she travelled in Havana, Oaxaca in Mexico, +
+ Mexico City, the Paraguayan jungle (studying the customs of American Indians +
+ en route). She attributed her inspiration to this early life of travel. Where- +
+ ever she went Lucile studied the dance, customs, costumes and traditions. It +
+ was in Paraguay that she began her long association with Spanish dancing when +
+ a friend there taught her the Sevillanas. +

+ She married Richard Armstrong, archaeologist, and, because of her husband's ill- +
+ health, they went to live in Spain where they ran a school in Barcelona for ten +
+ years. While there, Lucile learned Catalan and Galician dances. She accumulated +
+ an overall folk culture - dances, songs, music (much of which she notated), lang- +
+ uage, costume, character and background. They had to leave Spain because of the +
+ Civil War, during which they lost everything they owned, and went to live in +
+ Portugal where Lucile stayed for five years and of course studied Portuguese +
+ dancing. Her husband died in Portugal. +

+ Lucile's contribution to folklore has been enormous and her list of achievements +
+ is endless - author and illustrator of several folkdance books, author of many +
+ articles for Folklore Societies both here and abroad, acknowledged authority on +
+ Spanish and Portuguese dance, lecturer here and in Spain, translator of five +
+ languages, teacher for the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, Royal Academy +
+ of Dancing, Ling Institute of Physical Education, to name but a few; painter of +
+ watercolours, adjudicator at the International Eisteddfod for more than twenty- +
+ five years. She was still teaching up to the week she died, and over the years +
+ many established teachers have been among her former pupils. +

+ Added to all this, Lucile was a warm, charming lady, always willing to give up +
+ her time to pass on her love of folkdance and folklore. She felt very strongly +
+ that she wanted to pass on her feeling for authenticity, and said, "I feel it is +
+ extremely important to keep the tradition all over the world. To warp or change +
+ traditional folkdances is to impoverish the treasurehouse of mankind's inheritance. +
+ By altering them, they are degraded into meaningless exercises. Once lost, these +
+ dances will never again be retrieved". +

+ We are all richer from having known Lucile and learned from her. Let us honour +
+ her memory by keeping tradition alive, and endeavouring to follow her magnificent +
+ example. +

LILY AVERY



A Memorial Service for Lucile was held on Tuesday, 15th December 1987, at the Church
of St.Alban the Martyr & St.Michael, Golders Green. The S.I.F.D. was well represented
by quite a number of members who joined Lucile's family and other friends to pay their
last respects to this great lady and doyenne of dance. The Service was followed by a
Reception, at which Lucile's class presented a display of the Portuguese dances she had
taught them. This was followed by a session of Portuguese and Spanish dances in
Lucile's honour, in which the "team" of dancers were joined by several of our members
who had stayed on after the Service. LILY AVERY

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East Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: Cooden (04243) 5866.

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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 and shows a Cretan man to partner the Cretan
lady doll on our November cover.

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

The attendance at the Annual General Meeting on 6th December was very low - a mere
thirty members - and the meeting ended in a record thirty-five minutes. Whether
this was because of the low numbers, the non-controversial items on the Agenda,
the efficiency of the Chairman, or sheer apathy, is difficult to determine! The
Minutes will be circulated as soon as possible.

There are two new members of the Committee to replace Uri Gerson and Mike Ridout -
Belinda Gee and Roy Bowtell of Rainmakers. The Committee for 1987/88 is: Janet
Woolbar (Chairman), Audrey Whiteley (Secretary), Judith Holloway (Treasurer), Roy
Bowtell, Frank Flanagan, Belinda Gee, Pam Khan, Kay Leighton and Liz Mellish. Co-
opted: Alan McLean, who will continue to deal with Associated and Affiliated Groups.
Ex-Officio: Alan Morton (Membership Secretary) and George Sweetland (Publicity
Officer).

The news of Lucile Armstrong's death came at the end of the Annual General Meeting.
There will no doubt be a tribute to Lucile elsewhere in these pages, but perhaps the
most immediate and poignant expression of our grief and respect was the response to
the Chairman's request for a pause in the Sunday Dance as a tribute to her memory.
Our sense of gratitude for her life and contribution to international folkdancing
is very real - she will be greatly missed.

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary

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SILVER BADGE EXAMINATION

As previously announced, we shall be holding the Silver Badge Examination for dances
from Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia and Switzerland on Saturday, 12th March
1988. If you wish to take the examination for any or all of these countries, please
complete the application form on page 6, detach it and send it to Kelsey Blundell
with the appropriate fee by 31st January 1988. Syllabuses for these countries were
published in the October issue of SIFD NEWS, and applicants will be asked to dance
those dances marked "Compulsory" on the syllabus plus three others of their choice
from the syllabus. (If you would like another copy of the syllabus, please contact
Kelsey).

As we have mentioned before, these examinations play a very important part in
helping to improve the style of our dancing, and participants have found it very
satisfying to attain "Silver Badge standard" and improve their knowledge and enjoy-
ment of the dances. We hope many of you will take this opportunity.

We would remind you that members wishing to take the South East European Teacher's
Certificate later this year will need to hold at least three Silver Badges for East
European countries.

BADGE & DAY COURSE SUB-COMMITTEE

Magda Ossko, in a letter written to Alan McLean, has asked us to pass on her thanks
to everyone who kindly wrote to her extending their sympathy at the sad loss of
her husband.

After Philip Thornton's attack on the Circle Dance movement (SIFD NEWS December '87), I thought I would like to put my oar in and set a few facts straight.

The "Sacred Dance" movement was started by the German dance-teacher Bernhard Wosien, ballet-trained but with an interest in the folk idiom. (The choreography he created for his own theatre group contained folk material). The fact that folkdance's ancient roots lie in magic, ritual and religion led Wosien to Findhorn in Scotland, a quasi-religious commune, in a quest to reconstruct the line-and-circle dance form in an esoteric setting. Thus at Findhorn he developed a repertoire of dances, most Balkan in origin but freely altered and adapted according to instructions from "spirit guides" by whom Wosien imagined himself to be possessed. Additionally, he interpreted the movements according to other occult beliefs - everything from Alice Bailey, through Madame Blavatsky, deceased Tibetans, the Qabala, Freemasonry, numerology, astrology, geomancy; you name it!

This unlikely mish-mash of Balkan dance and hocus-pocus was, at least by the late 60s/early 70s, being taught to Findhorn devotees under the name "Sacred Dance". Eileen and Peter Caddy, who run Findhorn, seem to have wanted to keep this all for Findhorners, but David Roberts (personally known to some of you) was one of the people who began to publicise and teach it outside the community. (In 1978 I went to a class in Glastonbury, billed as "Sacred Dance", to find a Findhorner, all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, teaching Syrtaki, Pogonisios etc!). But the movement really took off with the arrival in Glastonbury, in 1983, of Colin Harrison. By 1984 he had re-named it "Circle Dance" (this was his idea, nothing to do with Findhorn!) because the word "sacred" put people off! Colin started a nationwide campaign of expansion and publicity, as a direct result of which the movement achieved the huge success it enjoys now.

"Circle Dance" is indeed very popular. The quarterly network preview lists hundreds of events and active groups all around the country. What will the S.I.F.D. member find if he/she attends a C.D. event? First of all, this depends very much on the teacher - some C.D. groups are little different from S.I.F.D. events. But in general this is what to expect:- Dancers dance around a centrepiece (flowers, lights, crystals etc.) which has symbolic meaning, but also serves to stop the circle from wandering around the (incense-scented) room. The evening begins with the circle joining hands for a few minutes of silence. Less usually the leader may invoke various spirits or lead an esoteric meditation. The dances are all very simple ("advanced" in C.D. terms means a sequence of more than twelve steps!), and the steps of the folk original are commonly altered or simplified; national or regional style is as a rule never taught, and indeed is often frowned upon. The leader gives information which has little or nothing to do with the folkloric facts; for example, Vari Hassapiko is supposed to be linked to a Zodiacal sign, and the god Chronos is supposed to rule the dance Pogonisios. As well as "folk" dances there are modern circle dances, including "meditation dances" to soothing music by Bach, Vivaldi, etc. and liturgical dances to the songs from the Taizé monastery. Day workshops, dance camps and other C.D. events often include massage, meditation, mask-making, esoteric chanting, the Indian sweat-lodge etc.

A great time is had by all - and the rapidly-growing popularity of Circle Dance attests to this. But it has to be said that what passes for Balkan dance in C.D. events is a bowdlerised, kindergarten version of line-and-circle. The teaching itself is often careless and sloppy; dances are badly-learned and carelessly passed on, resulting in the "Chinese Whispers" effect. Viz; a conscientious teacher passes on a dance, accurately learned from S.I.F.D., and via a chain of less-conscientious persons the dance becomes unrecognizable.

In actual fact a standardised Circle-Dance style has developed, by stirring together all steps into a bland coffee-coloured sludge! All footwork has become a vague plod/shuffle or an action resembling that by which a dog covers its...er...traces. The posture is rarely upright and its nothing unusual to see dancers bowing like a line of Turks during, e.g. the Breton "An Dro", (to quote an oft-repeated C.D.

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slogan, "If it feels right, do it!"). All grapevines are done Israeli-style!

However, there is a minority of teachers who are conscientious, who are keen to get the dances right, and to this end work hard. Some are S.I.F.D. members. Some have travelled to the Balkans, Europe and the U.S.A. to learn. It is important that such people should not be slandered or tarred with the same brush as the others.

Dissatisfaction with the increasing mutilation and vandalising of the wonderful Balkan dances, and distaste at the addition of alien, dubious and often dangerous mumbo-jumbo to these dances, finally led me to withdraw my name from the C.D. teacher's list. But it has to be said that for me and many others, my love of Balkan dance started through Circle Dance. I certainly would never have thought of joining S.I.F.D. had I not had this preliminary. Regular C.D. groups have a particular kind of warmth, and a special atmosphere not found elsewhere. Before people criticize the Circle Dance scene they really ought to go and sample what's on offer. (You may not find anything for your comfort, but you won't find secrecy, invidiousness or Stalinism!).

I believe that straightforward, unadorned folk dance IS "sacred", because of its beauty, the innocent happiness we get from it, and its marvellous potential for bringing different races and nations together in peaceful activity. I think Philip Thornton is very wrong to try and present the Circle Dance movement in terms of hatred, evil and enmity. Let the Circle Dancers and the S.I.F.D. members together build bridges, not walls.

JANET E. McCRICKARD

ED. NOTE: Philip Thornton's article last month caused quite a stir, and the above is the first of several articles I received (five in all) in response to his remarks on Sacred/Circle Dances. From these articles, one thing became very clear and that was, that whatever else Circle Dance is, it is definitely not folk. Therefore, I decided not to take up more space in our folkdance magazine by printing the rest of the articles, particularly as we have to restrict severely the number of pages this month. However, I thank very much those people who wrote to me on the subject. It is most interesting.

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NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP have decided to go ahead and hold a Silver Badge Examination Day for the benefit of people who cannot easily get to London. We will hire two classrooms at Kirk Hallam Community School in Ilkeston (our usual venue for Day Courses) and will probably have examinations in Swiss, Italian, Norwegian and/or English dances, although this still needs to be confirmed. We will start the ball rolling with -

A NORWEGIAN DAY COURSE - 30TH JANUARY 1988

At Kirk Hallam Community School, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston, Derbyshire. 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission £2. Janet Woolbar will teach Norwegian dances from the Silver Badge Syllabus. Weather permitting. Enquiries: Nottingham 393204.

We hope to hold the examination in the summer of 1988. Dates still have to be confirmed. Details will be finalised in due course. Meantime, if anyone is interested in taking part in the badge examinations, would they please let me know.

Another of our future events is a Mediterranean Day Course on 19th March at Kirk Hallam Community School, and looking even further ahead we have booked several foreign teachers for our 10th Anniversary in 1989. Teachers from Sweden, France, Denmark and possibly Germany. Who says nothing happens in the North?!

GILL MORRAN, Hon. Secretary
Nutbrook International Folkdance Group

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING
APPLICATION FOR SILVER BADGE EXAMINATION
BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY AWARD

I(name) of
(address). Tel. No.
 Membership No. wish to apply to be examined for competency in the
 following dances on Saturday, 12th March 1988.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Dances</u>
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Examination fee of £3.50 is enclosed. I shall/shall not be bringing a partner.
 Name of S.I.F.D. teacher

Date Signature.....

Please return the above form to Kelsey Blundell, 65 Lonsdale Avenue, London E6 3JZ
 by 31st January 1988.

"MAKING A SONG AND DANCE ABOUT IT"

I would like to thank all those dancers, musicians and helpers who made our item at the Royal Albert Hall on 28th November such a success. Our performance was well received and I have had many appreciative comments from members of the audience. What I shall personally remember most was the tremendous applause which erupted in the hall as we finished with the "hoi" of Karapyet. This really was the measure of our performance. Well done everyone.

CHARLES STEVENTON

Kaye Poole, Kay Leighton and Patricia Moss all wrote to say how much they appreciated all the hard work put in by Steve and also by Wilf Horrocks and his musicians, and how much they enjoyed the item. I'm sorry I haven't space to print their letters but I am pleased to pass on their congratulations and thanks to Steve and all concerned with the production. ED.

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DEMONSTRATIONS - VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON

I am again hoping to arrange a series of dance displays in these charming gardens during Summer 1988. As most of you know, we are allowed free use of the stage and its facilities. However, the Westminster Council has a common policy with all persons or groups who perform on the stage, and does not find itself able to offer us any expenses. But it does provide several very kind and helpful members of the Gardens' staff who cheerfully see to the "electrics" (even when they are rain-sodden), and move furniture, including a grand piano of fine lineage which was retired from service at the Festival Hall.

During January I shall be sending out booking forms to those groups who have performed previously. If any other group/class would like to put on a show on their own, or to alternate with another group/class, do please let me know. At these events the audience itself is very interesting, and usually includes many foreigners on holiday or business. There have also been folkdancers from abroad. And, of course, there are the somnolent bodies just there for an afternoon's snooze!

Don't forget - all groups/classes are welcome. Just let me know in good time.

KAY LEIGHTON

9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts WD4 8AN

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S.I.F.D. BASQUE 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, 9TH JANUARY 1988

Tutor: Joan Guest Fee: £3 for SIFD members, £4 for non-members.

Please wear soft shoes. Skirts for the ladies. Recording will be allowed. Bring packed lunch; squash available. If tea or coffee required, please bring your own provisions; kitchen available.

The next S.I.F.D. Day Course, on 13th February, will be Romanian, when we shall be revising the dances on the Romanian badge syllabus.

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FOR SALE: Spanish costumes and accessories. Contact Margaret Webb - Bookham 52571.

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

This month's SIFD NEWS is somewhat thinner than usual. Owing to the pressure of Christmas and the restricted time available to us at the College for getting the NEWS photo-copied that week, we have had to keep the work involved to a minimum. I'm sorry if your article/letter got "squeezed out" this month. I have had to hold over some material for next month. ED.

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ADVANCE NOTICE OF
THE BEST-EVER INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL AT EASTBOURNE!

The next International Folk Festival at Eastbourne will be from FRIDAY, 29TH APRIL to MONDAY, 2ND MAY 1988. Programme and booking forms will be sent out shortly, and advance booking must be before the end of March to secure reductions. Queries in the meantime should be sent to me (address below).

Features: Superb teaching of Israeli, Yugoslav, French, Spanish, Welsh, American, Long Sword, Clogging, International Music, English Music, Balkan Party, International Dance Bazaar, Public Displays, Singing, and of course a very full programme of English folkdancing. AND THE PRICE REMAINS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. Contributions are invited from groups or individuals for the International Dance Bazaar on the Sunday evening. Leaders or anyone prepared to introduce a new or an old forgotten dance, please contact me with details, and Tina Stone (16 Eynsford Rd., Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex IG3 8BA) with music before the day. Tape recorder available.

Three new International Bands this year!

ROY LE CROISSETTE
EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE
26 Westfield Rd., Eastbourne BN21 2QU.(0323 32237)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Feb. 13th "SPRING" PARTY" organized by Wycombe Folkdance Club. Sir William Ramsey School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, near High Wycombe, 8 p.m. Dunav Balkan Group. M.C. Uri Gerson. Admission £2 including refreshments.

Feb. 21st (Sunday) and March 19th (Saturday) BALKANPLUS.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Rachel and Mike Ridout on the birth of their daughter, Lydia Sophie, on 14th November 1987. We send Rachel and Mike our best wishes, and wish Lydia Sophie health and happiness.

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THE FRIENDS OF CECIL SHARP HOUSE are presenting a DAY OF DANCE at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Rd., London N.W.1, on SATURDAY, 30TH JANUARY 1988. The programme starts at 10 a.m. with coffee and continues until 11 p.m. There will be demonstrations from 10.45 a.m. to 1 p.m. by several different types of dance groups (including International by our Society), and from 2 to 6 p.m. there will be workshops (the International will be between 5 and 6 p.m.). The idea is to present a "taster" in the morning, so that anyone can "have a go" at whichever appeals to them in the afternoon. There will also be Children's Sessions during the day, and a Social Dance from 7.30 to 11 p.m. Course fee for the whole day is £8 (morning & afternoon £5.50). Full details from Mrs. L. Bluestone, 01 422 8859.

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SWANSEA VIDEO

Please note that the order list for the video film of the Swansea Course 1987 is now closed.

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

Jan. 3rd M.C.s Members of the Committee

Feb. 7th M.C. George Sweetland

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

- Jan. 1st LORD MAYOR OF WESTMINSTER'S BIG PARADE, 2 to 4 p.m. Route given last month. SIFD members will be taking part.
- 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. 7 to 10.30 p.m. General Dancing - £2 including food. Joint ticket (Workshop & Dance) £3. Sherard Hall, rear of United Reformed Church, Court Rd., Eltham, S.E.9. Enquiries: 0689 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.
- Jan. 3rd ROMANIAN HALFDAY COURSE. Tutor: Silviu Ciuciumis (revision and also some new dances). 12 noon to 5 p.m. £5. At Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd., London W.6. Nearest Underground Station: Hammersmith.
- Jan. 4th ROMANIAN EVENING. Silviu Ciuciumis will be teaching at Camden Institute, Longford St., London W.1., 8 to 10 p.m. Nearest Underground: Warren St., Euston, Great Portland St. Details from Cathy Meunier, 01 482 0906.
- Jan. 8th BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP's first dance evening of 1988. They will continue to meet at their temporary venue - Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. For further information, ring Brian Dowsett, 0992 582717 or Kathryn Fuller, 01 203 5750.
- Jan. 9th S.I.F.D. BASQUE DAY COURSE. See page 7.
- Jan. 10th ROMANIAN DAY COURSE organized by Julie Korth at Edge Hill College of Higher Education, Ormskirk. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Rod Perkins. Details from Julie Korth, 0942 831141.
- Jan. 16th GENERAL INTERNATIONAL DANCE organized by Barlow International Folkdance Group at St. Ninian's Church Hall, Wilbraham Rd., Chorlton, Manchester M21. 7.30 to 11 p.m. £1.20, children 60p. Further information from Philip Lloyd, 061 881 3613.
- Jan. 17th BALKANPLUS (N.B. this is a Sunday). Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Road, London N.W.3. 7 p.m. M.C. Uri Gerson. Dunav Balkan Group; other musicians welcome. Admission £2 including light refreshments. Further details from Liz Mellish, 01 863 7807.
- Jan. 23rd NEW YEAR PARTY organized by BALKANSKO ORO at St. Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road, Oxford, 7.30 to 11.30 p.m. Admission by ticket only, £4, from Jill Loveday, 44 Richmond Road, Oxford OX1 2JJ (please send s.a.e.). A special plea to bring musical instruments as all the group's tapes were stolen a few months ago; any copy tapes gratefully welcomed!
- Jan. 30th EFDSS DAY OF DANCE. See page 8.
- Jan. 30th NORWEGIAN DAY COURSE. See page 5.