

# SIFD

# NEWS

# MAY

# 1989



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 Jenia Graman and shows costumes from the U.S.S.R., to coincide with her article on page 7.

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GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan Morton (address above).

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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 Payling (address above), 30p.  
(Please send s.a.e. 4" square).

S.I.F.D. T-shirts in various designs and sizes, S.I.F.D. Mugs, Notelets, Shopping Bags, and also copies of "The History of the S.I.F.D.", are all available from Kay Leighton (address above).

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 15TH MAY.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Have you enrolled for the S.I.F.D. Summer School at Aberystwyth yet? If not, please don't forget to put pen to paper and write that cheque as soon as possible. Both the Eastbourne Festival and the Summer School are events well worth supporting, and we have a feast of dancing in prospect for the next few months.

If any member is spending a holiday in the United States and would like to visit folkdance groups over there, Liz Mellish has an extensive list of groups and contacts - just telephone her on 01 863 7807.

The Committee are still weighing the pros and cons of continuing the Sunday Dances at the Y.W.C.A. or reverting to Cecil Sharp House, but you may rest assured that you will be kept informed either way.

Roly Minton is now out of hospital, but will not be back "on the door" for some time. Irene Goodwin and Rosemary Osborne have kindly agreed to take on this commitment, and I'm sure they would appreciate any offers of help so that a rota can be worked out.

AUDREY WHITELEY  
Hon. Secretary

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NEWS OF "ROLY" MINTON

Roland did not have to suffer the ordeal of a third operation, after all, as the hospital have decided to give him a course of therapy treatment instead, which he is due to start this month. All your friends wish you well, Roland. We hope the treatment goes well and that it will be completely successful. Best wishes. LILY AVERY.

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S.I.F.D. DANISH DAY COURSE

Place: St.Paul's Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London N.W.1 (off Lisson Grove and near Marylebone and Edgware Road Underground Stations).

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.      Date: SATURDAY, 13TH MAY 1989

Tutor: Gaye Saunte.      Fees: £3 S.I.F.D. members, £4 non-members

In accordance with requests, Gaye will be teaching:

Sjnderhoning  
Sving Kontra  
Hanegal  
Menuet  
Polsk Dans  
Bagloens Kontrasejre  
Kontra Mollevet  
Gammel Familievals

Other requests will be met if possible but Wilf Horrocks (who will be playing) and Gaye would like time for preparation. Character shoes are the most comfortable for Danish dances. Recording will be allowed. Bring packed lunch; squash available on site. Kitchen will be open for making tea/coffee but bring your own materials.

The next S.I.F.D. Day Course, on 10th June, will be Portuguese. Janet Woolbar will be teaching dances from the regions of Estramadura and Ribatejo.

## A RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Members and friends of the S.I.F.D. are invited to book now for a weekend at the Walford College of Agriculture, Baschurch, near Shrewsbury, from Friday, 8th September, to Sunday, 10th September 1989. Folk dancing from various countries will be taught, practised and enjoyed by an expected forty enthusiasts of international dancing. The West Midlands Branch of S.I.F.D. have had residential weekends every two years since 1982 but this is their first visit to Shropshire. Bookings are now open and it is hoped that this will be an opportunity for members everywhere to meet those of the West Midlands.

There will be dance workshops led by Janet Woolbar covering various countries. These will include new dances as well as forgotten favourites. It is also planned to have plenty of time for general folkdancing so that popular dances can be shared and enjoyed. For musicians there will be a practice workshop where any instrumental skills can be explored.

The College is set in attractive countryside and a walk/ramble is planned for those wishing for a change of exercise. All meals will be provided and those needing special diets should indicate when booking. Accommodation is mostly in single rooms. Each guest, however, should bring towels and washing accoutrements. The overall cost is £35 per person and on booking a £5 deposit is required. An "interpayment" of £15 will be required, and final payment by 1st July. This early payment is necessary as we shall be out of regular contact during July/August so final arrangements for September need to be made by early summer.

The programme and meal times will be sent to those booking as soon as these are finalised with the College. Also the name of the guest teacher as soon as this is confirmed. Instructions as to travel and access also will be sent early to those booking a place. Bookings should be sent to the Secretary, West Midlands Branch of S.I.F.D., Dennis V. Hunt, 27 Baginton Road, Styvechale, Coventry. CV3 6JX.



### LOST TREASURE?

When I was preparing the "international" part of the programme for the Merry Andrew evening at Y.W.C.A. in April, I looked through my index of dances for which I have recorded music, and was shocked to see the enormous number of dances we have learned and never do now. The index holds about 1,000 items, about half of which I have been taught. A vast store of dances seems to have been totally lost to us. A Balkan tape which used to be a favourite is now ignored completely; the work of Jacob & Judith Barkan who dedicated themselves to giving us Israeli dances and tapes (free!) is hardly remembered. The Mexican, the Catalan, the Irish.....

We have paid thousands of pounds to bring to Britain several people of the status of Magda Ossko, yet hardly a dance is remembered. Why did we spend all this time and money acquiring these dances if we immediately forget them? What is this feverish drive to gather up more and yet more new dances? Will they too all be forgotten? I find these newer dances far less exciting, more repetitious, than many older ones. What is the reason for the prejudice against "set" dances and couple dances? Are people nowadays afraid to touch each other? The ratio male/female is more even than it used to be, which should improve matters.

When did we last do Al Tira, El Ginatagoz, El Candil, Pajdushka, Sadi Momo, Kolomajka, Hulan, Kontrasajre, Keddelflikkatur, Yorkshire Square, Posties Jig, Tuljak, Partalos, Matamarikos, Hasapiko, Merioara, Makil Tiki, Offa's Dyke, various Czardas, Verbunke and Sardanias, Baroigez Tanz, Kaly Raglayim, Debka Rafiach, Debka Gilboa, Dinga, Kubilas, Evangelina, La Marrietta, Povolniak, Padeirinha, Senhor de la Serra, Ca La Balta, Petronella, La Rondon - and that is a minute selection which I remember learning.

Do we have too many Day Courses? Should some of the Day Courses be revivalist?

WILL GREEN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

At the recent Folk Festival held at Whitecliff Bay, Isle of Wight, Roy le Croisette "carried the S.I.F.D. banner" by organizing an international dance workshop, much enjoyed and with a daily increased attendance. Apart from Sadie and me, the class was made up of English folk dancers to whom "international" dancing was something new, but our workshop was given the honour of a spot in the Ceilidh held on the last night of the festival. Good for Roy, especially as he didn't know about it until he got there, and doubly so for doing it after a most strenuous Morris dance workshop.

HARRY STONE  
4 Pelham Road, Tottenham, N15 4RN

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Dear Lily,

I am prompted to write by the remark in Jacky Green's letter in the April SIFD NEWS about the "ever dulling programme" of dance events. I should like to put the question back by saying - when was it brighter, or what made it brighter? This is valid in the sense that if the younger members of the S.I.F.D. want a different programme to that currently available, then organizers need to know what it is they want.

However, the answers may not be easy; a good first principle is that events should be financially viable; this brings disciplines into action. For "one-off" rather than regular club events, teacher and nationality, M.C., musicians, venue, publicity, price, date and co-ordination for a start.

A related question is, what makes an event dull or boring? Age is relevant to this, and perhaps Jacky's remark! Dancers of my vintage tend to be aware of physical limitations that those in their teens and twenties do not possess. Another thing is the discovery of an activity, so I wonder if Jacky is looking back to the time when she was younger and first experienced the joy of dancing "International" and that perhaps today her taste and demands are more sophisticated or specialised? My interest led me a few years ago to ask one noted member, "What makes a boring dance?" and the reply, "Any dance I've learnt" does help illustrate the problem. I also recall at the end of one weekend being told by some that the programme included too much couple dancing and by others that there was too much line and circle dancing! I only hope that all went home having enjoyed themselves!

How does one cater with a limited clientele for those who want dancing within the genuine folk tradition, those who want exciting music and dance as they experience it, which may be different from that of others, and those who want a repertoire different today from yesterday and who are perhaps not over-concerned about authenticity? My observation is that perhaps there has never been more on offer in terms of day courses, specialist events, and groups within the International dance scene than there is today, so I invite Jacky and other younger members to write telling us of their experience, views and wishes.

Yours sincerely,

ROY CLARKE  
33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, Middx.  
EH2 0HE

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Philip and Brenda Steventon are pleased to announce the birth of their second son, Andrew Charles, a brother for Robert. Andrew was born on 29th March 1989, weighing 7lb.11oz. Many congratulations to Philip and Brenda, and our best wishes to Andrew for health and happiness.

EVENTS IN JUNE 1989

BULGARIAN DAY COURSE - THE FRUITS OF A TRIP TO BULGARIA. It is always a very inspiring and worthwhile experience to learn dancing in the country from which the dances originate. I never expect to return from Bulgaria with anything more than some happy memories of dancing together with the Bulgarians. However, this was not the case for our Easter trip, arranged by the British Bulgarian Friendship Society. Our teachers selected a remarkably good programme of dances for us. We shall be holding a refresher course on SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE 1989, and we thought you might like to join us for a glimpse of what we were doing in Bulgaria. It will be a fairly intensive course, more suitable for dancers with a good capacity for learning, but of course everyone is very welcome. The dances will be taught rather than simply re-danced. Music and dance notes will be available.

Course details: Date: Saturday, 3rd June 1989, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
Cost: £3.50 (£2 concessions)  
Venue: Camden Institute, Holmes Road Centre, Holmes Road,  
London N.W.5. (Nearest Station: Kentish Town)

Further details from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. Tel: 01 482 0906 (home), 01 637 3434 Ext.5565 (work).

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ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY. The Zivko Firfov Group will be holding a Party on SATURDAY, 10TH JUNE 1989, from 7 to 10.30 p.m. at West Square School, West Square, St. George's Road, London S.E.1. Near the Imperial War Museum. Nearest Underground Stations: Elephant & Castle, Lambeth North.

The cost will be £4, including refreshments, and tickets are available from I. Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 01 592 4427.

Admission by ticket only. Cheques to be made out to Zivko Firfov Group. Please enclose s.a.e.

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COTSWOLD SAFARI, on 10th & 11th JUNE 1989, organized by West Midlands Branch of S.I.F.D. Members of the S.I.F.D. and friends are invited to an International Folk Dance on SATURDAY, 10TH JUNE, and a Safari into the Cotswolds on SUNDAY, the 11TH. Accommodation is offered by West Midlands members for those staying overnight. The Safari is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. from Moreton in Marsh. Please wear costumes and bring instruments if you have them. Dance at the Oakenshaw Centre, Oakenshaw Rd., Solihull, at 7.30 p.m. on the Saturday. Contact: Dennis Hunt, 021 413854 for information and accommodation requests.

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BULGARIAN DANCING. Galina Toker will be teaching Bulgarian dances at the weekend at Beauchamp House, Churcham, near Gloucester, 16TH TO 18TH JUNE 1989. The weekend is based on camping, with the use of washing and toilet facilities in the house, as well as meals and dancing. For those not wishing to camp, Bed & Breakfast accommodation is available nearby from £10 per night. In addition to the teaching sessions, there will be walks, outings, Social Dances.

The weekend costs £28.50 inclusive - with reductions for children and those staying in Bed & Breakfast. Further details including terms for those wishing to participate as day visitors, available from Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 0HE. Tel: 01 367 2649.

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There will be a BALKANPLUS DAY COURSE on SATURDAY, 17TH JUNE 1989, from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., at the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. Nearest Underground Stations: Euston, Euston Square, Camden Town. Tutor: Roberto Haddon. The emphasis will be on Macedonian (Greek and Yugoslav) with some dances from other countries thrown in for variety and good measure. Cost: £4.00 (£2.00 concessions). The course will be followed by the usual monthly evening BALKANPLUS dance, with Roberto as M.C. Further information, if required, from Roberto on 01 533 5016.

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The S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE on 10TH JUNE 1989 will be PORTUGUESE. Venue and times as for May, see page 3.

BULGARIAN DANCE SHOES

Once again I have managed to obtain Bulgarian leather Tservuli, though not as many as last year. I have all sizes from 37 to 42 (sizes 43 & 44 are already sold). Cost: £12.50 including postage & packing. If anyone would like a pair, please send cheque made payable to me at my address and the shoes will be sent immediately.

FOLK INSTRUMENTS

gaida,  
I have also a godulka,/kaval, doudouk and a dvoryanka (like a doudouk plus a drone). Anyone interested, please telephone or write to me as soon as possible.

S.F.M.Newton,  
117 Buxton Lane, Caterham,  
Surrey CR3 5HM  
Tel: 01 660 3007

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THE SONG AND DANCE ENSEMBLE OF THE BLACK SEA FLEET,  
HERE KNOWN AS THE RED NAVY

As announced in the March issue of SIFD NEWS, the Red Navy are currently appearing at various towns in the U.K. Jenia Graman has written the following account of their performance in London, and has drawn this month's cover showing various costumes of the U.S.S.R.

This was a very welcome visit after a twenty-year break, thoroughly enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. What a pity we could only see them in London on two days, and week-days at that (28th & 29th March). Fortunately, they will be back in the London area on the 11th, 12th and 13th May, at Wembley. So I urge anyone who wants a very varied and enjoyable show to go to see and hear them. But, as the programme was printed quite some time before they came, you may perhaps be a bit puzzled by some of the changes made, and as I always feel that the more you know what is going on, the more you enjoy it, here are a few explanations.

First, you may expect to hear the name of their home port, and in fact they do sing and talk about it, but of course pronounce it in the Russian way, Sevastopol, whereas here it is known as SebAstopol. Secondly, "Varyag" is the name of the legendary battleship of this name which, rather than surrender in the Russo-Japanese War of 1905, blew itself up. This explains the music and acting, first heroic then mournful, then heroic again. No dancing in this item of course. And then, "Apple Dance"; no apples in this - it is the wellknown song, "Where are you rolling, little apple?", which the Navy have made their Theme Song.

Apart from that, there are a lot of Sailors' Songs, choirs and solos, Sailors' Dances, Russian and Ukrainian Dances (Sevastopol being on the Black Sea, the Southern border of the Ukraine). Some of them are rich in comedy with, of course, the acrobatic feats we expect of any ensemble from the U.S.S.R. The girls wear colourful Russian and Ukrainian costumes, and are not only graceful dancers, but also take part in the comedy numbers, as for instance in the enchanting "Three Love Birds". Folk dancers will especially love the "Russian Song Ensemble" - three men and six women who wear authentic Central Russian costumes and sing unaccompanied, sometimes breaking into clearly improvised dancing. In between, there are two guest artistes, stars of the Kiev Opera, who sing folksongs and operatic arias. What impressed me most was the obvious enjoyment of all dancers - so sadly missing sometimes in other dance performances. The show finished with a standing ovation from a delighted audience.

JENIA GRAMAN

ED. NOTE: In case you haven't yet seen the Red Navy, they will be appearing at the following places in May:-

2nd/3rd	De Montford Hall, Leicester	20th	Afan Lido, Port Talbot
5th/7th	Davenport Theatre, Stockport	23rd/24th	Dome Theatre, Brighton
11th/13th	Wembley Conference Centre	25th/27th	Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
14th	City Hall, Sheffield	28th/30th	Empire Theatre, Sunderland
16th/18th	St.David's Hall, Cardiff	31st.	Golden Square, Warrington

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Roberto Haddon has recently moved, so please note his new address and home telephone number:

17 Monkton House,  
Pembury Road,  
London E5 8LY  
Tel: 01 533 5016

Anybody know of any carpets going cheap?! If so, contact Roberto.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Lillian Galatis has sent us some more information re Summer Seminars of Dance in Greece this summer:-

- July 3rd/7th SEMINAR OF GREEK DANCES in Athens at the Dora Stratou Theatre, organized by the Dora Stratou Group. Classes every evening from 18.00 to 22.00, Monday to Friday. Cost: £35 approx., which covers tuition fees and entrance fees to all evening performances of the group. Participants make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Tuition will be in English. If so desired, information about music, instruments, costumes etc. will be provided with the help of the Dora Stratou musicians and costume experts. Write to Dora Stratou, Scholiou 8, Plaka, Athens 105 58, Greece. Tel: 3244395, and book at least a fortnight in advance.
- Aug. 3rd/14th SEMINAR OF DANCE in Crete at the village of Anoghia, organized by HIPHAISTIA. For information, write to the Athens organizer: Yvonne Hunt, Erechthiou 37, Koukaki, 117 42 Athens, Greece. Tel: 9219330.
- Dec. 9th ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY. Details nearer the time. (This is in addition to their party in June. See page 6 ).



### NEW ISRAELI DANCE GROUP

A new Israeli Dance Group has been started in Cambridge by Michael Kovari. The group meets every Wednesday, from 8.15 to 10.15 p.m., at St.Columba's Hall, Regent Street (entrance between Varsity Restaurant and Belfast Linen). Enquiries to Michael Kovari, 88 Cromwell Road, Cambridge CB1 3EG. Tel: 0223 410 314 or 0223 358 866 Ext.530 (daytime).



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

- Dance Groups: "Selpar". Classes on Tuesday evenings, 7.15 at Selly Park School, Pershore Rd., Stirchley, Birmingham. Tutor: Sybil Chapman
- "Heart of England" International Folkdance Group. Wednesday evenings, 7.30, at Lyndon School, Daylesford Rd., Solihull. Leader: Alf Garton.
- "Arden" International Folkdance Group. Tuesday evenings (except the 2nd Tuesday of each month) at 7.30 at the Village Hall, Station Rd., Balsall Common, near Coventry, Warwicks. Tutor: Grace Pittman.

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



# RÄNNINGEN

(Sweden)

**Intro: Slow.**

**A** *Slowly with feeling.*

**B** *Brightly*

**C** *With emphasis.*

**D** *Smoothly.*

**E** *With style.*

*Grandly*

Key: ABCDE

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

May 7th WATFORD-DOUBLE-PLUS groups will be organizing this evening, with M.C.s Joan & Simon Guest, Joyce Sharp and Audrey Whiteley. There will be a raffle in aid of Centrepoint.

June 4th This evening will be organized by DOINA and BALATON groups.

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

- April to June FOLKESTONE METROPOLE SPRING SEASON includes Hungarian folk group "Makvirag". For details, contact Metropole Arts Centre, The Leas, Folkestone, Kent. Tel: 0303 55070.
- May 3rd DUNAV BALKAN GROUP will be in a performance at Waltham Forest Theatre, Lloyd Park, Forest Road, London E.17, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Enquiries: 01 527 7070. The Greek dancers who were to have taken part have now been replaced by "Rastko" Yugoslav Folklore Group who will do Serbian and Macedonian dances.
- May 10th to 21st GREEK FESTIVAL IN LONDON, which includes folk music from Epirus, Macedonia, Crete, the Caucasus and Cyprus, with dance in traditional costume. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London. For details, ring 01 928 8800.
- May 13th S.I.F.D. DANISH DAY COURSE. See page 3.
- May 20th BALKANPLUS at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1, 7 to 10.30 p.m. M.C. Frances Horrocks (change of M.C. from that announced last month). Musicians include Dunav Balkan Group. Admission £2.50 including light refreshments. Further details from Liz Mellish, 01 863 7807. Please note: the previously announced BALKANPLUS dance workshop by Roberto Haddon will now take place on Saturday, 17th June (see page 6).
- May 28th S.I.F.D. BALATON GROUP will be dancing at the Barbican (Level 5) at 2.47 p.m. (Full programme details given last month).
- May 29th S.I.F.D. SWEDISH TEAM will be dancing at the Barbican (Level 5) at 2.28 p.m. (Full programme details given last month).
- June 3rd BULGARIAN DAY COURSE. See page 6.
- June 10th ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY. See page 6.
- June 10th & 11th COTSWOLD SAFARI and DANCE. See page 6.
- June 16th to 18th DANCING/CAMPING WEEKEND near Gloucester. See page 6.
- June 17th BALKANPLUS DAY COURSE and EVENING DANCE. See page 6.