

SIFD NEWS



JULY 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 Stella Carter and shows costumes from Croatia, Yugoslavia. The women's headdresses and shawls are brightly coloured flowers and patterns on a black background; the aprons are dark plum with self-pattern; the over-skirts are again brightly coloured on white with edges of lace or broderie anglaise. The man's waistcoat is short and black, the belt highly coloured with tassels, and he has full trousers with embroidery.

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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 AUGUST ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR
IN WRITING BY 15TH JULY.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We had a rather routine June Committee Meeting, tying up some loose ends before the summer break. There was one disappointing piece of news - that the New Milton Group has now ceased functioning. We do hope that after a year or two it will be able to rise like the phoenix from the ashes, and provide enjoyment to the international folk dancers of the area.

Further to Will Green's news of the Ethnic Doll Museum in Canterbury, I have had a letter from the Curator, Mrs. Barbara Pickering, asking for our help. She is trying to get an authentically dressed high quality doll from Turkey, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. The only dolls offered so far were the cheap little tourist dolls made from plastic. She asks if we know of some kind lady or crafts centre in these countries who could dress a doll for them. Does anyone know of a suitable address or contact she could approach, either in those countries or in this country?

Finally, please don't forget to list your international folk books for our archivist, Tony Latham - he is waiting for our contributions.

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary



NOTES FROM KAY LEIGHTON

Victoria Embankment Gardens

The new stage is now well under way, though by no means finished at the time of writing (middle of June). A red-tiled roof has been put in place, on top of which is a curious structure of green metal piping, rather like an enormous roof-rack on a car. We were told that it was to support an awning. We were extremely pleased to see that the half-finished apron stage will be sprung, rather than a block of concrete which at one time we feared that the non-dancing architects would supply. Fortunately, the more sensitive Gardens Staff were going to insist on consulting a London ballet school about the stage. The opening date is now September.

Barbican Demonstrations - May Bank Holiday

These went off very well, and the S.I.F.D. provided colourful and interesting displays on the Sunday and Monday. Leslie Haddon led the Balaton team on Sunday, when they performed a Wedding Dance, a dance for men only (not a Verbunk), a version of the girls' Bottle Dance, and finally a lively Czardas. The dances were much enjoyed by the audience, who applauded enthusiastically. Thank you, Balaton, for providing this item for the S.I.F.D.

On the Monday, the Central London Evening Institute's Wednesday class, taught by Janet Woolbar, performed a suite of Swedish dances - Västgöta, Dal Dans, Uchsdans and Ränningen. Uchsdans was danced by Tony Latham and Peter Cobb, and both children and adults roared with laughter at their antics. These Swedish dances were also well received by the large audience - thank you to all members of the team, and particularly to Janet for all her hard work preparing for this event.

Apart from the S.I.F.D., there were many interesting performances during the two days, including London Folk, Dolmetsch Historical Dance Society, and a never-to-be-forgotten item by the Penge Latin-American Dancers of "Come Dancing" fame, complete with Peggy Spencer announcing; glittering costumes, sparkling dancing and scintillating music!

Christmas Cards etc.

If you are coming to Aberystwyth, do come prepared to buy some of the S.I.F.D.'s Christmas cards, and also other items such as T-shirts, calico shopping bags, S.I.F.D. badges, mugs, notelets, and Histories of the S.I.F.D.

KAY LEIGHTON

MUSIC

We have two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks, by request, on page 8. If you have any requests, please contact Wilf at 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Tel: 01 642 3629.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Lily,

I should like to comment on Will Green's letter in the May edition of SIFD NEWS - even though I am now a month late in doing so!

Like Will, I have a large collection of dances on tape which I have been taught but which I never use for one or more of three reasons. Some of them are quite difficult and either I am not confident enough to teach them, or I consider them unsuitable for my class which has an extremely wide range of experience. Others are easy to the point of boredom; "this week's weedy dance" gets short shrift from the class! Many of these are dances which I enjoyed at the Summer School but without the personality of the teacher now seem totally uninspiring. The third group of "dead" dances is made up of those for which I have music but inadequate or no notes. However, like Will, I should welcome revivalist courses - before I throw out my unusable tapes and notes.

Couples and sets versus circles and lines is an argument set to run and run. No, people aren't afraid to touch each other (you touch two in a circle!). The balance between male and female may have improved, but not universally and not in my class; the most men we have ever had is four, and then we consider ourselves lucky! Set dances create particular problems unless you have exact multiples of eight; otherwise the hall is adorned with anything up to seven bored wallflowers. Circle dances also cater better than partners or sets for variation in competence. In a circle, anyone who wishes may dance, whether they have been "asked to dance" or not, and drop out if it proves too difficult. Most important, in circles you dance with everyone rather than with one person, making it a much more social activity.

However, in the end it comes down to personal taste, and it is good to have variety in the programme.

HILDA STURGE
10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU.

Dear Lily,

In response to requests for some International Folk Dance in the North-West, next season there will be another chance for all those enthusiastic dancers who heretofore have been biding their time to "have a go" in the very comfortable Adam Room of the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool (parking for 800+ cars!). In conjunction with Ian Bligh from the Hotel, we're planning four Sunday courses (probably the third Sundays in October, November, March and April). The hotel offers a free day nursery, so the whole family may attend. We're hoping to attract newcomers from the area as well as giving you the opportunity to experience European dances, many selected from my "Billingham repertoire". The charge for the day including buffet lunch will be £5.50.

At the same time, we've planned a mid-week course for Whitsun 1990 with an invited guest teacher from Holland. This is just a preliminary notice for all you Balkan enthusiasts to mark your calendars now; further details as soon as possible.

All further enquiries about the Sundays should go direct to Ian Bligh, Norbreck Castle Hotel, Queen's Promenade, Blackpool, Lancs FY2 9AA.

Yours sincerely,

JULIE KORTH
Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspull,
nr. Wigan WN2 1EF

Dear Lily,

I should like to take up Roy Clarke's offer to explain my views and wishes. As he appeared to miss the point in my last letter, I hope offence will not be taken if I am blunt. Personally, I found the tone of his letter a little patronising.

First, I should like to address the need to be financially viable. I have been involved in the organization of several dance clubs and events, the most notable of which was the 1986 intervarsity folk dance festival which was enjoyed by about 600 young people. From these experiences, it has become clear to me that viability depends on popularity. If an event becomes popular, it will be financially viable; if not, then there is justification for cancellation, or re-assessing what is wanted.

I find the implication that traditional dances are slow and simple and that complex or fast dances are less authentic hard to swallow. Every country incorporates different styles of dancing. There will be both simple and complex, fast and slow, within its tradition. All of these are enjoyable to learn. There are also many enjoyable composed dances, some very simple, which should be perfectly acceptable as long as their origins are clarified.

In general, I find my "younger" friends are as concerned, if not more so, with origin and authenticity of dances as many of my older acquaintances. However, I find the apparent age distinction unhelpful and I hope I am not alienating those of slightly maturer years who share the same interests and frustrations as myself.

The only thing that makes a boring dance is overkill, i.e. when the same dance is done week after week after week. This is easily solved by dropping it from the weekly repertoire for a month or two. This is not to say I enjoy every dance; everyone has personal taste, but as long as there is variety available, most people will be happy.

We accept that our taste in dancing differs from that of the Committee, and we don't want them to organize events especially for us. What we want is encouragement for the events we organize. Why not put these events under the S.I.F.D. heading instead of treating them as competition? At present, the Committee would seem to be killing any enthusiasm that the people around me have for organizing. If this continues, what future does the Society have? I hope other young members will not be put off by the Society's apparent attitudes and will also voice their opinions.

Yours sincerely,

JACKY WEBB
14 Grangethorpe Drive, Burnage,
Manchester M19 2LG



THE TÁNCHÁZ HAS ARRIVED!

For the past few months a small but enthusiastic band of people has been meeting regularly to learn the Hungarian "táncház" style of dancing. Now that it seems well established we should like to welcome others along too. The dances are led by Zoltán Bődöcs and Zsuzsa Quayle, both of whom are ex-members of the Bartók group, one of the most highly regarded amateur groups in Hungary and one which was very influential in the Hungarian folkdance revival of the 1970s.

The táncház meets on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at Mindszenty House, 5 Arundel Gardens, London W.11, from 6.45 to 10 p.m. Admission £1. (Apologies - the premises are quite small, but if enough people turn up regularly a bigger venue will be found).

Come and learn the dances - and songs, and maybe even a few words of Hungarian!, of Szék, Dunántúl, Szatmár, Mezőség, Kalotaszeg....

HILARY BOLTON

We send our best wishes to Kelsey Blundell who unfortunately has to go into Bart's Hospital again for an operation on her leg (in Percival Pott Ward this time). We are thinking of you Kelsey, and send you our love and good wishes.

We also send our warmest wishes to Lillian Galatis, who is ill. Our thoughts are with you, Lillian, and we all wish you well.



S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - FRENCH (S.I.F.D. Cassette No.6)

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, 8TH JULY 1989

Tutors: Joan and Simon Guest

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

Bring packed lunch; squash available on site. Kitchen will be open for making tea or coffee but bring your own materials.

The dances to be taught will be taken from S.I.F.D. Cassette No.6 which was recorded by ROSBIF and which consists, in the main, of bourrées from the Berry. If you would like any particular dance(s) included, please ring 0378 77065. Shoes with low heels are recommended. It is planned that copies of the cassette and the dance notes will be on sale.

There will not be an S.I.F.D. Day Course in August.



SUNDAY DANCES

We are now halfway through the season of Dances run by the S.I.F.D. groups on the first Sunday of each month at the Y.W.C.A. Yet to come this year are Central London, Rainmakers, Woodvale, Merton, and Havering with Balkan & International groups.

I should like to ask all of you to think about the Sunday Dances and what you really want from them. What makes you decide, "That sounds good, I must go along" (or the reverse)? I don't want to unleash a flood of abuse or indignant diatribes, so I am asking for positive thoughts, constructive ideas. Please let's hear whether you like Groups leading the evening, whether you enjoy demonstrations, if you want no teaching at all, the occasional "walk through", or several new dances introduced and taught. How about M.C.s? One? Multiple? What do you want from them?

Which programmes have you enjoyed? We can't please everyone every time, but we have been offering quite a catholic range of approaches.

Right, now - pens on paper - PLACE! Let's fill Lily's letterbox with epistles of lively debate. I await the avalanche with interest.

FIONA HOWARTH
O.C. Sunday Dances 1989



CHANGE OF ADDRESS. Ken Ward is moving, and from 28th June 1989 his new address will be:- Flat 4, 290 Leigham Court Road, London SW16 2QP. No telephone yet.

To whom it may concern:

I am an international folkdance teacher from the United States, and I plan to be in London in late November 1989, passing through on my way to the Continent to teach a series of workshops to the folkdancers in Switzerland. Since I'll be in London in any case and no transportation costs would be involved, I wondered if your group would be interested in booking me for an evening for whatever your usual fee for such an event is.

My main experience is in Balkan dance, particularly in Macedonian, but I'm one of the more truly international teachers at work in America, as well as one of the more keen on really helping people grasp and be able to dance the many different regional styles. I do have some material that I believe I'm the only source for, particularly some Macedonian dances I learned from the late Mile Kolarov (Janino, Ibraim Cdža, Studenečko, Slavej Mi Pee, Baba Djurdja etc.) but I'm just as happy to fill in gaps in your group's repertoire, work with your performing group, or teach a beginners' night.

ERIK BENDIX

ED. NOTE: The above letter was forwarded to me by Laura Shannon, together with a copy of a list of dances (200 plus) from Macedonia, Poland, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Hungary, Armenia, Ukraine, Switzerland, France, Scandinavia, Serbia, Israel, that Erik has taught recently. The dates he expects to be available in London are November 16th, 20th to 24th, 26th and 27th. If any groups are interested in booking him, would they please contact Laura Shannon at 82 Galba Court, Augustus Close, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8QS. Tel: 01 560 8082.

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NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP will be organizing an International Dance Weekend, 30th September and 1st October 1989, at Kirk Hallam Community School, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, near Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Ingrid Larsson, leader of Folkdansgillet Nerkiä-Drebro, will be teaching dances from Sweden; Grethe Moesner, dance teacher and costume maker from Denmark, will be teaching Danish; Angelicka Marzok, and Frau Surack (musician), from Gsnabruckgroup Trachkenkreis, will be teaching German.

Contact Gill Morral, 116 Nottingham Road, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8AR (Tel: 0602 393204) for any enquiries and for programme and application form - preferably before the end of July.

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BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

The Billingham Festival will take place from 12th to 19th August 1989 and, as announced in a previous issue of SIFD NEWS, there will be workshop courses with each of the overseas groups. We are now able to give details of the groups :-

Folklore Group "Bacnae" from Recife, Brazil
"Roudelet Felibren" from Chateau Gombert, Marseille, France
Folklore Ensemble of Chau, India
Tzarbarim Folk Dance Group from Jerusalem, Israel
The Kang Sun-Young Dance Troupe from Seoul, Korea
Folklore Ensemble of the Physical Education Academy of Warsaw, Poland
Folk Instrumental & Song Group Group "Caliche" from South America
Agrupacion Folklorica "Roque Nublo" from Las Palmas, Spain
The American Folk Dancers of Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, U.S.A.
Folk Ensemble "Bayzur" from Uzbekistan, U.S.S.R.

For information on the courses, contact the County Education Officer, Education Offices, Woodlands Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 3BN. Tel: 0642 248155 Ext.3055 Mrs.McLean. For bookings for the Festival, contact The Forum Theatre Box Office, Town Centre, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 2LJ. Tel: 0642 552663 & 552628. Other enquiries: The Festival Office, Municipal Buildings, Town Centre, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 2LW. Tel: 0642 558212.

DREI-STEIRER.

(Austria)

Intro. (mod.)

Play music twice for dance once.

RANKANKALIA

(Finland)

(Mod.) (Intro: Last 4 bars of B music)

Play music twice for dance once.

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

July 2nd This evening will be organized by CENTRAL LONDON GROUP

August - No Sunday Dance

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

- July 1st ESSEX WAY WALK - from Epping to Chipping Ongar (8 miles) in the company of fellow S.I.F.D. members. For details, ring 0378 77065.
- July 1st APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN DANCE DAY COURSE in Pontardawe, near Swansea. Details given last month. Enquiries to Gwyn Jones (evenings or weekends) 0792 813030, or Tony Craven, 0792 830186.
- July 4th INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD, LLANGOLLEN. Enquiries to Llangollen to 9th International Musical Eisteddfod Office, Llangollen, North Wales LL20 8NG.
- July 7th BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB'S SUMMER PARTY. At Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, 8 to 10.30 p.m. £2.50 including refreshments. Further details from Brian Dowsett, 0992 582717. The Club will recommence activities on 15th September.
- July 7th BULGARIAN FOLK COSTUME - ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT, an illustrated talk to be given by Sybil Newton at B.B.F.S., Finsbury Library, 245 St. John Street, London E.C.1. at 7 p.m. All are welcome.
- July 8th S.I.F.D. FRENCH DAY COURSE. See page 6.
- July 9th SAFARI IN SURREY organized by Merton Park, Woodvale and Cheam groups. Music by Wilf Horrocks. All welcome. Please come in costume if you can. Places and approximate dancing times: Syon Park, near Brentford, 10.10 to 10.40 a.m.; Prince of Wales, West End Green, Esher, 12.15 to 12.45 p.m.; Garson Farm (near Prince of Wales), 2.15 to 2.45 p.m.; Hatchlands, East Clendon (National Trust) 3.55 to 4.25 p.m. Further details from Joy or Steve Steventon on 01 542 3831.
- July 10th COLWYN BAY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. Details from Festival Secretary, to 16th Prince of Wales Theatre, Abergele Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7RU.
- July 15th BALKANPLUS at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. (near Mornington Crescent Underground) 7 p.m. M.C.s: Galina Tucker and Brian Dowsett. Musicians: Dunav Balkan Group and others; visiting musicians welcome. Admission £2.50 including light refreshments. Further details from Liz Mellish, 01 863 7807.
- July 16th SUMMER PICNIC organized by Wycombe Folkdance Club at Longbarrow Hall, Stokenchurch, 3 to 7 p.m. Cost £1.50. M.C. Uri Gerson. All welcome.
- July 16th SEVEN SISTERS SAFARI with Interdance Eastbourne and Friends. Meet at East Dean at 11.30 a.m., or Birling Gap by the new Safety Boat Shed at 12.30 p.m. for dance and lunch. Further information from Roy Le Croisette, 0323 32237.
- July 17th CONCHORDIA MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP. At Grays Inn Resource Centre (3rd floor), 1A Rosebery Avenue, London E.C.1. (corner of Laystall Street), 7 to 10 p.m. Price: £1.50. Bring your own refreshments. Further details from Tina Stone, 01 379 6191 Ext.279 (office hours).

Continued on page 10

WHAT'S ON Contd.....

- July 22nd to 26th MAZOWSZE Polish Song & Dance Company at Royal Festival Hall, London. 7.30 p.m. (Sunday, 23rd, Matinee @ 3 p.m.). The same group will be at Grand Theatre, Leeds, July 28th & 29th, and back at the Royal Festival Hall from July 30th to August 3rd. Festival Hall Box Office: 01 928 8800
Leeds Box Office: 0532 459351 & 440971.
- July 29th to Aug.5th S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL AT ABERYSTWYTH. Enquiries to Julian Sinton, c/o 28 St.Mary's Road, Watford, Herts WD1 8EF. Tel: 0223 853604.
- July 30th to Aug.4th ISRAEL FOLKDANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP at Hatfield, Herts. Information from IFDA Summer Camp, c/o Balfour House, 741 High Road, London N12 0BQ.
- Aug. 4th to 11th SIDMOUTH FESTIVAL. Overseas teams from U.S.S.R., Bolivia, Sri Lanka, Portugal, Canada, Gambia, Hawaii. For details, contact the Festival Office, The Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8HL. Tel: 0395 515134.
- Aug. 6th DANCING IN NONSUCH PARK, CHEAM by Merton Park and Cheam groups. Outside the café at 3.00 p.m. for about 1½ hours. Music by Wilf Horrocks. All welcome. Please come in costume if you can. Further details from Joy or Steve Steventon, on 01 542 3831.



WEEKEND COURSE WITH SILVIU CIUCIUMIS

There are still places available for the weekend of Romanian dancing to be held at Hartington on the 23rd and 24th September 1989. For further information, contact Rhiannon Sivewright, 404 Barlow Road, Altrincham WA14 5HZ.



HELP!!

Some of you will already have heard quite enough about "my" builders already and the trail of devastation and destruction they left in their wake. The latest, and I hope the last, thing is my records - a whole pile soaked and mouldering. The chief sufferers are:-

- 1) Chants et Danses d'Israel par les Karmon Israeli. Amadeo AVRS 102. Le Chant du Monde label. (French record).
- 2) American Indian ? Ceremonial and War Dances. Everest 3336. (American record).
- 3) Lado. Croat Songs and Dances. LPY V 695 (Made in Yugoslavia)

Has anyone else got these same records? And if so, would they please please be kind enough to photostat both sides of the sleeves, which have virtually disintegrated and are unreadable. You know how nice it is to be reminded of names and information about the songs and dance tunes. I should be so very grateful if anyone could help. Most of the others have been salvaged to an extent, but the above three are "write-offs".

By the way, I have another lot of Romanian hair-slides and earrings, and baby rattles if anyone would like them.

DIKI GLEESON
Oak Lodge, Theobalds Park Road,
Enfield, Middx. EN 29BN

