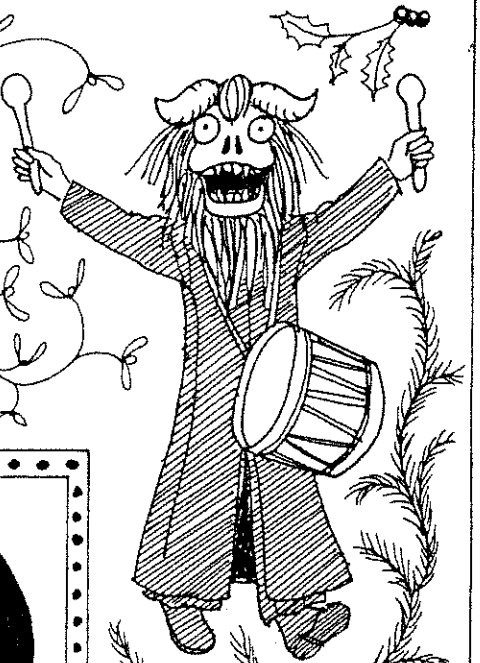
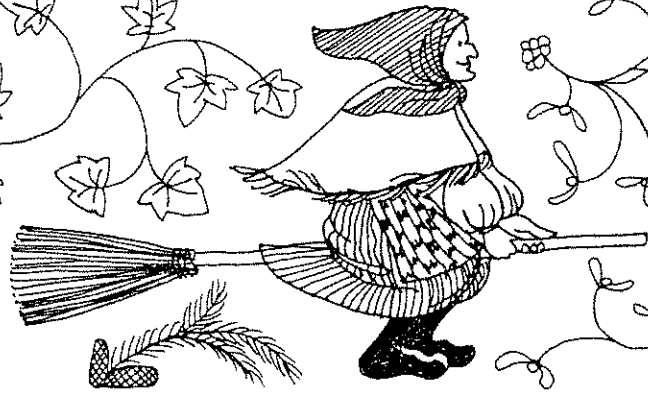


**SIED**  
**DEUS**  
**DECEMBER**  
**1994**



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea,  
East Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: 01424 845866.

--oOo--

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

--oOo--

This month's beautifully drawn cover is by Lesley Boorer and shows Christmas  
characters from various parts of Europe - clockwise from the top: Befana from  
Italy, a Percht demon from Austria, Hans Trapp and the Christ Child from Germany,  
and Black Peter and St. Nicholas from Holland.

--oOo--

A NOTE OF THANKS

It is time again for my annual note of thanks to the very reliable and hard-  
working people who give their time month after month, quietly working in the  
background, to make sure that members receive their SIFD NEWS regularly. They  
are: Doug and Maureen Wells, who have for many years been doing an excellent  
and time-consuming job in getting the NEWS printed and collated, and then folding  
it, putting it into envelopes, coping with enclosures, stamping and posting it  
(600-odd copies!); Alan Morton, who although having to cope with ill-health this  
year, has continued the job of printing the address labels, adding new members,  
changes of address etc. in addition to being a very efficient Membership Secretary;  
Edwina and Michael Holdup, who take on the task every month of sticking the labels  
on the envelopes and handing them over in good time for filling. My thanks to  
you all for being such a loyal and efficient team.

Many thanks also to those people who have sent in articles, letters, information  
about events, to help fill the pages, and also to those who send in designs for  
covers. (I have a few designs in hand but always need more!).

Many thanks to you all, and best wishes for a happy Christmas.

LILY AVERY, Editor

P.S. I am sorry delivery of the November SIFD NEWS was a little later than  
usual. This was in no way the fault of "the team". The Committee decided to  
send out A.G.M. papers with the SIFD NEWS and we had to wait for these enclosures.

--oOo--

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

There will be no Day Course in December, as usual.

--oOo--

ERRATUM

Last month, in David Mowat's letter about the so-called "Romanian Paidusca"  
the second instance of the word "rustemul" was inadvertently misprinted as  
"rustemal". "Rustemul" is of course the correct version. My apologies. Ed.

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

### REPORT ON S.I.F.D. STRATEGY REVIEW

The Committee carried out a Strategy Review this year in order to help to prioritise actions and spending. Put very simply, we hoped to discover which of the many actions we could take would best further our aims.

Using the Constitution as a starting point, we agreed the general aim, "To promote the practice and knowledge of folk dances from many countries". We agreed on objectives for the Society:-

To be a focus for, and to support as a "broad church", the active involvement in international dancing of many individuals and groups.

To promote quality of dancing, which shows respect for the folk dance tradition.

To expand in membership.

To be financially secure.

Next, we agreed on some targets to aim for :-

- 1) Membership to increase at 3% per year.
- 2) Number of (associated and affiliated) groups to increase at 1 per year.
- 3) S.I.F.D. to be operating at a surplus and investing at least £500 per year in production of items for sale or in activities judged to strengthen the longterm health of the Society.
- 4) Proportion of (a) qualified dance teachers and specialists with expert knowledge of dances and (b) trained leaders to increase.

We then investigated the Strengths (S) and Weaknesses (W) of the Society (the internal perspective) and the Opportunities (O) and Threats (T) for the Society (from the world outside). This is called a "SWOT" analysis and it enabled us to look at these factors in a logical fashion. Members will be pleased to hear that our strengths outnumber our weaknesses and we have more opportunities than threats.

Having recognised these, we then drew up a series of strategies which, if taken, would target particular objectives and work on identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities or threats, which would help us to reach our targets.

To give you an example of this - one suggestion under the theme "Groups and the Society", aimed at targets 1 and 3, reads, "Persuade groups to recruit their members to S.I.F.D.". This taps into two identified strengths - "Strong commitment and interest from many members" and "Strong independent groups within a broad church" - and attempts to overcome a weakness which is that "the Executive Committee is over-burdened by day-to-day issues, with limited resources for administration, so little effort available to direct the Society and to take forward new initiatives". The next step is how to implement this strategy, and we will be writing to the groups for their help in appointing an S.I.F.D. representative in every group as a focus for contact and recruitment.

The Committee wishes to continue to develop strategies and implement them to reach our targets. If you are interested in reading a full report of the strategy review please send a s.a.e. (A4 size) to the Hon.Secretary. If you wish to comment on the full report then please write to the Secretary so that your views can be taken into account by the Committee as the project evolves.

JILL BRANSBY (Chairperson).

## E.C. FOLK CULTURE ON CD-ROM

You may remember that last year Ken Gourlay and Graham Crowder, both long-standing S.I.F.D. members, won a contract with the European Community to create a multi-media CD-ROM on E.C. folk culture. Some S.I.F.D. members saw it demonstrated at the Summer School in York. The first edition is now completed. It has 98 music clips, 74 music sheets, 24 songs, 63 dance descriptions, 34 video clips, 134 folk dress images, 9 quizzes, 18 contributors, 200 folk festivals and 700 contacts from every E.C. country (except Luxembourg and Wales). It can be used on the new generation of IBM-compatible multimedia computers with a CD-ROM drive (and soundcard and speakers if you want to hear the music). S.I.F.D. has been a major contributor of source material and at present it stands to earn 15% of the profit from each CD-ROM sold. Also, if an S.I.F.D. member is responsible for us selling a CD-ROM, S.I.F.D. will earn another 25% of the profit.

At present, the CD-ROM can be demonstrated by:

England Janet Woolbar, 34A Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow HA3 8JZ.  
Tel: 081 909 3867.

England Malcom Shaffer, 124 Ray Mill Road East, Maidenhead SL6 8TW.  
tEL: 0628 39526.

Italy Marina Dossena, Via Tadini 17, Bergamo 24100. Tel: 35 319233.

Scotland Ken Gourlay, 3 Hayfield, Edinburgh EH12 8UJ. Tel & Fax: 0131 339 5374.

Audio CDs (see below) and audio and video cassettes of the source material are also available. Further details and order forms can be obtained from Ken and Malcolm above.

As a spin-off from the "E.C. Folk Culture on CD-ROM" project, we now have the capability of writing our own audio CDs. We have taken the existing audio cassettes and copied them to CD in the following manner:-

<u>Country</u>	<u>Tracks</u>
Dancing into Europe	11
Austria	8
Central & Eastern Europe	14
France	18
Germany	7
Israel	19
Italy, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland	9
Scandinavia	13

It was felt that re-organizing the music by country would be more appropriate to international marketing. It should be noted, however, that, since these CDs are copied from tapes, the recording quality is not that normally obtained on commercial CDs. However, they do have the other normal advantages of CDs; you can jump easily between tracks and they are more durable (no more tape mangles!).

The cost of each CD is £14. Members wishing to order CDs should contact me, address above.

KEN GOURLAY

---oOo---

## FOLK COSTUMES ON T.V.

I am very grateful to Dennis Belford in Edinburgh for drawing my attention to a series of occasional short programmes on B.B.C.2. The series called "Pride of Dress" goes out at 8.15 a.m. This week there have been three programmes on Dutch folk costumes and they were lovely. Watch out for repeats!

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

As a newcomer to international folkdancing, it is a bit audacious to become involved in the current discussion on style, but my experiences over the last year may be of interest. (I am also a member of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society where preserving style is very important).

I chose international folk dancing to enjoy the variety of music and wide diversity of styles it offers; an added objective is, when visiting a country, to be able to participate in national dance. To do this comfortably it would be helpful to know at least a few of the dances beforehand; however, it would seem to me probably more important to know more about steps and style than to learn a large number of dances. The steps and "geography" of a dance can be learned (eventually) at class but, given the range of countries and regions covered, achieving stylistic correctness is much more difficult because no one teacher can hope to be an expert on all styles. Having learned the steps and figures of a dance at a class or workshop, I would really appreciate being able to see it danced in national costume by a specialist group as costume often has such an important influence on style.

Now that video recording is much more available, I wonder if the Society should consider this as a means of reference for members wishing to pursue stylistic improvement (if not perfection!). The videos made at workshops have proved invaluable to me over the last six months. Perhaps dance societies, instead of appointing archivists, should now become more pro-active and appoint librarians for all media material as well as reference books. For example, specialist groups in the U.K. and abroad could be approached to produce a video with copyright privileges to the Society. I think this could be a self-financing and useful service to members and it would provide a means of improving style for those who wished to do so. However, while the current discussions on style are healthy and welcome, I hope that primary consideration will always be given to promoting enjoyment through participation in folk dance by as many people as possible.

Yours sincerely,

WILMA MALIK

2 Holmby Court, London SW17 7PA

.....

Dear Lily,

(re the recent correspondence about Morris dancing).

About twenty years ago I researched Morris Dancing and wrote a small book about it, called "The Roots of Morris Dancing" by Abull.

Briefly, Morris dancing originated in Greece 800 B.C. and was recorded by Homer and Hesiod, Greek writers of the Hellenic period, as healing dances, done by Apollo and the Morrises (goddesses also called The Fates) against the Kerres (spirits causing illness) for the life of a princess. James the Just (half-brother of Jesus) brought it into the Christian faith as a means of keeping the missionaries fit whilst resting or in jail, and the missionaries spread it all over the world. At one time, every parish had its own Morris side, and the figures are recorded in church windows.

I traced additions to the original dance from America, Africa and Europe. I am not surprised it also spread to Asia.

There may be one of my books in the House library.

Yours sincerely,

ALF BULL,

15 Hadfield Road, Stanford-le-Hope  
Essex SS17 0DX

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

It is with great regret that I have to announce the temporary closure of The Kalinka Dancers. We were about to celebrate our 10th anniversary. I had started in October 1984 with just five people who had never danced before but through the years, dragging ourselves up by our bootstraps, never sponsored by anyone, we have built up a programme of some very simple dances, followed by some more ambitious ones, supported by our two accordionists who play their own "Ukrainian Suite" and accompany the dancers and me (I sing some Russian songs). I have made it plain from the beginning that we are a CLASS, not a performing group with dreams of the Albert Hall and fame and fortune, but we do 1, 2 or even 3 shows a year, always by invitation. But what I want is for everyone coming out of my class to say to themselves, "I have learned something, and I have enjoyed myself".

And now..... the Borough of Richmond has become a no-go area after dark; three rapes in one month on open roads between 7.00 and 8.00 p.m.! One even where the victim was going to evening class on Upper Richmond Road! Plus two men being raped on Barnes Common by two others! We cannot ask our members and would-be members to come to our dark and lonely Church Hall, even though it is only five minutes from the Police Station. I have therefore cancelled all advertising, and between us we keep the Hall for our musicians (men, with cars) to practise, and the dancers to meet from time to time (to be announced) for a refresher course. They will be taken there and back by members with cars, and this will cover the months of early darkness.

Sometimes I think all this cannot be. I will wake up and find it has just been a nightmare. Not safe on a London street! Twelve years ago Italian friends came to me and I mentioned I had posted a letter at 11.00 p.m. the night before and when they asked had I not been afraid, I laughed and asked, "Afraid of what? Of the air?". How can a country deteriorate so much in twelve short years? And if this goes on, where will we be in another twelve years' time?.

Happy Christmas!

JENIA GRAMAN  
39 Stanley Road, London SW14 7EB

.....

Dear Lily,

BY RAIL FROM WHITLEY BAY TO LEEDS AND BACK

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed "Loidis Anniversary Day of Dance" in September. I have been a visitor to Loidis Group for many years and was keen to support their celebration. Two of my Kayroma dancers, Florence and Jane, were also interested and so we made our plans. Because of a wrist injury I was unable to drive my car, therefore we travelled by rail, which was a nice change.

The dance programme was most varied and interesting, including some classics and golden oldie favourites - in particular Austrian and German, accompanied by lots of boundless energy. We enjoyed the hospitality of the Loidis Group and also the delicious anniversary cake and wine. It was nice to meet up again, too, with dancing friends from Derbyshire, Manchester and Sheffield.

Thank you to M.C.s, tutors, and to everyone who helped organize the celebration, making it such a happy and enjoyable occasion. Congratulations and best wishes to Loidis for the future.

Sincerely,

KAYE LEWIS POOLE  
3 Towne Gate, Heddon-on-the-Wall,  
Northumberland NE15 0DT

COPIES OF LETTERS SENT TO JILL BRANSBY AND JACQUIE DABNOR

Dear Jill,

I apologise for returning yet again to the subject of Silver Badges!

On Sunday at Cecil Sharp House dance some of us were discussing your letter in the Newsletter and agreed with part of it. You are quite correct in mentioning people whose knowledge of the steps is accurate but who will never understand style and have the same bearing in their physical aspect whichever country they are dancing. The only solution we could see was, as you suggest, to divide the marks into two halves - would this work in practice? (Ed.note: originally, the judges were asked to award marks out of 40 - up to 20 for style, up to 10 for technique, and up to 10 for knowledge and interpretation. Pass mark was 20 but passing also depended on a mark of at least 10 for style, at least 3 for technique, and at least 3 for knowledge of the dance).

The other thing we more or less agreed on was that the key word in the awards is "proficiency". My dictionary defines this as "doing something correctly and competently". I feel this is all we can hope to aim for. We are not professional dancers (unfortunately!) and therefore cannot expect to be as perfect as someone who dances or teaches as a lifelong career. Nevertheless we should not like to see the standards we ARE capable of reaching being lowered but I do not think that this is the case although agreeing that there have been one or two borderline passes in the past.

Yours sincerely,

AUDREY WALDEN, Merton Park Group

.....

Dear Jacquie,

In reply to your letter in the November Newsletter regarding Silver Badges there are several points I would like to query.

You refer to people in your experience in the Netherlands who seem to have had far more opportunity for dancing than the average S.I.F.D. member has in the U.K. You mention, for instance, John Melville who spent a year studying dance in Mexico.

You say there are no judges with specialist qualifications. There have been specialist judges both in the past and recently. Viktors and Lucile Armstrong immediately spring to mind (Ed note: there have also been Natassa Lemos, Gaye Saunte, Betty Harvey). There are also Joan and Simon Guest, experts in French dances, Janet Woolbar in European and Scandinavian dances, Steve Steventon in Spanish, Frances Horrocks in Balkan; all these have many years' experience in dancing, teaching and judging, and do not hesitate to tell you when you are doing something incorrectly!

It is not true to say that everyone passed the Mexican badge. There were one or two failures and some borderline passes in the Dutch badge, also at the next badge exam, which was Israeli, there were several failures, so I do not think it fair to accuse the judges of being too kind! In the past also there have been failures in nearly every country that has been judged.

I would like to know if you actually took the Mexican, Armenian and Dutch badges on the exam day you mention. If not, how were you able to judge people's standards of dance as only the judges are supposedly allowed to watch the dancers!

Yours sincerely,

AUDREY WALDEN, Merton Park Group

Dear Lily,

What a great joy it was to see such a big attendance at the November Sunday Dance. Well done, Merton Park, the S.I.F.D. musicians, the callers, organizers, stewards, ticket sellers and the rest of the back-room boys and girls. This formula of catering for all degrees of ability was shown to be a proven success so here's to the next one. Our thanks to all who took part.

And thank you again, Lily, for SIFD NEWS. It's better by far in enjoyment content than all the tabloids and broadsheets put together. So here's strength to your elbow!

Regards,

HARRY & SADIE STONE  
4 Pelham Road, London N15 4RN

.....

Dear Lily,

I would like to thank "Dunav" on the occasion of their 30th anniversary celebrations on 12th November. They and all their helpers did a wonderful job. It was nice to see so many friends there.

David Johnson led the musicians' workshop in the afternoon and gave a unique opportunity for us to play tunes that I have come to know through their live performances and tapes. Besides "vamping" (the Om-pa-pa, or in Dunav's case more of an Ooom-pa-pa for 7/8), I had a chance to play the tunes as well. The concert that followed included live performances from "Lyra Greek Dancers" and "Rastko" and was highly entertaining. "Lyra" group performed a masked men's dance from Naoussa and the way they waved their swords and shouted was almost barbaric. "Rastko's" dances were wonderfully fresh and a joy to watch; they made it look so easy. It was a great shame that their musicians had been double-booked, as I understand, and that they had to dance to tapes.

But the unassuming stars of the show were "Dunav" as they played a great selection of their music. The improvised dancing at the back of the hall to "Albanian Suite" only helped to make the event more memorable. "Dunav" played for the party until "time" was called. In their programme notes, Naren Kotiyan made mention of an all-night party at their first public appearance; is this something that could be arranged for their next anniversary?

Yours accordingly,

TINA STONE  
16 Eynsford Road, Seven Kings,  
Ilford, Essex IG3 8BA

\*  
\*\*\*  
\*

#### DUNAV - THE VIDEO

A video is being prepared to record highlights of Dunav Balkan Group's 30th anniversary celebration concert and party. It will include a unique documentary about Dunav and will be of interest to anyone who loves and respects the people of the Balkans, their folk culture, music and dancing, and to friends of Dunav who appreciate the group's efforts over the years at reproducing this culture and making it familiar to an ever-widening audience.

The price of the video cassette is still uncertain, so send no money now, but if you are interested in buying a copy, write to me at 77 Forest Road, London E17 6HF (Tel: 081 527 4896) by 10th December at the latest. This does not commit you but we will contact you when the video is complete and we can tell you the price.

CAROLINE THOMAS



## BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY BADGES

My letter regarding the Bert Price Proficiency Badges aroused some curious and highly emotional responses. Curious, because very few of the many people who criticised them could be persuaded to air their views publicly. In fact, when Hugh Wood, in his letter, mentioned a loss of style in recent years, several people sought him out to agree with him, although none of these people are apparently willing to express their feelings openly, which makes a balanced discussion rather difficult. John Smith mentions "the unanimous strong support for the Silver Badge Examinations", but in fact there were exactly seven letters supporting the Badges and three of them came from him! Nevertheless, I do think that there is strong support for the Silver Badges but also a very strong feeling that in order to serve any useful purpose there must be a strong, co-ordinated effort to define exactly what we want from the Examinations and to try to ensure that consistent standards are maintained. It seems that the word "consistent" is the basis for many people's unhappiness with the current set-up, a feeling that standards have varied so much from year to year that it's very difficult to have any idea of what a pass standard might be in any particular country. Many people have pointed out that in earlier days a lot more people failed than in recent years. Certainly, at least three of the specialist judges have told me that they were put under considerable pressure to pass everyone that entered, even though they felt very strongly that some candidates had not attained the standard they thought acceptable. Indeed, there seem to be some members who think that Badges should be awarded for endeavour rather than achievement. Kay Kedge has kindly loaned me some copies of the NEWS from 1974/5 when the Badges were being set up, containing articles by Bert Price which make it clear that the purpose of the Badges was to encourage people to work towards becoming better dancers, not just notching up another certificate.

At the most recent Badge Committee meeting we spent a long time discussing the various possibilities. The difficulty of achieving a fair and consistent level of judging (something professional examiners find very difficult) is compounded, in our case, by the fact that in a small society such as ours most of the candidates are well known (or even good friends) with some of the judges and it's very hard not to take into account factors like ill-health, family problems, the fact that someone may have struggled very hard to overcome a particular problem, and be tempted to give marks for effort rather than for success. We have decided, as an experiment, to change the present judging set-up and instead to have a regular panel of judges implemented by a specialist, who would attend in an advisory capacity only. It was especially helpful to hear from such an experienced teacher and examiner as Robert Harrold, and to have his support and encouragement, and we would certainly be grateful for any suggestions from him.

Inevitably, we found no easy answers. We all felt that the judges must agree on a standard to be achieved, preferably a fairly modest one, and stick to it. They must have the courage to fail people who simply haven't got there this time - there'll always be another chance. We discussed (again) the possibility of a more advanced Badge and (again) haven't come up with a clear idea of how this could be managed. We all agree that dancing a country's dances with the appropriate style and feeling is the most important objective and we hope to slot in some additional revision courses when Badge Examinations are looming. We'd like to encourage more group leaders to support the Badge Examinations. It's very difficult for dancers to get in the requisite practice if the dances are never done in their class or group. Merton Park seem to manage splendidly in this regard without any significant problems for the rest of the class. We also agree that, whenever possible, candidates should consult their teachers/leaders before entering, both to enlist their support in working towards the exam and to get an assessment of their chances. In any event, the next Badge Examinations will take place some-time in 1996, the countries as yet to be decided, and we sincerely hope that many more people will decide to take part.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

Ed.Note: With the letters that have been written, and Maggie's article, I think we have exhausted the subject of badges in the NEWS but if anyone has anything new to add perhaps they would like to address it direct to the Committee.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF PHYSICAL RECREATION DIAMOND JUBILEE  
NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE. ROYAL ALBERT HALL  
30TH SEPTEMBER 1995

The S.I.F.D. has been invited to take part in the above celebrations next year and the Committee has asked me to arrange an item. I am sure many members will remember participating in similar previous events and will remember all the hard work that went into it for the sake of a five-minute performance. However, all those I have spoken to seem to think it well worth while as it keeps our name in the public eye, brings together members from all groups and is an outstanding item amongst the leotards.

I propose to present a Romanian item which will be simple to do, with the minimum amount of choreography which will not fall apart if someone has to drop out at the last minute. I particularly enjoy the music and I think quite a number of people and groups already have costumes.

I would like to hold rehearsals in the Midlands, as this is most central for groups who might wish to take part, although the final rehearsal for all participating groups and the performance will be in London. I suggest a meeting for teachers at the end of January, but I would like to know, in writing please, which groups and classes are interested by the end of December. The proposed programme is as follows:-

End January	Meeting for teachers.
End March	Rehearsal for all.
End June	Rehearsal for all.
1st July	Rehearsal at Cecil Sharp House with all groups and C.C.P.R. producer.
Mid Sept.	Dress rehearsal.
30th Sept.	Performance.

Dates and hall bookings have yet to be confirmed. Participants should be aware that no expenses will be paid.

If you have never danced at the Royal Albert Hall, now is your chance. It is quite an experience to be in such a huge auditorium and it has an atmosphere all of its own. Even the dressing rooms below the arena are an experience to be reckoned with, a veritable warren from which you have to pop up to orientate yourself in relation to your desired position in the arena. Its famous echo has not quite been eliminated, presenting a challenge between music from the floor and music from the speakers, especially for listeners promenading in the gallery right at the top. It's all great fun and I hope you will join me there.

Group leaders, please contact me at 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP and I will send you details of time and place for rehearsals as soon as they are confirmed. Many thanks for your support.

FRANCES HORROCKS



```
*****
*
*
* PLEASE NOTE: ALL MATERIAL FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE
* RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 13TH DECEMBER - EARLIER THAN USUAL,
* DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. ANYTHING RECEIVED AFTER THE 13TH WILL HAVE
* TO WAIT UNTIL THE FEBRUARY ISSUE.
*
*
*****
```

MUSIC. Three Scandinavian tunes from Wilf this month, on p.14. Please let Wilf know if you would like the music for a particular dance. Tel: 081 642 3629.

### SOUTH AMERICAN REVISION DAY COURSE

The revision day course taken by Jan Knoppers brought back all the joy of the dances he taught at York. During the warm-up he taught all the steps and movements we were to need later, so that people who had not been at York could learn them, and the dances were steadily built up during the day so that by the final review at the end of the afternoon everybody was dancing confidently. I was very disappointed to see such a relatively small number of people there; the day deserved a much better response.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

Ed.Note: Perhaps people were put off by "The Place". I personally find it a scruffy, uninviting venue, and I know others are of the same opinion. It has to be something special to entice me there. I put Jan Knoppers' day course in this category, but obviously others didn't. LILY AVERY

--oOo--

### TEACHING COURSE UP-DATE (13.11.94)

The fifteen people who are doing the training course in folkdance teaching with Jan Knoppers completed their first 15 hours on 12th November. As questions are still being asked about the course, I would like to repeat once again what we are doing. The course is designed to give us the skills we need to equip us to deal with various teaching situations, and to enable us, we hope, to be more effective teachers. About half of the group are already on the S.I.F.D. Teachers' list, so the gaining of a qualification is not our main goal. I would also like to stress that although the S.I.F.D. Committee was very keen for the course to start, and the course was advertized and discussed at length in SIFD news, to give all our members a chance to join in, the course is not being funded or subsidized in any way by the Society. All the participants are studying in their own time and at their own expense, for their own personal development, and for the satisfaction of knowing they are doing everything they can to make themselves skilful and effective teachers.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

--oOo--

### DANCING COURSE WITH JAN KNOPPERS IN BUXTON

There will be a 3-day course with Jan in Buxton, Derbyshire, on 27th, 28th and 29th May 1995 (Spring Bank Holiday). During these three days Jan will not be teaching any new material, but wishes to revise and review dances from his previous courses. For application form and further details, please send s.a.e. to me at "Robin Cottage", 4 Commercial Road, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HA. Tel: 01 433 630 183.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

--oOo--

### BULGARIAN DANCE HOLIDAY, LATE JULY/AUGUST 1995

Deljan Demirev is proposing to lead a dance course and provide opportunities to learn to play or sing Bulgarian music on a 10-day holiday based at an attractive hotel at Troyan in the Stara Planina mountains. If the Koprivshtitsa Festival takes place in 1995, then a 2/3 day visit staying in the village, if possible, will be included, or an alternative festival visit is a possibility. Optional excursions and visits to, and by, local dance groups will be available. If interested, please write to me indicating which course(s) you would like to join. Cost not yet known. ROGER WICKSTEED, 47 Jordan Hill, N.Oxford OX2 8EU.

I'd like to say "Thank You" to everybody who wrote such encouraging letters to me during the last eight months when I've been going through some intensive, not very pleasant, but luckily very productive therapy. The mail was very unreliable for a while but I think I did acknowledge every letter.

The adrenaline does seem to be flowing again and the music is beginning to get through once more - so, being able to FEEL the enjoyment of dancing must soon follow, and that will make it all worthwhile.

I really could NOT ENJOY anything even though I was in sunny California - anywhere was like hell. So, thank you for believing me even though you probably still do not understand! (I am beginning to understand). But your letters did help. Please accept this as a personal "thank you" if one of your letters has not been answered. Here's to Happy Dancing.

IRIS BIRCH, "Interdance Worthing"

Ed.Note: For those who don't know, Iris has been suffering for a long time from Longterm Endogenous Smiling Depression. We wish you well, Iris, and send our best wishes for a full recovery.

--oOo--

Readers will wish to join members of the London Turkish Folkdance Group in sending best wishes to Pauline Welch, now out of hospital and recovering from a recent operation.

PHILIP BARNES

--oOo--

Members will be sad to hear that Vyts Beliajus died in September. He had been producer/editor of the folkdance magazine "Viltis" in the U.S.A. for 50 years and was known by folkdancers throughout the world. An irreplaceable fount of knowledge and expertise.

--oOo--

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

George, Judy and Matthew Penaluna are moving to North Yorkshire. From 15th December their address will be 39 Bond End, Knaresborough, N.Yorkshire HG5 9AV. Tel: 01423 869128.

--oOo--

#### C8, DANCING INTO EUROPE

The filming and editing of the video which accompanies the Dancing Into Europe tape and book is now complete. It is intended as a teaching aid and shows a class of schoolchildren performing the dances, with the difficult bits demonstrated in detail by adult dancers, and an "interview" with Janet Woolbar, who talks about how she taught the dances to her class.

If you would like to order a copy of the video, please send a cheque, payable to the Society for International Folk Dancing for £10 plus £1 for postage and packing to me at 24 The Homefield, London Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 5AS. If you attend a class in the London area and don't mind waiting a little longer you can save £1 by giving me the name of someone in your group who attends Sunday dances or day courses and will act as postman. JEANETTE HULL

SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.

Dec.4th M.C. Helen Ezra. Interval dances will be led by Roberto Haddon

Jan.1st M.C.s S.I.F.D. Committee. Please wear costume for our New Year's Day dance. There will be a raffle for S.I.F.D. funds.

7 to 10 p.m. Admission £3.00 for S.I.F.D. members, £3.50 for non-members.

I am writing to remind everybody that the Sunday Dance at Cecil Sharp House in January will be on New Year's Day itself. The Committee will be your hosts, so get your costume ready, if you have one, and prepare your most reliable hangover cure so that you can make the most of the holiday and start the year dancing.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have worked so hard on the Sunday dances during the year. I usually sum up the problem of planning the dances by saying, "there are so many variables", but I must stress that the unselfish and whole-hearted co-operation of everybody involved is not one of them. To all the M.C.s, musicians, technicians and volunteers for unglamorous jobs, my grateful thanks. See you all dancing to Helen's tune in December and first-footing in January.

ANNE LEACH

--oOo--

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jan.14th CROXLEY GREEN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS NEW YEAR PARTY, 7.30 to 10.45 p.m. at St.Oswald's Church Hall, Malvern Way, Croxley Green, near Watford, Herts. £2 including refreshments, payable at door. Enquiries to Joyce Sharp, 0923 228080.

Jan.28th OXFORD BALKANSKO DRG NEW YEAR PARTY with live music. 7.30 to 11 p.m. St.Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Polstead Rd. (off Woodstock Road) Oxford. Tickets £5 including refreshments from Roger Wickstead, 47 Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8EU. (s.a.e. please).

Jan.29th ISRAELI WORKSHOP with Anat, 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at StoneCross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. £12 (concessions £7.50). Details and map from Rowena Martin, Tel: 0323 503991.

Feb.18th/19th WEEKEND OF MACEDONIAN DANCE with Martin Ihns. Revision plus new dances. At The Place, London. Further details later. Enquiries to 0702 206613.

Mar.11th/12th BULGARIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Eddy Tijssen. Saturday 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Further details from Sally Fletcher, 01473 252824.

--oOo--

MARAMURES IN - PENGE?

Quite by chance in the local "freeby" newspaper I saw an article announcing that a small group from Maramures would be appearing at a church hall in Penge, and that tickets at £3.50 could be requested. Only a few members of Bromley International were free at short notice but a few of us spent a really enjoyable evening. The setting was very informal, semi-circles of chairs, a bit like being at a wedding, and the first notes of the Taragota from the back of the hall told us that this was going to be the real thing. The group was very versatile, most of them equally at home singing, playing various instruments and dancing. The presentation of the dances was refreshingly simple and unarranged, and the atmosphere created was of a genuine village gathering. Thank you IZA! Please come again soon!

FIONA HOWARTH

# SVING KONTRA

(Denmark)

**A**  $\text{♩} = 132$

**B**

**C**

**D**

Play: AABBCDDAABB

# SEKSMANNSRIL

(Norway)

**A**  $\text{♩} = 120$

**B**

**C**

Play: AABBCAABBCA.

# LANSSI AV LENTU LANSI

(Finland)

**A**

**B**

**C**

Play: ABCBABC.

## WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- Dec.3rd ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY, 7 to 10.30 p.m. at Moorfield School, Bunhill Row, London E.C.1. Nearest Underground: Old Street. Tickets £5 including refreshments, from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Ave., Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 081 592 4427. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY. (please send s.a.e.). Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Group.
- Dec.3rd & 4th GREEK PERFORMANCE BY LYKION TON HELLINIDION on both days plus workshop on 4th, at Hellenic Centre, London. Details given last month. More information from Marianthi Styliano, 081 368 8893, or Maria Wenneker, 071 229 4613.
- Dec.4th S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 4 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House.
- Dec.4th ISRAELI DANCE PARTY with Anat, 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. Revision of dances from previous workshops. £12 (concessions £7.50). Details and map from Rowena Martin, 0323 503991. Come early and help decorate the hall!
- Dec.9th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY. Music by Dunav Balkan Group. £4 including food and wine. 8 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. (Please note: next meeting on 6th January 1995).
- Dec.9th to 11th DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND AT DUNFORD, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX. Enquiries to Jack Richardson, Chemical Eng. Dept., University, Swansea SA2 8PP.
- Dec.10th WEST MIDLAND BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at Oakenshaw Centre, Shirley, Birmingham. Please bring refreshments.
- Dec.10th BULGARIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY 6 to 9.30 p.m. at B.B.F.S. Centre, Finsbury Library Basement, 245 St.John Street, London E.C.1. (opposite City University). Nearest stations: Angel and Farringdon. Music by Dunav. Christmas Draw, wine, refreshments. £5 (including food) B.B.F.S. members and concessions, £7 non-members. Further details from Liz Lee, 081 993 7662 or Ita, 071 837 2304.
- Dec.10th BULGARIAN DANCE COURSE with Delyan. Revision of dances taught, and requests. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St.Ursula's School, Brecon Road, Henleaze, Bristol. BALKAN DANCE PARTY 7.30 to 11 p.m. same venue. £8.00. Further information from Anne Marshall, 0272 509889.
- Dec.17th BALKANPLUS, 7 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London. M.C. Dave Carter, with Dunav. Time to shake out the costume and dress up! Enquiries: 0702 207447.
- Dec.19th HIGH WYCOMBE FOLKDANCE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY, from 8 p.m. at Sir William Ramsay School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere. £2.00. All welcome. More details from Uri Gerson, 0494 523434.
- Dec.31st WEST MIDLAND BRANCH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY from 8 p.m. at United Reformed Church, Station Road (B4101), Knowle. Very close to the centre of Knowle, on the left-hand side of Station Road, just after the junction with the A4141 Warwick Road. Please bring food.
- Dec.6th to 9th BALKAN DANCE WINTER SHORT BREAK AT DERWENTER. Enquiries to Cathy Meunier, 071 482 0906.