

SIED

NEWS

DECEMBER

1997



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 12/17/08  
 L.H.E.

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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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 the Swedish "Santa Lucia"  
who brings coffee and cakes for breakfast on 13th December. The small figure  
is a Swedish elf called a "Tomte". I am particularly grateful to Lesley as  
I forgot to give her notice that I would like a special "Christmas" cover  
and she produced this beautiful picture within a matter of days. Ed.

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CHAIRPERSON: Jeanette Hull (Miss), 24 The Homefield, London Road, Morden,  
Surrey SM4 5AS. Tel: 0181 640 5267.

SECRETARY: Alison Scrimshaw (Mrs.), 22 Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey  
SM1 2SQ. Tel: 0181 642 3385.

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Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & Alan Morton, 26 Durham Road, Harrow, Middx. HA1 4PG.  
GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Tel: 0181 427 8042.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road,  
London SE5 0TQ. Tel: 0171 701 3785.

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\* IMPORTANT NOTICE: All material for the January SIFD NEWS must be received \*  
\* by the Editor in writing by 11th December - earlier than usual, due to the \*  
\* Christmas holiday. Anything received after the 11th will have to wait \*  
\* until the February issue. \*  
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S.I.F.D. SHOP - NEW STOCK FOR CHRISTMAS

Shopping Bags with long handles which hook comfortably over the shoulder and  
fold small enough to fit in your handbag when not needed. Made of cream calico  
and printed with "Lots of Dancers" design by Sister Anna in black, as shown on  
the cover of August SIFD NEWS. £3.50 plus 50p packing & postage.

Aprons, in red, printed with "Lots of Dancers" design in black. Good quality  
material. £8.00 plus £1.00 postage & packing. Make an excellent Christmas  
present.

Available from Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.  
Please make cheques payable to S.I.F.D.

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Once again, as we approach the A.G.M., I should like to record my sincere thanks and appreciation to those people who continue to work so hard behind the scenes in order to ensure regular delivery of SIFD NEWS to every member each month throughout the year. Doug and Maureen Wells work extremely efficiently getting the NEWS copied (not forgetting enclosures), and then taking it home to spend hours each month folding, packaging, stamping and then posting. Alan Morton, our very efficient Membership Secretary, deals with the address labels, which need constantly bringing up to date, and Edwina and Michael Holdup make sure the labels are put on the envelopes and ready in time for Doug and Maureen. Thank you very much to all of you; you are a great team.

I should also like to thank the people who contribute articles, letters and items of interest, as well as cover designs, to keep us going.

Unfortunately, this year there was a setback as our former printer was unable to continue, but once again Doug saved the situation by finding another printer and got the best price he could, but this has nevertheless meant an unavoidable large increase in expenses; we hope this will not threaten the continued regular production of the SIFD NEWS.

LILY AVERY, Editor

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## S.I.F.D. INSURANCE

As you are no doubt aware, I am the S.I.F.D.'s insurance broker. I also deal with the clubs on all insurance matters.

Does your club have its equipment insurance through the S.I.F.D.'s policy? If not, why not contact me for a quotation. If you arranged similar cover through your local broker, a minimum premium would apply. This would probably be higher than the premium charged as an addition to the S.I.F.D.'s policy. The cover provided is for All Risks anywhere in the United Kingdom. Please note there is a £100 excess on any claim. The cover provided by the insurers is on a new-for-old basis. It is, therefore, vital that you check to ensure that your sums insured are adequate. Insurers could reduce the claim proportionately if you are under-insured. The insurers can include all the club's equipment on the policy. If the club owns costumes or any other equipment, they should be insured. How many clubs could afford to replace lost equipment? I know mine could not! I do strongly suggest that you take up this excellent offer.

Does your club have Public Liability insurance? If not, why not include your club on the S.I.F.D.'s policy. The cover on the S.I.F.D.'s policy extends to include all your club's activities, provided you have paid for it. The cover is for your club's legal liability for damage to third party property or injury to or death of a third party. The limit of indemnity is £2,000,000. The policy extends to include damage to leased or rented premises and food poisoning. If you arranged similar cover through your local broker, a minimum premium of at least £100 would apply. Currently, all S.I.F.D. is charging Affiliated Clubs is £12.00. What excellent value! It would even be worth your club becoming affiliated to obtain this extra benefit. If your club meets in rented halls, the hall owner or local authority normally insist that you have adequate Public Liability insurance, with at least an indemnity of £1,000,000. I do strongly suggest that you take up this excellent offer. If you wish to do so, please send me a cheque, payable to S.I.F.D., as quickly as possible, or ring 01438 316651.

RICHARD S. THOM  
23 Haycroft Road, Stevenage,  
Herts. SG1 3JL.

A NEW VENUE. Beskydy Dancers now meet at a new venue, still within the grounds of the Imperial College of Science & Technology but situated in the Staff Club. The new address is: The Holland Staff Club, Imperial College of Science & Technology, Sherfield Building, Callendar Road, off Prince Consort Road, London. (Double doors at right-hand end of Sherfield Building). The group meets on MONDAY evenings, 7.00-9.30 p.m. in term time. Information from Hedy Fromings, 0181 699 8597, or 47 Dacres Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 2NS. New members very welcome.



#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

As a folkdance enthusiast of ten years, I used to live in South East London and deeply appreciated the variety and excellent opportunities for International folk dancing available there. Two years ago, I escaped from the clutches of the great metropolis and am now very happily domiciled in the deepest North Devon countryside (not a traffic queue in sight) but I do miss the dancing. I have not yet found any like-minded feet and have had to resort to attending weekend courses in Bristol - which are very enjoyable but few and far between.

Anne Marshall, who has been organizing these weekends, is too unwell to offer a course next Spring. Therefore, I have decided to step into the breach and put a weekend course together in North Devon from 22nd to 25th May (Bank Holiday). It would, of course, be ideal for a combination holiday with walking.

An old friend of mine, a very enthusiastic dancer who lives in Utrecht, has warmly recommended a Dutch teacher, Bert van der Meer, who is willing to come over. He has been teaching for ten years and currently works with four groups of various ages and abilities. Although he chooses not to specialize in any particular country, his favourite dances are Dutch, French, Armenian and Bulgarian. He is willing to try to accommodate preferred countries/styles and levels of experience and therefore participants will be given the opportunity prior to the weekend to express preferences as to what level they would like to be taught at - beginners, intermediate, advanced - and what style and countries of origin they would prefer. We propose offering three tailor-made workshops of 90 minutes duration each on the Saturday and Sunday, and three of an hour each on the Monday, so that people can "pick and mix" as required. This would also give me the opportunity to try and attract local people.

The location for the event is a small village, approximately five miles South of Great Torrington, called Beaford. The accommodation available ranges from hostel style to three-crown hotel. There are also self-catering units nearby. A varied and nutritious menu will be provided.

I would be delighted if this workshop were to be taken up by fellow dancers from around the country to come and enjoy the countryside and increase our general international repertoire. For further information, send s.a.e. to me (address below).

Yours sincerely,

MECKI (MECHTILD) TESTROET  
Manor Cottage, Burrington,  
Umberleigh, North Devon  
EX37 9LZ. Tel: 01769 560479

P.S. I used to be known as Lisa and danced in Fiona Howarth's class in Bromley and also used to attend regularly the Balkanplus events and Dances at Cecil Sharp House.

Dear Lily,

At the day course held in Stapleford, Notts., on 1st November, fifteen musicians graced the stage at Stevenson Junior School for our play-along session. There was a variety of instruments - wind, string and keyboard. They ranged from a lone treble recorder to flutes, guitars, violins, a cello, accordion and keyboard. Jill Bransby had very kindly sent the dots and I photocopied it but not in sufficient quantities. (Next time, I'll do better). The sound was lovely.

Following this session, the dancing took place. Thirty-six dancers took the floor before lunch, trying out the European dances prepared for us. First, Jill taught us a lovely Russian dance which proved popular. We then had a go at a lively tarantella which was done with enthusiasm if not expertise by the dancing participants. The whole day continued with variety and enjoyment. A few squeals were heard as we tied ourselves in knots in Untersteiner Landler, and a few sighs of relief as we waltzed into Maiezyt. It was a most pleasurable day. We learned a variety of simple and more taxing dances (a line dance, set dance and couple dances). Thank you, Jill, for a wonderful day.

GILL MORRAL  
Nutbrook International Folkdance  
Group, 116 Nottingham Road,  
Stapleford, Notts. NG9 8AR

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Dear Lily,

I feel I must write to express how much I enjoyed the Music & Dance Workshop at Nutbrook Group on 1st November. I understand it was an "experiment" to blend a musicians' workshop and an hour's social dancing (to live music) with dance workshops. Jill Bransby taught interesting and exciting dances, which have given us something to practise in the weeks ahead.

At the Heart of England group we were very lucky to have our own band to play most weeks. Perhaps if the initiative of the Nutbrook Group is followed there will, in time, be many more groups with their own band of musicians.

Thank you, Nutbrook, for a very enjoyable day.

Yours sincerely,

ELISABETH (NIBS) HOBRO  
27 Avondale Road, Earlsdon,  
Coventry CV5 6DZ

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Dear Lily,

A little while ago I received a letter from one of our members telling me she is studying East European Folk Culture, especially Russian and Romanian, and asking if I could help her. I would of course be delighted to help with information about Russian (I'm sorry I do not know anything about Romanian) but unfortunately I have mislaid her letter. So would she please give me her name and address again.

In the meantime, she may be interested in buying my two booklets, "Russian and Other Folk Dances, Style and Presentation" and "Russian and Other Folk Costumes", available from The Dance Book Shop, 15 Cecil Court, London W.C.2.

JENIA GRAMAN  
39 Stanley Road, East Sheen,  
London SW14 7EB  
Tel: 0181 876 0514

Dear Lily,

Henry Lee, in his interesting article on Appalachian Clogging last month, raised the point of "free style" dancing in the Society and asked for comments.

Dances are taught with a set sequence for several reasons:-

- 1) Ease of teaching and learning.
- 2) To give a sense of security to the not-so-confident when at social dances.
- 3) For demonstration purposes.

However, some dances must follow a sequence, for example:-

Viva Vadmal - Swedish  
Hebridean Weaving Lilt - Scotland  
Snuff Dance - Estonia  
Malunus - Lithuania

As a Society teacher in the olden(golden?) days, I often used to point out that certain dances should not or need not follow a set sequence, for example:-

Ukrainian Hopak and Kolomeyka  
The five national Polish dances - Krakowiak, Kujawiak, Oberek, Mazur  
and Polonaise  
All Goral (Polish mountain area) dances  
Austrian Lancers  
Spanish Sardanas  
Some Kolos (as we used to call them)

Henry suggests that competence and ability may be required for "free style" dancing. However, I always lapsed into "free" style when dancing with Philip Thornton because I could never grasp anything more than one step!

Happy dancing.

IRENE FYFFE  
3 Dent de Lion Court,  
Garlinge, Margate, Kent  
CT9 5LL

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Dear Friends,

I arrived in Sitges on the evening of 30th September after a rather tiring journey across Europe in a Spanish van with the bits and pieces I was bringing with me. The van was returning empty from Birmingham where it had delivered some antiques. I've now just about finished unpacking, and assembling unit furniture and bookcases, and setting up the mini hi-fi studio and the computer.

It took a while to get used to the feeling that this time I was here to stay. The town and quite a number of people in it I know quite well, and also the area round the town. I have taken advantage of offers to help and sorting my way through the system. My flat is quite a new one and quite spacious, and is on a hill two minutes' walk, or less, from one of the town's beaches - "San Sebastian". As Spain goes, it is quiet and near the oldwalled cemetery, and even nearer to a natural beach down some rocks, where people are not too fussy about wearing anything!

Sitges is an old town which has retained a lot of charm and avoided over-development and high-rise. It is dominated by the old church and a cluster of old buildings, some of which are very old. The church separates my part of

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town from the main area. It was ransacked by Franco's troops during the Civil War and only the fine baroque organ and carved case survived. From the long beach, many very narrow streets rise steeply up hill, lined with what were once fishermen's houses, mostly mid-19th century in origin. Apart from a few scars of the 1950s, frontages and roof tiles have been retained and any re-building has to be in sympathy with the adjoining buildings. There are still a number of fine late-19th century town houses with fine details including fine staircases and ornamental and painted ceilings. Most of the smaller houses have beamed ceilings. The town houses were built by wealthy Catalan families who returned to Spain from their tobacco and coffee plantations in Cuba. Catalan is currently the wealthiest region of Spain.

The town expanded mostly on a small scale from the 1950s but a few tall buildings did slip through the system! Further along the imposing promenade and on the edge of the town is the wealthy suburb. Here the roads are tree-lined and hedges separate the buildings. Some on the sea front are older and look as if they had been transported from a Hollywood film lot. The new toll motorway tunnelled under the Garraf natural park has brought Sitges within easy travelling distance and is much quicker than the old picturesque coastal road which is still in use. Some smart shops have opened and trendy bars, but the town has always been a Sunday mecca for the people of Barcelona. It is the Brighton for Barcelona.

It is an active town and has always been a centre for artists, and to some extent musicians. It has art galleries and an auction house as well as several antique shops. Sitges has more than its fair share of fiestas, and I shall be writing about these from time to time as many contain folklore elements.

I hope to see some of you at the Balkan party on 6th December, when I shall be in London for a few days.

Adios,

KEN WARD  
Carrer del Garraf 27 1-1,  
08870 Sitges, Barcelona, Spain

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Dear Lily,

From the "Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st July 1997" which was distributed with the last SIFD NEWS (November 1997), members can see that two thirds of their subscriptions are spent on producing the SIFD NEWS and that this expenditure is by far the largest outgoing item in the account. More significant perhaps is the fact that the estimated cost of producing the NEWS for 1997/98 is more than the cost for 1995/96 by £1330 - a staggering 34% increase.

Our treasurer has proposed increased subscriptions in an attempt to avoid a future financial deficit but these increases, if accepted at the A.G.M., will only come into force from September 1998 by which time we may very well be facing additional production costs. Surely the time has come for another look at the idea of using advertisements in the NEWS (or sent out with the NEWS) as a help in defraying the costs.

I am well aware of many arguments against this idea but none of them is insuperable. I know that only eight A4 sheets of 80gram paper and an envelope etc. can be posted for 20p and I know that it is unreasonable to expect our editor to take on more work but these difficulties can be overcome.

As a start, advertisements currently appearing in the NEWS which promote

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events organized by individuals or by non-affiliated groups should be charged. Similarly, advertisements for goods or services submitted by individuals, whether members or not, should be charged (see November NEWS for an example). Why should members' subscriptions contribute to an individual's profit? Reasonable people expect to pay for their advertising.

When subscriptions rise we lose some members. By looking closely at our major item of expenditure we might be able to delay the next rise and help the S.I.F.D. to expand rather than contract.

Yours etc.

SIMON GUEST  
49 Station Road, Epping,  
Essex CM16 4HJ

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In view of Simon's letter, this subject may well be raised at the A.G.M. and as it is probable that I won't be there perhaps I should make a few comments here.

The question of charging for advertisements has been raised on several occasions and after discussion duly rejected for one reason or another. From my point of view, as Editor, some of the problems are:-

To put it on a proper footing we would have to decide on a charge for, say, a quarter-page, a half-page, a full page. Having quoted these rates to would-be advertisers and accepted payment, the Editor would then be obliged to find space for the paid-for advertisement. As space is limited, this would mean less space for "our own" adverts, articles, letters etc. (This could mean that if, for the sake of argument we had requests from several outside organizations each for a full page which they had paid for, we would be left with only a few pages for ourselves).

Secondly, what sort of advertisement would we charge for?

Associated/Affiliated groups. Would we allow them to advertise their own events free of charge but charge them if they choose to advertise a local festival or event (I frequently get notices about events passed on to me from groups). Or would the Editor then be expected to contact the organizers direct and ask them to pay? And do we charge, for instance, Zivko Firfov group for advertising their cassettes?

Individual members. Do we charge them if they advertise a course organized by themselves (a day/week/weekend) and do we charge them to advertise their notes and cassettes? What do we do if they are just teaching at an event organized by an outside body?

Non-members and outside organizations. Having received information about a festival/event from, say a newspaper, magazine, poster, would the Editor then have to contact the organizers (if possible) and negotiate a fee with them for publishing the information? This would mean that in most cases members would miss out on the information because the organizers cannot be contacted, or do not wish to pay, or, as in many cases, there just isn't time for communication before the date of the event. Would the Editor be responsible for collecting fees and agreeing layout etc.?

These are just a few points that come to mind, and maybe, as Simon says, the difficulties are not insurmountable. I have not really had time to go into it more deeply as I only received Simon's letter on the deadline date. However, what I would suggest is that the Committee look thoroughly into the question of selling advertisement space and work out an exact policy to be followed and then see if it is practicable.

In fact, the SIFD NEWS is produced as cheaply as possible and we have been

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very fortunate over many many years in being able to produce it cheaply and keeping costs low. The price we are now paying is a little more realistic.

Other methods for reducing costs that have been suggested in the past are (a) producing the NEWS every two months instead of monthly, (b) using fewer pages by reducing the size of the type, and (c) not sending it out free to all members but asking those who would like to receive it to pay an extra charge with their membership subscription. All these suggestions were unpopular.

LILY AVERY, Editor

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#### FOR SALE

Sets of cassettes (each set comprising two cassettes of 90 minutes each) of the Zivko Firfov group 1996 Christmas Party. £10.00 per set plus £1.00 postage. Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group. Available from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 0181 592 4427; or from Irene at this year's Zivko Firfov Party on 6th December.

Hungarian Boots, size 39, red, scarcely worn (my feet grew too big!). £20.00 or offer. Reply to me on 0181 749 3344 or 01202 884818, or write to 113 Hartswood Road, London W12 9NG. MARGARET JOYNER.

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#### BALKAN SHOES AND COSTUMES (FEMALE & MALE)

I wonder if any S.I.F.D. members know of any outlet selling new Bulgarian/Serbian/Romanian/Yugoslav/Macedonian costumes and/or shoes. Parts of costume, i.e. boleros, blouses, woven aprons, headgear, skirts, trousers etc. would be a help also. We need to purchase a series of these for the Hursley I.F.D.G. performing group. Please contact me on 01703 212046, or write to me at 119 Bernard Street, Southampton SO14 3EA.

CHRISTINE TANNER

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#### BEXHILL BULLETIN

Bexhill International Folkdance Group is now in its 5th year, with a gradually increasing number of members. The dance standards have improved and our members are at home with dances from a wide selection of countries and regions, which enables us to provide an evening's programme with plenty of variety.

We operate on an informal, "drop-in", basis, dancing for pleasure, not giving demonstrations or collecting costumes, but with a repertoire of dances that people most enjoy, continually augmented by "new" dances learnt by Heather (Edwards) and me at courses and by dances (Balkan, Israeli, Russian) introduced to us by Rowena Martin, who regularly attends, and by Jack Carter (English).

There are several other dance groups in and around Bexhill - Ballroom, American Line dancing, Clog, English Folk, Israeli, Circle Dance, Ballet, Stage Dance - but we are pleased there is still a place for our International and that we have a group of supporters (some coming quite a distance).

Anyone is welcome to drop in. We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at the Methodist Church Hall, in Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea. Further information from Heather Edwards on 01424 222382 or myself on 01424 845866.

LILY AVERY

## APPALACHIAN CLOGGING

On Saturday, 25th October 1997, a Step Dance Festival was held at Maidenhead, run by John Walford and other members of the Reading Traditional Step Dance Group. Their special guest and star turn was Ira Bernstein, who, with the help of sponsorship, had been brought over from the U.S.A. He is a versatile solo dancer, and in the afternoon showcase display, he gave four separate performances of South African gumboot dancing, English North-East clogging, Canadian stepping and Appalachian clogging in which he specialises. The dancing was superb. In the evening he gave a lecture. I do not want to bore members on the subject of Appalachian clogging (on which the S.I.F.D. recently held an excellent day course), but I think that what Ira Bernstein had to say, and I hope I have remembered it correctly, may be of some interest to them.

His theme was the change or development or progress of American clogging over the last thirty years. To start with, Appalachian clogging was hardly known outside its home area. Then some students at a small university in either Carolina or Virginia became very interested in it and formed a group called the "Greengrass Cloggers" to do Appalachian clogging. They worked closely with local musicians, particularly fiddlers, and would dance freestyle to traditional live music. They made minor changes. For instance, some of their figures came from the square sets of American Square Dancing, which is a different tradition. The "Greengrass Cloggers" started showing Appalachian clogging at folk festivals and to the outside world. The outside world became enthusiastic for this form of stepping and it spread across the U.S.A.

The rest of America did not, however, leave the dance alone; they changed it from the "Greengrass" clogging movement (with its close adherence to Appalachian tradition) to what Ira Bernstein called the "modern clogging" movement. The modern cloggers started to use steps from other traditions and to invent new steps. They hold competitions and this has led to rigid codification and regimentation of the dances and stratification of standards and classes. Their vocabulary of names for steps is often different from that of the "Greengrass Cloggers". They hold courses and summer schools and one would not be surprised to enter a dance hall and see several hundred people in neat lines all doing the same steps. (Not to be confused with American Line Dancing). Their shoes invariably have loose taps. The modern cloggers no longer danced to live music and only used recordings and would dance a fixed sequence of steps to a fixed length of music. They had more or less abandoned free styling. Traditional music was vanishing from the modern clogging scene and being replaced by pop music, e.g. Michael Jackson. Costumes for display would be influenced by, for example, what drum majorettes wore. One man would display his solo step dance wearing a costume with flashing lights that were powered not by a battery but by being plugged into the mains and he would continue dancing even when he was on a stage open to the skies and the rain was falling. Ira Bernstein passed no moral judgment on this modern clogging scene, although he remains a "Greengrass Clogger" and is not a modern clogger. Indeed, he emphasized that some of the modern cloggers dance with a brilliant technical virtuosity that far surpasses anything he or other "Greengrass Cloggers" could achieve.

The punchline to this story over the changes in the American clogging world came when he compared it with what he saw of American clogging in Britain. He said British practitioners of American clogging showed an earnest and vigorous enthusiasm for it but what they did seemed weird and strange to somebody coming from America. He called it an anomaly. Then he explained why. In America the modern clogging movement now dominates the clogging scene - Greengrass clogging is now only approximately five per cent of it. For some strange reason, Britain has rejected American modern clogging and does only Greengrass clogging that is based on traditional Appalachian dancing. I get the impression that Ira Bernstein was puzzled and amused and rather pleased by this peculiar British anomaly.

HENRY LEE

BALKANPLUS, 13th December 1997, at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1, 7.00 to 10.30 p.m. £3.00. M.C.: Frances Horrocks, with Dunav.

This is our Christmas Party with Dunav again playing for us. Wear a Christmas hat, bring two sticks for "Dans cu sucituare"(spares will be available) and a belt might be useful.

The next Balkanplus will be on 10th January.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jan.17th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, Armenian.

Jan.24th CROXLEY GREEN INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS NEW YEAR'S PARTY, 7.30-10.45 p.m. at St.Oswald's Church Hall, Malvern Way, Croxley Green, near Watford Herts. Come in costume if you can. £3.00 including refreshments, payable at the door. Enquiries to Joyce Sharp, 01923 228080.

Jan.31st OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO NEW YEAR PARTY, 7.00-10.45 p.m. at St.Margaret's Parish Institute Hall. No price given.

Feb.7th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH SPRING DANCE, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Solihull Methodist Church, Blossomfield Road, Solihull. M.C.: Maggie Kaye. Usual "bring and share" supper. The hall is situated in Blossomfield Road (B4102) close to the corner of Station Approach, by the 'bus station and just down the road from the railway station. No price given.

Feb.8th NEW ISRAELI DANCES, 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. For experienced dancers at Stone Cross, near Eastbourne, with Anat. £12.00 (£7.50 concessions). Details from and bookings to Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

Mar.7th/8th ROMANIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Silviu Ciuciumis at Bealings Village Hall, near Ipswich. £25.00. To book, please send £10.00 deposit and s.a.e. to Sally Fletcher, 106 Westerfield Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2XN. Tel: 01473 252824. It may be possible to find overnight accommodation with local dancers for those travelling from a distance.

Mar.13th/15th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH SILVER JUBILEE WEEKEND at the Paddocks Hotel, Symonds Yat, in the Wye Valley. The hotel has a spacious ball-room and all rooms have en-suite facilities. Marina Wolstenholme will be teaching a varied selection of dances and there will be the usual range of social activities and evening Dances. Cost £80.00 per head. Bookings with £30.00 deposit and s.a.e. to Yvonne Hunt, 27 Baginton Road, Styvechal, Coventry CV3 6JX. Tel: 01203 413854.

Mar.27th-29th/30th BULGARIAN AND GREEK DANCE WEEKEND at Malhamdale, with Eddy Tijssen and Maggie O'Regan. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Apr.24th/26th ISRAELI DANCE WEEKEND at Freshwater Bay with Fiona Howarth. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

May 22nd/25th INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE WEEKEND IN NORTH DEVON with Bert van-den-Meer. See Mecki Testroet's letter on p.4.

June 7th ISRAELI DANCE DAY, 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. For experienced dancers at Stone Cross, near Eastbourne, with Anat. £12.00 (£7.50 concessions). Details from and bookings to Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

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

Dec.7th M.C.s: Rainmakers I.F.D.G.(Fiona Howarth will be leading the interval dances)

Jan.4th M.C. - To be announced

7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Admission £4.00 for S.I.F.D. members, £5.00 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Dec.6th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London E.C.1. (Nearest Underground: Old Street). 7.00-10.30 p.m. Dances from Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia; also from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania. £5 including refreshments. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY, available from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 0181 592 4427. Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group (s.a.e. please).

Dec.7th S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 4 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House.

Dec.8th HIGH WYCOMBE FOLKDANCE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY from 8.00 p.m. at Manor Farm County Middle School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks. £2.50. All welcome. More details from Alison Whisker, 01923 778547.

Dec.12th RAINMAKERS CHRISTMAS DANCE, 8.00-11.00 p.m. at St.Michael's Church Hall The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. Live music by "Jacob's Ladder". Contact C.M.Lee on 01462 490071. No price given.

Dec.13th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7.30 p.m. at the Downing Hall, Knowle. M.C.: Elisabeth Hobro. Bring and share supper, so please bring food. The hall is situated between the Tesco precinct and the High Street; turn off High Street by pedestrian crossing, and then right by the bottle banks; the hall is on the right-hand side. No price given.

Dec.13th BALKANPLUS. See p.11.

Dec.14th "MAZURY" present DANCES, SONGS & MUSIC FROM ALL REGIONS OF POLAND including the Krakowiak, Oberek from Lowicz, Kujawiak, Polonaise, Mazurka, dances from Nowy Sacz and Lwow, and a new set of dances from Jurgow in the Tatra mountains. The show starts at 6.00 p.m. Tickets at £9.00 and £7.00 are available from the Polish Y.M.C.A. on 0171 229 4678 (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and 0181 998 0306 (7 to 9 p.m.).

Dec.19th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY with music by Dunav, at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. 8.00 p.m. £4.00 PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE. For information contact Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717.

Dec.19th S.I.F.D. DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Dunford, Midhurst. Enquiries to to 21st Jack Richardson, 01792 295194 (work), 01792 403153 (home).

Dec.31st S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY from 8.00 p.m. at the Downing Hall, Knowle. (See instructions as for 13th December) M.C.: Grace Pittman. Please bring food for bring-and-share supper. No price given.

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A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.