S.I.F.D. NEWS

MARCH 1971



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Editor:

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Lily Southgate, 52 Eanbury House, Danbury Road, London, J.9. Office: 01-248-1212 Ext.552 Telephone: Home: 01-985-0428.

Assistants:

Sylvia Fulton, 22 Landseer Road, London, N.19.

Telephone: Home: 01-272-5827

Barney Salmon, 64 Lincoln Court, 115 Bethune Road, London, N.16.

This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas.

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Officers of the Committee:-

Bert Price, Chairman:

22 Sunnydale Road, London, S.E.12.

Office: 01-858-3767

Treasurer: Harry Whitaker,

29 Sherbrook Gardens, Winchmore Hill, London, 1.21. Home: 01-360-4965

Secretary:

Dorothy Bryan,

Flat 1, Fraunton Mansions,

29 Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1

Home: 01-837-2438

Membership Secretary (ex-officio Member):

Roland Minton, 131 Holly Street, London, E.8.

Demonstration Secretary:

Largery Lathem, 14 Beechwood Avenue, Rew. Richmond, Surrey. Home: 01-876-7055

Office: 01-930-9000 Ext.523

S.I.F.D. badges for lapel, scooter, and car, $@ 17\frac{1}{2}p$, $37\frac{1}{2}p$ and $62\frac{1}{2}p$ respectively DADGES can be obtained from our Hembership Secretary, Roland Minton.

Our records are available from lagnegraph Recording Co., Ltd., 1 Hanvay Place, RECORDS London, W.1. Price 65p each plus postage.

Our books are published by Pergonon Press and are available, to order, FOOKS through any bookseller, price 37% each.

Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for their own use. Full price should be paid at the time of purchase, and then discounts can be claimed by applying to Frances Norrocks, 112 Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

THE CHAIR AR WRITES

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There was something agreeably surprising at the "See How They Dance" Show at Chatham. I went there expecting it to smell of mothballs, but it didn't. I went in the afternoon, sharing the hall (and the loos) with what seemed to me to be all the children in Chatham, and I am sure the High Street was grateful that their respective mothers were shopping minus the usual entourage. I am not going to give you a critique of the Show. I liked it; it was a good afternoon's entertainment, which was enough for me. I will, however, add that the Chatham Entertainments Hanager is so much in agreement with my sentiments that he has immediately booked the Show for next year, so what further praise is required?

After the fun of the Chatham Show on Saturday, we had a rollicking Cecil Sharp House Dance on Sunday, notwithstanding the absence of many of the Chatham Show dancers who needed the night off to do some home chores. At least, I presume it was this as there was nothing remarkable on the 'tele'. It's just possible that, being the M.C. in attendance, I was prejudiced but I did feel that we had a good evening, and whether it was this or just Spring in the air I don't know but somehow, with no great coercion on our part, an appeal to some of the non-members present to join our Society met with a friendly response. "Please join tonight", we said, "and help us to raise the membership to 300". They did and we have!

Your Committee is really on its toes this Jubilee year, trying to present you with a new innovation every month - something beyond the perpetual dance classes and Socials which can so quickly become stereotyped.

On the 7th March, as you know, we are holding a One-Day Course in Israeli dancing to be taken by Judith and Jacob Barkan, in addition to which we have assisted them to start a new, regular, S.I.F.D. Israeli class every Wednesday evening, at Fimlico School, Lupus Street, Chelsea. Our hope is that we will provide a new class for members who are not catered for by the existing wednesday-evening facilities and also that we shall recruit any new members in the Chelsea area. We shall see.

All arrangements for Swansea are proceeding according to plan, and also for French and Polish Courses in London, to be taken by the visiting Swansea teachers. These Courses are being arranged for July and August.

On top of this, we are in touch with the best teacher in Romania, endeavouring to bring her to London in September. She is Ime. Eugenia Popescu-Judetz. Now, here I need your help. Eugenia is able to teach anything in Romanian and she can speak English to boot. Novever, we cannot bring her such a great distance for a mere week, and I doubt whether London can sustain more than seven evenings of continuous dancing. I envisage a week of evening classes in London, plus a weekend either in London or close by, to be followed by a further week somewhere outside of London, but I don't know where. Perhaps some of our country affiliates can help me? Would any of our country members or affiliated groups be prepared to organize a Course? Mne. Eugenia will require a fee of about £20 (or £3 a day, depending on the length of the Course)

plus accommodation. Alternatively, we could emperiment with a two-week Course in London, but I think it would be nicer if our country members could benefit from a visit from this excellent national teacher.

Seriously, I need your guidance on this, and I will welcome your letters, provided they come quickly. Dates are not yet fixed but you should think in terms of her being here for the second and third weeks in September - before evening classes start. The Society can accordate Eugenia for the first week of her stay and for the intermediate weekend, but what about the following five or six days? Has any affiliated group get ambitions?

One other question; Are any numbers interested in attending an Easter weekend in France, or a week's Course in Franch dancing in the summer? If you are, then please either write or look in on the Franch Thursday Class at Pimlico School, Lupus Street, Chelses. We are making tentative arrangements for both these fixtures but need more names to make the venture viable.

BERT PRICE

ADSENT FRIELDS

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Members will be very sorry to hear that Kathleen Honroe-James, who has been ill for some time, is still in hospital. I am sure you will all wish to join me in sending Kathleen our very best wishes and our hopes that she will soon be better.

ED.

REEKENDS AMAY

12th/14th March

UHLANDS, HIGH LYCONIA. Another weekend of dancing and walking. As most members already know, Uplands, with its comfortable accommodation and good dance floor, and levely surroundings, is likely to get booked up fairly quickly, so if you would like to go would you please send a deposit of 50p as soon as possible to: Prof. J. Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University College, Swansea.

Total cost: Friday evening dinner to Sunday tea - £5.25 Location: Three miles from High Sycombe, Bucks.

7th/9th May

SURREY CREST, Godstone, Surrey. A folkdance weekend organized by Stephen and. Full details from Stephen at Flat 4, 37 The Avenue, Surbiten, Surrey.

18th/20th June

HALSWAY MANCR. A midsummer weekend at this very comfortable old manor house between Minehead and Taunton. Full details from Michael Clark, 14 Meldon Close, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Wants. The cost of the whole weekend: £3.65. Please send a deposit of £1 per head when booking.

MERTON PARK HITERPATIONAL FOLK DAYCE GROUP

This group, which is run by Charles Steventon, with music by wilf Horrocks, began last September at a Merton Park evening class. Recently, the group gave their first demonstration-cum-teaching evening and have been asked to do another later in February. Several glowing press reports have appeared in the local papers.

The group meets every Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, S.W.20. New members are always welcome and can be assured of an enjoyable evening. Refreshments available. All enquiries to Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, Merton Park, S.W.19.

FOLK DANCE INSTRUMENTS

Kannel (Estonia)

The Kannel is an ancient Estonian folk instrument, which is used for accompanying folk songs and dances. It is difficult to tell the exact age of the Kannel, but it is assumed that the instrument was used during the 12th century.

The Kannel consists of a flat box or sound-chest. In the top of the instrument is cut a sound-hole, to give a better sound, and over the top are fixed the strings, which are tuned with pegs. The ancient Kannel had nine strings made of goat's intestines and one played in D, G and C scales. The latest model has fifty or more steel wire strings of different thicknesses, which enables one to play the other major scales and also the minor scales. The strings are plucked with the thumbs and the fingers of both hands.

The Kannel is used as a folk instrument up to the present day.

FAUX PAS-DE-DEUX!

Mazarika.

TOWER HAMLETS FESTIVAL, 1971

So, "by popular demand" the Tower Hamlets Festival is no longer competitive; but what has it become instead? Is it a festival of international folk dancing? If so, surely the show should be properly produced, and performed on a stage, with the items arranged into a balanced programme? Is it a display of local talent, to show what activities are offered to the residents of Tower Hamlets? If so, surely only local clubs would be performing?

This year's festival, held on 5th February, was neither of these, nor was it a competition. Clubs and groups, widely separated geographically, were sent the usual application forms to 'compete' in the festival; the various teams taking part were, as usual, divided into Junior and Senior sections, and sked to abide by the usual 'competition' rules; there were the usual last-minute withdrawals; and, as usual, no attempt was made to arrange the items into any coherent order; there was an adjudicator (who didn't adjudicate) but who, as usual, wrote comments about each team on a 'certificate' which was later handed to the team leaders. In fact, everything was what we have always come to expect of this rather disorganized but still enjoyable Festival - except the competitive spirit.

I know there have long been murmurs against competitions for international folk dancing, with all the usual arguments of "How can you find an adjudicator capable of judging standards of dancing from an area as wide as from the Punjab to Portugal?"; "How can one possibly compare the complicated rhythms and steps from, say, Bulgaria, to The Dorset Four-Hand Reel?". But the point is that one does not compare these dances one to the other; the adjudicator judges each dance on its own merits for - manner of performance, knowledge of style, presentation, knowledge of the rhythms, the steps, the costumes, the music, and above all the authenticity - for that particular region of that particular country, whether it is Hong Kong or Somerset. One knows in advance which countries are to be represented and it is not difficult to find a small panel of two or three judges to cover the area in question. It is only in competitions, with competent judges, that any standards are set. If you do away with the judging, then anything from flamboyant choreography to stage tinsel and sequins will be allowed to creep in -(even accordions(!) might be allowed) - which will probably provide an enjoyable show for the general public but does nothing for folkdancing.

So, what about it Tower Hamlets, is it to be "Danish Double Quadrille on Ice" next year, or a genuine folkdance competition? But perhaps I am making far too much of what is really only a small event in the folkdance world; it's just that as this is one of the very few folkdance shows that have retained an adjudicator and competition rules, it seems a pity that it has decided to change "by popular demand" after twenty years, and it has now fallen between two stools and is neither one thing nor the other.

Thank Heaven for the Eisteddfod - the Mecca of authentic folk dancers.

AFFILIATED GROUPS

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC GROUP meet at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, W.S., from 7 to 10 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday evening and would be very pleased to welcome new members. The Group perform Czechoslovakian dances and are taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova.

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GUILDFORD INTERVATIONAL FOLK DANCERS meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday every month from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. at St. Nicolas Small Hall, Millmead Terrace, Guildford, Surrey. General European dancing. Beginners welcome. Meetings 15p weekly. Full details from John Driver, 77 Long Gore, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey. Tel: Godalming 6259 (Nome); Wormley 2122 (Work).

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Thursday evening at Handsworth Wood Girls School, Church Lane, Birmingham 20, from 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. as an Evening Institute Class.

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WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at The Church Hall, Quarry Hill, Borough Green (near Maidstone) every Tuesday from 7.30 to 10 p.m. New members welcome, age 15 upwards. Under 18's $7\frac{1}{2}$ p; over 18's $12\frac{1}{2}$ p. Refreshments included.

Woodvale I.F.D.G. will be holding their next <u>International Folk Dance</u> on <u>17th April</u>, 7.30 to 11.00 p.m., at Borough Green Village Hall. Admission 25p. Musician: Wilf Horrocks. Licensed Bar.

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FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday evening at the South Kent College of Technology, Folkestone. Full details from the Secretary, Mrs. Evra Jordan, 62 Marine Parade, Hythe, Kent.

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INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE SOCIETY OF SUSSEX meet every Thursday evening during University term times, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Reetings are held at the University of Sussex, Falmer (on the Brighton/Lewes Road) in the Old Refectory, Falmer House. Secretary: Miss Janet Liddell, Falmer House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex.

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HARROW FCLK DANCE CLUB meet, during term time, as an evening class on Mondays at Pinner Park School (Melbourne Avenue entrance) off Headstone Lane, Harrow, Middx., 7.30 to 9.30 p.m., and out of term time as a Club (usual admission 15p, students 10p). Enquiries to Harrow Folk Dance Club, 29 Tenby Avenue, Harrow FA3 SRU or telephone 01-907-7354 or 01-863-1594.

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AFFILIATED GROUPS Contd.

BARLOW INTERMATIC MAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday evening throughout the normal school terms from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Barlow Hall Evening Centre, Barley Avenue, Manchester 21. International Folk Dances are also run regularly during the season usually on the second Saturday of each month at Barlow Hall Evening Centre. Further information from the Secretary, Miss Elaine Duffett, 185 Brooklands Road, Sale, Cheshire.

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HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at Crowlands Youth Centre, Romford, on Thursdays, from 8 p.n.

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HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP January proved to be a busy month for us. The workshop weekend at Saffron Walden Youth Hostel was well attended and much enjoyed by everyone so that we have been repeatedly chivvied since to arrange a repeat fixture. It was, in part, a rehearsal for the Tower Hamlets Festival which, to my disappointment, was not competitive this year. I must say, I missed the almost universal cry of past years of "We wuz robbed!"

Our future programme is also somewhat crowded. In July we shall be making our first attempt at the Llangollen Eisteddfod, and provided we don't get too uptight about it, it should be a very interesting occasion. As you will see by the programme, March 10th will be our first rehearsal, and naturally we should like to have a large team, so if you would be interested in joining us on 7th July at Llangollen, come along and hear the details. To provide funds for the additional costumes, we shall be holding a <u>JUMBLE SALE</u> on 24th April, and offers of help or jumble, books, records etc. will be gratefully received.

Harrow Green Folk Dance Group meet every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E.2.

Programme

3rd	March	Swedish - Dr. Cyriax
10th	11	English Rehearsal - Peter Oakley
17th	11	Norwegian - Tony Parkins
24th	11	English Class - Peter Oakley
31st	11	Swedish - Dr. Cyriax (This will be instead of 7th April)
24th	April	JUMBO JUMBLE SALD. 2.30 p.m. at St. Matthews Hall, Hereford Street, E.2. (near Oxford House)

GEORGE SWEETLAND

28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London, S.E.5.

HARROW GREEN WEEKEND AT SAFFROM WALDEN

Regular members of H.G.F.D.G. thought it would be a good idea to have a weekend in the country, a business-cum-pleasure excursion, partly to rehearse for our entry at Tower Hamlets Festival on 6th February.

Peter Cakley suggested the Youth Mostel at Saffron Walden as being suitable and not too far from London. It was a good choice as the hostel is a most interesting building, one of the oldest in Saffron Walden, built around 1500. Originally it was owned by a miller and you can still see the huge mill wheel in the largest dormitory, which wasn't in use for this particular weekend - a good thing too, I thought, as it was jolly cold! But on the whole the hostel was very comfortable, though some of the girls found the beds a bit hard. I thought they were being rather fussy until I discovered that I had been sleeping on a Dunlopillo mattress! It was just luck, of course, but in future I'll prod all the beds just to make sure! The hostel wasn't very full; in fact on the Friday we had the place to ourselves, but some more people arrived on the Saturday.

Peter taught English dancing on Saturday and Sunday, with about an hour set aside each day for a rehearsal for the team dancing at the Tower Hamlets Festival. Peter is a first-rate teacher and he knows all there is to know about English dancing. The dances are great fun to do and they have the most fascinating names. For example: Heigh Boys Up Go We; Drapers Maggot; The Fit's Upon Me Now! Caroline Thomas played for us and worked very hard as most of the dances were quite new to her.

After lunch on Saturday we went for a walk around the town, where there was plenty to see. They have a small market on a Saturday; plenty of books and a good line in old sheet music, musical gens from the first world war! We also paid a visit to the local museum. They had some very interesting stuff and we browsed around for a long time.

Saturday evening we did some general dancing - international as well as English. Some of the others staying in the hostel joined in as well, so we had a good time, though it was rather difficult to begin with to drag ourselves away from the huge coal fire that the warden had lit in the room next door (in fact I don't think Roland ever did!).

After our rehearsal on Sunday, for which Dorothy Bryan and Janet Loader nobly stood in for team members who couldn't come for the weekend, Dorothy, Sylvia Fulton and Lesley Vale went over to the church to do some brass-rubbing. They managed to squeeze in some time between the morning service and a christening, and they came back with some very creditable results. Some of the others ent for a walk across the fields to Audley End House, the local stately home. It's not open at this time of year but I believe it's worth seeing. Anyway, we all agreed we would like to come back to Saffron Walden again in the Spring perhaps, so maybe we shall see it then.

We wound up our weekend at Floral Street, where Caroline was once again the musician so she must have been rather exhausted by this time. Still, I think she enjoyed it all as much as we did.

RED ARLY

The Red Army Ensemble from Kiev will be visiting England in the Spring. They are due to arrive in England on the 19th March and will be performing at the following places:-

22nd/27th Mar.	New Theatre, Oxford	3rd May	Sheffield City Hall
29th Mar./3rd Apr.	Odeon, Golders Green	4th May	Newcastle " "
5th/7th Apr.	ABC Cinema, Hull	6th May	Guildhall, Portsmouth
10th/12th Apr.	ABC Cinema, Dlackpool	7th May	ABC Cinema, Harrow
15th/17th Apr.	ABC Cinema, Stockton-	8th May	Bournemouth Pavilion
- / -	on-Tees	9th Ley	Victoria Palace, London
19th/24th Apr.	Grand Theatre, Leeds	10th/15th May	Moss Empire, Birmingham
26th Apr./1st May	Opera Louse, Lanchester	17th/22nd May	Royal Court, Liverpool

Block bookings for 12 or more seats at a reduced cost of 5% on all seats. Average price of tickets will vary from 50p to £1.30. Booking forms from the Red Army Ensemble, c/o BSFS, 36 St. John's Square, London, ECIV 4JH.

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'SLAVA'

A programme of dances from Poland and Yugoslavia.

The S.I.F.D. Polish Group and Zivko Firfov Group

SATURDAY, 20TH MARCH 1971

7.30 p.n.

At the COLLOW/FALTH INSTITUTE, KENSINGTON HIGH STREET, W.8.

Tickets: 40p 50p 70p

Box Office: Commonwealth Institute. Tel: 01-602-3660 - or -

Ken Ward, 39 Harpenden Road, S.E.27 (send s.a.e.) Cheques and Fostal Orders to be made payable to Dennis Wood.

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S.I.T.D. CLASSES - 1970/71

Spring Term ends on 3rd April 1971. Summer Term commences on 19th April 1971.

Fees for the 1970/71 session:

*This may be altered to 7.30 - 9.30.

For 1 class a week: £2.15 For 2 classes a week: £2.40 For 3 classes a week: £2.90 For 4 or nore classes a week: £3.40

Terminal fees are approximately one third of these fees.

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MONDAY		Institute	Tutor				
6.00 to 8.00 7.00 to 8.00 8.00 to 10.00	8.00 Polish Beginners	Christopher Hatton School	Margery Lathan Betty Harvey Betty Harvey				
TUESDAY							
6.30 to 6.30 8.30 to 9.30 7.30 to 9.30	9.30 Yugoslav, Advanced	Greenwich Institute	Ken Verd Ken Verd Bert Price				
"EDNESDAY	<u>¥</u>						
7.00 to 9.00 *7.00 to 9.00	& Intermediate	Hugh Myddelton School Pimlico School	Margery Latham Jacob Barkan				
THURSDAY	r E						
6.30 to 8.30 8.30 to 9.30 7.00 to 9.00 9.00 to 10.00	9.30 Flamenco 9.00 Flamenco	Christopher Hatton School " Kensington Institute "	Felisa Victoria Felisa Victoria Sandra Escudero Sandra Escudero				
FRIDAY							
6.00 to 9.00 7.30 to 9.30 Club	9.30 Club Night Club Night Programe for March: 5th March Rom 12th March No 19th March Is:	Millbank School Y. W. C. A. manian Class raeli Jacob Barkan ttch Ann Van den Berg	Alan McLean				
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Club CHRISTOFHER HA HUGH MYDDETTON KENSINGTON INS GREENVICH INSE	Club Night Programe for March: 5th March Rom 12th March No 19th March Is: 26th March Du PHER HATTON SCHOOL DDEITON SCHOOL FON INSTITUTE CH INSTITUTE K SCHOOL	manian Vic Knivett Class raeli Jacob Barkan tch Ann Van den Berg Laystall Street, Rosebery Ave Corporation Row, Clerkenwell 97 Lancaster Road, W.11 Charlton Hanor School, Hornfa Erasmus Street (off Vauxhall (behind Tate	Green, E.C.1. ir Road, S.E.7. Bridge Road),S Gallery)				

ISRAELI DANCING

A ONE-DAY COURSE IN ISRAELI DANCIIG has been arranged as follows:-

Date: SUMDAY, 7th MARCH 1971

Place: CECIL SHARP HOUSE, 2 Regents Park Road, W.

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 to 6.00 p.m.

Tutors: JUDITH and JACOB LARKAH

Cost to members and Affiliates of S.I.F.D.: 500 for the whole day
(No reduction for half a day)

Coffee, tea and biscuits are available at Cecil Sharp House for light refreshment, but members attending the Course are asked to bring their own packed lunches.

Judith and Jacob Barkan are professional Israeli dancers, presently resident in London. They are excellent teachers, and all members are recommended to make every effort to take advantage of this very enjoyable Course to learn some new and interesting Israeli dances.

Please send your 50p booking fee to Bort Price, or, if you prefer, pay on arrival at Cecil Sharp House on 7th Barch, but it would help if you could let Bert know if you intend to attend the Course, so that we may have some indication of how many people to expect.

WATFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLK DARCERS will be holding a Springtime Dance on Friday, 19th March 1971, from 7.45 p.m., in the Memorial Hall, Letchmore Heath, near Watford, Herts. It is a mile or two from exit 5 off the M.1. Caroline Thomas will be providing the music, and it is hoped that the Kensington Slavonic Group will be providing a demonstration of Czech dances. Tickets (at the door) will be 25p and refreshments will be available. There is also ample space for car parking. Please come in costume if you can.

On Barch 20th "LOS BOHEMOS" are presenting a Show of Spanish Regional & Flamenco dancing at 7.30 p.m. at Isaac Newton School, (off Ladbroke Grove) - Admission by programme: 20p.

PROGRADUE FOR SOCIAL DANCES

Musicians

M.C.

Sunday, Harch 7th 21st

Cecil Sharp House

C.S.H. Band

Ian Willson Cliff Beck

April 4th

Dance Centre Cecil Shary House Cliff Beck C.S.H. Band

George Sweetland

Time: 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Admission: Cocil Sharp House, 25p members, 32p non-members Dance Centre 20p members, 25p non-members.

Cecil Sharp House: No.2 Regents Park Road, N.M.1. (Hearest Underground: Camden Town)
Dance Centre: 12 Floral Street, ...C.2. (Hearest Underground: Leicester Square)

WHAT'S ON

March 7th One-day Course in Israeli dancing. See page 12.

March 12th/14th Folkdance Weekend at Uplands. See page 4.

March 19th International Folk Dance run by Watford I.F.D. See page 12.

March 20th "SLAVA", a programme of dances from Poland and Yugoslavia, at

Commonwealth Institute. See page 10.

March 22nd/27th Red Army Ensemble at the New Theatre, Oxford. See page 10.

FRENCH

The French Group, organized by Bert Price and taught by Alex Harris, meet every Thursday evening (except the third Thursday in each nonth), 8 to 10 p.m., at Pimlico School, Lupus Street, Chelsea, S.J.l. Everybody interested in French dances is welcome.

TURKISH

A Turkish class is held on the third Thursday in each month, from 8 to 10 p.m., at the above school. The teacher is a very competent Turkish dancer and the classes are really enjoyable. Everyone interested in learning Turkish dancing is welcome.

CHINESE

Miss Nancy Kuo, who teaches Chinese folk dancing and singing, intends to start a small class of about six pupils in London. Would anyone interested please contact Miss Kuo at 51 Wise Lane, Mill Hill, London, NW7 2RN. Telephone: 01-959 2436.

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On 2nd April the Club Night Class will be holding a General Dance at the Y.W.C.A. Great Russell Street, W.C.1. Everybody welcome.