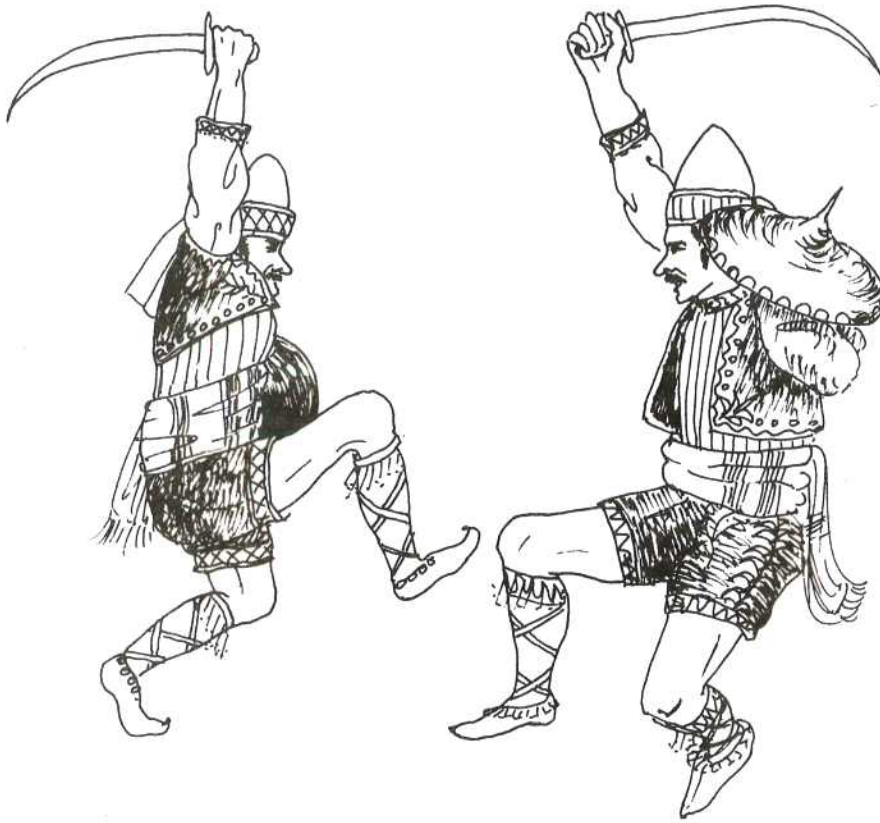


# S.I.F.D. NEWS



**MAY 1973**

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This month's cover showing Turkish costumes is by Caroline Thomas.

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

**Chairman:** Bert Price, 22 Sunnysdale Road, London S.E.12.  
Telephone: 01-852 0509 (Home)

**Secretary:** Dorothy Bryan, Flat 1, Braunton Mansions, 28 Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.  
Telephone: 01-837 2438 (Home)

**Treasurer:** Harry Whitaker, 29 Sherbrook Gardens, Winchmore Hill, N.21.  
Telephone: 01-360 4965 (Home)

**Membership Secretary:** Roland Minton, 10 Benyon Court, Balmes Road, London N.1.

**Demonstration Secretary:** Margery Lathan, 14 Beechwood Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey  
Telephone: 01-876 7055 (Home)

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BADGES S.I.F.D. Badges for lapel, motorcycle, or car @ 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p, 37<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p and 62<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p respectively, can be obtained from our Membership Secretary, Roland Minton.

RECORDS Our records are available from Magnegraph Recording Co., Ltd., 1 Hanway Place, London W.1. Price 85p each plus postage, and also from Frances Horrocks, 112 Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

BOOKS Our books are published by Pergamon Press and are available, to order, through any bookseller, price 50p each, or from Frances Horrocks.

Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for their own use when purchased direct from the S.I.F.D. (i.e. from Frances Horrocks) but not when purchased from Magnegraph or booksellers.

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(Notes on last month's cover, received too late for inclusion)

The April cover depicted a Springtime folk custom from Moravia in which young men throw symbolically cleansing cold water at girls.



Suddenly it is Easter (over by the time you read these notes). The Spring term is finished and we have the Summer to look forward to. I hope you all have a very happy Easter and in particular I will be thinking of the party led by Jack Richardson swanning it in Hungary, and wonder what Easter ceremonies they may witness in the land of the Magyars. In England we still have, so I am told, one or two places in Yorkshire where eggs (presumably hardboiled) are rolled down hillsides and I wonder whether any of you have witnessed such an event. If so, please tell us about it in the NEWS, and in particular I should like to know what happens at the bottom of the hill. Does the winner take all and eat the lot, or does he take his egg proudly home to stand it on the sideboard for future generations to gaze upon? And do the losers stamp theirs into the ground or go home and kill the hen that laid such a poor roller? When I was a boy we always traditionally had boiled eggs on Easter Sunday morning and of course Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday. Nowadays the eggs are all chocolate ones at Easter - but no-one ever gives me one! Shirley and I are going to Wales for Easter, and it will be interesting to see what, if any, old Welsh customs are perpetuated in Llandrindod Wells.

I told you in the February NEWS that, following the success of the Israeli and French one-day courses I would try to inaugurate at least one more before the Summer, and now I am happy to report that Lucile Armstrong has kindly accepted our invitation to teach a one-day Portuguese session on Saturday, 2nd June. The venue is Millbank School, and the fee 50p for the whole day (see page 9), so if you would like to learn some Portuguese dances from the leading expert in England, make a note of the date and turn up early, as Lucile always starts on time.

Our Israeli class has developed into a meeting of just a few fanatics who like Israeli dancing. We meet at Pimlico School, Chelsea, just twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 8 o'clock and, in spite of our low numbers we always have a most enjoyable evening. Anyone wishing to look in on us is welcome and there is no charge.

I started this article by wishing you all a Happy Easter, and will close it by reminding you that we would like to hear about it in the NEWS. Don't forget closing date for receiving articles for the next issue is 15th May.

BERT PRICE

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PLEASE NOTE:

Roland Minton has changed his address and now lives at:-

10 Benyon Court,  
Balnes Road,  
London N.1.

'SLAVA' at the Harlow Playhouse, on 18th March 1973

The Show given by the Polish and Yugoslav Groups was very successful, and its warm reception helped to make all the preparatory work worthwhile. There was a full house, and the audience was very encouraging. The company received a marvellous curtain applause, having given a programme full of variety and colour.

The Yugoslav group was most fortunate in having a very good bagpiper to accompany many of its dances. He played the different pipes for the Croatian, Serbian and Macedonian dances, and used the diple bagpipe for the Dalmatian item. He also gave a solo, playing music from the Banat area on a 'bellows' bagpipe.

Both groups included some good singing in their items, and the Show ran smoothly to time.

DAVID SWANTON  
Member of the Yugoslav Group.

Did you see the Slava at Harlow? If you saw the first item, you might have seen me! Now fully initiated into the delights of entertaining the public and having watched the rest of the Show, I feel inspired to put pen to paper and write the following.

During the afternoon rehearsal I watched from the auditorium and felt that the programme was well-balanced. The subdued hues of the attractive Yugoslav costumes, together with the hypnotic trance-like quality of their dancing and music were an excellent foil for the gay, sparkling, jewel-like quality of the Polish costumes and livelier, more vigorous dances. The singers, from both groups, deserve praise, since in my own experience with many dance groups I've seldom found that dancers can sing, but on this occasion their voices blended well together and the result was effective and clear.

The audience were extremely responsive throughout the evening and cheered every time there was a change of costume, which must have been most rewarding to all those industrious members who had been stitching busily for many many hours. The dancers from both groups responded to the audience's appreciation accordingly. Watching from the wings, I felt this was indeed a lively and stimulating performance.

Speaking to several members of the audience afterwards, I gained the impression that the evening had been a great success, and on behalf of all the dancers I must congratulate the producers and trust that they were pleased with their group's achievements.

TERRY PARSONS  
Member of the Polish Group.

ED. NOTE: The groups taking part in 'Slava' were the S.I.F.D. Yugoslav Group and Polish Group. The Yugoslav Group meets on Tuesday evening, 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Hugh Myddelton School; leader Ken Ward. The Polish Group meets on Monday evenings, 7 to 10 p.m. at Christopher Hatton School; leader Betty Harvey.

(Further to the letter from Guy Towner printed last month, and the questions put by the Committee):-

Dear Editor,

I summarize below my answers to the points raised:-

- 1) Who would do the work? A new Sub-Committee, appointed or voluntary. No volunteers - no Yearbook!
- 2) How much will it cost? This depends on a number of factors, but my preliminary costing suggests that a 40-page 8" x 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " magazine, printed photo offset from typescript, would cost under 15p per copy posted, based on a print of 500.
- 3) How would it be marketed? There is one thing I am certain about and that is that such a Yearbook must be included in the membership, in the same way as the monthly NEWS is now, in order to guarantee a minimum circulation - hence one reason for stressing the full support of the members. I therefore ask the Committee if they could answer the following:-
  - (i) could any part of the present subscription be allocated towards such a Yearbook?
  - (ii) if yes, how much?
  - (iii) could the subscription be raised to cover the difference, if any, between the figure given in (ii) above and the cost of the Yearbook (based on my figures or your better estimate)?

You fear a drop in membership if the subscription were raised to cover the cost of such a publication - another reason for stressing the need for the full support of the members. It would be useful to hear what the whole membership itself has to say on this point, although from my limited experience in such exercises I would only anticipate a poor response and probably not a very reliable one at that! However, there is one point that should not be overlooked. A possible (probable?) cancellation of some subscriptions by present members might well be compensated by an increase in membership arising from the inclusion of such a publication, provided it was reasonably good. In fact, it might pull in far more members, since it must be largely a wish to support the Society and its work that motivates many members outside the London and the Home Counties to subscribe. An extra carrot might therefore be expected to pull in more members. Nevertheless, my inclinations would always be to make one's decision on a pessimistic forecast, although many would disagree ("Think small and you will always be small"). In any case, I would guess that the Committee is in a better position than I for making a sound judgement on the effect of various subscription increases on membership.

I do not think that one need be rushed into making a decision provided one uses the waiting time to explore all avenues and test members' reactions; and then please make a decision YES or NO as the case may be.

Yours sincerely, GUY D. TOWNER

/Contd....

/Contd.....

The Committee has read and discussed the letter from Guy Towner but before making any decision would like to know the feeling of the members. Would members please therefore consider Mr. Towner's two letters, give some thought to the question of whether or not they would like an annual Yearbook, and to various points raised as to the cost, the work involved, etc., and let the Committee have their comments. The Committee will then consider the matter and let us know their decision.

Please address your letters to the Committee direct and not to the Editor.

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#### SECRETARY'S NOTES

A meeting of the Committee was held on 1st April and attended by all members of the Committee.

Balance as at 31.3.73: £2300.51 (£1250 invested). Membership: 311.

#### Matters discussed:

Yearbook. The Committee await comments from members (see page 5).

Children's Section. Unfortunately the Children's Dance due to take place on 17th March had to be cancelled because of the gas strike. However, 19th May, 16th June, and 14th July have been confirmed.

Future Events. A Portuguese day course has been arranged for 2nd June (see page 9), and a Reunion Dance for 13th October.

Sports Council. As a result of Harry Whitaker's and Margery Latham's meeting with the Sports Council, our application for grant aid has been registered, and the Council have given us suggestions for pilot schemes which if a success could help to increase our membership.

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Although it is only Easter, we are already thinking about the Reunion Dance in October. Chelsea Town Hall has been booked for the 13th. Please make a note of that date, and your assistance in avoiding this date clashing with other events would be appreciated.

I should know by now that it is probably a waste of time asking, BUT if anyone has any suggestions for the Reunion Dance, or could offer a little help, do please let me know. (The shock wouldn't do me any good but I should be so pleased I could get over it!) Seriously, as you all know, we are running on a Committee which is two members short, so we all have plenty on our hands, and Margery Latham in particular seems to get loaded down with jobs. Your help and suggestions - particularly you Londoners - would be welcome.

Look out in future issues for The Saga Of The Broads. Ten of us are off on a trip on the Norfolk Broads for Easter. The "JOLLY WHATSIT" will be captained by the drcaded Minton, so it should be very exciting. Have a good Easter. We on the "JOLLY WHATSIT" will.

DOROTHY BRYAN



## TURKISH DANCING

7.

Classes in Turkish dancing are held every Friday, under the tuition of HAMDI ATAOGU, at the Gateway School, Lisson Grove, London N.W.1., from 7 to 9 p.m. The Gateway School belongs to the Marylebone Institute and is under the auspices of the I.L.E.A. All are welcome to join.

Further details from Hamdi Ataoglu, 133 North End Road, N.W.11. Tel: 01-455 7597.

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## AFFILIATED GROUPS

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday evening at Wilbraham Road Congregational Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further information from either the Chairman, Alan Williams, (061-881 7744) or the Secretary, Mrs. Elaine Hailwood, (061-439 7415).

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Wednesday from 7.30 p.m. at Daneford School, Turin Street, London E.2. First Wednesday in each month Swedish, other Wednesdays English/International/Norwegian. Details from George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London S.E.5.

WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Borough Green Village Hall, Borough Green, near Wrotham, Kent, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. All details from the Secretary, Mrs. Jean Willson, 55 Lewis Court Drive, Boughton Monchelsea, Near Maidstone, Kent.

MERTON PARK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m., at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, London S.W.20. Details from Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London S.W.19. Musician: Wilf Horrocks.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC GROUP meet every Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. On Wednesdays they meet at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, London W.8., and on Thursdays at Isaac Newton School, Lancaster Road, W.11 (50 yards from Ladbroke Grove Underground). They learn and perform dances from Czechoslovakia and are taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, London W5 5BU. Everyone welcome.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP hold classes on Tuesday evenings during the Autumn and Spring terms commencing 26th September 1972, from 7.45 to 9 p.m. at The South Kent College of Technology New Hall, Folkestone. Secretary is Mrs. Evra Jordan, 62 Marine Parade, Hythe, Kent. (Tel: Hythe 66779) from whom further details of other activities can be obtained.

THE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE SOCIETY OF SUSSEX meets every Thursday during University term time at 7.30 p.m. at the Old Refectory, Falmer House, University of Sussex. For further details contact the Secretary, International Folkdance Society, c/o University of Sussex Union, Falmer House, University of Sussex, Brighton.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Thursday from 8 to 10 p.m. at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Essex. Full details from the Secretary, Mrs. Eve Wildy, 52 Slewings Lane, Hornchurch, Essex.

THE INTERVAL

At the Cecil Sharp House and Dance Centre dances, during the interval between dancing, we dance - an odd kind of interval!

As a rule, this time has been made good use of by the Balkan fans. But perhaps one or two items in this connection should be cleared up.

I believe it is true that the M.C. normally assists this arrangement, but he is in no way responsible for organizing it, and no complaint should be made to him if tape, machine, or other requirement fails to materialise. I understand that Committee policy has been firmly established that members themselves should take all steps to ensure that this part of the evening is filled with what they want, the members themselves supplying tape, records, musician etc. This seems a good idea, so long as goodwill prevails.

However, several times it has happened that more than one tape has been offered, or more than one party of dancers has hoped to use the time. What can a poor M.C. do except say, "It's not really my pigeon!". Chairman Bert Price has solved one problem by offering to lead a session of Israeli dances from time to time at the beginning of the evening, but only at Cecil Sharp House.

But what about the interval; who has the right to use the interval? and who has the duty to see it through? I say that any member who wishes the interval to be used for a specialist group of dances should see it through, i.e. should provide the machinery. But what if the Polish group wish to use their tape instead of the Balkan, or two Balkan tapes arrive? And where does Romanian fit in?

I do feel that perhaps the permission of the M.C. should first be asked IN EVERY CASE, just to put some order into things, though he is not responsible for providing the item. What say you?

Having put the above points, I would add that as the interval time is always so free-and-easy and enjoyable, I hope not too much organization will be imposed on it ..... keep it cheerful.

WILL GREEN

CECIL SHARP HOUSE DEMONSTRATIONS

For the demonstration at the June Cecil Sharp House Dance, we shall have the dancers of THE LONDON MAORI CLUB, with songs and dances from New Zealand. Several members who have seen this group have recommended that we should invite them, so we are in for a treat. Probably a Poi Dance and a Maori Stick Game will be in their programme.

In July we are promised a Scottish team of dancers.



CHILDREN'S DANCES, MILLBANK SCHOOL

It was most unfortunate that the Children's Dance in March had to be cancelled because of the closure of the school during the gas dispute. We did try to contact everyone prior to the 17th March, and hope that nobody had a fruitless journey.

However, we are all set for the Summer session, when there will be dances on 19th May, 16th June, and 14th July. The class in July is the second Saturday in the month instead of the usual third one, and we hope to make this dance into an outdoor picnic session, weather permitting.

SHIRLEY J. ROGERS.

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PORTUGUESE DANCES

A one-day course in Portuguese dancing will be held on:-

SATURDAY, 2ND JUNE 1973

at MILLBANK SCHOOL, ERASMUS STREET, S.W.1.

10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.      2.30 to 5.00 p.m.

Instruction by:      LUCILE ARMSTRONG

Cost:                      50p.

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SWANSEA COURSE, July 28th to August 4th 1973

Places are still available on the course, which will include Israeli, Portuguese and Swedish dances. Full details and application forms were circulated with the March SIFD NEWS, but I have further copies available for new members and for anyone who has lost the original ones.

Jack Richardson,  
Department of Chemical Engineering,  
University College,  
Swansea SA2 8PP

MAYDAY RITES AT PADSTOW, CORNWALL

The Padstow Hobby Horse is one of the oldest folk rituals known in the British Isles. Traditionally, the majority of the performers are men or boys, and the Mayday rites commence at about 11 a.m. in the market-place of the town and continue, with only two intervals, until about 9 p.m., so the staying power of the performers is apt to be well tested in the course of the day. The ritual is a processional one, and almost every street in the town is visited, while the "Hoss" and some of the performers pay personal visits to the houses of certain friends or other well-favoured persons.

Hobby Horse rites are rather too wellknown to need detailed description, but it is possible that the Padstow Hoss has some claim to be considered unique, and with the exception of the Sailors' Horse of Minehead, he must surely be one of the largest. The "Hoss" of the Blue Ribbon team measures almost six feet in diameter, and is a glossy black all over, except for his huge conical headdress, which is a mask painted with scarlet and white stripes, and topped with a plume of horsehair. The team are traditionally costumed in white, lavishly decorated with Spring flowers, and sport sashes of vivid blue, in accordance with the title the team has adopted.

The origin of the "Hoss" is lost in antiquity, but it is certainly of enormous age. It is probably a relic of a fertility ritual, and some phases of the dance have every appearance of some form of animal-worship. It may even have sprung from a sacrificial rite, and the theme of the dance is clearly one of death and revival, or symbolical of the eternal resurrection of life after the winter. The role of the "Hoss's" attendant, or teaser, as the local parlance has it, is also not easy to explain, but it certainly has some element of magic about it, while much is left to the creative powers of the performer. The steps of the dance follow a certain general pattern, but there is considerable scope for invention, and no two performances are ever exactly the same. As interpreted by a skilled performer, the ritual has great beauty, and virtuoso performances, though rare, are not unknown, and are worth waiting a long while to see.

(Acknowledgement to Mary Love).

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GEORGIAN STATE DANCE COMPANY

The Georgian State Dance Company will be visiting England at the end of May and appearing at the following towns:-

27th May	Congress Theatre, Eastbourne
28th May	The Playhouse, Harlow, Essex
29th/30th May	Wintergarden Theatre, Bournemouth
1st June	Oakengates, Salop
2nd June	Queens Theatre, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent
4th/23rd June	London Coliseum
24th June	Theatre Royal, St. Helens, Lancs.
25th/30th June	Empire Theatre, Sunderland
1st July	Bradford, Yorks.
2nd July	Preston, Lancs.

S.I.F.D. CLASSES

11.

Summer Term: 30th April to 30th June 1973

Fees for the rest of the year (to 30th June):- 75p per term for one class a week.

Anyone wanting to see if they like a class can come as a guest for two weeks before joining.

MONDAY

		<u>Institute</u>	<u>Tutor</u>
6.00 to 8.00	International, Advanced	Christopher Hatton School	Margery Lathan
7.00 to 8.00	Polish, Beginners	"	Betty Harvey
8.00 to 10.00	Polish, General	"	Betty Harvey

TUESDAY

6.30 to 8.30	Yugoslav, Beginners & Intermediate	Hugh Myddelton School	Ken Ward
8.30 to 9.30	Yugoslav, Advanced	"	Ken Ward
7.30 to 9.30	European	Greenwich Institute	Bert Price

WEDNESDAY

6.30 to 7.30	International, Beginners	St. Albans Hall	Margery Lathan
7.30 to 9.30	International, Intermediate	"	Margery Lathan
*7.45 to 9.45	Israeli (See note below)	Pimlico School	Bert Price

FRIDAY

*6.30 to 9.30	Hungarian & Romanian (1st hour - beginners)	Millbank School	Alan McLean
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\* There is no fee payable for the classes marked with an asterisk. ATTENDANCE IS FREE.

CHRISTOPHER HATTON SCHOOL, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.  
HUGH MYDDELTON SCHOOL, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1.  
GREENWICH INSTITUTE, Charlton Manor School, Hornfair Road, S.E.7.  
MILLBANK SCHOOL, Erasmus Street, (off Vauxhall Bridge Road), S.W.1.  
PIMLICO SCHOOL, Lupus Street, Chelsea, S.W.1.  
ST. ALBANS HALL, Baldwin Gardens, Grays Inn Road, W.C.1.

ISRAELI CLASSES:-

The Israeli classes in May will be held on the 9th and 23rd.

PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL DANCES

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
Sunday, 6th May	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Ian Willson
20th May	Dance Centre	Caroline Thomas & Wilf Horrocks	George Sweetland
3rd June	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Roland Minton
	<u>7 to 10 p.m.</u>		

Admission: Cecil Sharp House: 30p members, 40p non-members  
Dance Centre: 25p members, 30p non-members

Cecil Sharp House: 2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1. (Nearest Underground: Camden Town)  
Dance Centre: 12 Floral Street, W.C.2. (Nearest Underground: Leicester Square)

At the Cecil Sharp House Dance on 6th May, Handi Ataglu will be playing and singing Turkish folk songs.

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WHAT'S ON

May 11th/13th	<u>WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR</u>
May 19th	<u>CHILDREN'S DANCE.</u> Millbank School, Erasmus Street, S.W.1. 2.30 p.m.
May 28th to June 9th	<u>BAYANIHAN.</u> Folk dancers from the Philippines. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1. 7.30 p.m. (Matinee 2.30 p.m. Saturdays). Tickets 30p to £2.50. Box Office 01-837 1672.
June 2nd	<u>PORTUGUESE DANCING.</u> One-day Course. See page 9.
June 4th to 23rd	<u>GEORGIAN STATE DANCE COMPANY.</u> London Coliseum, St. Martins Lane, W.C.2. 8 p.m. (Saturdays 5 p.m. & 8 p.m.). Tickets 60p to £3.30. Box Office 01-836 3161. For other performances of this group, see page 10.

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June 22nd/24th UPLANDS WEEKEND                      July 13th/15th DUNFORD WEEKEND

All places at these two weekends are booked up, but there may well be cancellations and I shall be pleased to take names for the waiting lists.

Jack Richardson, Department of Chemical Engineering, University College, Swansea,  
SA2 8PP

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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE WITH THE  
EDITOR BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.



