

# SIFD NEWS



FEB 1974

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**Assistant Editor:** Barney Salmon, 64 Lincoln Court, 115 Bethune Road, London N.16.

**Other helpers last month:** Tricia Wilson and Les Avery.

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

**Chairman:** Bert Price, 316 Somercotes, Basildon, Essex.  
Telephone: Basildon 412371 (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, N.1.

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

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This month's cover shows a Korean dancer and was  
donated anonymously.

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BADGES S.I.F.D. badges for lapel, motorcycle, or car @ 17½p, 37½p and 62½p,  
respectively, can be obtained from our Membership Secretary, Roland  
Minton (Address above).

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.

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

I think that the lack of enthusiasm from members in respect of the formation of the branches is sufficient guide to the Committee to proceed no further for the time being beyond the drawing up of a list of rules governing a branch's rights and responsibilities. There being no dissension to date from members, the list of rules will be modelled on that which was published in the December NEWS.

The introduction of the Saturday Day Courses has been one of our most valuable innovations and we hope to increase the number to one every month. However, I think we should stop introducing more and more new dances and should revise those 400 to 500 dances which are already in our repertoire but which are in danger of being forgotten and which, in any case, are often danced very badly. At a recent Cecil Sharp House Dance I watched an M.C. announce and proceed to teach a certain dance in a way that would be totally unacceptable to any native of the country concerned. It was not the way we were taught by the national teacher, nor the way it used to be danced at Cecil Sharp House in the 1950's and 1960's. A smooth graceful dance was shown in a slipshod clumsy fashion and then of course everyone proceeded to imitate this parody in the way they were being shown.

I assume you would all prefer to be shown Estonian dances in an Estonian manner, Swedish in a Swedish manner and so on, and I propose therefore to approach Aily Eijkstraat with the request that she takes a Saturday Day Course for us, in March if possible, in order that some Estonian dances can be re-learned and danced in an Estonian style. I hope too that Ken Ward will kindly accept an invitation to take a Course for us in Balkan dancing and then Simon Guest in French, followed by Margery Latham in Swedish and Thora Jaques in English, in the hope that by the summer we shall have tidied up a lot of the slackness that is becoming more and more apparent at all our Social Dances. Not only that, but we shall be able to extend our social dance repertoire to include many dances that have been dropped because the M.C.s have forgotten them.

It is very important that M.C.s and members aspiring to earn a Teacher's Certificate should attend this next series of Courses and I trust that many will do so. Examinations for the S.I.F.D. Teaching Certificate could be held in July, by which time we will have formulated our ideas on the content of the examination.

Primarily, we are concerned with dances in the S.I.F.D. books and with other dances in our repertoire but not as yet published in the books. The certificates could be given for specific countries, and there could be an overall certificate in International. The International Certificate would be concerned only with those dances in the S.I.F.D. books and an applicant would be required to teach any of these dances but would be allowed to refer to the books while teaching, and would be advised at least one day before the examination the names of the dances he is to be examined in. The examiners will be appointed by the Committee and would-be teachers will be awarded points for (a) ability in teaching, (b) knowledge of various basic steps, (c) knowledge and ability to teach the dances in which he/she is being examined.

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After a lot of thought, I have come to the conclusion that we should also explore an alternative approach to the way in which a Teaching Certificate can be acquired. This would be by our introducing a silver medal for a proven ability to perform the dances of any one particular country, to be followed by a Teacher's Examination after five medals had been gained. I think this would be a much easier method for us to follow and one which could capture the imagination of members. I would recommend that the medal be in the form of a pin with a simple silver circle crossed by the name of the country. With say five pins proving the dance knowledge of the member, the Teacher's Certificate would be given for teaching ability, and the Teacher's Pin could be in the form of a gold circle with S.I.F.D. across it.

What do you think?

BERT PRICE

P.S. Since writing the above, I find that we have run into some snags regarding using the school halls on Saturdays for Day Courses, owing to the absence of heating and to other restrictions of use. However, we shall know more about this next month and will announce the Day Courses that we have definitely been able to arrange in the March issue.

BERT PRICE

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#### SUNDAY DANCES

An alternative venue for the Social Dances has been booked and is the hall of St. Mathew's Church. It is located in Great Peter Street, Westminster, and can be reached from Victoria Street by going down Strutton Ground and turning left into Great Peter Street or going down Great Smith Street and turning right into Great Peter Street.

At the moment of writing we have a firm booking only for 20th January so that members can see for themselves if it is suitable for regular use. All being well, we hope to hold another dance there on 17th February and will arrange for the dances to be held there regularly in the **foreseeable future**. We hope we shall receive plenty of support from members. If you are thinking of joining us on 17th February, please confirm first with the writer by 'phone whether or not we shall be dancing there.

I hope, by the date of the next issue of the SIFD NEWS, we shall be able to announce full details of our plans.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

01-701 3785

As I have already intimated to most people, there is a substantial increase in the charge for our next week-end at Uplands. The cost will be £8.25 per head, but fortunately there is no VAT to pay on this. It is not really surprising that the cost has risen steeply because the cost of £5.25, which rose to £5.75 a couple of years ago, applied six years ago. I have the option of cancelling the booking but feel that it would be a pity to have to do so if people can manage the new cost. If anyone who has booked for the June weekend now wants to opt out, would he please let me know during the first week of February, as I have to confirm or cancel the booking.

JACK RICHARDSON  
Department of Chemical  
Engineering,  
University College,  
Swansea SA2 8PP

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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 Treasurer, Philip E. Lloyd (061-881 3613).

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.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC DANCERS meet every Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. 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.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Thursday in term time from 8 to 10 p.m. at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Essex. All details can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Eve Wildy, 52 Slewins Lane, Hornchurch, Essex.

WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP meet 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, Nr Maidstone, Kent.

(This is not a complete list of all affiliated groups, but only those who have given me information about themselves. ED)

## CHRISTMAS AT HALSWAY MANOR

Mince pies, dancing, tea and muffins, music and dancing, scrabble and sleep, breakfast, walking in mist, rain and sun. Beef casserole and pineapple upside-down pudding, more dancing, tea and shortbreads, jigsaw puzzles, limericks, yet more music and dancing, folksinging, carol singing, turkey and plum pudding.

My memories of the Christmas Party at Halsway Manor are a jumble, a very pleasant jumble, comprised of - those making the party, the house with its atmosphere so traditional and relaxed, Eric and Anne Limet from Belgium, who made sure that one was not long without some activity to join in if one wished, all those who played and sang to entertain those who danced and listened.

The four days there passed quickly, but the memories will remain for long.

ROY CLARKE

ED. NOTE: Roy has also been kind enough to send me some information about two folk camps which are being organized by the Belgians he met at Halsway, Eric and Anne Limet. As the leaflet Roy enclosed gives some background information to the group running the camps, I am reproducing the information from the leaflet hereunder:-

### "MAINS UNIES" Folk Camps in France.

("MAINS UNIES" was founded in 1962 by a group of young Belgian families and individuals. Their common aim is to promote real understanding and friendship between people who are different in age, nationality, profession, opinion, and yet made of the same stuff!! They try to achieve this by running weekends, camps, groups for singing, dancing, crafts, discussion etc. The "Centre MAINS UNIES" is in a village, Laroche-Tangissart, 20 miles South of Brussels. It consists of an old house adapted and partly rebuilt by the M.U. members, a small new house which they have built, and a camping site. It is open to all groups and individuals who adhere to M.U. aims).

During the summer of 1973 "Mains Unies" ran a 3-week Folk Camp in Auvergne (Central France). Both campers and villagers say they had a WONDERFUL time, so there will be another Folk Camp at the same site in 1974. In addition, "Mains Unies" will run another 3-week camp in Vendee. Details as follows:-

#### AUVERGNE

SAUVAGNAT pres HERMENT. 3-week camp from 6th to 27th July 1974. Beautiful excursions in the mountains; swimming in a lake; a delicious stream for children (and adults too!); a genuine international attendance, a whole village of friends.

#### VENDEE

SAINT-URBAIN. 3-week camp from 3rd to 24th August 1974. Near the endless sandy beaches, the pine forests the fishing harbours, windmills and toy-like white farms of the Maris vendeen. Excursions to the island of Noirmoutiers along the road which is uncovered only at low tide. We'll learn the local "maraichine" dances not only from the good local groups, but from the farmers, fishermen, policemen and Mayor; they all dance!

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In both cases, the cost will be about 150 French francs for the week, covering food, camping, music etc. Provide your own camping gear, and be prepared to spend a half-day per week on chores. Sanitation is expected to be by chemical closet. Dancing will be in a marquee provided with a wooden floor. Families or groups will be welcome for short visits of 2 days, a week, a fortnight, or three weeks.

Enquiries and bookings to: Mains Unies,  
Rue General Lotz 31  
B 1180 Bruxelles,  
Belgium

mentioning "SIFD NEWS".

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM  
WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP

To all our friends in the Society who have pencilled in Saturday, 14th April (Easter Saturday) as the date for Woodvale's next Dance at Borough Green, we announce that this event has been brought forward two weeks to SATURDAY, 30TH MARCH, because of the reorganization of the school year in France. This means that even those who normally go away at Easter will now be able to come and join in the celebrations and dancing on the occasion of:-

The TWINNING of

ASSOCIATION FOLKLORIQUE CHAALONNAISE

and

WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP

As this event will be the first of its kind in the history of the S.I.F.D., everyone is invited to witness the ceremony, which will take place during the Dance on 30th March at the Village Hall, Borough Green, Nr. Maidstone, Kent, from 7.30 to 11 p.m.

We look forward very much to seeing you there!

IAN & JEAN WILLSON

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As out of town members have little chance to learn new Balkan dances, would it be possible for the Committee to arrange a one-day course in Balkan dancing, please? ( ED. NOTE: Please see the Chairman's article on page 3).

JEAN WILLSON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear All,

A Happy New Year to you all.

No doubt many 'out of town' members like myself must have given considerable thought to Bert Price's letter regarding the formation of branches. No doubt, too, coming as it did, not long before Christmas, there was not enough time for sufficient thought to be able to reply in time for the January NEWS.'

Frankly, I don't get it. What is there to be gained by the 'out of town' members? Surely, all those who are already operating groups which may or may not be affiliated to the S.I.F.D. are doing so in a way which suits their circumstances best. <sup>To</sup> those members like myself, who have as yet not got off the ground, the fourteen proposed rules mean nothing. Is someone going to produce a magical wand so that there is suddenly great enthusiasm for international folk dancing in the area? I think not.

I continue to play my one-man-band and promote the idea of international folk dancing whenever I can. As you know, I am already in with the Newport Educational Department and now this has extended to Monmouthshire County Council. In addition to this, I now offer evenings of international folk dancing to numerous clubs and organizations as well as the half a dozen slide talks I give. The idea is catching on, but the interest is so far not enough to form a group. (The evenings consist of a short background and historical talk followed by a participation of all people present, usually all women, in a variety of dances, some kolos, some couple dances and sometimes, if I feel the mood is right, a simple formation dance. The emphasis is on fun and not on technique). The circular I send out giving details goes to about 40 or 50 organizations. I pay for it all.

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May I ask the already overworked NEWS team if they could add just one thing to the envelopes? That is simply "S.I.F.D." so that we know who the package is from. The postmark is not usually readable. I know it may sound alarmist but in these difficult days all care is needed. I was reminded of that only too well this morning when I received a letter from Israel in an unknown handwriting. However, on the back was Judith and Jacob Barkan's name and address.

Again, thank you to Lily and her helpers for the regular delivery of the NEWS each month.

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In the January NEWS the Sawyers from Canada offered to make payment for the magazine each month. It strikes me that the next time S.I.F.D. needs to consider increasing membership fees it might be an idea to have two rates, i.e. one for those who do not wish to receive the NEWS and another rate for those who do. I would quite happily fall into the second group.

Best wishes,

SUE CLARK,  
31 East Grove Road,  
Newport, Mon. NPT OQH



ED. NOTE: I have passed Sue's letter to the Chairman, but would reply to two of her points myself. I appreciate the alarm about receiving unidentifiable packages these days, but I'm afraid it would not be practicable to mark the envelopes from S.I.F.D. I have had ten months' supply of envelopes printed in advance and it would mean going through them all and typing 'S.I.F.D.' on each one. The work involved each month in sorting out the envelopes, checking the addresses, adding new members, altering those for members who have moved or got married etc., as well as printing the NEWS itself is colossal and I could simply not find time to add yet another task. Sorry Sue, but the best I can promise is to look out for your envelope when we put the stamps on them and try to remember to mark it. (We cannot use the S.I.F.D. printed envelopes as this would be too expensive). Secondly, I think you have misread the letter from the Sawyers. They did not offer to pay for the magazine. The contribution they refer to is the letter giving us their news.

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Dear Lily Southgate,

I enclose our yearly Newsletter from which you will see that we have our own show again at the University Collegiate Theatre. (22nd & 23rd March. More details next month.)

The other matter I am writing about is this: the journal of the Uzbek Friendship Society has printed an article about our Group (with quite a few mistakes, to be sure, but even so .....), and they are anxious to get in touch with other folk dancing groups over here and print reports of what they are doing. Apparently I am their only contact with Britain, and they are very interested in what is going on here. Mrs. Hudjuma Shukurova, the President of the Uzbek Friendship Society With Other Countries, has become a personal friend of mine, and I would very much like to help her in this. So if any of your groups in the S.I.F.D. would like to send her a little article about who they are and what they are doing, if possible with photographs, she would be very happy. The address is: The House of Friendship, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, U.S.S.R. Achunbabayeva 1. Letters should be addressed to Mrs. Hudjuma Shukurova.

JENIA GRAMAN  
The Balalaika Dance Group  
7 Wayside, East Sheen,  
London S.W.14.

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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEXT ISSUE TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY 15TH FEBRUARY 1974.

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## WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP

### EXTRACT FROM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1973

1973 has been a very successful year for the Group, the sixth since Woodvale was founded on January 1st 1968. We have more members, more funds, more costumes than ever before, and we have forged a firm friendship with the Champagne Group, Association Folklorique Chaalonnaise, with whom we expect to be twinned at a ceremony taking place at the end of March, 1974.

We welcomed several new members this year, some of whom joined as a result of attending our successful October Dance. On the debit side, however, some long-standing stalwarts of the Group have left us.

Woodvale's fund-raising activities this year have exceeded all expectations. Our first Jumble Sale made £68, thanks to a lot of hard work put in by our members.

The sale of Webb Ivory stationery has raised almost twice as much as last year; although the final figures are not yet available, the amount is in the region of £30.

Another new venture which has proved most successful was the Grand Christmas Draw, which, at the time of writing, is likely to have raised a further £30.

Our funds are therefore in very good shape for meeting the expenses of entertaining the Chalons Group in March.

A set of English costumes used for our demonstration in Chalons at Easter were added to our wardrobe this year. For 1974, we hope to make up a set of Champagne costumes copied from a pair borrowed from Jacqueline. Woodvale will then have a French demonstration team.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year was the Group's visit to Chalons-sur-Marne. Much has already been written and said about the warm reception given us by our hosts, and the pleasant memories brought home. Sufficient to say that everyone is looking forward to March, when we will have a chance to return the hospitality. Our thanks must go to Peter Oakley who taught us the Kentish dances which we demonstrated in France.

Demonstrations included Austrian at the Rotary Club Ladies' Night at the Greenways Country Club, general dancing at Chiddingstone and Platt Womens' Institutes, and Israeli and Austrian at Paddock Wood Flower Festival.

1973's Dances have been very successful, particularly the October one, which had a higher attendance than most recent dances, and made a substantial profit. The next Dance will be the special event on March 30 when the Woodvale/A.F.C. twinning ceremony will take place.

Members of the Group attended a French course run by the S.I.F.D. in November, at which Jacqueline Prieto, the leader of A.F.C., taught several dances from Champagne. Other visits were made to the S.I.F.D. Reunion Dance and a course of Israeli dancing.

Last September some of the Group donned English costume and joined the East Kent Hop Hoodening Tour, dancing at seaside towns and Canterbury. Such is our versatility!

TURKISH DANCE CLASSES take place at Gateway School, Lisson Grove, N.W.1., on Thursdays from 7 - 9 p.m. Hamdi Ataoglu is the instructor, as in the past. Buses Nos. 159 (and along the Edgware Road to Frampton Street, Nos. 16, 60). Further details from Hamdi Ataoglu, Tel: 01-455 7597.

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S.I.F.D. CLASSES

S.I.F.D. Classes are held under the auspices of I.L.E.A.

Annual fees are as follows:-

For one class a week	£2.15	For two classes a week	£2.40
For three classes a week	£2.90	For four or more classes a week	£3.40

Spring Term: 7th January to 6th April 1974

MONDAY

		<u>Institute</u>	<u>Tutor</u>
6.00 to 8.00	International, Advanced	Christopher Hatton School	Margery Latham
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
*7.30 to 9.30	Hungarian & Romanian	Pimlico School	Alan McLean

WEDNESDAY

6.30 to 7.30	International, Beginners	St. Albans Hall	Margery Latham
7.30 to 9.30	International, Intermediate	"	Margery Latham
*7.45 to 9.45	Israeli (on <u>1st</u> and <u>3rd</u> Wednesdays of each month)	Charlton School	Bert Price

THURSDAY

7.30 to 9.30	Israeli	Henry Fawcett School	Fiona Howarth
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FRIDAY

*6.30 to 9.30	Hungarian & Romanian	Pimlico 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.

PIMLICO SCHOOL, Lupus Street, Chelsea, S.W.1.

ST. ALBANS HALL, Baldwin Gardens, Grays Inn Road, W.C.1.

CHARLTON SCHOOL, Lombard Wall, Woolwich Road, S.E.7.

HENRY FAWCETT SCHOOL, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London S.E.11.

PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL DANCES

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>
Sunday, 3rd February	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Roland Minton
Sunday, 3rd March	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Ian Willson

SEE NOTE ON PAGE 4 RE POSSIBLE DANCE ON SUNDAY 17TH FEBRUARY.

Admission: 30p members, 40p non-members.

Cecil Sharp House is at 2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1. (Nearest Underground: Camden Town)

The demonstration at Cecil Sharp House on 3rd February will be given by the London Maori Club.

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Future demonstrations

Another of the S.I.F.D. groups of dancers will be performing for us at the **March** Dance at Cecil Sharp House - Ken Ward and his Yugoslav class. Besides the dancers there may be one or two musicians. As Balkan dancing is so popular during some of the intervals, Ken and the class have agreed to lead the dancing at this time after their demonstration. A fine night for all the Balkan fans to crowd along.

Thanks to the one or two people who have suggested further demonstration groups I might invite. I write to every one.

WILL GREEN

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WHAT'S ON

- February 8th TOWER HAMLETS FESTIVAL at York Hall, Bethnal Green, E.2. (evening)
- 16th CHILDREN'S DANCE . Millbank School, Erasmus Street, S.W.1.  
2.30 to 5 p.m.
- 15th E.F.D.S.S. FOLK FESTIVAL. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, S.W.7. 7.30 p.m. Guest team: Trotto Ensemble Folklorique Armenien Navasart. Bookings to 01-485 2206 or R.A.H.
- 16th E.F.D.S.S. FOLK FESTIVAL, repeat of Friday's performance.  
10.30 a.m., 2.30 and 7.30 p.m.
- 16th BALKAN PARTY. An evening of Balkan music and dance, 7 to 11 p.m. at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, S.W.7. (next to Royal Albert Hall, entrance in Jay Mews). Please wear national costume if you have one.