

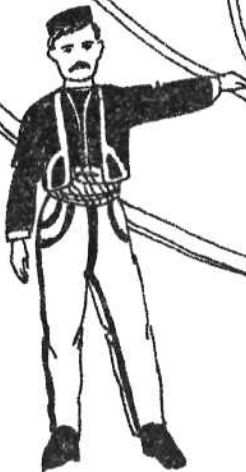


APRIL

1976



L.H.B.



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Treasurer: Dennis Wood, 12 Alpha Court, Hillside Road, Whyteleafe, Surrey.

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

Demonstration Secretary: Margery Latham, 14 Beechwood Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Tel. 01 876 7055.

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This month's cover is by Lesley Boorer and is to commemorate the recent Silver Badge examinations. It shows the badge, with costumes of the various countries featured in the examinations taken in January. Clockwise, from top centre, German, German, Estonian, Austrian, French, Yugoslav, Swedish and Swedish.

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REMINDER: Members are reminded that if they wish to compete for a Silver Badge on 3rd July, applications must be received by Bert Price at Aisling, Magna Mile, Ludford, Nr. Market Rasen, Lincs, by 1ST MAY 1976. Application forms and syllabuses were sent out last month.

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MAY ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR BY 15th APRIL, AND, FOR THE TIME BEING, SHOULD BE SENT CARE OF HER OFFICE ADDRESS AS ABOVE.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The new Committee has settled down, and although these are my first notes for the NEWS, we have not been idle since we took office in December.

You will have seen in recent months that Frank Flanagan is compiling a Directory of International Groups and Classes, whether Associated/Affiliated or not. This will be a great help to me when answering the numerous enquiries about activities all over the country. Perhaps the non-affiliated are members of the future!

We are also attempting an experiment with the 3rd-Sunday Dances. Preliminary announcement was made in the February NEWS; full details below.

Another job in hand is to produce an updated version of the Constitution, incorporating the amendments which have been made since the current one was printed. When revised copies are available we will let you know.

Arrangements are well in hand for the next Summer School to be held in Edinburgh in 1977, and a sub-Committee has been formed to do the planning. It is hoped we may also be able to introduce a Summer School in the South in 1978, to alternate with the one in the North, thus giving dancers the opportunity to attend one or the other without having to travel the length of the country.

We are pleased to report that membership is increasing, and now stands at 381.

EDNA FOSTER,
Hon. Sec.

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THIRD-SUNDAY-IN-THE-MONTH DANCES

Arrangements have been finalised with the British Council for three Dances to be held on their premises. It is hoped that resident foreign students will join us, so we hope to see full support from members in and around London. If the experiment is considered satisfactory by all concerned, this could become a permanent arrangement.

Dates: 16th May, 20th June, 18th July

Time: 7 to 10 p.m.

Address: British Council Student Centre,
11 Portland Place, London, W.1. (near to the B.B.C.)
Nearest Underground: Oxford Circus.

Entrance fee: May - FREE
June/July - 30p

Musicians: Various, led by Wilf Horrocks.

Evenings' programmes to be arranged by George Sweetland, who is on the lookout for "Assistant" M.C.s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

After reading G. D. Towner's article "Towards a Definition of Folk Dance", I feel compelled to make a few comments on basic assumptions made in the article, and the principal source of information from which the author draws his facts.

Take Point 2, for example: "Folk dances are those dances performed by the country folk". I wonder what the old dances which come from industrial towns and villages will be called? Would dances such as the Rapper, which come from mining areas, only be called folk dances if they were done in a country village?

Both in this country and abroad, there are many old dances which these days are called "folk", even though most of the people who dance them know that the word "folk" is quite a new word. If Point 2 were taken to its logical conclusion, it would mean that any dances which found their way from the town out on the village green, or into the village hall, would earn the right to be called "folk", but traditional dances carefully researched and authentically performed by townspeople in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle etc. would have to be known by another name. No; Mr. Towner's Point No. 2 won't do for me. In the 20th century, as in previous centuries, it can't be simply the people practising and performing the dances who make a dance qualify for the term "folk", nor can it be merely the place in which it is performed. That ingredient in the Folk Dance recipe lacks the substance needed for it to stand the test of time.

I would also beg to differ with the author on his opinion of Hugh Rippon's booklet "Discovering the English Folk Dance". Hugh Rippon has been a Morris dancer for many years, and takes the opportunity in his book to show us a photograph of the Thaxted Morris Men - at least, that is whom he says they are; however, not one of the Thaxted men (some of whom have been members of the side for about 50 years) can recognize any of their "fellow" members. Now, how can you accept the principles and viewpoints of someone who makes such a basic error - and that's not the only one to be found in this short booklet.

While there have been some extremely interesting views expressed on what is and what is not a folk dance, some members may be interested in seeing an article Mrs. Lucile Armstrong published recently in the magazine of the Welsh Folk Dance Society; or maybe Mrs. Armstrong could be persuaded to give us a talk on this controversial issue, which we as a Society can ill afford to ignore.

PETER OAKLEY,
24 Arun,
East Tilbury,
Grays, Essex

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Dear Lily,

With reference to the articles on what constitutes a traditional folk dance, is not the passage of time the relevant factor?

G. D. Towner says "Folk dances have been shaped by generations of dancers". No doubt those of the Israeli dances which survive for long enough will be acceptable as traditional folk dances. So why not 'new' and 'traditional' folk dances? And shouldn't we be grateful that some countries are producing new dances and so keeping Folk Dance a live and developing part of our culture?

Yours,

MARGARET CULLEN,
3 Felden Drive,
Felden,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

LEAFLETS FOR PUBLICITY

There are stocks of leaflets to give away, free, and they are getting out of date. Please ask me for a supply, so that we can use them up before they become useless. Then a new supply can be prepared and printed, more modern and more attractive. The current leaflets have a space to stamp your own club/group/class address for further enquiries. Some are specially prepared to give away after your demonstrations. Why not use this free publicity?

Send to Will Green for them, enclosing a stamp.

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WORKING GROUP

The April meeting of the Working Group will be on 30th April (the last Friday in the month, as usual), at Dorothy Bryan's flat:- Flat 1, 28 Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1. We need just two more people, please. It need not be every month, you could come occasionally.

Two offers of accommodation for the evening's working session have been received; one fairly central, the other a little way South. Can we have offers near the centre of London, please, but more North or East, to cover 25th June, 30th July and 27th August (any one or all of these dates)?.

WILL GREEN,
90 Wells Way,
Camberwell, S.E.5.
Tel. 01 703 4008

IN APPRECIATION

Where do you get your energy from Fiona?! We arrived back in Birmingham at 2 a.m. on the day after your last Israeli Day Course (February 28th) feeling 'shattered' but having enjoyed our day tremendously; certainly feeling that it had been well worth our journey. People tell us that you are always "full of beans"; you will have to tell us what the brand is and we will be queuing to buy a few pounds!

After the Day Course we were asked to give a small demonstration of some of the dances that we learned, and several people commented on how well we did them - very much a reflection on how well we had been taught.

Many thanks, Fiona (Howarth), Frank (Dowling) and Frances (Horrocks), and all the Israeli Group for all the hard work you put in - and for the delicious eats and drink that you provided.

Members of the Selpar Group,
Birmingham.

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MR. CHARLES DICKENS SENDS US THE FOLLOWING LINES:-

"As to the shawl-dance, it was the most exciting thing that ever was beheld; there was such a whisking and rustling and fanning and getting ladies into a tangle with artificial flowers, and then disentangling them again! And as to Mr. Augustus Cooper's share in the quadrille, he got through it admirably. He was missing from his partner now and then, certainly, and discovered on such occasions to be either dancing with laudable perseverance in another set, or sliding about in perspective, without any definite object; but, generally speaking, they managed to shove him through the figure, until he turned up again in the right place. Be this as it may, when he had finished, a great many ladies and gentlemen came up and complimented him very much, and said they had never seen a beginner do anything like it before; and Mr. Augustus Cooper was perfectly satisfied with himself, and everybody else into the bargain; and "stood" considerable quantities of spirits-and-water, negus, and compounds, for the use and behoof of two or three dozen very particular friends, selected from the select circle of five-and-seventy pupils."

"Sketches by Boz" by Charles Dickens,
Chapter IX "The Dancing Academy".
Found by Roland Minton,
With acknowledgement to Oxford University
Press.

"Augustus Cooper" is alive and well and dancing under an assumed name.
You've met him?!

BEND BEFORE YOU LEAP

"There is probably no more controversial question than that of limbering and perhaps nothing that is taught with less discrimination. There are also many forms of limbering, from the occasional exercise at the barre to a whole series of exercises in sitting and lying positions. Ballet technique is a highly scientific system of movement designed to create strength, flexibility and endurance. These three must progress simultaneously. Too great flexibility will be acquired at the expense of strength if short cuts are used to obtain it, and it is in this that the danger of limbering lies. As an adjunct to the barre and given only to those who need it, certain stretching exercises may be useful but they should be given only when the body is fully warmed up and within the style of the classical techniques". (From "Ballet and Anatomy" by Celia Spanger).

I know that some groups do spend a lot of time at the beginning of their classes warming up with a few exercises before dancing, but I have not found this general among folk dancers. Some feel that such a practice applies only to footballers, ballet dancers, or professional performers; others that it is a bit "cissyish" to say the least. Many, myself included, believe it is important but are often too lazy to be bothered or afraid of being thought pretentious. In the Polis. Group, at the beginning of each year, we enthusiastically (well, fairly enthusiastically) take part in a warming-up session before the class begins, but as the term goes on this is soon forgotten.

May I give a word of warning to all dancers that to do a few pliés before dancing is not silly, is not showing-off, and is not a waste of time. At our Spanish dance class a couple of weeks ago, Sandra Escudero, our instructor, was demonstrating with her partner a not too difficult Jota step. She was showing how the step should 'travel' when she suddenly collapsed in the middle of the step, hobbled to a chair and accused her somewhat surprised partner of kicking her in the calf. Within minutes the pain had spread throughout the whole leg and she was unable to walk a step, had to bring the class to a close and be transported to the casualty department of the nearest hospital. Now, two weeks later, she is still unable to put her foot to the ground, let alone walk or dance. The cause - not a kick from her energetic partner - but a sprained muscle due to dancing in flat shoes after wearing heeled shoes, without first gently exercising the muscles; a common complaint, she was told, among ballet dancers who invariably accuse their partners of kicking them since that is how the pain feels. It can also happen that the achilles tendon may be damaged, a far more serious occurrence than a mere sprain.

So beware, you bare-footed Israeli dancers, be-slippered Balkan dancers, toe-pointing Scottish dancers and calf-stretching Bourrée dancers, this could happen to any of you, not to mention torn cartilages and whatever other dire injuries that can arise from wrongly-worked muscles. On the other hand, a wrongly performed plié can do more harm than good, and I

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often think some of the centre floor exercises can be more harmful than the dances we are about to perform. Perhaps one of our members who has a knowledge of ballet and/or anatomy could give us a few hints on which exercises are most useful or most important for us, and which are not.

KELSEY BLUNDELL

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NEWS FROM THE MIDLANDS

On 15th January 1976 a new class started at the Simon Digby School, Chelmsley Wood, which is the East side of Birmingham and very close to the M.6 motorway. It ran for a trial six weeks and averaged 16 dancers at each class, and will now run for the additional four weeks to the end of term.

With their usual dancing enthusiasm, a few Selpar members have really helped this new group along and are prepared to start again in September. Four dancers from Coventry have also made the journey each week, including two accordionists.

Anyone interested in going along to the class and who would like further information should contact Selpar members or Doreen Bramich, 71 Brickhill Drive, Fordbridge, Birmingham.

On 3rd April the Selpar Group will be running an Art & Folk Exhibition and Dance at Swanshurst School, Brook Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham. The event starts at 4.30 p.m. and includes exhibitions of graphic art (painting), handwork and crafts, and photography. There seems to be good support promised and children are being attracted with a painting competition. Judging of competition events should be finished by mid-evening and the evening's events will be well backed by dancing for everyong until 10.30 p.m. Cost: 50p for Exhibition, 25p for children.

From 21st to 23rd May Selpar are running a weekend at Windmill House, just South of Birmingham, with quite a lot of instruction, and also walking and social dancing. No monthly Dance is planned for May.

On 19th June, there will be a Polish Workshop with Betty Harvey, at Yardley School, starting at 2 p.m. and finishing with the usual monthly Dance.

We shall be pleased to offer accommodation for overnight guests on 3rd/4th April and 19th/20th June. For further details and requests for accommodation please contact Bob Kimmins, 126 Grove Road, Birmingham, 14 (021 444 6668) or Alf Garton, 5 Glen Rise, Birmingham, 13 (021 777 5130).

AFFILIATED GROUPS

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Wilbraham Road United Reform Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester, from 8 to 10 p.m. Further information from Alan Williams, 47 South Drive, Manchester (Tel. 061 881 7744) or Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester (Tel. 061 881 3613).

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB meets every Friday at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, from 8 to 11 p.m. Details from the Secretary, Mrs. Janet Heathfield, 29 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, Herts. Tel. 01 368 5345.

CANONBALLS FOLK DANCERS meet every Tuesday during term time at Stanburn School, Stanmore, Middx. 7.30 to 10 p.m. (nearest station: Canons Park). Secretary: Miss J.G.S. Goodman, 13 Woodgrange Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middx.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday during term time at South Kent College of Technology, Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone, from 7.45 to 9 p.m. Details from the Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Warwick, 32 The Crescent, Sandgate, Folkestone. Tel. 38338.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC DANCERS meet every Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, W.8. and every Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Isaac Newton School, Lancaster Road, W.11. Dances from Czechoslovakia taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, W.5. Tel. 01 567 2346.

MERTON PARK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Wednesday in term time at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, S.W.20. 7 to 7.30 p.m. Spanish Beginners; 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. General International. Musician: Wilf Horrocks. Details from Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, Merton Park, S.W.19. Tel. 01 542 3831

WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday at Borough Green Village Hall, Borough Green, near Sevenoaks, Kent, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. All details from Mrs. Eileen Nolan, 16 Dryland Road, Borough Green, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Tel. 0732 883380.

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INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE

on SATURDAY, 24TH APRIL, 1976

at BOROUGH GREEN VILLAGE HALL

7.30 to 11 p.m.

organized by Woodvale Folk Dance Group

Musician: Wilf Horrocks

M.C.: Ernie Nolan

Demonstration by the Yacy Tacy Polish Group

Tickets 50p (including refreshments) available from members of the Group or at the door. There will be a licensed bar.

WEEKEND AT GRANVILLE HOTEL, CLIFTONVILLE, MARGATE (22nd Feb.)

A very enjoyable weekend was spent at Cliftonville, organized under the auspices of the Harrow Green Folk Dance Group led by George Sweetland. The weekend followed very much the pattern of other venues, except that the emphasis was more on dancing. This was a very good idea as the environs of Margate, being terribly built up in the vicinity of the hotel, did not lend themselves to the country walking that is usually part of other weekends.

Two hotels under the same proprietor were used, one providing the sleeping and eating accommodation, and the other the lounge, the bar, and the 'Tartan' ballroom.

The Friday evening Social Dance was lively, with Wilf Horrocks playing for us and the bright Tartan wallpapers to spur us on with our dancing! On the Saturday morning we had instruction by Betty Harvey in a number of interesting Polish dances, which we all enjoyed; by now we had got used to the Tartan ballroom and felt quite at home. The morning dancing was followed by an afternoon of equally enjoyable lessons of Yugoslav dances with Ken Ward. Folk dancers felt the 'Sadila Sem Rogazek' (the "penguin" dance) very appropriate for a beach demonstration dance, to be borne in mind for future occasions.

Sunday morning was spent revising the Polish and Yugoslav dances taught, and in addition George Sweetland taught us some Swedish dances; this added a very good variety to the weekend. After a nice Sunday lunch, the enthusiasts continued dancing, the emphasis being on Balkan dances, and those of us who remained enjoyed a most refreshing salad tea provided in the Tartan dining-room before departing.

The weekend was well supported, including enthusiastic members who came all the way from Birmingham, Sussex, etc. In closing we would like to thank George Sweetland for arranging such a pleasant weekend, which passed all too quickly.

MICHAEL and EDWINA HOLDUP,
16 Netherby Gardens, Enfield

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PUNCH-LINE

"PUNCH", which runs a series of small items of news which do not make the national Press, this month gave the following snippet:-

"Old English Morris Dancing is thriving in the island state of Bahrain, on the edge of the Arabian peninsula. Every Saturday night, esoteric cries of "foot-up", "half-gyp", "heh" and "four-capers" ring out from a hall overlooking the Gulf in Bahrain's capital of Manama. K.J.Watkins (South Wales Argus)"

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(There is no truth in the rumour that Peter Oakley will be holding his next day course in Bahrain, complete with djellabah, worry beads and camel bells!)

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JUGOSLAV "FOLKLORE INSTITUTE"

A two-week "Folklore Institute" (a name which I find confusing but which is apparently a course of instruction in folk dance and folk music - ED) is now being held annually in Yugoslavia. The course deals with the folklore of "all Slavic peoples" and is sponsored by the Slavic-American Society, an association of Slavic groups in America. The two-week course offers native teachers in their native setting, plenty of outside activities, social dances every evening, excellent accommodation, and dance notes in English, and will run from 11th to 25th July 1976, at Arandjelovac in Yugoslavia. Full details can be obtained from the European representative of the Slavic-American Society:- Mr. William C. Reynolds, 169 Main Street, Stonnall, Walsall, Staffs. Tel. Brownhills 2474.

The Society also organizes tours to international folkdance festivals and the Balkan tour programme for 1976 is a tour to Zagreb for the SMOTRA held there each year, going via Arandjelovac, Beograd, Novi Sad, Osijek, Virovitica, Bjelovar, arriving in Zagreb for the SMOTRA, and returning to Beograd via Slavonski Brod and Sremska Mitrovica; date of the tour - 25th to 31st July 1976. Following on from this there is a tour from Beograd to Skopje, visiting Manasia Monastery, Presavska Pecima, Cuprija, Vrnjacka Banja, Kraljevo, Kosovsko Mitrovica and Pristina. Then Vranje, Leskovac, Nis, Pirot, across the Bulgarian border to Koprivstiza for the International Festival held every fifth year there, returning to Beograd. The date for this tour is 1st to 9th August 1976.

Enthusiasts could therefore attend the two-week course from 11th to 25th July, then the tour to Zagreb, and then the tour to Bulgaria, finishing up in Beograd on 9th August. Complete itinerary and additional information, from Mr. Reynolds, address above.

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DUNAV CONCERT - SATURDAY, 3RD APRIL

Dunav Balkan Group is giving a concert of Balkan folk music at 7.30 p.m. on 3rd April 1976 at:-

London Musical Club,
21, Holland Park,
London, W.11.

Tickets are 60p at the door, so come early to make sure you get in (the Club has a bar!). (60 seats only.)

Come and enjoy the fascinating sounds and rhythms of the Balkan countries, played live on traditional and modern instruments in authentic style.

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SIFD ASSOCIATED CLASSES

We now have four Associated Classes, which are as follows:-

ISRAELI

Every Thursday, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, behind Oval Cricket Ground. Advanced. Tutor: Fiona Howarth.

JUGOSLAV

Every Tuesday at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1. Beginners 6.30 to 8.30 p.m., Advanced 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Ken Ward.

POLISH

Every Monday at Christopher Hatton School, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1. Beginners 7 to 8 p.m., Advanced 8 to 10 p.m. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

INTERNATIONAL

Every Wednesday at St. Alban's School, Baldwin's Gardens, Grays Inn Road, E.C.1. Tutor: Margery Latham.

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Other classes (not SIFD-Associated) in the London area:-

ISRAELI

Every Wednesday, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Kidbrooke School, Correlli Road, S.E.3. Tutor: Gaye Saunte.

INTERNATIONAL

Every Tuesday, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Charlton Manor School, Hornfair Road, S.E.7. Tutor: Lily Southgate.

TURKISH

Every Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m. at Gateway School, Capland Street, N.W.8. Tutors: Hamdi Ataoglu and Sait Serifoglu.

HUNGARIAN/ROMANIAN

Every Thursday, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. and every Friday, 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Pimlico School, Lupus Street, S.W.1. Tutor: Alan McLean.

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WOULD ALL MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

SUNDAY DANCES

April 4th Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1.

May 2nd Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1.

7 to 10 p.m.

Admission: 40p members, 50p non-members

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At the Cecil Sharp House Dance on 4th April a demonstration will be given by Alan McLean's Hungarian Group.

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WHAT'S ON

April 3rd BALKAN CONCERT by Dunav. See page 11.

April 6th to
October 6th MUSIC & MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF ISLAM Exhibition at Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, London, S.E.23.

April 9th At Barnet International Folk Dance Club, Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, Ian Price will be teaching GREEK and MACEDONIAN dances. 8 p.m. Enquiries: 01 368 5345.

April 10th ONE-DAY COURSE IN JUGOSLAV DANCING Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell, E.C.1. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Fee: 50p. Tutor: Ken Ward.

April 10th ONE-DAY COURSE IN HUNGARIAN DANCING organized by Barlow Int. Folk Dance Group in Manchester. Tickets £1.00 including evening Dance, from G.Andrew, 18a Palatine Road, Withington, Manchester. Telephone enquiries to Philip Lloyd 061 881 3613.

April 17th ASIAN YOUTH FESTIVAL '76 Asian folk and classical music, and dances depicting various regions of the Indian Sub-Continent. Royal Albert Hall, London. 7 p.m.

April 24th FOLK DANCE at BOROUGH GREEN See page 9.

April 30th/
May 2nd WEEKEND AT HAWKWOOD COLLEGE

May 3rd/22nd "BRASIL TROPICAL" 40 dancers and full Brazilian orchestra. Sadlers Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1. 7.30 p.m. Matinees Thursday & Saturday 2.30 p.m. Tickets 60p to £3.00.