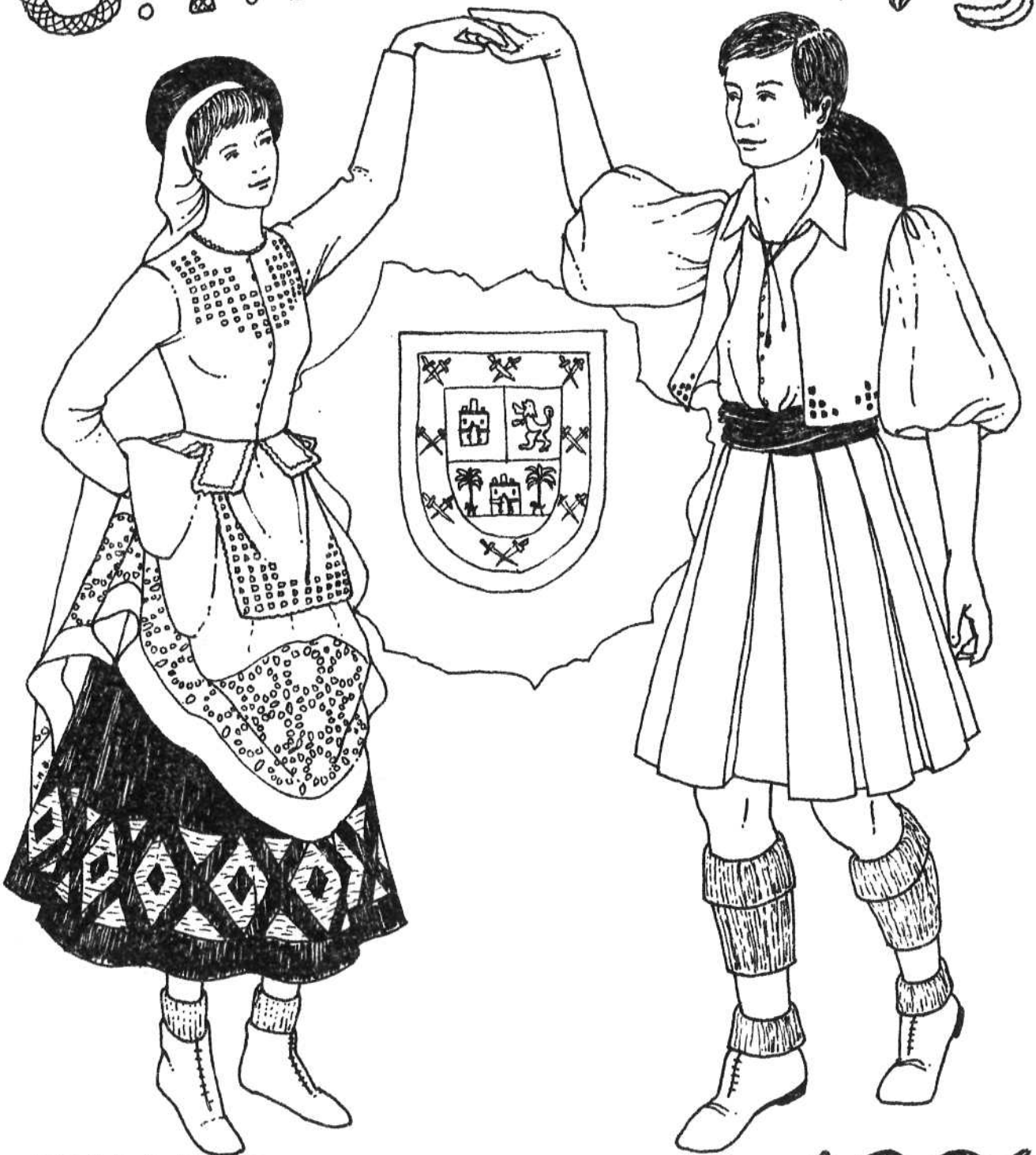
S.T.F.D. NEWS



JUNE 1996

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Editor: Lily Southgate, 31 Barbrook House, Chatham Place, London, E.9.
Tel: Home 01-985 0428; Office 01-248 1212 Ext. 552.

Typist: Kelsey Blundell, 65 Lonsdale Avenue, London, E.6.

Frank Flanagan helped with the printing; and the collating, stapling and packing etc. was done last month by the Working Party organized by Will Green.

*** ** * ** ***

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Our Secretary, Edna Foster, has moved and now lives at:-

33, Orchard Avenue,
Southgate,
London, N.14.

Tel.: 01-886 2345

*** ** * ** ***

Chairman: Simon Guest, 65 Crescent Road, New Barnet, Herts.
Tel: 01-440 4862.

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

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

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

*** ** * ** ***

This month's cover, showing dancers from Las Palmas, Canary Islands, was drawn by Lesley Boorer.

*** ** * ** ***

Books, records, tapes and cassettes are available from Frances Horrocks, 112, Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey. Tel: 01-683 3629.

BERT PRICE

It was with stunned disbelief that I learned of the death of Bert Price, one of our founder members, at one time our Treasurer, and twice our Chairman. It was Bert who introduced us to Polish dancing, through Eugene Jablonsky and later a succession of Polish members of the Polish YMCA, where he danced for many years; and Bert who introduced Aili Eistrat and Estonian dances; and Pug Cyriax to stablize our Swedish dances; Lucile Armstrong to teach us Portuguese and Spanish; and Thora Watkins (Jaques) English dances. It was Bert's optimism that started our Albert Hall Shows, when so many thought it wildly impossible.

His latest innovation was the Silver and Gold Badges, and this will, perhaps, prove to be his most important and lasting work for the Society. The Committee are, in fact, considering naming these the Bert Price Badges as a tribute to his work on these examinations.

One could go on, but each of you will have your own memories of Bert and his work for the SIFD. I think you will all wish to join me in expressing sympathy to his sister, Irene, and all his family in their so sudden bereavement.

MARGERY LATHAM

.....

All our members and friends will have been shocked to read of Bert's death in the last issue. It will be some time before the impact is really felt, and as the months go by we shall have to remember to stop looking at the door of the hall at Social Dances, General Meetings, Reunions, etc. expecting Bert to walk in (usually stopped by many people en route to say Hello or chat), and as various events within the Society crop up we shall have to remember to stop ourselves from saying "Bert will see to that, Bert will arrange this, Ask Bert for his advice on that". The first such event to crop up is the meeting of the Badge Committee, of which Bert was Chairman, to arrange the next Silver Badge Proficiency examination. As Margery says, it was Bert who instigated this, and controlled the organization, and it will be a difficult task to pick up the threads and carry on as if Bert were still here. However, we feel the examinations must go on without interruption, and the next one will be held as planned on 3rd July. We are, in the meantime, discussing the difficult task of trying to replace Bert as Chairman of the Badge Sub-Committee.

Bert was a man of many parts and this is just one of the gaps that has to be filled. I am sure that individual members will find many such gaps within their own area of acquaintance with Bert; and the SIFD as a whole, as well as the field of international folk dancing, will be very much poorer without him.

LILY SOUTHGATE

SILVER BADGE PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION

We have received 22 applications from members wishing to take their Silver Badge examination on 3rd July 1976, for the following countries' dances:-

Austria - 17; England - 21; France - 9; Sweden - 6; Jugoslavia - 10.

The examination will be held at Hugh Myddelton School. Three countries will be judged in the morning (Austria, Sweden and England) and two in the afternoon (France, Jugoslavia).

As before, successful applicants will be awarded a certificate and a Silver Badge. Where a certificate and Silver Badge have already been awarded in previous examinations, and a further passmark is achieved for another country, the name of that country will be added to the certificate. Marks will be awarded for style, technique (execution of steps, etc.) and knowledge of the dances (sequences, positions, etc.) with emphasis on style.

We wish the 22 applicants every success, and separate letters of confirmation and details of arrangements will be sent to each one.

As at the last examination, the administrators would like only those who are in some way involved in the examination (competitors, partners, musicians, adjudicators etc.) to attend, as an audience of people not involved tends to cause lack of concentration and a certain amount of disturbance.

The next Silver Badge examination after July will take place on 29th January 1977. Applications will have to be in by 1st December, and the countries involved will be: England, Estonia, Germany, Israel, Poland and Spain.

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

BALKAN PARTY

Ken Ward's Associated Yugoslav Group will be holding a Balkan Party on

SATURDAY, 19TH JUNE 1976

at

Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, off Old Street, E.C.1

7 to 11 p.m. Tickets: 75p (including refreshments)

Because of limited space, admission has to be by ticket only - obtainable from John White, 10 Durnsford Avenue, Wimbledon Park, S.W.19. Tel: 01-947 2414 (Please send stamped addressed envelope).

SELPAR HALF-DAY COURSE and BUFFET DANCE

The Selpar Group are holding a Half-Day Course in Polish dancing at Yardleys School, Warwick Road, Birmingham, on Saturday, 19th June 1976, followed by a Buffet Dance.

The Course will be from 2 to 5 p.m. and the Dance from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. The Course Tutor will be Betty Harvey.

Charge for the Course - 50p; Charge for the Dance - 50p; or 75p for both.

Arrangements can be made for people attending from outside Birmingham to stay as overnight guests of Selpar members, and anyone wishing to take advantage of this or requiring further details should apply to Rod Perkins, 3 Linnet Close, Bournville, Birmingham.

*

SELPAR (Birmingham Branch of SIFD) meet at Selly Park Centre, Pershore Rd., Birmingham, every Tuesday 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. Enquiries to Miss Christine Butler, 76 Headingly Road, Birmingham.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *
****
* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Barlow International Folk Dance Group will be holding their annual trip to Rivington Pike on Sunday, 27th June 1976.

2.30 p.m.	Meet in car park at Rivington Barn.
3.00 p.m.	Annual pilgrimage through "Japanese Gardens" to the Pike monument. (Rumour has it that Blackpool Tower can be seen from this vantage point on a clear day!)
6.00 p.m.	Hot-Pot Supper in the barn. (Lancashire Hot-Pot followed by apple pie and cream.)
7.00 p.m.	International Folk Dancing in the barn.

The charge for the supper is 85p. Please book early, enclosing cheque/ Postal Order, to Miss A. V. Sallnow, 17 Heaton Road, Withington, Manchester 20. There is no charge for admission to the dancing for people not wanting the Hot-Pot supper. All heartily welcome.

Rivington Barn is situated close to the town of Horwich near Bolton and is accessible from junction 6 on the M61 between Manchester and Preston.

ALGERIAN DANCES

In the past, and to a large extent even today, Algerian social life has moved in two worlds; the society of men, of the city and the coffee houses, and the society of women, whose domain is the courtyard of the home. Algerian dances reflect these two societies. Most folk dances are performed either by men or by women. Only among a few groups do men and women dance together.

Some Algerian girls today are pretty good at the modern 'ballroom' dances, but if, in the middle of a party, someone puts on a real Algerian record, there isn't one of them who can't slip into a traditional dance that drives the Europeans off the floor. Any Algerian girl can do a 'belly dance'. She learns it as a child, from her mother or her grandmother.

The 'belly dance' is found in the coastal cities of Algeria. It is performed by women alone, originally for the pleasure of men. Some Algerians object to the term 'belly dance'. It brings up visions of the form the dance has taken in cabarets, and they insist that the movement isn't in the belly anyway but in the hips - a movement which they call in French "dehaunchment". Actually, much dancing goes on during wedding celebrations where women dance simply for other women. Dancing is spontaneous, there are no set steps. Sometimes a scarf is passed around the women and each girl takes her turn. The body above the waist is so calm that some women balance jars or plates on their heads while hips and feet convey the rhythm.

The counterpart of the 'belly dance' is the dance performed by men alone. Forms of this dance are found particularly in the interior, in Western Algeria and in the oasis towns of the Sahara. Most of the dances have warlike themes and are performed with sticks, guns, or sabres. Some also depict the harvest or the demand of a girl's hand in marriage. The rhythms and steps are fairly simple, while the dancers make formations of circles, criss-cross, and stars. Many dances show Turkish influence, especially in the oasis of Laghouat which was the Turkish post for overseeing the Sahara. One common theme in Laghouat is that of two warring tribes who eventually become reconciled.

Music is provided by a sort of flute, the gasba, a ghaita (Turkish zorna, Balkan zurla), a bendir (like a tambourine without cymbals), and a derbouka, a drum whose head is stretched over a pottery base.

Negro dances also follow the all-male pattern, but are distinct from Arab dances. Their rich and irregular rhythms are achieved by a large number of different drums including a large tbal and a metal castanet called a Kerkabou. Themes for Negro dances are generally religious. They are often accompanied by a simple chant, sometimes merely the word "Allah" repeated over and over. Their formations include criss-cross and circles. Sometimes one dancer detaches himself from the group, goes to the centre and performs a sort of solo. Although women do not usually participate, it is not uncommon for one who is watching to become "hypnotized" by the dance and join in.

In some areas of Algeria men and women perform dances together. One such place is found just south of the Saharan Atlas mountains among the Arab tribe

/Contd....

of Ouled Nail. A common theme, naturally, is love. A man and woman enter separately, circle each other shyly and eventually go out together. Another theme is that of the gazelle hunt or the partridge hunt. In this dance the woman plays the part of the partridge. Her movements are less in the hips; her steps are small and her hands make the fluttering motion of wings. The male dancer carries a gun with which, eventually he kills his prey. She dances out slowly and dies.

(Acknowledgement to Viltis Folklore Magazine and Anna Spitzer Quandt.)

*
***
*****
***
*

Les Avery and I were, most unexpectedly, lucky enough to be present at a really enjoyable example of the spontaneity of these women's dances and the style of 'dehaunchment' mentioned in the above article.

We went with the Harrow Green group to spend a few days over Easter in a caravan on a site at Christchurch - the usual plebeian English caravan park with bingo for the middle-aged, disco for the teenagers, and kiddies' swimming pool and swings. One night, while Les and I were walking back to the caravan after an evening walk we were very surprised to hear the sound of Arab music, shouting, and singing coming, believe it or not, from one of the caravans. We stopped outside to listen and were invited in.

The caravan was full of men and women of Arab descent, from grandmother to young baby, singing, chanting and clapping to a fiddle and derbouka. For the next hour we were plied with drinks and Turkish sweetmeats, and entertained by group singing and solo recitative, and, most enjoyable of all, a display of 'belly dancing' by one of the women. As the above article states, it is not the belly but the hips that move in this type of dance. The dancer on this occasion was wearing an ordinary Western style knee-length dress but just slipped the belt down over her hips and, looking very much the part with her very dark looks, gave, for our entertainment, an expert performance, to the accompaniment of the derbouka, fiddle, clapping, and shouts.

The party was set to carry on into the night and they were reluctant to let us go but we left with handshakes all round, glad that we had been able to take a small part in this spontaneous display of folk entertainment, performed purely for their own enjoyment (and ours) in a most unlikely and unexpected setting.

LILY SOUTHGATE

*
***
*****
***
*

<u>CONGRATULATIONS</u> and best wishes to Ann Bartlett and Dennis Wood, our Hon. Treasurer, who announced their engagement last month. We wish them every happiness.

SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL, 30th July to 6th August. Tickets and information from Festival Office, 44 Queen Street, Exeter. Tel. Exeter 74768.

* ** *** **** ********** **** *** ** *

BEAULIEU ARTS FESTIVAL 2nd/4th July, 1976

This is a new venture catering specifically for the community arts, with Hampshire artists and musicians contributing to a variety of events over the weekend of 2nd/4th July in the incomparable and unique setting of the Palace House and grounds at Beaulieu.

Evening activities will include chamber opera in the splendid medieval setting of the Domus, and an entertainment in the Palace House itself, with both folk and early music, and poetry and prose readings. During the days of Saturday and Sunday, groups of folk singers, dancers, and strolling players will perform in the grounds of the Palace House, around the National Motor Museum, and in the Abbey Cloisters. The number of visitors to Beaulieu on an early July weekend is five to eight thousand, so the potential audience is large.

We need people who are prepared to come along to Beaulieu to sing, act, or dance in the open air or under cover if the weather is not good. Elaborate productions are neither required nor possible; a strolling player's approach is what is needed. A little help may be possible with expenses, and performers will have the opportunity of visiting the National Motor Museum.

If you can help and would like to know more, or if you are a potential member of the audience, please write to the address below stating your name, address and telephone number and whether you are interested in performing at the Festival or would just like booking details of the events.

JOHN F. WALKER,
The Noads, Noads Way,
Dibden Purlieu,
Southampton

ED. NOTE: The above is all the information I have about the Beaulieu Arts Festival. I don't know whether they would be interested in European dancing, or want only English, but if any of our members would like to take part in the Festival, perhaps they would contact Mr. Walker direct and he would be able to give them more information.

* ** *** **** ********** **** *** ** *

CHRISTCHURCH FOLKLORE FESTIVAL 12th/13th June. Mostly English but some Irish and the Polish Karpaty Dancers. Also, one of our affiliated groups (Glen Eyre) will be dancing on the afternoon of the 13th. Information from Christchurch Folklore Festival, Bookings Secretary, Town Hall, High Street, Christchurch, Hants.

LLANGOLLEN 1976

If anyone living in North West London area would like to go to the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen this summer, a coach party will be going from Stanmore for a day trip on 7th July, when the dance competition is held.

The coach will be leaving from Canons Community Centre at junction of Honeypot Lane and Wemborough Road, Canons Park (Stanmore) at 6.40 a.m. Expected arrival at Llangollen, 11.45 a.m. Time of departure for return, about 5.30 p.m. Cost for coach and ticket for competition (booked on first day booking opened) is £3.25.

There are just a few places left. Anyone interested should telephone Ken Poyton on 01-958 5785.

As most readers will know, the Eisteddfod takes place from 6th to 11th July, starting with an opening Concert on the evening of Tuesday, 6th, and ending with a Concert on the evening of Sunday, 11th, but the most interesting day as far as folkdance enthusiasts go is the Wednesday (7th July) when the folkdance competition is held. The above coach trip would enable people who are not able to spend more than one day at the Festival to see just that part of the Eisteddfod.

* * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * *

MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JULY ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR BY 15TH JUNE. DON'T FORGET I HAVE MOVED TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN ON PAGE 2.

* * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * *

The Working Group for June will meet on Friday, 25th June, at Gaye Saunte's house - 50a Lewisham High Street, London, S.E.13. (Second side door over the shop on the corner of Rennel Street, near the Odeon). Would helpers please come as early in the evening as possible.

For July, we shall be meeting at Dalston, but we have not yet fixed a venue for 27th August. Can anyone please offer?

WILL GREEN,
90 Wells Way, S.E.5.

* * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * *

WOULD ALL MEMBERS CHANGING THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

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.

GLEN EYRE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP (SOUTHAMPTON) meet every Monday during term time at the Glen Eyre School, Violet Road, Basset, Southampton, from 8 to 10 p.m. Details from Audrey & Charles Dellow, 25 Roman Way, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton. Tel. Hythe 846040.

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.

******

Affiliated Groups are reminded that if they wish to be listed in SIFD NEWS they must let the Editor have details of their times of meeting, place, secretary's name, etc.

SIFD ASSOCIATED CLASSES

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. Albans School, Baldwin's Gardens, Grays Inn Road, E.C.1. Tutor: Margery Latham.

*
***
****
***
*

DANCE DIRECTORY

Anyone wishing to have a full list of what information we have of other groups and classes should send a 9" x 4" stamped addressed envelope to Frank Flanagan, 124 Fairbridge Road, Upper Holloway, London N.19.

*
***
****
***
*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Lily,

In answer to J.I.M. Robertson of Portsmouth in the May issue (we have already written to him), and possibly of interest to Frank Flanagan; there is a group of Scandinavian Dancers in Havant, led by Henry Hoskins (telephone: Emsworth 3090 or 4780), Lumley Hall, Emsworth, Hants. I'm not sure how authentic they are; I believe their original tutor was Danish. Certainly their style is somewhat different from that taught by Pug Cyriax.

AUDREY & CHARLES DELLOW,
25 Roman Way,
Dibden Purlieu,
Southampton

SUNDAY DANCES

June, 6th — Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1. M.C. Wilf Horrocks.

June, 20th — British Council Student Centre, 11 Portland Place, London, W.1. M.C. Frances Horrocks.

July, 4th — Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1. M.C. Simon Guest.

7 to 10 p.m.

Admission: Cecil Sharp House - 40p for members, 50p non-members
British Council - 30p for members, 40p non-members

* ** ********** ** *

WHAT'S ON

June 12th — SWEDISH DAY-COURSE at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, London, E.C.1. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Margery Latham.

18th — BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP will be holding their Summer Party at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, Herts., 8 p.m. M.C. Henry Morris. Further information from Mrs. Janet Heathfield, 29 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, Herts. Tel. 01-368 5345.

18th & 19th — BALALAIKA DANCE GROUP are giving a performance of 'Polyanka' at the Commonwealth Institute, London. 7.30 p.m. Tickets: £2.00, £1.50 and £1.00.

19th — SELPAR HALF-DAY POLISH COURSE and DANCE See page 5.

19th — BALKAN PARTY at Moorfields School. See page 4.

19th & 20th — QAWWALI SINGERS FROM PAKISTAN Not exactly 'folk' but members may be interested to hear Qawwali, a highly ornamented form of music, used to accompany liturgical ceremonies of the Chisti order of dervishes. Royal Albert Hall, London, 7.30 p.m.

24th — POLISH NATIONAL SONG & DANCE COMPANY (Lublin) Fairfield Hall, Croydon. 8 p.m. Tickets 75p to £1.50.

25th — POLISH NATIONAL SONG & DANCE COMPANY Greenwich Borough Hall, Royal Hill, Greenwich, S.E.10. 9 p.m. Tickets 60p to £1.20.

25th/27th — WEEKEND AT DUNFORD