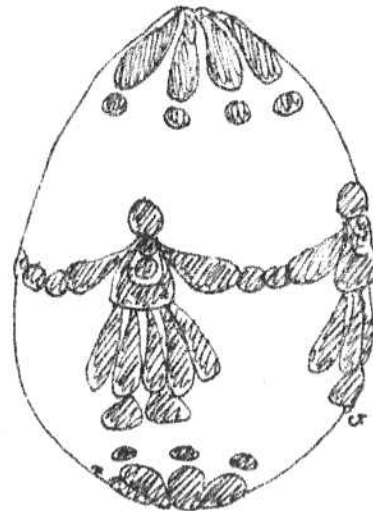
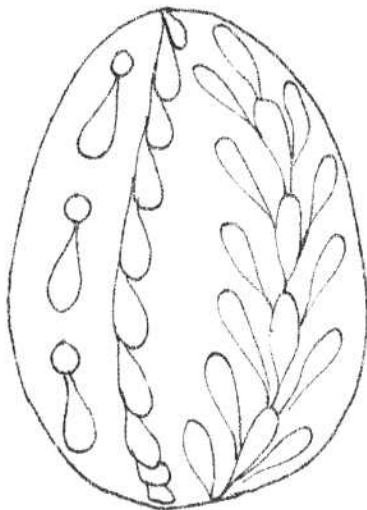
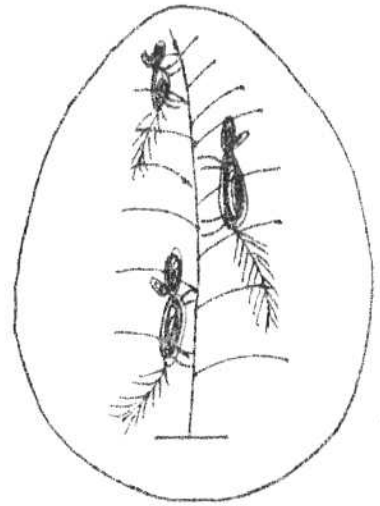


SIFD

NEWS

APRIL 1977



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Frank Flanagan helped with the printing last month, and the collating and packing etc. was organised by Gaye Saunte.

*** * * * ***

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

Secretary: Edna Foster, 33 Orchard Avenue, Southgate, London, N.14.
Tel. 01 886 2345.

Treasurer: Dennis Wood, 16 Barnfield Close, Old Coulsdon, 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.

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This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas. "Kraslice" are Czechoslovakian traditional Easter Eggs, decorated with coloured wax and scraps of straw, cloth or leaves. Red and reddish-brown are the commonest colours. Earliest reference to Kraslice dates from the 14th century, and fragments of eggs have survived from medieval times.

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

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WOULD ALL MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE LET
THE EDITOR KNOW, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

There is not a great deal to report from our March Committee meeting, which does not mean we have been idle! The A.G.M. Minutes and last year's Treasurer's Report were despatched during week commencing 6th March. I hope you have all received your copies.

The Music Sub-Committee report satisfactory progress in preparation for the new recording session, which has been arranged for 7th May. The results of the work of our other Sub-Committees - Badges and Branches - are reported on separately by the people concerned.

The team responsible for the Edinburgh Summer School report that all arrangements are going ahead satisfactorily, and confirmation has now been received from the Finnish teacher. See below for information regarding travelling by coach.

EDNA FOSTER
Hon. Secretary

In view of the cost of travelling from London and the South East to Edinburgh by British Rail, and the rather arduous journey by car, the Committee are arranging a coach to take people from this area. Preliminary enquiries show that the cost would be in the region of £12 to £15 per head for the return journey, which would probably include the cost of outings during the week. So that the Committee may judge what size of coach will be required, would all people attending the Summer School who would like to travel on the coach please let Simon Guest know by 1st May. (Address and telephone number on page 2). Please let Simon have your name even if you have already given it to Roland Minton at Cecil Sharp House.

ED.

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Dear SIFD Members,

I always seemed to be waiting for my copy of the SIFD NEWS in the past. Now it comes far too quickly! What must it be like for people actually involved in the preparation of it?

As you know, collating is being done at my place, and where possible it will be on the last Friday of each month. But, helpers must ring me the day before to check that there have been no hold-ups. Tel.: 01 318 0237.

Many thanks to the willing helpers who have so far turned up to lend a hand. (I've begun to appreciate how important it is to have some co-operation!).

Best wishes,

GAYE SAUNTE,
50a Lewisham High St.,
London, S.E.13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading Brenda Jackson's letter in the March SIFD NEWS and wonder whether any members would be interested in the work of the Dolmetsch Historical Dance Society. The society exists to promote the performance, costume and music of European dance from the 12th to 18th centuries as recorded in contemporary literature. Details of the society can be obtained from the Secretary: Mrs. Anne Daye, 15 Chapel Road, Epping, Essex.

Yours sincerely,

JANE EASTMAN,
Mymwood, Queenswood,
Brookmans Park,
Hatfield, Herts.

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

One may object to the academic utterances emanating from the pen of Dr. Towner, but in fact the folk dancer of today supplies us, perhaps unwittingly, with the missing link that supports his arguments.

Dr. Towner proposed that folk dances are those dances enjoyed by the "folk" but he very conveniently omitted to identify the "folk". I suggest that the simple solution to this whole problem is to identify the "folk" with today's folkdancer. Then, following Dr. Towner, all dances enjoyed by the folkdancers, otherwise the "folk", automatically qualify as "folk dances". Thus all dances in the SIFD repertoire, whether they be modern choreographed works (such as the modern Israeli) or genuine folk dances (if there are such things) can be retained without question.

This solution is so brilliantly simple, so foolproof, so complete and yet so academically satisfying that I am surprised that Dr. Towner did not find it for himself. Perhaps he would care to comment?

Yours sincerely,

ANON
(Name and address supplied)

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Dear Lily,

In case, by chance, anyone wonders why Folkestone District National Dance Group has not appeared recently among the Affiliated Groups, of which it was one of the earliest, may I emphasize that we are still loyal supporters of the SIFD and still going strong. The defect was merely due to clumsy Standing Order subscription paying by the bank at our end.

/Contd....

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We are, in fact, after sixteen years now, again intensely involved at the moment with the Folkestone International Folklore Festival which is to take place from 18th to 24th June this year. As usual at this stage, crises arise with monotonous irregularity, not so much at home - although local Government reorganization has caused headaches - but overseas; the problems involved in bringing teams over for the Festival could daunt a less determined and experienced committee.

Why do traditionalists live dangerously? Time after time it has happened - the Basques, the Bretons, the Czechs, the Jugoslavs, the Portuguese, the Poles - though happily they all managed to get here in the end. This time the Romanians, the Czechs, even the Germans (the group we picked out of ten who applied from that country) will, we hope, come through their difficulties, political and physical, and join the French, the Swedes, the Jugoslavs, the Belgians and the Austrians who, to all intents and purposes, seem secure. We shall see - and hope others will come to do so too!

Yours sincerely,

OLIVE FIELD,
"Schlupfwinkel"
Canongate Road,
Hythe, Kent.

As stated above, the Folkestone International Folklore Festival will take place from 18th to 24th June 1977. The official programme will be available in May and for information please contact the Official Information Centre, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent. Tel: Folkestone 53840 or 57388.

Some principal items in the programme:

- 18th June - Procession and opening of Festival 7.30 p.m.
- 19th, 20th, 23rd June - International concerts in Leas Cliff Hall 8 p.m.
- 24th June - Grand Farewell Barn Dance in Leas Cliff Hall 7.30 p.m.

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INVITATION TO JUGOSLAVIA

The Slavic-American Society are arranging their "Third Annual Folklore Institute in Jugoslavia" from 1st to 15th August 1977, coupled with a visit to Zagreb Festival 23rd to 31st July 1977. The "Institute", or course, is based in Arandjelovac, and offers two weeks of classes supplemented by a day with a Serbian family on their farm, a visit to an opanki factory, trips to local monuments, as well as concerts and evening dance parties with local residents. Preceding this is a week in Zagreb for the Smotra Folkloru. Hotel accommodation, food, dancing instruction, excursions, etc. etc. are all arranged by the Slavic-American Society, who will also help you with advice on charter flights. Full details and information can be obtained from Slavic-American Society, 3661 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California 94610, U.S.A.

HARROW GREEN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Harrow Green Folk Dance Group celebrated its 25th Anniversary on 19th February at Daneford School, Bethnal Green. We were delighted to see so many old members again, including Wally and Ron Coultrop, who originally founded the group.

The main hall at Daneford is ideal for this sort of function, being on a split level with tables all the way round, overlooking the dance floor, which creates a pleasantly social atmosphere, a bit different from the usual school hall. We were very pleased that Ian Willson and Peter Oakley were able to M.C. for us and our musicians were Harry de Caux and Wilf Horrocks - our special thanks to them all. Sylvia Fulton organized the raffle with some splendid prizes and, I am pleased to say, sold a lot of tickets. Kelsey Blundell made a very effective collage of photographs, cuttings, letters, etc. - a sort of Bayeux Tapestry of Harrow Green! This was specially appreciated by older members (not old in years I hasten to add), some of whom were featured in the photographs. Since the Dance I have had a few letters from these original members saying how much they enjoyed the evening; one of them even suggested an annual reunion - a nice idea but perhaps a bit of a strain on our rather limited resources. Anyway, it's nice to know they thought it all worthwhile.

Many thanks to **everyone** who helped get this evening together, including people outside the group who lent decorations etc. and Ingrid Pursall's sister who helped make the lovely Anniversary cake.

ALEX BEAUCLERC

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FRIDAY, 29TH APRIL - BALKAN DANCING AT LEYTON, LONDON, E.10

The Blackbirds Folk Club have asked Dunav to run a Balkan Evening with dances for joining in, as well as songs and instrumental music. Most of their members are beginners, so if there were some experienced dancers it would be easier to teach, and make the evening more enjoyable for everyone.

The evening officially starts at 8 p.m. but the Balkan music will begin at 9.15. Everything ends at 11 p.m.

The venue is the Three Blackbirds Pub, Leyton High Road, London, E.10 (old Harrow Green country!) Entrance: 55p (45p for Folk Club members).

Travel: British Rail, Leyton Midland Road (the pub is just round the corner).
Underground, Walthamstow Central or Leyton, then buses 69, 230 or 278.
Bus 38 from Central London to Leyton Green, within walking distance.

More detail from Stephen Ward, 01 527 4896.

NEWS FROM THE BALALAIKA DANCE GROUP

Visit of Nina Tolstaya

In November 1976 a long-cherished dream came true for the Balalaika Dance Group; a teacher of folk dances of the USSR came to London to give the group two weeks' tuition. This was the first time since Anatoly Borsov was here in 1956, and the group had for a long time felt the urgent need for such a teacher. At long last, after two years of negotiation between the USSR authorities on one side and ILEA and the Balalaika Dance Group on the other, they achieved their goal; Nina Tolstaya, Teacher of Folk Dances at the Moscow Institute for Choreography, arrived.

All classes began with Character Barre. This gruelling and exciting experience is something quite new and different from the classical Ballet Barre, and directly related to the special movements of the many different national dances; especially the arms and hands have different basic positions, and often different ones for boys and girls. For instance, Russian girls put their hands in fists (with thumbs tucked in) on the waist, while the boys have "open hands", fingers forward, thumbs back. Georgians, on the other hand, NEVER put their hands on their waists. "Ronde des Jambes" and "Ronde des Pieds" are done not only with toes on the floor, but also with heels on the floor, toes pointing upwards, and in this position legs are often swung forward, to side and backwards. The "Ronde" movements start in 6th position, feet parallel and working foot turned over, so that the outside of the foot rests on the floor - and Nina Tolstaya stood like that on both feet, and jumped in this position! The class gasped. Another aspect of her class was to vary the sequence, e.g. syncopating or varying movements, thereby training the ear as well as the body.

From the barre, Mrs. Tolstaya went on to basic steps and movements of Russian, Ukrainian, Byelo-Russian and Tadjik/Uzbek styles. She stressed especially the difference between boys' and girls' movements. In the second week she added little enchainements of the afore-mentioned styles, plus a Moldavian one.

The evenings of the second week were reserved for members of the Balalaika Dance Group and there Nina Tolstaya introduced us to a completely new style - the Bashkir style of dancing. (The Autonomous Republic of Bashkiria lies between the Volga and the Ural Mountains, south-east of Moscow.) Music, dance style and costumes are very different from other regions. This means that the group will have to practise and rehearse for quite a long time - to say nothing of having to make a complete set of 16 costumes.

A film of one of the classes Mrs. Tolstaya gave, and also of a later performance by the Balalaika Group at Grays in Essex, was shown on USSR television on 30th January.

All participants agreed that the Course had been a very great success indeed, and both ILEA and the group hope to repeat the visit of this excellent teacher in the not too distant future.

JENIA GRAMAN,
Publicity Secretary,
Balalaika Dance Group

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Have you ever listened to the band at Cecil Sharp House at a Sunday Dance and said to yourself "Strewth!" (or your own private equivalent), "I could make a better row than that". Well, if you have and if you could make at least as good a row as that, then you're the man or girl we are looking for. The Society wants to encourage budding musicians (or even an expert or two) to offer their services to play at Cecil Sharp House Dances and other functions, dances, demonstrations, etc. Our greatest need is for those instruments which will give the best body of sound to the group, at the same time retaining as much as possible the correct folkdance feeling, i.e. accordians, guitars, double-bass. Clarinets are useful instruments but we have to bear in mind that at present we have two violins which give high sound, whereas our aim is to produce a lower sound level.

We are not fussy about sex or age, provided you are in good health, that you can knock out a tune, be keen to learn a considerable repertoire of dance tunes (the SIFD has knowledge of about a thousand but we don't usually play all of them in one evening), be dedicated to our type of folkdancing and its music and not expect vast remuneration.

If you have the slightest interest, please contact me at 112 Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Surrey, or on 01 683 3629, and I'll be pleased to explain further. The usual way that newcomers gain experience is, of course, to sit in the back row of the band, playing the tunes you know and absorbing those which are new to you. With some knowledge and a lot of enthusiasm, I guarantee it won't be long before you are in the front row.

WILF HORROCKS

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S.I.F.D. INSTRUCTION SHEETS

In the December issue, Frances Horrocks announced that it has been decided to dispose of the loose instruction sheets which were formerly enclosed with E.P. records. These were offered FREE to anyone who sends Frances a large stamped addressed envelope (approx. 9" x 6").

There are still some sheets left but it has been decided to close the offer on 1st May. After that date the sheets will be thrown away. So if you do want to take advantage of the offer, please contact Frances, with the aforementioned stamped addressed envelope before 1st May, stating which you want of the following and Frances will send you any that are still available:-

- E.P.1 All, but very few of Hiatamadl
- E.P.3 All except Neapolitan Tarantella
- E.P.4 All, but very few of Fjallnas Polska
- E.P.5 All, but only a few of each
- E.P.6 Only Kokotek, Fyrmanna Schottische, Sicilian Tarantella, Laura
- E.P.7 All
- E.P.8 Only Bourree Droite du Pays Fort, Gota, Verde Gaio

PORTUGUESE DAY COURSE

Date: SATURDAY, 2nd APRIL, 1977

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Place: HUGH MYDDELTON SCHOOL, CORPORATION ROW, CLERKENWELL GREEN,
LONDON, E.C.1.

Tutor: ANNALISA FOX

Fee: 50p members, £1.00 non-members

Tea and coffee will be available, but please bring a packed lunch.

Dances to be taught will be those for the Silver Badge examination, i.e. VERDE GAIO, GOTA, CHULA, REAL DAS CANAS, PADEIRINHA, A ROSA, VIRA DE SAMONDE, SENHOR DA SERRA, VIVA DE LISBOA.

Flat shoes are preferable.

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The next Day Course will be FRENCH, on 14th May. There will be no Day Course on 11th June (Jubilee Week).

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The syllabus for the next Bert Price Proficiency Badge Examination will be enclosed with this issue of SIFD NEWS. Application forms will be sent out next month and will have to be returned by 1st June 1977. Countries will be Basque, France (Berry and Vendee), Israel, Portugal, Sweden. (Not Croatia as previously announced).

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May I say here how much I enjoyed the Basque Day Course which I found very challenging, particularly during the morning session which was devoted to the more difficult and energetic of the dances taught. There was a very good crowd there and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Although my feet and knees were glad when the day ended, I would have liked to continue and hope we can have another such course in the near future. At all the day courses Margery Latham does an excellent job providing us with tea and coffee during the morning, afternoon and lunch break, and this is very much appreciated. It does seem a bit unfair, however, when, as on this occasion, we are allocated the hall on the top floor of the school, that Margery has to miss much of the dancing to go down to the ground floor to attend to this. Could this not be confined to the lunch break and perhaps have some squash available for people to buy during the teaching session if they need it?

KELSEY BLUNDELL

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CONGRATULATIONS and our very best wishes to Barney and Tricia Salmon, who have announced the birth of a son, Christopher Lewis, on 10th March. Mother, father and baby all doing well.

SIFD ASSOCIATED CLASSES

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

Every Thursday at Stainbeck Hall, Stainbeck Lane (off Scott Hall Road), Leeds, from 8 to 10 p.m. Class run by Ian and Jean Willson.

ISRAELI

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

Every Thursday at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London, (Advanced), 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. 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. NEW MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO SEE KEN WARD BEFORE ENROLLING FOR THE ADVANCED CLASS.

POLISH

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

HUNGARIAN & ROMANIAN

Every Friday at Pimlico School, Lupus Street, S.W.1. 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Alan McLean. Beginners are asked to come at 6.30.

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"BALATON" on television.

When the Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra were in this country recently, a four-man camera team went to visit Alan McLean's class at Pimlico School and took a film of Alan teaching, and of the members of the class performing a complete Hungarian dance. Alan was very pleased to hear from a friend in Hungary that the film was shown on Hungarian national television in February, and he was also sent a newspaper cutting of the event. It is nice to hear of the interest shown by the nationals in we foreigners performing their dances.

SIFD AFFILIATED GROUPS

CANONS FOLK DANCERS meet every Tuesday at Park High School, Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middx. (nearest station Canons Park) from 7.45 to 10 p.m. Further details from Joan G.S. Goodman, 13 Woodgrange Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middx. Tel: 01 907 9857.

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB meet every Friday from October to June, at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, 8 to 11 p.m. for general international dancing. Leader: Brian Dowsett; Hon. Sec.: Janet Heathfield. Telephone 01 368 5345 for details.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at Borough Green Village Hall on Tuesdays 7.30 to 10 p.m. General International, some English. Leaders: Ernie & Eileen Nolan, 16 Dryland Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Wilbraham Road United Reform Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further details from Alan Williams, 47 South Drive, Manchester. Tel: 061 881 7744 or Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester. Tel: 061 881 3613.

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.

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 Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, W.5. Tel: 01 567 2346.

SELPAR (Birmingham Branch of SIFD) meet at Selly Park Centre, Pershore Road, Birmingham, every Tuesday, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. Enquiries to Rod Perkins, 3 Linnet Close, Bournville, Birmingham, or to Sybil Chapman, 20 Pelham Road, Droitwich, Worcs.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Thursday at 8 p.m. at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Romford, Essex. Enquiries to Miss Doreen Grew, Brentwood 222051.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday in term time at South Kent College of Technology, Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone, Kent, from 7.45 to 9 p.m. General International and English. Leader: Mrs. O. Field, "Schlupfwinkel", Cannongate Road, Hythe, Kent (0303 67737). Hon. Sec.: Mrs M. Orchard, 5 Sutton Close, Folkestone (0303 76263).

SUNDAY DANCES

- April 3rd Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, N.W.1.
M.C. Roland Minton
- May 8th Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, N.W.1.
M.C. Ernie Nolan

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: 50p members, 75p non-members

The Chalonaise Group which we expected to see dance at Cecil Sharp House on 3rd April cannot arrive in time, so we shall be entertained instead by Rosaline Hone, who will sing modern and traditional folk songs.

In May we shall have a display of Scandinavian dances by Woodvale Folk Dance Group. No more displays have been booked. If you have any recommendations, please write to Will Green, 90 Wells Way, Camberwell, London, S.E.5.

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WHAT'S ON

- April 2nd PORTUGUESE DAY COURSE See page 9.
- April 2nd GERMAN DAY COURSE and evening Dance, at Bristol. Details given last month.
- April 22nd INTERNATIONAL DANCE EVENING run by Wycombe Folk Dance Club at Hazlemere Community Centre, 8 to 11.30 p.m. Admission 75p. M.C. Fiona Howarth. Recorded music.
- April 29th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE run by the Rainmakers Club at the Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Stevenage. 7.30 to 11.15 p.m. Dancing to "The Rangers". Tickets (including refreshments) 50p from Roy Bowtell, 9 Beech Drive, Stevenage, Herts. (Tel: 2871).
- April 29th BALKAN EVENING at Leyton, E.10 See page 6.
- April 29th IVAN STEPANOV and his Balalaikas and Dancers Traditional Russian singing, music and dancing. Fairfield Hall, Croydon, 8 p.m. Tickets 75p to £1.50.
- May 6th/8th HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND

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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MAY ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR BY 15TH APRIL.

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12/1/22

Dear Mr. [Name],

I have your letter of [Date] regarding [Subject].

I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time.

The matter is being reviewed by the appropriate authorities and I will be in touch with you again as soon as a final decision has been reached.

I appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,
[Name]

[Signature]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip]

[Phone Number]

[Additional information]

[Closing text]

[Final text]

[Text]

[Text]

[Text]