# SIFD NEWS



March Doudlebska, south bohemia. 1979

# SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Enquiries and orders for SIFD books, records and cassettes should be sent to Mrs. Audrey Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts.

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This month's cover design is another in the series of Bohemian costumes drawn by Dorothy Bryan.

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WOULD ANY MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY EDWINA AND MICHAEL HOLDUP, 16 NETHERBY GARDENS, ENFIELD, MIDDX. AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

#### SECRETARY'S NOTES

As mentioned in my notes last month, the Committee were discussing a Day Course for Schoolteachers. The Day Course Sub-Committee have decided that this should be an extra Saturday, as our regular second-Saturday Courses are rather precious. We have therefore decided on 6th October 1979 for the Course for Schoolteachers. Details will be published later, but if you are a teacher or know anyone likely to be interested, please make a note in your diary or pass on the information.

You will have received details of the S.I.F.D. Summer School. We are looking forward to a bumper enrolment. Please hurry and send in your application form.

You will recall my recent request for pictures of costume detail. Contributions are coming in, and I have received a very welcome set of posters. Don't forget to sort through your collection, or bring some back for us when you go abroad this summer.

Our total membership reported at the February meeting is 384.

EDNA FOSTER Hon. Secretary

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#### BRISTOL DAY COURSE

The Fates were kind to us, for a change, and we had a relatively fine and mild weekend, between blizzards, for our Day Course on 20th January. Despite our fears, the Horrocks family arrived punctually on Friday evening, and almost all those expected to turn up were able to do so on the Saturday, including one friend who had spent part of Friday night digging her car out of snowdrifts on the way from Uttoxeter!

We had a good attendance for the morning session of Armenian dances, and a capacity crowd for the afternoon of Israeli. A good number also turned out for the evening Dance, when George Sweetland most ably took charge as M.C.

Altogether, it was a most successful and enjoyable day, and we should like to express our very warm thanks to Wilf and Frances Horrocks and to George Sweetland, who between them have given so much of their valuable time and expertise to help start, support, and revive a small and struggling provincial group. Next time we hold one of these courses, we would welcome a London contingent; if you think it is too far to come, remember that it's no further than for us to go to London functions!

HILDA STURGE 10 Carmarthen Road Bristol.

ALL MATERIAL FOR THE APRIL ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 15TH MARCH.

#### FOLK DANCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Folk dances are a clear and lively expression of the spiritual and material culture of a people, its history, language, poetry, music, and national costumes. Let us look at the map of Czechoslovakia with the eyes of an ethnologist. This country, with its advanced industry and rich cultural and historical heritage has accumulated on the relatively small area of 128,000 kilometres, a treasure of folk art. Each region and district has its specific expression. The two main ethnic areas, as they have been defined by experts, are: Bohemia and a part of Moravia up to the Morava River, characterized by a formal, quiet and artistically refined expression, and the rest of Moravia and all of Slovakia which have a rougher, more temperamental and simpler character. Each region has its core where the traditions are kept in their purest form and the surrounding area in which the influence of the customs of the adjacent regions can be found. Folk dances, i.e. the dances which were peculiar to the Czech and Slovak countryside, are an integral part of national culture. They embody the joy and vitality, the strength and courage of the rural folk, and stylize and use some elements of human activity, their work, and reflect certain natural phenomena. Not all folk dances are equally old. They may be divided into three groups according to their character and age.

The first are ceremonial, religious and work dances. These originated and developed at the dawn of Czech history and were linked with various celebrations, as for instance the ushering in of Spring. Their basic form was the circle or line formation, called "chorovod". The accompaniment was provided by song, fife and drum. An interesting variety are the women chorovody. Some of these, named "cipovicky", have survived to this day in some parts of Slovakia.

An example of the dances symbolizing certain spheres of human activity is called "Mak" (poppyseeds). It shows the sowing, tending and reaping of poppy seeds. The dance has been preserved in Slovakia. In Bohemia and Moravia it can only be found in vestige form in children's games.

In pair dances, in which the couples swing round and round, song, music and movement are of equal importance. The dance partners sing a stanza of the song in front of the band, the melody is picked up by the musicians, and the dancers whirl around. The musical accompaniment of these dances is simple because it originated at a time when primitive fiddles and the bagpipe with a small tonal range were making their first appearance. Later, when bands were enlarged, the dances became more intricate rhythmically and in their movement. The basic rhythm of these dances was two quarters, and the harmonic and rhythmical accompaniment was placed in a peculiar way. The dances are typical for Southern Moravia and Slovakia, where varieties of them have been preserved till now. With the exception of Chodsko (near Domazlice, Western Bohemia), and some parts of Southern Bohemia, these dances have disappeared in Bohemia.

Figural dances with rigid dance steps and patterns evolved with the rich development of folk instrumental music in the 18th century. As a rule, each dance has its specific melody. The figures of the dance are closely linked with the melody, its rhythm, tempo and dynamics. This group of dances had its biggest development in Bohemia. They are also an organic part of some Moravian regions. Some dances,

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called "mateniky", have a changeable rhythm, like 3/4 and 2/4 or 3/8 and 2/4, which are found mainly in Central Bohemia. Its best known example is the "Furiant". Typical of the Czech lands are pair dances and figural dances of several dance couples, mainly the "mateniky". Solo dances for men are rare, and women's comical dances have died out long ago, Nowadays, folk dances in Bohemia tend to be only danced in song and dance ensembles composed of workers, students, etc. who like to dance after work. Czechoslovakia has about 1,500 such ensembles. They dance not only for the joy of dancing.

In Moravia the situation is somewhat different. In many places folk dances are still a natural expression of the rural folk (even if the young ones can do modern dances as well). Western Moravia is greatly influenced by Czech culture and its dances are very similar to those in Bohemia. Eastern Moravia is a treasury of whirl dances, men's solo dances, and collective dances and dance games. All are expressive, spontaneous and swift, and are based on the dancer's free improvisation. Their character is influenced by the regional costumes for which high boots (czimy, with metal plating on the heels), tight-fitting pants, and wide, embroidered sleeves are typical. The dances games which have been preserved in Moravia include jesting swain games with which young shepherds passed their time away in the pasture. Their freshness, rhythm and swiftness intrigue the modern viewer still. That is why they are often included in the programmes of Czechoslovak song and dance ensembles and are a popular feature at home and abroad.

Slovakia also has many specific forms of folklore. Dances of various kinds and games are still popular. The men's dances are shows of strength, agility, wit and originality. They are the last remnants of the ancient hunters' and warriors' dances. Some of the nicest and most interesting men's dances are the brigand dances of the Slovak mountains. They are danced with a small hatchet on a long stick which was used for beating a path and for defence.

DR. KAREL KRAL

(Acknowledgement to "FOLK MUSICIAN AND SINGER")

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#### BEST WISHES

We were very sorry indeed to hear that Edith Cripps has not been at all well since her road accident some months ago and still has a broken leg. We hope you are beginning to feel better now, Edith, and it will not be long before you are fully recovered and back on the dancing scene.

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#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Frances and Wilf Horrocks have moved. Their new address is:- 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Tel: 01 642 3629.

# DAWNS MORFA RHUDDIAN

At the Cecil Sharp House Dance in March there will be a demonstration by Mrs. Patricia Collins (nee Jones) of one of the Welsh solo dances for women, the Dance of Morfa Rhuddlan. This is a symbolic dance, depicting the rise and fall of Wales, and is a lamentation after Llywellyn, the Last Prince. The dance was first described to Dr. Ceinwen Thomas by her mother, Catherine Margretta Thomas, who saw it performed when she was a child at "entertainment nights" (noweithiau difyr) in neighbours' houses and in her own home in Nantgarw. However, its performance appears to have ceased well before 1890.

A large paisley shawl was essential to the dance. The dancer Mrs. Thomas saw was clad in green and red to the ankles, and her shawl was predominantly green, yellow and red. Her feet were not in sight, and so Mrs. Thomas could not know in detail how her feet moved. The only thing she knew was that the old woman's feet made a fast sound on the kitchen floor as though they went around the floor smoothly, as if on a wheel - "reeling" was the word used by the dancer and the rest of the villagers to describe this type of dancing.

The dance itself depends entirely on individual interpretation but the main headings must be adhered to:

1) Wales gathering her resources.

2) Hearing the battle call and looking for the enemy.

3) In the battle.

4) Retreat, seeing the English in the clothes of Wales, and Wales steadying herself.

5) Final effort, realisation of treachery and battle turns.

6) Wales overcome with the defeat and death of Llewellyn.

I hope these few notes will give greater meaning to the emotion portrayed in the dance.

PETER OAKLEY

(With acknowledgement to "Dawns", the magazine of the Welsh Folk Dance Society, and the Secretary of the Society, Mrs. Jean Huw Jones).

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# TEACHER REQUIRED

The Dulwich Institute, which has evening class branches in Peckham and Dulwich, London, is very anxious to start a folk dance class on Tuesday and/or Wednesday evenings, from September 1979. Would anyone interested in teaching such a class please contact Mrs. Bailey or Miss Canon, as soon as possible, on Ol 274 8027, mentioning that the enquiry was passed on via me - Lily Southgate.

#### THE DAY OF THE BADGERS

Saturday February 10th was the day when the record number of 32 prospective Silver Badgers gathered at Hugh Myddelton School for the Bert Price Proficiency Examinations in Polish, Norwegian, Italian and Estonian dancing. Initially there were difficulties with the hall, since our usual one on the first floor was being painted. We were, however, soon established in the ground floor hall (near the tea urn!) doing warming up dances.

There were 23 girls and 9 men taking the badges, which meant that most of the men did the dances several times. We are particularly grateful for the "extra" men who came along simply as partners without wishing to try for a badge. It would have been impossible to run the examinations without their help - especially in the Polish dances.

The results were as follows:

Polish: 7 passed 1 referred

Italy: 27 passed

Norway: 15 passed 3 referred Estonia: 4 passed 2 failed

The Italian dances were generally well done with a gay, vivacious style. There were 8 passes with commendation in this group.

Our thanks go to all those who examined, played, marshalled, danced, made tea or helped generally to make the day run smoothly.

CHARLES STEVENTON.

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# S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE IN CATALAN DANCES

# SATURDAY 10TH MARCH

This month Lucile Armstrong, assisted by members of her group, will be teaching the following Catalan dances:

La Bolangera de Solsona, Contrapas de San Genis, Ball de Nans de Berga, Galop de Cortesia, Contrapas de Xinxina, Espanyolet, Dances de Vilanova y Geltru.

As usual the course will be from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, London, E.C.1. Fee: 50p members £1 non-members. Tea and coffee available. Please bring a packed lunch.

# FRENCH DAY COURSE & SOIREE on SATURDAY, 24TH MARCH 1979

# At HOLY FAMILY CONVENT SCHOOL, LONDON ROAD, ENFIELD, MIDDX

# Teachers: JOAN & SIMON GUEST

French dances will be taught from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2.15 to 4.30 p.m. Tea and coffee will be available at 10.30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

The Soiree will start at 7.30 p.m. and finish at 10.30 p.m. and will not be exclusively French.

Admission:

Please wear a costume at the Soiree.

Tickets will be on sale at Cecil Sharp House Dance on 4th March, or write or telephone to book - 65 Crescent Road, New Barnet, Herts. Tel: 01 440 4862.

Any profit will be donated to Holy Family School Building Fund.

The school is situated very near to the centre of Enfield, opposite the public car park and catholic church on the A.105. Enfield Town Station is very near, and Enfield Chase Station about half a mile away. Parking in playground - entrance in Chalkwell Park Avenue, off Lincoln Road.

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# MONTHLY "DEMONSTRATION/REVISION" CLASSES

The dates for the next monthly Friday classes at Chequer Centre are:-

2nd March 30th March

6.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Also in March at Chequer Centre, as announced in the January issue, there will be Polish classes for those requiring more tuition or who are unable to attend the regular Monday classes.

16th March 23rd March

7 to 9 p.m.

The address of the Centre is: Chequer Street, off Whitecross Street, off Old Street, London E.C.l.

#### CATALAN COSTUME

As this month's S.I.F.D. Day Course is to be Catalan dances, it seems appropriate to reprint a description of Catalan costumes from SIFD NEWS of twenty years ago. ED.

Men. The breeches, which may be either baggy or tightly fitting, reach to just below the knee. Blue, white, or black are fairly typical colours. If the breeches are baggy, they should be of a soft heavy cotton, or light linen. If tightly fitting, a smooth firm wool is usual. White stockings are worn, and either black shoes or rope-soled sandals.

A white shirt is worn, buttoned down to the waist, with a fairly deep turned-down collar. The sleeves gather into a cuff which has a frill on the edge of about  $l_{\overline{z}}^{1}$  deep. A wide sash is worn around the waist with fairly short ends hanging at the left side.

There is also a jacket or bolero - or both - in blue, green or purple. The jacket is often of velvet, and reaches only to the waist. It has a small stand-up collar  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, and wide revers, held back in place with gold or silver filigree buttons. Sometimes the revers are faced with a contrasting colour. The sleeves are long and fairly tight, with the frill of the shirt cuff pulled out to show below the jacket sleeve. Just occasionally the jacket is sleeveless.

The bolero is mostly made from linen or smooth wool, and is of similar colours to the jacket. It does not fasten, and falls loose, leaving the shirt front exposed.

Girls. The girls wear a skirt reaching to the lower calf, which is flared and also slightly gathered to give extra fullness without making a bulging hipline. It is usually made of cotton with a floral design on a background of a pastel shade. It may be trimmed around the hem with a band of coloured ribbon, and a further band may be added 6" up from the hemline. A very pretty apron is usually worn over the skirt, light in colour, and dainty in weight and design, edged with a small frill. This may be of light colour, or of black lace.

A sleeveless white blouse with a big frill for a collar is covered by a closefitting bodice in a dark colour. It has tight sleeves reaching to the elbow. Black mittens reaching well up the arm are also a special feature of the costume, ideally they should be made of lace.

The hair is covered with a loose black snood, with a ribbon bow tied in front. A wide, embroidered shawl, edged with a wide fringe or a wide border of lace, is folded into a triangle and draped around the shoulders, with the point at the back. The front corners of the shawl are folded across the front and the ends are tucked into the apron waistband. Sometimes the shawl is thrown round the head and fastened under the chin.

White stockings and footwear similar to those worn by the men complete the costume.

# HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Near Bournemouth: a two-bedroomed bungalow at Wimborne, available for short lets this Spring and Summer. Moderate rent for S.I.F.D. members. Details from Margaret Joyner, 113 Hartswood Road, London W.12. (Tel: 01 749 3344).

FOR SALE - A pair of Croatian opanke (leather shoes), size  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , in good condition, £4.00. Apply: Caroline Thomas, 77 Forest Road, London E.17. (Tel: 01 527 4896).

# EUROPEAN FOLK DANCE "SEMINARS"

Members thinking of visiting Europe this Spring and Summer may be interested in the following:-

- 8th/15th April GREEK FOLK DANCE SEMINAR, in Athens. Greek folk dences taught, slides and films on various aspects of Greek folklore, visits with local dance groups, evening visits to tavernas, etc.
- 1st/8th July CATALAN FOLK DANCE SEMINAR, in Barcelona. Folk dances from Catalonia, Valencia and Mallorca taught, lectures on various aspects of Catalan folklore, short excursions in the region, visits with local dance groups, etc.
- 11th/19th July YUGOSLAV FOLKDANCE SEMINAR, in Kragujevac, in the Sumadija region of Serbia. Folkdances from Sumadija, Vojvodina, East Serbia and Vlach taught, lectures on various aspects of Yugoslav folklore, short excursions in the region, visits with local dance groups, general international folk dance parties for all, special workshop on Labanotation.
- 21st/29th July HUNGARIAN FOLKDANCE SEMINAR, in Sarospatak (256 kms North-East of Budapest). Folk dances for couples, women, men taught, lectures on various aspects of Hungarian folklore, short excursions in the region, visits with local dance groups, etc.
- 5th/12th August BULGARTAN FOLKDANCE SEMINAR, in Koprivstica (105 kms East of Sofia). Bulgarian folkdances taught, lectures on various aspects of Bulgarian folklore, short excursions in the region, visits with local dance groups, etc.

Details and further information of all the above can be obtained from: Folkraft - Europe, Rue Saint-Norbert 6, B-1090 Brussels, Belgium.

#### S.I.F.D. AFFILIATED GROUPS

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Friday 8 to 10 p.m. at Stevenage Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Old Stevenage, Herts. Secretary: Roy Bowtell, 9 Beech Drive, Stevenage, Herts. Tel: Stevenage 2871.

KAROMA FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at South Wellfield Middle School, Whitley Bay, each Wednesday in term time from 12.30 to 2 p.m. Tutor: Kaye Lewis Poole, 50 Antonine Walk, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland. Tel: Wylam 2495. Further information from Brenda Ross, 26 Waterloo Road, Wellfield, Whitley Bay. Tel: Whitley Bay 534597.

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday (except and of July and all August) at Wilbraham Road United Reformed Church Hall, Charlton, Manchester, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further details from Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Charlton Road, Manchester (Tel: 061 881 3613).

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Borough Green Village Hall, 7.45 to 10 p.m. Chairman: Ernie Nolan, 16 Drylands Road, Borough Green. Tel: Borough Green 883380. Secretary: Heather Dobson, 8 Holmesdale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tel: Sevenoaks 57455. The group breaks for four weeks during August.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC DANCERS (Czechoslovak dancing) meet every Wednesday at the Fox School, Kensington Institute, Kensington Place, London, W.8. (nearest Underground: Notting Hill Gate) from 7 to 9.30 p.m. Beginners and Advanced. Tutor: Hedy Fromings. Tel: 01 699 8597.

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

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REMINDER: Affiliated and Associated groups and classes who wish to be listed in the SIFD NEWS must send details to the <u>Editor</u> as well as to Frank Flanagan.

#### S.I.F.D. BRANCHES

"SELPAR" (Midlands Branch of SIFD). Classes on Tuesdays evenings in term time, 7.15 to 9.00 p.m. at Selly Park School, Stirchley, Pershore Road, Birmingham. Teacher: Miss S. Chapman. Further details from Rod Perkins, 3 Linnet Close, Bournville, Birmingham B301XB. Tel: 021 471 1373.

# S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

#### DANISH

Every Monday in The Drama Hall, Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, London S.E.3. 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Gaye Saunte.

# EASTERN EUROPEAN

Every Tuesday at St. Marylebone School, 74 Marylebone High Street (off Baker Street) London. 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Tutor: Alan McLean.

# EUROPEAN NATIONAL

Every Wednesday at St. Albans School, Baldwins Gardens, London, 6.00 to 7.00 p.m. Beginners. 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. General & Advanced. Tutor: Janet Woolbar.

At Rutlish School, Watery Lane, London, S.W.20 during term time: Beginners on Mondays 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. (Two classes 15-30 and over 30s). Advanced on wednesdays 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Contact: Charles Steventon. Tel: 542 3831.

# HUNGARIAN (including Transylvanian)

Every Friday at Millbank School, Erasmus Street, Pimlico, London (behind Tate Gallery and 5 minutes from Pimlico Station). 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Alan McLean.

# ISRAELI

Every Wednesday at Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, London, S.E.3. 7 to 8 p.m. Beginners. 8 to 10 p.m. Advanced. Tutor: Gaye Saunte (Tel: 01 318 0237).

Every Thursday at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London, S.E.11. 6.15 to 7.15 p.m. Basic Israeli Dance Course. 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Advanced. Tutor: Fiona Howarth. New members should consult Fiona before enrolling for the Advanced Class.

# POLISH

Every Monday at Christopher Hatton School, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1. 6.45 to 7.45 p.m. Beginners. 8 to 10 p.m. Advanced. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

# JUGOSLAV

Every Tuesday at West Square Branch of South Bank Institute, St. George's Road, London, S.E.1. 6.15 to 8.15 p.m. Beginners and Intermediate. 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. Advanced. Tutor: Ken Ward.

#### SUNDAY DANCES

Mar. 4th Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.

M.C. Peter Oakley (introducing some Welsh, Manx and English dances - see page 6)

Apr. 1st Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.
M.C. Charles Steventon (introducing some Iberian dances)

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

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#### WHAT'S ON

Mar. 9th/11th POLISH WEEKEND AT PHILIPPS HOUSE

10th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE IN CATALAN DANCES. See page 9.

12th/17th MZUMBA. African music and dances. Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon. Tickets £1.75 to £3.00.

13th/17th IRAQI NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY. Traditional music and dances from Iraq, at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London. Tickets 75p to £4.00.

AN EVENING OF FRENCH DANCES at Barnet International Folk Dance Club, Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, Herts. at 8 p.m. Tutor: Simon Guest. Enquiries to Janet Heathfield, Ol 368 5345.

ISRAELI DAY COURSE and INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL DANCE, at Derby
Lonsdale College of Higher Education (Mickleover site),
Chevin Avenue, Western Road, Mickleover, Derby. The Day Course
will be taught by Fiona Howarth, and the dances taught will be
included in the evening's programme. The College is on a very
pleasant site and is easily reached from all directions.
Details and application forms from Marine Wolstenholme at the
College address.

24th FRENCH DAY COURSE & SOIREE. See page 8

30th/Apr.lst BALKAN WEEKEND AT DUNFORD

April 7th

4TH ANNUAL DANCE of Havering International Folk Dance Group, at Ardleigh House, Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch (near Gallows Corner), 7.30 to 11 p.m. Tickets in advance from Eve Wildy (Tel: Hornchurch 52146) 52 Slewins Lane, Hornchurch, Essex. £1.25 (£1.00 members) including refreshments. Tickets will also be sold at the door.