

SIFD News

August 1982



BULGARIA

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Southgate, 31 Barbrook House, Chatham Place, London, E.9.
Tel: 01 985 0428 (evenings Monday to Friday).

The printing, collating and packing is organized by Doug Wells and family. The stencils were typed this month by Kelsey Blundell.

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This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas and shows costumes from Bulgaria.

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CHAIRMAN: Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, London, SW19. Tel: 01 542 3831.

SECRETARY: Joan Rackham, 16 Bathurst Avenue, Wimbledon, London, SW19.
Tel: 01 543 1891.

TREASURER: Judith Holloway, 28 Shepherds Road, Watford, Herts., WD1 7HX.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Dorothy Bryan, 1 Braunston Mansions, 28 Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1. Tel: 01 837 2438.

DEMONSTRATION SECRETARY: Kay Leighton, 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts.
Tel: Kings Langley 62763.

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A FIXTURE DIARY for organizers to check for duplication on dates, and also to confirm those arranged by them, is kept on behalf of the SIFD by Frank Flanagan. His address is:- 124 Fairbridge Road, Upper Holloway, London, N19.
Tel: 01 272 5003. Suggested time to ring - between 5 and 6 p.m.

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

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SIFD T-shirts, small, medium and large, available at £2.50 each from Kay Leighton (address above). Cheques and postal orders should be made out to SIFD.

S.I.F.D. BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY BADGE

Saturday, 10th July, saw another successful day of examinations for the SIFD Bert Price Proficiency Badge. A total of 27 members took part, and the six countries featured were Israel, Italy, Romania, Germany, Pays Basque and Czechoslovakia. The results were as follows.

- Israel 8 people were examined in the dances of Israel, of whom 6 gained a Silver Badge. Judith Holloway and Liz Raybould were commended.
- Italy 9 people took part; 8 passed. Susan Willcox was commended.
- Romania 12 people were examined. 7 passed.
- Germany All 14 of the people who took part were successful.
- Czechoslovakia 8 people were examined. 6 passed.
- Pays Basque All 6 members who were tested for the Basque country's dances were congratulated on the style and knowledge of the dances, with the exception of Fandango, one of the compulsory dances. Therefore, no passes were awarded, as it was felt that more practice on this particular dance was needed by all the contestants. As on a previous occasion in the examinations for this country, it was agreed by all concerned that the contestants should be permitted to present Fandango again at a later date to be arranged and, if successful, be awarded a Silver Badge without having to repeat the other dances in the Basque syllabus.

This was the first time that Romania has been chosen for a Badge Test. The particularly relaxed style is difficult to acquire, and style is, of course, of major importance for all the countries - more so even than knowledge of the dances since style is what distinguishes the dances of one country from another. Also, where calls or shouts are an intrinsic part of the dance, these must be learned thoroughly and employed with conviction. This is equally true of the Cobblers & Blacksmiths' dance of Czechoslovakia where the words of the "paying song" add to the meaning of the dance and should be sung by all who dance it.

These and other helpful comments were made by the individual panels of adjudicators in their summing-up, and it is hoped that those who were not successful in gaining a Silver Badge in a particular country will be encouraged by the assessors' constructive criticism to try again next time.

One or two members had prepared for the tests but decided not to take part after all. It is hoped that they will do so at a later date but the fact that so many members take the trouble to try to achieve the style and technique of the different countries' dances they enjoy, whether they are examined or not, is a measure of the success of the aims of these tests.

At the end of the day, three people were awarded Gold Badges, having gained Silver Badges in five different countries. They were Naomi Blackman, Judith Holloway and Liz Raybould.

Of the 27 contestants, 10 were new entrants, trying their hand (and feet) for

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the first time.

Many congratulations to all the successful candidates. Better luck next time to those not so successful, and a big Thank You to those dancers who came just to act as partners though not being examined themselves; to the musicians and judges and stewards who worked hard to make the day run smoothly and successfully. Having both Storrow and Trefusis rooms available to us meant a much easier control of the contestants as well as ensuring greater privacy for those being examined.

KELSEY BLUNDELL, for the
Badge Sub-Committee

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A NEW RECORD

"BLOWZABELLA" have issued a new record of traditional dance music. On Side 1 are French, Anglo-Irish, Flemish, Macedonian and Medieval English tunes, and on Side 2 old traditional English and French dance tunes. The instruments used are hurdy-gurdy, recorder, flute, curtal, tin whistle, melodeon, tambura, drums, rauschfeife, bombard, saxophone, bouzouki and English, Flemish and Macedonian bagpipes.

Some of the tunes are familiar to us and would be a pleasure to dance to. Others are a joy to just listen to, and the whole record has a truly authentic sound, including the vocal items.

Dancing a bourree or a polka piquee to the traditional instruments is so much more exciting than to a piano or an accordeon, and I feel that the S.I.F.D. would do well to get BLOWZABELLA to make a French record for the Society, and perhaps a Macedonian one too. I shall certainly recommend it to the Committee.

The record is called "BLOWZABELLA" and is issued under the Plant Life label. If you cannot find it in the shops, Plant Life Records address is Edison Chambers, 107 Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts. (Tel: (0462) 58555). Or you can obtain it for £5 including postage and packing from Goat-Bag Records, 7 Nesbit Close, London SE3.

LILY SOUTHGATE

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STOP PRESS

Book this date now and be sure not to miss the MARGERY LATHAM MEMORIAL DANCE which will be held on SATURDAY 7TH MAY 1983 at Porchester Hall, London.

For those of you who did not know her Margery did a tremendous amount of work for our Society and many of us would not be able to enjoy our dancing today were it not for all the time, effort and enthusiasm she put into teaching us. Book the date now! Full details will be published later.

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY THE EDITOR, IN WRITING, BY 15TH AUGUST.

Dear Lily,

As a newcomer to the Bert Price Proficiency Examination system, I should like to offer a few observations regarding the examinations held on 10th July.

I thank the Badge Sub-Committee and their helpers, some of whom journeyed a considerable distance, for all their time and effort devoted to the organization of this event. Candidates probably perceive only the tiny tip of a substantial iceberg in this respect and I should like to record my appreciation here.

One thing I learned early in the day. As a candidate under the stress of examination it is not easy to smile - and keep on smiling - however much one may enjoy the actual dancing! So please, Dance Examiners, could you use every means at your disposal to reduce the tension of the occasion and, maybe, smile more often? I feel that this could help the candidates to relax a little, enable them perhaps to perform nearer to their capability and offer that bit of extra "zing" which the Examiners look for on such occasions.

The environment afforded by Trefusis has been the subject of some discussion and correspondence, to which I would only add my endorsement of the sentiments expressed by Diki Gleeson in the June issue of SIFD NEWS.

How fundamental is the difference between live and recorded music for dancing! I understand the need for recorded music in certain circumstances, but how much more pleasurable it was to dance when Wilf Horrocks was playing for us. We who are privileged to enjoy his musicianship regularly should count our blessings.

Some aspects of the day were distinctly nerve-wracking, others somewhat irritating, yet others delightful. However, the advice, constructive criticism and practical assistance freely given by the organizers and the experienced dancers present was impressive indeed. Surely one great value of the Proficiency Examination system must be that it provides a timely reminder that we need never stop learning about the dance culture of other countries. I certainly learned a lot, not only about many of the dances in the syllabus but also about the Society and about some of the members who help to make it tick.

But the outstanding feature of the day for me was the helpful, cheery companionship offered by my fellow candidates, often in subtle ways, both on and off the dance floor.

My grateful thanks go to all those involved in a stimulating and memorable day.

Sincerely,

HARRY MATTHEWS,
68 Gloucester Road,
Kingston-upon-Thames,
Surrey

SUMMER COURSES

I have received notice of two very interesting courses taking place this summer in Yugoslavia. As so often happens, I am afraid I received the information far too late for members to book. If anyone does have news of events taking place both here and on the Continent, I should be grateful if they could send details to me in good time. I am giving details of the Yugoslav courses anyway, just so that anyone interested can note the address and perhaps write to enquire about future seminars and courses. The seminar on Folk Musical Instruments sounds particularly good as opportunities to learn how to play these authentic instruments are not easily available. ED.

SEMINAR FOR PLAYERS OF FOLK MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, Korcula, 1st to 15th August 1982.

PROSVJETNI SABOR HRVATSKE (EDUCATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CROATIA) and ODBOR ZA PLESNU KULTURU (COMMITTEE FOR DANCE CULTURE) are organizing a SEMINAR FOR PLAYERS OF FOLK MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS from 1st to 15th August 1982 in Korcula. The purpose of the seminar is to instruct people attending how to play some typical instruments and perform a traditional repertoire on them.

The programme includes the following instruments:

- 1) DIPLE S MJESINOM (DALMATIA). Aerophone of clarinette type, with goatskin, without Bourdon pipe.
- 2) ILIJERICA (DALMATIA). Cordophones, played with a bow, used almost exclusively for dance melodies (ex poskocica - lindo).
- 3) SOPILE (SOPELE) or ROZENICE. Pair of instruments: VELA (the big one) and MALA (little one) SOPELA. The instruments are of the oboe type and typical of the region of Istra and the Island Krk.
- 4) GAJDA (MACEDONIA). Aerophone of clarinette type, with goatskin and bourdon pipe.
- 5) TAPAN (MACEDONIA). Membranophones, with two stretched over each end of the cylinder.
- 6) SUPELKA, KOVALCE (MACEDONIA). Aerophones, pipes that produce sound by blowing over the rim of the tube.
- 7) TAMBURASKI SASTAV (CROATIA). Multiple cordophones, plucked (bisernica, brac, bugarija, berda).

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LJETNA SKOLA FOLKLORA - SUMMER SCHOOL OF FOLKLORE, at Badija, near Island Korcula.

The Adriatic zone, from 19th July to 7th August 1982 .

The Vardar zone (Macedonia), from 8th to 17th August 1982.

Yugoslav folklore is classified into six different zones, and each summer two separate seminars, dealing with two of these zones, are offered. Both seminars are held in two groups, in alternate sessions, leaving either the morning or the afternoon free. Guests at the seminars will include authentic musicians and dancers.

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The address to write to for both the above seminars is: PROSVJETNI SABOR HRVATSKE, Odbor za plesnu kulturu, Zagreb, Socijalisticke revolucije 17/IV, Yugoslavia.

THE DANCES OF THE U.S.S.R. - KADRILS AND LANTSHIKS

A couple of months ago I told you about the oldest form of Russian Folk Dances: the Khorovody. Now I will tell you something that may surprise you; all over the Russian Federal Republic (as opposed to the U.S.S.R. with its many other Republics) they dance Quadrilles, or, as they call them "Kadrils". These are, of course, a fairly new form of folk dance, and this is how it came about: while the gentry were having their balls and assemblies, with all kinds of imported dances like Quadrilles, Lancers, Polkas, Mazurkas etc., the serfs and servants watched, and took over the choreographies of some of these dances, but gave them their own Russian interpretation of movements. Thus practically every region has its own "Kadril" or/and "Lantshik" (Lancer), and performing companies especially also give them their interpretation of characters.

This, for instance, is the Quadrille for Moiseyev's Russian State Dance Company. A musician sits in the middle of the stage playing his "Garmoshka" (accordeon), and four couples walk round him. There is a very tall thin man, who obviously thinks a lot of himself, and, waving his handkerchief, gives out the order of the figures. His lady looks up to him adoringly. Then there is a small fat man, and his well-built wife, who is taller than he is. These have obviously been married for quite some time. Rather disinterestedly they walk side by side, eating sunflower seeds out of a paper bag and spitting out the husks. The third couple have just become engaged - while they are in front of the stage he gives her the ring - and the fourth couple are very young; shyly he gives her a ribbon which she duly admires. After going round once or twice they take up their positions in the four corners, the musician disappears, the orchestra takes over, and the dance begins. One can see they are all town people, not peasants, dressed up in their Sunday best; the men in jackets and peaked caps, the women in high-necked, long-sleeved dresses with flounced skirts, about calf-length. In the Moiseyev production they do not wear hats, but other Ensembles have, for instance, little straw boaters with flowers and ribbons.

The characters are maintained throughout the dance, everybody very much on their dignity, the women looking each other up and down, jealous when their men leave them to dance with another's partner (the engaged girl consoling herself by looking at her ring). And then, when the men come back looking like the cat who has eaten the cream, the girls, noses in the air, pass them by in their turn, to dance with other men, while their own partners look stupified. In another production one of the girls really "blows her top" at the end, and when they go off, her boyfriend is still trying to talk her round and "explain everything".

Space permitting, perhaps I may describe a few more of these "Kadrils" another time.

JENIA GRAMAN

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The next SIFD DAY COURSE will be held on Saturday 11th September at Cecil Sharp House in the Main Hall. Brian Dowsett will be teaching dances from the record made by the Dunav Balkan Group, which was reviewed in the December 1981 issue of SIFD NEWS. A list of the dances to be taught will be published next month.

S.I.F.D. AFFILIATED GROUPS

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday (except end of July and all August) at Wilbraham Road United Reformed Church Hall (corner of Withington Rd), Chorlton, Manchester 21, from 7.30 to 10 pm. Further details from Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Rd., Manchester, M16 0BN.

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB meets every Friday, October to June, at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, 8 to 10.30 pm. Leader: Brian Dowsett. Secretary: Janet Heathfield, 29 Cedar Ave., East Barnet, Herts. Tel: 01 368 5345, but for the time being please ring Brian Dowsett (Hertford 52717) instead of Janet.

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday during term time, 7 to 9 pm at Cotham Grammar School, Cotham Lawn Road, Bristol 6. For further information contact Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Rd., Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0272 621802.

CANONS FOLK DANCERS Meet every Tuesday, 7.30 to 9.45 pm usually at Park High School, Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middx. in term time only. Nearest Underground station Canons Park (Jubilee Line). For further details contact the Secretary, Miss Judith Holloway, 28 Shepherds Road, Watford, Herts, WD1 7HX. Tel: Watford 25480.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday during the winter and spring terms from 7.30 to 9 pm at South Kent College of Technology, Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone, Kent. Further details from the Chairman: John Whittaker, 20 Cherry Garden Lane, Folkestone. Tel: Folkestone 75376.

HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB meets evenings for English/Playford/American/Clog/Sword dancing BUT on 4th Sunday of every month (except August and December) for International Folk Dancing from 7 to 10 pm, usually with Derek Mulquin, at Harrow Arts Centre (opposite Harrow Weald Bus Garage), 356 High Road, Harrow Weald, Harrow. Contact: John Lawes, 01 907 4700.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday in term time at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Romford, from 8 to 10 pm. Tutor: Eleanor Oakley. For further details please ring the Secretary, Mrs. Eve Wildy, Hornchurch 52146.

INTERDANCE, WORTHING (International Folk Dance Club) meets every Tuesday, 7.30 pm at Haverfield House, Union Place, Worthing, Sussex (same road as Connaught Theatre). General International. Further details from Iris E. Birch, 11 Merlin Court, 106 Littlehampton Road, Worthing, Sussex. Tel: Worthing 691651.

KAROMA INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Friday, 7 to 8.30 pm during term time at Briardene First School, Whitley Bay. Further details from tutor, Kaye Lewis Poole, 50 Antonine Walk, Heddon-on-Wall, Newcastle. Tel: Wylam 2495.

LYKION TON HELLINIDON hold Greek Folk Dance classes at 12-14 Cottesmore Gardens, London W1 on Tuesdays 1-2 pm (adults), Wednesdays 5-6 pm (children), Thursdays 6.30 to 7.30 (beginners), Fridays 6.30 to 7.30 pm (advanced). Enquiries: Tel. 01 937 0084 (Mondays to Fridays 11.30 to 4).

NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday between 7.30 and 9.30 pm (except during August and Bank Holiday weeks), at Kirk Hallam Community School, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, Nr Ilkeston. Secretary: Miss G. Coulton, 14 Lawrence Ave., Awsworth, Notts. Tel: Ilkeston 303665.

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Monday throughout the year (excl. some Bank Holidays and 6th Sept 1982) at 8 pm at Blackfriars, St. Giles, Oxford. Further details from Diana Porteus, 105 Southway Road, Oxford, OX2 6RE. Tel: Oxford (0865) 57543.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Friday at 8 pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Albert St., Stevenage, Herts. Secretary: Mrs. S. Leavy, 10 Orchard Road, Hitchin. Tel: Hitchin 52502.

THE TURKISH FOLK DANCE GROUP meets on Thursday evenings in term time, 7 to 9 pm at Gateway School, corner of Frampton Street and Lisscn Grove (near Edgware Road Underground). Tutor: Halil Celebioglu. Secretary: Pauline Welch, Tel: 01 393 1919 (home) and 01 337 6976 (school).

WIGGINTON INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday during term time at Wigginton (near Tring) Junior School at 8 pm. Further details from Margaret Cullen, Hemel Hempstead 58277.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday 7.45 to 10 pm at the Church Hall, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. Secretary: Linda Bryce, 9 Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

WYCOMBE FOLK DANCE CLUB meets every Monday (except August and Bank Holidays) 7.45 to 10.15 pm at the Sir William Ramsay School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere. For further details please contact the club leader, Uri Gerson. Tel: High Wycombe 23434.

Classes/Groups are reminded that they must send details direct to the Editor, if they wish to be listed in SIFD NEWS.

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S.I.F.D. BRANCHES

"SELPAR" (West Midlands Branch of SIFD). Classes on Tuesday evenings in term time, 7.15 to 9 pm at Selly Park School, Stirchley, Pershore Road, Birmingham. Teacher: Sybil Chapman. Also a "Club Evening" on Wednesdays in term time, 7.15 to 9.15 pm at Lyndon School, Daylesford Road, Solihull. Further details of both from Mrs. Juliet Mackintosh, 501 Brook Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham B13 OBU. Tel: 021 777 4300.

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S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

POLISH

Monday evenings, Beginners 6.45 to 7.45 pm. General & Advanced 8 to 10 pm. Christopher Hatton School, Laystall A Street, Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

EUROPEAN NATIONAL

Monday evenings. Beginners 7.30 to 9.30 pm (two classes, 15-30s and over 30s) at Willows High School, Central Road, Morden SM4 5SE. Wednesday evenings, Advanced 7.30 to 9.30 pm at Sir Joseph Hood Centre, Whatley Avenue, London SW20 9NS, during term time. Contact: Charles Steventon. Tel: 01 542 3831.

GENERAL INTERNATIONAL

Wednesday evenings. Beginners 6 to 7 pm. General & Advanced 7.15 to 9.15 pm. St. Albans School, Baldwins Gardens, London, EC1. Tutor: Janet Woolbar.

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ISRAELI

Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 pm at Drama Hall, Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, London, SE3. Tutor: Gaye Saunte. Tel: 01 318 0237.

Wednesday evenings 7 to 9 pm at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green St., Oval, London, SE11. Tutor: Fiona Howarth. Tel: 01 460 0823.

YUGOSLAV

Tuesday evenings. Beginners & Intermediate 6.15 to 8.15 pm. Advanced 8.30 to 9.30 pm at West Square Branch of South Bank Institute, St. George's Road, London, SE1. Tutor: Ken Ward. Secretary: John White, 10 Durnsford Avenue, London, SW19 8BH. Tel: 01 947 2417.

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Tuesday evenings 6.30 to 8.30 pm at St. Marylebone School, 64 Marylebone High St. (off Baker St.) London. Tutor: Alan McLean.

HUNGARIAN (including Transylvanian)

Friday evenings, 6.30 to 9.30 pm at Millbank School, Erasmus St., Pimlico, London (5 minutes from Pimlico Station). Tutor: Alan McLean.

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WEEKENDS AT DUNFORD

It has been customary to hold a weekend at Dunford in July each year. However there will be no Dunford weekend in July 1983. Instead, there is a possibility of booking a longer period, of between four and seven days, at Dunford, starting on Saturday, 7th August 1983. If anyone is likely to be interested, would they please let me know by the end of August this year, also stating their preference for number of days. It cannot be for just the Friday evening to Sunday tea as is usual but has to be for between four and seven days.

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

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WELSH FOLK DANCING

If anyone is interested in meeting to do some Welsh folk dances, would they please contact Anthony Long, 18 Heysham Road, London, N15. (Tel: 01 809 0146, most evenings).

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CONGRATULATIONS to Barbara and Rod Perkins on the birth of their daughter last month. Our best wishes to all three.

SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London, NW1.

August 1st M.C. Roland Minton
September 5th M.C. Wilf Horrocks (Musicians' choice)

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: £1 for SIFD members, £1.30 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON

August 1st/9th ISRAEL FOLK DANCE ASSOCIATION SUMMER CAMP at Hatfield
Full details from IFDA (Summer Camp), c/o Mr. P. Jonas, 134
Alderney St., London, SW1.

July 31st to INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE WEEK at Llwyngwril, nr. Fairbourne
August 7th (nearest town Tywyn) in Snowdonia. Details from Folk Camps
Society Ltd., Folk House, 10 Richmond Road, Exeter.

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S.I.F.D. MEMBERSHIP 1982/83

Members are reminded that their current S.I.F.D. membership expires at the end of this month. Renewal forms are enclosed with this issue of SIFD NEWS and should be sent, with remittance, to the Membership Secretary.

Affiliated Groups

Your affiliation expires at the end of this month. If you wish to renew it for the coming year, please apply to Frank Flanagan (address on page 2) who will submit your application to the Committee.

Associated Classes

Your class association has to be approved by the Committee for next year's classes. If you wish to renew your association, please apply to Frank Flanagan who will submit your application to the Committee. Please note that the teacher of the class has to be a fully paid-up member of the S.I.F.D. and approved by the Committee as a teacher.

Affiliated and Associated groups/classes

Please note that after the group/class membership has been approved by the Committee, if you wish details to be listed in SIFD NEWS you must send details direct to the Editor. To be included in the October NEWS (and repeated each month thereafter) details must reach the Editor by 15th September. All current groups will be listed in September issue to cover the interim period.

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