

SIFD NEWS

Feb 1984



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Southgate, 33 Thornton Crescent, Old Coulsdon, Surrey.
Tel: Downland (71) 54377.

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 Lesley Boorer and shows a Mexican headdress of a Tehuantepec costume, worn in two different ways. It is called a Huipil Grande.

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Roland Minton, 10 Benyon Court, Balmes Road, London. N1.

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 Audrey Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts.

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SIFD T-shirts, small, medium and large, available at £2.50 each (while stocks last) from Kay Leighton - address above. New design T-shirts, £2.70 (£3 by post) available in small, medium, large and extra-large sizes.

Car stickers available from Judith Holloway (address above), 30p each. Please send s.a.e. 4" square.

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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.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Enclosed with this month's issue of SIFD NEWS you will find a questionnaire. It has two purposes: one, to find out how our membership is composed and what members would like to see included in our activities; two, to help plan our future publicity, based on your answers, which will indicate what has been the most effective approach in the past.

As you will see, there is no provision for inclusion of your name and address, as it is intended that information given will not be attributable to particular persons.

The closer we can get to a 100% return, the more valuable and accurate the conclusions will be, so that I very much hope that all members will complete the form and let me have it as soon as possible.

If you have a joint membership, we will enclose two copies of the questionnaire, one for yourself and one for your spouse. If you find the second copy has been inadvertently omitted from the envelope, would you please repair the omission by answering the questions on a separate plain sheet of paper.

You can let me have the forms back in one of three ways. You can send them to me directly to the address below, or hand them to me in a plain envelope at the next Cecil Sharp House dance, or, if you belong to a class or group, I am sure someone will be prepared to collect all the completed forms and send them to me in bulk to save postage.

Please help us by not putting the form on the mantelpiece and forgetting all about it! And remember, no names or addresses.

GEORGE SWEETLAND,
Publicity Officer,
28 Hayes Court,
Camberwell New Road,
London, SE5

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

At the January Committee Meeting, the Chairman welcomed David McKie of Woodvale Folk Dance Group who was co-opted as a member of the Committee. We are very grateful to David for agreeing to serve with us. This still leaves one vacancy.

The new T-shirts were available for sale at the Cecil Sharp House Dance on 8th January. The very attractive shirts, featuring a circle of dancing figures, designed by Lesley Boorer, are available from Kay Leighton (address on page 2). Many thanks are due to both Kay and Lesley for the hard work involved in producing the shirts in time for the New Year Dance.

I have had no response from any group willing to host the Austrian dancers from Schlanders, as mentioned in the December SIFD NEWS. It will be a pity if we cannot take advantage of this offer to meet and dance with a foreign group. GROUP LEADERS - please let me know what YOUR GROUP is able to do for these Austrian visitors.

There are two separate Swedish groups coming to this country in March and April. They have arranged their own accommodation but the Committee are hoping to book the YWCA Hall in Central London to entertain one group from Nykoping on Sunday, 15th April. Admission will be by ticket in advance. More details later.

The Merton Park group are hoping to make arrangements to entertain the second Swedish team (from Odensala) during the week of April 8th-15th.

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The SIFD have been invited to take a larger part in this year's Eastbourne Festival. We are hoping to provide six workshops and an international Dance. I hope that as many members as possible will come along to give their support. The Festival dates are 4th-7th May.

I have had a postcard from Cyril Fleisher of Chicago, who danced with the High Wycombe group on his recent visit to this country. He sends greetings to all the dancers he met and would like any member of SIFD planning a visit to Chicago to contact him.

JOAN RACKHAM,
Hon. Secretary

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE OF GREEK DANCES

SATURDAY, 11th FEBRUARY 1984 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House,
2 Regents Park Road, London, NW1. Tutor: NATASSA DROSSOU.

Natassa, who taught Greek dances at our SIFD Summer School at Swansea in 1983, will be going over a selection of dances (as many as time will allow) taught by her at Swansea, so this will be an excellent opportunity for you to revise those dances and refresh your memory or, if you weren't at Swansea, to learn some new Greek dances for your repertoire.

£3 for SIFD members, £4 for non-members. Refreshments including lunches available.

The next SIFD Day Course will be on 10th March, when Janet Woolbar will be teaching Swiss dances.

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HAMA'AGAL GROUP AT DUNFORD

On Friday, 2nd December, Hama'agal, Fiona Howarth's Israeli Group, arrived at Dunford House in Midhurst to shatter the tranquility of this old and stately country home, all set for another lively and energetic weekend. After a mad dash through London's "weekend rush-hour traffic" we arrived in time for an excellent and very welcome dinner, and then the beginning of the programme, an evening of international dance.

Saturday evening dawned crisp and bright, with a thin layer of frost covering the lawn and the beautifully coloured autumnal setting that could be viewed from our window. Following a hearty breakfast, the day commenced with a workshop session in which some new dances were taught and some old favourites revised.

There was some free time on Saturday afternoon to go into Chichester. The town was alive and we were surrounded by people bustling in and out of shops and through the precinct as the "busy season" approaches. We became the perfect tourists as we wandered round Chichester Cathedral, guide book in pocket. No afternoon in Chichester, however, is complete without tea and scones!

Before dinner on Saturday evening, the Warden of Dunford, the Rev. Peter Hayman, gave an interesting and entertaining talk on Richard Cobden, the Parliamentarian and Social Reformer of the last century who was born at Dunford and whose family owned the house.

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Saturday evening's dance had an additional non-scheduled event when two policemen called in. It was not the noise we were making that was disturbing the peace of the Sussex countryside; rather, they were looking for suspects. However, after ascertaining that they did not want us, they took an interest in what we told them about the Group, and left after tasting a few of our specialities such as halva and cakes which had been provided by members of the Group for the midnight feast!

After breakfast bright and early on Sunday morning, an arduous session of dancing followed, where we certainly worked hard for the light refreshment that could be obtained just a short walk away in the 'local'. We also took a few group photographs in the very attractive garden.

Then, for us, a quick dash back to London to get us and the SIFD Treasurer there in time for the A.G.M., nor did we want to miss the First Sunday of the Month Dance at Cecil Sharp House (where did we get the extra energy from?).

Once again, a big Thank You to Fiona for yet another delightful weekend in the country, and thanks are due to Geoff and Sadie Stone for organizing it all.

MARGARET AND ALAN MORTEN

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

This is too much! Since when has Ernie Wise taken over the organization of our Day Courses? I think we should be told.

Yours sincerely,

E. de WATFORD,

16 De Vere Walk,
Watford, Herts.

Dear Lily,

I was very disappointed that so few people turned up "specifically as guinea pigs" for the Teachers' Examination Day on Saturday, 10th December. Fortunately, the Watford entourage and friends boosted the numbers. It was the first time I had taken part as a guinea pig at a prospective teachers' examination and I enjoyed the tenseness and participation.

I do think, though, that the applicants were capable of teaching dances with more intricate footwork, such as a bourree, yemenite, ostgota, Bulgarian etc., all important when teaching a class dances from these particular countries. I felt their skills could have been better observed had they been given different dances to teach rather than some of the ones they did on Saturday.

All the applicants did well in my estimation. Their individual personalities and style came over (slightly hindered by their own degree of nervousness), and at the end of the day I was delighted they all passed. I have been to all their classes in the past and know in a more relaxed atmosphere they all make it fun to dance.

MONA GRAHAM,
25 Warwick Way, Croxley Green,
Rickmansworth, Herts.

THE DUNAV/PIRIN EXCHANGE

From the midst of a heap of suitcases, leather coats, amplifying equipment and musical instruments our eight visitors from Bulgaria emerged at Heathrow on 21st November to a welcome from members of DUNAV. They had left Blagoevgrad very early that morning under a foot of snow; they had sat for two hours in the 'plane on the runway of Sofia airport waiting for the fog to clear, and they had survived a breakdown in communication at British passport control. After that, the rest was easy!

All our arrangements worked perfectly. We were fully expecting disaster to strike at any moment, but it never did. The group played at a party on the Monday night, at a Zivko Firfov rehearsal on the Tuesday, at a joint concert with DUNAV in the Cambridge Centre for Languages, Sawston Hall, on Wednesday, and in another concert in the IBM Club near Winchester on Thursday, in the students' refectory at Goldsmiths' College at lunchtime on Friday and in Lyndhurst Hall in the evening, in the bar of the Gardner Theatre, Sussex University, on Saturday evening, and informally in a workshop session at Cliff Beck's house on Sunday - eight sessions in all! The group thoroughly enjoyed playing and singing and, miraculously, were as fresh at the end as at the beginning, if not fresher. It is impossible to estimate how much we have learned from our contact with such musicians.

The Bulgarians were enormously impressed with all they saw, and with the friendliness and enthusiasm with which they were received at every contact with British people. They enjoyed the bright lights and shopping in modern centres, and sight-seeing in ancient places like Cambridge and Winchester, in fact they were very easy to entertain because they enjoyed everything. If evidence of the general goodwill towards the Bulgarians were needed I would mention especially the contributions made by friends of DUNAV in hospitality, entertainment, substantial parts of the programme, and first class food and drink. It has become something of a cliché to say on such occasions, "without whom it would not have been possible"; on this occasion it is literally true that without the generous initiatives of the many friends of DUNAV the Bulgarians' programme would not have been possible, nor would it have been anything like as much fun!

For the future, DUNAV will be playing in the folk festival in Bulgaria, "Pirin Sings" next August, and some time in 1985 we hope again to entertain a Bulgarian group in England.

JOHN BALDWIN,
for DUNAV

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DANCE STUDIES VOL. 6

The recent issue of Dance Studies has been dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Gyorgy and contains an article by him, "A Survey of the Hungarian Folk Dance Research". The article not only outlines the history of the Hungarian folk dance research, but also comprehensively discusses methodological issues of great importance for dance research in general. The article is also illustrated with 30 pages of black and white photographs. In the same volume there is an interesting article on Turkish dancing, "Kocek and Cengi in Turkish Culture" by Professor Eugenia Popescu-Judetz, and the editor, Roderyk Lange, has written on the work and results achieved at his Dance Centre in Jersey, now celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Dance Studies Vol. 6 is obtainable from Centre for Dance Studies, Les Bois, St. Peter, Jersey, Channel Islands. Price £4 plus 45p for postage & packing.

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE MARCH ISSUE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR IN
WRITING BY 15TH FEBRUARY.

Many people have asked about the words of the dance/song with which DUNAV often now conclude their programme. This is the unofficial anthem of the Pirin Region, known and performed by everyone there on social occasions. The song is called "Pirin Youthfulness" and these are the words, (the vowels are like Spanish, Serbo-Croat, etc. and the *č* and *ž* as in Serbo-Croat).

PIRINSKA MLADOST

Zasvirete muri, muri ot Pirina,
 Zasvunete yasni, medeni zvinceta,
 Pesni peite ptitsi glasoviti, pesni za yunatsi,
 Pesni peite ptitsi glasoviti, pesni za yunatsi.

Nad Pirin planina gre-e svoboda,
 Nad Pirin planina pre-e mladosta.

Raz-tsufnete, rosni, priniski polyani,
 Kato nova, kitna mominska premyana,
 Ta ventsi ot slava izpletete i bortsii spomnete,
 Ta ventsi ot slava izpletete i bortsii spomnete.

Nad Pirin planina gre-e svoboda,
 Nad Pirin planina pre-e mladosta.

Izvisiyavai snaga, snaga stomanena,
 Zlatno zito razdai, razdai po polyata,
 Pei, tantsovai ti, Pirin planino, Bulgarska rodino,
 Pei, tantsovai ti, Pirin planino, Bulgarska rodino.

Nad Pirin planina gre-e svoboda,
 Nad Pirin planina pre-e mladosta.

Akh, da doide Yane, Yane sus komiti,
 Parapunov s mladi, mladi partizani,
 Da poglednat svoyata rodina, greinala gradina,
 Da poglednat svoyata rodina, greinala gradina.

Nad Pirin planina gre-e svoboda,
 Nad Pirin planina pre-e mladosta.

A not-very-polished translation of the Bulgarian words is as follows:-

Sing you pinetrees, pinetrees of Pirin,
 Ring you clear brass bells,
 Sing you birds loudly songs of the heroes.
 " " " " " " " "

Chorus Above Pirin Mountain freedom shines.
 " " " youth sings.

Blossom you dewy Pirin glades
 like a new and pretty girl's dress,
 and plait garlands of glory and remember the warriors.
 " " " " " " " " " "

Raise up the iron shape,
 Grow, golden wheat, in the fields.
 Sing, dance, O Pirin, Bulgarian homeland!
 " " " " " "

Oh, may Yane come with the rebel bands,
 Parapunov with the young partisans,
 To see their homeland, a glowing garden.
 " " " " " "

MORAVIAN FOLK DANCE COURSE IN SWITZERLAND

A Course for Moravian dancing will be held in Buochs, on the Lake of Luzern, from 5th to 12th August 1984. Cost: 240 Swiss francs. Further details from Cathy Meunier, 21 Hollywood Way, Woodford Green, Essex. Tel: 01 527 6232.

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TURKISH DANCE SEMINAR and TOUR OF TURKEY, 1984

Bora Ozkok is once again organizing a week's Seminar in Turkish dance at Lake Abant in Turkey, followed by a three-week tour of Black Sea, Eastern, Central Southwest, West, North-western Turkey, and Istanbul. You can book for either the Seminar or the Tour, or both.

Seminar:	8 nights, 7th to 14th July 1984	£ 390.00
Tour:	21 nights, 15th July to 5th August 1984	£ 990.00

Added to the cost would be flights London/Istanbul/London.

Full details from Bora Ozkok, 413 W. Howe, Bloomington, In. 47401, U.S.A.

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INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL AT CANTONIGROS, CATALUNYA, SPAIN

19TH TO 22ND JULY 1984

The above Festival includes competitions for choirs singing folk music as well as classical music, international folk dance groups, concerts, folk exhibitions, etc. and, from the programme, seems to run along similar lines to the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen, where folkdance groups are asked to present two traditional dances from their own country, to enter the competition.

The programme starts at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 19th July, and finishes with an international concert on the evening of Sunday, 22nd July. For further information write to Festival Internacional de Musica de Cantonigros, C/Muntaner 305, Entl. 3, Barcelona 21, Spain.

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SEMINARS IN EUROPE THIS SUMMER

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|-------------------------|--|
| 2nd to 12th July 1984 | YUGOSLAV Seminar at Ohrid. Dances from various regions of Yugoslavia. Timed to coincide with a Balkan Dance Festival at Ohrid. Cost: 2600 French francs. |
| 16th to 28th July 1984 | GREEK SEMINAR at Florina, Kavala and Thassos. Greek dances from the islands as well as the mainland. Cost: 1950 French francs. |
| 1st to 12th August 1984 | TURKISH Seminar in Istanbul (3 days) and Rizetrabizonde (Black Sea). Dances from various regions. Excursions to the Bosphorus, Topkapi, etc. Cost: 2300 French francs. |

For further information contact: Patrick Rivet, Intergroupe Folklores Region Provence, 9 Rue Marechal Joffre, 13100 Aix en Provence, France.

As you will see from "What's On", Natassa Drossou will be teaching at three Greek Day Courses this month, and we thought readers would be interested to read the following information about Greek dances which Natassa prepared for another of her classes.

GREEK DANCES

Archeological finds, Byzantine icons and frescoes, texts and inscriptions of classical and post Byzantine Roman antiquity indicate the important position of dance in almost all expressions of the social life of Greek people, as well as the close relationship between the dances as represented in these finds and descriptions and the common circular dances in the Greece of today.

The 7/8 time signature of the most common circular dance "Kalamatianos" is none other than the heroic hexameter in which the Homeric epics were recited.

To start with we could distinguish the dances into those danced in the islands of the Aegean and Ionian Seas and those danced on mainland Greece. Ballos, Syrtos and Sousta, in many different variations, dominate the islands. Their obvious common feature is that they are all danced in a joyful, bouncing and jumping style and that they offer a wide possibility for improvisation and bold showing-off through their simple steps.

On the other hand, we have a large variety of styles, steps and music in mainland Greece, which variety can be easily explained if we bear in mind that the geography of the country did not facilitate exchanges between the several communities in different regions which, after all, did not share the same ethnic tradition.

Everywhere in the Hellenic lands, the steps and dancing movements are simple without any exaggeration, exactly like the movements of our everyday life. There is a special word in the Greek language that signifies exactly the way the dancers should move: lygeros or vergolygeros, and it would be useful here if we used a metaphor: the body of the dancer has the flexibility of a tree blown by the wind. By this we mean that the dancer moves as a solid whole and should not bend his waist. The uniformity of the movement is evidenced, not only individually in the movement of each dancer, but also collectively in the movement of the circle.

Each dancer has his own style, but his expression of feelings through dance is submitted to the group with which and for which he dances. It is only the leader of a circle dance who stands out by improvising within the rhythm of the music and sometimes the others try either to copy his steps or follow with the basic step of the dance, according to their dancing ability and mood.

There are dances danced strictly by men only and others by women only. Men, because of their position in Greek traditional community, and of their costume, have more freedom in their movement and greater capability for improvisation and individual demonstration of their competence. Their steps are big, heavy and triumphant. For the same reason, women's steps and movements are always more subdued, reserved and modest: in some dances, they are obliged even to have their eyes lowered.

Most of the dances are danced in an open circle or in a chain that moves across the floor forming helicoid patterns. Often we have couple or face-to-face dances and in many cases, mainly on the mainland, couples are of the same sex. Occasionally, in Greece we come across straight lines or closed circles. Usually we start a dance with the right foot and travel to the right because, as they say, the Greeks and other Balkan peoples are superstitious. Of course, there are many exceptions which may be due to influences of various Western conquerors or for ritual reasons.

As in the case of many other countries, in Greece we have dances that carry a special significance; such as wedding dances, mourning dances, Spring dances, work dances, dances portraying the emigration of their peoples, etc. Dancers hold each other in a V hold, a W hold, a belt hold or T hold, or they have their hands across (left arm over neighbour's right) or with their arms, or hands and arms, tightly linked. Very often the leader waves his free hand, sometimes holding a handkerchief, sometimes not, or he rests his hand on his waist.

SIFD AFFILIATED GROUPS

LYKION TON HELLINIDON DANCE GROUP hold Greek foldance classes at the Crypt, St. Sophia's Greek Cathedral, Moscow Road, Bayswater, London W2. Wednesdays, 6.30 - 7.30 (men) and 7.30 - 8.30 pm (advanced). Thursdays, 6.30 - 7.30 pm (intermediate) and 7.30 - 8.30 (beginners). Fridays 5.00 - 6.00 pm (children) and 6.30 - 8.00 pm (advanced). Enquiries: Mrs. G. Theodorakis, Tel: 01 997 4466.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday, 8.00 to 9.30 pm at the Church Hall, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kents. Secretary: Alison Thompson, 8 London Road, Borough Green, TN15 8SE. Tel: Borough Green 882988.

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday from the first Tuesday in September to mid-July except Christmas week, at Wilbraham Road United Reformed Church Hall (corner of Withington Road) Chorlton, Manchester 21, from 7.45 to 10.15 pm. Further details from Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester M16 0BN. Tel: 061 881 3613.

HIGH WYCOMBE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Monday evening (except Bank Holidays and the whole of August) at Sir William Ramsay School, Rose Ave., Hazlemere near High Wycombe, Bucks. Contact: Uri Gerson, 14 Curlew Cloase, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks. Tel: High Wycombe 23434.

INTERDANCE, WORTHING (General International Folk Dance Club) meets every Tuesday 7.30 pm at Haverfield House (Conservative Headquarters), Union Place, Worthing, and every Friday at 7 pm at Field Place Pavilion (Southern end of The Boulevard) Worthing. Further details from Iris E. Birch. Tel: Worthing 691651.

HARROW FOLK DANCE GROUP meets evenings for English/Playford/American Square/Clog/Sword dancing, but on 4th Sunday of every month (except August and December) for International Folk Dancing from 7 to 10 pm at Harrow Arts Centre (opposite Harrow Weald Bus Garage) 356 High Road, Harrow Weald, Harrow (see "What's On"). Contact: John Lawes, Tel: 01 907 4700.

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

THE TURKISH FOLK DANCE GROUP meets on Monday evenings in term time, 7 to 9 pm at Christ Church Bentinck School, Cosway St., opposite junction of Marylebone Rd. and Old Marylebone Rd. (Underground: Edgware Road or Marylebone). Tutor: Adnan Kurtulus. Secretary: Pauline Welch, 01 393 1919 (home) or 01 337 6976 (school).

VASIL LEVSKY GROUP (Bulgarian Dance) are not, at the moment, meeting at North Bank, Pages Lane. Will those interested in information about Bulgarian dance please contact Dani Lumley or Diane Waller at 01 692 1424 (day) or 01 348 6143 (evenings). There are answerphones on both numbers so messages can be left.

HURSLEY INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS meet every Thursday at the IBM Club House, Hursley Park, Winchester. Teaching starts at 7.30 pm and General Dancing is from 8 to 10 pm. For further details contact Jan Szatkowski (Secretary HIFD), IBM United Kingdom Laboratories Ltd., Hursley Park, Winchester. Tel: Winchester 54433.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Friday 8 to 10 pm at Friends Meeting House, Cuttys Lane, Stevenage. Secretary: Sheila Leavy, 10 Orchard Road, Hitchin, Herts. Tel: Hitchin 52502.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday in term time 8 to 10 pm. Tuition in general international dancing by Eleanor Oakley, at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood. Secretary: Eve Wildy, Tel: Hornchurch 52146.

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SIFD AFFILIATED GROUPS - Cont...

NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday 7.30 to 9.30 pm in School terms at Kirk Hallam Community School, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, Derbyshire, for General International folk dancing. Contact Gill Morral, Sandiacre 393204, 114/116 Nottingham Road, Stapleford, Notts.

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets Fridays, October to June, 8 to 11 pm at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet. London. Brian Dowsett, 75 Fordwick Rise, Hertford, Herts. Tel: 01 325 2717. Hon. Secretary: Janet Heathfield, 01 368 5345.

BESKYDY DANCERS (Czechoslovakia) meet Wednesday evenings during term time, 7 to 9.30 pm. Beginners 7 to 8 pm. Advanced 8.30 to 9.30 pm. Singing 8.15 to 8.30 pm. At Fox School Annexe, Edge Street, Notting Hill Gate, London, W8. Tutor: Hedy Fromings 01 262 8011 Ext 734 (day), 01 699 8597 (evenings).

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday evening 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 Secretary: Pat Clarke, 12 Somerset Road, Cherton, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4NP. Tel: Folkestone 75662.

ISRAEL FOLK DANCE ASSOCIATION Sunday dances on second Sunday of every month, Israeli folk dancing. At the Manor House, 80 East End Road, Finchley, London, N3. Mostly free dancing for Intermediate/Advanced.

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. For further details, contact Miss J. Holloway, 28 Shepherds Road, Watford, Herts. Tel: Watford 25480.

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Monday, except some Bank Holidays and 3rd Sept 1984, at Blackfriars, St. Giles, Oxford, 8.15 to 10 pm. Contact Diana Porteus, 105 Southmoor Road, Oxford, OX2 6RE. Tel: Oxford 57543.

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday during term time at Henleaze Infants School, Park Grove, Bristol, 9. At 7.15 pm. Enquiries to Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0272 621802.

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WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH OF S.I.F.D. - SELPAR

"SELPAR". Classes on Tuesday evenings in term time, 7.15 to 9 pm at Selly Park School, Stirchley, Pershore Road, Birmingham. Teacher: Sybil Chapman. Also "LYNDON GROUP" on Wednesdays in term time, 7.30 to 9.30 pm at Lyndon School, Daylesford Road, Solihull. Further details of both from Mrs. Juliet Mackintosh, 501 Brook Lane, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 0BU. Tel: 021 777 4300.

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WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH OF THE S.I.F.D.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

Friday, 2nd March 1984, 7 to 10 pm at St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Stirchley, situated at the corner of Cartland Road and Pershore Road, Stirchley. The meeting will be followed by a film/slide show. The Committee are all due to retire from office, so please send your nominations to Mrs. J. Mackintosh, 501 Brook Lane, Moseley, Birmingham 13.

SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1.

Feb. 5th M.C. Jill Bransby
Mar. 4th M.C. George Sweetland

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: £1.80 for SIFD members, £2.30 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON

- Feb. 11th SIFD GREEK DAY COURSE. See page 4
- Feb. 18th FRENCH DAY COURSE organized by Worthing International Folk Dance Club at West Worthing Baptist Church Hall (corner of South St. Tarring and Canterbury Rd.), West Worthing, West Sussex. Two minutes walk from West Worthing B.R. Station. Hall is on corner of 2nd turning on the left going North over level crossing. 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. Tutor: Simon Guest. Admission £3. Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits available. Bring packed lunch or eat out. Please ring Iris Birch on Worthing 691651 by 13th February if you will be going.
- Feb. 18th GREEK DAY COURSE organized by Bristol International Folk Dance Group at Henleaze Infants School, Park Grove, Bristol. Tutor: Natassa Drossou. Followed by EVENING DANCE. Course 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. £2.75 members, £3 non-members. Dance 7.15 to 10.30 pm. 75p members, £1 non-members (including refreshments). Combined ticket £3 members, £3.50 non-members. Reductions for unwaged. Bring packed lunch/supper. Tea, coffee, squash available. Tickets (s.a.e. please) and further information from Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol. Tel: 0272 621802.
- Feb. 18th "FOLK SPECTACULAR", the EFDSS annual folk festival at the Royal Albert Hall includes the MAZURY POLISH DANCERS. 10.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Tickets from £1.25 to £6.50 available from R.A.H. Box Office.
- Feb. 24th AN EVENING WITH URI GERSON at Barnet International Folk Dance Group. 8 pm at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet. Enquiries to Janet Heathfield, 01 368 5345.
- Feb. 26th GREEK DAY COURSE organized by Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group at Kirk Hallam Community School, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, near Ilkeston, Derbyshire (near Junction 25 of M.1). 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. Tutor: Natassa Drossou. Further information from Gill Morral, 116 Nottingham Road, Stapleford, Notts.
- Feb. 26th AN EVENING OF GENERAL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING with Liz Mellish at Harrow Folk Dance Group, 7 to 10 pm at Harrow Arts Centre (opposite Harrow Weald Bus Garage) 356 High Road, Harrow Weald, Harrow.
- Mar. 2nd WEST MIDLANDS SIFD BRANCH Annual General Meeting. See page 11.
- Mar. 17th SPRING DANCE organized by Woodvale International Folk Dance Group at the Village Hall, Borough Green, Kent. 7.30 to 11 pm. Tickets £2 (under 16s £1), including refreshments. Music provided by Wilf Horrocks. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Further details: 0732 882988 (evenings).