

SIFD News

APRIL

1984



ROMANAȚI, OLT
(ROMANIA)

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery, 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 the Editor.

*

*

This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas and shows a costume from Romanati (Romania). Gold sequins decorate the front of the blouse and the sleeves, and there is a lot of gold thread in the embroidery, as well as every other colour, but predominantly dark red.

*

*

CHAIRMAN: Charles Stéventon, 64 Erridge Road, London S.W.19. Tel: 01 542 3831.

SECRETARY: Joan Rackham, 16 Bathurst Avenue, London S.W.19. Tel: 01 543 1891.

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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Roland Minton, 10 Benyon Court, Balmes Road, London N.1.

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

*

*

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 N.19. Tel: 01 272 5003. Suggested time to ring - between 5 and 6 p.m.

*

*

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

*

*

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.

*

*

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

AVERY - SOUTHGATE

Lily Southgate and Les Avery are pleased to announce that they were married in March. The editor's name is therefore changed; the address remains the same.

-oo0oo-

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Owing to the indisposition of the Committee Officers, the usual monthly Committee Meeting was not held in February.

I have to report, regretfully, that both the Swedish teams mentioned in my notes for February have cancelled their visits to England proposed for March and April. I also have to write to the Austrian group from Schlanders to say that the SIFD cannot offer hospitality for their visit to England in August 1984. The only group I heard from in response to my plea concerning the Austrians was Harrow Folk Dance Group, who could arrange an evening of dancing but unfortunately could not offer board and lodging to the 30 people of the group. My thanks to Harrow for their offer

Although the SIFD offered to take part in this year's Sidmouth Festival, I have now heard from the Festival Director that it has been decided not to have SIFD participation this year. This is not because of any failing on the part of the Society but is in keeping with the Festival policy of limiting participants to two consecutive years. We hope to be invited back at a later date. There will still be lots of our members going to Sidmouth, and we should be able to get together at busking sessions and elsewhere. The Festival is from 3rd to 10th August.

At the March Committee Meeting, our new SIFD Committee member, Roy Bowtell, was warmly welcomed. We now have our full complement of 9 members. They are:-

Chairman,	Charles Steventon
Secretary,	Joan Rackham
Treasurer,	Judith Holloway
Members,	Janet Woolbar, Kay Leighton, Frank Flanagan, Alan McLean, David McKie, Roy Bowtell

I have received several suggestions for celebrating the 40th anniversary of the SIFD in 1986, but would be happy to hear from any members with further ideas.

Bookings for 1985 Cecil Sharp House Dances are being made and it is hoped to hold the popular Beginners' Dances in February, March, June, October and November 1985.

Membership stands at 467 to date.

JOAN RACKHAM
Hon. Secretary

-oo0oo-

9TH EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL, 1984

Once again, the SIFD is taking a fairly large part in the Eastbourne Festival, with teaching sessions by Janet Woolbar, Frances Horrocks and Charles Steventon, and International Social Dances in the evening. For full details and booking forms, write to the Festival Office, 7 Victoria Drive, Eastbourne, Sussex.

The date of the Festival is: 4th to 7th May 1984.

QUESTIONNAIRE

May I offer my thanks to all those good people who replied to my questionnaire. To those who have not yet found the time to do so, it would be of great assistance if you would let me have your answers as your co-operation is still needed.

The more general comments I have received aired a number of problems, and these will be passed to the Committee for their consideration. While I do not intend to publish a detailed survey, some points do deserve an answer, and the following observations will, I hope, be of interest.

One or two members have asked why we need to increase our membership. The following figures will show why this is so.

Considering the two centres at which the SIFD has organizing committees (London and Birmingham), based on 50% returns we have, first, in London twelve members between the ages of 20 and 40 living within 10 miles of Charing Cross - beyond which regular attendance at meetings becomes difficult. Of these, one is male and, of the total, only four belong to a 'general' group, which experience shows is the most likely area from which Committee members and helpers are recruited. Birmingham has four members in the same category, all of whom are female. Even if this figure is doubled, or even trebled, it does not leave many people to run the Society in 1995, especially when normal 'wastage' is considered. So I think it can be seen why I find the membership figures disturbing.

Arising from your comments, some answers and suggestions:

SIFD ordinary membership badges are available, and I will get details published in SIFD NEWS.

Large posters are available and can be obtained from me. These are free, for the cost of postage, to group organizers. If you attend Sunday Dances or Day Courses, I could hand them to you at Cecil Sharp House.

Regarding the recurrent problems of arranging SIFD events outside the Home Counties; the crucial point is that we have a small number of unpaid volunteers who devote a considerable amount of their free time on the national aspects of the Society's work, such as teaching at various places outside London, organizing the membership, books, records and cassettes, and producing the NEWS, as well as taking part in local events. Therefore, any additional work would have to be considered very carefully. If it is known that there is some interest locally and some groundwork has been done, we would do our best to give all possible assistance. I suggest that if anyone is interested in helping the Society in their area, they write to me and I will try to make some suggestions. Certainly if two or more live within travelling distance, I could put them in touch.

Many members have written to say how much they look forward to receiving the SIFD NEWS, and to thank Lily and her helpers for their efforts. May I endorse this, and at the same time take the opportunity to congratulate her and Les on their marriage.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

+++++

ERRATUM

In last month's issue I omitted to say that the article "Notes Handed Out At Billingham Festival" was sent in by Janet Heathfield. My apologies to Janet, who has pointed out the omission to me. ED.

S.I.F.D. TURKISH DAY COURSE

Date: SATURDAY, 7TH APRIL 1984.
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Place: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London N.W.1.
Tutor: Ercument Kilic.
Fee: £3 for SIFD members, £4 for non members. Refreshments, including lunches, available.

We haven't details of the dances Ercument Kilic will be teaching but we believe they will be Turkish/Azerbaizani dances. Ercument was born and raised in Ankara, Turkey. His parents are Turkish-Azerbaizhanis from the village of Igdir, near Kars in north-eastern Turkey where he spent his summers with the grandparents and relatives of both sides of his paternal families.

In Igdir everybody dances. His uncle, Selehatin Kilic, organized the first Azerbaizhani-Turkish group and directs a number of others. He is considered foremost in this field. This uncle started training Ercument when he was four years old and soon the boy became a demonstrator performing at various functions, especially weddings and circumcisions which are the biggest events in Moslem life. By the age of nine, Ercument had his own group. He inherited his musical talent from his father who was an outstanding accordionist.

Ercument continued performing during his secondary and high school years; after that he was accepted as a dancer and musician into the National Ensemble to which he belonged until he went to the United States in 1977 to study engineering. Since his arrival there, he has performed and taught throughout the United States. He resides in Austin, Texas, and attends the University of Texas.

Azerbaijan is bordered on the North by the Daghestan regions, in the West by the Georgian and Armenian Soviet Socialist Republics, to the East lies the Caspian Sea, and to the South, Iran. The roots of the folk music of Zerbaijan can be traced back to ancient antiquity. Archeological excavations have uncovered rock paintings of silhouettes of ritual dancers with musical instruments dating from the 5th to the 3rd milenia B.C. and a Stone Age percussion instrument called Gaval-Das (frame drum of stone) from Kobustan. Meters of 3/8, 5/8 and 7/8 are often used; 3/4 meters are frequently found, but 2/4 meters are rare. Probably most common to Azerbaijani folk music is 6/8 meter with very frequent rhythm shifts within the meter. Although the medieval historians listed over 30 instruments in the Middle Ages used in the region of Azerbaijan, only the following are still played: Ney (open-end-blown flute), Tutek (fipple flute), Belaman (cylindrical double-reed instrument), Zurna (conical shawn), Tulum (bagpipe), Baz (long-necked lute), Tar (long-necked fretted lute), Kemanche (spike fiddle), Nagara (double-headed drum), Gosha Nagara (pair of kettle drums made of clay with leather heads), Kyos Nagara (large military kettledrum made of copper or bronze), Tebi-Baas (medium-sized kettledrum made of copper, Daff (single-headed shallow circular framed drum with snares or metal rings), Accordion.

There are tremendous numbers of Zeri people living in Turkey today due to two major reasons: (1) the numerous border shifts due to politics and wars, (2) the migration of large numbers of Azeris of Azerbaijan and other Zeri groups of the Caucasus regions due to political turmoil at the turn of the century and during World War I and II. Today, a great many of these people are recognized by their surnames that are the same as the names of the villages, rivers, mountains etc. in the regions from which they came in Azerbaijan, Daghestan, Turkmenistan, Circasis, Chechecistan etc. Just as these peoples once united in their freedom flight, they remain just as unified today in their communities in Turkey.

Contd....

These Azeri communities are very organized and aware of their ancestry and homeland. Their traditions of yesteryear are very much reflected in their lifestyle of today. So tied are they to their origins that cultural societies are formed, journals are published, and their activities in the areas of music and dance have always been the highlights of numerous cultural events. Azeri music has become so popular in Turkey that its influence can be seen today in folk music groups and radio programmes. Azeri songs have become an irresistible part of the performances and broadcasts. Adaptation of Tar and Azeri Kemanche is very visible and the Azeri rhythm can be heard in many Turkish tunes.

Acknowledgement to "VILTIS" magazine.

MAORI DAY COURSE

The May SIFD Day Course will be Maori dances, taught by Joy McConachie Smith. It would be helpful if all members who attend would arm themselves with the following improvised equipment. We are giving you plenty of notice so that you have time to make the 'pois' and sticks.

Sticks

You need two sticks each. These are traditionally of wood, 1-2" in diameter and 10-18" long and may be carved or painted with traditional designs, but for the purpose of our day course we would like you to roll two Radio/T.V. Times magazines tightly and sellotape them. These are less noisy when dropped! (Preferably have two that are of similar weights and sizes).

Pois

Pois are made from dry raupe or corn cob leaves, and some from fine flax netting and decorated. Raffia can make a good substitute. For our day course, the following is more suitable and durable:-

- (a) Screw newspaper into a ball about the size of a closed fist (just smaller than a tennis ball).
- (b) Tie string or cord round it, leaving a long end (about 2'6") of cord free.
- (c) Wrap a sandwich sized plastic bag round the ball and tie it securely at the neck with another piece of string, so that the long string comes through the neck. Trim off excess plastic.
- (d) Roll a strip of paper about 1-1½" wide by 10" long and attach it to the free end of the long string to act as a stopper.

Note: When the neck of the poi is held by the thumb and first finger with the arm outstretched sideways and the cord passing across the palm, the stopper should reach the armpit.

For action songs it is better to be wearing a skirt to get the feeling of the hip swing, but for stick games/dances you will be kneeling for much of the time so some may prefer to wear slacks for comfort, or alternatively bring something to kneel on if you find it more comfortable.

The tutor is prepared to make tapes of the music if required (not at the Course), so you may either bring a blank tape for her to take away or she will purchase the blank tape for you and charge accordingly.

NEWS FROM I.S.T.D. (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing).

SIFD members may be interested to read what the ISTD say about the Award in Folk Dance which they first established in September 1983 for those who teach in clubs and evening classes.

"Purpose and Nature of the Award.

The units of study related to the Award are designed to provide teachers with an opportunity to extend and deepen their knowledge and understanding of folk dance and to consider fully its recreational and educational value. There will be no formal examination but progress will be assessed throughout. Since those who take the Award will have widely varying experience, the course is flexible in structure, giving scope for considerable individual choice. For each country studied a minimum of twelve hours' attendance is required, with substantial personal study in addition to reach the necessary standard. Two hours of general theory will be included in each unit.

Overall Plan.

The full possibilities of the Award will be developed gradually over the next five years. In its final form teachers will be able to gain the Award through study of the dances of one of the following regions:-

- 1) British Isles - England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man.
- 2) Western Europe - France, Denmark, Austria, Holland, etc.
- 3) Eastern Europe - Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania etc.
- 4) Non-European - in particular those countries whose dances are kept alive in Britain by groups now resident here - Pakistan, India, West Indies etc.

Units of Study leading to the Award 1983: Eastern Europe.

Dances of the following countries will be offered and applicants for the Award will choose three of them. Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Greece; but first there is an Introductory Unit for all participants of 12 hours with a broad coverage of dances from a number of countries. In relation to each country studied, the following will be considered:

- A. Steps, holds, figures, and a range of social dances.
- B. Folk music and musical instruments.
- C. Traditional dress and its effect on the dances.
- D. Folklore. The origin and meaning of dances.

General theory will cover topics such as the social value of folk dance, the organization of a dance club, the planning of programmes and the principles and teaching folk dance, demonstration, leadership, the approach to the adult learner.

Assessment.

A final assessment will be made when the student has completed the necessary units and applies to be considered for the Award. Throughout, progress and achievement will be discussed with course members. The applicant will submit prepared work related to a topic of personal interest. There will be a short written paper and an assessor will visit the applicant's class".

The ISTD report goes on to say: "The first, very successful, series of classes was devoted to traditional dances from Eastern Europe and the guest teachers were experts in the dances of their countries, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Greece. Each brought demonstrators in costume, discussed the music and instruments, spoke of the folk culture, provided notes and music notation for the dances, and made available cassettes of the traditional music. All the dances were simple and social, and well-suited to recreational groups of all kinds. The next series will be Dances of the British Isles".

It would be interesting to know how the ISTD Award compares with our own SIFD Teachers' Certificate and how the standards compare - also who the teachers and assessors are. Have any of our members any firsthand experience of the ISTD "units of study"? ED.

PIRIN FOLK FESTIVAL - BULGARIA
11TH TO 20TH AUGUST 1984

Following up the notice in last month's issue of SIFD NEWS, I am able to tell you that the inclusive cost of the tour to Pirin Folk Festival will be £289. The group will fly from London airport to Sofia for two nights in an hotel. There will be a half-day sight-seeing tour of the city. The group will then be taken by coach to the Rila Monastery Hotel high up in the mountains for two further nights. On to Blagoyevgrad for four nights in the Pirin Mountains near to the site of the Folk Festival. Then back to Sofia for one night before the return flight to London. The tour is booked for half board (bed, breakfast and an evening meal) leaving maximum freedom for individual arrangements. If you are interested, please ring Olive Baldwin on 01 340 7765.

oOo

S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

POLISH

Monday evenings 6.15 to 9.30. Regional dances 6.15 to 7.45. National dances 8 to 9.30. Christopher Hatton Centre, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1. Tutors: Janice Wrench and Tony Latham. Tel: 01 272 7096 and 01 992 9445.

YUGOSLAV

Tuesday evenings. Beginners & Intermediate 6.15 to 8.15. Advanced 8.30 to 9.30. at West Square School, St. Georges Road, London S.E.1. Tutor: Ken Ward. Secretary: John Micklem, 3 Grosvenor Road, Richmond, Surrey. Tel: 01 948 2014.

ISRAELI

Wednesday evenings 7 to 9 at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London S.E.11. Tutor: Fiona Howarth. Tel: 01 460 0823. Beginners, please contact Fiona before enrolling.

HUNGARIAN

Fridays 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Clement Dane School, Drury Lane, London (next to Theatre Royal). Tutor: Alan McLean. Tel: 01 422 6498.

GENERAL INTERNATIONAL

Wednesdays 6 to 7 p.m. Beginners, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. General & Advanced, at St. Albans School, Baldwins Gardens, off Grays Inn Road, London E.C.1. Tutor: Janet Woolbar.

Mondays: Beginners under 30, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Wimbledon Chase Middle School, Merton Hall Road, London S.W.19. Beginners over 30, 8.15 to 10 p.m. at Willows High School, Central Road, Morden.

Wednesdays: Advanced, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Merton Teachers' Centre, Whatley Avenue, London S.W.20.

All during term time. Contact: Charles Steventon, Tel: 01 542 3831.

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. at the Y.W.C.A. (Gymnasium) Gt. Russell Street (nearest Underground, Tottenham Court Road Station). Tutor: Alan McLean. Tel: 01 422 6498.

cOo

ALL MATERIAL FOR THE MAY ISSUE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY
15TH APRIL.

S.I.F.D. AFFILIATED GROUPS

LYKION TON HELLINIDON DANCE GROUP hold Greek folkdance classes at the Crypt, St. Sophia's Greek Cathedral, Moscow Road, Bayswater, London W.2. Wednesdays 6.30 to 7.30 (men) and 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. (advanced). Thursdays 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. (intermediate) and 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. (beginners). Fridays 5.00 to 6.00 p.m. (children) and 6.30 to 8 p.m. (advanced). Enquiries to Mrs. G.Theodorakis, Tel: 01 997 4466.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday, 8 to 9.30 p.m. at the Church Hall, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. Secretary: Alison Thompson, 8 London Rd., 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 p.m. 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 Close, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks. Tel: High Wycombe 23434.

INTERDANCE, WORTHING (General International Folk Dance Club) meets every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. at Haverfield House (Conservative Headquarters) Union Place, Worthing, and every Friday at 7 p.m. 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 p.m. at Harrow Arts Centre (opposite Harrow Weald Bus Garage) 356 High Road, Harrow Weald, Harrow. Contact: John Lawes. Tel: 01 907 4700.

WIGGINTON INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Thursday during term time at 8 p.m. 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 p.m. at Christ Church Bentinck School, Cosway St., opposite junction of Marylebone Road 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. Will those interested in information about Bulgarian dance please contact Dani Lumley or Diane Waller on 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 p.m. and General Dancing is from 8 to 10 p.m. 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 p.m. at Friends Meeting House, Cuttys Lane, Stevenage. Secretary: Sheila Leavy, 10 Orchard Road, Hitchin, Herts. Tel: Hitchin 52502.

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

SIFD AFFILIATED GROUPS contd....

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

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

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

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 N.3. Mostly free dancing for Intermediate/advanced.

CANONS FOLK DANCERS meet every Tuesday, 7.30 to 9.45 p.m., usually at Park High School, Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middx. in term time. 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 p.m. 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 p.m. Enquiries to Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0272 621802.

KAYROMA INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Friday, 7 to 8.30 p.m. during term time at Whitley Lodge First School, Whitley Bay. Dances from Spain and Portugal included in repertoire. Tutor: Kaye Poole, 50 Antonine Walk, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 0EE. Tel: Wylam 2495. Visitors welcome.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday evening during the winter and spring terms from 7.30 to 9 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.

*

*

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

"SELPAR". Classes on Tuesday evenings in term time, 7.15 to 9, at Selly Park School, Stirchley, Pershore Road, Birmingham. Teacher: Sybil Chapman. Also -

"LYNDON GROUP" on Wednesdays in term time, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. 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.

SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.

April 1st M.C. Joyce Sharp

*May 13th M.C. Uri Gerson

*not the first Sunday in the month

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

.....

WHAT'S ON

April 7th SIFD TURKISH DAY COURSE. See page 5.

April 14th SPRING DANCE run by Wycombe Folk Dance Club at William Ramsay School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, near High Wycombe, 7.45 to 11 p.m. Tickets £1 including refreshments. Enquiries to (0494) 23434.

April 27th AN EVENING OF BALKAN AND YUGOSLAV DANCES taught by Frances Horrocks at Barnet International Folk Dance Group. 8 till 11 at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet.
Enquires to Janet Heathfield, 01 368 5345.

May 4/7th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

May 4/7th WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

on 2ND JUNE, DOINA DANCE GROUP are organizing a SUMMER PARTY at Stanhope Theatre, Central Institute, Longford Street, London N.W.1., 7.30 to 11 p.m. East European dancing and refreshments. Tickets £2.50 from Bob Cole, 38 Shirlock Road, Hampstead, N.W.3. (Please send s.a.e.). Enquiries to Victoria Solt, 01 742 1465 (evenings).

28TH JULY TO 4TH AUGUST

May I use your columns to tell anyone interested that the Folk Camp near Pickering in Yorkshire from 28th July to 4th August will be the one with an international bias. For years many of the most lively English dancers have enjoyed and grown up at these camps. They are now into their second generation, with children of the first campers camping with their children. We are sure that SIFD members could make a camp of their own and a future generation would grow up dancing.

The camps have never been training courses, nor are there appointed teachers. Instead, those present swap dances, music, and songs, contributing what they can, and learn to teach in a very relaxed atmosphere. The programme is determined by the interests of the campers and co-ordinated by the leader (Chris Green). Generally, the mornings are used for a music practice and to do more specialized dances that might not otherwise be done. Activities such as walking, busking, and dancing happen in the afternoon. The evenings ensure everyone from toddlers upward gets a chance to dance, or sing. This year the live music will be lead by Helen Rogers and Dennis Hunt from the Lyndon Group in Birmingham.

If anyone is interested and wants to know more, or get booking forms, please contact: Chris or Nick Green, 36 Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Herts. Tel: 05827 4499.

CHRIS GREEN

.....

STOP PRESS - DUNAV BALKAN BAND will be playing again at the Royal Festival Hall foyer on Bank Holiday Monday, 28TH MAY, 12.30-14.00 They would love to see lots of enthusiasts and dancers as before.