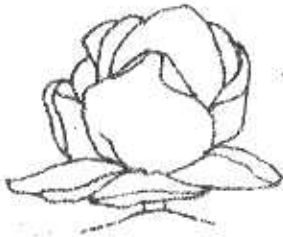


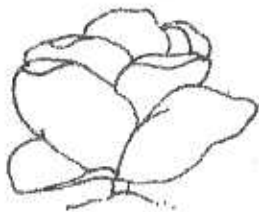
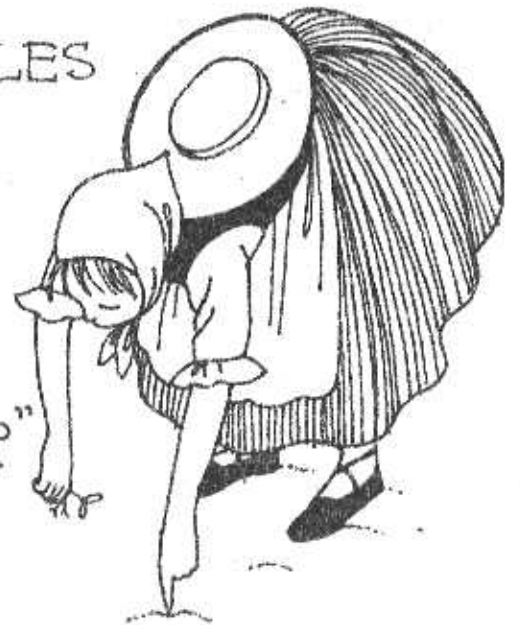
S.I.F.D.

MAY
1984

NEWS



“SAVEZ-VOUS
PLANTER LES
CHOUX,
A LA
MODE DE
CHEZ NOUS ?”



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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

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This month's charming cover is by Lesley Boorer,
and illustrates the French children's miming song,
"Savez-vous plantez les choux?".

The costumes are, clockwise from the top, from
Brittany, Provence, Normandy and the Auvergne.

*

*

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 organisers 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, MIDD.,
AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

At the April Committee Meeting the C.C.P.R. Golden Jubilee in 1985 was discussed. The SIFD have been asked to offer a 5-minute item for the programme, and a Producer is required to take charge of the arrangements. The Committee are to approach suitable members to see if one would be willing to take the work on. Details will be given in the SIFD NEWS at a later date. The date chosen by the C.C.P.R. is 20th April 1985 and the celebrations will take place at the Royal Albert Hall.

I would like to take this opportunity of saying a very sincere thank you to all those people who helped to make the Turkish Day Course such a success. The teacher, Ercument Kilic, only arrived in London on Friday morning after trouble with visas in Belgium, but he turned up fresh and full of energy on the Saturday morning at Cecil Sharp House. To the good people who accommodated him, all his luggage and his two Australian friends, our grateful thanks. He told me that he loves England and very much wants to come back.

Until recently, I have been able to attend the meetings of the Movement & Dance Liaison Group for London and the South East which are held three times a year on a Tuesday afternoon at Francis House, Victoria, London. I can no longer go to these meetings. If any member is free on Tuesday afternoons and would be willing to go along as the SIFD representative I would be glad to hear from them, and I will let them have full details.

JOAN RACKHAM,
Hon. Secretary

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OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that the West Midlands Branch has to report the death of Alan Holland. Alan was a member of the Wednesday night class for six years, and he contributed regularly to the SIFD NEWS. He was dancing with the class until a few weeks before his death and will be greatly missed.

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of Ron Blackman, of Merton Park Group, while dancing at the Worthing Dance on 24th March. Ron was a much-loved member of Merton Park and took part with his wife, Naomi, in the group's many displays. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and the group will never be the same without our "Ronaldo". Our deepest sympathy goes to Naomi, daughter Catherine, and son Richard, in the loss of a dear husband and father.

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DIRECTORY OF FOLK FESTIVALS

Mike Ridout is finding the job of compiling a Directory of Folk Festivals a formidable task and it is unlikely to be ready before 1985. However, he will be publishing in the SIFD NEWS next month a summary of the information and dates he has so far obtained. If any members have information about Festivals in Scandinavia, Greece and Portugal, he would be grateful to hear about them as information on these countries is scarce. Please send the information to Mike Ridout, 5 Queen Anne's Grove, Chiswick, London, W4.

COSSACK DANCING

The other day three young men came to my class of "Dances of the USSR", wanting to learn "Cossack Dancing", and were very disappointed to find they could not get that in three easy lessons.

The fact is that most people have only the haziest idea about "Cossack Dancing". Some think it is the same as Russian Dancing and that all Cossacks are Russians and vice versa. This is rather like saying, "All Guardsmen are English, and all Englishmen are Guardsmen". (Furious protests from the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish!) The other half thinks that Cossacks are a separate people of their own like, for instance, the Tartars, the Georgians and the Ukrainians.

The truth is not so simple; a few hundred years ago runaway serfs, freedom-fighters and adventurers from all over Europe, the Middle East and even Central Asia, formed their own free state in the Ukraine, with the capital Zaporoshe. From there, separate groups went far afield, especially up the river Volga, where even today the settlement of their famous Chief Stenka Rasin can be seen - he who is sung about in the song, "Volga, Volga". (By the way, personally I strongly disapprove of him. He was a "hero" insofar as he and his men went abroad to make war on people who, as far as we know, had never done him any harm, and when he fell in love with a beautiful captured Princess and his men accused him of having lost his fighting spirit through caring too much for her, he threw her into the river to drown! Charming man, I don't think.)

Other bands went to the Caucasian Mountains and settled there, making war with the Chechen, and other Caucasian people, and others went across Asia to the shores of the Pacific, always fighting and looting. But they kept their settlements in the European part of Russia, where their descendants live even today.

Tolstoy describes in one of his novels how a young officer is posted to a Caucasian settlement and falls in love with a Cossack girl; nothing comes of it, of course. "Love of freedom, leisure, plunder and war have been their most notable traits.... A Cossack is less inclined to hate the Chechen brave who might well have killed his brother than the Russian soldier billeted on him for the defence of his village but who fouls his house by smoking in it..... To be smartly dressed means dressed like a Circassian (You will have seen Georgian men wearing black, grey or white coats, buttoned in front, with cartridges on their chests, coats flared from the waist down, trousers tucked into high boots)..... He spends most of his time in outposts, in action, hunting and fishing. Whenever he happens to be at home he just carouses and makes merry, getting drunk as often as possible, looking on women as an instrument for his wellbeing. They in turn do all the work, in the house and outside." To be fair, the Cossacks also defended Russia's and the Ukraine's borders against invading Turks and Mongols. Their language has always been Russian.

Cossack Dances are generally included in performances of Ukrainian Dance Companies and they differ from "normal" Ukrainian Dances only insofar as they are martial all-men dances, often with high jumps and practically acrobatic steps. Often, lances and swords are used. One dance is called "kosatchok" - Little Cossack - and is danced by one man and two girls.

"The women", again quoting from Tolstoy's novel, "sometimes danced amongst themselves, in big circles, on feast days, and the men would walk up to them or come riding on horseback, grab their sweethearts and carry them off". Obviously there could never be any time or even inclination for mixed dances to be set or practised.

Today there are still Cossack settlements, amateur dance groups and choirs, but apart from the original Cossacks being a very mixed lot anyway, through the centuries there has of course been a lot of inter-marriage with Russians, Ukrainians and Caucasian peoples.

Anyone who is interested in the complicated and long history of the Cossacks should read "The Cossacks" by Philip Longworth, Sphere Books. It is out of print but obtainable through libraries.

JENIA GRAMAN

S.I.F.D. MAORI DAY COURSE

As mentioned last month, the S.I.F.D. Day Course in May will be Maori dances, taught by Joy McConachie Smith. Although we did have a visiting Maori team as part of one of our Royal Albert Hall Shows many years ago, and we have had a demonstration item of Maori dances at one of our Cecil Sharp House Dances, we have not had a Day Course before, so this will be quite an interesting new venture for us and widen our field a little. So please come, armed with your rolled Radio/T.V. Times and newspaper-and-string pois (as described in last month's issue) and be prepared for what could be quite a hilarious day.

A little clarification may be needed on note (d) of last month's instructions to make the poi: the strip of paper about 1-1½" wide by 10" long, which is to act as a stopper at the end of the string, should be rolled tightly, to finish up looking like a short thick cigarette. This 'cigarette' should be tied to the end of the string, as a stopper, so you have the stopper at one end of the string and the poi at the other, thus:-



The length of the string from the neck of the poi to the stopper should be from the armpit to the middle of the palm when the arm is held outstretched sideways.

Margaret Joyner brought some genuine New Zealand Maori pois for us to look at at the last Day Course, made from dry corncob leaves.

Details of Course:

Date: 12th May 1984
Place: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London, NW1.
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Tutor: Joy McConachie Smith
Fee: £3 for SIFD members, £4 for non-members.

Refreshments available. Either bring blank tape for tutor to take away and record or order one from her and add cost.

* * * * *

The following month's SIFD Day Course (9th June) will be MALLORCAN, with Kelsey Blundell and Charles Steventon teaching some of the dances from the last Swansea Summer School. Kelsey has sent us in good time a list of the dances they plan to teach, time permitting, which are:-

Jota Redonda Jota Antigua Bolero Mallorquin
Parado de Valdemosa Copeo Matanse

Between now and 9th June you have time to look out your castanets (or beg, borrow or steal a pair). Not essential, and there will not be time for a lengthy instruction, but they add to the character of the dances and you can pick up some hints for further practice at home.

Further information next month.

HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN DORSET

A small, fully equipped, cottage in market town near Poole and Bournemouth will again be available for a few weeks in June and July. Sleeps 3 to 5 people. Special terms for SIFD members. Overnight accommodation at Y.H.A. rates also sometimes available. For details telephone 01 749 3344 or Wimborne (0202) 884818.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

As from 30th April, Angela and John Savill's address will be: 33 The Wayback, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 2AX. Their telephone number remains the same - Saffron Walden 21244.

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THE S.I.F.D. TWENTY YEARS AGO

Ken Ward, followed later in the year by Margery Latham, was Chairman. Lily Southgate was Secretary, George Sweetland was Editor.

Our books were selling at 5/- each, and our "Blue Book" of 100 dance tunes was selling at 60/-.

"Merit reductions" were given to dancers arriving before 7.30 p.m. at the Sunday Dances and a prize of One Guinea was given to the person who introduced most new members during the membership year.

"See How They Dance", our annual Show at the Royal Albert Hall was taking up a lot of our time, with rehearsals, costume preparation, choosing teams, and all the hundred and one jobs that go towards presenting a large Show, advertising, selling tickets, etc., not to mention the time spent arguing and discussing whether or not it was a good or bad thing for the SIFD to devote so much of our time to such a venture, and whether we should spend so much of our money on it.

The Spanish classes figured strongly in our programme of activities, and this one class put on a full-length Show at Surbiton.

The Spanish class also organised a two-week holiday in Spain. The cost was £50 for the full two weeks including air fare! Our weekend at Halsway Manor this month will cost almost as much as that without including fares!

We also went to Yugoslavia that year for 15 days, full board, air fares included for £45.

But the topics of discussion and controversy were not much different from today

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Would we do better to break away from the L.C.C. (now ILEA)?

How can we attract younger members? The age level is too high.
(Some of the then 'older' people are still around twenty years later!
- including myself.)

How can we increase our membership?

We should own our own premises.

What is the function of the SIFD and where is it going?

Plus ça change

ED.

I listed in the March issue of SIFD NEWS some of the performances in this year's Camden Festival which might be of interest to members. A few of our members did go to see some of the performances and found them very good indeed. I myself attended the evening presented by Robert Mandel's East European Group and was very impressed indeed by the excellent musicians and superb dancing. One of the items in particular presented one of the most interesting Hungarian men's dances, accompanied by a solo singer, that I have ever seen. I understand the other evenings' programmes were equally enjoyable. Diki Gleeson describes in more detail the two evenings she attended.

ED.

LOS AWATINAS lived up to their name and exhibited a full range of traditional music from all three regions of Bolivia - the Atliplano where the Aymara people live high in the Andes, the Quechua valley region, and the Orientale tropical area. The increasingly rapturous reception at the end forced them eventually to reappear to prolong the enjoyment for a further five minutes. Several of the 1,000 Bolivians living in England were surely among the audience.

My favourite item was Jilata - Aymara for 'brother'. (They have no word for friend, only brother apparently.) This piece related to the daily work of the Indian, mostly concerned with planting and harvesting potatoes. The instrumentalists danced and sang as they played, and no wonder, it was hauntingly compelling. Apachita (Aymara for Andes) was played with old, very long, pan pipes. The Morenada from Oruro certainly had a carnival feeling, and it was fun to see and hear the fishlike rattle/instrument, called a Matrac, in action. Each of the dancers had one apparently. What with the noisy choruses, "con los manos" clap clap clap "con los tacos" stamp stamp stamp! But I suppose noise is part of any carnival. Grito del Indio was really haunting and gave one a good chance really to hear the Charanga - no longer an armadillo shell but very beautifully fashioned from wood, and the Quena (no mouthpiece as such, just seven finger holes).

Marvellous as the evening was, and I was really elated with the spirit of that compelling music, it was topped by the spontaneous, touching generosity of two complete strangers. I dashed along to the performance and left my cheque book behind, only to find that records of Los Awatinas were on sale only during the interval of that particular evening. I counted out my pennies and found I was only \$1 short for one record. If you don't ask, so I approached a young fellow selling programmes. I didn't even complete my tale of woe before he readily gave me \$1. I rushed off to buy a record, lending someone else my pen to write her cheque and telling her how stupid I had been not to bring my own cheque book with me. "Oh, I'll buy a record, or even two, for you", she volunteered! Wow I couldn't refuse, so without either the programme seller or the girl even knowing my name, address, or having any security of any description yet having been so generous, I went back for the second half, two feet off the ground, clutching my two records. What a joy it is to find such trust and open generosity. I just had to tell everyone and still feel warmed by such spontaneous loving spirit.

I went back to the Shaw Theatre, with family, for the Japanese evening on the Saturday. My husband, Geof, lived for three years with a Japanese family in Yokohama and then studied the language and literature for three years at London University, so has a background knowledge and is able to be a little discerning. He voted it excellent.

To say it was an evening of drumming is the most enormous understatement. As with all Japanese events, silence foiled an enormous reverberating sound just short of pain. The staging, as expected, was superb, from the dramatic triangle of subdued light through which a female dancer glided so slowly and smoothly as to defy actual movement, to the finale presentation of an enormous drum mounted on a large platform surrounded by hanging, lighted lanterns. This climaxed with everyone drumming rhythms on a different instrument, with the female "street" dancing. The physical strength and power of the two drummers stripped to fundoshi only (loincloth) wielding enormous drum sticks each end of the huge drum, at a speed which

Contd....

Contd....

made them seem a solid triangle of tree trunk, needs to be seen. It was incredible in speed and complication of rhythm - a visual as well as aural experience. Despite the volume of noise it was so riveting you caught yourself holding your breath, not to break the magic. After so many varying climaxes this finale item, part of a Matsuru (festival) hit the jackpot. However seemingly simple, the Japanese can ring change after change and dazzle with their faultless excellence. Don't think 'The Demon Drummers of Kodo' sounds tame for an evening's entertainment. Even if you did decide you would not go again, I am sure you would have to agree that it provided a unique experience and added a dimension - and you could get 'hooked'.

DIKI GLEESON

P.S. Of course on my second visit I repaid 'Chris' and 'Tessa' - Chris had even forgotten he was owed £1.

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S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

POLISH

Monday evenings 7 to 9 p.m. Regional and National dances. Christopher Hatton Centre, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, EC1. 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, SE1. Tutor: Ken Ward.

ISRAELI

Wednesday evenings 7 to 9 at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London, SE11. 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 General & Advanced; at St. Albans School, Baldwins Gardens, off Grays Inn Road, London, EC1. Tutor: Janet Woolbar.

Mondays: Beginners under 30, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Wimbledon Chase Middle School, Merton Hall Road, London, SW19. 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 Ave., London, SW20.

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

EASTERN EUROPEAN

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

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

S.I.F.D. AFFILIATED GROUPS

LYKION TON MELLINIDON DANCE GROUP hold Greek folkdance classes at the Crypt, St. Sophia's Greek Cathedral, Moscow Road, Bayswater, London, W2. 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 8GE. 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, Gosway 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 answer-phones 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.

RAINFMAKERS 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.

HAVERING 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.

Contd....

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 Morral, 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: (0992) 52717. Hon. Secretary: Janet Heathfield, 01 368 5345.

BESKYDY 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, W8. 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, N3. 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, 23 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.

MERRY ANDREW CLUB. Dance workshops every 2nd and 4th Mondays (except Bank Holidays and August), 8 to 10.30 p.m. at Sherard Hall United Reformed Church, Court Road, Eltham, London, SE9. International, American, English, Historical, etc. All welcome. Tel: Orpington 71494.



WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH OF THE S.I.F.D.

"SELPAR" classes on Tuesday evenings in term time 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. at Selly Park School, Pershore Road, Stirchley, Birmingham. Tutor: Sybil Chapman. Also -

"HEART OF ENGLAND FOLK DANCE GROUP", formerly "Lyndon Group", meet 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, NW1.

*May 13th M.C. Uri Gerson
June 3rd M.C. Fiona Howarth

*not the usual first Sunday in the month

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

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WHAT'S ON

May 4th/7th WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR

May 4th/7th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

May 12th SIFD DAY COURSE IN MAORI DANCES. See page 5.

May 19th MERTON FESTIVAL DANCE organized by Merton Park Group at ATC Hall, 192 Merton Road, Wimbledon, SW19 (near South Wimbledon Underground Station) 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Tickets £1.50 (80p for under-16s) including refreshments, from Joy Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, Merton Park, London, SW19. Tel: 01 542 3831. Please send s.a.e.

May 27th TRADITIONAL INDIAN KATHAK DANCES at Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, London, 7 p.m. Tickets £3 to £7.

May 27th AN EVENING OF GENERAL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING with Joyce Sharp at Harrow Folk Dance Group, 7 to 10 p.m. at Harrow Arts Centre (opposite Harrow Weald Bus Garage) 356 High Road, Harrow Weald, Harrow.

May 28th DUNAV BALKAN BAND playing at the Royal Festival Hall foyer, 12.30 to 2.00 p.m. Enthusiastic supporters welcome.

May 28th GLC SPRING FESTIVAL. Folk and Classical Music and Dancing. Indian, Chinese, Gambian, Turkish and Irish. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. Midday until 6 p.m. Admission free from 11.30 a.m. Another performance at 7.45 p.m. when admission is by ticket:- £1.50 - £3.50.

June 2nd DOINA DANCE GROUP are organizing a SUMMER PARTY at Stanhope Theatre, Central Institute, Longford Street, London, NW1. 7.30 to 11 p.m. East European dancing and refreshments. Tickets £2.50 from Bob Cole, 38 Shirlock Road, Hampstead, NW3. (Please send s.a.e.). Enquiries to Victoria Solt, 01 742 1465 (evenings).

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A WEEKEND AT MONKTON WYLD, DORSET

Monkton Wyld Court is an alternative educational centre run by a resident community of 11. It is a venue for a wide variety of educational activities put on by outside groups and leaders. In addition, the community organize workshops and courses which are in line with their ideals of co-operation and personal growth.

During the weekend Friday 28th to Sunday 30th September 1984, Charles and Joy Steventon and Wilf Horrocks will be teaching international folk dances, generally based on the SIFD books with a few other dances to give added variety. It will be basically a fairly concentrated beginners weekend with teaching sessions on the Friday evening, Saturday morning and Sunday morning and afternoon. There will be a general Folk Dance in the local village hall on the Saturday evening.

The cost for the weekend will be £35 full board. Meals will be based on a whole-food vegetarian diet. Further details may be obtained from: Monkton Wyld Court, near Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6DQ. Tel: Charmouth (0297) 60342, and a place may be secured by sending a deposit of £10 per person to that address.