

SIFD NEWS



OCT 1988

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting is done by Doug and Maureen Wells.

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The rather stylised jolly Yugoslav chap on the cover this month is drawn by Stella Carter

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WOULD ANY MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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Enquiries and orders for books, records and cassettes should be sent to Joan Rackham, 16 Bathurst Avenue, London S.W.19

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

S.I.F.D. T-shirts in various designs and sizes, S.I.F.D. Mugs, Notelets, Shopping Bags, and also copies of "The History of the S.I.F.D.", are all available from Kay Leighton (address above).

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR
IN WRITING BY 15TH OCTOBER

SECRETARY'S NOTES

There is always a heavy agenda after two month's holiday from Committee Meetings and this year was no exception. Discussion on next year's Eastbourne Festival played a large part in our deliberations. If anyone knows of a foreign group who would be able to take part next year, I am sure that Roy le Croissette would be glad to hear of them. His address is 26 Westfield Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2QU.

There is a Sub-Committee in the process of up-dating the S.I.F.D. Constitution, and we hope to include this item on the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting on 4th December 1988. Meanwhile, if any member would like a copy of the present Constitution please send me a large stamped addressed envelope with your request.

We are repeating last year's experiment of including a nomination form for next year's Committee with this edition of the SIFD NEWS. New members are always welcome on the Committee - maybe you know someone willing to serve?

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary

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S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Preliminary Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Society for International Folk Dancing, to be held in the Hampstead Room at the Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, London W.C.1., on Sunday, 4th December 1988, at 4.30 p.m.

- 1) Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Sunday, 6th December 1987, at the Y.W.C.A.
- 2) Matters Arising.
- 3) Chairman's Report.
- 4) Treasurer's Report.
- 5) Auditor's Report and Consideration of Accounts.
- 6) Announcement of newly-elected Committee.
- 7) Any Other Business.

Members wishing to submit Motions to be added to the Agenda must submit them in writing, duly seconded, to the Secretary by 7th November 1988. Proposers and seconders must be fully paid-up members of the S.I.F.D.

Nominations for the Committee must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by 7th November 1988 and must contain the written consent of the nominated member to serve if elected. The proposer, seconder and person nominated must all be fully paid-up members of the S.I.F.D.

Present Committee: Janet Woolber (Chairman)
 Audrey Whiteley (Secretary)
 Judith Holloway (Treasurer)

 Roy Bowtell, Frank Flanagan, Belinda Gee, Pam Khan,
 Kay Leighton, Liz Mellish, and Alan McLean (co-opted).

 Alan Morton (Membership Secretary)
 George Sweetland (Publicity Officer)

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REMINDER: This will be the last issue of SIFD NEWS to be sent to you if you have not renewed your S.I.F.D. membership subscription.

Owing to the postal strike, I have not received any articles and letters etc. through the post for this issue of SIFD NEWS, and most of the material has had to be dictated to me over the telephone (I am surrounded by bits of paper with scribbled shorthand notes!). If you posted to me an item for publication this month and it hasn't been included, then I'm afraid it must be caught in the logjam in one of the sorting offices and hasn't reached me yet (19th September).

The strike, at the time of writing, is still playing havoc with the mail, in some areas more than others. However, I am doing my best to get this month's draft to Doug Wells without using the postal system - Les Avery is making a special trip to London to hand over the baton to Alan Morton to pass on to Doug Wells - and I hope that by the time the NEWS is ready for posting, the Post Office will have sorted itself out.

I should like to take this opportunity of once again thanking Doug and Maureen Wells for all the work they have put in during the past year, in getting the SIFD NEWS printed, packaged and posted, in spite of the fact that the numbers increase all the time and the job becomes ever more time-consuming. Thank you, too, to Edwin and Michael Holdup for the time they spend addressing the envelopes, and to Alan Morton for keeping them supplied with changes of address and additions to the list; and thanks also to members who have supplied articles, letters, and items of interest for publication; also cover designs (of which I need more please!). Many thanks to all.

ED.



1989 S.I.F.D. FOLKDANCE SUMMER SCHOOL

This is the week-long course which is popularly known as the "Swansea Summer School". Next year, the school is to be held in the Conference facilities of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. The dates are - from Saturday, 29th July, to Saturday, 5th August, 1989. It is too early yet to give a firm indication of the cost of the school but, with any luck, this will not be much greater than it was in 1987.

If you would like more information about the school, please call me on 0223 853604, or write, c/o 29 St. Mary's Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 8EF.

JULIAN SINTON
Chairman, Summer School Organizing Committee



DAY OF DANCE, CEDIL SHARP HOUSE

I should like to thank those members of Janet Woolbar's group, and the Merton Group, who took part in the Day of Dance at Cecil Sharp House on 10th September 1988. Our demonstration in the morning was well received; I heard comments like, "How lively it was" and "How happy they all looked"!

The S.I.F.D. afternoon teaching session was well attended. Everyone worked hard at Hoi Harmonica, Linecka Polka, De Wleegerd, and Vrapceto. It was surprising to find that many of the dancers did not know how to polka, so by request there was an impromptu polka teaching session!

A most enjoyable day, and I understand that another similar event is being organized.

CHARLES STEVENTON

Continued from last month; an account by Frances Horrocks of her holiday in Romania

On Saturday our hotel is being used for a wedding reception. The bride is in traditional white, the groom in morning suit, and the guests all dressed up for the occasion. However, we find an overflow of older people in costume on the covered terrace where for tonight we have our evening meal. Some traditional music strikes up and we peep in to watch the dancing. The waitress seems to think it a waste that some of the men are just standing around, so she grabs us and plants us in front of a man, so I find I'm actually dancing at a Romanian wedding, even if it's only for a short while.

Sunday is our big day out. We are going to Cas for the day. The way lies through densely forested mountains, at times so dense we are in shadow, with the trees meeting overhead and only dappled sunshine filters through. We find to our astonishment that the steepest, most twisting part is actually stone laid. Goodness knows how long it must have taken to do all those hairpin bends. Perhaps it makes for a better surface in snow and ice. On the way down the other side we pass two gipsy caravans with their own home-made brakes. At the back they tie on a large lump of wood which drags on the ground, and some-one hangs on to the ropes and stands on it. Simple, but quite effective.

We visit an ethnographic and an open-air museum showing old houses, where we have a picnic and are entertained by musicians, but the major visit of the day is to the "Happy Cemetery", so called because the graves all have beautifully carved and painted wooden headstones with pictures of the dead person depicting their job, and with a few lines of verse or prose, not all of it complimentary. So there are paintings of women spinning, weaving and cooking; of men cutting wood, tending sheep, or playing musical instruments, and even one of a man who was knocked down by a car and died seven days later. There is a service taking place in the church and everyone is in their Sunday best, which means in costume. Sometimes this means in full, but sometimes only in part, but all the men sport their beautifully decorated little straw hats. Another feature is the men's waistcoats, some in plain black goat's wool, some in elaborate applique leatherwork. The ladies have black damask skirts or bright flower patterns in red, green and blue, and always a headscarf, no matter what age. After, we move on to meet a group of dancers and musicians whose style of singing reminds me somewhat of flamenco. Then we visit the local spring whose waters are supposed to be beneficial for all sorts of ailments. I take a sip, but it is bitter and I prefer to suffer whatever ailments I happen to have.

Sunday in this village is what one reads about but never really expects to see. Everyone is out in the main street, strolling up and down, and almost everyone is in costume. This isn't done for our benefit as tourists; it really is their normal custom. Behind the spring is a flat paved space where the musicians are playing and young couples are dancing. Dances in this area are for couples and girls don't dance together, so it is rather sad to see the young girls dressed in their very best standing at the side, enviously watching those who are dancing but unable to join in unless invited by some young man whose eye they hope to catch.

Our big day still isn't over. After our return through the thick forests and paved road of the mountains, we have our evening meal and then go down to the river at the back of the hotel and build a bonfire. Under a tree we disturb a young boy with his dog who is sleeping rough. The poor lad can't do much about the invasion of his privacy, but he is given a few drinks and he drops off to sleep again. It is a quiet, still evening and by the light of the fire there is singing and a little gentle dancing. A plaintive tune on the panpipes floats out over the meadow under a full moon. Very romantic!

We still have a lot of hard practising to do, and on the last morning of classes we are really put through our paces. Gabi is determined we'll master the two step turn and Aurelian whips through fourteen dances in three-quarters of an hour. For our final evening meal we are joined again by the "Zara" group. Having eaten, the tables are pushed back and the entertainment begins. One of the items is a song

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with a glottal stop in the voice, which I have heard on a recording made by A.L.Lloyd when he came to this area many years ago, but I had thought this style and tradition had died out. It was very exciting to hear that it still continues. The hit of the evening, however, was a real character of a man, whose violin was a part of him and whose walnut brown face revealed music to be his passion. Having got started it was impossible to stop him. The only way to get him out of the dining room was for the dancers to encircle him and dance out of the room. He then continued playing in the corner of the entrance hall long after the dancing had finished. During the evening we were each presented with a spindle and various leaflets and cards as souvenirs of our stay. Quite a few names and addresses were swapped and many friendships made. Isn't this what it's all about?

As on any holiday of this kind, some memories will always stand out - the friendliness and hospitality of all the groups; the breathtaking beauty of forest clad mountains and the variety of wild flowers; even the howling of the dogs at night, and in particular one night when the howl was more high pitched and longer than anything I've ever heard before - a wolf? yes, it's possible in these mountains. Then there is the border with Russia - a barbed wire fence of garden height with a little gate into no-man's land so people can fish in the river; the charming custom of kissing a girl's hand when asking her to dance, and again when returning her to her seat; the day the grass in front of the hotel was cut - by scythe; my charming Hungarian/Canadian travelling companion on the way home who nearly missed the plane at the stop-over at Brussels. I also saw something else in Rorania that I hadn't seen for a long time - a beautiful, blue, completely cloudless sky. I return to London to find what? - a beautiful, blue, completely cloudness sky - but it didn't last.

Norok.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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ALBANIA

In connection with the proposed trip to Albania next Spring; Ian Price is thinking of showing some videos made by the Albanians at the National Folklore Festival in Gjirokaster. He will probably wish to do this in November in the London area, but in order to do so he would need to use a VHS Multi-System video player as the videos are on the American system NTSC. Has anyone got such a video player, or access to one, that they would be willing to lend to Ian for this purpose? If so, would they please contact the Editor (address on page 2).

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DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Zivko Firfov Group will be holding their annual BALKAN PARTY on SATURDAY, 10th DECEMBER 1988, 7 to 10.30 p.m. at Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, London E.C.1. Nearest Underground Station, Old Street. Admission by ticket only - £5 including refreshments. Tickets obtainable from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Please send stamped addressed envelope, and make cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Group.

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MUSIC

Wilf Horrocks has given us the music for two more dances this month, on page 10, requested by members. Don't forget to send your requests to Wilf, at 53 Southway, Carshalton Beches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Tel: 01 542 3629.

S.I.F.D. POLISH DAY COURSE

Place: St. Paul's Centre, Rossmore Rd., Marylebone, London N.W.1. (off Lisson Grove) near Marylebone and Edgware Road Underground Stations.

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Date: SATURDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 1988

Tutors: Betty Harvey & Tony Latham Fee: £3 for SIFD members, £4 for non-members

Bring packed lunch; squash available. If tea/coffee required, please bring your own provisions; kitchen available.

Betty and Tony will be teaching dances from the following list, but the selection will be limited in order to allow time for thoroughness.

National Dances: Krakowiak (as taught by Tony at the last SIFD Polish Day Course)
Kujawiak (basic)

Regional Dances: Wielkopolska region;
Przodek Szamotulski
Wiwat Przyjacielski
Walc
Marynia
Sacz Region;
Niskowianka
Polka Hop Hop Hop
Polka Sadecka
Rzeszow Region;
Dobulka
Krzyżok
Lasowiak
Kurpie Region;
Walc
Slask Region;
Hulan
Polkas

Edith Luff will be playing the piano for the dances. Recording will be allowed at specific times. Cassettes of the music for the dances taught may be ordered on the day.

Please note that rubber-soled shoes are not suitable.

Unfortunately, the S.I.F.D. Associated Class for Polish dancing - Dany Tacy Group - are no longer able to hold their weekly class, due to lack of numbers, so we hope that members will take this opportunity to do these lovely Polish dances under Betty's and Tony's tuition. Both beginners and more experienced dancers will be welcome. Next month's S.I.F.D. Day Course will be Swedish.

N.B. Please delete the Polish class from the list of Associated Classes sent out last month.



WEEKENDS AWAY

The booking list for weekends away will be sent out with the November issue of SIFD NEWS, but in the meantime, Jack Richardson has asked us to announce that the next weekend at Halsway Manor will be held from 28th April to 1st May 1989 and as there will be fewer places available than usual, it is advisable to make early bookings without waiting for the list. Applications should be sent to Jack Richardson, Department of Chemical Engineering, University College, Swansea SA2 8PP.

ROMANIAN HOLIDAY, 1988

I know Frances Horrocks has written an account of our travels in Romania, and I do not wish to steal her thunder, but I must let everyone know what a good job Silviu Ciuciumis did in organizing our trip, as he is organizing another trip at Christmas to see the folk traditions and customs linked with the winter solstice and if he makes it Maramures, then it will coincide with a special anniversary too, plus skiing if you're keen. There will be trips at Easter and in the Summer again, next year, most probably in N. Moldavia. (Silviu himself comes from Galat).

The most impressive thing about the trip was the warm-hearted approach to everything. It was scarcely a day before the mixed bunch of 8 Brits, 2 Swiss, 1 French-Swede and 30+ Dutch people were a mutually supportive happy group of FRIENDS! Silviu shared himself in little pieces all the time and managed to notice an individual's off-day, sad moment, or momentary "lost" look, and eased the problem with a well-timed word, hug or smile.

Despite their mostly very hard life, the villagers shared their dances, their songs, their food, their tuica (I'm firmly addicted now!) and their spirit. Generous and easy-going. My special little friend from the Marama Group overwhelmed Sula (my daughter) and me with her generosity, and the birthday meal she had prepared for us was a BANQUET. (My birthday coincided with this holiday). The chocolate birthday cake was so rich and delicious. I have never ever had such a memorable birthday since childhood. The flowers and champagne from Silviu/the group was the most wonderful surprise - even after he announced it was "someone's" birthday. As I had had Happy Birthday sung to me in all languages, and loads of kisses and hugs and a bunch of wild flowers from Marina (picked in the dark) at 01 past midnight, round the campfire, beautifully orchestrated by Silviu, I had completely forgotten it was STILL my birthday at 21.00. I looked round to see who had a birthday so close to mine! My day had seemed like two. I shall always treasure those wonderful memories as well as the cards and presents the lovely Dutch friends gave me and the record from Gaby (the indefatigable Maramures teacher we christened Yehudi). Even the waiter (very handsome) gave me a red gladiolus (and the customary three kisses). That is such an opulent, dignified, presentation sort of flower to give. The whole 24 hours was absolute bliss for a Leo heart.

In case you hadn't realized, this is a RECOMMENDATION for Silviu Ciuciumis's next trips, a BIG THANK YOU to him and also to ALL the wonderful new and old friends who made Romania 1988 such a fantastic holiday - my first proper one since 1973! Oh yes, we did get a bit fed up with apples and tomatoes, and yes the showers were mostly cold, but that's not important in real life terms is it? As a battery charger, it is unbeatable - why not try it for yourself?

DIKI GLEESON



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

- Dance Groups: "Selcar". Classes on Tuesday evenings, 7.15 at Selly Park School, Pershore Rd., Stirchley, Birmingham. Tutor: Sybil Chapman.
- "Heart of England" International Folkdance Group. Wednesday evenings at 7.30 at Lyndon School, Daylesford Road, Solihull.
- "Arden" International Folkdance Group. Tuesday evenings (except the 2nd Tuesday of each month) at 7.30 in the Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common, near Coventry, Warwick.

Further details of these activities from: The Secretary of West Midlands Branch S.I.F.D., Dennis V. Hunt, 27 Baginton Road, Styvechale, Coventry CV3 6JX. Tel: 0293 413854.

WINTER FOLK DANCE HOLIDAY IN ALMERIA, SPAIN.

Some people will remember me for having introduced the Russian Lyrical dance to the repertoire of the S.I.F.D. Others may recall that I organized the University of London Folkdance Group which ran for four years. But I would probably drum up more nods of recognition as the mother of Galina Toker (nee Martin) of the Bulgarian folkdance group, Maritsa. However, most will have forgotten me because I have disappeared from the folkdance scene and gone to live in Spain.

I was recently talking to two folkdancers from the S.I.F.D. who told me what a fantastic walking holiday they had in Almeria, where they hiked along the rugged coastal mountains and stayed in the idyllic village of San Jose, which is where we have bought a villa. So I had the idea that if anyone else would like a winter holiday, we could combine it with folkdancing. We offer bed, breakfast and evening meal for £12 a day (accommodation can be for ten people).

Wonderful walks, swimming in the clear water - two minutes from the golden sands of one of the bays which are many and varied. There are lots of places to visit and sights to see, but my hope is to get a few people interested from the folkdance world so that we can have dance sessions on the very large roof terrace.

It is the sunniest corner of Spain - most days are very warm and sunny even in the depths of winter; my husband swims every day. If you are interested, please 'phone Galina Toker for details on flights - 01 800 1123. Fares can be very reasonable in winter. We are just half an hour from the airport and always collect guests. Please bring your favourite folkdance tape.

KATHY BEECH
(formerly Martin)



CHRISTMAS CARDS

I am pleased to announce that the S.I.F.D. Christmas Cards are due to be delivered to me towards the end of September. I will confirm the cost later, but it will be in the region of 65p per pack of five cards.

KAY LEIGHTON



WHAT'S ON, continued from page 11

- Oct. 29th GREEK DAY COURSE, organized by West Midlands Branch of S.I.F.D. at Oakenshaw Centre, Oakenshaw Road, Solihull. 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Tutor: Lillian Galatis. Cost: £4 for the whole day. Further details from Dennis Hunt, Tel: 0203 413854.
- Oct. 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH OF S.I.F.D. at Oakenshaw Centre, Oakenshaw Road, Solihull, 6.30 p.m., followed by an EVENING DANCE at 7.30 p.m. Further information from Dennis Hunt, 27 Baginton Road, Styvechale, Coventry CV3 6JX. Tel: 0203 413854.

KEHRUUVALSSI

(Finland)

Handwritten musical score for "KEHRUUVALSSI" in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of seven staves of music with various chords and section markers A, B, and C.

Staff 1: G, Em, D7, G, Em

Staff 2: Am, D, G, B7

Staff 3: Em, A, Am, D7, G, Am, D7

Staff 4: G, C, Am, G7

Staff 5: C, Am, Dm, G, C

Staff 6: E7, Am, D, Dm

Staff 7: G, C, Dm, G7, C

HODOROAGA

(Romania/Transylvania)

Handwritten musical score for "HODOROAGA" in G major, 5/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music with various chords.

Staff 1: D, A, D, A, D

Staff 2: A7, D, A7, D

(Taken from Gary Kärneis Swansea tape by W.H. Sp'85)

SUNDAY DANCES at Y.W.C.A. (Queen Mary Hall), Great Russell Street, London W.C.1.

Oct. 2nd M.C.s Joy & Charles Staventon (Interval dances will be led by
Frances Horrocks)

Nov. 5th M.C. Simon Guest

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: £2.50 for S.I.F.D. members. £3.00 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON

- Oct. 1st DAY COURSE OF GENERAL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING organized by Rainmakers International Folkdance Group at St. Michael's Church Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tutor: Janet Woolbar. The hall will be open from 10.30 a.m. for coffee beforehand. £2 for SIFD members, £2.50 for non-members. Tea, coffee, squash available but please bring packed lunch - or cafes etc. nearby. Dances from the following will be taught:- En Allant Aux Chataignes (French), Quatre Pieds de Falaise a Puys (French), Vlashko (Bulgarian), Hagi (Basque), Krakowiak (Polish), A Chula (Portuguese), Makil Tikii (Basque), Sudmallinas (Latvian). Enquiries to Sheila Leavy, 0462 814798.
- Oct. 8th S.I.F.D. POLISH DAY COURSE. See page 7.
- Oct. 8th ROMANIAN EVENING with Romanian food, wine, dancing. Music by Dunav. 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at Davenant Centre, 179-181 Whitechapel Road, London E.1. Tickets £5. Reservations (advised) to Ileana, 01 388 0228, or Marcella, 01 341 1095. Cheques to: Romanian Folk Festivals, 3 Blakeney Close, Elm Village, NW1 1BU.
- Oct. 8th AUTUMN DANCE organized by Woodvale International Folkdance Group, 8 to 11.30 p.m. at Borough Green Village Hall. S.I.F.D. Band. Tickets £3 including buffet. Please bring your own drinks. It would help with catering if you could book in advance - ring Alan Cant on 0732 863405.
- Oct. 15th BALKANPLUS DAY COURSE OF BULGARIAN FOLK DANCES at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Road, London N.W.3. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tutors: Galina Tucker & Roberto Haddon. Cost: £4. Dances to be taught on this course were learnt from Belcho Stanev when he taught in Obersteinbach, S. Germany. Bring a belt, soft shoes, and packed lunch, although there is a canteen at the centre. The day course will be followed by a BALKANPLUS evening at 7 p.m. which will include dances from the day course. Further details from Galina Tucker, 01 800 1123, or Roberto Haddon, 01 533 0724. The next BALKANPLUS will be on 19th November.
- Oct. 17th ANDALUCIAN EVENING. Rita Scott will be teaching Spanish dances from Andalusia at Wycombe International Folkdance Club, from 7.45 p.m. at Sir William Ramsay School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, near High Wycombe, Bucks. Admission: 50p.
- Oct. 22nd BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP followed by EVENING DANCE organized by Nutbrook International Folkdance Group, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston. The workshop, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be taught by Cathy Meunier. Dances will be selected from: Kulska Bachvanka, Opas, Vlashko, Madro, Panagjursko Horo, Dospatsko Horo, Rucenitsa Na Horo, Svornato, Bucimis, Buenek, and Karamfil. Bring your own lunch, and also bring a belt. Cost: £3 (concessions £1). The Evening Dance will be from 8 to 11 p.m. and will be a mixture of English and International dancing. Cost: £3 (concessions £1). Enquiries to Sylvia Stephens, Nottingham 208109, or Gill Moral, Sandiacre 393204.

WHAT'S ON is continued on page 9...