



1996

APRIL

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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The typing is done by Heather Edwards. The printing, packaging and
posting is done by Doug and Maureen Wells.

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This month's cover design was drawn by Lesley Boorer specially for our
Silver Jubilee Anniversary Year and we shall be using it every month
throughout the year.

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CHAIRPERSON: Vacancy.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - APRIL

The Day Course in April will be SCOTTISH with June Desborough. June is a
qualified teacher from the Royal Scottish Dancing Society, who will polish
up our (in some cases non-existent) Scottish style. Please wear soft, flat,
flexible shoes. Royal Scottish Society notes and tapes will be available.

Venue: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.
Date: Saturday, April 13th 1996.
Time: 10.30a.m.-4.30p.m.
Cost: £6.00 members, £7.00 non-members, concessions available on request.

There will be no S.I.F.D. Day Course in May.

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL MATERIAL FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF THE S.I.F.D. NEWS MUST REACH THE EDITOR,
LILY AVERY, IN WRITING, BY APRIL 17th 1996.

A MESSAGE FROM LILY

Last month I thanked members for all their letters, 'phone calls and cards of good wishes. I should like to augment those thanks as since publication of last month's SIFD NEWS I have had even more correspondence, and also flowers, from well-wishers. You have all been very kind and I am sorry I have not been able to acknowledge every one personally (I have had around 130 cards/letters to date), but I do assure you your messages are valued and will be kept.

Some people have asked how I broke my leg; well, in trying to save Les from falling when he was not steady on his feet, I broke his fall but also broke my kneecap. I am now out of plaster but, at the time of writing, still confined to the house and getting around in a wheelchair and/or walking frame, but I am told the fracture is healing, and I am able to do physiotherapeutic exercises.

Now that I am able to bend my knee and get the leg under the desk(!) I am able to resume typing the NEWS. I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking Heather Edwards very much indeed for taking on the job of producing and editing the SIFD NEWS and making such an excellent job of it while I have been hors de combat. It is very pleasing to know that we have someone so willing and efficient to help out when needed (although I am disillusioned to find that I am not indispensable after all!). Heather has also been a tremendous help to me in a practical way - visiting me, getting my shopping, posting my letters, emptying my rubbish (I can't get to the dustbin), and making me cups of tea. A true friend in need.

LILY AVERY

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A SUCCESSFUL BEGINNERS PLUS DANCE

The Beginners Plus Dance was held at the Working Men's College on February 24th. It was a most enjoyable evening with a reasonable number of new faces. My only regret is that there were not a few more people there to enjoy it. I would like to thank the MCs., Jill Bransby and Jeanette Hull, for devising a nicely varied programme, and Jacob's Ladder, all the way from Cambridge, for providing the live music. I would also like to thank Richard Mellish for ably running the sound system, Anne Leach for selling the tickets, Anna Huston for creating the poster, (did you notice the dancer on the wrong foot?), and Simon Guest for making the notice and map that were posted at Cecil Sharp House.

As a note of information to organisers of other dances, we conducted an entrance poll asking where people learned of the dance. Everyone was either an SIFD member or they had learned of the dance from some personal contact, presumably with a SIFD member. No one reported learning of the dance from the ads that we had placed in Eurofolker and in Folk London. I conclude that it is not worthwhile to purchase ads in either of these publications. The free listings are worthwhile because the price is right!

CASPER CRONK

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When sending in material for publication, please remember to write in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people, places and dances, unless typed. Ed.

S.I.F.D. SHOP NEWS

A very special tea towel has been designed for us by Sister Anna. It is printed in blue and black on a natural cotton. The design depicts couples in costume from Austria, Bulgaria, Canary Islands, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

It is a limited edition, so get in quick! Cost: £3.50 plus £1.00 postage and packing, from Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.

Also we have been mugged!

What a great response to our request for an Anniversary mug design. Thank you to the members who sent in their designs, all of which will be useful as a design source for the future.

The selected design is by Sister Anna Huston, and the mugs are being produced and will be on sale in a few weeks' time.

CLAIRE STEELEY

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INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE SUMMER SCHOOL, YORK 1996

The College of Ripon and York St. John at York has been booked for the Summer School from the evening meal on Saturday July 27th until after breakfast on Saturday August 3rd, 1996. Application forms and further details were sent out with last month's News.

If you wish to claim your SIFD discount for the course your application form should reach us by April 1st.

If you have any ideas or requests for extra activities, or offers of help in any way with the Summer School, please let us know as soon as possible.

Dawn and Paul Webster, Greenacres, Broadstreet Common, Nash, Newport, Gwent NP6 2AZ. Tel: 01633 272 662.

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IRISH SET DANCING

As you know from the announcement in last month's Newsletter about the York Summer School, Timmy McCarthy will be teaching Irish Set Dancing. If anyone is interested in going to one of his workshops before York, he will be teaching at Cecil Sharp House on April 27th/28th.

Tickets and information can be obtained from Pat Cardis, tel. 0171 254 3998. It is advisable to purchase tickets in advance as the set dance workshops are often sold out.

CASPER CRONK

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AN INVITATION FROM KAYROMA FOLK DANCE GROUP
WHITLEY BAY, NORTHUMBERLAND

Hello Dancers,

Because this is the Golden Jubilee Year, we would like to give dancers the opportunity to share with us a very special dance which we enjoy and think of as a gem from the Costa Del Sol, - the name is Laraja.

It has been performed at the Billingham Festival on three occasions by groups from Spain. It was danced by a group of 8 girls only, also danced by 2 couples and, another time, linked into a suite of dances by a large group of men and ladies, wearing costumes in black and red. The dance is not difficult, footwork is quite basic with easy flowing arm and body movements and interesting floor patterns. I have an excellent cassette recording and also have the dance on video.

We invite dancers to pay us a visit any time. We meet on Wednesdays in term time, 10.00a.m. to noon, in the Scout Hut, Briardene, Whitley Bay, Northumberland. We are a stone's throw from the sea shore and fifteen minutes walk along the cliff tops to our beautiful St. Mary's Lighthouse. We are a small group but we can offer you warm hospitality and an opportunity to visit our beautiful Northumberland coastline, together with sharing some of our dances.

My telephone number is 0166185 2495 and I have an answerphone.

Yours sincerely,

KAYE LEWIS POOLE
3 Towne Gate, Heddon-on-the-Wall
Northumberland NE15 0DT

P.S. Should you not be used to dances from Spain you will like this dance - slightly similar to Flamenco but much more gentle.

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LOIDIS

On February 29th Loidis IFDG held a dance to raise money for The British Heart Foundation. This was a great success and a donation of £105 has been sent to them. The Foundation was raising money throughout the month of February through dance and other physical activities and we wonder if any other groups were involved?

JEAN AND IAN WILLSON

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THE ROMANIAN EXPERIENCE, August 17th-31st 1996

The dance group Bihorul from the town of Oradea invite you to join them for dance lessons on the dances of northern Transylvania, song and musicians' sessions, excursions to places of interest, leisurely barbecues in the sunshine, visits to churches, museums, craftsmen, days out to mountain villages with the villagers and lots of music, dance and costume. Accommodation at Romania's foremost spa with thermal waters and naturally hot swimming pools. Cost: £750.

For more information and application form contact Celia Stone or John Stewart on 0115 9300581 or 0115 9329442, or send s.a.e. to Celia Stone, The Bottle Kiln, West Hallam, Derby DE7 6HP.

BALKANPLUS, Saturday April 13th

Venue: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.
Time: 7.00-10.30p.m. Admission: £3.00
M.C.: The inimitable Dave Carter, guaranteeing a lively evening.

Season tickets for Balkanplus are £25.00 for eleven dances in the year plus reduced rates for day courses.

T-shirts with a white print on black, burgundy and dark green in M, L and XL are available at £6.50. The old T-shirts with a black print on royal blue and fuchsia in M and L only are now at sale price of £5.00 - only a few left.

Many of the dances on the programme for Balkanplus are taught at St. Pancras Community Centre, Camden Road, on Mondays, 8.00-10p.m.

FRANCES HORROCKS

(Ed. Apologies to Balkanplus and to Frances for inadvertently leaving their March 9th meeting off the What's On listings in the March News. You are indispensable, Lily!)

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EASTERN EUROPEAN FOLK DANCE: A NEW GROUP

Starting on Friday April 12th, Frank Dowling and Clyde "Ollie" Olliver will be starting a new weekly venture in Culross Hall, Culross Buildings, Battle Bridge Road (opposite the Gasworks), behind Kings Cross Station, London N.W.1, with the aim of keeping as much as possible of the old, original eastern European folk dance repertoire alive. We hope to begin our meetings working on "basic steps" dances to warm up, progressing to the more complicated repertoire in the course of each evening, depending of course on people's needs and wishes!

We believe that the meetings will be enjoyable, so if you "want a good time", please contact either "Ollie" on 0171 833 3265, or myself on 0171 821 7315 for further details! Meetings will begin at 18.30 until approximately 21.00 and are open to all levels of ability. Our "rates" are reasonable: £3.00 per evening, including refreshment. We look forward to seeing you there!

FRANK DOWLING

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KOPRIVŠTICA, BULGARIA, SUMMER DANCE HOLIDAY, July 28th-August 6th 1996

Seminars, lectures, live music, videos, notes, teaching in English, visits to museums and local folk groups, traditional Bulgarian meals. Lodging in private homes. Programme organised by Stefan and Bogdan Văglarov, Dobromir Hriz str. 29, 1124 - Sofia, Bulgaria. Tel: +359-2/44-13-45 or 46-28-82; Fax: +359-2/44-15-72.

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PROPOSED WEEKEND AT DUNFORD HOUSE, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY, August 23rd/26th 1996

I have just been informed by the Administration Manager at Dunford House that I could book Dunford for the above August Bank Holiday weekend. Despite the short notice, would anyone be interested?

I would have to fill the whole house to keep prices down; that would mean 44 people at £92.50 each, from the Friday evening meal until Monday after Tea (4.00p.m.). It would be a Balkan orientated weekend with the usual walking, etc. If I am unable to fill the house, the minimum figure is 36 people, the price then being £100 approximately.

If you are interested please let me know. I would need a deposit of £50.00 each, and I have to inform Dunford by April 10th.

Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD, tel: 0181 592 4427.

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.....BUT IS IT REALLY A FOLK DANCE?

I remember quite some time ago reading in the S.I.F.D. News about "real" and "not real" folk dances, especially concerning the performance of a group from abroad, when someone said "Choreographed!" making it sound like a swear-word. So it occurs to me that it would be interesting to throw open the question now: What is Real Folk Dance?

In my opinion it is a dance - regardless of who first thought of it or when it was first taught - accepted by the people of the area it is representing as an expression of their own culture. An example of this is the Kalmyk Dance, choreographed by Igor Moiseyev, the founder and leader of the Russian State Folk Dance Company. In his travels he found that in Kalmykia (small republic situated where the Volga joins the Caspian Sea) there was no folk dancing at all - so he made, about fifty years ago, a dance for the animals of the region; horses, steers and deer. The Kalmyks liked it, learned it, and are by now firmly convinced that this is their own national dance, handed down through the centuries.

Is folk dance just to make "boy meets girl" easy? Or to get people together somehow? Or is it for people who love dancing and are content to practise to make it as beautiful as possible?

Should any "choreography" be forbidden? Any alteration banned? Dance is a living thing and, for instance, any girls' solos in a Hopak, the Ukrainian National Dance, would have been unthinkable when it was first danced, long ago, as a man's solo. Now, with girls wearing short skirts, they can have solos, the same as boys.

It would be interesting to hear as many opinions as possible.

JENIA GRAMAN

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MUSIC for two English dances, Dorset Fourhand Reel and Cumberland Reel, from Wilf Horrocks on p.12. Please let Wilf know if you would like music for a particular dance on 0181 642 3629.

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NOTES FROM CHRISTINE HALL

Christine Hall has won a £500 award from Southern Arts Training for her Oriental Dancing, one of only eight artists in the south of England.

"I applied on the spur of the moment, thinking I had nothing to lose except the time in putting together the application. But I didn't dream that there could be the slightest chance of me winning. And suddenly there was the letter saying I had received the award!

The award, which was open to freelance practitioners of any art form, comes in the form of a bursary. Candidates had to explain why they and their art form were particularly deserving, and how they would spend the £500, preferably to acquire marketing skills. I chose to take a course in radio presenter skills, and one in telephone liaison, and also to work shadow a theatre manager and an artistes' agent.

In my application I explained that I need these skills to promote my Oriental Folk Dances in Kent and Sussex, and the selection panel obviously thought this was a good idea."

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Chinese fans

Many dancers have difficulty in finding Chinese dance fans in the UK, and have to rely on friends going on a China trip. Nick Phillips has been able to buy a quantity of fans from Beijing.

They are very large, extra-strong silk fans, with double layers of glossy silk, tested and approved by teachers Christine Hall and Xian Jiang. Three colours are available: bright red, bright green and hot pink. They are decorated with sequins.

A single fan costs £6, and a pair costs £10. Please add £1 for postage and packing. Most dancers use two differently coloured fans. Please state your preferred colour choices, as well as alternatives in case your first choice is no longer available. Cheques payable to Nick Phillips, Finchden, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5JS.

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Egyptian Cane Dance Workshop

American celebrity dancer, Helené, is spending a short holiday with English relatives. Christine Hall has persuaded her to give a workshop during her stay.

The magnificent Durbah room at the Hastings Museum - a room with elaborate Indian woodcarving walls and a display of oriental costumes - will be the venue on Friday May 31st at 7.00p.m. Helené will perform and teach Raks-al-Asaya (Egyptian cane dance). This is a lively folkloric dance, performed by groups of men or women, or mixed groups. There will be canes for students to borrow.

The price for the three-hour workshop is £10, which includes Egyptian mint tea. Helené has agreed to a reduced price of £8 for Christine Hall's adult education students and also for members of the S.I.F.D. who book in advance. Send cheques to Nick Phillips, Finchden, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5JS.

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CECIL SHARP HOUSE SUNDAY DANCE, May 12th

The dance at Cecil Sharp House on May 12th will be held downstairs in Trefusis and will be a chance to look back fondly on the favourite dances of the last fifty years.

If you would like to nominate a personal favourite for inclusion, whether from our early days or one of our newer dances, please do let me know during this month.

See you all dancing.

Anne Leach, 5 Southbourne, Hayes, Kent BR2 7NJ. Tel: 0181 462 7959.

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PRE-SUNDAY DANCE CLASS!

The monthly Balkan workshop run by Val Lenny and Maggie O'Regan will be held, for the next two months, preceding the Sunday S.I.F.D. dance. Why not give it a go? Studio 10, The Place, Flaxman Terrace, London WC1. Cost: £2.50. Information from Maggie, tel. 0171 609 7098 or Val, tel. 01634 685 0130. (No time given).

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LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD

At this year's International Eisteddfod (July 9th to 14th), folkdance groups from the following countries are expected to compete: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, England, France, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, N. Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Sardinia, Scotland, Turkey, Ukraine - subject, of course, to alteration. The detailed programme of events will be available from June 15th.

The Instrumental Folk Solo or Group and the Folkdance Group competitions will, as usual, take place on the Wednesday (July 10th) and the Folkdance Workshop, a comparatively new item, will take place from 9.30a.m. to 3.30p.m. on the Thursday (July 11th).

All enquiries to Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Office, Llangollen, Clwyd, Wales LL20 8NG. Tel: 01978 860236. Fax: 01978 861300.

LILY AVERY

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SUMMER FOLK DANCE WEEK, Benešov u Prahy, July 27th-August 3rd 1996

Benešov is located 45km. south of Prague. The course is designed for those interested in learning more about folklore and folk dance from Czech, Moravian and Slovakian regions. Registration to Dvorana, Španielova 38/1275, 163 00 Praha 6, Czech Republic. 'Phone: Jasan Bonuš - Dvorana (+42 2) 301 8279, 302 1330; fax (+42 2) 301 8267; Email: dvorana@login.cz.

Some more information may be available from Dalbar Sudwell, 144 Broadacres, Guildford, Surrey. Tel: 01483 32539.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 3rd/6th HALSWAY MANOR, Crowcombe, West Somerset. At the moment(March 11th) there are a very few places left for our weekend of dancing and walking for the May Bank Holiday weekend (Friday to Monday). Halsway is well situated for walks in the Quantocks, the north Somerset and Devon coasts and Exmoor. Enquiries to Jack Richardson, Chemical Engineering Department, University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 403153 (home); 01792 295194 (work). Fax: 01792 295701.

May 3rd/6th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL. Festival Booking Office, 7 Manor Road North, Seaford, E. Sussex BN25 3RA. For information, telephone 01435 830092 or fax 01435 830988.

May 11th FRITH FOLK. Marina Wolstenholme will teach Lines and Circles of Eastern Europe - a.m. workshop; p.m. recap and dancing in party mood followed by Afternoon Tea, inclusive in £5.00 charge. 10.30a.m.-4.30p.m. at Townend Methodist Church, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire. Contact: Pat Phillips, tel. 01298 24450 (beforehand would be useful for catering).

May 24th/28th BALKANPLUS ROMANIAN AND MACEDONIAN DANCE WEEKEND, Ironbridge Gorge Youth Hostel. Contact: Anne Marshall, 44 Church Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3EQ. Tel. 0117 950 9889.

June 29th ANNIVERSARY DANCE IN THE NORTH. All welcome. Venue: Oldham Sixth Form College, just off the M62. Further details to follow. Enquiries: tel. 01942 831141.

July 5th/8th FOURTH MILTON KEYNES FESTIVAL OF FOLK ART. For information, contact Jill Gourlay, The Secretary, The Festival Office, 30 St. John Street, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. MK16 8HJ, tel. 01908 610564; fax 01280 824200.

July 7th ISRAELI DANCE DAY with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne, E. Sussex. Contact Rowena Martin, tel.01323 503991 for details.

July 22nd/26th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE COURSE with David Mowat. Line and circle dances, mostly Balkan and Israeli. The course forms part of the Oxford Summer School at Milham Ford School, Oxford. You can book for the whole, or just part of the course. Contact: Richard Speed, tel. 01367 710593.

July 27th/Aug.3rd YORK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE SUMMER SCHOOL. Contact: Dawn and Paul Webster, Greenacres, Broadstreet Common, Nash, Newport, Gwent. Np6 2AZ. Tel. 01633 272 662.

Sept.7th/14th BALKAN DANCE HOLIDAY in Dovedale, the Peak District. An HF Special Interest holiday with Cathy Meunier teaching a selection of Balkan dances. Ring for a Special Interest brochure on 0181 905 9388 (24 hours).

Sept.28th DAY COURSE OF POLISH DANCING to be held in Leeds, organised by Loidis IFDG. Tutor: Janice Wrench. Further details at a later date.

Nov.1st/3rd BIANCA DE JONG AT BRECON. Residential weekend with Bianca's superb teaching of Balkan dances and opportunities for walking in a delightful area. For details send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

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

Apr.14th Roy Bowtell

May 12th Anne Leach - Dances from the 50 years, see p.9

7.00 to 10.00p.m. Admission: £3 for S.I.F.D. members, £4 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- Apr.5th/9th ALISON HOUSE, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire. Weekend organised by Roy Clarke, tel. 0181 367 2649.
- Apr.13th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE IN SCOTTISH DANCING. See p.2.
- Apr.13th BALKANPLUS in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 7.00-10.30p.m. M.C: Dave Carter. See also p.6.
- Apr.13th FRENCH DANCE IN HUDDERSFIELD with Rosbif. French Dance Workshop, 3.00-6.00p.m., £1.50. French/English Dance, 8.00p.m.-midnight, £3.50. Combined ticket, £4.00. Tickets/information, tel. 01484 660289.
- Apr.14th BALKAN WORKSHOP preceding S.I.F.D. monthly Sunday Dance with Val Lenny and Maggie O'Regan. See p.9.
- Apr.20th BLOWZABELLA X-BAND at Chats Palace, 42 Brooksby's Walk, Hackney, London E9. Nearest station: Homerton. 8.00-11.30p.m. £7/£4. Come! Hear! Dance! French and a bit of English. Information: Jessica Abrahams, tel. 0181 838 1996.
- Apr.20th BULGARIAN DANCE DAY COURSE. Join the Bristol group in learning some real village Bulgarian dances. 10.30a.m.-4.30p.m. at St. Ursula's School, Brecon Road, Bristol BS9. Cost: £5.00 SIFD members, £6.00 non-members. Tutor: James Webb. Please bring lunch to share. Party in the evening, 7.30p.m.-11.00p.m., same venue. Contact: Anne Marshall, tel. 0117 950 9889.
- Apr.26th HASSAPIKO AT BARNET. Maggie O'Regan will teach the favourite version of this popular Greek dance, 8.00p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Further information from Brian Dowsett, tel. 01992 582717.
- Apr.26th ROSTOV BALALAIKA COMPANY. Fairfield Concert Hall, Croydon. Box Office: 0181 688 9291.
- Apr.26/29th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND, near Alcester, Warwickshire. Contact: André Hobro, tel. 01203 418 949. Full details in March News.
- Apr.27th EGYPTIAN BELLY DANCING with Christine Hall. Learn a complete routine with a view to performing at a charity cabaret evening in May. Two one-day workshops (May 4th also) can be booked separately or together. Contact: Rochester Adult Education Centre, tel. 01634 845359.
- Apr.27/28th IRISH SET DANCING WORKSHOPS with Timmy McCarthy. See p.4.
- Apr.28th SUTTON DAY OF DANCE. Westcroft Leisure Centre, Westcroft Road, Carshalton, Surrey. 10.00a.m.-4.15p.m. £1.50 all day. See previous notice in the March News.
- Apr.28th KAROLINKA - Polish Folk Dance. Fairfield Concert Hall, Croydon. Box Office: 0181 688 9291.