

SIFD NEWS



AUGUST 1988

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery, 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: Cooden (04243) 5866.

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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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This month's cover is by Philip Thornton and shows two dancers at Rustuk, a village North-East of Skopje, Yugoslavia. It is an illustration from Philip's book, "Dead Puppets Dance" (published in 1937!) and is reproduced by his kind permission.

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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 SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 15TH AUGUST.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

At our last Committee Meeting before the summer holidays, it was good to hear that donations to the Lucile Armstrong Memorial Fund Appeal were beginning to arrive. George Sweetland was present at Llangollen for the Fisteddfod and managed to talk to some members of their Committee, and we shall let you know what the final decision is about the form the memorial will take.

Jill Bransby has agreed to lead the Society's participation in the next Movement and Dance Weekend in October. More details later.

Kay Leighton is investigating the possibility of having Christmas cards for sale this year, so don't buy all your cards at the Summer Sales!

We ended the financial year with an individual membership of 563; in all, 577 copies of the SIFD NEWS are sent out every month. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Doug and Maureen Wells, who are faced with the daunting task of stuffing 577 envelopes every few weeks. They would be glad of some assistance from anyone who lives nearby. Doug and Maureen live at 70 Finchley Park, London N.12.

Happy holidays, and we look forward to another successful year starting in September.

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary

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S.I.F.D. MEMBERSHIP

Your S.I.F.D. membership expires at the end of August. Please renew promptly to ensure continued delivery of your SIFD NEWS. We hope to send out membership forms for renewal with this issue, to be returned with the appropriate subscription to our Membership Secretary, Alan Morton.

Our Treasurer, Judith Holloway, would like to remind you that at the 1987 Annual General Meeting an increase in membership subscriptions was approved, with effect from 1st September 1988. The new rates are :-

*Town Member	£6.00
Joint Town Members (Man & Wife) ..	£9.00
Country Member	£4.00
Joint Country Members (Man & Wife)	£6.00
Junior Member (under 18 years) ..	£1.50
Life Member	£60.00 (after 2 years' membership and with approval of Committee)

*Members who are living within 30 miles of Central London or within 30 miles of Central Birmingham.

The new rates will be shown on the newly-printed membership forms.

Affiliated Groups and Associated Class membership also expires at the end of this month, and applications have to be submitted to the Committee for acceptance. The affiliation fee is £8.50.

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We are very sorry to have to announce the tragic death of Ellen Felton ("little Ellen" to many of us). Ellen was knocked down in a traffic accident while crossing the road outside her home and died soon afterwards. She had not been in the best of health for some time and her sight was rapidly failing, but she gamely kept up her many interests and was still very active. She had booked to go to the weekend at Dunford House this month, and her familiar figure there will be sadly missed, as it will be by her many friends and acquaintances at the other groups and classes that she regularly attended. We send our condolences to Ellen's family.

LILY AVERY

The Eisteddfod opened in regulation Llangollen weather, with black clouds scudding across a grey sky, with the odd shower threatening a downpour which fortunately did not materialise. When the sun did break through, it showed the glorious scenery to its best advantage.

The Tuesday opening concert had a matinee in the afternoon for children, which I understand was very popular, but while I can only agree with the sentiment that youth must be allowed greater participation, I and others felt that a concert of a Bulgarian children's choir and a youth group from Germany with a programme of movement and dance depicting a fairy story did not appeal to many at the repeat performance in the evening. It is to be hoped that next year will see a return of a folk dance programme for the adult audience at least.

Wednesday is now a hectic day for the adjudicators (this year Francis Feybli, Narendra Kotiyan and Frances Mon) and of course for other interested parties. 9 a.m. sees the start of the folk music preliminaries in a chapel hall in the town, followed shortly afterwards by the finals on the Eisteddfod stage, and then the adjudication and awards. This year there were only four entrants for the folk music section and hence only one rejection (three groups go forward to the finals).

The three who went forward were: the Czech group, the Turkish and the Mallorcan. The Czechs opened the event - a trio of cimbalom, fiddle and bass, playing a selection of gypsy music (not approved of!). Then came the Turks consisting of kaval, baglana, kashik (wooden spoons), a small spiked fiddle and a hand drum, and lastly a sextet of guitars and tamburas from Mallorca. To me, as a non-musician, they all seemed excellent, and even the adjudicators must have had problems, but eventually the Czechs and the Turks were awarded 85 and 87 respectively and the Mallorcans came first with 89.

Later, in the early afternoon, we were plunged into the major competition of the day, that for folkdance parties. Now that the folk music and dance are on the same day (previously there were on different days), it is probably as well that the number of participants has dropped from the twenty and more teams of a few years ago to twelve, as the adjudicators would have been presented with an impossible task.

F.O.T.E.M., from Turkey, have been seen at previous Eisteddfods and this year they presented a suite from the Adiyamen region, a mixture of five wedding and harvest dances. Beautifully executed (but straying from the rule of only two traditional dances), they were accompanied by zurna and davul.

The Seven Towers Northern Irish group from Ballymena are also old friends of Llangollen. They performed well, and taking Lucile Armstrong's advice on past occasions, appeared in folk dress. Two groups, from County Kerry and Dublin, represented the Republic of Ireland. The first presented the Siege of Ennis and a Bonfire Dance, the latter being used by the boys to demonstrate their bravado by leaping through the flames - in mime of course! The party from Dublin were superb dancers in the competition style, but they also wore their festival costumes - that is, the girls had the very short dresses with elaborate decoration and black tights. This would not have pleased Lucile, but they achieved 87 marks to the other two with 75.

Next, the Czechs. They gave us dances appropriate to February, an important religious time in Slavic countries. The first was a 'sword' dance, with figures very similar to our own English dances, complete with the death and resurrection rituals, and this was followed by a short dance for couples. The Czechs were chiefly a stage group, and probably for that reason were lowly marked (80), but in the evening concert their lively dancing, colourful costumes and music, were much appreciated by the audience.

The two Indian groups (from Walsall and Gravesend!) were very much alike but those from Kent had a slight edge over the Diwanas from Walsall.

Contd...

Spokane, in the U.S.A., is the home of the Silver Spurs dancers. They made a bad error in that not only was their music taped but so was the calling for their square dance. They were very energetic in their Western outfits, the girls changing to shorter skirts and petticoats for their second choice, an Appalachian clog dance, but they needed to be a little more precise and neat in their footwork.

Tall de Vermadors from Binisalem in Mallorca were a joy to watch. First Parado de Valldemosa, for two girls and a man, a slow graceful dance, which I was pleased to see was the same version I learnt many years ago with Los Ibericos. Jota de Petra was a fast and lively dance for couples, the men only using castanets, and their musicians had taken part in the folk music competition.

The Welsh from Trelach were very competent. A dance for three couples in the unusual time of 9/8, and Gower Reel, with very complicated patterns, make an interesting contrast.

Then what I believe is a first for the Eisteddfod, a group from Galicia in North-West Spain. The men in short, black, fitted coats, knee breeches, with long white drawers tucked into gaiters, and shovel-shaped hats with bobbles; the women in black dresses covered with jet black ornament, and their heads covered with black mantillas, looked both graceful and dignified. Accompanied by two bagpipes, they performed a slow wedding dance, Mulnara de Montrove, and a fast joyful fiesta dance which was done after the ceremony. Two well-chosen traditional dances, showing the group's abilities.

The competition ended with another group from Istanbul. The men's costumes were black with gold trimmings, and those of the women had red overskirts with yellow trousers and embroidered black waistcoats, with headbands; a very flattering ensemble. Among their musicians was an accordionist, not a Turkish folk instrument, and this was duly noted by the judges.

The adjudication followed, a general review of the factors which govern the award of points, which can be summed up as the respect given to the traditional aspects of dance, music and costume, and obviously the ability to perform well. Then came a more detailed criticism of each individual group, with their marks.

At about 6 p.m. the adjudicators, presumably, staggered from the tent, and were allowed a short break for a meal before settling down to write the reports to be given to the participants the next day. A very exhausting day, and Francis, Narendra and Frances Mon have my sincerest admiration.

Results: First - F.O.T.E.M. Istanbul, Turkey	- 92 points
Second - Tall de Vermadors, Mallorca	- 90 points
Third - A.F.C. Donas & Galans, La Coruña, Spain	- 89 points

I have mentioned in previous reports the European Centre for Regional Studies in Llangollen, and the exhibitions and lectures held there. This year the organizers opened the doors of a new complex converted from a disused chapel. It is well thought out and has facilities for a permanent display of costumes and other folk art, and a sales counter for books and records on the ground floor and space for dancing, lectures etc. upstairs. After the competition, needing a change of scene, we spent part of the evening there, listening to a traditional French music group. I would urge future S.I.F.D. visitors to the Eisteddfod to take a look at this unique enterprise dedicated to the folk arts of Europe.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

SNOB VALUE

If you are having trouble getting your dance boots or shoes repaired, Jenia Graman recommends a shop in Soho, London, which is willing to tackle any shoe repairs and successfully repaired her Russian dance boots - George's Shoe Repairs ("If you wear it, we can repair it!"), 26 Peter Street - a small street in Soho, off Berwick Market. Tel: 01 734 0417.

SUMMER DANCE COURSE FOR CHILDREN AT THE HORNIMAN MUSEUM

A folkdance course for children will be held from Monday, 8th August, to Friday, 12th August 1988, for children aged 9 to 13 years, at Horniman Museum, London. Folk dances from Sweden, Germany, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria etc. will be taught by Frances Horrocks. Fee: £5 for the whole week.

Numbers will be limited so please book in advance (not at the door) with the museum. Cheques should be made payable to "Horniman Leisure Account" and sent to The Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, London S.E.23. (Tel: 01 699 2339).

Rubber-soled shoes necessary. Adults admitted if accompanied by a child.



DAY OF DANCE - CECIL SHARP HOUSE - 10TH SEPTEMBER 1988

The Friends of Cecil Sharp House are presenting a Day of Dance at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1, on SATURDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER 1988, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

This Day of Dance is for dancers and non-dancers alike to enable participants to try out different styles of dance. Demonstrations will be presented in the morning to assist people to choose which sessions to try in the afternoon. There will be a Social Dance in the evening. Provisional groupings for the afternoon are:-

- Session A Scottish/Jive/Long-Sword
- Session B International (S.I.F.D.), Ballet, Clog
- Session C American Square, Historical, Chantraine

Soft-soled shoes for Scottish, Ballet, Historical, Chantraine; hard-soled shoes or clogs (no irons) for Clog; low-heeled shoes for the others.

Course fees, inclusive of tea and coffee :-

Whole day (morning & afternoon sessions, and Evening Dance)	£8.00
Morning & afternoon - Adult	£5.50
Child, 3-12.. .. .	£2.00
Child, 12-16	£3.00
Deposit	£3.00
Lunch	£3.00

Although the day is mainly intended for adults, children will be welcome. If there is sufficient demand, children's sessions will be arranged for those under 12, to include dancing, singing games, stories. Bookings are required for the children's sessions by 1st September. Children are required to bring a spare pair of soft indoor shoes and some colouring pens and paper. Older children may join in the adult classes.



OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sept. 17th RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP ANNIVERSARY DANCE, 7.45 to 11.15 p.m. at Springfield House, Stevenage Old Town, Herts. Musician: Tina Stone. Tickets £2.50 including refreshments. Details from Sheila Leavy, 0462 814798.
- Oct. 1st DAY COURSE OF GENERAL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING organized by Rainmakers International Folkdance Group, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St.Michael's Church Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. Teacher: Janet Woolbar. Tickets: £2 for S.I.F.D. members, £2.50 for non-members. Light refreshments available but provide your own lunch. Details from Sheila Leavy, 0462 814798.

BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY AWARD

The latest examination in the above award scheme took place on 9th and 10th July 1988, this time for S.I.F.D. members wishing to qualify as teachers of dances from South-East European Countries. We decided to spread the examination over two days, to be fair to candidates and allow them sufficient time for the required sections of the examination, and to give the adjudicators time to assess the results.

We are very pleased to announce that as a result of this examination we now have six newly-qualified teachers of South-East European dances - Philip Dobison, Nick Green, Jackie Hodges, Cathy Meunier, Liz Mellish and Jane Sinton. We thank all the candidates for the amount of hard work they put into each section of the examination - preparing their lists of dances, preparing a detailed term's syllabus, dance notation, music and rhythm recognition, the knowledge of costumes, and, of course, practical teaching. Congratulations to all, and particularly to Cathy Meunier who achieved the highest marks and passed with honours.

The adjudicators gave a lot of careful consideration to the marking and were very pleased to be able to award six teacher's badges and thus bring new (and younger!) blood into our S.I.F.D. panel of teachers. They did notice, however, that all of the candidates have yet to master the differing characteristic styles of the regions, but this is to be expected as it can only be achieved by long experience from teachers and from dancers from those regions/countries.

The candidates were asked for their comments on the format of the examination, and the Badge Sub-Committee will take note of their remarks for future examinations. Many thanks, again to all who took part for a very enjoyable, though tiring, day.

We also thank Narendra Kotiyan, Robert Harrold (I.S.T.D.) and Heather Rees (I.S.T.D.) who joined the rest of the members of our panel of judges for the first time. We very much appreciated their valuable comments and help in assessing the marks. We are also grateful to Kelsey Blundell for taking on the difficult task of co-ordinating everything and arranging the examination, and also for having been Chairman of the Badge and Day Course Sub-Committee in a year when she has suffered a tremendous physical handicap.

Kelsey has decided not to continue as Chairman after the end of the current S.I.F.D year, and three other members of this Sub-Committee have decided to stand down and make way for newcomers (two of us have served on the Sub-Committee since it was formed by Bert Price in the early 1970s!). We are very happy that we are leaving at a time when things are going well. We had a record number of members taking the Silver Badge examinations in March this year; we have had a successful South-East European Specialist Teacher's Examination; next month, for the first time, we shall be holding Silver Badge Examinations outside London (in Derbyshire) for the benefit of members who are unable to get down to London; and the Day Courses have continued regularly in the very pleasant hall at St. Paul's Community Centre. The Day Courses and the Badges were inaugurated by Bert Price, in whose name they are still run. I am sure he would have been very pleased to know that they have gone from strength to strength. Long may they continue.

LILY AVERY

REVISION OF S.I.F.D. CONSTITUTION

A small Working Group has been set up to make recommendations to the Committee about desirable amendments to the S.I.F.D. Constitution, with particular reference to matters concerning Branches. Would members who have suggestions to make, please send them, by 31st August 1988, to:-

Jack Richardson,
Department of Chemical Engineering,
University College,
Swansea SA2 8PP

Dear Lily,

I am the publicist for the Glastonbury Festival of Dance which will be taking place from 27th August to 4th September 1988. We have a number of events that I am sure S.I.F.D. members would be interested in, including :-

Saturday, 27th August	Ceilidh with "Arran Pilot"
Sunday, 28th August	Dunav All Day Balkan Workshop
Monday, 29th August	Morris dancing in the Rural Museum all day
Wednesday, 31st August	Square Dancing at night.
Saturday, 3rd September	"Footloose" Breton All Day Workshop

The programme also includes a variety of other types of dance including Indian, Arab, African, and Circle and Sacred Dance. We are hoping to please as many tastes of dance as possible.

Workshops cost £4, Performances £3, All-Day Tickets (2 Workshops and performance) £8, and an All-Week ticket £60 (which is a saving of £40 overall). For programme, bookings and further information, contact the Glastonbury Festival of Dance, P.O.Box 10, Glastonbury BA6 9YG. Tel: 0458 34677.

We are hoping for an even better turn-out than last year and look forward to meeting fellow dancers.

Regards,

MOIRA ADAMS

43 Chilkwell St., Glastonbury BA6 8DE.

P.S. I have just spent a wonderful weekend of Greek dancing with Lillian Galatis and Diki Gleason at Theobalds College. Despite the aching legs, it was well well worth it. Thanks to everyone for a wonderful time.

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Dear Lily,

My sincere thanks to all those friends who contributed to the success of the Summer Party at Barnet International Folkdance Group on 8th July. In particular, my special thanks to Dunav Balkan Group for giving their services free. The donation to the Lucile Armstrong Memorial Fund looks like exceeding £100 because of this generosity.

The Barnet Group will recommence its activities on Friday, 16th September.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN DOWSETT

75 Fordwich Rise, Hertford, Herts
SG14 2BW.

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SALES TALK

In this respect, I refer to Sue Clark's plea in her letter in the July SIFD NEWS. I certainly agree with her that sending three cheques all to different addresses would be a bother. However, all three of the people handling sales - Judith Holloway, Joan Rackham and I - all have facilities for paying in cheques and cash, so one cheque to one of us could cover three different orders, BUT the purchaser should be careful to enclose a detailed account of how the cheque money is made up, otherwise none of us would be able to keep our records straight!

KAY LEIGHTON

INVITATION TO A WEDDING CELEBRATION
EVENING BUFFET AND INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE

Please note, there has been a change of venue from the information previously given. Alf very much regrets the change but it was unavoidable due to circumstances beyond his control. Details are now as follows:-

on SATURDAY, 20TH AUGUST 1988, the marriage of Frances Painton to Alfred Richard Garton will be celebrated at the BALMORAL SUITE in THE BIRMINGHAM METROPOLE HOTEL near the National Exhibition Centre. The Birmingham Metropole Hotel is within easy access from Junction 6 off the M.42. Follow signs for N.E.C., then brown signs for hotels. Those wishing to go by train can alight at Birmingham International Station (NEC). The hotel is within easy walking distance and a courtesy coach is also available which runs every five minutes from the station to the Hotel Metropole.

Other details are as before: 7 to 11.30 p.m. M.C. Rod Perkins. Music by the Dunav Balkan Group. Costume dress preferred. No charge. And a cordial invitation is extended to all S.I.F.D. members and friends.

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MUSIC

Wilf Horrocks has given us the music for three more dances this month, on page 10, all requested by members. Don't forget to send your requests to Wilf, at 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Tel: 01 642 3629.

As Makedonsko Devojč^ě is included in these requests, members may like to have a reminder of the words to accompany this dance:-

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Makedonsko devojč ^ě
Kitka šarena
Vo gradina nabrana
Dar podarena | 3. Koga kosi rasplet ^ě
Ka ^o koprina
Lična si i polična
Od samovila |
| 2. Nema zvezdi po lični
Od tvoje oči
Da se no ^ć e na nebo
Den ke razdeni | 4. Koga pesna zapee
Slavej nadpee
Koga oro zaigra
Srce rasigra |

Chorus, to be repeated between the verses:-

Dali ima no ovaj beli svet
Po ubavo devojč^ě od Makedonč^ě
Nema, nema, ne ke se rodi
Po ubavo devojč^ě od Makedonč^ě

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

Dance Groups: "Selpar". 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, Warwicks.

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: 0203 413854.

STRUGA

(Macedonia)

(Mod.)

Chords: G, D, G, D, G, D, G, D, G, D, G, D, D7, G, D, G, D7, G

MAKEDONSKO DEVOJČE

(Macedonia)

[A] (Mod.)

Chords: Cm, Fm, Bb, Eb, Cm, Fm, G7, Cm, Fm, Cm, G7, Cm, Fm, Bb7, Eb, G, Cm, G7, Cm, Cm

TARGA REHEALUNE

(Estonia)

[A] (Slowly)

Chords: G, Em, D7, G, Em, G, D7, G, C, Am, G7, C, Am, C, G7, C

Play: ABX2 CDX2

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

Aug. 7th M.C. Liz Mellish. Taped music.

Sept. 4th M.C.s Ed Whiteley and Friends.

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

- July 29th to Aug.5th SIDMOUTH FOLKLORE FESTIVAL. Details from Festival Office, The Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 BHL
- Aug. 6th DANCES FROM THE IBERIAN PENINSULAR. A social evening, with some teaching, organized by the Iberian Folkdance & Music Society. At Churchill Hall, 36 College Crescent, London N.W.3. 6 to 9 p.m. £2 (£1.50 for OAPs). Enquiries to Juanita Martin, 01 328 6631.
- Aug. 8th SPANISH FIESTA at the Barbican, London. 7.45 p.m. Music, songs and dance from Spain. Admission £5.50 to £11.50. Box Office: 01 638 8891.
- Aug. 8th to 12th SUMMER DANCE COURSE FOR CHILDREN, Horniman Museum. See page 6.
- Aug. 12th SWEDISH CONCERT AND DANCE, 8 to 11 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. "Come and experience the Polska and Halling with one of Sweden's premier bands, FILARFOLKET, during their 1988 tour of England". All dances demonstrated by Mary Panton and members of the band. Admission: £3.50 and £2.50 (unwaged). For more information, contact Ralph Jordan, 162 Clements Rd., Ilford, Essex IG1 1BE. Tel: 01 514 3008.
- Aug.13th to 20th BILLINGHAM FOLKLORE FESTIVAL.
- Aug. 20th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE & BUFFET to celebrate the marriage of Frances Painton and Alf Garton. Please note: THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF VENUE. Details on page 9. Come and make this the dance of the year.
- Aug. 20th BALKANPLUS dance, 7 p.m. at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Road, London N.W.3. Admission £2.50 including light refreshments. No musicians this month, but an opportunity to do all your favourite dances to tape. Bring your tapes and/or requests. Further details from Liz Mellish, 01 863 7807. Next BALKANPLUS will be on 17th September, when the M.C. will be Philip Dobison.
- Aug. 27th to Sep.4th GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL OF DANCE. See page 8.

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SLOVENIAN WEEKEND

Because of difficulty over completing the arrangements for the weekend of Slovenian dancing which was to have been held from 11th to 13th November 1988, I regret that this weekend has been cancelled. I am sorry about this and hope that arrangements can be made for a future date. ROY CLARKE.

ALBANIAN HOLIDAY

Ian Price is hoping to be able to arrange for a party to visit Albania next summer (1989) and to include some folkdance activities. So, if you are planning a holiday next year and would like to visit Albania, Watch This Space for further information.