

Mens Clothing 10th - 11th Century



SIFD NEWS SEPT 1989

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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This month's cover shows men's clothing of the 10th-11th Century. The illustration
is by Ruth Murray and is reproduced with her kind permission. It is from a booklet
on Early Medieval Clothing edited by Paul Scruton and printed and published by The
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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 Payling (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, Christmas Cards, 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 OCTOBER ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR
IN WRITING BY 15TH SEPTEMBER.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Another S.I.F.D. Summer School has come and gone - and again it has been very successful. Heartfelt congratulations and thanks to the Sub-Committee for all their preparatory work, their cheerful welcome to participants, and the excellent administration of the whole week. There were first-class teaching sessions of delightful and exciting dances in the morning, innovatory afternoon sessions with a variety of activities to suit all tastes, and enjoyable (and exhausting!) evening dances with different M.C.s. Aberystwyth's accommodation was very comfortable, and as the food was prepared in the Hall itself, it had that home-made and wholesome touch lacking in much institutional cooking. We were joined by ten very good, enthusiastic, Japanese dancers who made up for their lack of English by their smiles and bows, and boundless exuberance.

Much will be heard in the coming months of the tutors: Francis Feybli, the effervescent Rita, and the Mexican dances, including our daily routine of balancing cans on our heads and processing solemnly round the room in "La Bruja"; Karin Bellaart, Erik, her husband, and their two delightful babies, and Karin's wide variety of dance material; and Jan Knoppers' superb carriage and the graceful arm movements of the Armenian dances.

So, very many thanks to the Sub-Committee - Julian and Jane Sinton, Helen and Nick Green, and Liz Mellish - and we hope that in retrospect they too enjoyed the fruits of their efforts, and perhaps be willing to undertake such organization again in the future.

Another year has come to a fitting climax and we have been given a splendid launch pad for 1989/90. One item to anticipate eagerly is a special dance we plan to hold to commemorate Ken Ward's long service to the Society. Ken has made a great contribution over the years, including a stint as Chairman, and is highly respected in Yugoslav dance circles (sorry about the pun!). We shall keep you informed as to date and venue once the arrangements are finalized.

A happy new dancing year to us all!

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary

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S.I.F.D. CHRISTMAS CARDS

The S.I.F.D. Christmas Cards arrived in time for sale at the Aberystwyth Summer School, and can now be bought by all members of the S.I.F.D., and anybody else. The design has had to be the same as last year. The reasons for this are that nobody offered a different design (I did ask!) and as our order had to be in soon after Easter there was no time left to approach our artistic members, even at gun point.

The firm we deal with is most helpful regarding our (to them) small order, but because of the technicalities of printing the amount we need, we have had to take a slightly larger number than last year. So, we do need you all to rally round as you did last year and buy some, please. We completely sold out first time round! They do not have to go just to dancing people - my non-dancing friends and relations were very pleased with them, and even a neighbour bought several packets. As for getting the same card two years running, I myself often receive identical cards in successive years - some of the designs of other charities or commercial firms are becoming like old friends who drop in at Christmas-time! I promise you that we shall have a new design for next Christmas, and by the time you read this I shall have written to several S.I.F.D. people to see if they have any ideas.

The price is the same as last year: 65p for a packet of 5. Notelets are still £1.10 for a packet of 10, two designs in each packet. Postage on both: 1 packet - 14p; 2 packets - 26p; 3 packets - 32p; 4 packets - 39p; 5 & 6 packets - 52p. Orders by post should be sent to me - address on page 2. N.B.: The postage quoted may only be valid up to 2nd October, when postal rates are due to be increased.

KAY LEIGHTON

As we start a new S.I.F.D. year, I should like to thank once again the people who help to get the SIFD NEWS to our members. First and foremost, Doug and Maureen Wells for all the work they do in getting the SIFD NEWS printed, packaged and posted, a job which takes up more and more time as our numbers increase; Michael and Edwina Holdup for the work they put into addressing all the envelopes each month; and Alan Morton for supplying the addresses and coping with the constant additions and changes. Thank you also to those people who have kept me supplied with articles, letters and items of interest for publication, and also drawings for the covers (of which I need more please!). Many thanks to all of you.

May I, at this stage, include a plea to everyone who sends in items for publication? Would you please (a) print clearly the names of places, people, dances - I can decipher most of the text but proper nouns are more difficult, and (b) would you please include surnames when referring to people? We don't all know who "Tom", "Dick" and "Mary" are! Many thanks, and keep the articles coming!

LILY AVERY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Aberystwyth - an appreciation

When I set off for Wales one week ago, I had some important questions on my mind. How could the Sub-Committee at their first attempt produce a successful Summer School? Jack Richardson seemed to have had a formula and an organization so perfect that I couldn't imagine anyone getting anywhere near his level, and memories of the superb courses I have enjoyed at Swansea came back. Aberystwyth was going to be different - was I going to be very disappointed?

I am only too happy to report that the Summer School was a resounding success. It was one of those "lose the world" weeks where outside events were forgotten as we lived and danced happily together. Our three teachers brought well-prepared and well-contrasted material. Francis Feybli, with his lovely partner Rita, introduced us to the exuberant Mexican dances. He even brought hats for everyone to use in the famous hat dance. Karin Bellaart gave us a fascinating variety and contrast of styles, and her husband, Erik, a musician and singer, and two lovely children, contributed to the happy family atmosphere. Then Jan Knoppers, with the beautiful Armenian music and dances, transported us all into another element. We didn't need too much encouragement to "dream our dream" and we tried hard to "sparkle....here".

Our teachers were also extremely generous with their time and efforts in out-of-class sessions. The Dutch group led a Balkan singing afternoon, and in "Jan's Fans" we did our best to dislocate our hip joints whilst still looking elegant with our fans. Francis led us in several evening spots and treated us to some rare recordings - for example, the pumpkin band from East Serbia.

The evening dances were beautifully organized by Simon Guest, as usual, while Helan and Nick Green led the band, which practised every afternoon. Kay Leighton set out her stall every evening for the sale of S.I.F.D. materials, and there was so much happening in the afternoons that I got frustrated at not being able to do everything.

I can remember a few years ago the amount of agonizing that went on about our being an ageing Society with no younger members coming along to take over. I think that the Summer School Sub-Committee have shown that we have a great depth of talent and ability on which we can rely.

As we all blew out our (Jan's) candles on the last note of "Mom Bar", there was a silence which no-one wanted to be the first to break. It was a magical moment in a magical week, and at that moment, Helen & Nick Green, Liz Mellish, and Jane & Julian Sinten must have felt as profoundly happy as we were grateful.

Sincere thanks,

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME
Robin Cottage, 4 Commercial Road,
Brindleford, Sheffield S30 1JA

Dear Lily,

I should like to thank Julian Sinton and all involved with a terrific week at the S.I.F.D. Summer School 1989. Julian is a very quiet chap of few words and a very loud drum. Liz Mellish and Jane Sinton seemed to spend most of their time rushing along the corridors carrying boxes and kettles, and Richard Mellish has grown a video camera out of his shoulder.

Nick and Helen Green plus musicians make a wonderful band. Also, Simon Guest and his collection of M.C.s, ad hoc teachers; the Japanese friends who taught us two of their dances, Maggie for the Greek, Steve Steventon for Jota Antigua, to name but a few. The patient and energetic teachers; Karin Bellaart, her husband and children - who made Uncle Ed very happy; Jan Knoppers who is every young girl's dream and a few older ones!! Francis Feybli, for the coca cola dance - the only thing I seemed to have mastered this week is to balance a tin can on my head.

In the words of a wellknown Welsh singer, Max Boyce - "I know 'cos I was there".

STELLA CARTER
14 High Mead, Hockley, Essex

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Dear Lily,

Steve and I have just come back from the Summer School in Aberystwyth. What a wonderful week it was! The tutors, the dances, the organization were all excellent. The young people organizing this event did a fine job - any query we had was cheerfully dealt with. The food was fine, and there was plenty of it!

We have come away with a bumper selection of dances to teach to our group, among them some really exciting Mexican ones. We shall have many happy memories of our week.

JOY STEVENTON
64 Erridge Road, Merton Park,
London SW19 3JD

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SUMMER SCHOOL - LOST PROPERTY

Don't rush to claim your coffee mugs back as I now have enough to invite people over! But in case you are attached to them, there are three; one with red diagonal stripes, one cream with blue seagulls, and one white with lettering in an orange circle. The small black hand-towel will be useful for Julian's tapan; there are a green stretch cotton headband, and a pair of white plastic sunglasses as well. Refer to me: JANE SINTON, 13 Howard Close, Cambridge CB5 8QU. Tel: 0223 853604.

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MARITSA BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE GROUP will continue to run as an I.L.E.A. class from 28th September 1989 but please note the change of evening to THURSDAYS. We hope that this will suit the dancers with other commitments on Tuesdays, and of course new faces will be given a very warm welcome. We meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at Woodberry Down Branch (Secondary School), Hackney Adult Education Institute, Woodberry Grove, London N.4. Nearest Underground Station: Manor House. Tutor: Galina Toker, Tel: 01 800 1123.

GALINA TUKER

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Denis and Julie McCarthy are pleased to announce the birth of a son, Alexander Fighin, at Birmingham Maternity Hospital on 13th August 1989 at 2.22 a.m.

Mother and baby are doing well. Many congratulations to Denis and Julie, and our best wishes for health and happiness to baby Alexander.

ROMANIA - The place to spend your birthday!

Last year I wrote at length about the marvellous birthday I was given in Sighetu Marmatiei; well, although it hardly seems possible, it was actually even better this year. In our "own" club room, where we could dance, sit, chat, play, sing till any hour of the night, on the stroke of midnight all the course sang "Happy Birthday" in Romanian, English, Norwegian, Dutch etc. and queued up with presents, cards and kisses. Wonderful. Then, next day (still August 1st) we all went out all day long visiting the painted monasteries and a lovely place called Bilca, where we danced and danced - my partner for the whole afternoon did the most variations yet and kept me smiling fit to explode with happiness by continually expressing amazed admiration at the way I was following all his variations. Everyone kept joking and saying, "hope they know it's your party". At supper, Jaap gave a charming speech and presented me with a token red carnation (now pressed and in my scrapbook). Usually birthday carnations were given (everyone presenting a bloom to the birthday person) and of course another three kisses to warm your heart, but as we'd all been out all day this little ceremony was not possible. Even then I was so lucky and spoilt - they carted me off after class to choose not one but FOUR records instead of the carnations! AND a copy of *Aurelian's book signed up so interestingly for me.

Now birthdays are not the only joy of a trip with Silviu to his roots. This year he took us to another region further East - to the mountains, pine forests and farms of Moldavia. There was an echo of Maramureş, about the beautiful wooden houses and the less ornate, less imposing gateways and arches at the entrances, but with the added interest of appliquéd designs in painted wood to all the boundary fences and even more elaborately to the house walls. Very often there was a first floor balcony draped with vines and housing plenty of plants and flowers.

One of our visits was to a farmhouse in the country, where we were invited to go inside and inspect each room and its rich store of hand-embroidered and woven blankets, drapes, costumes, cushions etc. We then all sat down at a prepared L-shaped set of tables. In the distance we could hear noises like gun-fire; it was the cracking of whips to herald the procession to the house as they would do at Christmas (now re-enacted for our benefit). As the group of costumed dancers came in sight we could also see and hear the band and the clicking jaws of the hobby-horses with their little wooden heads and beautiful bodies of thick wool woven carpet. As they came into the garden, a group of women came forward and sang songs of welcome which was followed by the most lively wonderful dancing by everyone, including the hobby-horses. We encouraged them enthusiastically and they obliged with encores, but finally they came to sit with us and share the meal and syrup, or fresh milk. The milk was thick and creamy but the syrup was new and different, so I opted to try that - WOW, what an elixir. You could smell as well as taste the perfume of the pine forests. It was distilled from the pine needles and we didn't need to be told it had special properties - we could sense that. (I was lucky enough to be given a litre of this by the leader - I'm just hoping it will help to cure Geof!). They were all so wonderfully hospitable and of course the "join-in dancing" kept everyone on their feet for ages. Rose (my Dutch soul sister) and I had nabbed the leader and his friend, so we had lovely variations and plenty of twirls etc. and thoroughly enjoyed dancing in pairs and then joining into a small extremely fast whizzing circle with the four of us.

This was just one of the several occasions when we saw a community's dancers and joined in with them to share their dances and music. Each was so special, and for an old lady like me just MAGIC. Each strong young man seemed to be only interested in you (whoever you were) HIS partner. They always really danced with you and for your benefit, and always looked as though they were really proud and enjoying every minute of your company. To be dancing nonstop with them all the afternoon was a real joy. I could write reams and reams about each individual excursion and village, from the Sunday at Vatra Orini, where I had a lovely long lesson in Romanian from a group of delightful children and chatted for ages in French to a charming lady, who was so overwhelmed with my little offerings that she insisted on giving me her very own hand-embroidered blouse! Now one of my most treasured possessions (can't wait to show it off).

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The food this time was overwhelming, e.g. a first course of toasted cheese in a sort of batter envelope, or a platter of ham, cheese and tomato, or meatballs, followed by a huge bowl of various kinds of soup, often with a hunk of meat in or a lump of mamalige/sort of cereal, then a main dish like steak and chips with side salad - a few times a couple of herring-type fish, and then a sweet, very often a creamy cake usually soaked in some sort of alcoholic liquid. This for both lunch and dinner.

On arrival anywhere we were given the traditional welcome with a most attractive-looking large homebaked special loaf and salt, quickly followed by afinata or tuica (cherry brandy or fire water) to drink and loosen your mood. There were, of course, visits too to costume and cultural museums, including the open-air museum with examples of all the various kinds of house and building, which there was no time to visit last year. I spent most of the day there as I met my friend and went ahead of the group, missing out lunch to do so. Who cares if I made a mistake in missing out breakfast as well and having to wait until 8 p.m. for supper - I lived on the wonderful blue large, small yellow, and even smaller, but by far the most tasty, red plums, all to be gathered from the ground at various places in the museum. I really felt I lived on love as much as anything else during the whole holiday anyway - the group was such a wonderfully kind, gentle and warm group. There were no cliques, places saved, unbreakable couples, or anything - the group flowed and mingled and changed places with a fluid ease that made everyone feel at home and as though we had all known each other for years.

This is not a little attributable to Silviu, who so gently shepherds and concerns himself with our happiness and wellbeing during the trip. A feature is his wonderful cosy little evening parties. This year it was with special cherries in syrup (remember the roseleaves last year?) and always plenty of wine. This year we had two 50-litre acid jars, wicker-covered and most imposing, in our "club room" to enliven every evening. As we (Margaret, Hilary, Anniken, our Norwegian adopted "kid" and I) shared a suite at Vatra Dornei we even had an English "at home" tea party with coffee and oddments, a little sing-song and a visitors' recorder recital included. The language varied from Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, German, English, Finnish, just within the group.

Occasionally we were given decorated eggs and at the painted monasteries most of us bought some too. Guess who broke one almost immediately - phew, what an outcry till I wrapped it all up in plastic bags; they are hardly ever blown, and you can imagine really ancient egg is rather potent as a perfume. Our helpful guide, although his English was not very good, was very thoughtful in providing everyone with egg crates to protect the precious souvenirs. Even I managed to bring home a few whole ones, although I had quite a few I cannot give as presents - so if you thought you would qualify and I haven't obliged I'm really sorry - I just couldn't bring any more and was even sorrier about those I broke.

They seem to give flowers for everything and it never fails to make you feel like a queen. On arrival at Otopeni Airport, after the gruelling trek through body-searchers who seem thirsting for a good bosom fumble, to the hidden inscrutable passport checker for whom time stands still, to the customs officials thirsting for cigarettes, and finally out into the dimly lit "lounge", and there's my dear friend Nicoleta patiently waiting (only a mere 2½ hours this time - last year it was eight hours' wait!), waiting with a lovely bunch of carnations for me. When she met me on Saturday, yet more - and again when I went for a meal, then when I left, and..... an even more unexpected addition.....in Bucuresti, going up in the lift to the 11th floor, I smiled, tried to make wordless conversation, smelt and appreciated this pretty lady's handful of blood-red carnations, so just before I got off she thrust two bunches in my hand and insisted firmly that I take them. I tripped out, fuzzy with pleasure. With such difficulties and deprivations, they still manage to smile and GIVE - spontaneously, generously, from an open heart. How dare their dictator "systematise" them!

Anyone who is really interested in a blow by blow account can read my "log" and

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see my albums (I didn't take so many photos this time as I was even busier dancing). NEXT YEAR SILVIU IS GOING TO BANAT. Don't miss this treat! And closer to home, I believe Rhiannon Sivewright could still squeeze a few more in at the Derby weekend Silviu is doing on 23rd/24th September. Come and share a bit of Romania! I can recommend it.

DIKI GLEESON

* P.S. Aurelian taught last year too. This year Viorel was the other lively teacher, a little in the mould of Gaby of last year but so amusing and energetic and patient. He never "gave up" on anyone and was so encouraging. His teaching was always crystal clear and concise with plenty of excellent example and varied revision spots. He'd be an excellent addition to an "Aberystwyth Swansea". Any chance, Julian? Then everyone could share more of this rich vein of living tradition from loving Romania. P.P.S. Hilary travelled there and back without a ticket!!! But I shouldn't try it on.

D.G.

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DANCE MUSIC FROM ABROAD

Folk music is not only for dancing to, but for listening to as well. I often play tapes at home, no dancing, and enjoy them best when I know "it's the real thing"! As such a lot of my music comes direct from source, I'm fairly sure it is genuine, e.g. a friend brought me a tape from Peru; the Mexican Tourist Board in London made me a special tape, with dance notes; another friend gave me a Japanese tape; I recorded a Finnish song group (with permission) who visited London; I reviewed in several places a Bulgarian record and so got a free copy; and in the Highlands I was permitted to record a Scottish Festival. I actually bought my Icelandic cassette, from Iceland.

The ethnic radio programmes in major British towns, especially London, give us lots of Greek, Turkish and Asian music. John Peel on Radio One plays quite a lot of ethnic music. Being a radio addict (are they still running television?), I listen an enormous amount to foreign radio, much on short wave. After praising a Yugoslav programme, I received two folkdance L.P.s free. Once on short wave I caught Israel radio playing dance music solidly for an hour. It included at least a dozen of our S.I.F.D. repertoire, several identical recordings. Much of my foreign listening is linked to the regular Esperanto broadcasts (though that is inevitably mostly speech) which very often include local music. Peking radio (four times a day) often includes Chinese music, e.g. what they call "Palaca Muziko", very Chinese; Warsaw (six times a day) plays short bursts of music, but concentrates on Esperanto songs; Swiss radio from Bern (nineteen times a week) is the best. They end every Esperanto broadcast with five or ten minutes of delightful Swiss folkdance music. The Vatican plays mostly church music.

Nearly all foreign countries broadcast to Britain in English. Moscow, the ubiquitous, sometimes plays music, but it is frequently the old hackneyed choirs. Radio Tirana (Albania) occasionally presents music. Prague not often. Sweden, which speaks too often with a U.S.A. accent, does send out bits of music, but mostly pop. Belgium's cheerful Flemish station gives a little music. On short wave the reception is rarely first class, especially during the daytime, and worst in summer. Also you may have to search round for good programmes. I found it well worthwhile. Not long ago I wrote to Cologne, and in the next post I received a full-size L.P. - but SQUARE!

I was given yet more tapes at the World Esperanto Congress in Brighton. A really super folk-style group turned up, from the Netherlands. They sing in several languages and took the Congress by storm. They have just issued the first compact disc in Esperanto and have an L.P. in Friesian, their home language. They gave me both. The group is named KITE. The L.P. has 15 pieces, 9 of which are dances from Netherlands, which they can teach, as well as other Dutch dances. They came to us from a booking in Poland, and left for Paris! Also a top rock-music group from Slovakia named TEAM came and played. They gave me two or three tapes and records. Not savage rock, but a very good, almost beautiful show. I got both groups on to Radio Sussex and the folk group on to B.B.C. World Service and the rock group on to London's Capital radio. KITE will be back in Britain later this year and we MUST have them at an S.I.F.D. event. They'll come if I ask them. I'm in love with this group - three attractive women and one man. They bubble happiness.

WILL GREEN

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DUNAV'S 25TH BIRTHDAY

Dunav Balkan Group was founded in 1964, and this is their Jubilee anniversary. They have invited a group of musicians and singers from Blagoevgrad in the Pirin region of South-West Bulgaria (Macedonia), mainly different people from those on the previous visits. You are invited to join in the celebrations at any of the following events.

Saturday, 14th October, 5.30 to 7.20 p.m. Barbican Centre foyer. A free concert by the Bulgarian guests, supported by Dunav. Spontaneous dancing.

Wednesday, 18th October, 8 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. (near Mornington Crescent Station). A concert by the Bulgarian guests, supported by Dunav. Buy your tickets in advance to ensure admission, by sending a cheque payable to Dunav Balkan Group (all seats £3) to Caroline Thomas, 77 Forest Road, London E17 6HF, or pay at the door.

Saturday, 21st October, 7 p.m. at Working Men's College (address above). BALKANPLUS as usual, but including music by the Bulgarian guests.

Other events are being arranged and will be announced next month. Dunav is also producing a new cassette to mark their Jubilee, and its launch will be announced when it is ready. Enquiries to John Baldwin (01 340 7765), Caroline Thomas (01 527 4896) or any Dunav member.

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On 11th November, HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP invite you to their Annual Dance, at 7.30 p.m. at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Essex. Nearest Station: Harold Wood. Music by Wilf Horrocks and Friends. Admission £3.50 including refreshments. Bring your own drinks. Details from 0277 821808.

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KEEP THIS DATE!

SATURDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 1989. POLISH DANCING

We have at last found a suitable hall for another Polish Dance Day. It is: Kingsley Hall, Bruce Road, London E.3. This has good facilities, no parking problems, and is easy to reach by Underground or 'bus.

There will be tuition, including new dances, and revision of some taught previously, from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m. Then we shall have the usual good "Polish" food, followed by an early evening dance. More details next month.

TONY LATHAM and BETTY HARVEY

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FUTURE WEEKENDS AWAY

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venues</u>	<u>Organizers</u>
15/17th Dec.1989	Dunford, Midhurst, Sussex	Jack Richardson
4th/7th May 1990	Halsway Manor, Taunton, Somerset	Jack Richardson
22nd/24th June 1990	Beauchamp House, Gloucester (Camping weekend)	Roy Clarke
27th/29th July 1990	Launde Abbey, Leicester	Roy Clarke
21st/23rd Sept.1990	Kelston Park, Bath	Roy Clarke
14th/16th Dec. 1990	Dunford, Midhurst, Sussex	Jack Richardson

Bookings for the above weekends will be taken via a booking sheet which we hope to send out with the October SIFD NEWS.

COLWYN BAY INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

The Colwyn Bay Festival ran from 10th to 16th July and as it was a new one I thought I would go and have a look at it - from a non-expert's point of view, of course - and enjoy the beautiful Welsh countryside at the same time. There was a mixture of performances, indoors at one of the local theatres and out of doors on a stage set up in the local sports stadium which is part of the large Leisure Centre. I saw first the Danish group "Folkesdansen 1945" (which tells you how long they have been going!), about thirty dancers having a warm-up in one of the town squares. They were quite good and had four lady musicians, two violinists, one clarinetist and an accordionist. She played the accordion very well and, as I took their photograph, I managed to convey by signals that I played the accordion also. I saw this group on two other occasions and thoroughly enjoyed their performances, although I only recognized one dance tune and that was Mellem Kagel Og Ae Vaeg. On the subject of names, let me mention that no lists were issued, the M.C.'s pronunciation was not very good and his joking remarks made it worse. Still, it was the first time; perhaps the organizers will get themselves sorted out in the future, especially if, as they say, they intend one day to be as good as Llangollen.

The Swedish group, "Anundsjoringen", also with about thirty dancers, of a slightly younger age group, were good - as were their musicians, two violinists and one accordion. I recognized several of their dances and enjoyed the way they put them over; Ostgöta polska, Västgötapolska, Trekarlspolska, Vava Vadmal, Snurrebocken and Jämtpolska, which last was danced by all the ladies who, however, did not perform the lift at the end! I was disappointed about that! On another occasion, however, they carried out the dance with both men and girls and did it with the lift. The group also did Oxdans - it wouldn't have been Swedish without that one, would it?

Scottish dancers from the Chester St. Andrew Society came on to the music of the bagpipes, which always help to make an impressive entry. The eight couples danced in classical fashion to the music of an elderly lady and gentleman who both played accordions well - there are a lot of notes in that Scottish music! The last dance was performed to the pipes.

The Münchener Trachtengruppe of sixteen dancers in typical costume made a typical entry with a series of shrieks and yells to the pom-pom-pom-pom of their brass band. Listening to this band was quite fascinating, not only because of their style but because the twelve musicians were crammed tightly into the musician's hut at the back of the stage and they included three tubas! Listening to the sound coming from the loudspeaker system, I hate to think how their ears may have suffered. The dances were of knee-slapping style accompanied by those cheerful yells which were certainly beginning to wake up the audience. I understand this group performs dances from the whole of Germany but the only two dances I recognized were Dre-steirer and Kreuz-polka, which we regard as Austrian, but then the city of München (Munich) is near the Austrian border.

The Spanish group, "Jarazmin", was composed of eight pairs of dancers in attractive costumes - dark suits and sombreros for the men and bright full-length dresses for the ladies and, of course, castanets. The cheerful music was supplied by four musicians playing mandolines and guitars, and eight excellent lady singers. The entire group was quite professional and I got the feeling that they must have travelled around - an impressive performance.

A small group of Irish dancers, "Scoil Rince Choragain", did a short turn of fairly straightforward dances accompanied by three musicians, violin, ukulele, and their leader playing melodeon who also sang for some of the dances.

The Hungarian group, "Alfold", were interesting to watch, with three men doing a lot of priiadka-style steps and three girls who sang and danced. Musicians were double-bass plus two violins, who quite effectively created a sort of drone effect for some of the dances.

An unusual show was that given by the Australian aboriginal group, "Suruil Tituil".

The group consisted of five men playing a variety of percussion instruments and three girls who danced - if I can call it that - making acrobatic movements round and round the stage. This went on for some time and became a bit boring to watch while the drummers every now and then burst into chants.

This was the end, then, except for all the English and Welsh groups who were in the festival but carried out their performances in the town-centre parades. They were mainly clog and Morris dancers. There were Barn Dances on three nights at the Leisure Centre Hall by different groups, running on until midnight. Unfortunately, I missed the Greek dancers, "Lykion Ton Hellenidon", who were not there for the entire festival, but I am glad to say I saw all the other International groups again on the final Saturday in the Stadium. It was all very enjoyable, and I do hope they hold another festival next year.

WILF HORROCKS

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MUSIC

Two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks this month, by request, on page 12. Don't forget, if you have any requests, please contact Wilf at 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Tel: 01 642 3629.

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S.I.F.D. ARMENIAN DAY COURSE

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

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Date: SATURDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER 1989

Tutor: Frances Horrocks. Fee: £3 for S.I.F.D. members, £4 for non-members.

Bring packed lunch; squash available on site. Kitchen will be open for making tea or coffee but bring your own materials.

Frances will be teaching the Armenian dances from the Aberystwyth course. This will be an opportunity for those people who did not go to the Summer School to learn the dances, and for those who did go to revise them. All welcome.

The next S.I.F.D. Day Course will be on 14th October, when the General/Dutch dances taught at Aberystwyth will be revised.

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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 Road, Stirchley, Birmingham. Tutor: Sybil Chapman

"Heart of England" International Folkdance Group. Wednesday evenings, 7.30, at Lyndon School, Daylesford Road, Solihull. Leader: Alf Garton.

* "Arden" International Folkdance Group. Tuesday evenings (except the 2nd Tuesday of each month) at 7.30 at the Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common, near Coventry, Warwicks. Tutor: Grace Pittman.

*This group may have a new venue from September.

Further details of the above from: The Secretary of the West Midlands Branch, S.I.F.D., Dennis V. Hunt, 27 Baginton Road, Styvechale, Coventry CV3 6JX. Tel: 0203 413854.

HAVA NAGILA "Let's be happy"

(Israel)

(Intro: Last two bars)

E7 Am E7

Am E7 Dm

E7 Dm E7 Am

E7

Am

Play in a bright and cheerful style.

GASTOURIKOS

(Isle of Corfu)

A (Intro: Last two bars of A)

G D G

D7 G G

D G

D7 G C F C G

C F G7 C

Play: ABCA

Enthusiasts will perhaps notice a similarity of some of this music to that of the Polish dance OLENDER.

- Sept. 3rd This Dance will be organized by Woodvale International Folkdance Group. Costume Special. Free prize draw for anyone in costume. Help us to set a record for the number of different costumes at an S.I.F.D. Dance. Refreshments available. Please come and join us. HEATHER BEVAN (Secretary of Woodvale I.F.D.G.).
- Oct. 1st This Dance will be organized by Merton Park Group, with Interval dances led by Frances Horrocks. Squash and Nibbles will be available. STEVE STEVENTON

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

- Sept. 8th to 10th WEEKEND AT LOCH LOMOND YOUTH HOSTEL. Details previously given. Enquiries to Dennis Belford, Tel: 031 449 5325.
- Sept. 8th to 10th WEEKEND AT WALFORD COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, BASCHURCH, SHREWSBURY. Details previously given. Enquiries to Dennis V. Hunt, Tel: 0203 413854.
- Sept. 9th S.I.F.D. ARMENIAN DAY COURSE. See page 11.
- Sept. 16th BALKANPLUS, 7 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1 (near Mornington Crescent Underground). M.C.s Maggie O'Regan and "Ollie". Musicians: Dunav Balkan Group and others; visiting musicians welcome. Admission £2.50 including light refreshments. Further details from Liz Mellish, 01 863 7807. Next BALKANPLUS, 21st October, M.C. Brian Dowsett.
- Sept. 22nd to 24th WEEKEND AT ALISON HOUSE, CROMFORD, MATLOCK, DERBYSHIRE. There are still vacancies for this weekend. Details from Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, Middx EN2 0HE. Tel: 01 367 2649.
- Sept. 23rd to 24th WEEKEND COURSE OF ROMANIAN DANCING with Silviu Ciuciumiş. Information from Rhiannon Sivewright, 404 Barlow Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5HZ.
- Sept. 25th CONCERT by the women of BULGARIAN STATE RADIO & TELEVISION CHOIR (who recorded the "Mystère des Voix Bulgares" series of records). Royal Festival Hall, London. Box Office: 01 928 8800.
- Sept. 30th to Oct. 1st NUTBROOK GROUP'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND at Kirk Hallam, Derbyshire. Details previously given. Enquiries to Gill Morral (0602 393204) or Sylvia Stephens (0602 208109).
- Oct. 7th WOODVALE I.F.D.G. AUTUMN DANCE, 8 to 11.30 p.m. at Borough Green Village Hall, Borough Green, near Sevenoaks, Kent. S.I.F.D. Band. Guest M.C.: Ian Willson. £3 including buffet. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Contact: Heather Bevan, 45 Chillington Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2RT. (Tel: 0622 59560) for tickets and enquiries.

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ERRATUM

In "What's On" last month, the dates for Billingham Festival were given as Aug. 12th to 29th. The correct dates were Aug. 12th to 19th, as given in previous issues of SIFD NEWS. My apologies for any inconvenience this error may have caused. ED.

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REMINDER: S.I.F.D. membership expires at the end of August. Please renew promptly to ensure continued delivery of your copy of SIFD NEWS. All membership renewal forms, with appropriate subscription, to our Membership Secretary, Alan Morton (address on page 2).

- * Those groups marked with an asterisk have either not yet renewed their membership or have not sent in details for 1989/90. The information given is therefore based on last year's and needs to be checked.
- * ANACHNU ISRAELI DANCE GROUP meets during term time on Tuesdays, 7.45 to 9.45 p.m. at Thomas Tallis School, Kidbrooke Park Road, London S.E.3. Teacher: Judy Ingram. Tel: 01 858 5436.
- * BALKAN & INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets during term time on Mondays, 8 to 10 p.m. in the Dance Studio at Camden Institute, Longford Street, London N.W.1. (nearest stations: Euston, Great Portland Street, Warren Street). Mainly Balkan dancing. Further details from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. Tel: 01 482 0906 (evenings), 01 637 3434 Ext.5616 (daytime).
- * BALKANPLUS meets monthly, usually on 3rd Saturdays, 7 to 10.30 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. (near Mornington Crescent Underground) Mainly Balkan dancing. Contact: Liz Mellish, 15 Lancaster Rd., North Harrow, Middx. HA2 7NN. Tel: 01 863 7807.
- BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday, September to mid-July, except Christmas week. Wilbraham/St.Ninian's United Reformed Church Hall, Wilbraham Road (corner of Egerton Rd.South) Manchester. 7.45 to 10.15 p.m. Further details from Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Charlton Rd., Manchester M16 0BN. Tel: 061 881 3613.
- * BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB meets at Church House, Wood St., Barnet, Herts. Fridays, 8 to 10.30 p.m. from September to July. For information, contact Brian Dowsett, 0992 582717.
- * BESKDY DANCERS (Czechoslovakia) meet on Wednesdays during term time. Beginners 7 to 8 p.m. Advanced 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. Singing 8.15 to 8.30 p.m. Fox School, Edge St., Notting Hill Gate, London W.8. Tutor: Hedy Fromings. Tel: 01 699 8597 (evenings).
- * BRADFORD HUNGARIAN DANCE GROUP meets most Sundays, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. Willowfield School, Legrams Lane, Bradford. Teachers: Eva Gazdag & Ruth Richardson, also visiting specialist teachers. Secretary: Rachel Novak, 88 Legrams Lane, Bradford BD7 2AH. Tel: 576903. Warm welcome to all ages.
- BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Thursday during term time, 7 to 9 p.m. at Henleaze Infants School, Park Grove, Bristol. Tutor: Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0272 621802.
- BROMLEY INTERNATIONAL GROUP meets in term time only on Tuesdays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at St.Mark's C.E.Primary School, Aylesbury Road, Bromley (off Westmoreland Road, very near Bromley South Station - Victoria, 15 minutes.) General International, with emphasis on "Lines & Circles" from Balkans and Israel. Tutor: Fiona Howarth. Tel: 01 460 2305.
- * CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CLUB meets at St.Columba's Church Hall, St.Andrews Street, Cambridge (entrance beside the Varsity Restaurant) on Mondays, 8.30 to 10.30 p.m. General International. Secretary: Mrs. V.Thorgerson, 19 Earl Street, Cambridge CB1 1JR.
- "DANCEFOLK", NEWCASTLE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m. in the Small Gym, P.E.Dept., Newcastle University. Enquiries to Mrs. P.Brewer, 9 Pilton Walk, Westerhope, Newcastle. Tel: Tyneside 2861983.
- * EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Mondays, end-September to mid-May, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Stockbridge House, Cheyne St., Edinburgh. General International. An Advanced class meets on Wednesdays in St.Ann's Community Centre, Cowgate, Edinburgh 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. Further information from Dennis Belford, 031 449 5325.

* FELTHAM BALKAN DANCE GROUP meets at Feltham Community School, Browells Lane, Feltham, every 1st & 3rd (and possibly 5th) Friday of each month, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. Cost 75p including drink. More information from Philip or Mary Dobison, 01 890 8304.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets Tuesdays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. in the Community Hall, United Reformed Church, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, from September to May/June. Contact Secretary, Pat Clarke, 51 Chichester Road, Sandgate, Folkestone. Tel: 0303 49199.

HARROW FOLKDANCE CLUB meets at various venues on most evenings for English/Playford/American Square/Clog. Some international dance on Mondays. Contact: John Lawes, 01 907 4700.

* HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets in term time on Thursdays, 8 to 10 p.m. at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Nr. Romford, Essex. Tutor: George Sweetland. Secretary: Sheila Hall, "Cranwood", Blackmore Road, Hook End, Brentwood, Essex CM15 0DS. Tel: 0277 821808.

* HURSLEY INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS meet at IBM Clubhouse, Hursley Park, Hursley, near Winchester. Thursdays, 7.30 to 10 p.m. Secretary: Terry Clowes, Tel: 0962 844433 Ext. 6550 (office hours). General International dancing. Mixed abilities.

IBERIAN FOLKDANCE AND MUSIC SOCIETY meets on Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. and on Sundays 3 to 5 p.m. at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Road, London N.W.3. Spanish & Portuguese folk dances, collected personally by Lucile Armstrong. Enquiries to Mrs. Juanita Martin, 125 Broadhurst Gardens, London N.W.6.

* INTERDANCE EASTBOURNE meets 1st, 3rd & 5th Fridays each month, 7.45 p.m. St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, Broad Road, Willingdon, nr. Eastbourne (off A22). General International. Contact: Roy le Croisette, 26 Westfield Rd., Eastbourne, E. Sussex BN21 2QU. Tel: 0323 32237.

INTERDANCE WORTHING meets every Friday, 7.15 to 10 p.m. at Field Place Pavilion, (Southern end of the Boulevard, Worthing). Nearest B.R. Station, Durrington. Mainly Lines & Circles. Possibility of a separate Beginners' class starting in September. Details of venue, day, time etc. from Iris Birch, Tel: Worthing (0903) 691651.

KALINKA DANCERS learn, practise and perform the folk dances of the U.S.S.R. on Mondays (no terms) 7.30 to 9.30 p.m., at Unitarian Church Hall, Ormond Road, Richmond. New Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced. Telephone Jenia Graman, 01 876 0514, 9 to 12 noon, or try evenings.

* KAYROMA INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Friday, 7.30 to 9 p.m. during term time at Whitley Lodge First School, Whitley Bay. Dances from Spain & Portugal included in repertoire. Tutor: Kaye Poole, 50 Antonine Walk, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 0EE. Tel: 0661 852495.

LODIS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Thursday, 7.45 to 10 p.m. Please check during school holidays, when the class runs if enough people can come. Closed during August. At Moor Allerton Memorial Institute, Stonegate Road, Moortown, Leeds, Yorks. This is a General Class and anyone is welcome, as is any input from visitors with a knowledge of international dances. Ring Leeds (0532) 787837 or 664384, preferably between 5.00 and 7.00 p.m. or at weekends.

* LONDON TURKISH FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Mondays, 7 to 9 p.m. during term time, at Camden Institute, Netley Street Annexe, Netley Street, London N.W.1. Nearest Underground Station: Warren Street. Contact: Ibrahim Tastaban, 01 808 7284, or Pauline Welch, 01 393 1919.

* LYKION TON HELLINIDON meets for Greek dance classes at the Crypt of St. Sophia, Moscow Road, London W.2. Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m. Beginners, 7 to 9 p.m. Advanced. Fridays, 7 to 9 p.m. Advanced.

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* MERRY ANDREW FOLKDANCE GROUP meets 2nd, 4th & 5th Mondays, 8 to 10.30 p.m. at Sherard Hall, United Reformed Church, Court Rd., Eltham, London S.E.9, excluding Bank Holidays and August. General International, American Square, Contra, and related dances.

NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Thursdays, 7.45 to 9.45 p.m. at Kirk Hallam Community Centre, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Contact: Mrs. Sylvia Stephens, 67 Thackerays Lane, Woodthorpe, Nottingham NG5 4HU. General International.

* OXFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets throughout the year on Wednesdays, 8.15 to 10 p.m. at St. Giles Church Hall, Woodstock Rd., Oxford. General International. Enquiries to: Diana Porteus, Tel: Oxford 241584.

* RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets most Fridays, 8 to 10 p.m. at St. Michael's Church Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. Teacher: Jill Bransby. Secretary: Betty Lee, 48 Rockingham Way, Stevenage SG1 1SH. Tel: 0438 316288.

WIGGINTON INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Thursdays, 7.45 p.m. in term time at Wigginton School, nr. Tring. Details from Margaret Cullen, Hemel Hempstead 58277.

* WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Tuesdays, 8 to 9.30 p.m. at Parish Hall, Quarry Hill Rd., Borough Green, nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. General International. Details from Secretary, Heather Bevan, 45 Chillington Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2RT. Tel: Maidstone (0622) 59560.

WYCOMBE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets every Monday except Bank Holidays and August at Sir William Ramsay School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, nr. High Wycombe. 7.45 to 10.15 p.m. Contact: Uri Gerson, Tel: 0494 23434.

S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

* As for the Affiliated Groups, those classes marked with an asterisk have either not yet renewed their membership or have not sent in details for 1989/90. The information given is therefore based on last year's.

GENERAL INTERNATIONAL

Tuesdays. Beginners 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Cheam High School, Chatsworth Road, Cheam, Surrey. Tutor: Joy Steventon. Tel: 01 542 3831. (Merton Park Group).

Tuesdays. 7.45 to 9.45 p.m. in term time only. Park High School, Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middx. Tutor: Judith Payling. Ring 0923 225480 for details. (Canon Folkdancers).

* Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m. in term time. Senior Common Room Bar, Fulton House, University College, Swansea. Contact: Joan Richardson, Tel: 0792 403153. (Swansea University International Folkdance Group).

Wednesdays. Advanced 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Merton Institute of Adult Education, Whatley Avenue, London SW20 9NS. Tutor: Joy Steventon. Tel: 01 542 3831. (Merton Park Group).

Wednesdays. 8 to 10.15 p.m. Red Cross & Welcome Club, Barton Way, Croxley Green, Nr. Rickmansworth, Herts. Please note new venue and change of day from last term. For details, ring 0923 241441. (Croxley Green International Folkdance Group).

Wednesdays, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. in term time, at St. Albans School, Baldwin's Gardens, London E.C.4. Tutor: Janet Woolbar. If sufficient support is forthcoming, we hope to have a beginners' workshop from 6.15 to 7.15 p.m. to learn steps and simple dances.

Thursdays, 7.45 to 9.45 p.m. Durrants School, Manor Way, Croxley Green, near Watford, Herts. Tutor: Audrey Whiteley, Tel: 0923 221696. (Watford International Folkdancers).

Fridays, 2 to 3.45 p.m. (not August). Community Centre, off Barton Way, Croxley Green, nr. Rickmansworth, Herts. For details, ring 0923 241441. (Croxley Green International Folkdance Group).

BULGARIAN

Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. In the Boys' Gym, Woodberry Down Branch, Hackney Adult Education Institute, Woodberry Grove, London N.4. (Nearest Underground Station: Manor House). Tutor: Galina Toker, Tel: 01 800 1123. (Maritsa Group).

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Tuesdays, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. in term time only, at Central Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, London W.C.1. in the Gymnasium. (Doina East European Group).

HUNGARIAN

Thursdays, 8 to 10 p.m. in term time only, at Camden Adult Institute, Longford Street, Marylebone, London. (Balaton Hungarian Group).

ISRAELI

Wednesdays in term time. Beginners 6.45 to 7.45 p.m. Progression 8.00 to 9.00 p.m. Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green St., Oval, London S.E.11. Tutor: Fiona Howarth, 01 460 2305. (Hama'agal).

YUGOSLAV

Tuesdays in term time. 6.30 to 8 p.m. (Beginners) and 8 to 9 p.m. (Club), at West Square School, West Square, London S.E.1. Tutor: Linda Swanton, 01 764 6181. (Yugoslav Folk Dancing Class).