

SIFD NEWS OCT 1990



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 design is by Les Avery, and shows a couple from Sardinia.

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Enquiries and orders for books, records and cassettes should be sent to Mrs. Joan Rackham, 16 Bathurst Avenue, London SW19 3AE.

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 Kedge (address above).

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

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

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The main item on the Agenda at the September Committee Meeting was the future Chairmanship. Our Chairman will soon complete a 5-year stint in office, and would like to relinquish this part of her very busy life. The search for a possible successor has now begun, approaches will be made, and members are urged to give this matter their serious attention before the Annual General Meeting on 2nd December.

We were delighted to welcome two new Affiliated groups - Oxford Balkansko Oro and Capriol Historical Dance and Music Group, based in Bury, Lancashire. We wish them every success. We were also pleased to read in the September SIFD NEWS of the formation of a new group in Beccles for dancers in Norfolk and Suffolk, and hope that they, too, will soon seek Affiliation.

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary

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S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Preliminary Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Society for International Folk Dancing, to be held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London N.W.1., on Sunday, 2nd December 1990, at 4.30 p.m. :-

- 1) Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Sunday, 3rd December 1989, at the Y.W.C.A. 16 Great Russell Street, London W.C.1.
- 2) Matters Arising.
- 3) Chairman's Report.
- 4) Treasurer's Report.
- 5) Auditor's Report and Consideration of Accounts.
- 6) West Midlands Branch Capitation Fee.
- 7) Announcement of newly-elected Committee.
- 8) Any Other Business.

Members wishing to submit Motions to be added to the Agenda must submit them in writing, duly seconded, to the Secretary by 5th November 1990. Proposers and Seconders must be fully-paid-up members of the S.I.F.D.

Nominations for the Committee must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by 5th November 1990, and must contain the written consent of the nominated member to act if elected. The proposer, seconder, and person nominated must all be fully-paid-up members of the S.I.F.D.

Present Committee: Janet Woolbar (Chairman)
Audrey Whiteley (Secretary)
Judith Payling (Treasurer)

Judith Clayden, Frank Flanagan, Nick Green, Kay Kedge,
Liz Mellish, John Smith

Ex-Officio: Lily Avery (Editor, SIFD NEWS)
Alan Morton (Membership Secretary)
George Sweetland (Publicity Officer)

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary

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ARNSIDE BALKAN COURSE - 28th March to 2nd April 1991

You will find details of the Course on page 14, and an application form for the Course is enclosed with this month's SIFD NEWS. Places are being taken rapidly and there is a strict limit on numbers, so you should book soon to be sure of a place. For further details, please contact me. HELEN GREEN, 0923 51528.

VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS DEMONSTRATIONS

Our 1990 summer season ended on 15th July, when the Central London General International Class was joined by members of the Watford and Croxley Green Groups. The Central London Class performed dances from Scandinavia and N.Europe in appropriate costumes, and then did a very quick change into various East European costumes for dances from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania etc. Dancers from Croxley Green and Watford showed Majorcan dances, followed by Yugoslav, Bulgarian, Israeli and Romanian, all in appropriate authentic costumes. The S.I.F.D. thank all those who took part on this occasion, on an extremely hot afternoon.

We hope that groups and classes will think about performing again on this stage next summer.

KAY KEDGE
Demonstration Secretary

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T-SHIRTS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS

Navy T-Shirts

Lesley Boorer's lovely white design (Slovakian) for these shirts has proved very popular. Here is a tip about washing and ironing (to those who iron absolutely everything). The paint is plastic, as is the paint on the "Line of Dancers" shirts, and the garments should be washed and ironed inside out to get the best results. Both the white and navy T-shirts are £4 each. Postage has now gone up, so if you order by post please add 38p per shirt.

Christmas Cards

This year's design are 70p for a packet of 5 cards. Last year's are still 65p for 5 cards. Postage is now, per packet: 1 - 17p; 2 - 32p; 3 - 38p; 4 - 55p; 5 - 63p; 6 - 71p. I can supply bulk orders to groups, very often by personal delivery, so as to avoid these really high postal charges. If you telephone or write, we can often find a mutual contact.

KAY KEDGE
(address and telephone number
on page 2)

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DANCING WEEKENDS, 1990-91

A dancing weekend gives you a good chance to get to know other members of the Society and to enjoy yourself at the same time. The following programme of weekends has been arranged:-

14th/16th December 1990	Dunford, Midhurst, West Sussex
22nd/24th March 1991	Holland House, Evesham, Worcs.
3rd/6th May 1991	Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, West Somerset
15th/17th November 1991	Charney Manor, Wantage, Oxon.

A booking form and details will be included with the November SIFD NEWS. Meanwhile, please make a note of the dates.

JACK RICHARDSON

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ERRATA

Fiona Howarth unfortunately gave the wrong date in her letter last month regarding her class at Bromley. She meant to say it began on 18th September, not the 8th. Class members will have realized the mistake by now; apologies to anyone who may have been confused. The class meets on Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m., at Raglan Infant School, Jaffray Road, Bromley. Secondly, Simon Guest mistakenly said that the October S.I.F.D. Day Course would be Balkan, but it will in fact be Latvian (see page 11). The November course will be Balkan. Simon was a bit ahead of himself!

The sights, sounds and smells of the Maramureş countryside seemed timeless as ever - peasants scything, gathering and stooking the harvest, the dogs barking readily at all hours, the birds haranguing loudly before dawn, the hot dusty roads with diesel fumes belching from most vehicles - that seemed unchanging, as did the queues for bread (longer than ever, but this time we did actually see what they were patiently waiting for); the heavily-burdened old ladies bent under the weight of double sack-bags of squared traditional cloth, the shops certainly seemed still barer - even the bookstore noticeably yielded no interesting books on Romania where usually most of us have found one or two to be tempted with.

One of the most significant things to strike us was the gleaming new churches, some with facelifted facades, some brand new scarcely finished, all sweet-smelling of new wood and eye-scorching shiny metal roofs with interiors barely dry and still awaiting their full complement of hand-embroidered cloths draping round each icon. My most magic day, visiting "my" little schoolgirl friend from Rosavlea (whom I've been writing to since our visit in 1988) underlined the most significant change of all - the overwhelming desire of most Romanians now to make contact with visitors and if possible exchange addresses and invite them to their homes. After the most generous, fabulous hospitality - a banquet served by the family, just for Theo van Hulst and me, we leisurely made our way to "his" special family, so every time there was a lovely little village scene we stopped and I leapt out asking if I might take their photograph. The response was always the same - proud posing, requests for photos and an invitation into their homes for food and drink. Their faces seemed ready to smile, and confident. At Theo's family we had yet another meal, just for us, and for the photos again a costume was pulled out of the chest for me to dress up in. On the way home we strolled down the village street for Theo to take some video of the carved gateways, so much a part of the scenery everywhere. As if we'd been the Pied Piper, people emerged from everywhere to come and talk to us, and even the home-going peasants shouldering their rakes, scythes etc. paused to bid us welcome at their house, "just a short walk ahead". Eventually we did accept the most pressing, just to see all his animals. Since Ceauşescu he was now taking an interest and pride in his animals, so his pig had a litter, his mare a foal, his sheep were now a flock, etc. etc., and as though we were overseers he trotted them all out in turn. The little white calf was so bony I wondered it could stand, with its damask coat so besmirched with manure. The animals stood haltered so close to each other, with just a separate pen for the pig and piglets, and everywhere flowing in manure. Outside, his lad trotted round the little herd of sheep which were then put back in the barn. Along the side of the house was a line of old battered straw hives with obvious activity round each mouth. All the while, the poor old dog barked fit to burst, at the end of his tether in the dust. During the summer they live in the ground floor of the house and certainly it was beautifully cool (and dark). We sat and chatted (well, Theo did), trying to refuse yet more food and drink. They seemed well pleased with Iliescu.

Not so the young students in the capital. As I was being shown the landmarks of the revolution by a national newspaper reporter, we waded straight into the gathering mob to find out what it was all about. I hope my photos come out - of the holed national flag at least - especially as he said how brave I was taking them! (Ignorance is bliss of course). I couldn't help being struck by the extreme gentleness of the police. They were smiling all the time and never lost their patience, without referring to batons or pistols they persistently but calmly and slowly herded the students back to the pavement and tried for the most part successfully to keep the traffic circulating in this very wide busy street alongside the freedom square, cordoned off by national coloured ribbon, quite close to the crosses and stands of candles marking where so many young people fell. The mounds of wax bore witness to the hundreds of thousands of candles burnt to their memory. The earth was all dark and dust-free where the wax had soaked into it. The common talk apparently was that this stirring could well fan into a major confrontation by the evening "as after all it was a month since the last big 'show' and yesterday the student leader had been released". The gesticulating and shouted arguments surged back and forth, looking ugly occasionally, but then a mob very rarely looks anything else and this seemed preparatory to a mob.

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The preoccupied bustle of the city seemed much as usual to me. Perhaps there were more touts, selling cigarettes and other treasures on the black market (often apparently Hungarian and Polish) and superficially there seemed lots of goods for sale in the street markets. Now of course as they are all free no shops were open on Saturday and as they talked the feeling was very strong that they were all still on a high from the revolution and determined that they should remain "free", although most of them couldn't stop looking over their shoulder still.

The actual course itself in Sighetu Marmatiei was predictably great fun, with our old friends, Gaby Ghius and Viorel Vatraniuc (dance) and Costica Sofian, the virtuoso who can produce a wonderful tune blowing across a bottle top, and a brass band from a curled cone of paper, quite apart from his full range of whistles, pipes etc., and Titi who taught us songs again and led the dancing on his accordeon, which he kindly left behind for Nick Green to play at the weekend. Thank Goodness he did, as Nick and Helen Green's musical contribution to our campfire by the river was great. A marvellous addition this year was Gaby's lovely wife Florica, who taught as many as would how to make a Maramures necklace of beads. She opened her design book, spread out her carpet of beads, strung us each a little loom and away we went. Well, everyone else did, but as I'd left my reading glasses at home I was her worst pupil. It's not the sort of thing you can manage half blind! Even so, I did find out how to do it, and as I was wafted off visiting Romanians on our free day, I came back to find that for my birthday she had finished the whole thing for me AND given me one of hers too. Yes, you can see I had yet another wonderful wonderful birthday to remember, with so many dashing red flowers.

Nick and Helen are well aware of the full range on offer from Romania, but anyone else thinking of organizing an interesting dancing weekend or week could do well to remember our dear friends, Gaby Ghius, Viorel Vatraniuc, Costica Sofian, and Titi. They are so lively and entertaining and bring a whole range of cultural knowledge and experience to their offerings. As they are ALL most anxious to travel and see something of the world outside Romania I am sure that arrangements and compromises could be managed.

Hilda and Roger Sturge had a most exciting (if very traumatic for their car) detour across fields to avoid Săpîntă, which was entirely cut off while its citizens sorted out their problems. One half had the Mayor arrested and the other half sought to free him. By the time we left we could visit the "Happy Cemetery" in peace, although this time we didn't wander the streets and visit the wood carvers' houses. As usual, the fences were draped with blankets and cushions etc. made from the local thick wool.

Although no-one could believe June Forrest was the oldest of our merry band, she skipped up to accept the lovely basket of flowers given with a pretty speech at our farewell party. Duncan Forrest on foot, and Roger Sturge on his bike, saw quite a bit of the countryside around.

Our last evenings in Bucureşti were spent in a new luxury hotel. The rooms on one side curled round the enclosed open space and semi-open dance floor and cabaret area. During the day it looked lovely and meant, with all the windows and door onto the balcony open, a nice draft of air, but Saturday night it was a good thing we were all waiting until midnight to sing "Happy Birthday" to Silviu Ciuciumis as the volume of the entertainment would definitely have precluded sleep even to us.

Once again, there are so many happy memories and once again I have no hesitation in recommending a Romanian holiday for dancing, singing, walking, handicrafts and having an insight into another way of life. There are still a lot of people wearing their traditional costume, especially on Sundays. We were stunned by the huge number and variety of costume at Negreşti Oaş in particular. I found it particularly nice to be able to give photos of the previous visit to those I had taken, e.g. the woman who opened up the church in Bogdan Vodă and sang on the hillside during our social evening, the Mara dancers, the musicians at Borşa and so on. This time too they seemed very interested in our views of the changes too. I was interviewed at the airport on arrival (little bit in a national paper), there was a report on the group

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in the regional paper after our evening at Borsa, and before we left Sighet I was interviewed for half an hour, again in Baia Mare and again in Bucuresti. I wonder what I will have said? I am sure I will have said it very well in Baia Mare as that was all translated by our guide, Valentina - a totally charming, helpful superb guide. She was a wonderful and, we hope, permanent addition to Silviu's trips. If you haven't tried one of them yet, how about it next year?

DIKI GLEESON

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HUNGARIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND - 27th AND 28th OCTOBER 1990

Ferenc Biró, assisted by his wife Juli, will be teaching dances from Dunántúl (Transdubia) and the Kalotaszeg region (in Transylvania). The day course will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with an hour for lunch) on the Saturday and Sunday, and there will be a Social Dance on the Saturday evening from 6 o'clock to 9. About half of the evening dances will also be Hungarian, costume optional; the Balaton and Doina groups will be wearing theirs.

Saturday course + Evening Dance + Sunday course - £14.50 (S.I.F.D. £13.50)
Saturday course + Sunday course - £12.00 (S.I.F.D. £11.00)
Evening Dance alone - £3.00 (S.I.F.D. £2.50)

Location: Sidings Community Centre, 150 Brassey Road, London N.W.6. Nearest stations: Kilburn or West Hampstead (maps sent on request).

Bookings in advance. For further information and booking, contact Leslie Haddon or Sue Chipp on 081 441 2959 (3 Clifford Lodge, 36 Clifford Road, New Barnet, Herts. EN5 5PF).

LESLIE HADDON

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VISIT BY PECE ATANASOVSKI, MACEDONIAN DANCE TEACHER

In order to give Northern dancers a chance to work with Pece Atanasovski, I am prepared to organize a workshop in the Hope Valley, Derbyshire. In view of the short notice, it will not be possible for me to arrange a residential course but I could arrange a day workshop on SUNDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 1990, if Pece is still available. I only work for a few hours a week now, so I cannot underwrite this course with any of my own money, so what I suggest is that people who would like a course to take place in this area that weekend should ring me IMMEDIATELY on 0433 30183 and make a commitment to attend if I book a hall and make the arrangements. There are Youth Hostels nearby at Castleton and Hathersage, and plenty of B. & B. accommodation in the area but we should be able to get enough people from groups who are near enough to come for the day. We need a minimum of 30 because of the very high fee (£30 an hour).

ALSO, a course with Jan Knoppers in this area next Spring. Watch this space.....!

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME
"Robin Cottage",
4 Commercial Road,
Grindleford, Nr. Sheffield
S30 1HA

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ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY

Zivko Firfov group will be holding their party on SATURDAY, 1st December 1990, 7 to 10.30 p.m. at Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, London E.C.1. (Nearest Underground station: Old Street). Tickets £5 including refreshments, from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 081 592 4427 (please send s.a.e.). ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY. Cheques to be made out to Zivko Firfov Group.

Letters to the Editor.....

Dear Lily,

My heart goes out to Philip Thornton every time he writes to the SIFD NEWS protesting at the disappearance of traditional dance, for undoubtedly something very precious is being lost. Ours is a society for international folk dance. Professor Alkis Raftis has defined folk dance as "traditional dance danced out of context", and he adds that context is 90% of traditional dance, and the movements and music only 10%. Philip Thornton is exceptionally privileged to have experienced traditional dance in its context, and we are privileged that he shares his experience with us. Whether destroyed by "Stalinism" or by commercialisation, traditional dance is dying and will not be restored; its contexts in traditional societies are disappearing. Most people in the Balkans today don't want to go back to the sort of society which gave traditional dance its meaning.

Whatever context we put on to our dancing - whether conservation, recreation, exercise, or the mock-spirituality of CircleDance - it doesn't turn it into traditional dance. A Balkanplus evening, where people in a mixture of costumes dance some fifty dances from a dozen nations in the space of three hours, can be very enjoyable. We even dance in the authentic style at times. But our experience is far removed from that of dancers in a village community - knowing only a few dances and dancing them for hours on end because if they didn't the community would not function properly.

I don't understand this dispute about authenticity and recreation. It seems obvious that the more we can experience moving our bodies with all the subtlety of authentic traditional style, the more enjoyment we will get out of the dance. It is not "recreation" that worries me, but the frantic urge to learn more and more dances. The question I would like to raise is this - is it possible to know 700 dances and still really appreciate the authentic experience of any of them? If as soon as you have "got" the steps of one dance you lose interest and go on to another; if you only want to do any dance for 2½ minutes at a time; will you ever arrive at the sort of appreciation of traditional dance that Philip Thornton obviously has?

Love,

LAWRENCE FRY
Cilyrychen Crossing,
Llandybie, Ammanford, Dyfed

Dear Lily,

Thank you for sending to me the letter you received from Vyts Beliajus, editor of the magazine "VILTIS", in which he commented on the nationality of the dance Kalvelis shown in the music page of the July SIFD NEWS as being from Finland.

Vyts is Lithuanian and an expert in dances from his country; so, will everyone please note that Kalvelis is not from Finland but from Lithuania. I apologise to Vyts and all concerned because I made the error, although I took my information from the "Musicians' Blue Book" which does go back a few years. I should have checked with the Society's current Live Music Dance List organized by Liz Mellish - it was shown correctly there! I am writing to Vyts to thank him for his letter bringing this matter to our attention.

Cheers,

WILF HORROCKS
53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches
Surrey SM5 4HP

ED. NOTE: The above letter arose from a note I received from Vyts Beliajus, who receives our SIFD NEWS in exchange for his VILTIS, pointing out our mistake in attributing Kalvelis to Finland. Many thanks Vyts!

Dear Lily,

I hope you enjoyed your visit to Sidmouth. It was my first time and I found the whole thing a marvellous experience and very much look forward to another year there.

As mentioned to you, a friend and I had the good fortune to have a holiday in Mexico last year. We managed to see Ballet Folklorique de Mexico in Mexico City itself. We also saw a University group in Oaxaca (pronounced Wa-Ha-Ka), both of which showed dances from all over Mexico.

We were so impressed that we bought a video tape of the former but of course it would not play on our video machines here. I have now had it translated on to an English system tape, but it was rather a costly exercise. I can, however, now get some further copies made and if anyone would like a copy at £7.50 plus postage I should be pleased if they would write to me at the address below. The tape lasts over two hours; it shows the variety and splendour of the dances of the different regions of Mexico, with a brief introduction.

I paid a brief visit to the Milton Keynes Folk Festival, which is new. International groups included excellent Hungarian and Uzbek groups. I hope this will now become an annual event.

Yours sincerely,

JILL GOURLAY
41 Waldegrave Road,
Teddington TW11 8LA

Dear Lily,

With a risk of adding fuel to a recent smouldering fire, I should like to say how enjoyable and great fun the last two S.I.F.D. Day Courses have been. Maggie O'Regan's French and Italian Renaissance dances were very unusual, with Maggie's description of how gentlemen should behave, and pieces (with reference to a type of fish) of costumes that they should wear! The September day course was dances using various types of sticks, long ones, short ones and paper ones (very useful for the New Zealand dance; after doing that one I am thinking of joining a circus as a juggler!).

Thank you to Janet Woolbar, Frances Horrocks, Joan & Simon Guest, and Aili Eistrat. Lastly, a special greeting to Doug and Maureen Wells, "a movimento".

Best wishes,

STELLA CARTER (Mrs.)
14 High Mead, Hockley, Essex

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HAMA'AGAL LIVES!

Thanks to the friendliness of the Camden Institute (a real culture shock after Morley College), we now have a new venue for the Israeli dance class. We start AFTER HALF-TERM, on 31st October 1990, at Netley School Annexe, Netley Street, near Warren Street Underground, on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

This more central site may attract new members. If any of you are thinking of joining us, would you contact me so that I can prepare a suitable programme for the class. If you enjoy the "Gloden Odlied" (sic) this could be the class for you, as we shall be concentrating on established and classic dances rather than the latest output.

Thanks to all who sent their sympathy and suggestions of venues. Shalom.

FIONA HOWARTH,
17a Ravensbourne Road, Bromley BR1 1HN
TEL: 081 460 2305

"FOLK DANCE OF EUROPE", a new publication.

The publication of the above book by Nigel Allenby Jaffé was announced in the July SIFD NEWS, when I said that Nigel describes it as "the book which the folkdance world has been waiting for" and the book "which is sure to become the standard work on the subject for many years to come". Having now had the chance to read it, I must say that I agree with him.

Here are all the answers to all the questions you have ever asked about the origin and evolution of European folk dance. The amount of information is absolutely prolific, and the depth and extent of his knowledge of folk dance is astounding and must have taken years to accrue.

Nigel's explanatory leaflet about the book, which I quoted at length in the July issue, really says it all. There are chapters on the mythological, ethnic and historical background to folk dance, descriptions of evolution and development of each aspect of the dance, from Circles & Chains to Animal Dances, from Swords & Sticks to Wedding Dances, as well as 144 photographs from various sources, illustrating beautifully the various aspects of the dance and complementary to each chapter.

Time and again I found references to dances that I know, and learned a little bit more to add to what I already knew about them, as well, of course, as learning a whole lot that I did not know. A vast field is covered, from the East to the West, the North to the South of Europe, and I particularly appreciated Nigel's statement that "dance knows no frontiers. Fashion carries it from one country to another. Often a dance can turn up in a foreign country, long forgotten in the land of its origin. Different countries at different times have set the fashion and sometimes dances crop up elsewhere under different names quite unrecognizable from their original name". How true that is!

The Appendices also give valuable information and tackle such questions as "Why do some dances move clockwise and others counter-clockwise?", and the much-discussed origin of Flamenco; give descriptions of nearly 130 folk instruments; and list more than 80 European folk festivals held regularly.

As Nigel says, "Folk Dance of Europe" is encyclopaedic, and I agree that every library should have a copy on its shelves, and every individual who is truly interested in European folk dance would find it an invaluable reference book to have in their private collection. In my opinion it is worth the £24.00 (hardback), £16.50 (paperback) and would make an excellent Christmas present - if you can bear to part with it or if you can afford to buy more than one. And don't forget Nigel's generous offer to donate £1 to S.I.F.D. for each book sold through the Society if the order is marked "S.I.F.D.". Other details are:-

Size: 245 x 177mm. Approx. 360 pages. Published by Folk Dance Enterprises.
Orders to: Folk Dance Enterprises, Lambert's Halt, Kirkby Malham, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4BT, with a cheque which should include £2.82 for postage & packing for the hardback, £2.30 p. & p. for the paperback.

Happy reading! I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

LILY AVERY



BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE COURSE AND KOPRIVSHTITSE FESTIVAL - SUMMER 1991

Belcho Stanev, who taught in Swansea at the S.I.F.D. Summer School in 1987, is again organizing a very exciting and full programme of dancing and sightseeing. The course will take place in a village near the Black Sea coastal resort of Varna. This will follow the 3-day national festival held every five years in Koprivshtitse to celebrate the dances, music and songs of Bulgaria. The cost and dates are not yet fixed but will probably be as follows - 8th to 21st August (8th to 11th at Koprivshtitse). Cost: £450 all inclusive. More information and application forms from Galina Toker, Tel: 071 251 6783 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday daytime, or 081 800 1123.

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

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, 13TH OCTOBER 1990

Tutor: Viktors Grigulis Fees: £3 for S.I.F.D. members, £4 non-members

During the course of the day there should be an opportunity to see some video recordings of Latvian dance.

Viktors has agreed that participants may make audio recordings during the final recapitulation of the dances taught. Only official video recordings will be permitted.

Bring packed lunch; squash available on site. Kitchen will be open for making tea or coffee; teabags, instant coffee and milk will be provided at a nominal charge.

The S.I.F.D. Day Course on 10th November 1990 will be Balkan.



BALKANPLUS HALF-DAY COURSE - KURDISH DANCES

Balkanplus will be organizing a half-day course of Kurdish dances on SATURDAY, 20TH OCTOBER 1990, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. Fee: £3.00, annual members £2.00. Tutor: Huseyin Çiçek of the London-based Kurdish Dance Group "Dilane Kurdi". Huseyin will select dances from the following list:-

Kimil	(Urfa)
Girane	(Urfa)
Garzane	(Bitlis)
Suleyman	(Iraq)
Nefbe	(Bitlis)
Harkustalar	(Urfa)

The BALKANPLUS DANCE follows, from 7 to 10.30 p.m. £2.50, including light refreshments. M.C.: Nick Green. We are hopeful that Huseyin Çiçek and other members of the Kurdish Group will be in attendance to repeat the course dances and to perform for us.

Further information from Helen Green, 0923 51528 (evenings).

BRIAN DOWSETT



COME DANCING - IN LEATHERHEAD

Members living in the South might like to hear of events being held at Leatherhead Leisure Centre this month, on Sunday afternoons, called "Come and Try" Dance Sessions.

7th October	Aerobics and Southern Asian Dance
14th October	Medau and Burlesque Dance
21st October	English and International Folk Dance

Classes are from 2.30 to 3.45 p.m. and from 4.00 to 5.15 p.m.

I have been invited to take the International session and would be pleased to see some familiar faces. The dance programme will be a good mixture of simple dances from as many countries as there is time for.

FRANCES HORROCKS

SOUND AMPLIFICATION AND THE MILTON KEYNES FIASCO

During the last few months, there have been several folkdance performances and festivals in this country, and it is interesting to note the different degrees to which they have depended on the use of sound amplification.

In the Spring, a team from Latvia gave a lively and interesting dance programme at the Commonwealth Institute, and in July an excellent group from Czechoslovakia put on performances at a number of locations, including Harlow. Each of these teams was accompanied by a group of musicians who played without amplification, and it was a pleasure to listen to the individual instruments without the intervention of electronics. Thanks and congratulations to Viktors Grigulis and to Hedy Fromings who were responsible for the visits of these two teams.

At the Milton Keynes Festival it was a different story. There were four excellent overseas teams - from Uzbekistan, China (National Minorities Company), Spain (Valencia) and Hungary (Vadrozszak Group). Only the Chinese were dependent on recorded music, but amplification (sometimes excessive) was used, or intended, for the other groups. Halfway through the second half on the Friday evening, disaster struck - the diesel electric generator suffered intermittent failure and it was not possible to continue the use of amplifiers. The Vadrozszak Group from Hungary, wellknown to many S.I.F.D. members, were unwilling to continue their performance because they, unlike the audience, could not hear their musicians without amplification. It is a wonder that folkdance performances were ever held before the days of electronics! The concert was brought to an abrupt end, bringing credit neither to the organizers of the festival, nor to the Vadrozszak Group.

On a final note, at the Pontardawe Folk Festival the amplifier was again in the ascendant, making it painful to listen to some of the folk bands. Furthermore, when the musical instruments did not include a bass drum, the omission was sometimes rectified by the use of an electronic machine making a noise, allegedly similar to the output from a drum but effectively spoiling the efforts of the musicians.

JACK RICHARDSON



RED INVASION

In addition to the extensive tour by the "Red Star Rockets Troupes" mentioned in last month's issue, another Red Army Ensemble is on tour here, again advertized as having over 100 singers, dancers and musicians. They start at Southend (Cliffs Pavilion) on 29th September and thereafter will be visiting Derrnigate Northampton, Dominion Theatre London, Point Theatre Dublin, Palace Theatre Manchester, Festival Theatre Chichester, Ritz Theatre Lincoln, Oasis Centre Swindon, Hippodrome Birmingham, Civic Hall, Guildford, Int.Centre Bournemouth, Hippodrome Bristol, Fairfield Croydon, Futurist Theatre Scarborough, New Tyne Theatre Newcastle, Sands Centre Carlisle, Grand Opera House Belfast, Opera House Blackpool, Civic Theatre Halifax, Guildhall Portsmouth, Assembly Rooms Derby, Corn Exchange Cambridge, Arcadia Theatre Llandudno, St.George's Hall Bradford, Darlington (sold out), Hexagon Reading, City Hall Sheffield, finishing at The Orchard at Dartford on 8th December. Check details locally.

CECIL SHARP HOUSE

About eighteen months ago, some S.I.F.D. members very kindly donated £13 towards the renewal of the lettering on the garden front of Cecil Sharp House. After some unavoidable delay because of getting the necessary approvals from the English Heritage (The House is a listed building) and from Camden Council, volunteers eventually renewed the lettering. The S.I.F.D. were informed that not all our contribution was thus used, and we gave our permission for the balance to be put towards the renovation of the cushions in the main hall. By now, dancers will have noticed that the covers on the cushions have indeed been renewed, and are yet another sign that those in charge of the running of Cecil Sharp House are making every effort to improve it in all sorts of ways.

KAY KEDGE

LA BASTRINGUE

(French-Canadian)

A (Play brightly)

"Mademoiselle, voulez-vous danser...?"

Musical notation for the first staff of 'LA BASTRINGUE'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The melody consists of eighth notes. Chords indicated below the staff are D, A, D, A, D, A, D.

Intro -----

Musical notation for the second staff of 'LA BASTRINGUE'. It begins with an 'Intro' section marked with a dashed line. The melody continues with eighth notes. Chords indicated below the staff are G, A7, D, D, C4, D, D, A, D.

Musical notation for the third staff of 'LA BASTRINGUE'. The melody continues with eighth notes. Chords indicated below the staff are C4, D, A, D. A section labeled 'B' is marked with a box above the staff.

Musical notation for the fourth staff of 'LA BASTRINGUE'. The melody continues with eighth notes. Chords indicated below the staff are D, G, D, G, C, D7, G.

Musical notation for the fifth staff of 'LA BASTRINGUE'. The melody continues with eighth notes. Chords indicated below the staff are F4, G, D, G, F4, G, D, G.

Play AABB ad lib.

GORT MET STROOP

(Holland)

A

"Pudding with Syrup."

Musical notation for the first staff of 'GORT MET STROOP'. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody consists of quarter notes. Chords indicated below the staff are F, Bb, F, C7, F, Bb, F.

Intro: -----

Musical notation for the second staff of 'GORT MET STROOP'. It begins with an 'Intro' section marked with a dashed line. The melody continues with quarter notes. Chords indicated below the staff are C7, F, F, D7, Gm, C7, F. A section labeled 'B' is marked with a box above the staff.

Musical notation for the third staff of 'GORT MET STROOP'. The melody continues with quarter notes. Chords indicated below the staff are D7, Gm, C7, F. The instruction 'Play: ABAB x 3.' is written at the end of the staff.

The melody is played through twice for each sequence; during the second time the length of the second and sixth bars of the A music is extended to allow time for the man to kiss his lady.

Two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks. Don't forget to let Wilf know if you would like the music for any particular dance. His address is: 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Tel: 081 642 3629.

ARNSIDE BALKAN COURSE

Easter 1991 sees the introduction to this country of two more of Holland's talented dance teachers. **MARTIN IHNS** will be teaching us Macedonian dances, and **ERIK VEENSTRA** specialises in Romanian dancing. Both teachers have a reputation not only for passing on interesting and enjoyable dances, but for the depth of knowledge about their specialist interests. The Easter break gives us the opportunity to meet them and to have time to consolidate the dances they have to offer.

Arnside is a small village north of Carnforth, on Morecambe Bay. The area offers the best of both worlds - it is not directly on the tourist track, but both Morecambe and the Lake District are within very easy reach. Carnforth Steam Railway is well worth a visit, and there is also a large bird sanctuary nearby. Travelling to Arnside is relatively easy - the M6 is only a few miles away if you are coming by car, and there is a railway station in Arnside, about a mile from the Youth Hostel.

Accommodation will be in single sex dormitories in Arnside Youth Hostel. The Hostel was originally a girl's school, and most of the dormitories are therefore quite small (8 beds or fewer). Beds will be allocated on a first come, first served basis - with the smallest dormitories being filled first!

Unfortunately the only concessionary rate we can offer, as we are already benefiting from the YHA group rate, is for any participants under 4 years of age - and this is dependent on them bringing their own beds with them! If they also do not require meals, then entrance will be free.

The Hostel does have some car parking space, but not very much, so we should aim to take as few cars as possible. It would be very much appreciated if people could offer lifts wherever possible. Anyone coming by train can be collected from the station, as long as we know when you are arriving.

As space is limited, both in terms of accommodation and the size of the dance halls, we would like to emphasize that priority will be given to **dancers** staying in the **Youth Hostel**, although of course every effort will be made to cater for everyone.

For our dancing, we are using two halls in the village, the Women's Institute and the Educational Institute. Both are within a few minutes' walk of the Youth Hostel.

As the course is taking place so near to so much beautiful countryside, we are not intending to spend all day dancing. Half a day will be spent dancing, with the other half free, and a social dance in the evening. Please feel free to offer to lead walks, etc, or to suggest places people might like to visit.

As usual, we would encourage any budding musicians to bring their instruments with them for playing in the evening. Music will be available to follow, if required. We aim to have more people in the band than on the floor!

If you have any other questions about the course, or would like more information, please either telephone or send a stamped SAE to:

Helen Green
28 St Mary's Road
Watford
Herts WD1 8EF

Tel: 0923 51528

SUNDAY DANCES AT Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.

Oct. 7th M.C. Leslie Haddon. Doina members will be in costume; other costumes welcome. Also, please bring short sticks if you have them.

Nov. 4th M.C.s Merton Park Group

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

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WHAT'S ON

- Oct. 6th INTERNATIONAL BARN DANCE FOR BEGINNERS, 7 to 10 p.m. in Trefusis Hall, Cecil Sharp House. M.C.s: Hugh Wood and Jill Bransby. £3.00 (S.I.F.D. members £2.50)
- Oct. 6th ROMANIAN DAY COURSE organized by West Midlands Branch of S.I.F.D. at the Oakenshaw Centre, Oakenshaw Road, Solihull, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee: £4. Tutor: Frances Horrocks. Followed by GENERAL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE at 7.30 p.m. Further details from Dennis Hunt, 0203 413854.
- Oct. 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF West Midlands Branch of S.I.F.D., 6 p.m. at the Oakenshaw Centre, Oakenshaw Road, Solihull. Elections of Officers and Committee for 1990/91 and Reports.
- Oct. 7th ISRAELI DAY COURSE ORGANIZED BY Worthing International Folkdance Club at Heene Road Community Centre, Heene Road, Worthing, West Sussex, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (4.30 if needed). Tutor: Judy Ingram. £2.50. A 'phone call to Iris Birch, if coming, would be appreciated. Tel: 0903 691651.
- Oct. 7th, 14th & 21st. DANCE IN LEATHERHEAD. See page 11.
- Oct. 13th S.I.F.D. LATVIAN DAY COURSE. See page 11.
- Oct. 13th AUTUMN DANCE RUN BY Woodvale International Folkdance Group at Borough Green Village Hall, 8 to 11 p.m. £3.50 including buffet. Guest M.C.: Dave Carter. Bookings: Heather Bevan, Maidstone 692937.
- Oct. 14th ISRAELI DAY OF DANCE. As part of "Israeli - State of the Art", at the Barbican, London, from 10th October to 29th November, there is a Day of Dance on Sunday, 14th October, 12.30 to 5 p.m. in the foyer which will include "Hora Ashkelon Group" and "Oranim" dance groups.
- Oct. 20th LATVIAN DAY COURSE RUN BY Nutbrook International Folkdance Group at Kirk Hallam Community School, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston, Derbyshire. 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tutor: Viktors Grigulis. Fee: £3.
- Oct. 20th BALKANPLUS HALFDAY COURSE - KURDISH DANCES, FOLLOWED BY BALKANPLUS DANCE See page 11.
- Oct. 27th HUNGARIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND. See page 7.
to 28th

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A series of ethnic concerts at The Amadeus Centre, 50 Shirland Road, Maida Vale, London W.9. Tel: 071 286 1686 :-

Oct. 13th	8 p.m.	DUNAV	Folk music from the Balkans
Oct. 20th	8 p.m.	HUSEYIN TURKMENLER GROUP	Folk music from Turkey
Nov. 10th	8 p.m.	INTINAN	Folk music from Peru & The Andes
Nov. 24th	8 p.m.	HAMAVA	Classical music from Iran

Tickets £5. Please check availability of tickets as they may be for members only.