



**SIFO
NEWS**

NOV 1991

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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

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This month's cover is by Tina Stone and shows historic costumes from China.

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CHAIRMAN: Janet Woolbar (Miss), 34A Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middx. HA3 8JZ.

SECRETARY: Audrey Whiteley (Mrs.), 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts WD1 3BE. Tel: 0923 221696.

TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), 28 Shepherds Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 7HX.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Alan Morton, 26 Durham Road, Harrow, Middx. HA1 4PG. Tel: 081 427 8042.

DEMONSTRATION SECRETARY: Kay Kedge (Mrs.), 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts. WD4 8AN. Tel: 0923 262763.

PUBLICITY SECRETARY: George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London SE6 0TQ. Tel: 071 701 3785.

GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan Morton (address above).

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The Society Barn Dance held on 12th October at Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, was enjoyed by everyone, largely due to the inspired M.C.-ing of Jill Bransby and Hugh Wood, and not, of course forgetting the contribution of "Cloudburst". It was the first time that the Rainmakers band has played for us, and they provided some very lively music to dance to. They were most helpful in other ways, and we hope to see them again on a future occasion.

By the time these notes appear it is to be hoped that two volunteers will have put their heads over the parapet and offered their services to the Society as Chairman and Secretary. I am sure the Committee will forgive me saying that unless we do find someone to fill these posts the S.I.F.D. will soon be in a very difficult position. Also, I am sure they will agree that while the Secretary should have the appropriate technical skills, e.g. typing and/or word processing, the Chairman need not necessarily be a teacher or even a good dancer. What are essential requirements are that he or she should have a belief in the Society's aims, some organizational experience to put them into practice, and an ability to get on with people. Harry Whitaker, a past Chairman, had those qualities and did the job well for a number of years. In fact, because he was not a teacher, and was not already committed, he was under less pressure.

I was pleased to see that Henry Lee met Bruno Ravnikar at Sidmouth. I met Bruno some ten years ago in Ljubljana and before that in the early 50s when he was a member of Tine Rozanc, one of the first Yugoslav (Slovene) groups to visit Britain, and they gave a number of workshops (classes in those days). I hope he was well, and presume he is now retired and enjoying it.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

SECRETARY'S NOTES

At their last meeting, the Committee were mainly concerned with drafts of various reports to be given at the Annual General Meeting on 1st December.

Dates for your Diary. Cecil Sharp House have now confirmed the following dates for the Sunday Dances in 1992, and I am pleased to report that there are no complications, and the dances will be held on the first Sunday of each month, except for May (second Sunday) and August (no dance):-

5th January	10th May	4th October
2nd February	7th June	1st November
1st March	5th July	6th December
6th April	6th September	

To date, I have received no nominations for the 1992 Committee, but I live in hopes that I shall be inundated! The deadline is 4th November.

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary

THE WIDER WORLD OF DANCE

Members may be interested to know about the Society's relationship with the wider world of movement and dance. This is achieved by our representation on the Movement and Dance Committee of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (C.C.P.R.) and on the Movement and Dance Liaison Groups.

The C.C.P.R. is the national voluntary body whose aim is to promote measures to improve and develop sport and physical recreation. It also acts as a consultative body to the Sports Council (a Government agency with executive powers to represent Government policy in sport). The C.C.P.R. is organized by divisions and there is a Movement and Dance Division with representatives from organizations such as The Keep Fit Association, the Women's League of Health and Beauty, the E.F.D.S.S. and the S.I.F.D. This is a national committee covering the whole country.

Movement and Dance Liaison Groups were set up by the Sports Council in order to liaise between the individual organizations and the Regional Sports Council. The emphasis here is on regions because the Sports Council is divided into regions. There is, for instance, a Greater London and S.E. region of the Sports Council with its own funding for grants etc. There is therefore a Movement and Dance Liaison Group for the Greater London and S.E. region. There are other liaison groups for the other regions.

I think it is important that the S.I.F.D. adds its weight and is seen to be involved with matters affecting all forms of dance. A current issue is the Government's White Paper on Education. It appears that in future only Adult Education classes directly leading to a vocational qualification would become eligible for Government funding. This is obviously going to have a further effect on the ever-escalating cost of evening classes. The S.I.F.D. has added its voice in protest.

George Sweetland is the Society's representative on the Movement And Dance Division of the C.C.P.R. and I am the Society's representative on the Greater London and S.E. region Movement And Dance Liaison Group.

JOAN RACKHAM

A REMINDER: Don't forget that the S.I.F.D. has Christmas Cards on sale, as well as Notelets, T-shirts in navy and also white, and sweat-shirts in navy with white design. Full details were published in the October SIFD NEWS.

KAY KEDGE

A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE BRITISH BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY TRIP TO BULGARIA

"Relax and have a good time!" is the usual exhortation to lucky folks going on holiday. Even Heathrow seemed to catch the mood and gave us an extra hour to enjoy the duty-free shopping and comfortable seating(?). There was definitely no hurry at Sofia either, but what a welcome - Silvia (from the Ethnographic Museum) insisted on carrying my case on wheels and the minute we erupted into the hotel lobby I was paged and greeted with flowers, kisses and sweetmeats (by Ady's family, for whom I was bringing presents. Several of the long-standing members of Zivko Firfov Group will no doubt remember Ady and her singing!). And this was the first time I'd stepped onto Bulgarian soil ever!

First, we had a whistle-stop tour of a little bit of Sofia - Roman remains, including that lovely old church almost under the busy thoroughfare, old costumes in the museum, the magnificence of the Alexander Nevski Cathedral, the fascinating market stalls in the park, a few shops, including the record shop where they must have registered our passing, we left so laden with boxes (the Sintons) and armfuls of records and cassettes. Barbara Shaffer provided an object lesson in speed of decision and determination, refusing to take off "her" lovely costume until dollars (borrowed) were accepted in payment - a wonderful theatrical moment. Watch out for her stunning appearance at the next party.

It was a good ride to Koprivshtitsa for the Festival, although there was plenty of time for the excitement to subside while we played an obligatory hand of Bulgarian hokey kokey - "Bags in, bags out and who's up this lane. Bags in, bags out. Off we go again".

Koprivshtitsa was pure magic - a paradise of colour, sunshine, music and dancing, costumes, so many photographic shots clamouring to be taken, and camaraderie - even for us non-Bulgarian speakers. I didn't even notice I had a raw scarlet half to my face after being mesmerised in the same seat watching ritual, upon folk scene, upon dancing and singing.

I'm sure you all know there are seven stages scattered over the mountainside, which provides the most varied and breathtaking backdrops, each stage hosting contributions from a different area. Each performance is marked in competition with all other efforts from the same region. There was an extra large, extra high stage to enable the television cameras to record most of what took place. This was a good place to see some of the things you'd missed from other stages as it was really a non-stop show of huge variety. (Eventually the official tape will no doubt catch up and perhaps there will be a chance for everyone to see it).

Without a word of Bulgarian (and only a few spoke French) I really felt at home, so many people smiled, waved and happily paused for a photo, and very early on a little old lady made my day when she saw I was jigging about to the rhythm of the line rehearsing under the shade of a few trees and forcibly tacked me, protesting, on to the end of the line, where I was firmly held throughout the run-through. Wonderful! Another time I paused to listen and then ask if I could tape some impromptu singing and now I can't believe we weren't all speaking the same language together. As the Festival went on for two whole days it was lovely to find some familiar faces and smiles and waves of recognition among the dancers and musicians walking by, apart from seeing most of the Dutch teachers we all know, also Frances Horrocks and Margaret Smith with Eddie Tijssen's group, Galina Toker's lovely group who were going off to Belcho Stanev and the Black Sea, and I was pleased to see Paul and Hilary of Zivko Firfov Group again - had already seen them in Sofia. They had been luckier than people like David Howell who had had to cancel their trip to Pece Atanasovki's course in Macedonia because of the Yugoslav situation, but P. and H. made it O.K. (I hope they write about their experiences).

It was fantastic to be able, without being too rude, to inspect the embroidery and masks and to see how they were put on and used. There was also lots of al fresco stripping and dressing up too, which helped!

DIKI GLEESON

To be continued

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In case you haven't noticed the change of address for our Treasurer on page 2, please note that Judith Payling now lives at 28 Shepherds Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 7HX.

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DAY COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Rainmakers Group will be organizing a Day Course of International folk dancing on Saturday, 2nd November 1991, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Michael's Church Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. Cost £4. Tea, coffee, squash, available. All welcome. Telephone 0438 316288 if directions needed. The tutor will be Janet Woolbar, who will choose dances from the following:-

Gambolina Holzschutanz (Germany)	La Storka Da Cruch (Switzerland)
Maruszka (Poland)	Brîul Lui Remus (Romania)
Deux Deux Deux (France)	Karamfil (Bulgaria)
Untersteirrer Ländler (Austria)	Mombar (Armenia)
Langdans (Sweden)	Zabarka (Serbia)

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NEWS FROM TROIKA

Troika will be appearing at Merlin Theatre, Sheffield, on 2nd November 1991, at Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven, on 20th November 1991, Hemel Hempstead Old Town Hall on 13th December 1991. We would be interested in playing for a dance group workshop on 14th December 1991.

I have two bagpipes, one Bulgarian and one Romanian, and would like to sell one of them for £50. I am assured they work but in my hands they have only uttered screams for help. A lifetime's dedication needed.

Contact me at Bellever, Crosspark, Totnes, Devon - or at 17 West Place, Dalton, Huddersfield. Tel: 0484 549761. Or, the group will be based in the Bradford area for about a year and can be contacted on 0274 635403.

BASIL BUNELIK (Troika Group)

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WEEKENDS OF DANCING

Enclosed with this issue of SIFD NEWS is a list of weekends of dancing and walking about which I have been informed. Many of these book up very quickly, so please return your booking slip without delay.

You will see that we shall be going to Dunford on the weekend before Christmas - 20th/22nd December. I am sorry about the late notification, but Dunford will not book non-Y.M.C.A. groups more than about three months ahead and I did not know in time for the October SIFD NEWS.

JACK RICHARDSON

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CHARITY RAFFLE, SUNDAY DANCE, 22ND SEPTEMBER

The proceeds from the raffle totalled £42.50, to be divided equally between "Cancer Research" and "Reynaud's Disease Society". My thanks to all who contributed.

ROY CLARKE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

After arranging M.C.s for the S.I.F.D. Sunday Dances at Cecil Sharp House for the last two years, I think the time has now come for me to give someone else the opportunity to take over this function. I hope that a volunteer will be forthcoming. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those people who have helped me fill the calendar each year by giving their time and expertise.

The December dance (which follows the A.G.M.) will be M.C.d by Dawn Webster from Wales. She hasn't run a Sunday Dance before, so I hope people will support her. Dawn will be at the A.G.M. to bring us up-to-date on her plans as Organiser of the S.I.F.D. Summer School in York in 1992.

I also want to say Thank You to Ed Whiteley for being "on the door" at the dances and to Alan Morton who helped out whilst Ed was recuperating from his operation.

Happy Dancing,

MONA GRAHAM
25 Warwick Way, Croxley Green,
Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 3SB

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Dear Lily,

On behalf of the Pembrokeshire International Folk Dance Group members, I should like to say a great big Thank You to the West Midlands Branch and all the groups associated with it for a fabulous weekend in Barford. For most of our group this was a completely new experience and one they are anxious to repeat. The over-riding comment has been on the friendliness of everyone concerned and, although comparative newcomers to folk dancing, the way they were never allowed to feel awkward in the dancing. Thank you, everyone.

The Midlands repertoire is, in the main, quite different from ours and it's good to try something new. However, Christine and I were really chuffed when invited to join a set for "The dances from Split", a dance we had so enjoyed learning four years ago at Abergavenny with the Midlands Group.

I cannot close without mentioning Cathy Meunier. What a superb teacher, making even the most complicated dances seem easy. Such was the strength of her teaching that we were able to enjoy all six new dances at our class a few days later.

Don't forget to come and see us, folks. Happy Dancing.

SUE CLARK
22 Church Road, Roch,
nr.Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

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My dear Lily,

I fear I have gained the unpleasant reputation amongst certain of your readers for being cantankerous and a spoilsport, but here is a letter not merely in praise of Henry Lee's comments on the Sidmouth Farce, but also to add some simplistic comments and extentions to his remarkably apt observations. He clearly knows Sidmouth inside and out; I've only been there three times, i.e. when it first started (I have long forgotten when), ten and five years ago, and again this past summer.

Henry comments (p.7, para.2) "but something is missing from Sidmouth 1991". Quite so; it has degenerated into a total moneymaking Folk-fake! That's to say, if you have any clear defined ethnological folk standards. There were, of course, items of superlative folk quality - dare I say Folk Magic! At random, I would mention the

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Basques, the Punjabis, those fascinating Irish girls, and the unadorned U.S.Cloggers. But Henry says "if one hopes to hear old traditional folk music unadorned and un-changed.....then one is going to be disappointed". A masterly under-statement of diplomatic proportions! - e.g. whoever sat through that Mara Group's performance (Australians playing inaccurate Balkan music, at times literally unrecognizable) could be forgiven for getting up and walking out, as indeed did a small group of Jugos and Bulgars who had accompanied me for the day to Sidmouth in a hired 'bus. We stayed for two days.

In his last paragraph, Henry comments, re "presentation", "the excuse given to me was that they could not find the right sort of lecturer". I personally know of five people, three of whom are bi-lingual in Romanian, who could have done the job perfectly, and with skill. "Who chooses the items" he asks. The answer is painfully clear, a group of astute, uninformed people whose knowledge and interest in Folk Art(s) would appear to be based on "will it make us some lovely quick geld?". What in Heaven's name does the offer of 518 items indicate? Henry managed to cover 8% (say, 42 items) and he was there for a week! We were there for two days and came away very very saddened.

This brings me back to mounting my ancient Hobby Horse. Could we, the S.I.F.D., with our innumerable friends and contacts, both in the Metropolis and in Europe, muster up courage to have, say, a modest two-day Folk Festival (in the open-air) here in London? I'm painfully aware it's all a matter of cash, but it's also a matter of goodwill, and know-how, and solid effort. Though I'm 81, I'd work flat out to help all I could. There's an astonishing number of 100% genuine folk groups operating in the U.K. and an even more astonishing number dancing here in London - Turks, Greeks, Irish, Filipinos, Indians and Japanese, to name but a few. The other day I met a group of expert Dervishes! What's more, we can offer real folk music (assorted), not the crucified quasi-jazz offered at Sidmouth. Furthermore, we could offer space in our programme to now almost forgotten Folk Rituals, like the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, or the magical Bacup Coconut Morris Men with their blackened faces. Think about it, dear readers, before what's left of our folk traditions is finally polluted. And a very real "Bravo" to Henry Lee for daring to speak out against what is offered up as "folk" by a huge organization like Sidmouth's Folk Farce Festival.

Sincerely,

PHILIP THORNTON
40 Epirus Road, Fulham,
London S.W.6.

ED. NOTE: Philip wrote this letter from King Edward VII Hospital, where he was undergoing an operation, but he was making good progress and looking forward to going home. I am sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery. We look forward to seeing you back on the scene again, Philip.

In addition to the above letter for SIFD NEWS, Philip also sent a personal letter to me in which, among other things, he gave the following description apropos "Lou Cieri" from France, mentioned in Henry Lee's article last month.

"That item by "Lou Cieri" from Provence I have actually seen performed NOT by attractive youngsters but by people in their 40s, in a large village Harvest Festival about ten miles North of Aix en Provence in 1956! BUT, the "grown-ups" only removed their hats, waistcoats, aprons, working trousers and working skirts, and underneath all this gear they had pure white garments symbolising the new next year's planting and crops. The version shown at Sidmouth was vastly entertaining, but vastly hotted up for the U.K. public. My 1956 version ended in everybody carrying a small sheaf, or pumpkin, or melon, or huge bunch of grapes into the centre and prostrating themselves to "Le Bon Dieu" who had given them all these gifts - a bit different from the mock-sex ending BUT.....we march with the times!".

Dear Lily,

We at Nutbrook had a super day on 28th September when Marina Wolstenholme came and gave us a morning of Hungarian dancing and an afternoon of Israeli. We had a good number of people (an average of 45) and it was nice to see many new faces as well as old friends. The dances were gay and lively, so as a result we went home pleasantly tired and looking forward to the next day course.

We still have not broken our record of fine weather - 22 day courses of sunny weather! It did start raining this time as we were packing up. Will our record remain unbroken on 21st March for our South American day?

We had a piece of good news last week. Our meeting place at Kirk Hallam Community School has at last been confirmed, so this year at any rate we will meet every Thursday in the school hall.

Happy dancing to all,

GILL MORRAL, Hon.Sec.
Nutbrook International Folkdance
Group, 116 Nottingham Road,
Stapleford, Notts.

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Dear Mrs. Avery,

I have just read the article on Sidmouth in the October SIFD NEWS, and was particularly interested in the comment on the Romanian team as, quite by chance, I met some of these dancers when I was in Romania in September.

I was on the Ramblers' tour of Transylvania and Moldavia which ended with a Romanian evening on the outskirts of Bucharest. During the meal, there was a very good arranged display of dancing and music, but afterwards a birthday party got under way and a much more spontaneous atmosphere developed. Our party of 20-odd was very enthusiastic and we were able to get the dancers back on to the floor (back in their everyday clothes) and join in and talk to them, which was when we learnt they had been in Sidmouth this year.

As an S.I.F.D. member, I was, of course, especially interested and though, when I enquired, they did not know if they would be coming again next year, they have taken my address and will let me know if they do come back. I certainly agree with Henry on the lovely dancing and music, and would add lovely people too.

Yours sincerely,

MAVIS LOWE (Heart of England
Group), 50 Ennersdale Road,
Coleshill, Birmingham.



A NEW PUBLICATION - "MACEDONIAN FOLK DANCES"
Collected and transcribed by Lindsey Pollock
Computer transcriptions and layout by Phillip Griffin

Some of you may remember Lindsey who was with the Zivko Firfov Group and who played the bagpipe for the group when they were invited to take part in the Bitola Festival (Macedonia) in 1978. He returned to his native Australia several years ago and has published a book of 91 Macedonian folkdance melodies in collaboration with Phil Griffin who is currently in London and plays with the group between singing, playing and composing for the R.S.C. among others. The book is well printed, with very clear notation, and has an explanation of the rhythms. I am distributing the book for him in this part of the world. The price, over the counter, is £6. By post, including packing, as follows: One book £6.50; two books £12.60; Three books £18.90; Four books £25.10; Five books £31.20. Maximum five books per envelope. More than five, or overseas, on application. Available at Zivko Firfov Group meetings. Enquiries and orders to me, KEN WARD, Flat 4, 290 Leigham Court Rd., London SW16 2QP.

RUČENITSA NA RUSSE

As the mosquito bites begin to fade, so I must write before my memories do likewise. Yes, unfortunately, there are mosquitoes on the banks of the Danube, which is anything but blue, but even high on the eleventh floor of our hotel, they still managed to get in, never mind what they managed at ground level. Now I don't mind being a blood donor, but I prefer to be a voluntary one. But I digress. I must begin at the beginning, as all best stories do.

The beginning for me started last November when I was in Holland for a weekend and I asked my dear friend, Henk Spelt, travel agent, if he would be organizing a journey to Koprivshtitsa due to be held in the summer after the usual five-year period. As you all know, the Bulgarian economy is labouring under some difficulties at the moment. My young pen-friend had already told me of a three-fold increase in the price of bread, an eight-fold increase in the price of cheese, and her school hours drastically cut because of lack of fuel to heat the building during the hard winter months. So there was considerable doubt as to whether the Festival would be held. Henk's answer was a bit vague. He was working on it and would let me know. He did, and I went, with Margaret Smith and twenty-three Dutch people including another friend, Corry. The delightful thing about joining a Dutch group is the excellency of the organization and never knowing who might be there. True to form, there were three others I had met before, and true to form the others were delightful people also. Henk was organizing several different trips including Eddy Tijssen's dance group "Praznik" of whom more later. The group that Margaret and I joined was for dancers and singers, and we were bound for Russe, north-east Bulgaria, on the banks of the Danube.

Armed with bath-plug and coffee-jug, as usual, we set off on 29th July from Heathrow, only half-an-hour late, and queued up to take off. By now we had made the acquaintance of a young teenager, travelling alone and a bit nervous, who had attached himself to us. He spent most of the journey looking out of the window at the spectacular landscape beneath, clearly visible, wondering how far we had got and which country lay below. At Sofia we had quite a prolonged wait for our luggage, so he nipped into the toilet and nipped out again smartly, looking rather pale. Still we waited and he remarked he didn't feel he was in Bulgaria yet, so I suggested he tried another visit to the toilet. Our luggage came, we went easily through Customs - no being locked in a cubicle while one's passport is examined now - and made sure our young friend was met. In a short while our Dutch friends arrived and we went by coach to our hotel for the night.

We were very comfortably accommodated and next morning, after a reasonable breakfast, with clouds looming overhead, we took a coach tour round Sofia. The yellow brick road still leads to the cathedral where the chandeliers are as magnificent as ever, and the Roman remains are as carefully preserved, unlike the mausoleum, no longer magnificently guarded, with grass sprouting through the paving stones in front and graffiti on the stonework above.

After lunch we boarded our coach for the journey to Russe, about 250km away, arriving at our hotel shortly after 7 p.m. Time for a quick change, a decent meal, and then bed, although it feels as if my bed is on the coach and I'm still travelling. Eventually my bed decided it has actually arrived and I drop off to sleep. Our hotel, the Riga, is right on the banks of the Danube, with Romania opposite. Along both sides can be seen jetties and cranes and factories and smoke. Tugs ply their trade, towing lighters up and down the river, and a railway line runs near the hotel carrying freight. There is nothing blue and romantic about the river at this point.

Our hotel room is very comfortable, with an adjoining bathroom where the shower head won't stay where you want it, but otherwise everything works, even the three lifts, though sometimes one of them is reluctant to descend to the ground floor in one go and you have to persuade it, a few floors at a time. The food is good and varied, and in the morning we have beautiful fresh rolls instead of the usual bread, sliced and left out ready the night before. We usually take lunch here too, on the terrace, at a very reasonable price. Not everything is on the menu every day and we notice a lack of green vegetables, but we are agreeably surprised by what is on offer.

FRANCES HORROCKS
To be continued.

"OPERATION ROMANIAN VILLAGES"

Diki Gleeson is trying to drum up voluntary help urgently needed for the above project. Specifically, help is needed in circulating their Newsletter, and Diki is asking the assistance of anyone living/working in the Fulham area, or within easy reach of there. For details, contact Diki on 081 363 1506.

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EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL, 1ST TO 4TH MAY 1992

I am appealing for anyone who can help in the following ways:-

Organize and M.C. a Dance Swop Session

Revive some of the Israeli dances which are not currently in vogue.

Teach a session of dances from South America (not Mexico). I have a book of Danzas de Chile, in Spanish, and a couple of records of dance music from Venezuela if that would help.

If you are not really accustomed to teaching, help can be given, and this may be an opportunity for some of our more reticent members to have a go. I can be reached on 0323 32237 between 5 and 7.30 most evenings. Please, Eastbourne is a lovely festival and very friendly, so do dig into your memories and then contact me.

ROY LE CROISSETTE
Eastbourne Festival Committee

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SPECIAL OCCASION S.I.F.D. 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 NOVEMBER 1991

Four prospective holders of the S.I.F.D. General Teaching Certificate will be teaching a very varied programme of dances during which they will be assessed by a panel of examiners. Please come and be part of the class, and have an enjoyable day learning something new and perhaps brushing up on something old. All the candidates have been working very hard to gain their certificates and they deserve our support.

Bring packed lunch; squash available. Kitchen will be open for making tea and coffee. Tea-bags, instant coffee and milk will be provided at a nominal charge. SPECIAL CONCESSIONARY FEE: £2. There will be no S.I.F.D. Day Course in December. Enquiries to Simon Guest, Tel: 0378 77065.

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SPECIAL OCCASION AFTERNOON IN MERTON

Place: Martin Way Methodist Church Hall, London S.W.20 (corner of Buckleigh Avenue and Martin Way).

Time: 1 to 5 p.m.

Date: SATURDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER 1991

Two prospective holders of the S.I.F.D. General Teaching Certificate will be teaching a very varied programme of dances during which they will be assessed by a panel of examiners. Please come along and support them by being part of the class, and have an enjoyable afternoon of dancing FREE. Enquiries to Simon Guest, Tel: 0378 77065.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Dec. 1st S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 4.30 p.m. at Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London N.W.1.
- Dec. 7th ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY, 7 to 10.30 p.m. at Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, London E.C.1. (Nearest Underground Station: Old Street). ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY. £5 (including refreshments) from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 081 592 4427. (s.a.e. please). Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Group.
- Dec.16th WYCOMBE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP CHRISTMAS DANCE at Sir William Ramsay School, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, nr.High Wycombe, 8 p.m. £2 including refreshments.

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FOLKLORIC DANCE TOURS TO ROMANIA 1992

Spring	18th April to 25th April	Brasov, Transylvania	Dfl.1,245.00
Summer	26th July to 9th August	Piatra Neamt, Moldova	Dfl.1,895.00

For further information, write to The Doina Foundation, c/o Silviu Ciuciumis, Aarhuspad 22, 3067 PR Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: 31-10-4218622.

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WEEKEND BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE COURSE - JAAP LEEGWATER

Weekend residential course with the popular Bulgarian specialist, Jaap Leegwater, from 24th to 26th January 1992. Suitable for all levels of ability. Youth Hostel accommodation at Patcham, near Brighton. For details and booking form, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. Tel: 071 482 0906 (evenings), 071 828 1000 Ext.4159 (daytime).

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JACY TACY POLISH DANCE NEWS

We were hoping to arrange one of our dance dates shortly, but unfortunately, for a number of reasons, we are unable to do this before Christmas.

However, we intend to arrange two dates in the New Year. One will be our usual day for all levels of dancers. The other will be an occasion when we shall work on the Polish national dances only, and it will be for those who already have a comprehensive knowledge of all the basic steps.

BETTY HARVEY and TONY LATHAM

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FOLK DANCE, MUSIC and SINGING COURSES IN BULGARIA will be held next Easter from 15th to 25th April 1992 in the Rhodope Mountains and/or in Lovech. Leader: possibly Cathy Meunier. Details from the British-Bulgarian Friendship Society, c/o Finsbury Library, 245 St. John Street, London EC1V 4NBZ. Tel: 071 837 2304.

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

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

Nov.3rd M.C.s Merton International Folkdance Group

Dec.1st M.C.s Dawn & Paul Webster. (Raffle to be organized by Audrey Whiteley in aid of British Heart Foundation; good quality folk items needed.)

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

- Nov. 2nd INTERNATIONAL DAY COURSE organized by Rainmakers. See page 5.
- Nov. 2nd PERFORMANCE BY TROIKA (East European music). Also on 20th November and on 13th December. See page 5.
- Nov. 8th ANGLO-INTERNATIONAL DANCE, suitable for beginners, with "The Rangers" and caller Jill Bransby, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. Organized by Tina Stone in aid of Trinity Hospice, Clapham. Tickets £4 on the door, or £3 in advance from Sadie Stone, 4 Pelham Road, London N15 4RN. Enquiries to Tina Stone, 071 438 4656 (work).
- Nov. 8th to 10th WALKING & BALKAN DANCING WEEKEND at Selworthy, Somerset. Details given in September. Enquiries to Cathy Meunier, 071 482 0906 (home), 071 828 1000 Ext.4159 (work).
- Nov. 9th S.I.F.D. SPECIAL DAY COURSE. See page 10.
- Nov.15th to 17th DANCING WEEKEND at Charney Manor, Wantage, Oxon. Details from Jack Richardson, 0792 295194 (work) or 0792 403153 (home).
- Nov.16th BARN DANCE ORGANIZED BY Havering International Folkdance Group at All Saints Church Hall, Ardleigh Green Rd., Hornchurch, 7.30 to 11 p.m. £3.50 including refreshments. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Contact Sneila Hall, 0277 821808 or Tony Parkins, 04024 48177.
- Nov.16th BALKANPLUS BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE WORKSHOP at Working Men's College, Crown-dale Road, London N.W.1., 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Galina Toker. Cost £5 (£4 for Balkanplus members). Dances to be taught (from Belcho Stanev's repertoire) from the list given last month. Please bring soft shoes and a belt, and those who were in Bulgaria this summer are invited to bring photos and costumes to display. Cassettes will be available on the day. I look forward to dancing with you! GALINA TOKER, 081 800 1123. Enquiries to Galina or to Helen Green, 0923 204434 (day), 0923 51528 (eve).
- Nov.16th BALKANPLUS at Working Men's College (address above), 7 p.m. £2.50 including refreshments. M.C. Roberto Haddon. Further details from Helen Green (telephone numbers above). Next Balkanplus 21st Dec. M.C."Ollie".
- Nov.23rd SPECIAL OCCASION AFTERNOON IN MERTON. See page 10.
- Nov.23rd BALKAN DAY COURSE at Westbury Methodist Church Hall, Waters Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Further dancing from 5.00 to 6.00 p.m. Tutor: Nick Green. Cost: £4 members, £4.50 non-members. Not suitable for beginners. Contact: Hilda Sturge, 0272 621802 or Anne Marshall, 0272 509889.
- Nov.24th SONGSPLUS SINGING GROUP will be meeting at 2.30 p.m. at the Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, London N.W.3. (entrance in Prince Arthur Road). For further information contact Susan Jordan, Tel: 071 624 2878 (daytime and Ansaphone), 081 452 4174 (evening).