

JENIA

FIELD HOUSE



NOVEMBER 93

Siberia is a geographical, not a political term.

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 is by Jenia Graman. See Jenia's article on p.6

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GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan Morton (address above).

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - DANCE SWOP PLUS

Would you know what to do if someone collapsed during a dancing class? Could you cope if an accident occurred in your class? About an hour and a half of the November Day Course will be devoted to "First Aid for Dancers and Leaders". We are very fortunate in having Caroline Thomas, a qualified St. John Ambulance first-aid trainer, to give this course. This part of the day's schedule is timed for 2 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to learn what to do if the worst should happen. (N.B. Caroline would like anyone who can to bring an old blanket). The rest of the day will be devoted to a "Dance Swop" in which some wellknown members of the Society will share with us some little-known (and not too difficult) dances. This part of the day has been organized by Maggie O'Regan. It is hoped to have cassettes and notes available.

As usual, the course will be at St. Paul's Centre, Rossmore Rd., Marylebone, N.W.1 (off Lisson Grove and near Marylebone and Edgware Road Tube Stations) from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on SATURDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 1993. £5 S.I.F.D. members, £6 non-members. Bring packed lunch; squash available on site; kitchen will be open for making tea/coffee; tea-bags, instant coffee and milk will be provided at a nominal charge. Only official video recording will be allowed.

There will be no day course in December, as usual. Any enquiries to me on 0992 577065 (evenings).

SIMON GUEST

INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE SUMMER SCHOOL 1994

The College of Ripon and St. John at York has been booked for the Summer School from the evening meal on Saturday, 6th August, until after breakfast on Saturday, 13th August 1994. The tutors will be: Delyan Demirev (Bulgarian), Carla Padovani (Italian) and Jan Knoppers (South American). Participants on the course will have the following options:-

- 1) Non-residential
- 2) Residential - bed, breakfast and morning coffee (the college has a shop open at lunchtimes selling sandwiches, quiches, cold meats, yoghurt, fruit, cold drinks).
- 3) Residential - bed, breakfast, morning coffee and evening meal. (This was the most popular option last year)
- 4) Residential - full board (apart from afternoon tea)

The accommodation fees will be:-

Non-resident	-	£4 (for morning coffee)
Bed and breakfast	-	£165
Bed, breakfast and evening meal	-	£231
Full board	-	£276

It is expected that the course fees will be:-

Dancer	-	£60
Non-dancer	-	£20 (entitled to take part in the evening dances and non-dancing activities in the afternoons)

S.I.F.D. members paying before April 1st will obtain a £10 reduction on the course fee.

If anyone would like to help with the Summer School we would be pleased to hear from them. We would like help with advertising the Summer School, organising the evening dances and the P.A. for the dances, the optional afternoon workshops, organising the costume exhibition, leading afternoon walks or visits to places of interest - or any other ideas you may have!

Application forms will be sent out with the SIFD NEWS as soon as possible.

DAWN & PAUL WEBSTER
Greenacres, Broadstreetcommon, Nash,
Newport, Gwent NP6 2AZ Tel:0633 272662

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SWANSEA COURSES 1962-1987. A REUNION?

At the September C.S.H. Dance, Joan Guest said to me, "Wouldn't it be fun to have a reunion at Swansea and to invite the teachers to be our guests?". The idea would be to have a completely informal reunion with dancing and some of the features of Swansea courses like outings to the surrounding country. If any of the teachers volunteered some instruction, that would be fine, but they might be horrified at how little we had remembered of what they had taught us years ago! At the moment it is only a germ of an idea, but it would be helpful to know how many people might possibly be interested. We can then explore dates and format, by means of a questionnaire. At all costs, we must avoid any sort of clash with the S.I.F.D. Summer Schools.

The usual weekends booking list will be circulated with the November NEWS and we will include a box for you to tick if you are interested. Meanwhile, any ideas will be welcome. JACK RICHARDSON, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP.

JOHN SAYERS

Bradwell, a village on the Northern shore of the Dengie Peninsular to the East of Maldon in Essex, is known for its Nuclear Power Station, St.Cedd's Chapel, built in 645 A.D. with the bricks of a Roman Fort, as a centre for bird-watching, marsh-life and sailing. In the 1950s it had a Youth Hostel which was visited monthly by members of the Y.H.A. Field Group. Those who came had diverse specialities; birds, plants and flowers, insects and country crafts, and their knowledge was shared amongst all. I, a member of the Y.H.A. Sailing Group, came to look forward to and enjoy evenings in the company of these regular visitors including John (Johnny) Sayers. The Field Group gave John much, enlarging his education in all relating to the countryside, pleasure in sharing his knowledge with and enjoying the company of others. These remained important to him throughout his life. Hostels like Bradwell were (some still are) self-catering so one had to cook for oneself; this I feel, coupled with the ending of rationing and subsequent foreign travel, gave Johnny his love of ethnic food and expertise in cooking which friends have enjoyed.

It was through international folk dancing, one evening at Crayford, that John met Mavis (née Burton) who became his wife. After marriage, John, a physicist, took a job at Harwell, working on the Non-Destructive Testing of Materials, and Mavis became a pharmacist at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford. Membership of the Oxford Balkan Group gave them especial pleasure and I recall, about 1960, being invited to their bungalow at Goring for a weekend walking but also being taken to the Oxford Balkan Party and for the first time experiencing the enthusiasm and atmosphere of those evenings.

In 1967 John and Mavis moved to London which allowed them to dance with Zivko Firfov Group, and later the Turkish Group. They were also members of the Wednesday International class with Margery Latham and subsequently Janet Woolbar. Whilst at Harwell John joined the Aldermaston Mountaineering Club; membership and friendships continued after their move to London. Love of the high hills took John and Mavis to many parts of the world. A lot of people have walked in Nepal with travel agency parties, but few have organised their own expeditions. John did!

John's work in London was with British Gas, researching on the spark ignition of natural gas, something which sounds easy but is not so and has to be got right! The subject suited John's talents as his colleagues testify. The results are now commonplace, although few users of gas cookers will ever know of their debt to the work of John Sayers.

Johnny Sayers was not only a folk dancer, but a talented patient gentleman, a pleasure to know, who contributed much to life and those who came in contact with him. I was never surprised by Mavis' affectionate reference to friends of him as "The Master". His many friends will miss him but I am sure that above all he would wish us to enjoy all that he enjoyed. Our sympathy goes to Mavis in her greater loss.

John Sayers, born 27th December 1924, died after prolonged illness 15th September 1993, aged 68.

ROY CLARKE

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The S.I.F.D. sent a donation to The Motor Neurone Disease Association in memory of John Sayers (in lieu of flowers). We received a letter of thanks which read:

"It is through your generosity and that of so many other people that this charity is able to pursue its twin goals of research towards cure or treatment of M.N.D., and of practical help for people living with the disease. We acknowledge all donations in memory of people who have died, and are proud to honour their lives in our work".

Further donations in memory of John can be sent to: M.N.D.A., P.O.Box 246, Northampton NN1 2PR.

JILL BRANSBY

JOHN SAYERS

Many of us have lost a good and loyal friend, following the sad death of John Sayers at his home on the evening of Wednesday, 15th September 1993. He had been suffering from Motor Neurone Disease over the past two years or so and during this period both his speech and his breathing had become progressively affected. Unlike many sufferers, however, he largely retained the strength of his limbs and, until comparatively recently, had courageously continued his dancing, walking and climbing activities. It was only a year ago that he went with Mavis on a mountaineering expedition in Pakistan, but the reduced pressure at the high altitudes accentuated his breathing problems.

John was an engineer at the Watson House Research Station of British Gas until his retirement. Then, with Mavis retired too, they had hoped to enjoy exploring parts of the world that had not yet been unduly disturbed by modern civilisation or spoilt by tourists. Sadly, this activity was cut short all too soon.

John had been a member of Harrow Green and the S.I.F.D. for many years. He will be remembered for his enthusiasm and his boundless energy, but most of all for his kindness to others. He was a keen member of the Turkish Group and was usually to be seen in Turkish costume at Balkanplus, the Balkan Party, and similar events. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mavis, who had to face up to the gradual, but in the end accelerating, progress of this terrible disease.

JACK RICHARDSON

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I want to thank all those many many friends who have sent me their condolences since John died, and also all those who supported us both in various ways during his illness. Because John could not speak, all the talking was done by me, but we both knew the 'phone calls were for us both. By supporting me directly, John was supported indirectly, and I know he understood and appreciated that. I send all his friends my condolences.

MAVIS SAYERS



LILLIAN GALATIS - A TRIBUTE

I should like to add my voice and that of all the "Beskydy Dancers" to the wonderful tribute by Diki Gleeson to Lillian Galatis. Lillian was a member of our group for a good many years and we all knew her as a loyal and dedicated dancer. She worked hard all the time to achieve not only the technical part of our dances but particularly the true character of dances which were so different from those of her own country, which she was deeply involved with and taught to so many groups of people. In spite of her great knowledge of dance, she was exceptionally modest and always willing to learn more "to get it right".

During the last two years of her life she threw herself courageously into dancing and teaching, and when she told me at the end of Summer '92 that she could not commit herself to an autumn booking we knew that she was very ill. She did come to that performance (at Ealing Shopping Precinct) not to dance but to valiantly hold the mike for our musicians to amplify the sound in that vast space. That was the last time she came to the group.

I personally owe her great thanks for her support and encouragement and must say that it was she who urged me to do a day course for S.I.F.D. in 1992. One of the reasons why I am glad I did the course is that we now have a video of Lillian and George Somerville demonstrating the dances. That will endure - as, I am sure, will the memory of one fine and dedicated dancer.

HEDY FROMINGS

ADDENDUM TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1992-93.

As promised in my report in the July SIFD NEWS, I should now like to add the membership figures for 1992-93. The figures as at 31st August 1993 for the year 1992-93 are as follows:-

National members	605	(523 addresses)
Overseas members	40	(39 addresses)
Total membership	645	(includes Joint Members, who receive one copy of SIFD NEWS)
Associated Classes	18	
Affiliated Groups	35	(who receive two copies of SIFD NEWS)

The total number of copies of SIFD NEWS currently produced monthly (final 1992-93 figures) is:- 523 + 39 + 70 = 632. The total number of members of 645 is 7 less than last year, and the 656 total membership of 1990-91 remains the highest recorded.

This completes my reporting for 1992-93, so renewed best wishes for a Happy Dancing Year for 1993-94.

ALAN MORTON, Honorary Membership Secretary
and Groups Liaison Officer.

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THE SIBERIAN NATIONAL FOLKDANCE ENSEMBLE

Several of my Kalinka Dancers and I went to see this Ensemble, and we were entranced. If anyone wants a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon or evening, seeing beautiful girls and good-looking boys, lovely colourful costumes and interesting, well-executed dances and songs, that is where one finds all this. Too late for their tour now (full itinerary was listed in July SIFD NEWS. Ed.), but if you can see it on television please do! There will, of course, be voices saying, "But is this really authentic?" and those who say folk dances should never be performed anyway for the public to see. But how can one tell what is really authentic, i.e. as performed by village people only, of a country so far away, of which we know nothing? Some of the dances, admittedly, are classical ballet inspired; others Russian folkdance inspired; but as far as anyone here can say, the Dance of the Raven, of the Reindeer, the "Talk and Dance" item in which dancers walk, tracing patterns on the floor while talking/chanting rhythmically, and the dance of the warriors with just one youth clad in vest and trousers only, it being the ritual introduction to manhood for him, might well go back to pre-historic times.

The musicians definitely play authentic instruments, including three men playing the Khomus - as far as I can judge, a Jews Harp, held near the mouth, and one singer gives us "throat singing" like the Bulgarians. The costumes are not "ethnically correct", but who would expect the dancers to give a two-hour performance clad in reindeer skins? They are colourful reproductions.

The dances consist mainly of simple walking, or swift running steps, with some men sometimes doing more ambitious solos or group dances. There are no female solos. In one dance the girls present vessels, from which reindeer milk is drunk; in another, the boys have a snowball fight, and there are of course boy/girl dances. It is difficult to describe them all but it came over loud and clear that not only the dancers enjoyed what they were doing but the public did too, and is that not really what folk dancing should be about?

JENIA GRAMAN

P.S. The Ensemble comes from Yakutia, which is one of the Republics in Siberia (which is a geographical term) but the national name is "Sakha" - very confusing.

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To go with this article, Jenia has kindly drawn this month's cover design. Ed.

JACY TACY POLISH DANCE AFTERNOON, SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 1993, 2 TO 6 P.M.
AT THE PLACE (STUDIO 10), 17 DUKE'S ROAD, LONDON W.C.1. COST: £3.50

For more advanced dancers with experience in the Polish national dances, but starting with an introduction to the basics of Mazur.

The hall will open from 1.45 for a prompt start at 2 p.m. and the canteen will open for use beforehand or during the break. For fuller details, see October SIFD NEWS or contact either of the tutors: Betty Harvey, 30 Regent Square, London E3 3HQ (Tel. 081 980 9650) or Tony Latham, Flat 9, 118 Avenue Road, Acton, London W3 8QG (Tel. 081 992 9445). Accompanist: Zuzanna Mierzejewska.

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BALKANPLUS BULGARIAN HALF-DAY COURSE, SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 1993
1.30 TO 5 P.M. AT THE PLACE (STUDIO 7), 17 DUKE'S ROAD, LONDON W.C.1
COST: £3.50 (£2.50 FOR BALKANPLUS SEASON TICKET HOLDERS)

With relative newcomers in mind, Brian Dowsett will be teaching dances from the S.F.B. Dance Group days and the period up to the first Eddy Tijssen workshops in England. All the chosen dances are in the Dunav Balkan Group repertoire:- Sedi Donka, Kompanka, Chetvorno Horo, Trakijska Kopanica, Graovsko Horo, Sborenka. Please bring a strong belt. Further details from Brian Dowsett, 0992 582717 (evenings).

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S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SATURDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER 1993

The meeting will take place at Oliver Bird Hall, Y.W.C.A House, Stone Road, Birmingham B15 2HH. Doors open 4 p.m; A.G.M. at 4.15 p.m; tea available afterwards. Evening Dance at 7 p.m. with costume. Supper provided at 8.15 p.m. Dance ends at 10 p.m. Doors shut at 10.30 p.m. Charge for Evening Dance £2. S.I.F.D. members £1.50.

Stone Road is "one-way" off Bristol Road A38 and is approached from the back. Y.W.C.A. is next to MacDonald's, which is on corner of A38 and Lee Bank Middleway. Go down side of MacDonald's and immediately left into Spring Road and left into Stone Road. From New Street Station, in Stephenson Street catch 'bus No.61 or 62 or 63; fare 52p.

FRANCES GARTON

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BALKAN CLASS (formerly Sborenka)

Some readers did a double take last month when they read (1) Sborenka was cancelled and (2) Sborenka was now meeting on Tuesdays. It therefore seems appropriate or even necessary to satisfy their curiosity. Cathy Meuner, who has run Sborenka for several years, decided she was no longer able to do so. Unfortunately she neglected to inform class members and when the lack was discovered by people already suffering withdrawal symptoms after the summer break they immediately decided to rally round to keep the class going. We found a studio available at The Place for a couple of weeks and a whip-round was organized. We have found another cheaper venue and the class, I am glad to say, is in extreme good health. We continue to offer a good solid dance around our Balkan favourites, with a slightly higher teaching content than before. Teaching this term will be by (in alphabetical order) Frances Horrocks, Jane Mackenzie, Maggie O'Regan, Galina Turker, with dances from Bulgaria, Greece, Israel, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey. Tuesdays, 8. to 10 p.m. at Diorama Studios, 34 Osnaurgh St., N.W.1. (opposite Gt. Portland Street Tube Station). £2 per class. Information from 0702 207 447 or 0628 39526.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

THE ZIVKO FIRFOV JUGOSLAV FOLK DANCE & SONG GROUP
Its origin and times.

Written by Fred Wood in 1986 and detailing Philip Thornton's massive contribution in introducing Balkan dance in this country.

Continued from last month:

Inevitably, Philip's class drew largely upon the membership of the S.I.F.D. which was already throwing up, as in all human activities, a core of dancers eminently better than the average. Balkan dancing is a challenge for anyone, as this story has been at length to assert, because of its obscure rhythms and intricate foot-work. Many S.I.F.D. dancers came to look, so to speak, but "found it difficult to come to grips with the dances". Surprisingly, one reason for this, which one hears from many sides, was that Philip "taught more by example than a meticulous breaking down of the steps"; "Philip would not teach properly, he felt too much breaking down of steps spoiled the spirit of the thing"; "there was never any formal teaching or breaking down of the steps"; "everything was clouded in mystique"; "I found Philip very daunting, he had that 'Balkan' way of looking at you". Thus there was an additional element of challenge and if one wanted to succeed "it was very much join on at the end of the line and pick it up for yourself - true Yugoslav fashion".

But succeed it did for, despite all else, Philip "inspired; he had a beautiful style, loved the dancing and music very much indeed, loved to lead the line himself and his enthusiasm was contagious". From the class, held on Tuesday evenings, Philip selected an advanced group which met on Friday evenings. Having himself demonstrated a dance for a show, whilst the circle was practising it he would walk around behind and quietly and surreptitiously tap the shoulder of such as he deemed acceptable to perform publicly. "We considered it an honour to be so touched". "You'd feel a little tap and you knew you were in". "It was like being given the O.K. by God; you had arrived". Little wonder the average member of the S.I.F.D. came to look upon the Balkan class as elite!

The introduction of the tape recorder gave extended life to Philip's recordings but music was augmented by his playing a pipe or a percussion instrument. Later there was a professor from the Royal College of Music "who did wonderful things with a piano" and Zivain Zigovic, an accordionist from Belgrade, who stayed for several months. Thus Philip's class moved into the 1950s in what he himself calls "the beginning of the golden era of the S.I.F.D.". In the decade that followed, the S.I.F.D., he tells, "achieved staggering successes, e.g. annual shows at the Albert Hall - occasionally three shows in two days - it made a profit and grew in size and importance". His class participated in such events under the billing of "Slavjanska Besseda", a title translating as "The Slav Circle (or Group)" and deemed by Philip to be "nice and natural, innocent and non-political". They performed dances from various Balkan nations and wore costumes from Philip's collection. These costumes ("ancient, fantastic and beautiful, and having a stunning effect on audiences") were authentic individually but this practice gave rise to disharmony in due course, some members objecting to performing a dance from one nation when dressed in the costume of another nation. Legation and Embassy officials attending the Albert Hall shows, however, "were astonished to see British nationals performing their dances! The Bulgars congratulated us though the Romanians complained in a back-handed way - we were doing their dancing but they certainly were not Slavs!".

FRED WOOD

To be continued.

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I now have Bulgarian tservuli (leather shoes) available in sizes, 39, 40, 42, 44(large). I have been unable to find the other sizes this year. The price is £14.50 including p. & p. I also have a Bulgarian Thracian gaida (bagpipes) for sale, price £75 plus p. & p. and a kaval (Bulgarian type of flute). Should anyone be interested please contact me: SYBIL NEWTON, 117 Suxton Lane, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5HN. Tel. 081 660 3007.

S.I.F.D. IN THE WEST MIDLANDS, 1973-1993

The following notes were read out at the 20th anniversary celebration dinner at Avoncroft (with apologies, for it is impossible to keep these notes completely impersonal). SYBIL CHAPMAN

At a Harvest Supper at King's Norton United Reform Church, I had been asked to lead a few folkdances. Jean and Stan Dewey were there, and their enthusiasm was really the spark that got it going. There was already an Hungarian class at the Birmingham Athletic Institute, and students from Anstey P.E. College and I.M. Marsh College in Liverpool were periodic visitors to Yardley Grammar School to learn dances from the senior pupils there.

From 1967 the S.I.F.D. had been interested in these activities, and Margery Latham wanted to encourage development in this region. Celia Hodges was by then with the Sports Council, and having worked with her while working for a supplementary qualification at what is now Warwick University, when Margery contacted the Sports Council, the link was already there. Through Celia, the centre at Selly Park School was made available to us in order that we should start a class representative of S.I.F.D. principles and interested. We started as a class, but in order to be able to include people from outside the Birmingham rating area, in a couple of years we changed to being an Associated Group within the Institute. This enabled dancers from the whole region to enjoy dancing with us, actually enlarged the group by ONE, but made it much cheaper for all the members.

By then I was in very bad odour at the B.A.I. for encouraging MALE dancers to that class, and also because when we started at Selly Park I was told that all "national dance" would be under one administration, i.e. the B.A.I., and other such silliness. When Doreen Bramwich joined us we were in even deeper waters for she, like Juliet, came from the B.A.I. class, operating on different evenings, but I was accused of "pinching" my own students!

After giving up the B.A.I. Selpar, for by now we had a name, went forward, and in due course Doreen was the moving force behind the Shirley/Solihull group starting up with Rod Perkins and then Alf Garton as leaders. This is now the Heart of England Group. So now two groups are operating.

In the meantime, our first major Saturday dance was held in our hall at Selly Park School and Margery, as M.C., and a coachload of supporters from London travelled up to encourage us and to enjoy the event with us. Many of them are here with us now, and we're so glad they could be. Shortly after this, our first workshop was held, at Billesley Hotel, with Ken Ward and his group to teach and lead us in Balkan dances. Again, loads of "out of town" friends arrived to overflow the hotel ballroom.

We've gone from strength to strength in the West Midlands, and more recently Grace Pittman has had a class at Balsall Common, making three operating groups, with many becoming full members of the S.I.F.D. We also work closely with the West Midlands Movement and Dance Association (Sports Council backed) which helps to give us more exposure. I can't enumerate all our activities here, but without the hard work of all the leaders and committee members things could and would have been very different and for many years now Alf Garton has been the most hard working of us all.

We've got changes coming which will be difficult, initially, to manage, but I'm sure there will be the same enthusiasm to go forward to the 21st year and beyond, with a fair number of our original members to teach, lead and encourage. Margery worked very hard to convince our "parent body" that we warranted Branch status.... so here we are.

SYBIL CHAPMAN

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 17TH NOVEMBER.

Congratulations West Midlands on your 20th anniversary, and congratulations on running a lovely weekend to celebrate the event. A number of well-wishers from London, and indeed beyond, joined members of the three West Midlands groups at the Avoncroft Study Centre just outside Bromsgrove to mark the event.

It was notable in several ways; firstly of course for the dancing. We enjoyed a Hungarian workshop with Sybil Chapman, a mainly Romanian workshop with Nick Green and a Czech workshop with Grace Pittman, plus a full programme of social dancing masterminded by Alf Garton. Secondly, for the delightful venue which provided a comfortable house in lovely surroundings with a friendly atmosphere and food so good and so plentiful we had to keep dancing to work it off. We were also blessed with good weather which enabled us to enjoy our surroundings and, on the Saturday afternoon, to participate in another celebration marking the opening of a cider mill in the adjacent Avoncroft Museum. We were invited to provide an impromptu display of dancing in costume in the grounds of the museum and to have a ride on one of the horse-drawn wagons.

The anniversary dance on Saturday evening was an opportunity for each of the three West Midlands groups to lead part of the dancing, and an opportunity to revive some golden oldies as well as dances that had been introduced at various courses over the years. The S.I.F.D. tradition of "parading the cake" was continued in style, except that on this occasion there were two magnificent cakes to be paraded, and as we enjoyed the cake we also enjoyed the West Midlands tradition of community singing.

One of the most vivid memories I have of my first visit to a Birmingham dance many years ago was of the band of musicians being led and encouraged by Dennis Hunt. Dennis sadly did not live to share these celebrations but I'm sure he would have been delighted to hear the current band of musicians, young and "not so young" leading the dancing.

Thank you, West Midlands, for inviting us to join in your celebrations, and good dancing as you go on to the next twenty.....years.

JANET WOOLBAR

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THE S.I.F.D. SHOP

Members will be pleased to learn that Roy Bowtell will be taking over the S.I.F.D. Shop from Kay Kedge. Kay has been wanting to relinquish this task for some time and while we were waiting for a volunteer to come forward there has been no re-ordering of depleted stocks or initiation of new lines of merchandise. We thank Kay for all the work she has done over many years, initiating, ordering and selling goods for the benefit of members and Society funds. We wish Roy good luck with the venture. His address is: 23 Bader Close, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 5LA Tel. 0438 722426.

JILL BRANSBY

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ROLAND BAUER, AUSTRIA

I have recently been in touch with an Austrian folk dancer who lives in Vienna, Roland Bauer. Roland appears to be very knowledgeable about Austrian dance and recently posted several pages of information, in English, to an international computer network to which I have access. If anyone would like a copy (and I do have Roland's permission), please contact me.

Amongst other things, Roland keeps an (unofficial) list of festivals held near Vienna and I can pass on his address (again with his permission) to any serious enquirer. SIMON GUEST, 49 Station Road, Epping, Essex CM16 4HJ

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dec.4th ZIVKO FIRFOV GROUP BALKAN PARTY, 7 to 10.30 p.m. at Moorfields Primary School, Bunhill Row, London E.C.1. Nearest Underground Station, Old Street. £5 including refreshments. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 081 592 4427. Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group (s.a.e. please).

Dec.11th BALKAN EXTRAVAGANZA. Get into the Christmas spirit with an evening of Balkan music and dancing. More details next month. DAVE CARTER

Dec.17th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY. Music by Dunav Balkan Group. £4 including food and wine. 8 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts.

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BALKANPLUS TURKISH COURSE WITH AHMET LÜLECI

When Roberto Haddon and Marina Wolstenholme opted to attend a Turkish session at the Christmas course in Nunspeet, Holland, last year, I decided to sit it out, being rather weary at that stage and not being all that fond of Turkish. I was soon regretting it as the teacher was so good and so much fun. We all three had the same reaction - if only we could bring him to London, but as he is now living in America that seemed rather a tall order. However, we found that he was doing a teaching tour of Holland in the New Year and have taken the opportunity to arrange a course on 15th January. Here are a few biographical details:-

Ahmet has danced in ensembles since the age of eight and is an accomplished teacher, performer, musician (his college major was music) and singer as well as a researcher of Turkish folk culture. From 1974 to 1985 he taught ensembles in Ankara, Istanbul, Eskişehir and Bursa, and for nearly five years prior to his departure for America in 1985 he served as Dance Director of HOYTUR, one of Turkey's leading folkdance associations. Ahmet has also conducted research into the historical, social and cultural background of the costumes and spoon dances from Turkey's Mediterranean coast. His efforts resulted in an exhaustive 400-page study for which he was awarded first place in the 1985 national competition in research on the folkdances of Turkey by the Turkish Ministry of Youth, Sports and Education.

Details of the venue have yet to be finalised, so watch these pages for further news!

MAGGIE O'REGAN

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MACEDONIAN DANCE COURSE/WALKING WEEKEND AT BRECON, WALES
11TH/13TH MARCH 1994

Here is an opportunity to have first-class tuition from the ever-popular teacher, Martin Ihns, who specializes in Macedonian folk dance. At the same time, you can enjoy the luxury of good food and comfortable accommodation in an exceptional country house. Choose either the "General" or "Advanced" course, leaving time to relax and enjoy the surroundings between the dancing. If you do not want to miss any of Martin's teaching, you can attend both courses. Alternatively, you can take advantage of the very favourable prices and enjoy a weekend of Spring-time walking or sight-seeing in a beautiful part of Britain.

As it is a "trial" weekend, it is particularly good value, offering full board in mainly en-suite accommodation. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. For details, send s.a.e. to me at 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.
CATHY MEUNIER

NIEDERSCHERLI-SCHOTTISCH

(Swiss.)

A Fast with emphasis.

play ad lib but finish on the A. The notes shown under the last four bars of section B, also used as introduction, are not chords but single bass notes.

LA VRIE "The Windmill"

(France)

Intro: Last 2 bars. Fast.

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

Nov.7th M.C.s Merton Park International Folkdance Group
No Sunday Dance in December

7 to 10 p.m. Admission £3 for S.I.F.D. members, £3.50 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

- Nov.5th BALKAN DANCING & WALKING RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND AT SWANAGE. For details to 7th ring Cathy Meunier, 071 482 0906.
- Nov.6th ISRAELI DAY COURSE with Fiona Howarth at Hope Valley College, Hope, Derbyshire, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee £6, no reductions. Light refreshments available at very reasonable prices. To reserve a place, 'phone the Community Education Office, 0433 620555. Travel directions will be sent on request. Pay on the day.
- Nov.12th ROBERTO HADDON AT BARNET. Roberto will be presenting a "mixed bag". 8 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Details from Irene Nicholls, 081 440 1366. N.B. No meeting at Barnet on 5th November.
- Nov.13th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE. See p.2.
- Nov.20th JACY TACY POLISH DANCE AFTERNOON. See p.7.
- Nov.20th FRENCH DAY with Joan and Simon Guest at Barlow International Folkdance Club, St.Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Egerton Road South, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £3. Further information from Joan Wood, 061 881 1077.
- Nov.20th BULGARIAN HALF-DAY COURSE. See p.7.
- Nov.20th MAZURY, dance company of Polish Y.M.C.A. are giving a gala performance in aid of Medical Aid for Poland Fund. Commonwealth Institute Theatre, Kensington High Street, London W.8. at 6 p.m. Tickets £10. Enquiries: 071 373 5464. Limited number of tickets @ £8.
- Nov.26th BALKANPLUS, 7 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. M.C.s Roger Wicksteed and Oxford Group. Next meeting will be on 18th December. Enquiries to 0702 207447.
- Nov.26th CATHY MEUNIER AT BARNET. Cathy will present dances from Bulgaria and Macedonia. Time and venue as for 12th November.
- Nov.26th to 28th WEEKEND AT ABBEY HOUSE, GLASTONBURY. Dancing, walking and sight-seeing. Cost £47. Details from Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 0HE. Tel; 081 367 2649.
- Nov.27th S.I.F.D. A.G.M. AT BIRMINGHAM. See p.7.
- Nov.27th LAURA SHANNON with new dances from her travels, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St.Paul's Hall, Beaufey Road, Southville, Bristol. £8. Contact: Daphne Allen, 0275 392757.
- Nov.30th AN AFTERNOON for folk and circle dance teachers and advanced dancers. Maggie O'Regan will be teaching Dasma E Rexhes and reviewing Archka Yerezanke, plus some lovely simple dances. At Brentford Dock Residents' Clubroom, 2 Augustus Close, Brentford, Middx. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. £4. Advanced booking essential. Contact Laura Shannon on 081 560 8082 to reserve places.