

SÍFO
NEWS

DECEMBER
1993

"guillo, prends ton tambourin,
prends ta flûte, toí, robín"



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.

Once again, Lesley Boorer has produced a special December cover for us.
This one is based on an old French carol from Burgundy.

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THE ANNOUNCEMENT

The S.I.F.D.'s new cassette tape, C8, is now available. Accompanied by an extensive and beautifully presented handbook, it is the end result of a special project to design a folk package for primary schools. The tape features one dance from each country in the E.E.C. (Luxembourg partnering Belgium throughout). The book contains the notes to the dances and much more besides. There is the written music for the dances, notes on folk customs throughout the year, and dolls to cut out and dress in their national costumes. Important note: it's fine to make photo copies from the book so you don't need a copy for every child in the class.

It's also well worth noting that, although the presentation of the package was designed with primary school children specifically in mind, the material is eminently suitable for any of the adult groups who sometimes ask us for easy dances for their socials.

THE NITTY-GRITTY

The tape and the book are, of course, available separately. The tape is priced at £4 and the book at £6. If you are ordering by post, then please add for postage and packing: £1 for 1 or 2 items; £1.50 for 3, 4 or 5 items; £3 for 6 items or more. The book and the tape are both individual items.

THE APPEAL

Yes, I have an appeal (in dim lighting!). We really do need everybody's help to get this package into the schools it was intended for. Attached to this issue of SIFD NEWS is a publicity page. Please give it to anybody you know who is involved in any way in primary education. If you think that a person or group might be interested but that a more formal approach would be appropriate, please discuss it with any of the Committee. We need all your ideas. If you would like extra copies of the publicity sheet, contact any of the Committee and you'll be inundated!

NEW BOOKS FOR OLD

Since the October day course, where the first copies of the book were available, it has undergone some revisions and some additional material has been supplied. If you bought a copy at the course, please bring it back to Liz Mellish, Nick Green or me and exchange it for the new, improved version, and you may claim back 10% discount if you wish.

THE VIDEO

Hasn't happened yet but it will. Watch this space.

ANNE LEACH

A NOTE OF THANKS

As we come to the end of another year, I should once again like to record my thanks to the very loyal and reliable people who work in the background, giving their time month after month to enable you to receive your copy of SIFD NEWS regularly. They are: Doug and Maureen Wells, who have for many years continued to do an excellent job in getting the NEWS printed and then folding it (630 copies!), putting it in envelopes, stamping and posting it; Alan Morton, who prints the address labels and copes efficiently with changes of address, new members etc. in addition to his other duties; Edwina and Michael Holdup, who put the labels on the envelopes and make sure they are ready in time for posting. My thanks to you all for working as a team and for your efficiency.

My thanks also to the people who help fill the pages with articles, letters, items of information; and also those who send in designs for covers. My apologies if sometimes I have to hold over your items for a later issue. Keep them coming!

Many thanks, and best wishes to you all for a happy Christmas.

LILY AVERY, Editor

N.B. Please make Doug and Maureen's job a little easier by only sending enclosures when absolutely necessary and by agreeing to have them printed and stapled as part of the main SIFD NEWS. Any loose enclosures create an extra job. Also, please let both Doug and me know of any enclosures well in advance. Thank you. L.A.

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DAY COURSES, SILVER BADGES & TEACHERS' LIST

There will be no S.I.F.D. Day Course in December, as usual.

It is proposed to hold Silver Badge Tests on 14th May 1994. The countries concerned will be Denmark, Greece and Latvia. The day courses arranged for January, February and March 1994 are Danish, Latvian and Greek, and each will cover the relevant badge syllabus as far as is possible in one day. It is planned to distribute application forms in the January or February SIFD NEWS.

Following the re-allocation of duties within the Badges & Day Course Sub-Committee, the official list of S.I.F.D. Teachers is now maintained by Joyce Townsend instead of Liz Mellish.

SIMON GUEST

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WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH S.I.F.D.

The Secretary, Frances Garton, has resigned and until a replacement is appointed all queries re their events etc. should go to their Chairman, Denis McCarthy, 25 Langleys Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6HR. Tel: 021 472 6210.

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PLEASE NOTE: ALL MATERIAL FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 13TH DECEMBER - AN EARLIER DEADLINE THAN USUAL, OWING TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.



Members will be shocked and saddened to hear the very sad news that Kelsey Blundell died on 7th November from a heart attack. Kelsey was known to most of our members and was admired for the way she coped with her appalling disability (the amputation of both legs) bravely and cheerfully, in spite of moments of great sadness, and retained her great sense of humour. She was determined not to let things get her down and was an example of how to overcome difficulties and make the best of whatever life fate had decreed. She did not allow her disability to ruin her life and continued to drive herself to her full-time job in the City of London every day, attend dance events and classes, and travel all over the country at weekends and even abroad, often undertaking the journey alone.

Kelsey was a member of the S.I.F.D. for many years and gave of her time freely and willingly. She was generous to a fault and her house was open to all. She loved all kinds of folk dancing and music but was particularly interested in Spanish, Greek, Mallorcan, Catalan and Norwegian, and belonged to various specialist groups. She was a fluent speaker of Spanish and one of the few people who understood the complexities of counting for Sardanas! She also served on the Day Course & Badge Sub-Committee and put a lot of work into organizing Teachers' Badge Courses.

She also devoted much time and energy to the Raynaud's Association, having suffered from Raynaud's Disease for many years. She didn't hesitate to offer herself as a "guinea-pig" at Bart's Hospital on numerous occasions, often with unpleasant consequences, in an effort to find a cure or treatment for this disease.

She led a very full and active life to the end, determined to get back on to the dance floor (with the aid of two strong men!). The Society has lost a loyal and respected member, and a lot of us a personal friend whose companionship, generosity and good humour we shall not forget.

Kelsey was cremated on 16th November, and the chapel was full to capacity with her many friends, including nineteen members of the S.I.F.D. If anyone wishes to pay a tribute to her memory by way of a donation to Raynaud's Association, the address is: Raynaud's & Scleroderma Association, 112 Crewe Road, Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2JA. Tel: 0270 872776. Director: Anne Mawdsley M.B.E. Don't forget to mention that your donation is in memory of Kelsey Blundell. They knew her well.

LILY AVERY

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SHE WENT OUT DANCING

Dear Kelse - Who but you could have kept on dancing against such odds - and who but you could have written so amusingly about your experiences? We won't forget you, and we are sure that your spirit is dancing now, as freely as you ever did. Loving memories. FIGNA HOWARTH

Kelsey Blundell began to attend Margaret Colato's Spanish classes some time in the late 50s, straight from Keele University where she had studied Spanish language, and incidentally Spanish dance. She very quickly became an important and well-liked member, but it was not until later, just before she went to live in Spain to perfect her accent, that I got to know her well. The group had made a collection for her and I was delegated by Margaret to present her with the gift before her departure. We arranged to meet and, the formalities completed, she asked if I had an engagement for the evening. I said "No" and a little later, together with her mother and aunt, we shared a fish and chip supper.

After her return from Spain, she came back to the group and helped to form, with the guitarists and some of the better dancers, a semi-professional act, dancing in restaurants and night club cabarets, and eventually, for a while, becoming full-time professionals. If my memory is correct, she went back to Spain several times and during one of these visits various members of the group, including myself, arranged to take a joint holiday there in 1964, visiting Granada, Ronda, Malaga etc. and, of course, Seville for the Easter Fair. Kelsey joined us there and had a wonderful time dancing Sevillanas into the small hours. Another smaller party re-visited the Fair in 1968 and again Kelsey was able to join us.

When the Spanish group disbanded in early 1969, Kelsey began to come to the Sunday dances at Cecil Sharp House regularly, together with Harry and Irene Whitaker, and became more interested in the main stream of the Society. Also at that time I was concerned with reviving the fortunes of Harrow Green, which was almost defunct. To this end I canvassed a number of people who I knew to be good dancers, but did not belong to any particular class, to join us at Bethnal Green and form a demonstration team for the purpose of appearing in the Llangollen Eisteddfod. Peter Oakley was to be the tutor, and Kelsey was naturally one of the first to be asked, and was most enthusiastic. Our English item at Llangollen was well received and for several years the group flourished, appearing at festivals here and in France, and arranged teaching weekends at Y.H.A. hostels etc. Kelsey was always a willing and helpful member.

Unfortunately, due to pressure of circumstances, Peter had to resign from teaching and because of the need for a certificated teacher Kelsey agreed to take the S.I.F.D. Teacher's Examination and, of course, passed with flying colours, so we were able to continue for a few more years. However, class numbers began to fall again and Kelsey was troubled by the onset of her illness so we finally closed the doors in 1978 and it was about this time that Kelsey had the first of a long series of operations. During these ten years she became very involved with the Society, joining Betty Harvey's Polish group, helping Lily with the typing for the SIFD NEWS, learning all she could about Greek and Norwegian dancing, being a hard-working member of the Badge Sub-Committee and so on and so on.

That she was a brave and resilient person was obvious to anyone who met her. She will be missed.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

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It was with great sorrow that I heard of the untimely death of Kelsey Blundell. Her death was announced at the Sunday Dance, and although it cast a deep shadow over the occasion, it seemed appropriate to put on a brave face and keep dancing. We all knew that this was what Kelsey would have wished us to do, and indeed what she did in her own life. We admired her enormous courage and determination to battle against almost insurmountable odds. It seemed exceptionally sad to have lost Kelsey whilst she appeared to be winning. Her video (shown to the Raynaud's Association in October) entitled "Kelsey Loves to Dance", showed her progress with her new "prosthesis for golfers" and expressed her aim of dancing Hambo by 1994. If her spirited determination is anything to go by, I have no doubt that she would have accomplished this. I also believe that she would like to be remembered by us primarily as a dancer.

JILL BRANSBY

WITH KELSEY AT THE BARBICAN

I'm sure there will be others better fitted than I to write an appreciation of Kelsey Blundell's life, following her sudden death a few days ago, and perhaps it may seem a little strange to mix a few words about her with some dance comments at this time. However, as she and I enjoyed so much our evening together at the Barbican, at the Siberian Folkdancers' performance, and discussed what we would like to write about the Siberians, I felt an urge to say just a little about her and the dancing on that evening.

Having read Jenia Graman's report, we echoed her enthusiasm. Given the fact that stage performances of folk dancing for the general public need to be choreographed we felt they did it extremely well. Without having any specialist knowledge of course, it seemed that the lively and mostly simple steps were basically authentic. The aspect which intrigued both of us, however, was the extremely fluid and individual shoulder, arm and head movements, especially in the dances based on the movements of the seals in that Northern land. Kelsey and I had a high old time afterwards trying to emulate them, she in her wheelchair with me beside, pausing on our way to the car park, and never mind what people thought of us!

Kelsey was great company. She was looking forward to a new car and a new lighter-weight chair which she hoped she would be able to lift into the former without help, thus establishing a further step in her independence. I am so sad we have lost her, but thankful she has not had to suffer a further increase in her Raynaud's disease which almost certainly sooner or later would have taken away that much-prized independence.

BETTY HARVEY

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We are sorry also to announce the death of two friends of the Society; Eddis Thomas, a former member and known to many of our older members; and Jack Maguire dancer and musician, who, among other things, performed with George Orlov's Troika Ensemble, Balalaika Dance Group, Kalinka Dancers, Alexeyev Balalaika Orchestra and the Red Krystals. Our condolences to both families. Ed.

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SUNDAY EVENING DANCES AT CECIL SHARP HOUSE

The dates for 1994 will be:	Jan. 2nd	July 3rd
	Feb. 6th	Sept. 4th
	Mar. 6th	Oct. 2nd
	Apr. 10th	Nov. 6th
	May 8th	Dec. 4th
	June 5th	

Please wear costume if you have one for the first dance of the New Year which will be M.C.d by the Committee.

Please make a special note of the November 1994 dance. Merton Park will be laying on a "mixed ability" programme. It will be an ideal opportunity to introduce complete beginners and dancers new to International whilst also providing plenty of scope for the more experienced. Start telling your friends now.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have worked so hard to support the Sunday dances throughout the past year, helping with music, equipment and door duty. All of us on the "Sunday Staff" send our warmest wishes to Ed Whiteley whom we have missed very much this year and hope to have back with us soon.

See you soon. Best wishes.

ANNE LEACH

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:

We have already seen how international folk dancing in the S.I.F.D. had spread in the Y.H.A., which in return contributed to the growth of the S.I.F.D. We are about to see an example of by what slender threads and simple words the destinies of our individual lives are changed. A young man, Ken Ward by name, went to the Youth Hostel at Crockham Hill in Kent for a weekend in the early 1950s. During the course of the Sunday hike a companion, Alan McLean, mentioned to Ken the folk dance he was going on to at the end of the day at the Inns of Court Mission in Drury Lane, London. Ken said he would like to go there. In those days the S.I.F.D. held dances every Sunday evening. As already recorded, the venue for the last Sunday in each month was Cecil Sharp House; for all other Sundays it was the Inns of Court Hall. The enthusiasm there was as unbounded as in the war-time days at Pont Street, and Ken was at once caught up in it, not only as a dancer but, in due course, as an accordionist.

No great repertoire of Balkan dance was performed by the S.I.F.D. at large; indeed Ken recalls it as including only Djatchko Kolo, Neda Grivna, Zapet and Pajdushka! Soon, though, he was to see Philip's group perform a demonstration at Cecil Sharp House. "I found it fascinating both musically and visually; it cast a spell over the audience", he tells. "Philip was a master of the theatrical but I thought the whole thing well beyond my capabilities". Indeed, Ken believed at that time that he was gifted with two left feet and states that had someone then told him that Balkan dancing would one day become the main interest and activity of his life his reaction would have been one of acute disbelief. Perhaps, then, such as Margaret Webb and Ruth Coton, already stalwarts of the Balkan class, have much to answer for because at the Inns of Court they set out to cure Ken of his two left feet and so well set him up as to be presentable enough to be accepted for Philip's class. Membership of this Ken found "an exciting experience, challenging and mentally exhausting" but his efforts were rewarded in due course by the stealthy tap on the shoulder - he was in the Balkan "demo" team! Time to pause for a moment perhaps to recall, apart from the two ladies mentioned above, other names of those who shared the joys of dancing under Philip's guidance in those earlier years: Mary Butterworth, Mike Lawrence, the Coultrups (Ron, Wally and Janet), Lily Avery, John Hughes, Mary Fergar, Betty Wigginton, Michael Clark, Frances Horrocks, Marie Lucas, Beryl and Len Sawyer, Ken's own sister Barbara, Penny Leach.

As time went on, certain dissatisfactions crept into the Balkan class. Dances seemed to "change shape or emerge in different versions from week to week". Rehearsals and performances were "chaotic". Philip had a way of going off on his own during a performance and the team adopted the procedure of following the "No.2" in order to "keep the thing together". "I do remember making a pact with the rest of the team as to how many times we would do each step in case Philip got carried away", recalls one lady! There was also the matter of costumes which, as already mentioned, did not match the country of the dance, or were made up in "bits and pieces" - that is, parts of costumes from different regions worn together. Philip did not always turn up to class. His "malads" as such absences became known meant depending on the class being taken by, say, Ruth Coton, Mary Butterworth or, in due course, Ken Ward. Notwithstanding such grievances, everyone continually acknowledged Philip's outstanding dancing and "there was always an enjoyable atmosphere".

But change was beginning to make itself felt, not least by the S.I.F.D.'s decision to operate within the Inner London Education Authority instead of as a private organization.. "this step was taken because I.L.E.A. provided the school halls, canvassed for pupils for us in their prospectuses, advertised our classes, paid

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our teachers and musicians, and it seemed a good arrangement for us. But it did mean that our teachers had to become I.L.E.A. teachers and subject to I.L.E.A. rules and restrictions". This step embraced Philip's class as well. It is contended that such requirements as being contracted to I.L.E.A., keeping a class register and preparing a class programme, were anathema to Philip, who preferred to remain a free agent. Whatever the facts, the writing was on the wall concerning his leading the Balkan class.

FRED WOOD

To be continued.

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LILLIAN GALATIS

I am so thrilled to report that already we have received enough money for a little wood to be dedicated to Lillian. Many thanks to everyone (including an anonymous donor). If anyone else would like to be included (the more the larger the wood) please give or send a cheque (payable to Woodland Trust) or cash etc. to me. I won't close the books until after all the Christmas parties - the last chance for being included. I will make sure that everyone has the opportunity of signing the card OR send me a signed little note/card, all to be included with the certificate which will be given to Lillian's husband, Makis. I will then announce the final grand total.

I have spoken to Helen, Lillian's daughter, and because of the visits Lillian made to the groups and people in the Newcastle area, the wood will be at Hedley Hall, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear. (The other places where it could have been have no connection or association at all with Lillian).

Please book SATURDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 1994, when we shall be holding a GREEK WORKSHOP at The Place, 1.30 to 5.30 p.m. Come and enjoy yourselves with Natassa Lemos and Mary Stassinopoulos (great friends of Lillian). Any profit to go to "Lillian's Wood". Full details later. Any special requests to me.

Later, I am planning to organize a GREEK DANCING PARTY to celebrate Lillian's life. EVERYONE who would be interested in being part of such a party, please register the interest with me, together with any suggestions for dances/programme/novelty/venue/day/time etc. I need some accurate idea of numbers to crystallize things. At the moment I plan it for April or May in the better Spring weather, to help "travellers"; in costume if at all possible; food on a bring and share basis; with a selection of Lillian's photos and costumes on view; dancing to some of her tapes; with a little song session slotted in somewhere. Everything GREEK (maybe one small surprise!). Particularly if you are a "far flung friend" let me know what would suit you best in the way of day and time. PLEASE do write or hand me a note at Balkanplus etc.

DIKI GLEESON
Oak Lodge, Theobalds Park Road,
Enfield, Middx EN2 9BN
Tel: 081 363 1506

P.S. Makis has asked me to present his apologies; he received so many cards, letters, 'phone calls and messages commiserating his loss (well over 200) that he feels unable to reply individually to all but a handful whom he knows. He was very touched and encouraged by this testimony to the high regard everyone held Lillian in and he is overwhelmed that a wood will be named after his wife. Although he is going back to Greece for Christmas and to stay on indefinitely in the New Year, if at all possible he will be present at the proposed party and wishes us well for the workshop. He really did appreciate everyone's good wishes, so I hope his gratitude recorded here will suffice. DIKI

KRUPA REVELS, SUMMER '93

This last summer, a Prague-based family company called Bonus Travel ran a string of five juxtaposed events under the banner "The Joyful World of Dance". The programme started with four days in Prague, then a ten-day folk camp (in a hotel) near Zlin, followed by seven days of folk festival in Hungary, based near Budapest. Next came another four days in Prague, then off to Krupa Revels for nine days in Slovakia, and finally four days in the Tatras. Anybody attempting the whole programme would have been very much thinner in both the waistline and wallet. For our part, we chose four days sight-seeing in Prague followed by the historic and Czech dance course, "Krupa Revels", at a cost of some 1310 DM per person. Wherever you chose to start or finish, you had to arrive and depart the venue under your own steam and cost. Transport between adjacent events was included as part of the package.

In Prague the party was a mix of Americans, Germans and British, some ten to twelve persons. We were accommodated, half-board, in the comfortable, recently refurbished 3-star hotel "Anna". It was five minutes to the Metro or tram stop, but you could walk to the centre of the city in 15 minutes. The package included half-day guided tours, visits to the theatre, and eating out in the evenings. We found Prague a compact, highly photogenic city, full of culture and tourists. We greatly enjoyed the experience & would love to go again.

A five-hour coach ride brought us to Dolna Krupa in Slovakia, some 40km North of Bratislava. Although only a small village, it had a small stately home set in English-type parkland (grass, beautiful willow trees and a small lake) where we stayed. This was an excellent venue for such a course, except that the main salon was not really large enough for the nearly 50 dancers. The course was very well founded; very good instruction, four first-rate musicians, and at extra cost a dossier of notes, tapes and, most valuable, a video of our teacher's instruction and our accomplishments.

The student mix was something like 4 Swedes, 1 American, 4 Swiss, only 3 British (John and Janice Gilliam and Irene Goodman from Merton), and the rest Germans. Coupled to this was the fact that the second language of the tutors was German. It was inevitable that German became the dominant language, in spite of the brave attempts of the tutors to give English as well. The result for us Brits, and the Swedes, was that we felt that we missed out on a lot of instruction. One aid I wish I had taken is a Walkman type tape recorder. It would have allowed one to make instant notes without the slowness of pen and paper, and to practise in the corridor with the music plugged straight into one's ear.

The historical dances were taught by Frantisek Bonus and his daughter, Zivana, who also conducted morning exercises. Frantisek is professor of music and dance at Prague University. The doyen of the course, he has a passion for research into the history of dance. The underlining theme of his teaching is best expressed in the preface to his comprehensive dossier of course notes, of which the following is an extract:-

"The concise syllabus "Europe Saltat et Cantat" attempts to be a usable and technical music and mainly dance manual for the important cultural event "Krupa Revels".....We lay a special, great emphasis on the link, coherence and relationship between the folk and all kinds of historical dances.....The syllabus is entitled in Latin. The reason for this label is to indicate that the chosen music and material involve an international value studying both branches; the folkdance and historical dance culture".

The dances taught were mainly court dances from the early 1600s onward. The music, figures and style was of the period, but the choreography is mainly that of Frantisek - the dancing master of today. Taught dances were: Polonesa, Saraband, Zwalf Kontretanze, Gigue a Deux, Green Sleeves, and the beautiful 19th century Quadrille, Besadah. Czech and Slovak national dances were taught

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by Radomil Rejsek and his wife, Eva. This couple make an excellent hard-working and very experienced teaching team. Dances taught were: Starodavny, Rokycanska, Helpa, Cardas, Cofava and Pod Sable (sword dance).

The evening programme was a mixture of musical soirees, lectures in dance with demos and songs, and some less demanding Playford as well as social dances. In addition to the advertised programme, the Swedish contingent gave us a Swedish evening when we did Swedish style Polonese and some Hambo. Also a gentleman from Berlin got a small choir together who entertained us on the final evening. For a Grand Finale we donned period costume, enjoyed a champagne reception, paraded in the park, sang by the lake and danced into the night. We found that our training in Polish dance stood us in good stead. Although very tired and exhausted, we reluctantly departed with stimulating and unforgettable memories; we would go back for more.

This Christmas (26th December to 1st January) the same people are running a "similar" course in Prague; more emphasis on Czech folk than historical. We have some literature on this event (Tel: 0590 676454). Anyone wishing to find out about next year's programme should contact Jasan Bonus, Spanielovo 38/1275, 163 00 Praha 6 Tel: 301 8279 302 1330.

JOHN & JANICE GILLIAM, Lymington.

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MATHEMATICS - YOUR SUBJECT?

Jack Richardson has sent me an article, taken from a University magazine, which the mathematically-minded may find amusing/interesting. It is called "Mathematics of Folk Dancing" and looks at "what counts in traditional dances". If anyone would like a copy, Jack would be happy to send them one (no charge). Apply to him at Department of Chemical Engineering, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 0792 295194. Ed.

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YORKSHIRE DALES 1994

Have you ever visited the Yorkshire Dales and "Last of the Summer Wine" country? They are truly beautiful in autumn, so why not plan a weekend and as part of your itinerary join LOIDIS INTERNATIONAL GROUP in Leeds on SATURDAY, 17th SEPT. 1994 to help celebrate ten years of happy dancing in our present hall. Janet Woolbar, with Frank Flanagan, will be teaching a general international workshop in the afternoon, and after a break for refreshments there will be social dancing in the evening. Further details nearer the time but please make this a definite date in your diary. We look forward to you dancing with us.

FELLA YASHPON
Loidis International Group

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FOR SALE - a pair of ladies' "Mallorcan-style" character shoes. A heel slightly more tapered than the Cuban, with a narrow bar and buckle. Worn once; as new. Size 6-6½. Price £15. Anyone interested should contact Anne Leach, 071 247 7788 (daytime), 071 700 1773 (evening).

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DUTCH DANCE TEACHING SYLLABUS

As you may be aware, International Folk Dancing is very popular in Holland and its status as a valuable community activity is high. It is possible for qualified Dutch teachers to earn a living as folk-dance instructors. We are not so fortunate at present in the U.K. and many of our teachers do not receive any payment for their efforts. However, I do not think that this situation can last for ever; one day we will have a Government that will wake up to the power and value of dance in the community. (Perhaps we also have our part to play to wake "them" up).

Those of you who have experienced the classes of qualified Dutch teachers will acknowledge that their standard of teaching is very high (Tineke van Geel's Armenian Course given in September could be cited as an example). This is because they undertake a professional training - the equivalent of a dance course taken at a College of Education in this country - that trains them to a high level of competence in folkdance teaching, teaching practice, dancing skills, musical training, notation, treatment of injuries and their prevention.

There have been requests from our young teachers for further training opportunities to develop their skills. It will be possible to take this certificate in England, if there is sufficient interest. The course would require a large commitment from students since it would involve over 100 hours of training, plus written and practical work to be completed outside of the formal training time. It would also cost students about £100 a year, over three years. (The exact cost would depend on the number of students). The S.I.F.D. would not be able to support this financially; it must be self-supporting since we continue to have a commitment to our own Teacher's Certificate. It would obviously be of great value to those who do take this professional course and to The Society in the long run. (We have been so fortunate with our "older generation" of teachers in the Society since many of them are fully qualified professional teachers and some of them trained in dancing).

The course would be provided by Jan Knoppers, who is already known to some members as an excellent teacher and who trains teachers in Holland. Since Jan is coming to teach at the York Summer School in August 1994, it is expected that he will start the training there. This would be followed up by a series of weekend courses.

If you are interested in the idea of taking this course will you please contact Maggie O'Regan on 071 609 7098, or Marina Wolstenholme on 0433 630183.

JILL BRANSBY

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SBORENKA

This is to put the record straight concerning the Sborenka Balkan Folkdance Class. A number of former members of the class were considering during the summer a new "breakaway" Balkan Dance Group along very similar lines to Sborenka. The article in last month's SIFD NEWS states that I neglected to inform members of the discontinuation of Sborenka. In fact, information about the new group only reached me at a very late stage and plans were apparently well under way. Therefore, as I expressed at that time to my informer, there was no point in running both classes side by side. I offered to assist in teaching and to support the new group, if they wished. Regrettably I had to cancel the booking at The Place, but it was too late to inform members in the September NEWS. If anyone else wants to give information about the Sborenka Balkan Folkdance Class, would they kindly contact me first, before writing to the SIFD NEWS.

CATHY MEUNIER, 071 482 0906

NORTHERN ISRAELI DAY

On 6th November, 47 people came to Fiona Howarth's Israeli Day Course at Hope Valley College, Derbyshire. Many thanks to everybody for making the day such a success. It has given a boost to our three local groups, the Hope Valley Dancers, the Dronfield Dancers and the Frith Folk, who don't very often get a chance to dance for a whole day to extend their knowledge and work on style. Other dancers also came from S.Wales, Newark, Leeds and even from Bromley. We are grateful to the three girls from Fiona's class who came so far, braving British sign-posting and thick fog to help us by being "visual aids". Many thanks, girls!

Fiona chose an excellent programme with lots of variety. The course members were also very varied - in ability. Some were absolute beginners being thrown in at the deep end, and some were very experienced, with others at every stage in between. Fiona had to draw on all her well-recognized teaching skills to keep everybody working at their own level. This was no easy task with such a large group of people of such diverse ability, but Fiona was well able to cope and the progress made during the day was astonishing, and a credit to her teaching.

The Head of Community Education, Marilyn Crutcher, and I were very pleased with this first venture, and its success means that the dancers in this part of the North can look forward to more day courses at the College. Thank you, Fiona, and to everybody who supported us.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mrs. Avery,

I wonder if I might, through your columns, thank Marina Wolstenholme, who came to the Oxford Balkansko Oro Group on 30th October and gave us a day's teaching of Romanian, Hungarian and Gypsy Dances that was most enjoyable. As a relative newcomer to this kind of dancing, it was the first such day session that I had attended, and I arrived with a little trepidation, but I need not have worried. Her teaching was clear, just right for the level and size of the group, and great fun. The dances for couples I enjoyed particularly; unusually there were more men than women that day! Marina's energy was unflagging, even during the evening party. I look forward to more of her tuition.

Thanks are due too to Roger Wicksteed, who continues to inspire and co-ordinate, in a very modest and kindly way, the activities of our Oxford group, not only in dancing, but also in singing and even playing (the latter just for our own amusement so far).

Yours sincerely,

LIZ HAMILTON
50 Millway Close, Upper Wolvercote,
Oxford OX2 8BL

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Dear Lily,

A very successful Day Course of Balkan Dances was held at Worthing on 2nd October. In spite of atrocious weather conditions, many members and visitors attended. Special thanks to our teacher, Frances Horrocks, who negotiated flooded roads to reach us.

Yours sincerely,
JEAN SHERIDAN, Dance International, Worthing

HAMA'AGAL 20TH ANNIVERSARY. Apologies to all those who were unable to obtain tickets for this occasion. I'm afraid they were all sold out well before the 30th. FIONA HOWARTH

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Jan.15th BALKANPLUS TURKISH COURSE WITH AHMET LULECI (see November NEWS) 11.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at Highbury Grove School, Highbury and Islington, N.5. £8.50 in advance, £9 on the day, £7.50 Balkanplus season ticket holders. Tickets (s.a.e. please) from, and enquiries to, Maggie O'Regan, Flat 1, 317A Caledonian Road, London N1 1DR Tel: 071 609 7098.
- Jan.22nd CROXLEY GREEN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS NEW YEAR PARTY at St.Oswalds Church Hall, Malvern Way, Croxley Green, near Watford, Herts. 7.30 to 10.45 p.m. Entrance £2 including refreshments. Payable at the door. Enquiries to Joyce Sharp, 0923 228080.
- Jan.29th WEEKEND WORKSHOP OF IRISH SET DANCING at Cecil Sharp House. Saturday & 30th 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Ceilidh 8.30 p.m. to 11.30p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tutor: Timmy McCarthy. Day ticket £5, Ceilidh £4, Weekend £13. Tickets and details from Pat Cardis, 071 254 3998.
- Jan.29th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO 1994 NEW YEAR PARTY at St.Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford, 7.30 to 11 p.m. Live music with Dunav and friends. Refreshments. Tickets £5 in advance from Roger Wicksteed, 47 Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8RU. Cheques payable to Oxford Balkansko Oro. Please send s.a.e.
- Mar.11th BRECON, SOUTH WALES. MACEDONIAN FOLKDANCE COURSE with Martin Ihns, to 13th or walking/sight-seeing weekend. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.
- Mar.5th GREEK MACEDONIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND at Aberdeen. Yannis Konstantinou to 6th will be coming from Greece to teach this weekend course. He grew up in Florina in a dancing family; his father was a professional dancer with "Tanec", the National Folkdance Ensemble in Skopje, and also the Dora Stratou Dance Ensemble in Athens. Yannis is a professional folk-dance teacher working in Athens and his groups perform there regularly. Further details will appear later. ANDRENE SAILE

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WOT A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!

Every two years we look forward to the Midlands "weekend away" at Bromsgrove. This year we were not disappointed. As always, a well-organized event with an opportunity to learn from the Society's top teachers. This year there were even more cuddles as friends gathered from near and far to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the West Midlands Group with quite a number of us remembering the special dance in 1973 led by Margery Latham.

Even the weather celebrated the occasion at Bromsgrove, allowing us to dance on the lawns in the grounds of the nearby museum. To mark the special occasion all ladies were given a hand-embroidered Bulgarian handkerchief, which they wore at the celebration dance later that evening. Mind you, how we managed to dance after such a splendid meal, guided down by an "on-tap" supply of Alf's wine, I'll never know.

Thank you, "Midlands". We now look forward to the next one!

SUE & VIC CLARK (plus Sally, the dog)

BA PARDESS

("In the Citrus orchard")

(Israel)

♩ = 110.

Intro:

Musical score for "BA PARDESS" in C major, 4/4 time. The score consists of 10 staves of music. The key signature has one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 110. The score includes two main sections, A and B, and an ending. The chords are: Dm, Am, E7, Am, F7, E7, Am, Am, Dm, Am, E7, Am, Dm, C, G7, C, E7, Am, G, E7, Am, Gm, E7, Am, Am, Dm, G7, C, E7, Am, E, Am, G7, E, Am, G7, E, Am, Am, Dm, C, G7, C, E7, Am, E. The score is marked with "A" and "B" for the main sections. The ending is marked "Play: AABAB".

Play the sequences in the order indicated. When playing "B" music for the last time (only) the ending will be as noted with the extra two bars to allow the dance to end slowly.

RIEPE RIEPE GARSTE ("Ripe Barley")

(Holland)

Mod. with emphasis

faster

Musical score for "RIEPE RIEPE GARSTE" in Bb major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music. The key signature has two flats (Bb, Eb), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as "Mod. with emphasis" and "faster". The score includes two main sections, 1 and 2, and an ending. The chords are: F, Bb, C7, F, Bb, F, C7, F, C7, F, F, C7, F, F. The score is marked with "1" and "2" for the main sections.

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

No Sunday Dance in December

Jan.2nd M.C.s The S.I.F.D. Committee. Please wear costume. Beverley Wexler will be organizing a Raffle. Please bring unwanted gifts. Proceeds half to S.I.F.D., half to Raynaud's Association.

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WAHT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- 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: 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 WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at Coleshill Community Centre, Temple Way, Coleshill. The centre is on the corner of Temple Way, just off Station Road, and can be reached from Birmingham by 'bus 90 from Lower Bull Street (hourly service). Please bring food.
- Dec.11th HIGHBURY CHRISTMAS DANCE. The Tuesday Balkan Class returns to its summer venue for an evening of dancing. Wide and varied selection of dances on offer including those taught on recent courses. A chance to remember just how much you have forgotten, as well as those favourites you really know. At Highbury Grove School, Highbury New Park, London N.5. 7.30 to 10 p.m. Admission £2.50. Food - the contribution of a dish, packet, bag or bottle would be most welcome. As this is close to Christmas, it's a chance to wear your costume. School is open from 7 p.m. for changing. Enquiries to me on 0702 207447 or Malcolm Shaffer on 0628 39526. DAVE CARTER
- Dec.12th ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP WITH Roberto Haddon at Jackson's Lane Community Centre, 269a Archway Road, London N.6. (opposite Highgate Tube Station) Intermediate/Advanced level. 3.30 to 7.30 p.m. £5 (£3 concessions). Refreshments available. NO outdoor shoes, please. Further details from Roberto Haddon, 081 533 5016.
- Dec.17th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY, 8 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Music by Dunav Balkan Group. £4 including food and wine.
- Dec.17th WEEKEND AT DUNFORD HOUSE, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX. Details from Jack to 19th Richardson, Chemical Engineering Department, University College, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 0792 295194.
- Dec.18th BALKANPLUS CHRISTMAS DANCE. As this is the festive season, there will be the usual element of Compulsory Fun. This year participants are asked to "make a statement with a hat". This theme may be freely interpreted as imaginatively or as boringly as you like. Statements will be read during the course of the evening, and as this is Reward Enough in itself there will be no other emolument or prize awarded. The M.C. will be Fiona Howarth (had you guessed?). F.H. Dunav Band 7 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1.
- Dec.31st WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 7.30 p.m. at Oakenshaw Centre, Solihull. Please bring food.

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MUSIC. Another two tunes from Wilf Horrocks on page 14. Please let Wilf know if you would like a particular tune. Tel: 081 642 3629.

Dancing into Europe

A selection of folk dances from the countries of the European Community suitable for use with children in primary schools, together with information on costumes and customs designed to encourage research into the traditions of these countries.



Each country has its own character formed over the years by the way of life of its people, the environment in which they live and the events they have encountered. This diversity enriches the whole Community, and by understanding and respecting them we can be brought to a closer understanding of our neighbours in the Community.

Folk dances are the dances of the ordinary people. Many of the dances are danced just for fun, some are danced for special occasions and some contain movements of magical significance. Folk dances have something to offer to people of all ages and expertise.

This Society for International Folk Dancing publication has the instructions for a dance from each EC country, with recorded music, background information, and drawings of the costumes for in class work with permission granted for photocopying. An accompanying video will available shortly.

ORDER FORM

Name Address

Post code Telephone

		number required
Instruction and information book	£6.00 each
Tape of dance music	£4.00 each
add postage & packing	£1.00 (1 to 2 items)
	£1.50 (3,4 or 5 items)
	£3.00 (6 or over items)
Total remitted or invoiced (cheques payable to SIFD)	

If you are interested in the video when available please tick box

If you would like a teacher to visit your school, or you would like to arrange an inset course in your area please tick box

(teaching contact: Mrs F Horrocks, 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey. Tel 081 642 3629)

Send this form to Pam Khan, 221 Commonside East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB Tel 081 648 1422