



OCTOBER

S.I.F.D. GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE, SATURDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 1996
7.30 to 11.00 p.m. AT CAMDEN CENTRE, LONDON W.C.1 (Close to Euston and
King's Cross stations).

TICKETS: Members - Single £10, Double £18
Non-members - Single £12, Double £20
Children - Aged 11-16 Half Price, 10 and under Free
(All including refreshments)

NOTE: A few tickets will be available on the night but will not include refreshments. We expect a large attendance and need to know in advance how many to cater for - so please help us by booking your tickets early, from me at 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts. WD4 8AN: (s.a.e. please). Tel: 01923 262763.

VERY IMPORTANT! Entrance to the Camden Centre will be from the back of the Hall, in Bidborough Road, NOT from the Euston Road. There are numerous side roads round Bidborough Road where parking is free after 6.30 p.m. There is also a ramp for disabled access.

NAMES: I have heard that at the 40th Anniversary Dance some dear old comrades failed to contact each other because of heavy mists-and-ravages of time. Some of us perhaps don't realise it, but we may have got considerably older, fatter, thinner (or all three!). Please help by wearing a name badge, printed clearly, so that with cries of pleasure you may greet old friends again.

NOTICE-BOARD: Quite a few members will not be able to be with us for various reasons. We are hoping to have a board where we can display greetings from absent friends. There is no reason why there should not be greetings from those present, of course.

BAR: This will be open for you to get yourselves in the right mood.

PROGRAMME Here are a few more dances likely to be included in the evening's programme, which you might like to practise :-

Skudrinka	Macedonia	Pop Marinko	Serbia
Karagouna	Greece	A Shula	Portugal
Shir Ha Chatuna	Israel	Jabadao	France
Jiana	Romania	Bavno Oro	Macedonia

KAY KEDGE.

MARTENITSA BALKAN DANCE GROUP IS MOVING

We are moving to a dance studio at the Benesh Institute, 12 Lisson Grove, London N.W.1 at the Marylebone Road end. Nearest Underground station is Marylebone, but the studio is also a few minutes from Baker Street. Our new term starts on Monday, 16th September 1996, at 8.00 p.m. For further information, please ring Dave Carter on 01702 207447, or me on 0171 286 7005.

ROSETTE ROZENBERG

When sending in material for SIFD NEWS, please write in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of dances, people and places, unless typewritten.

Continued from last month....

Bulgaria, Lovech. In the red and brown costumes of the Djinov district, eight couples performed the Thracian dance with great verve, with the men showing its peculiar machismo style. The second item, from the Shop region, was probably a suite of dances, as the men's show-off dance is a dance in its own right, but it was superb entertainment. The men in their tight white trousers and long coats covered in black braid, and the girls in black dresses with gleaming gold ornaments looked wonderful, and the music of the gaide, gadoulka, tapan and accordion drove along; but, as always with groups from this part of Europe, the choreography does tend to take over. (81 marks).

Lithuania, Kaunas. Opening with "Paravejos Suktine", a dance to celebrate the completion of the harvest, this small group of four couples of mixed ages were closer to true folk than some entries. The dance appeared to have several sections, each prompted by a call from the leader. Quite simple, and well danced, it looked right. For the second item, they made a partial change of costume. This was "Rokiskio Kradilis" in polka time, and although they only had two musicians, they made a good sound. (82 marks).

Poland, Pulawy. Whoever was responsible for these young people had apparently not even glanced at the rules as they broke the one which, at the top of the page, states that the number of entrants shall not exceed 20, including musicians and flag-bearers. They brought over thirty on stage, so they received no marks at all. Also, their presentation was announced as Oberek and a Kujawiak, but there was only a few bars of the latter before returning to the faster rhythm. (No marks)

Ukraine (Bradford). Four very hard-working couples and their five musicians gave first "Arcan", an athletic dance with axes, and then a couple dance from the Carpathian mountains. Although lacking the professionalism of some groups, I thought they gave a good performance. (80 marks).

Croatia, Velica Korica. With two very traditional dances from the Dalmatian region, this was a faultless item. A silent kolo from the Zagora, with affinities to the Vrlicko Kolo, with the resplendent red and blue costumes of the men, and the girls with impressive head-dresses and their bodices decorated with a mass of gold coins, was given the dignity it demanded. The Lindo needed a change of costume for the men, which they managed in super quick time. The different style of dance, accompanied by a single Kolovoda was equally fine. (94 marks). (2nd prize).

Rep.Ireland, Clearies Town. A very creditable showing by a group of young girls in two "mummers" dances (shades of the late lamented Dungeer Mummers!). However, I am surprised the adjudicators made no comment on the fact that girls were performing a ritual dance, which, as I am sure Lucile Armstrong would have pointed out, took away the magic. (84 marks).

N.Ireland, Loughgeil. Twelve girls and four men demonstrated a weaving dance from Ulster and then, with eight girls, "Cliffs of Mohr". They are frequent visitors to Llangollen and always maintain a high standard, but I do wonder if it is necessary for the dancers to show no emotion whatever and not to relate to their partners in any way. (87 marks).

Portugal, Santo Antonio de Arenhilha. What can one say except that this is what folk dancing is all about. Both dances, "Corridinhos" and "Baile de Roda", were executed with skill and precision, which is not unusual at Llangollen, but the sense of fun and enjoyment is more rare. This group of all ages wore costumes which were clearly not the careful copies worn by the semi-professional groups, and they looked as if they belonged in them. The second dance was taught at the workshop, and the girls found how difficult it was to whirl round at speed with one leg held high, round their partner's back. The music of the small band of accordion, triangle and a notched bar rubbed with a stick, fitted the dances perfectly. (96 marks). First prize.

Contd...

India, Punjab (Smethwick). Familiar to Llangollen audiences, these harvest dances were done with great energy by this all-male group and were well presented and enjoyable to watch, but my knowledge of Indian folk dance is very limited and I cannot comment on their authenticity. (86 marks).

Finally, the adjudication. The panel were given a little more time for this year, and Naren was able to pay tribute to his predecessors on the Dance Panel, Violet Alford, Douglas Kennedy, Professor Pinon and of course Lucile Armstrong. He also stressed the contribution of W.S.Gwynne Williams, who conceived the idea of an International Musical Eisteddfod. Apart from the points noted above, Naren, in his summing up, expressed the appreciation of the judges of the very high standard achieved, but his most frequent criticism of the groups was their use of "stage" elements; that is, choreographed dances, uniform costumes and, in the case of the Bulgarian musicians, the use of printed scores. Many groups provided ethnographic notes which the panel found most helpful.

The new competition for Children's Dance deserves a mention. The skill of these young performers was welcomed, and with one exception all the items were very good. In fact, in many cases, it was hard to tell if one was watching children or adults. Whether this competition should be judged in exactly the same way as that for the adults was clearly a problem for the panel. For myself, I simply sat back and enjoyed the dancing for itself. I liked the Turks, the Slovaks (84 marks), the Derby Ukrainians (87 marks), the Irish from Listowel and the Welsh from Ammerford (93 marks). I had expected some comments from the judges that in the winning party from Pontypridd in Wales (96 marks) some of the "Morris" boys were actually girls. Second were the Loughgeil children from N. Ireland (95 marks) and third the Lithuanians (94 marks).

Result of the Folk Song Groups competition: Taiwan 176, Denmark 173, U.S.A. 170.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

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VIDEO - MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FOLK ART

A 1-hour 40-min. video of the Sunday Gala Night Concert is now available. This comprises dances, music and songs from our three visiting groups - "Kolos" from the Ukraine, "Grzes" from Poland, and the children's group "Pynimelis" from Lithuania. Although the producer, Bill Eustace from the B.B.C. Open University, had free choice of content, he (and his four camera and sound crew) has certainly taken notice of our comments that viewers will want to see complete dances and are also very interested in the footwork. This will not only be of interest to people who attended the workshops (and even those who didn't), but is a well-produced reminder of the colour and excitement of the evening. I hope those who were unable to attend will also be encouraged to take this rare opportunity to enjoy the performances of these three groups. (Don't forget Christmas is coming).

The video costs £13 including postage, and can be obtained from me at 30 St. John Street, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. MK16 8HJ. Tel: 01908 610564. Cheques payable to "MKIF Folk Art".

DON ALLISON

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MUSIC. Three Dutch tunes this month from Wilf Horrocks on p.12. If you would like the music for a particular dance, please let Wilf know, on 0181 642 3629.

YORK SUMMER SCHOOL

On behalf of the S.I.F.D. Committee, I would like to thank Dawn and Paul Webster for the work they have done in organizing the Summer School this year. Their work and the financial risks they took are much appreciated, along with the efforts made during the week for the smooth running of the classes and social events. The people who helped find and look after the teachers, ran the evening dances and operated the sound and video equipment, in addition to attending three dance classes every day, also deserve thanks.

On my own behalf, thank you to whoever handed in a "Masters of Morden" Vauxhall car key and the key for room H16. The porter returned the car key to me by post. I left York at 2 a.m. (using my spare car key) convinced that both keys had dropped into my suitcase.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

A volunteer is needed to help Judith Payling with the Groups' Insurance Administration. Sue Tupper has done the job for more than eight years and would like to hand over to a new volunteer. The job involves dealing with routine correspondence from the Associated and Affiliated groups and sending out reminders and confirmation letters. You don't need to know anything about insurance; Judith Payling and Richard Thom deal with all difficult questions. If you are interested, please contact Judith (address on p.2).

NEXT YEAR'S S.I.F.D. COMMITTEE

Now is the time to start thinking seriously about people who have the time, skills, energy and dedication to join the Committee. Meetings are usually held every two months, for three hours before a Sunday Dance or after a Day Course, and most members volunteer to undertake one or two specific tasks in addition to attending meetings. Anyone who enjoys talking about folk dancing and the Society, who is willing to get involved in making policies and running events, would find a year or two on the Committee very rewarding. Please ask me to send you a proposal form if you would like to propose someone, with their agreement of course.

JEANETTE HULL, Secretary
(Address on p.2)

THE COURSE - "EASTERN PROMISE"

Jan Knoppers will be teaching some of his Asian dances at Doncaster College Conference Centre, High Melton, over the Easter weekend, 29th, 30th and 31st March 1997. Please send a s.a.e. for further information and application form to me at Robin Cottage, 4 Commercial Road, Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HA.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

U.S.A. CONTACT

If anyone is going to the U.S.A., feel free to contact Cyril Fleisher, P.O.Box 4126, Port Wentworth, GA 31407, U.S.A., for dance information.

BALKANPLUS ANNIVERSARY DANCE

Saturday, 26th October 1996. Working Men's College. 6.00-10.30 p.m. £3.00

The Committee of Balkanplus would like to invite all dancers and their friends to help celebrate our 10th Anniversary. Balkanplus has had several venues over the years but this auspicious occasion will be held at the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. The college is on the corner of Crowndale Road and Camden Street, and the nearest Underground station is Camden Town. 'Bus routes 214 and 46 are the closest, also 68, 24, 27, 29, 134, 137 and 253 are nearby, with street parking available also.

Please come in costume or a Balkanplus T-shirt (on sale on the evening, £6.50) or other suitable party apparel and make this a truly colourful and memorable evening. M.C.s will be Fiona Howarth, Frank Dowling and Brian Dowsett, thus ensuring a memorable evening. Music will be part cassettes and part live from the inexhaustible and delightful Dunav Balkan Group, always a part of the Balkanplus scene, whose support has been much appreciated over the years.

The format will be slightly different from usual in that the event will commence at 6.00 p.m. with an hour of "walking through" so that our visitors will not be left sitting out later on, not knowing the dances. There will be a short break from 7.00 to 7.30 p.m. to give time to change into one's best bib and tucker, and non-stop dancing will be from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Light refreshments will be available throughout the evening, but if you have a special talent for a Balkan dish (fingers only!) or just a favourite non-Balkan dish to add to the party fare, do please bring it along. All contributions will be gratefully received and you will be reimbursed if you so wish. Dance off the calories during the evening.

All these extras are offered at the same, usual, regular price of only £3.00, a real bargain. So, whether you have never been to Balkanplus before, or have lapsed, or are a regular supporter, do come along for this very special occasion. Everyone is welcome.

FRANCES HORROCKS

P.S. Balkanplus recently carried out a survey of the most popular dances, mostly for the benefit of our M.C.s, but if any other group would like a copy please send s.a.e. to me at 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP.

FRANCES

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CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

The S.I.F.D. now has as one of its aims the encouragement of the collection and performance of Folkdance Music. With this in mind, I am compiling a list of musicians within the Society (this is in addition to the Affiliated bands). What is done with this list depends largely on the response, but as a first step to doing anything it is a good idea to see what musical talent, knowledge and interest we have.

If anyone would like to be on the list, please write to me stating what instrument(s) you play and at what level of experience, whether you are with a group who play or might be interested in playing International Folkdance music, and whether you have a special interest or expertise in any particular style of music. Please tell me also if you would be willing to be put in contact with any other musicians in your area.

MIKE GILBERT
85 Fen Road, Chesterton,
Cambridge CB4 1UN

THE FOUNDATIONS OF ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Israeli dances present us with the greatest challenge in our search for a practical realistic definition of a folk dance. These dances are enjoyed by folkdance enthusiasts in England, Europe, U.S.A. as well as in Israel, and are often included in dance manuals purporting to describe folk dances.

The Israeli dances performed by folkdance enthusiasts today owe their origins to choreographers of the present century. It is true that the Jews in ancient times had dances as reported in the Bible, but the subsequent history of the dispersal of the Jews, together with other factors, has led to the inevitable loss of such dances. Two Jewish communities did develop their own dances, the Chassidic in Poland and the Yemenite in Saudi Arabia, but neither initiated the modern Israeli dance movement. Hence the dances observed in the Kibbutzim during the inter-war years were those that the Jews had brought with them from their former homelands, such as the Polish Krakowiak, the Romanian Hora, the Russian Sherele, the Polka etc. Indeed, it is interesting to note that though many of the immigrants had apparently turned their backs on the lands of their birth, many continued to cultivate the songs and dances from their past, as though they considered themselves as Polish Jews, Russian Jews, etc. not as Palestinian Jews. But by the early 1920s individuals had begun to devise new dances particularly for holiday and festival occasions at their home Kibbutzim. However, it was in 1944 that a National folkdance movement could be said to have begun when Gurit Kadman, asked to compose a Festival piece for the Dalia Kibbutz, went further and organized a two-day dance festival, which attracted some 3,500 spectators, with 200 dancers. Many of the dances demonstrated were still those brought from European homelands, but there were a number of original creations, including the now wellknown Mayim, Mayim. Thus new dances and new choreographers, who were often working before in isolation, were exposed to a wider audience, and this naturally stimulated others to become involved in creating a Palestinian folkdance culture. The movement grew from strength to strength, with 25,000 spectators and 500 dancers at the 1947 event at Dalia; 50,000 spectators and 800 dancers at the 1951 event, and so on.

Choreographers associated with the early years of the folkdance movement include Gurit Kadman, Rivka Sturman (Hoi Harmonica, Kuma Echa, Kol Dodi, Ahavat Hadasa, Vayiven Uziyahu), Leah Bergstein (Shiboleth Basadeh), Sara Levi-Tanai, and Yardena Cohen, among others. The titles of the dances were generally taken from the associated music, the dances often being choreographed to existing music; the latter usually by known composers. The various elements making up the dances, including steps, movements etc., were drawn from European, Yemenite, Arabic and other dance cultures, depending to a large extent on the background of the choreographer. Couple dances are rare because choreographers of dances for Kibbutz holidays were discouraged from creating such formations, the feeling being that they were alien to the Kibbutz spirit of community togetherness.

Are they considered as folk dances by the Israelis? Yes, in that numerous books published in Israel devoted to these dances include "folk" in their titles. Many published by Jewish Organizations outside Israel, particularly in the U.S.A., do so as well. It is interesting to note that one does not often find books including "folk" in association with "Jewish..." or "Jews" (e.g. "Jewish Folk Dances"). Many books published for folk dancers outside Jewish or Israeli Organizations include Israeli dances without comment, some even including the name of the choreographers.

Are they folk dances? As outlined above, many were created for Kibbutz holidays. They were for dancing by the members of the Kibbutz, helping them to achieve the togetherness which was fundamental to the concept of Kibbutz life. They are community dances, with widespread popularity. Thus they are dances of the folk. In this respect they can be classed as folk dances, provided that we remove the restriction that their original choreographers must be unknown and that they must be traditional.

G.D.TOWNER 15th July 1996

NEWS FROM NUTBROOK (DERBYSHIRE/NOTTINGAMSHIRE BORDER)

Nutbrook I.F.D.G. finished off the summer on a high note with a party which celebrated the continual friendship with our Swedish friends as well as another happy year of dancing. Thirty-three Swedish visitors from "Nerkia" folkdance group popped in for a meal and a dance in July. The exchange between the two groups started in 1982 and so many memories were recalled. There was dancing to Swedish and English music, which created a very pleasant happy atmosphere.

During the past year, Nutbrook has had two very successful day courses - Balkan and Israeli. The dances learnt have proved very popular on club night, a tribute to the excellent teaching of Frances Horrocks and Marina Wolstenholme. We are looking forward to our next two courses in Greek and Russian dancing.

One of our most popular Thursday club nights was our "Live Music Night" in May when we had a Finnish fiddler plus our own accordionist playing Scandinavian music, followed by Balkan music played by Cait and Chris Eimes on various instruments. Another "Live Night" is planned for October.

Club nights have now resumed so we are looking forward to another happy year of dancing.

GILL MORRAL

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ITEMS FOR SALE

A Bavarian costume comprising beige dress with embroidery, white blouse, maroon apron. Size about 12. Length from shoulder 39". Any offers?

I also have two Handbooks of European National Dances (Max Parrish). 1) "Dances of Sweden. 2) "Dances of the Netherlands". Plus five Ling Association Booklets: 1-3) "Scandinavian Dances" 1st, 2nd & 3rd series. 4) "Folk Dances from Many Lands" 2nd series. 5) "Folk Dances from Many Lands" for use in schools.

If anyone is interested in any of the above, please contact me at 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0117 962 1802. I could bring any of these to the Anniversary Dance on 12th October, if I know in time.

HILDA STURGE

A man's Bulgarian costume. Hand-embroidered shirt, red and black, chest 40/42 ins. Black trousers with black braiding, slightly baggy. Inside leg approx. 29ins. Waist negotiable, on a draw-string. Red and black waistcoat, no fastenings. "Stage" hat and cummerbund. Will be on view at Balkanplus in December or contact me on 0181 642 3629. Originally £50 from well-known Bulgarian source.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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PECE ATANASOVSKI

Members will be very sorry to hear that Pece Atanasovski, Macedonian dancer, teacher, musician, group leader, of great renown, died suddenly 14th/15th September 1996. Obituary next month.

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NOVEMBER SIFD NEWS
MUST REACH THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 17TH OCTOBER.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Nov.1st-3rd BIANCA DE JONG AT BRECON. Residential weekend with Bianca's superb teaching of Balkan dances, and opportunities for walking in a delightful area. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Rd., London NW5 1DA.

Nov.2nd KAN HA DISKAN. Breton singing/dancing workshop with Brigitte Kloareg. 7.00 to 6.00 p.m. Followed by a FEST NOZ (Dance) until 11.30 p.m. with live music from local Francophile bands, "Boa" (Breton/Centre) and "Citizen Camembert" (bourrees from Berry and Auvergne). At Patcham Memorial Hall, Old London Road, Brighton. £12.50 for joint ticket (workshop and Dance). Separate tickets available. Further details from Jan Mulreany, 01273 501304.

Nov.2nd GREEK DAY COURSE, 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. £5.00. Tutor: Maggie O'Regan. Organized by Nutbrook I.F.D.G. Contact: Gill Morral, 0115 9393204.

Nov.3rd MAGGIE & VAL'S WORKSHOP 3.00 to 5.00 p.m. at Studio 3, The Place, Flaxman Terrace, London W.C.1. Enquiries: 0171 609 7098.

Nov.8th-10th WEEKEND OF MIDDLE EASTERN DANCES at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. Tutor: Christine Hall. Emphasis on Egyptian and Jordanian folk and belly dance, and veil dancing. Suitable for women and men, with or without Middle Eastern dance experience, of any age, shape, and grade of fitness. £159 including single/double accommodation with private bathroom, all tuition and all meals. Tuition only fee (without accommodation and meals) £69. For further information, contact Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire HP16 0BD. Tel: 01494 890296.

Nov.9th BALKAN DAY COURSE with Cathy Meunier, organized by West Midlands Branch of S.I.F.D. 11.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. in Lyndon Schools Sports Hall, Daylesford Rd., Sheldon, Solihull. The hall is on the same site where last year's Albert Hall rehearsals were held and is easy to find but maps will be available. Contact Malcolm Cox on 0121 783 8517. (No price given.)

Nov.10th A DAY WITH LAURA SHANNON in Bristol. Old favourites and new dances from her travels. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St.Paul's Church Hall, Beaufort Road, Bristol. Please book with Daphne Allen, 01275 392757. (No price given).

Nov.16th BALKAN DAY COURSE 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St.Ursula's School, Brecon Road, Henleaze, Bristol. Tutor: James Webb. £5 S.I.F.D. members, £6 non-members. Mainly Bulgarian, Macedonian, and possibly Romanian dances (not too complicated). The course coincides with a special birthday for one of our members (Sue Lamb) so there will be a party in the evening, 7.30 to 10.30. Please bring food to share in the evening but bring your own lunch. Contact: Anne Marshall, 0117 950 9889.

November (date not confirmed). ORIENTAL DANCE TASTER DAY. Tutors: Sheila Smith and Christine Hall. In Lewes, East Sussex. Including Raks Sharqi, Egyptian veil dance, Chinese fan and Chinese ribbon dance. Contact Christine Hall on 01580 850687, for information.

Dec.1st ISRAELI DANCE PARTY and WORKSHOP REVISION at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. Contact Rowena Martin on 01323 503991 for details.

Dec.7th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY. See p.11.

Dec.9th CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CLUB CHRISTMAS DANCE, 8.30-10.30 p.m. at the Gibson Hall, St.Columba's Church, Downing Place (off Downing Street) Cambridge. M.C.s: Pat Schicker and Dave Waterhouse. Music from "Jacob's Ladder". (No price given.) For details contact Mike Gilbert on 01223 425648.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY, Contd...

Dec.14th KLEZMER AND GYPSY DANCE WORKSHOP with Laura Shannon, 1.00 to 6.00 p.m. Followed by a shared supper and then a KLEZMER PARTY until 11.30 p.m. with live music from local musicians (new ones are welcome). At Patcham Memorial Hall, Old London Road, Brighton. Further details from/book with Jan Mulreany, 01273 501304. £13-£15 for whole event, separate tickets available.

Dec.26th-Jan.1st CHRISTMAS FOLKDANCE WEEK in Benesov, near Prague. Featuring Czech, Moravian and Slovakian folk dances, folk songs, Christmas customs etc. Accommodation, meals, workshops, tours etc. Details from Dvorana, Spanielova 38/1275, 163 00 Praha 6, Czech Republic.

Jan.19th ISRAELI DANCE DAY with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne, E.Sussex. Contact Rowena Martin for details, 01323 503991.

Mar.9th LAURA SHANNON'S WORKSHOP of mostly Armenian dances, with some Gypsy and Greek. At Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (No price given). Booking form and map from Rowena Martin, 01323 503991

Mar.15th RUSSIAN DAY COURSE, 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. £5.00. Tutor: Marina Wolstenholme. Organized by Nutbrook I.F.D.G. Contact: Gill Morral, 0115 9393204.

Mar.29th/31st ASIAN WEEKEND COURSE with Jan Knoppers. See p.6.

Apr.25th-27th ISRAELI DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Freshwater Bay. Tutor: Fiona Howarth. Delightful location, comfortable accommodation. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

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ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY - 7TH DECEMBER 1996

Time: 7.00 to 10.30 p.m.

Place: Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, London E.C.1. (Nearest Underground Station: Old Street).

Dances from Croatia, Serbia, and Macedonia. Also from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania.

Tickets: £5.00 including refreshments, from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 0181 592 4427. Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group. (s.a.e. please). ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY.

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BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE TEACHERS, JAAP LEEGWATER AND NINA KAVARDJIKOVA
BACK IN ENGLAND

Jaap Leegwater has brought us many of the popular dances in our Bulgarian repertoire, including Karamfil, Krajdunavsko Horo, Dobrudzanski, Opas, Mari Marijko, Blagoevgradsko, Sirto and many others. His Bulgarian wife, Nina Kavardjikova, is also an excellent and very popular teacher in her own right. Jaap and Nina, who now have a baby son, plan to visit England in June 1997. They have not taught here for quite some time, and are sure to have a good selection of dances for us. We will also have the rare opportunity to see both men and women's styles danced side by side. Please keep a space in your diary. More details will follow in SIFD NEWS.

CATHY MEUNIER

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Week-ends Away 1996-1997

This year we are visiting five of the locations which have been popular previously. Week-ends generally start with dinner on the Friday evening and continue until after tea on the Sunday. Arrangements are flexible but there will always be opportunities for dancing, and for walking in the countryside. On some week-ends there may be dance instruction. The cost is likely to be in the range £70-£80 for all week-ends, with the exception that the Halsway Manor week-end which continues until teatime on the Bank Holiday Monday will cost between £102 and £104. For new members, week-ends provide a good opportunity to get to know other dancers and to expand their dance repertoires.

Many of the week-ends book up very quickly and you are therefore recommended to return your booking slip as soon as possible. If you would like confirmation of your booking, please enclose a stamped and addressed envelope. You may assume that your booking has been accepted unless you are notified to the contrary.

You will receive full details of the week-end 3 to 6 weeks before the event from the organiser, Roy Clarke (RPC), or myself (JFR); enquiries should be addressed to the organiser in question. Roy's address is 33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, EN2 0HE (tel: 0181 367 2649).

Dunford, Midhurst, West Sussex. 20-22 December 1996 and, provisionally, 19-21 December 1997. The house which was formerly the home of Richard Cobden has great character. It lies at the foot of the South Downs and there is good walking nearby. These are pre-Christmas week-ends with traditional fare provided. Single, double and twin rooms. (JFR)

Holland House, Cropthorne, Evesham, Worcs. 14-16 March 1997. This is a comfortable and interesting seventeenth century house with modern additions, and is beside the River Avon. Single and some twin rooms. (RPC)

Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, West Somerset. 2-5 May 1997. The manor is at the foot of the Quantocks which are directly accessible from the house. There is also good walking on Exmoor and on the north coast of Somerset and Devonshire. On the Sunday, there will be a full day's walk with coach transport providing opportunities for setting down and picking up points for walks of different lengths. Double, twin and larger rooms. (JFR)

Ammerdown, Radstock, near Bath. 13-15 June 1997. Ammerdown Study Centre is a purpose-built venue in parkland, adjoining Ammerdown House. Single and a few twin rooms available. (RPC)

Stafford House, Hassocks, near Brighton. 24-26 October 1997. This is an old house with post-war additions, close to the South Downs, and having good road and rail access. Single and a few twin rooms. (RPC)

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JACK RICHARDSON
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.....
To: Jack Richardson, Chemical Engineering Dept, University, Swansea, SA2 8PP

I wish to book for the following week-ends:

Dunford, 20-22 Dec '96..... Holland House, 14-16 March '97..... Halsway, 2-5 May '97.....
Ammerdown, 13-15 June '97..... Stafford House, 24-26 Oct'97 Dunford, 19-21 Dec'97.....

Name.....
Address.....
.....
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Telephone:
Daytime.....
Evgs etc.....