

# SIFD NEWS

APRIL  
1999



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 shows a drawing of Welsh dancers by Arthur Parry.

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SIFD PERFORMANCES AT VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON, SUMMER 1999

The following are the bookings made so far:-

Sunday, 23rd May, at 3.00 p.m. Doina East European Folkdance Group, and  
London Turkish Dancers

Sunday, 27th June, at 3.00 p.m. Central London International Folkdance Group

Sunday, 18th July, at 3.00 p.m. Merton Park and Woodvale International Folkdance  
Groups, and the Iberian Folk Song & Dance Society

Also wishing to perform are the Martisorul (Romanian) and Balaton (Hungarian)  
Folkdance Groups, but their dates have not yet, at the time of writing, been  
confirmed.

If any other groups would like to book a date, please let me know.

KAY KEDGE  
Tel: 01923 262763

## Summary of Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1999

- Arrangements for May 15<sup>th</sup> were discussed, which has been organised by the Badge and Day Course Subcommittee as a day to discuss **teachers**, qualifications, badges etc.
- A list of possible dances has been produced for Package 10 (**P10**), along with a very comprehensive list of the various stages which must be completed for its production. The choice of dances is, of course, crucial to the success of this new cassette, so the list has been circulated to the Committee for careful consideration, and hopefully will be finalised at the next meeting.  
*Once again, if anyone would like to help with any of the stages, please would they make themselves known - we should be very pleased to hear from them.*
- The **Red Cross**, liaising through the CCPR, are using dance as a vehicle to attempt to raise £1m in the next 2 years. Participation is entirely optional, but at the moment we have made no plans to get involved. Does anyone feel strongly about this?
- So far, not a single reaction to the smart new yellow **introductory leaflet**....
- A firm resolution was made that the **sound equipment** would be updated before the Eastbourne Festival. Parts of it are to be replaced, and parts augmented.
- The who-does-what list for the **Sunday Dances** was completed, so the load is now spread quite widely. At the Dance after this meeting, several kind people agreed to help on the door, so no one need do it too often, or for too long.  
This exercise has made us appreciate all the more the work done by the previous organiser (and her parents)!
- A new associated **group** for the U3A was welcomed in Bromley.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 9th.

Alison Scrimshaw

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### EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

Like Maggie O'Regan (see January's SIFD News) I have been asked to write a few words about my contribution to this year's Eastbourne festival, where I have been invited once again to teach three Israeli dance workshops.

Anyone who has been to any of my workshops in the past will know that I aim to offer as much of an eclectic mix as possible so that there is usually something for everyone: older and more recent dances, faster and slower, simpler and more complicated, lyrical, up-beat, oriental and occasionally outlandish - in fact, a reasonably representative selection of what Israeli dancing is all about!

But really my principal (and principle) goal is to get everybody dancing - not necessarily step-perfect (although that would be nice too!) but at least enjoying themselves. I plan to teach different dances in each of my three sessions and hope to see many SIFD News readers there!

ROBERTO HADDON

P.S. A reminder passed on to me by Jill Bransby from the Eastbourne Committee: please help us to comply with the school's request that only flat soft shoes can be worn in the gym. Unfortunately this means that no Character shoes or Greek Sandals can be worn. Please bring your trainers (with clean soles), jazz shoes, or rubber-soled footwear, without hard heels, for dancing in the gym.

GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND, NEAR ALCESTER IN WARWICKSHIRE  
FRIDAY EVENING, 23RD, THROUGH TO MONDAY, 26TH APRIL 1999

This weekend gathering at Great Alne is now regularly the weekend prior to the May Day holiday. Thanks to the help of kind friends, it now approaches its 16th year. If you enjoy international dance or playing music, it's worth a journey. Increase and enjoy your repertoire of dances and/or music, and sample varied dance types, traditions and techniques. Those teaching dance, yet retaining the expectation to learn much more than "fodder", can join and enjoy the sessions of others. The village hall there is ideal; its log fires can inspire early-morning music and late chats and singing.

Maggie Kaye will refresh dances introduced at earlier "Great Alnes". Janet Woolbar and Frank Flanagan will mainly bring material from the last York Summer School, and Adrian and Jane Pointon will show Israeli dances probably new to us all. The dance workshops through Saturday, Sunday and Monday until mid-afternoon should offer introductions to Scottish (Paul Lindley), French and Scandinavian (John Stewart) and Cajun, Swing or Salsa from Linda Moon. Nick Green will bring Balkan dances and music, and his own music book will be available.

International music workshops are prior to the Social Dances but you can play almost all of every day if you wish. Music is mainly International on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Friday evening's music is also for Playford as the evening Dance includes Frances Richardson's introduction to Playford; then easy International, finishing with French dance, mainly in couples.

The variety of the music and instrumental sessions allows musicians of all abilities to take part, and children, as well as struggling adult musicians, are encouraged. David Bradley (accordion) and Gordon Taylor (violin) will lead the International music and take workshops to help us in playing the dance tunes. Paul Lindley will again make available his popular Handbell Ringing workshops.

A small meadow makes a pleasant campsite near the hall; tent, caravan or camper-van is acceptable. Local B. & B. accommodation is available via: Tourist Board, Bridgefoot, Stratford. Tel: 01789 293 127. Bluebell woods of the Alne Hills make superb walks during the afternoons and "bring a bike" if you wish to join a Sunday ride along the country lanes.

For details and booking information, ring André Hobro on 01203 418 949. If I am not in, PLEASE leave an address and preferably your telephone number on the Answer-phone so that you can be contacted and sent the detailed programme of times and leaders for each event.

For any pre-payments a small discount is available, and if you are not able to enjoy the whole event you may come to join in any half-day, day, or evening's activities. Spontaneous arrivals at Great Alne Village Hall are most welcome (Stratford-upon-Avon 7 miles, Alcester 2 miles; via M40 junct.15, take A46, finally lane through Haselor). Further detailed programmes at Great Alne.

ANDRÉ HOBRO

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"ANADOLU" organize folkdance tours in Turkey, including the following:-

11th-19th July 1999 Folklore Festivals Tour in Bursa, Istanbul, Trabzon, visiting the International Folklore Festival of Bursa and also Trabzon Kadirga Senliđi, one of Turkey's oldest and most authentic Festivals.

3rd-16th August 1999 Folkdancing Tour in Burdur, Kütahya, Eskisehir, with intensive workshops in Turkish folk dancing with local teachers and musicians.

For details, contact "Anadolu", Dorette & Bahri Ertek, Hinterdorf 31, CH-9043, Trogen, Switzerland.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

In March, Wilf Horrocks gave us the music for Valenki, a Russian dance. I was sorry to see, however, that the name of the dance was spelled with a "W". This is a mistake inherited from the world of Circle Dance (yes!). Valenki are the felt boots which were worn in Russia, and the first letter, in Russian, is "B" which transliterates into English as a "V". The reason a "W" has been used is because the name was transliterated by a German (probably Bernard Wosien) and pronunciation for German speakers would be correct, but not for English speakers. Suggestions that the "W" spelling is traditional are rubbish; it's a simple mistake which has been around for a bit, and the "W" spelling encourages English speakers to mis-pronounce the word.

Yours sincerely,

SALLY FLETCHER  
106 Westerfield Road, Ipswich  
IP4 2XN

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Dear Lily,

On Saturday, 27th February, we attended a Polish Dance Party at St.Saviour's Priory. We should like to thank Betty Harvey and Tony Latham for a most memorable afternoon and evening, and to thank all the people who helped with drinks and food etc., especially the Sisters, who prepared the delicious food and made us feel so welcome.

It was lovely to meet old friends from our Jacy Tacy Polish Dance Group who, I must say, have changed very little and who remembered most of the dances.

Best wishes to all.

SADIE STONE  
4 Pelham Road, Tottenham,  
London N15 4RN

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HELP PLEASE!

I am busy updating my various folkdance photo albums and discover I am two photos short (for a complete story) for the York 1998 Summer School. So, can anyone send me

- 1) a snapshot of our three Lithuanian friends (I have the official photo)
- 2) a snapshot of the antics and larking around of the Lithuanians and myself taken in the hall outside Temple on party night. I know several people took photos and it would be fun to add it to the album.

Many thanks, whoever. Happy Dancing.

SUE CLARK  
22 Church Road, Roch,  
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire  
SA62 6BG. Tel: 01437 710261

## CONGRATULATIONS, LYKION

Bloomsbury Theatre was packed for the celebratory dance production of Lykion on Sunday, 7th March, headed by Elena Katopodi and the present hard-working Committee. There were some disappointed people who left it too late to get tickets and there was a queue for standing/returns! It is a very pleasant, well-appointed theatre and the full staging with lights and the wonderful musicians produced a SHOW with great verve, spirit and energy which the audience enthusiastically enjoyed. Congratulations!

Twenty years!! Sula and I joined Lykion shortly after it began - aah happy days! Certainly it would not be what it is today without all the hard work, effort, ideas and time given by so many people in so many ways over the years up to the present day. The lovely "Lykion ladies" used to produce all sorts of delicious food for all the various "home" events, performances and parties. The New Year Pitta Party was magic, and we always performed, singing as well as dancing, for the rest of Lykion. Natassa Lemos, so well-known to us in the S.I.F.D., was a huge and extremely important corner-stone for its subsequent growth. The dancing started rather tentatively, with just a couple of classes, but Natassa soon saw the need and interest for more, so she started classes for different ages, experience, and hardly had a free evening or weekend. In fact, I think she herself must wonder how she ever found time to study, so much time and effort went into her dancing teaching. She extended it to singing too and often we sat on the floor and just sang; sometimes we did dances accompanied by singing too. Such a lovely voice and charismatic beautiful personality! We rejoiced when she married George, but at the same time were heart-broken to miss her teaching and inspiration.

Because of her selfless interest and extreme hard work, we took part in so many wonderful festivals and all manner of events. We went all over the country in "our" coach, which was always part of the "outing" - singing and chatting all the way. The camaraderie was phenomenal. My "best" memories were those at the Liverpool Garden Festival, where each day we could hardly be torn away from the superb Greek garden with pillars and echoes of the Parthenon. All day long we were in costume as it was not worth changing in between performances, so we couldn't have been more photographed had we been film stars. Each time we started to move away from the Greek "set" someone else rushed up and begged another pose. The weather was super and our accommodation at the University was great too. Buxton was also special, particularly our rest break at the pavement cafe tables in the Crescent when the musicians started playing quietly and one by one spontaneously we got up to dance, until finally it was almost like a performance with a huge crowd of spectators. Natassa certainly put Greek dancing and the Lykion very firmly on the map, where successive leaders have kept it.

The costumes were built up through the early 80s and, if they haven't removed them, two of the wonderful old Sarakatsan costumes might still have Sula's and my name on them as at that time only a small set group wore them. That was my favourite costume despite so many items (13) - not the easiest for a quick change. I remember the day the first ones were presented. The generosity of Greek businessmen has continued and their wardrobe continues to expand.

Everywhere we went, a lovely band of "Lykion ladies" went with us to help with costumes etc. It was all such fun and so wonderfully friendly and welcoming. I do hope lots of those past members and helpers came to enjoy the Show on 7th March. Certainly I was delighted to find Sofia and her lovely family (there was nothing like her and Demetrius dancing Ballos), and then Fe who used to travel weekly from Reading for Natassa's classes. Sad to miss Lillian Galatis, also a very loyal member of S.I.F.D. for years. She was a key figure and responsible for all sorts of fund-raising activities. Maria Merodoulakis introduced an authentic Cretan element, and some of you might remember her workshops and those of Maria Koutsouba and Elena Katopodi as well. We are lucky in S.I.F.D. to have this close link with Lykion, who always generously share their visiting teachers from Greece.

Contd...

So, as well as seeing and enjoying the dancing, the full range of colourful authentic costumes, and magic music on stage, the picture was inevitably mixed up with memories over the almost ten years Sula and I danced in the performing group, mostly with Natassa at the helm. Any organization relies totally on the people who represent it and work for it, and Lykion has certainly been extremely lucky in the small army of helpers, supporters and followers they have attracted and inspired over the years since the early days in Cottesmore Gardens. Long may it continue and long may we all enjoy their workshops and performances. A special toast to Lykion and all it stands for.

DIKI GLEESON

P.S. In reply to Mavis Lowe's query last month; "Dousko" is a Zonaradhiko (also from Thrace). The Greeks make it a 12 count (instead of 6).

D.G.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, 15TH MAY 1999, "TEACHERS' FORUM"

I have had very little response to my article in last month's issue of SIFD NEWS. Does this mean that you are not interested in leading a dance, or improving your M.C. or teaching skills? Have you wanted to show others a dance but are not sure how to explain it? Now is your opportunity. If you have a dance, bring your tape along to the day course on 15th May and we will all join in and dance, and assist when needed. Was there a time when you had a "bad experience" with a teacher? Let us know what it was (you do not have to name the teacher).

As explained previously, our aim is to improve the standard of teaching, and all are welcome to attend. It is not the intention to spend all day in discussion; we shall also be dancing.

If you would like to come along but have a long journey, please contact me and we will try to arrange accommodation. If you are likely to attend, please let me know by mid-April so that the day can be organized. I look forward to hearing from you.

HELEN EZRA  
84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey  
SM4 6RB

According to the responses from the survey on S.I.F.D. Day Courses, some members have requested various dances to be revised or taught. A couple mentioned were "Newcastle" and "Hora Femeilor", plus some Eastbourne/York dances. If you have a particular request or a Golden Oldie, please let me know and we will arrange a day course for this purpose. Thank you.

HELEN EZRA

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MUSIC. Two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.12. If you would like the music for any particular dance, please let Wilf know, on 0181 642 3629.

KONSTANTY SIEMASZKO

Konstanty Siemaszko, who died in Chicago in January, was wellknown to some of our older members as a loved and talented teacher of Polish dance. He merited glowing obituaries in the Chicago newspapers for his work with Polish dance groups and particularly for his work with children. "They would come to see him, yearning to dance, but sometimes nervous, and after a few lessons from him they would polka away, amazed at how easy Konstanty Siemaszko made it all seem"; "He was one of the most beloved people in Chicago's Polish community and one of its cultural legacies"; "He was a master teacher, very gentle but at the same time stern and disciplined".

Konstanty (or "Kostek" as he was known to us) came to England during the war and was based here. He taught his beloved Polish dances at the Polish Y.M.C.A. in London, where Bert Price met him, and several of our members were privileged to be taught by him and to dance with the Y.M.C.A. dance group. At a later date, the "Opoczno" group was formed, which consisted of many of the Society's most accomplished dancers. They will always be grateful to Kostek for fostering their love of Polish folk dance.

Ed.

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SACRED MASK DANCES AND MUSIC BY TIBETAN MONKS FROM TASHI LHUNPO MONASTERY  
IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

The original Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Tibet dates from the 15th century. It was one of the largest academic centres and was the seat of the Panchen Lama, the second most important spiritual leader after the Dalai Lama. After the invasion of the Chinese, this monastery was closed and many of its monks escaped into exile with the Dalai Lama.

The monastery was re-established in Southern India by some of these monks and today it is one of the major centres of learning, best known for its religious and artistic tradition of sacred mask dances and music. It is these dances the monks will perform in rich multi-coloured costumes to ritualistic music. The 90-minute programme will include the famous Black Hat Dance and the Stag Dance.

The performance will take place at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London W.C.1, on Thursday, 13th May 1999, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £7.00, or £4.00 concessions (photocopy of proof to be sent with order) obtainable from Judy Ingram, Tibet Foundation, 2 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SH. Please make cheques payable to Tibet Foundation and send a s.a.e.

I know it is not folk dancing in the strictest sense of the word, but nonetheless would probably be of great interest to most people involved with folk dancing and should be a unique experience.

JUDY INGRAM

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A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF ALAN HUMBERSTONE

Thank you to everybody who came to Cecil Sharp House for this unique event. The music was great - a very fitting tribute to Alan. A grand total of £700 was raised for the Cancer Research Campaign. Thank you everyone.

PHILIP STEVENTON  
Merton Park International  
Folkdance Group



## Further thought on Musical Phrasing

Last year I attended a klezmer concert and heard a British klezmer band perform the Russian song Tumbalalaika. They did it very well, but it sounded different from what I was used to from recordings. After a great deal of thought I came to the conclusion that this difference was probably due to a minor difference in the way one particular section was phrased. I don't know if one version was more 'authentic' or 'traditional' (but I do know which version I preferred), but both made perfectly good musical sense.

Since then I have been looking out for tunes which can be phrased perfectly sensibly in more than one way. Wrona Gapa and Kleiner Schottisch are both good for this. Some of these ways may not be appropriate to the tradition from which the tunes comes and others may or may not help the dance, but varying the phrasing is another way musicians can keep interest alive when playing one tune a number of times. Even if you don't want to try these things in public in can be interesting to. It might even be worth getting together with some musician friendly dancers and see what they prefer.

Wrona Gapa is normally written and phrased with four quavers in a bar as shown in example 1, and this seems to suit the dance. However, one can phrase it as shown in example 2 by grouping the last quaver of each bar with the next bar as shown in example 2. With a bit of imagination this can also be done on the second, polka, part of the dance which probably makes more sense from the dancers point of view. The overall effect is to give a far more 'hoppy' polka.

*Example 1 (note the slurs in all these examples are for phrasing only and not intended to be played as slurs)*



Example 2



Kleiner Schottisch has a two note lead in which would suggest that the phrasing ought to be as shown in example three – with each figure having two notes at the end of one bar and two notes from the beginning of the next. However, on the repeat the lead in is only one quaver so maybe example four should be used. Then again one could play it straight and group the quavers within the bars rather than across them as shown in example five.

Example 3



Example 4



Example 5



These are just a few suggestions which may seem obvious and trivial, but even 'easy' tricks can serve to make music more interesting.

Mike Gilbert

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S.I.F.D. books and cassettes are available from Eleanor Gordon, 70 Chestnut Grove, New Malden, Surrey KT13 3TS. Other S.I.F.D. goods are available from Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.

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ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP (songs & dances from Croatia, Macedonia & Serbia)  
meet at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London S.W.1. on Mondays,  
6.30 to 9.00 p.m.

Summer Term 1999:- April 19th, 26th  
May 10th, 17th, 24th (3rd & 31st May are Bank Holidays)  
June 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th  
July 5th, 12th

Format of the evening:- 6.30-7.00 General dancing  
7.00-7.30 Work session  
7.30-7.45 Break and announcements  
7.45-8.15 Work session  
8.15-8.30 Singing  
8.30-9.00 General dancing

ROSEMARY GIBB (Group secretary)  
Tel: 0181 749 4613

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BALKANPLUS, 10th April 1999 at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London  
N.W.1. 7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C.: Fiona Howarth.

We look forward to a programme of varied and entertaining dances in Fiona's  
unique and inimitable style, an evening not to be missed. A spare belt can  
often be a useful aide.

The next Balkanplus will be on 8th May.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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"BALKANFOLK" have sent me details of their Summer School in Pamporova in the  
Rodope mountains. One week or two, dates 17th July, 24th July, 31st July 1999.  
Options include Bulgarian dances, Turkish dances, Albanian dances, ex-Yugoslavian,  
and also Bulgarian singing, language, embroidery, music and pottery. Send me  
20p and s.a.e. for further details (photocopies) or apply directly to Balkanfolk,  
SC "Zornitsa", 74 Opalchenska Str., 1303 Sofia, Bulgaria. [www.balkanfolk.com](http://www.balkanfolk.com).

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME  
Robin Cottage, 4 Commercial Rd.,  
Grindleford, Hope Valley S32 2HA

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BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE SEMINAR in Koprivštica with dance workshops, followed by  
a FOLKLORE HOLIDAY with visits to museums, local folk groups, excursions etc.

Dance Seminar: 3rd-12th August 1999

Folklore Holiday: 12th-15th August 1999

For details, contact Stefan & Bogdan Vâglarov, Dobromir Hriz str.29, 1124 Sofia,  
Bulgaria. E-mail [vaglarov@mail.techno-link.com](mailto:vaglarov@mail.techno-link.com)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 14th/16th BUILTH WELLS FESTIVAL OF DANCE will include workshops, informal Dances, processions and musicians' get-togethers. Mainly Scottish but other traditions from Britain and beyond will be featured. Details and accommodation addresses from Mrs. Vicky Sennett, Wyeburn House, Castle Street, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3BN. Tel: 01982 552907.

May 15th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - TEACHERS' FORUM. See p.7.

May 15th BROMLEY INTERNATIONAL DANCE GROUP 25TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE at St. Mark's School, Aylesbury Road, Bromley, 7.00-10.30 p.m. Tickets £5.00 including refreshments, from Fiona Howarth, 17a Ravensbourne Road, Bromley BR1 1HN (s.a.e. please).

May 22nd EURO-DANCING EVENING with "The Eelgrinders" from Exeter, in Patcham Memorial Hall, Brighton. (No time or price given). Contact: Jan Mulreany, 01273 501304.

May 24th/31st ROMANIAN DANCE HOLIDAY with Silviu Ciuciumis at Tesna, nr. Suceava. For details send s.a.e. to Pamela Le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Bedhampton, Hants. PO9 3QA. Tel: 01705 641028.

June 4th/6th FEST NOZ at Thoresby Park, Nottinghamshire. A weekend of French and Celtic music includes workshops in Breton singing, French dancing, Scandinavian dancing, Breton dancing and various kinds of music. For details contact Gail Cooke, NCC (Arts), Trent Bridge House, Fox Rd., Nottingham NG2 6BJ.

June 6th ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. £12.00 (concessions £7.50). Shared vegetarian lunch. For bookings/information contact Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

S.I. June 13th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI. Starts 11 a.m. at Moreton-in-Marsh. Details of rest of the programme to follow.

July 2nd/4th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL.

July 6th/11th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD.

July 15th/21st LE GRAND BAL DE L'EUROPE at Gennetines, France, includes workshops from many different countries. For details, contact Le Grand Bal de l'Europe, Les Gauthiers, 03400 Gennetines, France. Tel: 0470 421442 (ring Mondays to Thursdays between 7.30 & 9.00 p.m. except July and August).

Aug. 14th/21st HF HOLIDAYS RESIDENTIAL WEEK IN ST. IVES with Phil and Brenda Steventon. This year, Phil and Brenda are taking over the very successful courses run by Steve and Joy Steventon for the last 17 years. The course is aimed at Beginner/Intermediate dancers; all dances will be walked through. To book, ring 0181 905 9558, or for further details contact Phil or Brenda on 0181 397 9649.

S.I. Aug. 27th/30th MINI DANCE FESTIVAL by local groups at Roedean School, Brighton, includes International Folk, Circle Dance and a country walk. Live music from "Labyrinth" Band on Saturday evening. Full board, mostly single rooms, swimming pool. £110 (deposit £20). Please send s.a.e. for details and booking form to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 0PZ. Tel: 01323 503991.

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Events covered by S.I.F.D. insurance are marked "S.I." in the margin.