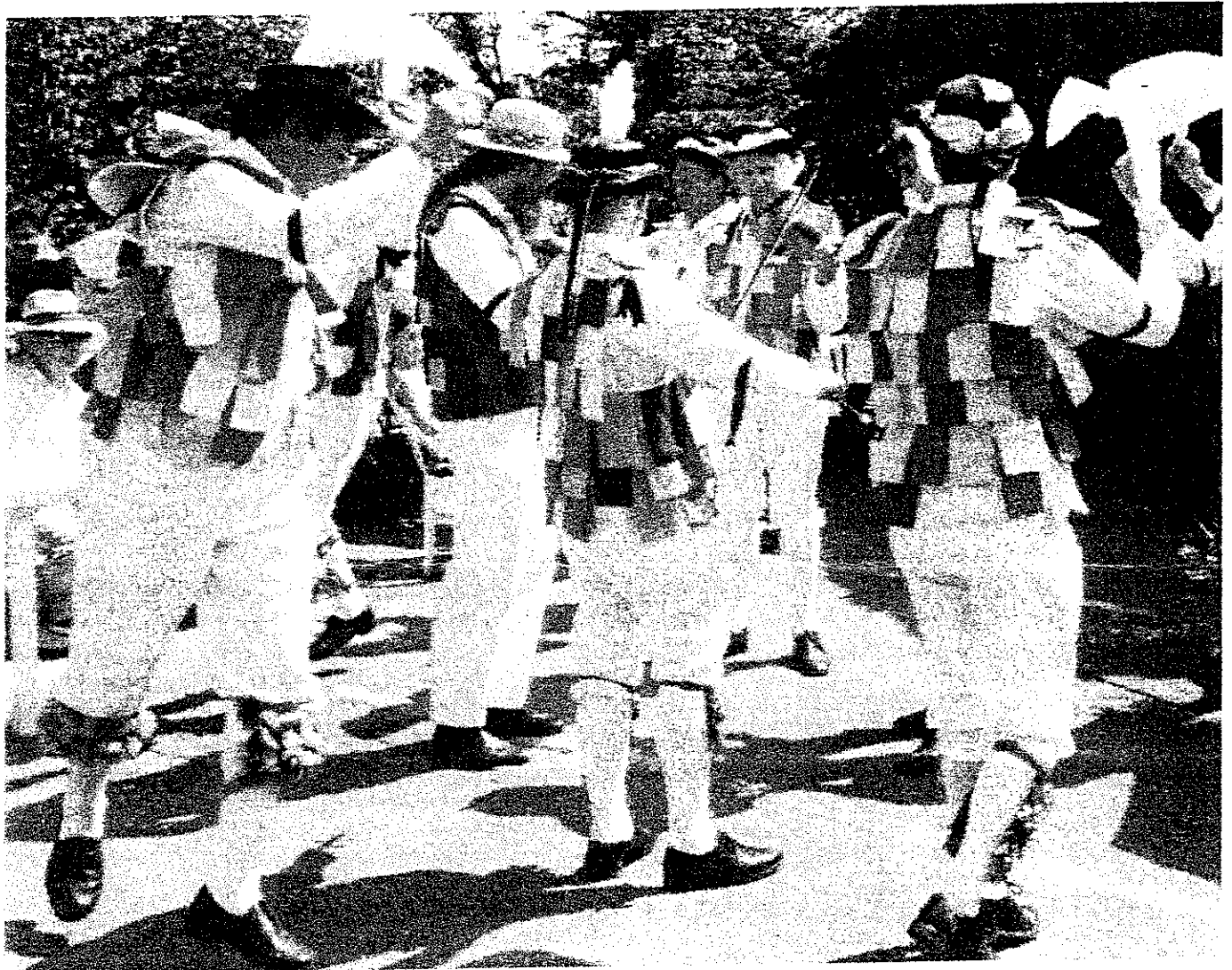


SIFD NEWS



FEBRUARY
2000

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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This month's cover is from a photograph taken by Simon Guest
of the Beaux of London City on their Essex tour last summer.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - SATURDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY

Dances from CZECHOSLOVAKIA with Leslie Haddon, in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House,
10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. S.I.F.D. members £6.00, non-members £8.00.

Leslie has kindly agreed to share some dances which he learnt recently. The
five dances which he will be concentrating on are:-

Troyák
Starodávný
Příborak
Troyke
Domažlická Polka

These are either couple dances or for one man and two ladies. If we have any
spare time, then Leslie has more dances available. If you are coming, please
bring along a large handkerchief.

I am looking forward to learning these dances, and hope to see many of you on
the day.

Happy Dancing.

HELEN EZRA

A 55th Birthday for the Society?

I am a little embarrassed at writing this since I have ~~have~~ been concerned for some time about the future of the Society, but as we have now reached a crisis point, I felt I should voice my views,

Since December we have been without a Chairman, Secretary and two Committee members, one of whom was the Liaison Secretary and the other an unfilled post from last year. This leaves us with three long standing members, one more recent one and a new recruit for this year, not forgetting our efficient and conscientious Treasurer, Judith Payling; so there are six members, one more than the minimum number required for a viable Committee.

Apart from other commitments, these members are already shouldering a very fair amount of Society work and the extra load occasioned by the sharing out of the duties of the unfilled posts would lead to an intolerable burden being placed on them and others will be forced to resign. Therefore, unless we can fill some of these gaps, it is not improbable the Society will cease to function.

Experience has shown that Committee members must, in general, come from within a 15 mile radius of London, as the journey on a regular basis becomes very difficult beyond this figure. Since 80% or so of the Central London Group are working for the Society, it would seem to me that the South East London area, (Cheam, Sutton, etc.,) where there are a number of dancers who are not SIFD members is the only one where future Committee members might perhaps be found. Precise figures are not available, but we have about 30 members there and these have, or are doing, their bit, and so it is to these non-members that we have to turn.

At this critical time, however, there may others who would be prepared to help, and I am sure the remaining Committee would welcome them with open arms.

Other views have been put to me in past discussions, but these are I think, mistaken. One is that so long as the magazine (currently the SIFD News), continues, that will ^{be} enough to keep international folk dance going but it must be remembered that the team has been together for a very long time and in any case there would be need for extra people to keep a subscription list and manage the finances. so that it is questionable if it could exist independently. Another view expressed is 'our group will always keep going so we will still be able to dance,' There is some truth in this, but the SIFD has given concrete help to many groups, and perhaps more importantly, the invisible networking which exists is due to old friendships made in the Society. Without its support at least some groups would find it impossible to survive.

So, if you wish to ensure that you can dance well into the new millennium, join us if you are not already a member and persuade your fellow dancers to do the same and offer yourself or suggest a suitable volunteer to plug these gaps in our organisation.

With hopes for continued happy dancing for everyone.

George Sweetland.

STARA PLANINA FEST 2000

I received a letter recently, via Cambridge City Council, from Veliko Turnovo in Bulgaria. They have a yearly festival of Bulgarian song, music and dance. but this year have decided to expand this to include groups and styles from outside Bulgaria without any restrictions of "age, country or nationality or other". It seems that to participate all you have to do is apply - by 20th February. The festival will run from 6th to 15th May but, if I understand it correctly, attendance for the whole time is not expected.

If anyone wants further details, please ring me on 01223 425648, but remember that the closing date is 20th February.

MIKE GILBERT

P.S. If anyone has any further knowledge of this festival, please contact me as the original letter is a bit vague in places.

EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL, 2000.

I wrote in the *News*, in October, to let you know that we have another excellent line-up of teachers, callers and bands for the International side of the Festival. Listed in alphabetical order, they include:

Cloudburst
Dunav Balkan Group
Roberto Haddon
Diana Jewitt
Julie Korth
Jan Mulreany
Maggie O'Regan
Eddie Tijssen
Marina Wolstenholme

As you can tell from the billing, we hope to have a good mixture of Western and Eastern dancing, taught by experts. Please plan to be at Eastbourne from Friday 28th April until Monday 1st May.

On the Social side, which is my brief, Julie will be easing you into Festival mood on Friday night with a Welcome Dance in the gym, to live music by *Cloudburst*. We welcome this band, led by Martin Butler, back to the Festival after a two-year absence. On Saturday night I will be calling the General International Costume Dance to more music by *Cloudburst*. (I can't say anything too complimentary about the band as they were set up by me to play for the *Rainmakers* about 22 years ago and I play with them!) It's usually a varied and lively evening, with some workshop input, a dance and/or music demonstration. (Last year Eddie entertained us by playing the bagpipes and Kavel).

We are delighted that the *Dunav Balkan Group* is returning to Eastbourne. Last year they drove down and back on the Sunday especially to play for the Balkan Dance and are planning to do the same again. Maggie and Marina are leading the Balkan Dance so expect another excellent evening. Also on Sunday night, the new Festival Directors, Julian and Penny Burton are keen to organise a French Dance in the Canteen to be led by the Breton teacher Jan Mulreany with, they hope, help from a French team. The latter are a small group of musicians and dancers from Saintry, which is twinned with Polegate. We are not organising this but isn't it wonderful to have even more International dance on the programme?

Julie will be co-ordinating the usual International Tea Dance (with workshop reminders) on Monday afternoon, in the gym. This is for those who like to breathe and move, while I will be upstairs in the crush waving the 'international flag' (literally last year – I wore a French one on my front and a Canadian one on my back – but that's another story).

Please come and support the Society – it's an excellent showcase for us at a major Festival, and we can only be successful if you come.

Jill Bransby.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Re your "Nostalgia" article in December; I think the problem may be that there is so much else going on these days. In Geneva we have a real problem getting more than fifteen per evening, whereas fifteen years ago we had well over twenty every evening. I know that, for our town, people are much more interested in all sorts of self-improvement courses now than they were then. So one answer could be this - all the other courses going on.

Yes, I do feel, even from my distance, the lack of contact and camaraderie now. It was different in the days of Philip Thornton. He was not afraid of really standing up for standards and causing controversy if necessary, but despite our English prejudice against controversy it did make things more interesting!

I personally feel that the content of the SIFD NEWS has lost something these days. There is a lot of description - "We attended the day/weekend given by "Joe Papatopoulos" and the teaching was super, the tea was super, and all had a good time, many thanks Joe" sort of thing, but this is not really of much interest to those who weren't there! What would be interesting to me, and I may not be such an exception, is details of which dances were danced, whether corrections to our way of dancing them were made, and what were the challenges or difficulties. I am a dancer, not just a member of a social club. My bread and butter is dances, so what catches my attention is dance names. "We danced Osogovka, Kopanitsa, Trakiiska Rucenitsa and Tora de la Cogéalac, and found Kopanitsa very fast and difficult for non-Bulgarian specialists, and Joe altered the third setp of Tora to a stamp, an interesting difference to Jacques Loneaux's". That sort of thing would be very interesting to me - i.e. details - and perhaps to others too? And I'd like more articles on the actual dances and styles of countries - along the lines of Ken Ward's on Yugoslavia.

The events-listed section is fine, my only sadness being that I am unable usually to take part. And thank you for the good job of output that you do.

Regards,

DAVID RUSSELL-ROBERTS
La Chaumille, 1279 Rte D'Armiac,
74380 Lucinges, France.



WEEKDAY WORKSHOPS WITH YVES MOREAU IN FINDHORN, SCOTLAND
14TH & 15TH MARCH 2000

The Findhorn Foundation Sacred Dance Group are taking happy advantage of Yves Moreau's presence in Britain to enable Northern dancers to enjoy his peerless teaching, dancing, store of wisdom and sense of humour. Yves will offer two weekday workshops plus an evening party at the Findhorn Foundation in Northern Scotland, (near Forres, Moray), on Tuesday and Wednesday, 14th and 15th March. He will offer mainly "simple, traditional, non-choreographed Bulgarian and Balkan dances, which possess a combination of spirituality, symbolism and links to the earth, along with moving music".

Details available from me at Rose of the Heart, 227 The Park, Findhorn, Forres IV36 3TZ, Scotland. Tel: 01309 690198. E-mail laura@dance.demon.co.uk
A list of local B. & B. addresses is also available for dancers from out of town.

LAURA SHANNON

Oupa would turn in his grave at the thought of dancing "Tant Hessie" slowly at first and then faster - and to an African drum! (See Mike Gilbert's article in the November 1999 SIFD NEWS). Yes, Mike, you are entitled to your opinion, but the Afrikaaners (not Africans) are also entitled to their tradition and culture. The chorus of "Tant Hessie" is a "tiëkiedraai", literally translated as "dancing on a tiëkie" - a coin the size of 5p. The inference is that at no time when turning will the girls show more than their ankles under their long gowns. The elders would certainly not condone it "starting slowly and getting faster".

Those not familiar with Afrikaans folk dancing (they once had a wonderful group of more than sixty dancers at "See How They Dance" at the Royal Albert Hall) may not realise the tradition and style of their dancing. We have been fortunate to have the opportunity to be able to participate with some groups - only because my husband, Jeremy, speaks Afrikaans and was able to contribute to the music and accept and translate their instructions to me.

A folkdance evening with a South African group is a very formal affair. The group gathers and everyone joins in the first dance - a type of Paul Jones. The leader announces the next dance. The musician, usually a pianist but occasionally, if several groups come together, a violin or a trek harmonica, plays the first bar and the dancers sing as they dance. The group will probably limit each dance to three verses, bearing in mind that they must not only remember the tune but also the words and dance it at the same time. At the end of an evening you have had quite a workout, physically and vocally. The men move on to a new partner after each dance and if the numbers are uneven no-one sits out more than one dance. As well as the limitations imposed by using vocal music, the style of their dancing is very formal, at the same time, as most dances are progressive, giving each dancer the opportunity to socialise with each partner.

At the mid-evening break, juice and a traditional dessert such as melktert or koeksisters are served. The dancing resumes with another Grand March and at the end of the evening prayers are said. Sometimes these are long and perhaps the national anthem will be sung.

A central body, Die Nasionale Raad vir Volksang en Volkspêl, publishes the music and instructions in a hardcover book containing eighty-four dances. This organisation, similar to the Svensk Ungdomsringen, also monitors the groups to ensure that the dances remain authentic and the music correct. Autocratic you may say but as several times a year the various groups in one province or nationally get together for a weekend of dancing, it ensures that they are all on the same wavelength. Their costumes are also of the same design, with each province identified by the colour of the girls' dresses. The men vary the style and ornamentation on their leather vests.

I understand the desire to make all dances fun and with lots of action but I have to confess to being "of the old school" who feel that a country's traditions are their own right to be respected by those of us who use their material.

DOROTHY SLOAN
10 Campbell Crescent, Toronto
Ontario, Canada.

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"MEMORIES OF OLD YUGOSLAVIA" - 90 minutes of music and songs from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia; very pleasant listening. £5.00 plus 70p postage. Total £5.70. Cheques to be made out to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group and sent to me at 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 0181 592 4427.

IRENE KEYWOOD

BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOPS WITH YVES MOREAU

I can now give full details of this major Balkanplus event. For those who missed my initial announcement last month, Yves Moreau, the internationally acclaimed teacher of Bulgarian dance, is making his first teaching visit to England on the weekend of 18th and 19th March 2000. I am confident that anyone with an interest in Balkan dancing will not only learn some great dances but also discover why Yves remains one of the most popular dance teachers on the international circuit.

The workshops will take place in the main hall (Kennedy) at Cecil Sharp House from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. The monthly Balkanplus dance has been shifted to 18th March to coincide with the workshops, and promises to be a major event in itself. We have hired both Trefusis and Storrow (downstairs) and in addition to contributions by Yves Moreau and guest M.C.s, we have the pleasure of welcoming members of three music groups (Dunav, Vuhpross and the relatively new, but highly rated, Mukka), and possibly other guest artistes. We would urge dancers to wear a costume to the party, which will be at the usual Balkanplus time of 7.00 p.m., finishing at 10.30 p.m.

Prices are as follows: workshops £12.00 per day; party £8.00; weekend ticket (all events) £25.00. Cheques payable to Balkanplus. For those who attend Balkanplus more than six times in a year, it might be a good time to consider paying the £35.00 for a season ticket. Balkanplus season ticket holders will be asked to pay £10.00 for each workshop, £18.00 for both, and can attend the party free of charge. We may have to impose a limit on the number of people attending, so I must state that this will be a ticket-only weekend. Workshop attenders and season ticket holders will have priority in the issue of party tickets.

There will be the usual opportunity to purchase the music and video recording of the workshop dances. Yves will also offer a comprehensive range of merchandise (tapes, C.D.s, videos, dance notes and T-shirts) throughout the weekend, payment by cash presumably.

Enquiries and tickets (please send s.a.e.): Frances Horrocks, 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Tel: 020 8642 3629.

BRIAN DOWSETT

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RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND AT ALNMOUTH, 14TH-16TH APRIL 2000

(See "Dates For Your Diary" on p.9)

Alongside the dance course which will be taught by Fiona Howarth, I am now able to offer a led bird-watching weekend as an alternative for non-dancing friends and family. The leader will be Ron Dickens, who has done similar bird-watching holidays for HF Holidays at Alnmouth. The cost of the bird-watching weekend is £88 plus the cost of a full-day trip to the Farne Islands (weather permitting). Transport costs are also excluded; we will share petrol costs. For details, send s.a.e. to me at 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

CATHY MEUNIER

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FOR SALE. One pair of opanki (Balkan shoes) size 5. Worn once. Contact Ann Pavett on 0181 579 4925.

GET YOUR DIARIES OUT AGAIN

29 July - 5 August 2000

Now is the time to give serious consideration to your plans for the summer!

SIFD Summer School registration forms are now being prepared and it's time to let us know you are interested in coming to York — no need to make a firm commitment just yet but you can send in a registration form to secure a place. SIFD members who make a firm reservation by 1 May get a £10 discount on the course fee.

As previously announced we will have two six session courses taught by

Delyan Demirev (Bulgarian) and

Elsche Korfe accompanied by **Frans Tromp** (Western European repertoire including "zweifachers" from Alsace). [sorry about our mistake in the November announcement]

Ronnie del Barrio (Philippines), **Fiona Howarth (Israeli)** and **Galina Turker (Egyptian)** will each give a two session course as will **Dalila Heath** who delighted us all in 1998 with her **Armenian** dances and is returning this time.

The Italian and French Canadian teachers we were hoping to get in November are not available after all but we think we have a good programme with plenty of choice. We hope you think so too and will come and enjoy it.

So, write for full information and a form to

Roger Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU

or send fax: 0117 962 1802 or e-mail: RogerSturge@compuserve.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

Anne Leach & Roger Sturge

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J.H.K. 2K

Application forms are now ready for the August Bank Holiday Course with Jan Knoppers at St. Peter's Church Hall, Fairfield, Buxton, Derbyshire. The course will begin on the morning of Saturday, 26th August, and end after lunch on Monday 28th August (2½ days' tuition). The programme will not be from the ordinary European International repertoire but will contain special items from outside Europe. Jan would like to know if anyone has specific interests. Are there any request items from the wonderful previous course ("Eastern Promise")? Course fee: £30 (£15 deposit). Accommodation will be in local Guest Houses. For application forms and further details, please send s.a.e. to:-

Marina Wolstenholme,
"Robin Cottage",
Commercial Road,
Grindleford,
Hope Valley S32 2HA.

Tel: 01433 630183

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The organization "Balkan Folk", SC "Zornitsa", Sofia, Bulgaria, have sent me details of their course "Balkanfolk 2000", to be held from 5th to 18th August in Koprivshitsa. For photocopies or details and registration form, please send s.a.e. and 20p to the address above.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

P.S. The dates for Koprivshitsa Festival are expected to be 11th-13th August.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mar.4th ARMENIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Shakeh Avanesian and Gagik Mekhitarian at Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, Nr.Cheltenham. 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. £15.00. For details/bookings (with £5 deposit) contact Chris Lee, The Old Smithy Flat, Pirton, Worcester WR8 9EJ. Tel: 01905 821909.

Mar.11th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - DANCES FROM THE PHILIPPINES with Ronnie del Barrio.

Mar.14th/15th WORKSHOPS WITH YVES MOREAU. See p.5.

Mar.18th BALKANPLUS.

Mar.18th/19th BULGARIAN DANCE COURSE AND PARTY with Yves Moreau, arranged by Balkanplus. See p.7.

S.I. Mar.24th/26th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH MILLENNIUM WEEKEND. Details given in October. For information contact Maggie Kaye, 402 Heath Road South, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2BE. Tel: 0121 608 1437. Bookings and deposit (£30) to Malcolm Cox, 25 Elmcroft Road, South Yardley, Birmingham B26 1PJ. Tel: 0121 783 8517.

Apr.14th/16th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE with Fiona Howarth at Alnmouth (North-East coast). Dances mainly from the Balkans and Israel, with opportunities to go bird-watching with a leader (see p.7) or sightseeing or walking. Non-dancers and bird-watchers welcome. Full board accommodation in single or twin-bedded rooms. £82 with dance course, £88 with led bird-watching, £68 for non-dancers. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Apr.28th/May 1st S.I.F.D. WALKING & DANCING WEEKEND at Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, West Somerset. Bookings to Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 295194 (work), 403153 (home).

Apr.28th/May 1st EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL. For details of international events, contact Julie Korth, 01942 831141 (and see p.4). For bookings and other details, contact Dave & Mary Shockley, 7 Manor Road North, Seaford, E.Sussex BN25 3RA.

July 4th/9th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD. For details, contact Eisteddfod Office, Llangollen, North Wales LL20 8NG. Tel: 01978 860236.

July 29th/Aug.5th S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL AT YORK. See p.8.

Aug.4th/11th SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. For details, write to P.O.Box 296, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3TL.

Aug.25th/28th JAN KNOPPERS at Buxton. See p.8.

S.I. Aug.25th/28th MINI FESTIVAL at Roedean School, Brighton. Wide variety of Folk and Circle Dance led by participants (offers welcome!). Full board; mostly single rooms; swimming pool; £120 (deposit £20); s.a.e. to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, BN22 0PZ. Tel: 01323 503991.

Sept.30th C.C.P.R. SHOW at Royal Albert Hall.

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Events covered by S.I.F.D. insurance are marked "S.I." in the margin. Please remember that the onus is on you to mark each event when sending in the notice if your event is covered by our insurance.