



MARGERY LATHAM

MARGERY OLIVE LATHAM

An apt name for one who was always ready with an olive branch should others be in dispute, listening to both sides of a problem and offering wise counsel. It is said that the busiest people are those who always find time to do more and this was certainly true of Margery. Although constantly in so many activities, she always found time to accept a fresh challenge and take on yet more commitments; explain patiently to others however tedious this might be; consider the other person's point of view and respect it; show a genuine interest in all things and all people, and offer a kindly helping hand to friend and stranger alike. Always considering others before herself, though never in a demeaning way.

MARGERY LATHAM

It is very hard to imagine the Society without Margery; She has always been part of it, quite unstinting in her efforts, ready to help and advise on any aspect of folk dancing, organising dances and demonstrations, and always putting the interests of the Society and of her dancing friends before her own interests, and sometimes her health.

We shall never know all that she did - so much was quietly done behind the scenes, and it was her preparation and background work which have ensured that so many of our ventures have been successful.

Thirty years of activity are difficult suddenly to put into perspective. In many ways the history and progress of the Society over the years have become inseparable from her. Even before the Society was formed were the monthly dances at Cecil Sharp House and the Sunday afternoons of dancing at the International Youth Centre at Pont Street. The inaugural meeting of the Society was held in Ebomsbury Square late in 1946 with Margery as a founder member. As demonstrations secretary, she started the Advanced class and then gradually took over the regular Wednesday classes at Carlyle School from Eva and Mary who were our first teachers. Then when it became increasingly difficult for us to pay our way on our own, it was Margery who made arrangements for the sponsorship of the L.C.C. which has continued in modified form up to the present day.

We have been through difficult times, with clashes of personalities in the early days, but Margery was never a party to these and her conciliatory influence enabled us to weather the storms. New problems started to emerge with the development of specialist groups and the tendency towards fragmentation of our activities, and again Margery was the greatest unifying influence among us, bringing together as she did so many different styles of dancing in her International class. Her demonstration team, often assembled with great difficulty, gave enjoyment to many - both participants and spectators - and was one of our main shop windows on to the world. It was Margery who looked at ways in which we could co-operate with other bodies which could help us to develop, and her long association with the Central Council of Physical Recreation has resulted in many worthwhile ventures.

A list of Margery's activities is impressive, indeed. She has been a committee member since 1951 when she first became demonstrations secretary and - with due respect to her predecessors - it will seem to many that she has always held that office, as Chairman of the Society, as the initiator of our day courses, and as an active participant in all our Summer Schools. Recently she was a member of the sub-committee which put forward proposals for a regional branch structure for the Society. We can do our best to replace her in these fields - not an easy task - but where we shall never replace her is in her work behind the scenes which we shall learn about only when we suffer because it is no longer being done.

We owe our Society, as we know it to-day, in large measure to Margery. What she would wish most of all is that we should carry on from strength to strength and all of us who are grateful for what she has done must pay our tribute by ensuring that we each play our part in building on the foundations which she has laid. That would be her wish and we must see that it is fulfilled.

We shall miss her counsel and guidance - she will no longer just be there to consult - but more than all we shall miss a sincere friend.

MEMORIAL DANCE for MARGERY LATHAM

Porchester Hall – London

7th May 1983

MC: Jack Richardson

Time					
	Ersko Kolo	Yugoslavia			
	Debka Dayagim	Israel			
	Setnja	Yugoslavia			
	Steieregger	Austria			
	Russian Waltz	Russia			
	La Danza	Italy			
	Deux deux deux	France			
	Eide Ratas	Estonia			
	Toting	Denmark			
7.30	CENTRAL LONDON GROUP – Janet Woolbar				
	Demonstration – Daldans	Sweden			
	Participation – Swedish Schottische	Sweden			
	Krici Krici Ticek	Croatia			
	Laura	Poland			
	Indo Eu	Portugal			
7.50	HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP: Eleanor Oakley				
	Demonstration Sauerlander Quadrille V	Germany			
	Participation – Sänftenberger	Germany			
	Kleiner Schottisch	Germany			
	La Vrie	France			
	Branle de Cosnay	France			
	Ketten Galopp	Switzerland			
8.10	ZIVKO FIRFOV - Ken Ward				
	Demonstration – Ovčepolsko	Macedonia			
	Participation – Sokcili	Serbia			
	Kreuz Polka	Austria			
	Simi Yadech	Israel			
	Bourrée de la Chapelotte	France			
8.30	DANISH GROUP – Gaye Saunte				
	Demonstration – Kontra Mollevet	Denmark			
	Participation – Sjynmyra-valsén I				
	Gota	Portugal			
	Tancuj	Czechoslavkia			
	Kreuz Koenig	Germany			
	8-50 HAMA'AGAL ISRAELI DANCE GROUP – Fiona Howarth				
	Demonstration – Shedemati	Israel			
	Participation – Chedvat Neurim	Israel			
	Erev Ba	Israel			
	Tuljak	Estonia			
	Eiswaltz	Austria			
	Kohanochka	Russia			
9.10	RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP – Jill Bransby				
	Demonstration – Horlepiep	Holland			
	Participation – Jan Pierewiet	Holland			
	Sprötzer Achterrum	Germany			
	La Bohemienne	Italy			
	La Vezi La Vezon	France			
9.30	JACY TACY DANCE GROUP – Betty Harvey				
	Demonstration – Oberek (Lublin Region)	Poland			
	Participation – Walczek (Little Waltz, Lublin)	Poland			
	Bal a Deux	France			
	Bal'a Quatre	France			
	Opsajdiri	Yugoslavia			
9.50	SELPAR DANCE GROUP – Sybil Chapman				
	Demonstration – Somogyi Csardas	Hungary			
	Participation – KorCsárdás/Somogyi Karikázó	Hungary			
	Gavotte de Pont Aven	France			
	Appenzeller Klatzwaltz	Switzerland			
	Kivi Kasukas	Estonia			
10.10	EAST EUROPEAN DANCE GROUP – Alan McLean				
	Demonstration – Kalogsai Paros	Hungary			
	Participation – Hora Mare	Rumania			
	Hetlinger Bandritter	Germany			
	Ajde Jano	Yugoslavia			
	Östgötapska	Sweden			
10.30	MERTON PARK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS – Charles Steventon				
	Demonstration – Sicilian Tarantella	Italy			
	Participation – Tarantella Montevergine	Italy			
	Kalamantianos	Greece			
	Russian Lyrical	Russia			
	Bourrée Pastourelle	France			
	Polonez	Poland			
	Tzadik Katamar	Israel			

FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM APPROXIMATELY 8.30PM

Sincere thanks to many groups and individuals for a great deal of help for this special event.

NOTICE: In accordance with the requirements of the Greater London Council: i) The public may leave at the end of the dance by all exit doors and such doors must at that time be open. ii) All gangways, corridors, staircases and external passageways intended for exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction whether permanent or temporarily. iii) Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating or to sit in any of the other gangways. If standing be permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating, it shall be limited to the number indicated in the notices exhibited in these positions.

Domestic Soc. Feb 1951 for home at to Elise

1950 Home as soc by JFR / Wawer
defeated by MLeF

First Dom Soc Mkt Mch 1951

Adv. Cl. 8th June 1951

March 1951 - Den = r/h/c

Organise Soc loan for RAH 1952

1953 SIFD

1957 Mr Lather died

Domestic Soc

SATURDAY - 7TH MAY 1983

Preparations for the Margery Latham Memorial Dance are well in hand and every group, class and individual member must by now be aware of it. A report on plans is due to you all.

Many helpers are working to make the Dance a worthy event to honour a very special person. It is hoped most groups and classes will be involved, including some outside London, in making an exciting programme for the evening; food, which will be included in the ticket price, is being planned by several people (and if you know the catering reputation of such people at Balkan, Israeli and other parties.....!); a memorial programme is to be printed; an exhibition of Margery's costumes, photographs, books, is being arranged; there will be a bar; former members are being invited; all the musicians we can gather will play for us. This means the ticket price has been raised to £4. It will still be a bargain price, especially as a sizable donation to Leukaemia Research is intended.

As parking near Porchester Hall is not too difficult; as overnight accommodation can be arranged; as we have a large hall with plenty of space, it is going to be very convenient for a big crowd of old and new members to make it an evening we shall remember for a long time.

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EASTHAMSTEAD PARK - 12TH/14TH NOVEMBER

Thank you, Roy Clark. What a friendly group of folk met at Easthampstead for the weekend. The programme was a masterpiece; the groups all hard working and everywhere a smile. The dancing facilities were excellent, if a trifle slippery, but what matter with teachers like Marina Wolstenholme, Hedy Fromings, Janet Woolbar et al? The weather was foul, but the spirits uplifting and the whole weekend was a warm and happy one. So long after Swansea, it was an excellent idea to revise and revitalise so many dances which should surely find their way into the regular repertoire of the Society. Thank you everyone for a lovely weekend.

SYBIL CHAPMAN

MAGDA OSSKO

Magda Ossko asks that her new address be published to save her sending it separately to those in contact. It is:-

B/p 1124,
Kiss J.altb.u.55,
III 1.IIem.37,
Hungary.

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We send our VERY BEST WISHES to our dear friend, Lucile Armstrong, who is in hospital following a hip operation. We hope everything went well, Lucile, and that you will soon be out and about again, as good as new.

We also send VERY BEST WISHES and COMMISERATIONS to Sylvia Fulton, who has been a loyal member for many years, and who is unwell at the moment with kidney trouble. We all wish you well, Sylvia, and hope you will soon be fit again.

-9-

Dear Friend,

As you will have seen in the S.I.F.D. News, the Society intend to hold a Memorial Dance in honour of the memory of Margery Latham on 7th May 1983.

Most members of the Society and many people outside the Society knew Margery Latham and are well aware of the great contribution she made to the cause of International Folk Dancing.

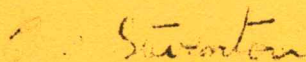
As Margery died of leukaemia any proceeds from the dance, after expenses, are to go to the Leukaemia Research Fund and we would hope that the donation will amount to a reasonable sum.

With this aim in mind we would ask you to contribute generously towards the donation, either when buying your ticket on the form below or at the dance itself.

We hope that you will be able to come to the dance and enjoy the wide range of dances planned for the evening. This is what Margery would have wanted.

If you are unable to come to the dance but would still like to make a donation please use the attached form below.

Yours sincerely



CHAIRMAN

Tickets obtainable from Harry Whitaker, 29 Sherbrook Gardens, Winchmore Hill, London N21 2NX. Telephone 01 360 4965.
OR at Cecil Sharp House Monthly Dances
OR from your Group Leader

Please forward	tickets at £4 each	:	£
Contribution to Leukaemia Research Fund Donation	:		_____
Cheque, postal order, cash enclosed for	:		_____

(Please make cheques payable to S.I.F.D. and enclose s.a.e.)

Pardner Hall

7.5.83

La Danza

Deux, deux, deux

Side Rats

} Janet Loudon

Dalams

Sweedish Schottische

} Janet Loudon

Indo Eu (progressive) Janet Woolbar

Suntenberger

Kleiner Schottisch

} Karin Estrach

Taljak

Eiswaltz

} Angela Saville

Majunjak

Lublin Waltz

} Janice Wrench

Appenzeller Klatschwaltz - Beverly

(nie Pascoe)

Gavotte de Pont Aven - Kay Lighter,

Janet Loudon, Frank Kedge

Kivi Kusuleus - Janet Loudon

Östbyöppolska - Ann Wood

(Janet Woolbar, Joan Richardson)

Polonez - Betty Harvey

Dickie Ghearn

Joan Richardson

Margaret Colato

Jack Krebs

Margaret Avis

Frances & Wilf

Will Green

Pearl Pascoe

Alan Mallean

Alice Bellfield

Henry

Roly

Ken

Simon & Joan

Aili

Kathy & Irene