

# *SIFD NEWS*



*MAY 1995*

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 by Stella Carter, and shows a "Lady of Nobility",  
English, late 16th century.

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S.I.F.D. SHOP

Let's celebrate our Golden Year 1996 with a special T-shirt, new design notelets  
etc. To do this we need to start planning now. If you can draw a design, sketch  
a group of dancers, design a logo, or graphic design, or have some ideas that you  
can get down on paper, please send them to me as soon as possible.

CLAIRE STEELEY,  
34 Broadwater Avenue,  
Letchworth SG6 3HF

For details of S.I.F.D. goods available, contact Claire at the above address,  
but for dance tapes and instruction books, contact Eleanor Gordon, 92 Norbiton  
Avenue, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 3QP.

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE JUNE S.I.F.D. NEWS MUST REACH THE EDITOR  
IN WRITING BY 17TH MAY 1995.

Please print in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of  
dances, people, places.

## SIFD NEWS COVERS

Thank you very much to Jill Loveday, Stella Carter, Marian Morris and Tanya Bolenz, who kindly responded to my appeal for designs for SIFD NEWS covers. I could do with some more, please, to keep me going for a while, but please remember that if you copy from another publication or someone else's drawing, I need to have the publisher's or artist's permission. Ed.

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## S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - SPANISH (SEVILLANAS) WITH STEVE STEVENTON

This month, Steve will be teaching four Sevillanas from Lucile Armstrong's repertoire. They are:- Reverte, Ronda Mi Calle, Mi Novio and Hey.

Sevillanas is more of a social dance than the usual flamenco style and many of the basic figures are included in the above four dances. If you were at the York Summer School last year you may have seen Jan, Richard and Steve dancing an impromptu and unrehearsed Sevillanas at the end of one of the evening dances, showing how the basic figures can be combined in an ad-hoc fashion.

Please wear shoes with heels and bring castanets if you have them. The cords should not be slippery and should be thick enough to avoid cutting into the thumbs when pulled tight. Ladies should preferably wear full skirts of below-knee length.

Remember to bring your own lunch as the restaurant will be closed. There are no parking restrictions on Sundays. Cassettes and notes will be available for purchase. Only official video-recording will be allowed.

Date: 14th May 1995

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tutor: Steve Steventon

Cost: £5 members, £6 non-members,  
£4 concessions

Venue: Studio 10, The Place, Flaxman Terrace, London W.C.1. (near Euston Station).

The June S.I.F.D. Day Course will be ISRAELI, with Judy Ingrams.

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## BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY BADGES

It is planned to have the next Badge Examinations in May 1996. The countries will be France, Holland and either Greece or Macedonia (Yugoslav). Revision courses will be in January, February, March, with a revision of all three in April. Before going ahead with costly arrangements, we need to have some idea of whether enough people would be interested in taking these Badges to make it viable. I would like anyone considering the possibility to let me know (no commitment required at this stage) either by sending a postcard (to me, please, not the magazine) or leaving a message on my answering machine.

MAGGIE O'REGAN  
Flat 1, 317A Caledonian Road,  
London N1 1DR.  
Tel: 0171 609 7098



WEEKEND IN BRISTOL WITH BIANCA DE JONG - 13TH/14TH MAY 1995

To encourage a good turn-out for this excellent teacher and very interesting varied course, Kathy Beech (longstanding member of S.I.F.D. and Galina's mum) has generously offered a special cut-price deal for people attending the course. It will make sure that the whole weekend is really friendly and enjoyable. Kathy is offering accommodation at Astor House, 14 Oldfield Road, Bath BA2 3ND. Tel: 0225 429134. Ring Kathy or me for details.

In addition to B. & B. Kathy is offering to clear the dining room for informal dancing if you wish on the Friday evening, and also on the Saturday evening. An alternative is for a dancing group to have an evening meal at a local restaurant (special deal via Kathy) on the Friday as well as Saturday. Evening meals also available at Astor House.

It looks like being the fun weekend of the month so DO COME! The Bristol Group are renowned for their easy-going hospitality and the Bath extra (20/30 minutes drive away and plenty of cars to give lifts) will ensure a super time for everyone.

DIKI GLEESON. Tel: 0181 363 1506

P.S. Any requests for the Balkanplus in June when I am M.C.?

P.P.S. LLANGOLLEN. Is anyone putting up at Mrs. Vicars, Frondeg? PLEASE PLEASE could they let me know. DIKI



SPRING BANK HOLIDAY COURSE WITH JAN KNOPPERS, 27TH/29TH MAY 1995

Thank you to those who responded to my letter in SIFD NEWS. The course with Jan will not now be a revision course but an open, or general, course with a mixture of new material and specially requested favourites. The Peak District is especially beautiful in May, and Buxton is a lovely little spa town, with beautiful buildings, gardens, caverns, mineral springs and the world's first Micrarium. There will be teaching sessions in the daytime and three evenings of social dancing. Please send s.a.e. for application form, to me.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME  
Robin Cottage, 4 Commercial Rd.  
Grindleford, Nr. Sheffield S30 1HA.



ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP

In the current term we have been revising some of our many Serbian dances and have unearthed our lovely Serbian costumes to do some performances of some of the dances.

13th May The Richmond Festival. Dances from the North and North-East of Serbia, plus some mixed songs.

20th May Victoria Embankment Gardens, London. Three items of dances; one of material from Vojvodina in the North, which are not typical of Serbian dances. Songs from Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia.

8th July The Fitzroy Square International Festival - a repeat of the Richmond item.

Prayer mats are out for fine weather!

KEN WARD

Dear Lily,

A member of Rainmakers Group, Annie Robson, has gone out to Belize to do V.S.O. work in the schools there. She writes long, interesting letters to us that are full of description.

During her Christmas holiday she visited Merida, the capital of the Yucatan state of Mexico. I thought that some other S.I.F.D. members might be interested in the following excerpt from one of Annie's letters as it mentions a dance involving balancing bottles of beer on the head, as taught to the S.I.F.D. originally by Francis Feybli, then later by Janet Woolbar and Charles Steventon. (The Rainmakers have never managed to do it!).

Yours sincerely,

BETTY LEE  
48 Rockingham Way,  
Stevenage, Herts. SG1 1SH

....."I'm writing this twenty four hours after arriving back from Merida, capital of the Yucatan state of Mexico, whilst the memory of the dancing is still fresh.

On Monday night, the street in front of the town hall is closed for a dancing display - a blend of Spanish and Mayan. The men wore white panamas, a loose shirt called a Gubyara, white trousers and sandals. The women's hair was in Spanish style, scraped back in a bun and with big coloured flowers to the side. Their dresses were an elaborate version of the huipile - long, loose and straight, with the underslip as heavily embroidered as the top layer, and very very deep square collars, like on a sailor suit, also heavily stitched with many coloured flowers. It is a simple rectangle, with a square hole for the neck BUT emblazoned with the most magnificent embroidery several inches deep round the hem and the neckline, and the short sleeves. The design of the embroidery varies by district. It's all floral. Some are simply a riot of colour - orange, red, purple and vivid blue. Others are the same but have the spaces cut out as in broderie anglaise. Some districts don't mix colours, so the flowers and leaves are all green, or all blue outlines. All of these are done in satin stitch or, to blend colours, a long and short stitch, but one area just uses cross-stitch on a coarse cloth like Binca, which is then attached to the white cotton garment. The dress is short, and often worn over an underskirt, the deep lace edging of which shows for six or seven inches below. This was not Sunday best but everyday wear, and in the city the women sat selling pathetic collections of fruit and nuts wearing these and sometimes embroidering whilst they waited for customers.

The dancers were a very polished troupe - a Ballet Folklorique. They did several straightforward (but too 'ard for Annie) dances, with a lot of intricate footwork, including foot-waving movements like Jill's "Ekky Tikky Tum" one. Then they did a quite beautiful Maypole dance, weaving a lovely umbrella of ribbons; apparently the English aren't the only ones with Maypoles. They then produced open, half-full bottles of beer, and men and women placed these on their heads and danced - not slowly stately walks either. Then they removed the bottles and the men went off and reappeared with trays on which were four glasses of water. Bottles were put on the trays and all the company put them on their heads and we were off again, this time with lots of small circle movements ad lib. One young Mayan man near me positively gyrated. Trays off. Now on come small rostra, about nine inches high and fifteen square, and they mount these and do a very stumpy dance. Climax is to repeat stumpy dance, on the rostra, with the trays, glasses and beer bottles. The challenge lies in the fact that they did NOT drink the beer! We also had a basket-of-fruit dance by the women and the, I suppose inevitable, men as toreadors, women as bulls sort of dance.

I absolutely fell in love with the dresses - bought one for me, and some silks and patterns to try a bit of sewing for myself".....

ANNIE ROBSON

## A DAY OF DANCE

If this issue reaches you before 30th April, you may be in time for A DAY OF DANCE on Sunday, 30th April, from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Westcroft Leisure Centre, Westcroft Road, Carshalton, Surrey. Admission £1. Dance sessions all day; lots to choose from, including International with Frances Horrocks, Egyptian with Galina Turker, French Jive with Roi Forbes, and Indian with Jhoti Rathod Radha. Just turn up! Enquiries: 0181 770 4960 or 0181 770 4800.



## SIDMOUTH 1995

I have just received some information about Sidmouth International Festival of Folk Arts (4th to 11th August) which Rod, I and the family have been to and enjoyed for many years now. Most of the news of the Festival, such as which dance groups are appearing this year, will no doubt appear in the SIFD NEWS (see March issue. Ed.), but information about the singing is less likely to appear.

Last year, a group of young people called "Northern Harmony" appeared at the festival and also organized a daily "harmony" singing workshop of village "Balkan" songs. This was really enjoyable, with eighty or so people all singing Balkan songs (and also performing them in a theatre). If you are in Sidmouth this year and either get a chance to hear them or to participate in a workshop, or both, you will have a memorable time. The sound that is produced is a real village harmony sound which is great to be part of, or to listen to - a somewhat biased opinion! There was also an opportunity to participate in a musicians' workshop, playing Balkan music.

Hope to see you there.

BARBARA PERKINS



INTERGROUPE FOLKLORES are organizing the following folkdance courses this summer:-

July 18th to 26th	GREEK COURSE at Agia Galini, Crete
July 30th to 6th August	AUSTRIAN COURSE at Bad Leonfelden, Haute-Authriche
August 7th to 17th	BULGARIAN COURSE at Triavna, Bulgaria

For further information, contact Inter-Groupe Folklores, 41 Rue de la Butte aux Cailles, 75013 Paris, France. Tel: 45.89.36.28.



SUMMER CAMP OF ISRAELI DANCES with Smulik Gov-Ari and Malka Hagbi at Belmont de la Loire, France, from 21st to 27th July 1995. For information, contact Elia Tweed, 20 Place Valmy, 69009 Lyon, France.

# THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL TEACHERS AND GROUP LEADERS FREE CLASS OFFER WITH SPECIAL K

You are probably aware by now that Kellogg's Special K are sponsoring the CCPR show at the Albert Hall. As another part of the deal CCPR have made with Kellogg's, all organisations who are members of CCPR (this includes the SIFD) will have a telephone number listed on the back of Special K packets, from May to October. The idea is that people will call the number, be given information about local groups, cut a voucher from the back of their Special K packet and take it to the class of their choice for one free trial class. The teacher collects the vouchers and returns them to me at the end of the promotion - I'll send them on to Kellogg's - so that we, Kellogg's and the CCPR know how many people took up the offer.

The offer is intended to encourage people to try a new activity and is not valid for people who are already members of any class/group.

The list I will send out will be based on the Dance With The World list - If You Do Not Want to Accept New People on a Free Trial Basis Please Call Me. I'd also like to know about any suitable social dances, day courses, etc. taking place between May and November that could be included in the offer, or advertised through the list sent to enquirers even if not part of the free class offer.

Until it starts no-one has any idea how many people might want to take up the offer, if you find you are getting too many people at once tell me and I'll either take your class off the list or put a note in to advise they should phone first to book. It's also possible, but unlikely, that we won't get any responses at all.

Note: The telephone number on the cereal packets will be mine, and will be answered by machine so no-one has to be tied to a telephone all day every day for four months - anyone who calls me during working hours this summer will get a message saying that this is the SIFD, and to leave name and address for a list of classes - if you're calling about anything else, just leave your message as normal.

I hope most of you will want to participate. If you have any questions please call me.  
Jeanette Hull (0181 640 5267)

NB: this part of the promotion does not involve free boxes of Special K.



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

April 30th (instead of May) M.C.: Malcolm Shaffer

June 4th M.C.s: Joan & Simon Guest

7 to 10 p.m. Admission £3.00 for S.I.F.D. members, £4.00 for non-members.



LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD - 4TH TO 9TH JULY 1995

Folkdance groups listed in the advance programme of the International Eisteddfod are from: Austria, Baleares, Canada, Catalonia, Croatia, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Kurdistan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Macedonia, Northern Ireland, Rep. of Ireland, Romania, Russia, Sakha Rep., Switzerland, Ukraine, Wales, Zimbabwe. The opening concert, on the evening of 4th July, will be a Festival of Celtic Music and Dance. (See Naren Kotiyan's note below re Folkdance Workshops). Further information from Llangollen International Eisteddfod Office, Llangollen, Clwyd, Wales LL20 8NG.



LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD

This year, the Committee has accepted the proposal for Dance and Music Workshops. The groups contributing for the workshops will be from Austria, Croatia, Romania, Greece (London-based), Kurdistan (London-based), Wales, Northern Ireland and England. The workshops will be held at Dinas Bran School on Thursday, 6th July, from 9.15 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Further information will be available from the Music Office of the Eisteddfod, Tel: (0)1978 861797.

The proposal for a Wednesday evening Ceilidh with the guest groups is also being considered for this year, and I hope it will happen.

NAREN KOTIYAN



LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD, 1996

The 1996 (and 50th) Eisteddfod at Llangollen will include, for the first time, a Children's (under 16) Folkdance Competition. The dates for the Eisteddfod are 9th to 14th July 1996, and the Children's Dance Competition will take place on Friday, 12th July, with rules similar to those for the Adult Competition but allowing Musicians and Flag-Bearers to be over 16! There will also be competitions for Folk Song Solos (as well as the usual vocal solos) for those over 16 and those under 16. Entries for the 1996 dance competition should be made between 1st August and 1st November this year, and for the folk song solos by 15th April next year.

I hope members will pass on the news of these new competitions so that they receive the support they deserve. The syllabus for the 1996 Eisteddfod is available now (cost £1 for U.K. residents) from the Eisteddfod Office (address above).

ROY CLARKE

## CHINESE FAN DANCING

Chinese fan dancing is the latest subject at the Sevenoaks Adult Education Centre. The tutor is Christine Hall, who has returned recently from living and working in Northeast China.

Students learn folkdance steps, as well as graceful and stunning movements with one and two large silk fans. Fan dances are a speciality of the area of the former Manchuria (setting of "Wild Swans" and "The Last Emperor"). The courses are ideal for those interested in Chinese culture, or who enjoy exercising with music. A one-day course will be held on Saturday, 13th May. The four-hour workshop will cost about £10. Telephone bookings with Access and Visa accepted. Contact the Sevenoaks Adult Education Centre on 01732 451618.

CHRISTINE HALL and NICK PHILLIPS  
Scriptease Editorial



## FRENCH DANCING

"ON BOUGE" have changed their venue and now meet at Upper Hall, London Welsh Centre, 157 Gray's Inn Road, London W.C.1. The group meets to dance French dances, to live music, from 8 to 11 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. Contact: Jessica Abrahams, 66 Goodhall Street, London NW10 6TU. Tel: 0181 838 1996, or Catherine Moore, 6 Pratt Street, London NW1 0AB. Tel: 0171 383 4627.

"BRIGHTON BOUGE" - French Traditional Dance & Music Club. Tuesdays evenings once a month at a central Brighton location. Probably April, definitely May! Contact Trevor Upham, c/o 541619, or me on 721986. JAN MULREANY



## LP RECORDS

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society have a limited supply of LP records for sale at the reduced cost of £3 plus packaging and postage. Instructions for the dances contained on the records are available, if requested, at no additional cost. Contact: Gill Parker, Secretary, The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF, Scotland. Tel: 0131 225 3854.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Before organizing an event, don't forget to consult Maggie O'Regan, who keeps a Calendar of Events, to avoid a clash of dates. Tel: 0171 609 7098.

WEEKENDS AWAY, 1996

The dates for next year's "Weekends Away" are:-

April 4th/9th (Easter) Alison House, Cromford, Derbyshire.  
May 3rd/6th (Bank Holiday) Halsway Manor, Watchet, Somerset.  
June 14th/16th Pleshey, near Chelmsford, Essex.  
Sept. 27th/29th Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.  
Dec. 13th/15th (provisional) Dunford, Midhurst, Sussex.

The booking form will be published in October.

ROY CLARKE



OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 11th WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI. Starts from Moreton-in-Marsh at 11 a.m. Details of the rest of the programme will be given later.

June 17th BALKANPLUS HALF-DAY BALKAN DANCE COURSE with Frances Horrocks at Studio 7, The Place, 17 Duke's Road, London W.C.1. 1.30 to 5.30 p.m. Dances will be selected from the "Balkanplus repertoire". Frances will be happy to consider requests, so please 'phone her on 0181 642 3629.

June 23rd/25th SWEDISH DANCE & MUSIC WEEKEND at Wharfedale, Yorkshire, organized by Yorkshire Dales Workshops in Folk Arts. Instrumental and Dance workshops, Evening Concert & Dance. With Asa Hansson, Felicity Paterson, "Uppfolk", and The Polska Band. Details from Liz Bowen, Yorkshire Dales Workshops in Folk Arts, 14 Oakburn Road, Ilkley LS29 9NN. Tel: 01943 609393.

July 7th/9th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. Details from Don Allison, 01908 610564.

July 15th/16th "IN RHYTHM!" "Dance Your Socks Off in Brighton!". Two days of dance of many different kinds; workshops and performances. At Brighton Centre. Including African, Israeli, Flamenco. Details from Dance Event, Brighton Centre Box Office, Kings Road, Brighton BN1 2GR. Tel: 01273 202881.

July 17th/23rd LE GRAND BAL DE L'EUROPE at Les Gauthiers, Gennetines, near Moulins in Central France. Festival for folkdance lovers, with workshops. For details of this and other events in France this summer, contact Jessica Abrahams, 66 Goodhall Street, London NW10 6TQ. Tel: 0181 838 1996.

July 24th/28th WEEK'S COURSE OF LINE & CIRCLE FOLKDANCE (General International, Balkan emphasis) with David Mowat at Milham Ford School, Oxford. A course for those relatively new to, or with a moderate experience of, international folk-dance. Cost £125 (students £100). Details from David Mowat, 01865 310216.

October 21st NATASSA LEMOS'S GREEK WORKSHOP at The Place. PLEASE WOULD THOSE INTENDING TO COME LET ME KNOW OF THEIR PREFERENCES - What would you like Natassa to teach? She will revise dances from previous workshops in the "break time" - an opportunity for you to (a) revise, (b) have a break, or (c) watch, but let me know if you would prefer different arrangements; democratically, they will be changed to suit the majority if necessary. DIKI GLEESON, 0181 363 1506.