

SIFD NEWS



SEPT 1995

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea,
E.Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: 01424 845866.

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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 was drawn by Jill Loveday of Oxford Balkansko Oro
and shows a woman's dress from Prilep, Central Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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CHAIRPERSON: Jill Bransby (Mrs.), "Red Gables", Benslow Path, The Avenue,
Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9RH. Tel: 01462 457791.

SECRETARY: Jeanette Hull (Miss), 24 The Homefield, London Road, Morden,
Surrey SM4 5AS. Tel: 0181 640 5267.

TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), "Rosebank", 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Alan Morton, 26 Durham Road, Harrow, Middx. HA1 4PG.
& GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Tel: 0181 427 8042.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road,
London SE5 0TQ. Tel: 0171 701 3785.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - IRISH SET DANCES
(See Anne Leach's article in August SIFD NEWS)

Date: 9th September 1995 (Saturday) Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Tutor: Geoff Holland Cost: £5 members, £6 non-members
£4 concessions
Venue: 26 Pancras Road, London W.C.1. (near King's Cross Station)*

Cassettes and notes will be available for purchase. Only official video-
recording will be allowed.

*Please note that I gave the address incorrectly in the August issue as Pancras
Way. Pancras Road runs between King's Cross and St. Pancras railway stations,
connecting Euston Road and Crowndale Road. Apologies to all who tried, and
failed, to find it in the A-Z.

The October S.I.F.D. day course will be a selection of the Israeli and
Romanian dances taught at the Swansea Reunion by Fiona Howarth and Frank
Dowling (specific requests to Fiona, please, on 0181 460 2305).

MAGGIE O'REGAN

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

First of all, thank you to Kay Kedge who arranged the Victoria Embankment Gardens performances again this year (as she explained in the July NEWS, for the 10th year) and thank you to the groups who braved the rain, storm, sunshine and Jazz Groups to perform under our banner on the open-air stage. I hope that your performances went well and I'm sorry I didn't manage to see any of them this year but I do know what a lot of hard work goes into these by the teams, and hope that you enjoyed your opportunity to show the public your kind of dancing.

At the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen there was again the wonderful opportunity to join in with the workshops which Narendra Kotiyan organized. We had a session doing Irish set dancing with the expert "Loughgiel" dancers from Northern Ireland - this included "The Siege of Innis" (C8) and I suppose our "sevens and threes" did improve a bit! We had an interesting session with the Lyra Greek Group which included a demonstration of how the helmets, which are worn for the women's dance "Kyra Maria", which we had seen performed superbly in the competition the day before, were created by building up scarves tightly woven around the head. In the afternoon we were delighted by the Russian group "Sudarushka, Yoshkar-Ola" who stepped in at the last minute to teach us a variety of steps and arm movements. The final session was taken by a Romanian group of students from Bucharest, called "Doina". Their musicians were superb and tireless. They won the folk instrumentalist competition and so obviously enjoyed their music, playing at every opportunity, to the school-children first thing in the morning and they were still playing as we were leaving the school in the late afternoon. Thank you very much Naren for arranging these workshops and to Francis Feybli and Frances Horrocks for filling in the gaps with suitable dances and getting the school-children dancing. I do hope that the workshops go on from strength to strength.

Naren also arranged a ceilidh for the visiting teams. Naren and Francis, having been judging two competitions all day, then went, without a break, to start the ceilidh. It was delightful to see the competitors relaxing and getting together for a social dance. This was the first time this has ever been held, and let's hope that it continues as a tradition, since it embodies the spirit of the Eisteddfod, which should be about sharing and communication as much as it is about competition. The judges were superb ambassadors of this spirit.

Other ambassadors, in Buckinghamshire, were Jill Gourlay and Don Allison, who ran the resurrected Milton Keynes Festival. The concert that I saw on the Sunday was a delight, and I gather that a lot of members came for the workshops during the day which were very successful, but hot! Other events over the weekend were equally successful and the general public showed a lot of interest in the Slovak, Bulgarian and Spanish dancing that was on show in various places. I hope that the Festival continues and that our members will make a note for next year that the Festival will be moving forward to the first weekend in July.

I hope that you had a good summer, whether dancing in Bulgaria, Sweden, Swansea, Milton Keynes, or wherever, and now will be thinking seriously about my replacement as I will be resigning as Chairperson at the end of this year, after four years in post. I haven't found a replacement yet, have you? Please don't sit back and expect it all to be sorted out - it's your Society, so please think about this and do something!

JILL BRANSBY, Chairperson

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Judith and Mark Payling are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter, Ruth Sophie Rose, on 2nd August 1995. We send our congratulations to Judith and Mark, and our best wishes to baby Ruth for a healthy and happy future.

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 * IMPORTANT NOTICE: All material for publication in the October
 * issue of SIFD NEWS must be sent to Heather Edwards and NOT to
 * me. Heather will be compiling and editing that issue. Her
 * address is: 47 Sutherland Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, E.Sussex
 * TN39 3QL, and deadline for receipt of material is 17th Sept.
 *
 * LILY AVERY
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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE 1996 SUMMER SCHOOL :

Dear Organizers,

I have heard that Jan Knoppers is likely to be teaching at York again next year and that the syllabus is likely to include Mongolian Court dances. If these things are true I regard them both as grave mistakes.

Summer School participants will naturally absorb some of the teachers' ideas about what folk dances are and how they should be done. Group/Class teachers, at whom the Summer Schools are particularly aimed, will in turn pass some of those ideas on to the rest of the S.I.F.D. membership. Although it is good to be educated and stimulated with ideas, it is most unhealthy for a society like ours to be influenced strongly by any one person. Even if Jan were universally agreed to be the best folkdance teacher who has ever lived, it would still be altogether excessive for him to teach at three out of four successive summer schools as well as running his teacher training course.

My objection to the Mongolian Court dances is that they are Court dances, whereas our Society is "for International Folk Dancing". We can have afternoon workshops or late night sessions on almost anything, from ballet or break dancing to basket making or beer tasting (always provided that enough people are interested) but such things have no place in the official syllabus.

We could argue forever about exactly what are "folk" dances and what are not. The S.I.F.D. repertoire already includes many dances that have been choreographed specifically for recreational folk dancers and that are seldom or never danced in their supposed countries of origin. John Melville made a point of explaining that the Mexican dances that he taught us at the July day course are of that kind. Some of our other dances were specifically intended for display on stage. All these dances are more or less closely based on traditional material and few of us have any qualms about dancing the ones that we happen to like, but the lack of authenticity does worry some Members. Given the title of our Society, it cannot be right to expend significant resources (of your time and of Summer School participants' time and money) in adding to our repertoire dances that have no claim at all to be "folk".

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD MELLISH
 15 Lancaster Road, North Harrow,
 Middx. HA2 7NN

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LEFT BEHIND AT SWANSEA: 1 pair white socks; 1 small pretty handkerchief;
 1 red "waver" as used by leader of line dances (possibly JaniceWrench's).
 Please claim from me. JACK RICHARDSON

A report by George Sweetland.

Continued from last month.....

"Folklorico Aragon i Catalunya, Mollet des Valles, Catalonia". These were very skilled in dance technique and castanet playing and, as far as I could see, they did not put a foot wrong. Their first dance, a Fandango, a most elegant and sedate dance for six couples. I must admit to a suspicion that it is an urban "salon" dance which Lucile would not have admitted to the canon of folk dance. The second was a Jota, fast and furious, and once again beautifully danced. (93)
Second place.

"Poljanci, Wulkaprodersdorf, Austria". Although the programme did not say so, this group was clearly from a Croatian minority in Austria, their costumes being indistinguishable from those across the border. For their first dance, a staff hung with ribbons was ceremoniously danced in by a "leader" who encouraged everyone to join in and the staff became a maypole. The second dance was for couples in a circle, finishing in a very fast tempo. (79).

"Dawnsyr Delyn, Yr Wyddgrug, Wales". A nice group with good costumes and traditional instruments. A "Ninepins" sort of dance, with the extra man taking a turn in the centre and carrying a sheep's fleece as a "symbol of office" - sheep skins seem to be a recurring motif this year - opened their items, followed by a simple partner dance in a circle. (83).

"Saule Folk Music Group, Siauliai, Lithuania". A white head cloth wrapped round the head in the Arabic fashion was the special feature of dress of the eight girls who performed what was described as a Pagan dance. Moving gracefully into different patterns, lines, circles of two, four and eight, to the solemn music, the dancers conveyed the feeling of a pre-Christian world. After a quick change, the men joined them for a general dance, a lively quadrille. This group at 87 were, I believe, undermarked.

"The Great Indian Dancers (Southall)". This group were well marked (90) but although I have seen several groups at Llangollen performing these dances, I find it difficult to judge the traditional content and their dancing abilities.

"Volkstanzgruppe Benthullen-Harbern, Germany". The men's costumes had been somewhat modernized, although those for the women were of the conventional pattern. A square dance with a complicated sequence of promenades and circles was followed by a trio. Each man danced with one partner while the other circled in the centre and then the order was reversed. Generally, a simple item but pleasant to watch. (78).

"Castiard, Forest of Dean, England". A rarity, a well-costumed English group. In the working clothes of the late 19th century, the group danced Bonny Breast Knot, and the men a really aggressive stick dance. Although not a young group, they attacked the dances with verve and vigour, and again I would have marked them higher than 88.

"Sa Colla de Sant Rafel, Ibiza, Spain". The costumes for the women were most unusual and no two were alike. All, however, had long, wide ribbons hung from the shoulders, with a great deal of gold ornamentation on the chest and we were assured it was real and antique. The men, in more ordinary dress, leaped and jumped before the women, who simply moved forward and back in front of their partners with a peculiar gliding step, creating a doll-like effect. I found their two dances difficult to separate, so perhaps this was why they were only awarded 89.

"Lyra Greek Dancers, London". The two items presented were the same as last year, but I found the group very professional. A woman's "warrior" dance, Kyra

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Maria, from Greek Macedonia, and a sword dance, performed by the men in Evzone costume and wearing masks. (89).

"Rinneoiri Shliabh Luachra, Co. Kerry, Rep. of Ireland" (89), and "Loughgiel Folk Dancers, N. Ireland" (90). Both groups have appeared at Llangollen before and as can be seen from the marks are very competent dancers.

"Veselka Ukrainian Dance Group, Coventry". An all-girls group, they were good dancers and coped well with the first item, but with no men it lacked the necessary contrast of vigour and athleticism for Kolomeyka. (82).

"Podjestedsky Soubor Pisni a Tancu, Liberec, Czech Republic". This group from the Beskydy mountain region had superb music but the two dances offered were not contrasting. Both were couple dances; one, a polka with lifts and a step for the men with knees raised very high. (83).

"Koma Bindal Folk Dance Group (London), Kurdistan". I have seen several Kurdish groups and can detect no real difference between their dance style and costumes and those of the Turks, although I am sure it does exist. Also, whether it applies only to this group I don't know, but the tapan player was more exuberant than most Turks. The first dance was for men. Holding handkerchiefs, in a bent posture, they moved with slow, deliberate steps in single file, and the dance ended with a solo by the leader. Apparently this depicted searching for land mines - not a specially traditional occupation. The second was a line dance for men and women, with the women performing "squats" as well as the men, and one of the girls danced a solo with the national flag. (83).

"Maseru Vocal Waves, Lesotho". This mixture of African song and dance created a problem for the adjudicators. Announced as a celebration for men and women, three men demonstrated a typical African dance, which was followed by the women singing with the leader presumably signalling some change by blowing a whistle every few bars. (92). Third place.

"Erel Dance Ensemble, Yakutsk, Sakha Republic". This group were almost certain winners from the word "go". Their costumes were truly exotic, the men in fur hats, fur-trimmed coats and boots, but the girls surpassed them with such varied types that I can't think of a single common trait, except that they were all extremely colourful. The programme gives their first dance as "Algys (Blessing)". This was purely a social dance for men and women in a circle, using a shoulder hold. Well-performed but not exciting. However, this meant it contrasted well with the second which was really dramatic. After a short interval, the men returned to the stage, this time in black trousers and bare to the waist. The programme entitled this item as "Invitation to a Warrior" but, as Naren Kotiyan pointed out, it was probably meant to be "Initiation for a Warrior". With one unarmed man in the centre of a circle of seven men, all brandishing swords resembling over-sized kitchen knives, they taunted him, attacked him, and made themselves generally unpleasant. Eventually, the "hero" defeated them all and was initiated as a warrior among much rejoicing. These items were well received by the audience and they were awarded 94 marks and the International Trophy.

"Sudarushka, Yoshkar-Ola, Russia". This party only arrived just in time and should have been on after the Ibizians. They were somewhat of an anti-climax after the excitement of the previous group. First, a dance for eight girls dressed in flowing light-blue costumes with sequined headdresses. Extremely talented and graceful dancers, they failed to fire the audience. With a change of costume, and the addition of three men, their second dance consisted of a series of solo items. Entertaining, but no more. (84).

Narendra Kotiyan gave the adjudicators' summing-up. To paraphrase, they criticized the Croatians and the Romanians for using suites of dances, and several groups for their costumes being "uniforms". The Lithuanian and Russian items

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had good music, and the Italians and Czechs good accompaniment, although the latter were not together. With the Greeks, the music complemented the dances and their costumes were good. The Ibizians were especially commended on what the adjudicators felt was a privilege to see those fascinating dances. Finally, the Yakutsk dancers were said to have presented two very good and contrasting dances and well deserved their success.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

LL'ANGOLLEN - Corrections

Due to my atrocious handwriting, in my review of the Welsh group in the opening concert, Lily mis-read my "yo-yo" as "go-go". My intention was to convey the idea that the dancers each had a smallish object attached by a string to a finger, which they threw away and which returned to their hands. Exactly what it was, I could not see, but it certainly appeared similar to a yo-yo.

Secondly, a sharp-eyed close relative of mine pointed out that my comment on the use of the Northumbrian pipes by a Scottish group was probably incorrect. In fact, the Scots have two types of bellow-operated pipes; one very similar to the Northumbrian pattern, the "half long" pipes from the Lowlands, and the other has different arrangement of the drones and is known as the "union" pipes, thought to be a corruption of a Gaelic word. I would guess that this was the type used.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

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THE VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS - LONDON, 1995

The last S.I.F.D. performance for the 1995 summer season took place on Sunday, 16th July, and was given by Merton Park and Woodvale, together with the Iberian Folk Dance and Music Society. Merton Park and Woodvale wore a variety of international folk costumes and presented a wide range of international folk dances. This was one of the now rare occasions when live music was available. Wilf Horrocks was the maestro on the accordion, and the grand piano was trundled out of hiding for Alan Humberstone's expertise, so we had an unmatchable pair on stage. The Iberian Group had a change of costume, and performed dances from Spain and Portugal. Many thanks to all dancers and the two music men for giving up their time to support the S.I.F.D.

This event was enlivened by the presence in the Gardens of many people taking part in a charity Strollathon, which was routed through the Embankment Gardens and out by the exit near the stage. There were also two bands taking turns in playing until 2.45 p.m. when the stage was cleared for the S.I.F.D. This ensured a really good audience until ten minutes before the end of the Iberian Group's performance, when it rained. But the Iberians finished their programme and all joined together for the final Tzadik Katamar.

There was one unfortunate side to the afternoon. The performers' side entrance door is usually kept locked during shows, but on this occasion it was opened before our teams had finished, so that the next act could get in. During this time we are very sorry to report that a girl dancer from Woodvale had her handbag stolen, though it may possibly have been taken from her while she was outside watching the Iberian Society dancing. It appears that some of the contents were later found in a post box - but not the money! This poor young lady has all our sympathy - all females know how bereft they feel when handbags are stolen. I havemade a point of mentioning this unfortunate mishap, so that we may all be made aware of the continuing risks at such an event, and can take precautions in future.

KAY KEDGE, Demonstration Secretary

S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL, YORK 1996

Richard Mellish has sent me a copy of a letter sent to SIFD NEWS (see p.4) and I would like to reply to this in order to clear up any misconceptions.

Firstly, it would, perhaps, have been wise before leaping into print, to communicate with the people actually concerned with organizing the teachers. Jan Knoppers will be teaching from his vast selection of Oriental dances (an area rather lacking in our repertoire) consisting of folk dances from Siberia, Mongolia, China, Japan, Molucca and Bali.

Secondly, I would point out that Magda Ossko and (I believe) Judy and Jackie Barkan also taught on three out of four consecutive Summer Schools.

Thirdly, the reason Jan was invited to return was simply that such a large number of people requested us to do so. I'm sure that it is obvious that a Society that is run to suit the wishes of a minority at the expense of the majority of its members will inevitably wither and die. I would also like to point out (yet again) that the S.I.F.D. has no connection with Jan's teaching course, this being entirely funded and organized by private individuals.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

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STEEL CARPET MUSIC now stock three tapes and a C.D. by the Romanian band "Iza":-

1. Musique Traditionnelle de Maramures
2. Hori si Zicali Moronesti
3. Christmas in Maramures

On cassette and C.D. Prices: £6 for tapes, £10 for C.D.s All the albums feature both songs and dances.

"Iza" will not be touring in Britain this year but their leader, Ioan Pop, will be rejoining Pete and Lucy Castle for a second tour as "Popeluc". They will be building on the work done last year, playing in some of the same venues, but adding more of the dance element to their repertoire. Their album "Maramures et Cetera" is also available on cassette, price £6.

Bookings so far:-

- Sept.30th "Warm-up" in Derby. Venue T.B.C.
Oct. 6th Tenterden Folk Day, Kent. Details: 01233 626805
7th Ditto
8th Mumpers Ceilidh Club, Derby
11th Spilsby Theatre, Spilsby, Lincs. (01790 752936)
14th Blewbury Village Hall, Oxon (01235 850181)
19th Websters Ropery, Deptford, Sunderland (0191 567 0196)
21st Balkanplus, Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1.
25th Roots & Toots, Horn of Plenty PH, Victoria Street, St.Albans (01727 835989)
28th Mills Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury, Oxon (01295 252050)
Nov. 1st Highworth Folk Club, Fox PH, Swindon St., Highworth, Wilts.
10th Chethams School of Music, Manchester (workshops)
19th Tonbridge Folk Club, Rose & Crown, Tonbridge, Kent (01732 366857)

Other venues and dates to be confirmed. For more details of above, contact Steel Carpet Music at 190 Burton Road, Derby DE1 1TQ.

SWANSEA REUNION 1995

"WOW!! JACK DOES IT AGAIN!!" should be the headlines reporting on this wonderful wonderful week, crammed full of delights. Anyone who has ever been will know what I mean. This week had it all - dancing classes in large, comparatively airy, soundproofed rooms, each equipped with blackboard, white-board, flip charts and range of markers; long-length tables in each for exhibiting anything of interest and Jack's generous piles of past notes, music and photos - all "help-yourself"; equipment permanently in place so no musical hitches, water jugs and glasses always there, more than enough chairs for bottoms and bags; really spacious.

It was great to have such a nice variety of dance and teacher: Hedy Fromings revived some lovely Czech dances; Ken Ward and Janice Wrench gave a lovely mixed spread of Yugo dances (Nenad Bicanic and Olivera were remembered); Francoise, Michel and Frederic Piot reminded us of several French dances and taught a lovely singing one. Hope we can "keep" that one. Of course, they also reminded us of past courses with Annie Berard teaching Sardanas, Genevieve His, Francoise and Jean-Claude (sadly died very young soon after the Swansea) and Pierre Goron; Frank Dowling clearly reminded us of several Romanian dances (Gary Karner wasn't forgotten) and Fiona Howarth ran her usually lively, fun-packed class.

It's probably "not on" to run through all the past teachers, but I feel I should just remind everyone that dear Margery Latham, Bert Price, "Pug" Cyriax (all now sadly no longer with us) and Aily Eistrat were among the chief pioneers of the young S.I.F.D. and all were initial helpers at the very first Swansea. Some of us are still in regular touch with Anna Cidu (Sardinia) and Natassa Lemos (Greece), and that 1983 year was extremely special to me as the only one when I managed to persuade our whole family to take part. Heinz and Ilse Striegel (Austrian though living in Switzerland) led that famous walking/dancing holiday in the beautiful scenery of S.Austria, and that reminds us all of Anton Novak who taught at Swansea and lovely old Zepperl, his musician, who led the item at the R.A.H. that year. It was super to read letters from Jaime Baltron (Majorca) saying he was sorry he couldn't come and reminding us of dear Kelsey - that must have been the last time she danced (not without discomfort but fully) with Lucile Armstrong happily looking on.

Inevitably the ranks thin out with old age etc. so it was a real delight to have the two children, little Emily and her sister Sarah accompanying Anne Myhill from Oxford. What models of lively but extremely well-behaved children. Ten-year-old Sara Ezekew is going to be an asset to any dance group shortly. She picked up so much so quickly and so well. Mummy Jackie is going to have a hard time keeping up I'm sure. I expect that reminded everyone of the years of seeing Tim Guest grow up, Len Pascoe playing uncle to all the kids, and Ed Whiteley keeping them entertained with jokes and stories (both sadly missing). One year the children included those of Brian and Elizabeth Dowsett. This year Vera Lagden happily volunteered to look after the children again and that must have been a great help. It was noticeable though how many other people too offered to help. Everyone is so thoroughly nice and kind at Swansea - always.

Here I think I should mention that Joan and Simon Guest are the ONLY ones (yes the only ones) who have come to each and every Swansea! (In case you are disbelieving, Jack and Joan were, unfortunately, only able to come to a weekend at the Ball's Park College one in 1979).

Jack, as well as organizing and checking everything, danced with us, made sure we all had all our needs attended to and was STILL first at the coach, (having done all sorts of ringing and checking, photo-copying etc. etc., and in particular one day he led two groups of walkers - seeing one lot to their destination and back to lead another lot - not to mention the daily swims! We celebrated his birthday on the second day with the most "ooshy" chocolate cake, plus candles to blow out of course.

DIKI GLEESON

To be continued

Annual S.I.F.D. membership renewal for 1995/96 becomes due on 1st September 1995 and a membership form was included with the August SIFD NEWS. The Membership Secretary thanks all members and group leaders who have renewed promptly.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Swansea Reunion Week

May I, through the columns of your august organ, express my thanks to Jack and Joan Richardson and their team for a really wonderful week. Swansea must surely be the unique and ideal setting for a folkdance week, with the combination of comfortable accommodation for residence and dancing, and the beautiful surroundings of Gower.

It was SUCH a happy time for everybody, and so much planning went into ensuring that all the various wishes of the participants were met. They provided perfect weather, idyllic sandy beaches, long marches for the Intrepid Ones, shorter cliff walks for the less ambitious, cream teas for the sybarites, and all the time a comfortable relaxed atmosphere (oh yes, there was some dancing too!). We were free to choose all the time from the cornucopia of options for classes and outings, and I realise that this freedom for us meant many hours of planning and organization; so, once again, thank you Jack, Joan, Dorien (Bates), Simon and Joan (Guest) for the fitting climax to the Swansea years.

FIONA HOWARTH
17a Ravensbourne Road,
Bromley, BR1 1HN

Dear Lily,

May I, through the SIFD NEWS, tell readers about a real "find" for people going to the West Country for a holiday? We discovered "Cellars" quite by accident while on holiday in Okehampton, Devon. It is a "bistro with a Mediterranean flavour" run by a lovely family from Macedonia - Vanga, her brother Iko and his wife, Suzie. The food is delicious, reasonably priced and generous.

On the 15th July, three members of the Bristol Folkdance Group held their summer birthday celebrations at "Cellars". They catered for twenty-one of us and gave us a really wonderful birthday party. In addition, they allowed us to do some Macedonian dances throughout the evening - 34 dances in all! Everyone who went had a really good time.

So, if any S.I.F.D. members are in the vicinity, please give "cellars" a visit. I'm sure the family would be delighted to meet you and that they could be persuaded to play tapes of Macedonian folk music while you enjoy your meal. The address is: Cellars Bistro, Bridge House, Fore Street, Okehampton, Devon. Tel: 01837 54242. They are open every day except Sunday, from 11.00 to 3.00 for lunch and from 7.00 p.m. onwards.

Happy holidays!

ANNE MARSHALL
44 Church Road, Westbury-on-
Trym, Bristol BS9 3EQ

Dear Mrs. Avery,

Would you please be so kind as to offer my thanks through the SIFD NEWS to all those who were at the Swansea reunion? After being transferred from Morrision Hospital in Swansea to our local main hospital in Plymouth, Devon, I had a scan which showed a prolapsed lumbar disk which had trapped my sciatica nerve. I was discharged on Wednesday, 9th August, and although I'm not "better" I am much more mobile and in considerably less pain.

The worst thing is that I did it all by packing to go away to the reunion and didn't manage any dancing! Everyone seemed to have been enjoying themselves and it was certainly nice to meet "old" friends and to have been sent a wonderful card with everyone's signature on it.

Yours sincerely,

DEBBIE CORNER
Abbey Cottage, 2 Canal Road,
Tavistock, Devon PL19 8AR

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PUBLICITY

Our Secretary, Jeanette, noted in last month's SIFD NEWS that I have publicity material which I would be pleased to pass on to Society members, and I trust she won't object if I enlarge on it. There are three items. The Dance With The World Group List which has the current Society affiliated and associated groups with their details (the new 1995/96 issue should be ready at the end of November or beginning of December). There is the Dance With The World Introductory Leaflet. This should be most useful to new groups as it can be used for several purposes. The front can be used as an A4 poster for display in libraries, shop windows etc. and has a blank area where details of local events and classes can be inserted. It can also be used as a hand-out at a demonstration as, since the general public hasn't the faintest idea what folk dancing is all about, let alone what is special about International, the "soft sell" on the inside is necessary to let them know what they personally can get out of it. Both have application forms for membership. Lastly, it is useful in the interim period (September to November) before the new group list is available. Then there are some Large Posters, again with a blank area for local details.

The Society does its best to help teachers, leaders and all those who pass on their folk dancing skills to others, but in turn it needs somebody to pass on knowledge of the Society and its aims to the world at large, and to encourage dancers to join us. These "somebodies" need not be involved in any way; indeed it is probably an advantage not to be otherwise occupied. Leaders and teachers should, of course, be asked for their permission before handing out material to their pupils. Will you help the Society to become a more well-known and influential organization, as Jill has suggested in the Society's strategy review? Write to me, or Jill Bransby, or Jeanette Hull if you are willing.

GEORGE SWEETLAND
Publicity Officer (address on p.2)

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MUSIC Another two tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.14. Don't forget to let Wilf know if you would like the music for a particular dance. His number is 0181 642 3629.

INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE SUMMER SCHOOL, YORK, 1996

The College of Ripon and St. John at York has been booked for the summer school from the evening meal on Saturday, 27th July, until after breakfast on Saturday, 3rd August 1996. We have arranged the summer school earlier in order to fit in with the Sidmouth and Billingham Festivals because we know that many people like to visit them as well as the summer school. As Sidmouth 1996 will take place from 2nd to 9th August and Billingham from 11th to 18th August, we were unable to have the summer school between the two festivals this time.

As we told everyone at the last summer school, this is the last summer school we will be arranging. In order to ease the transition to another organizer (or group of organizers) we are attempting to delegate the various responsibilities to various people or groups of people. We have been twisting arms to get "volunteers" for the jobs listed below, but if anyone else feels that they could help with any of these jobs (or any other they can think of that we haven't mentioned) PLEASE let us know as soon as possible.

1. Choosing the tutors (in consultation with the S.I.F.D. Committee and also bearing in mind the suggestions made on the questionnaires returned by last year's participants).
2. Organizing the travel arrangements for the tutors and looking after them from when they arrive in this country till they leave.
3. Asking for volunteers for running workshops and time-tabling the week's workshops.
4. Organizing an afternoon outing to a place of interest.
5. Asking for volunteers for running the evening dances, planning the week's dances and their format.
6. Organizing the evening singing sessions.
7. We will continue to look after all the arrangements with the college and the financial side this year but if anyone is willing to do this next time, it would be a good idea to find out what is involved this year.

Please put the date in your diary and think about joining us. Everyone who has been to a summer school will tell you what a great time we have!

DAWN & PAUL WEBSTER
Greenacres, Broadstreet Common,
Nash, Newport, Gwent NP6 2AZ
Tel: 01633 272662

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ZIVKO FIRFOV GROUP (Songs and dances from Serbia, Macedonia and Croatia).

Dates for the autumn term 1995 are:-

September 18th, 25th)	
October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd (30th is half-term))	All dates are Mondays
November 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th)	
December 4th, 11th)	

All meetings are held at the Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London S.W.1. and the format of the evening is as follows:-

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

JANET GILBERT

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Oct.1st ISRAELI DANCE DAY in Bristol with Anat Sharabi, including some dances from Worcester. St.Paul's Hall, Beaulay Road, Southville, Bristol. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Further information from Daphne Allen, 01273 392757 (may be Answerphone).

Oct.7th FRENCH DAY COURSE organized by Frith Folk with Simon and Joan Guest, at St.Peter's Church Hall, Fairfield, Buxton. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with usual breaks. £5. Drinks available. Bring packed lunch - or - pub lunches, take-aways, shops close by, town with cafes less than 5 mins. away by car. The "badge dances" may be included in this day course if there is agreement to the tests being held in the North in 1996 and if the syllabus is made available in time. Contact: Pat Phillips, 01298 24450.

Oct.7th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORD present a basic Balkan Dance Workshop, 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. and a Concert & Dance Party with Vuhpross Balkan Music Group and Martisorul Romanian Dance Group, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at St.Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Polstead Road, off Woodstock Road, Oxford. Tickets at door £3 per session or £5 for both.

Oct.14th DAY COURSE WITH KAYE POOLE in Birmingham, at Selly Oak Methodist Church Hall, Langleys Road. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Dance in the evening, 7.30 p.m. Further information from Malcolm Cox, 0121 783 8517.

Oct.14th RAINMAKERS 19TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE, 7.30 to 11 p.m. at Ickleford Village Hall. M.C.: Jill Bransby. Band: "Jacob's Ladder". £5. Tickets and further information from Richard Thom on 01438 316651 (may be Answerphone).

Oct.21st GREEK WORKSHOP with Natassa Lemos at The Place, London. PLEASE WOULD THOSE INTENDING TO COME LET ME KNOW OF THEIR PREFERENCES. What would you like Natassa to teach? DIKI GLEESON, 0181 363 1506.

Oct.21st POPELUC AT BALKANPLUS. Music from Maramures region, plus general Balkan dancing to Dunav. 7 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. Further information from Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.

Nov.10th/12th BULGARIAN WEEKEND COURSE with Eddy Tijssen at Brecon, South Wales. Beginners and Advanced courses. Full and half-day walks. For details send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Following the Brecon weekend, Eddy Tijssen will be free on the following Monday and Bristol group would be happy to host another day's dancing. We need a reasonable number of people to make it viable, so if you are interested would you please let me know by the end of September at the latest. The Bristol group will put people up for the night. If there are enough people to go ahead, further details will be in October's SIFD NEWS. ANNE MARSHALL, 44 Church Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3EQ. Tel: 0117 950 9889.

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S.I.F.D. SHOP

For details of S.I.F.D. goods available, contact Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF. For dance tapes and instruction books, contact Eleanor Gordon, 92 Norbiton Avenue, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 3QP.