



1996

JULY

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 design was drawn by Lesley Boorer specially for our
Golden Jubilee Anniversary and we shall be using it every month
throughout the year.

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S.I.F.D. GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE, SATURDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 1996

Tickets for this Dance will be on sale at the York Summer School, and will also
be available at the end of July from me, at 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts.
WD4 8AN. Tel: 01923 262763. All cheques should be made payable to S.I.F.D.

S.I.F.D. members	Single £10	Double £18
Non-members	Single £12	Double £20
Children 11-16	Half price	
Aged 10 and under	Free	

(All including refreshments)

The Dance will be held at the Camden Centre, Euston Road, London WC1H, situated
opposite St.Pancras and King's Cross Stations. The entrance from Euston Road
is in process of being renovated, and by the time of our Dance we shall be able
to use the fine new facilities.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE DANCE

Has anyone a spare room, spare bed, or floor space for sleeping bags which
could accommodate out-of-town dancers on 12th October? Conversely, if you
would like somewhere friendly to stay on that night, do let us know and we
will try to put you in touch with someone. We already have three or four
addresses available. At the moment, please send offers/requests to me at
the address given above and I will pass them on.

KAY KEDGE

THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DANCING?

The problem which Dr. Towner discusses (see May and June SIFD NEWS), and many others have done at various times and in various guises since the inception of the Society, is both complex and important. Our name states explicitly that we exist to practise folk dancing, so that there should be some agreement as to its meaning.

A clause in our Constitution states that we should "encourage the practice of them" - folk dances - "in their traditional form!" For my part, I believe all folk arts must be traditional or they are nothing, but it must be admitted that, as a Society, the definition has been irrelevant for a long time, and I do not think I am being controversial when I say that it has no relationship to what we are actually doing now.

Definitions do change with time. We cannot, for instance, imagine the Victorians would have considered that a pile of bricks or a pickled cow would come within the definition of an art object. If our definition of folk dance is now thought to be out of date, then ideally it should be revised to conform to current practice and our policy of a "broad church", but I can think of no form of words which would embrace our present wide range of dances but would exclude any other type of dance at all.

Another point which should be considered is, even if we could achieve this ideal definition, how could it be applied? Obviously we ought not to monitor the repertoire of all our allied groups, even if it were possible. The events directly under the control of the Committee or its nominees could perhaps be made to conform, but this would surely be undesirable, apart from the fact that the extra work would be considerable.

I did suggest, many years ago, that at "official" classes or courses, the background of the dances taught should be available to all participants but at the time it was declared impossible; if it was then, how much more so must it be now. Reluctantly, I have to conclude that if anyone performs a dance for pleasure and states that it is a folk dance, then that is what it is, and if I understand him correctly, in general this is Dr. Towner's view. We must all make our individual choice as to whether we take part in a particular dance or not.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON, 1996

The first performance for this summer took place at the above Gardens on Saturday, 18th May, at 2 p.m., when about twelve members of the Zivko Firfov Group, led by Ken Ward, performed dances and songs from Croatia. It was not actually raining, but was very cold and damp, so obviously the audience was rather small. However, Zivko Firfov enjoy dancing for its own sake, and took the opportunity to warm up while the music was being tested, dressed in costumes plus overcoats and scarves. In spite of the cold, they enjoyed their performance of about an hour. Many thanks to all those brave souls in Zivko Firfov who represented the S.I.F.D. in the arctic weather of May!

On the next day, Sunday, 19th May, the day was once more cold but dry, and dancers from the S.I.F.D. were again on stage at 3 p.m. when the Martisorul Romanian Dance Group danced for two hours. Many thanks to all seventeen or so performers, who put on their usual very good show, led by Mihai, who has taken the place of Sorin. There were quite a number of tourists passing through the gardens during the afternoon, plus a stationary audience wrapped in blankets!

KAY KEDGE

INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE SUMMER SCHOOL, YORK
27th JULY to 3rd AUGUST 1996

If you have booked and not yet paid the full amount for the Summer School, the balance is due by 1st July. Please remember to make cheques payable to YORK INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL. Many thanks to those who have paid the full amount already. If you haven't had a receipt yet, it will be sent out soon with further information about the Summer School.

There are plenty of places available at the Summer School if you would like to join us in York!

DAWN and PAUL WEBSTER
Greenacres, Broadstreet Common,
Nash, Newport NP6 2AZ
Tel: 01633 272 662

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

There will be no S.I.F.D. Day Courses in either July or August. Instead, we would like to encourage as many members as possible to attend the performances and workshops at the Milton Keynes International Festival of Folk Art. Those people who attended last year obviously enjoyed them very much, which is partly why we decided it was best not to hold a course in London at the same time.

The September Day Course will feature dances taught at the Summer School in York.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

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S.I.F.D. SHOP

New Stock - ANNIVERSARY PEN. A special pen with white cap with gold and red stripes. The pen is printed "The Society for International Folk Dancing, Golden Anniversary 1946-1996". Cost: 99p plus 50p postage & packing. Postage costs could be substantially reduced by club orders of 10 or more pens. Cheques should be made payable to S.I.F.D. and sent to me at 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.

CLAIRE STEELEY

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JUBILEE DANCE SWAP

The Day Course Committee felt that it would be a good idea to hold some sort of "do" prior to the Jubilee Dance on 12th October, especially as some people will probably be coming from far afield. At the same time, a full Day Course would probably be out of the question for those very people. Our solution is an afternoon course (probably 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.) at The Place, which is only five minutes' walk from the Dance venue. It seems an appropriate occasion for a splendid Dance Swap. In order to plan the most inviting programme, please submit offerings and requests as soon as you can - to me at Flat 1, 317a Caledonian Road, London N1 1DR. Tel: 0171 609 7098.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

TRADITIONAL DANCE IN COLOMBIA

Returning from a fifth visit to Colombia, where I was on both the giving and receiving end of dance workshops, I thought readers might be interested to hear a little about the dancing in that country.

Colombia was colonised from the early 16th century by the Spanish, who subjugated and massacred much of the varied and hitherto thriving indigenous or "Indian" population. Their attempts to exploit the labour of the locals proving unsuccessful, they imported and enslaved Africans instead. The present population extends across these three main cultures, with considerable overlap; and the same is true of the dances.

On the Atlantic coast the influence is noticeably African, with small steps and a strong emphasis on the middle of the body. Dances like Cumbia and Porro make much use of the muscles of hips and thighs, while the whole pelvic region is apt to move in a way that at first may seem improbable to European dancers.

Among the more indigenous dances is the San Juanito, originating across the border in Ecuador. A popular version commemorating the birth of a child combines insistent drumming, a haunting "Andean" melody and strange wild cries in the Quechua language. There are striking figures, as where the advancing dancers' arms are held open and high, then, as they retreat, are folded across the chest. At the end any available object (for instance an item of clothing) is pressed into service to represent in symbolic form the newborn child. A dancer taking on the role of the "father" weaves his way around the now seated women, presenting this "child" to each in turn. She, according to her mood or whim, will accept it or not, and rock or fondle it if she has a mind to.

Los Monos, "The Monkeys", from Tolima, retains a certain indigenous quality. The song goes:-

They say the monkeys don't know how to dance,
But even the little one can do a spiral (caracol) ...
They say the monkeys don't know how to love,
But even the youngest has a wife. Etc.

The figures are numerous, with some twenty or more patterns, some familiar, such as "arches", "tunnels", "dip and dive", but also local ones like "coquetting", "teasing" etc. The step is repetitive (like those of most Colombian dances) with a dragging, shuffling quality.

Other dances show something of a colonial Spanish influence, although the various inputs of rhythm have led to cross-currents which can produce startling syncopations. (Balkan rhythms, however, like 5/8, 7/8, 9/8 etc. are unknown).

Bambuco, in triple-time, is widespread and popular; lively, with leaping steps, to music played on flute, harp or guitar.

As in all such dances, the costume is important, the women generally wearing long skirts or dresses, whose intricate flaunting is typical. There is much play with pañuelo (handkerchief) and sombrero (hat), which figure prominently and symbolically; flourished, proffered, played with, competed for. In one figure in "Cumbia" the sombrero is actually "eaten", man and woman facing each other and each taking the rim in their mouth, then turning a complete circle (in opposite directions) without letting go the hat. (Try it).

Among the more unusual figures found in a creole dance is one where the couple stands back to back, the man with his shoulders slouched against the woman, almost as if using her as a drunken support. Later, as she swishes

Contd....

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her skirt, he languorously and suggestively massages his stomach with both hands. (Would British dancers enjoy such a figure?).

In short, Colombia, a country of very diverse cultural conditions, can boast of a range of dances equally diverse and which presents a fascinating and instructive contrast to those of Europe and the Middle East with which we over here are more generally familiar. I hope to look at one or two in my Summer School Course in July. (See "What's On in July").

DAVID MOWAT

DANCING IN FRANCE

7TH GRAND BAL DE L'EUROPE, 15th to 21st July 1996 at Les Gauthiers, Gennetines, nr.Moulins, Central France (only 60 miles from St.Chartier Festival, 11th to 14th July). Seven days of dance and dance music; 2/3 workshop sessions a day with 10 options each. Dances every night on 5 dance floors; 52 groups providing music throughout the festival. General bal repertoire. Bourbonnais, Berry, Nivernais, Morvan, Alsace, Brittany, Alps & Provence, Pays Basque, Béarn, Gascony, Dauphiné, Bresse, Auvergne, Renaissance, Branles, Bourrées, Congos, Rondeaux, Fandangos. Plus International dance from many countries.

More information and detailed programme from Jessica Abrahams, 66 Goodhall Street, London NW10 6TU. Tel: 0181 838 1996.

DANCING IN ITALY

Siderno, Reggio Calabria. A course of Scottish/Irish dancing and International folk dancing, with emphasis on Italian dances, will be held in Siderno, a small seaside resort on a clean part of the coast. The workshop lasts from 21st to 28th July and is organized by a major dance school. Dancing is outside with a fresh sea breeze on a specially built wooden stage. The cost, 800.000 Italian Lire (not as much as it looks) includes half board and lodging in double rooms in an air-conditioned hotel 50 Ms from the sea, and two dance periods of choice per day. In the evening, dancing outside, and at the end of the week a public performance for the local population. If you are interested, please contact Tess Edelmann, Str. G. Volante 2, Turin 10133, Italy. Teachers: Tess Edelmann and Umberto Niola.

TESS EDELMANN

P.S. The food is excellent!

GREEK TRADITIONAL DANCES

Seminar from 5th to 17th August 1996 in Macedonia (near Prespa Lake). Dances from the following regions will be taught: Macedonia, Attiki/Arvanitika, Epirus, Pongos, Crete and the Islands (lessons for five hours per day), plus traditional village festivities, excursions, Greek parties etc. Details from Yannis and Ira Konstantinou, Alex. Papagou No.4, 17456 Alimos (Athens), Attiki, Greece.

FOR SALE - Two Season Tickets for the Eisteddfod at Llangollen

Would anyone like to buy my two Season Tickets, which I am unable to use? They cost £85 each but allow you to attend every event in the programme, (except the Sunday evening concert) using the same very good seat all the time. If you are interested, please contact me at Oak Lodge, Theobalds Park Road, Enfield EN2 9BN. Tel: 0181 363 1506.

DIKI GLEESON

"POPELUC" 1996 TOUR

"Popeluc" (Ioan Pop and Pete & Lucy Castle) are touring in Britain. They play a blend of British and Transylvanian folk music. Tour dates are:-

July

- 3rd LL'ANTRISANT, S.Wales. Folk Club, Cross Keys, High Street. 8.30 p.m.
6th SUDBURY HALL, Derbys. National Trust Day of Dance. From 11 a.m.
6th LUTON, Beds. Friends Meeting House, Crawley Green Rd. 7 p.m. Concert
13th/14th FULBECK, Lincs. Fulbeck Fiddle Festival, Fulbeck Hall, Lincoln Road
Fulbeck, near Grantham. (Lucy & Popica only). Contact Mary Fry,
01400 272205.
17th BUXTON, Derbys. Old Hall Hotel, The Square. Part of Buxton Festival
Fringe. 7.30 p.m. Concert.
18th LONDON. Islington Folk Club, The George PH, Liverpool Rd., N.1. 8 p.m.
19th BROADSTAIRS, Kent. Folk Club, Lord Nelson PH, Nelson Place. 8 p.m.
20th FOLKESTONE, Kent. Burlington Hotel, Earls Avenue, 7.30 p.m. Concert
Contact Alan Castle, 01233 626805.
21st TONBRIDGE, Kent. Folk Club, Rose & Crown Hotel, High Street. 8 p.m.
27th BUXTON, Derbys. Old Hall Hotel, The Square. Part of Buxton Festival
Fringe. 7.30 p.m. Concert.

Aug.

- 3rd BRIDGNORTH, Shrops. Dudmaston Hall, nr. Bridgnorth. 7 p.m. Open air
concert. Contact D.Thomas, 01746 780955.
4th LINGFIELD, Surrey. The Racecourse. 12.30 p.m. onwards between races.

Also, there are two new Popeluc albums:-

"Popeluc 'Live' at Pebble Mill". An 8-track mini-album on cassette for £3. Five of the eight tracks were recorded by the B.B.C. at Pebble Mill last year. They are live versions of tracks from the first album, and a couple which aren't recorded elsewhere. There are also two "out-takes" from "Blue Dor" (see below).

"Blue Dor", price £10. A new studio album on CD. A variety of songs and music from straight Transylvanian to British/Transylvanian fusions, and including a couple of pieces recorded live on location at village parties in Transylvania.

For details of all the above, contact Popeluc, c/o Steel Carpet Music, 190 Burton Road, Derby DE1 1TQ. Tel: 01332 346399.

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PLEASE NOTE: The Balkan Dance Holiday due to take place 7th/14th September in Dovedale, with Cathy Meunier, and which is advertised in HF Special Interest brochure, has now been cancelled.

Re: LINES & CIRCLES OF EASTERN EUROPE. TUTOR: MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

Marina, you brought the culture of many countries to our small town of Chapel-en-le-Frith on Saturday, 11th May, with some delightful dances from Romania, Armenia, Bulgaria and Macedonia, and the display of costumes from these countries. Without doubt, "Hey Par" was a winner. Having observed your spirited and masterly performance of the dance, some of us thought it impossible, but with your excellent teaching it became the "art of the possible"! We thank you for your expert and patient tuition and, as always, your excellent notes and music. We thank all who came from afar - Nottingham, Leeds, Harrogate, Sheffield, Dronfield and Hope to join us in a successful day. We hope you enjoyed the experience of dancing in the Chapel at Chapel!

PAT PHILLIPS
Frith Folk, Derbyshire.

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LETTERS.....

Dear English friends,

In 1997 there will be an interesting week at Fiesch, Switzerland, from 28th September to 4th October 1997. It is a week for Swiss folk dancing and other folkloristic activities. If interested, please write to Arlette Köfer, Schweizerische Trachtenvereinigung, Mühlegasse 13, Postfach, CH-3400 Burgdorf, Switzerland. Tel: 034 22 22 39, Fax 034 23 22 53. The week is not organized every year. It took place only in 1969, 1972, 1976, 1980 and 1994.

We also dance Swiss folk dances (and other dances) every year (since 1965) at St.Moritz. If perhaps you are interested in a list of Swiss folk dances, ask Prof. Jack Richardson at the University of Swansea. He knows more about our 1162 Swiss folk dances.

KARL KLENK
Holzmatt 15, CH-8953 Dietikon-
Zurich, Switzerland.

ED. NOTE: Jack Richardson has, in fact, written to me to say that the inventory of Swiss folk dances which Karl refers to (containing 1162 dances!) has been produced in Switzerland and has a separate sheet for each dance giving region, origin, style etc. as far as is known. Details are available from Martin Wey, Grabenweg 6, 3066 Stettlen. Tel. & Fax 031/931 12 13.

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Dear Lily,

May I, through the SIFD NEWS, please thank all the people who came to Ironbridge and made it such a wonderful weekend. Special thanks to the Bristol group for their continual support and help; to the good people who were M.C.s for the evening dances; to Julian for dealing with all the sound equipment and video; to the members of the band "Vapros" who made the evenings really special; and to Balkanplus for sponsoring the weekend. I hope many people are looking forward to a return visit! Happy dancing to you all.

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

LETTERS, Contd.

Dear Lily,

I so enjoyed the unusual workshop on Oriental Dancing on 16th March, with props, that I thought other dancers should hear about it so that they will not miss out if the opportunity arises again.

Christine Hall's instructions were always clear and graphically demonstrated. She was patient with our progress and her promptings always apposite. Her costumes for the Egyptian belly dancing, with scarves, and along with those paraded by Dawn, Dorothy, Sheila and Nick, added colour and sparkle to the sessions.

I found the Chinese dancing with ribbons tiring on the arms but nonetheless enjoyed the session. But the highlight for me was the Chinese dancing with fans. So very simple yet seen in a group very dramatic. (How suitable for a gang show spectacular, Mikado, or School Concert). Enthusing the following weekend to dancers in Rosendale, they would be keen to have a try, so it is such a shame that Christine is so far South.

Finally, I should like to thank Diki Gleeson for organizing the event in London and hope she gets sufficient encouragement to organize another.

Yours sincerely,

CAROLYN PAGE

8 Copse Edge Avenue, Epsom, Surrey

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NEWS FROM NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP

On 16th May we had a live music night and our biggest turnout this year. We were fortunate to have Marcus from Finland, who played Scandinavian dance tunes with our accordionist, Des. This was followed by a Balkan hour with Cait and Chris. It was a wonderful evening.

A group of us will be visiting Sudbury Hall again this year to join in with the dance festival which is held annually in the grounds. It is usually a most pleasant day as there are many groups - English folk, Romanian, Greek, English Renaissance and others. It is a lovely setting too.

To finish off our year we hope to have a party with the Swedish team which we have exchanged with in the past. (They are calling in on their way home on 29th July).

We have our next two day courses planned: Greek on 2nd November 1996 and Russian on 15th March 1997. Both will be held at Stevenson Junior School, Stapleford.

GILLIAN E. MORRAL

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST REACH THE EDITOR
IN WRITING BY 17TH JULY

BALKANPLUS, Saturday, 13th July. Expect the unexpected with M.C. Malcolm Shaffer at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. from 7.00 to 10.30 p.m. Admission £3.00 but there are reduced rates for season ticket holders, which are immediately available at the door. Please note that there will be no Balkanplus dance in August, and the next dance will be on 14th September.

There will be no Balkanplus dance at Cecil Sharp House in October or November as we do not wish to clash with the S.I.F.D. Anniversary Dance in October and Cecil Sharp House is not available in November. To compensate, there will be a Grand 10th Anniversary Dance at the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road (our old venue) on 26th October, with Dunav and assorted M.C.s.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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CALLING ALL M.C.s

There will be a meeting for all Balkanplus M.C.s, past, present and future, at Cecil Sharp House at 6.00 p.m. on 13th July, prior to the Dance, to discuss future plans and format for the Dances. All regular supporters are also welcome to attend to put forward their views.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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DANCING WITH PROPS by Christine Hall (copyright reserved)

Ribbon

The yang ge (ribbon) dance is the traditional harvest thanksgiving dance of the Han people in North-east China. The "ribbons" are in fact large sheets of fabric, often up to 1 metre wide and 10 metres long. You tie your ribbon around your waist, knot it at the front, and hold one part in each hand, with the ends hanging down loosely. Other dance groups prefer short ribbons of just one metre, which are held just on one side; they often have a fan or a handkerchief in the other hand.

Generally speaking, the longer the ribbon, the more skill is required, and the more space is needed for a group performance. 5 metres would be a good length for dancers who are skilled, but not professional performers. 45cm. is a good width. As most fabrics are sold in 90cm. width, you can buy 2.5 metres, cut it into two strips of 45cm. width and sew them together.

Choose a material which is light, flowing and glossy. It does not have to be silk. Synthetic lining material is very suitable. Select a bright, intense colour - if possible a red or pink.

Ribbon dances can be very simple. They are often performed in a processional dance along the street, usually by old women and men, who repeat just one basic movement over and over again. On the other hand, they can be elaborate and effective choreographies incorporating line, circle and pair dances.

Yang ge is always a group dance, and the larger the group, the better the effect. Solo performances lack sparkle. But your group will need a lot of space to perform it well.

CHRISTINE HALL

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Aug.2nd-9th SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FOLK ARTS. Information from Festival Office, P.O.Box 296, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP19 3TL. Tel: 01296 433669. Overseas groups include teams from Portugal, Armenia, Poland, Sierra Leone French-Canada, Tibet.

Aug.4th-9th ISRAELI FOLKDANCE SEMINAR at De Montford University, Bedford. Teachers: Shmulik Govari, Shlomo Maman, Moshiko Halevy and Moshe Telem. Details from Israel Folkdance Institute, Balfour House, 741 High Road, London N12 0BQ.

Aug.23rd-26th WEEKEND AT DUNFORD HOUSE, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX (August Bank Holiday). Balkan orientated. Contact Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 0181 592 4427. A deposit of £50 is required (s.a.e. please).

Aug.31st-Sept.1st BULGARIAN DANCE WEEKEND IN BRISTOL WITH EDDY TIJSSEN. Just a reminder that Eddy will be teaching a weekend course of Bulgarian dances in Bristol on Saturday, 31st August, and Sunday, 1st September, with a BALKAN DANCE PARTY on the Saturday evening. Booking is essential. Discounts if booked before 1st July. Details and booking forms from Anne Marshall, 44 Church Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3EQ. Tel: 0117 950 9889.

Sept.20th WORTHING CELEBRATION DANCE for the JUBILEE at The Barn, Field Place, The Boulevard (Nr. Durrington Station), Worthing, West Sussex. 7.00 to 10.30 p.m. Costume optional. £2.00 including refreshments. Information from Margaret Matthews, 01903 265879 or Jean Chennell, 01903 505763.

Sept.27th-29th DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Charlton Kings, near Cheltenham. There are a few vacancies. Contact Roy Clarke, 0181 367 2649.

X Sept.28th DAY OF POLISH DANCING organized by Loidis I.F.D.G. Tutor: Janice Wrench. Lidgett Park Methodist Church, North Park Avenue (off Lidgett Lane) Leeds. Maps available. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £4.50 for S.I.F.D. members, £5.00 non-members. Bring packed lunch; drinks available. For further details, contact 01132 682340.

Oct.12th S.I.F.D. GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE. See p.2.

Oct.26th RAINMAKERS 20TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE, 7.00-11.00 p.m. at Ickleford Village Hall. M.C. Jill Bransby. Band: "Cloudburst". Tickets: £5.00. For information contact Richard Thom, 01438 316651 (may be Answerphone).

Oct.26th WOODVALE I.F.D.G. AUTUMN DANCE, 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. at Borough Green Village Hall. M.C.s Jan Bryce, David McKie. Guest M.C. Hugh Wood. Tickets £5.00. For more details, contact Alan Cant, 01732 883405.

Oct.26th READING TRADITIONAL & STEP DANCE GROUP'S ANNUAL CLOG & STEP DANCE FESTIVAL in Maidenhead will include, as well as English dancing, workshops in Scottish Dirk, Irish Set, and Appalachian Clogging. Details from A.Garrison, 4 Briar Close, Caversham, Reading RG4 7QH. Tel: 0118 947 4244.

Nov.1st-3rd BIANCA DE JONG AT BRECON. Residential weekend with Bianca's superb teaching of Balkan dances and opportunities for walking in a delightful area. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Dec.7th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London E.C.1. Contact: Irene Keywood, 0181 592 4427.