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SEPTEMBER

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.

--oOo--

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S.I.F.D. GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE, SATURDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 1996
7.30 to 11.00 p.m. at CAMDEN CENTRE, LONDON W.C.1
(close to Euston and King's Cross stations)

M.C.s: Jill Bransby, Helen Ezra, Simon Guest, Steve Steventon, Ken Ward, Janet
Woolbar. With S.I.F.D. Players and Dunav Band.

Tickets: Members - Single £10, Double £18
Non-members - Single £12, Double £20
Children - Aged 11-16, half price; 10 and under, free.
(All including refreshments)

Note: A few tickets will be available on the night but will not include
refreshments. We expect a large attendance and need to know in advance
how many to cater for, so please help us by booking your tickets early,
from me at 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts. WD4 8AN. Tel: 01923 262763.
(Please send s.a.e.).

Come in costume!

Can you help? There are quite a number of original S.I.F.D. members who have
let their memberships lapse and whose present addresses are unknown to us. If
you are in touch with any such people, could you let them know about the Dance
and persuade them to come.

KAY KEDGE

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MOTIONS FOR THE A.G.M. MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY BY 30TH SEPTEMBER

SOME OF THE DANCES LIKELY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY DANCE
PROGRAMME ON 12TH OCTOBER 1996

Karamfil	Bulgaria	Russian Lyrical	Russia
Neapolitan Tarantella	Italy	Erev Bah	Israel
Girls' Dance from Kalosca	Hungary	Waterfall Waltz	Wales
Maiezyt	Switzerland	Jota Tapatia	Mexico
Bourée Pastourelle	France	En Allant aux Chataignes	Switzerland
Vranjanka	Serbia	Dorset Four Hand Reel	England
Vlajnice	Serbia	Windmill	Germany
La Bastringue	Canada	Pariser Polka	Norway
Hora Femeilor	Romania		

Because I am writing this list without access to any reference material, I expect there are errors in spelling, and even attribution of dances. Please accept my apologies. We will try and get it right for the big Dance!

SIMON GUEST

--oOo--

VICTORIA EMBANKMENT DANCING

Having watched several of the groups at Victoria Embankment Gardens this summer, I have felt they do not all, perhaps, promote a good image of the S.I.F.D. or gain us the right kind of publicity. Some of the dancing has been ragged and, I have to say, rather boring. Inward-facing circles with repetitive steps may be fun to do, but not to watch, and costumes were sometimes incorrectly put together. I must point out here that of course I did not see all groups, and may have missed some very good dancing. I also appreciate that all must be given the opportunity to take part if they wish, but they should try and take a dispassionate look first at their level of dancing and availability of good dancers before volunteering themselves.

Anyhow, having said that, I'm about to sing the praises of two groups I saw on 20th July - Croyley Green and Central London. The former showed that an all-female group, even when sometimes performing dances which should have had male partners, could put on an enjoyable, well-rehearsed and dressed demonstration. Central London gave a very varied programme with some lovely lively dancing, also well-dressed, and I particularly liked their air of relaxed enjoyment in their dancing, without too much assumed "stage presence".

I, personally, having specialised only in Polish dance all my years, have to admit I found myself thinking for once, "Wish I'd done more International". Too late now!

BETTY HARVEY

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ISRAELI DANCING AND WALKING WEEKEND AT FRESHWATER BAY
25TH TO 27TH APRIL 1997

Once again our Israeli dance specialist, Fiona Howarth, will be imparting some of her "gems" at what promises to be another most enjoyable weekend at Freshwater Bay. This delightful location, overlooking the bay at the Western end of the Isle of Wight, is also an excellent base for walking and sightseeing for non-dancing friends and family. Accommodation is in comfortable single and twin-bedded rooms, many en suite. The weekend includes full board, with plentiful choice of food, and all the facilities of the house and grounds. For details, send s.a.e. to me at 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

CATHY MEUNIER

YORK SUMMER SCHOOL

Where were you? So many faces we missed at this Summer School. But we were the lucky ones, with plenty of space for dancing. As in previous years, three very good teachers, each with his/her own distinctive style and personality, and so much hard work put in by so many willing helpers, led by Dawn and Paul Webster, enabling us to have a most enjoyable week.

Here's to the next Summer School, but where? what?, when? and led by whom? I've heard say that Marina Wolstenholme and Janice Wrench will be leading it. I've heard say it will be at Swansea. It is my wish to attend, but three things will influence me - venue, cost, subject matter. My feelings are: subject matter, no real problem so long as the three countries are well contrasted; cost, we need to use our caravan to keep costs down and so would need details well beforehand as caravan sites have to be booked by early December; venue, Swansea was wonderful but York was very much better (didn't attend the other venues).

	<u>Swansea</u>	<u>York</u>
Food	Very good	Very good
Dance halls	Synthetic floors; very unkind to the body	Wooden floors, very good. Really kind to the body.
Travelling on site	Too far between halls of residence, dance rooms, canteen, causing undue rush.	Compact and convenient, reducing rush.
Non-dance activities	Beautiful coast and beaches but all activities dependent on transport	Beautiful city, exhibitions etc. No need for transport.
Travel to venue and distance from station	Depends where you are coming from but this was certainly a plus for many people at York.	

Wherever is chosen, the convenience and cost of travel must be taken into consideration and the "catchment area" for S.I.F.D. members, some of whom may well come on a daily basis. To sum up, York has my vote every time. Any new venue would need to match York in all respects.

Happy dancing everyone. See you in October.

SUE CLARK

YORK SUMMER SCHOOL

In 1957 I was introduced to Harrow Green group by my late brother-in-law, Ernie Nolan. The group at that time was run by Ruth Sharp and Ron Coulthrop. I joined the S.I.F.D. around 1960. Although I have been a member all these years, this is the first Summer School I have attended, and what an enjoyable experience it was. Dawn and Paul Webster are extremely good organisers, and if anything was slightly amiss, such as no coffee on Sunday morning, it was soon attended to. I would like to thank all the people who worked very hard to make this week such a success. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many "old" friends from the South that Ian and I don't see often enough. At Loidis we shall be doing our best to bring several of the new dances into our repertoire.

I understand that the College of Ripon and St. John, at York, is more expensive than other venues used in the past, but everything is so convenient and pleasant at the college, where meals were varied and enjoyable and the service good, I for one am hoping the next Summer School will again be held at this college.

JEAN WILLSON, Loidis I.F.D.G.

SUMMER SCHOOL, YORK

York '96 will, I am sure, be remembered by both teachers and dancers as a rewarding and happy week. It was truly a week of International dance. One of the teachers put it this way; there are people who like French dancing, there are people who like Turkish dancing, there are people who like Irish dancing, but I wondered what sort of people are they who like all three!

I feel that in the 50th year of the Society it was a Summer School well suited to the aims of the S.I.F.D., and one the founding members would have really enjoyed. My thanks to Dawn and Paul Webster for making it possible, to the teachers and those present for their contribution to making York '96 a week to remember with pleasure.

ROY CLARKE

SUMMER SCHOOL, YORK

We would like to thank the many people who helped us to organize another successful Summer School - both those who assisted in a variety of ways, and those who came to York to take part - for making it a very happy event. The fact that there were fewer people than before only seemed to add to the enjoyment! Thank you too to the many people who have written or 'phoned to thank us and say how much they enjoyed the week at York. We hope that those of you who were unable to come to the Summer School will be able to go to the Day Courses in London and enjoy the dances as much as we did. Some of the dances are certain to remain in the S.I.F.D. repertoire!

DAWN AND PAUL WEBSTER

ANIVERSARY DANCE IN THE NORTH, 29TH JUNE

The great day finally arrived, cold and wet, but nothing could dampen the spirits of approximately 100 brightly-costumed dancers who took part in our Northern Anniversary Dance. Quite apart from the exhilaration of dancing together, everyone contributed to the success of the evening. From the hall decorators to the splendidly abundant refreshments, our three musicians, Neil, Geoff and Ian, even our spectators, including two-year-old Ryan and ninety-seven-year-old Aunt Louisa, total involvement was the order of the day. Very special thanks are also due to our visitors, Jeanette Hull, representing the S.I.F.D. Committee, Frances Horrocks from London, and all the Nutbrook and West Midlands dancers.

The programme selected and circulated months in advance ensured that everyone knew most of the dances, and the only excuse for sitting out was the need for a breather. Veronica Hartt's "Opanka" group gave us a short, excellent demonstration just before we "processed the Anniversary Cake" in the true S.I.F.D. tradition. Unfortunately, Neil slipped and sprained his ankle, which curtailed some of the live musical input, but he was able to sing and play Erev Ba at the end for us. (Glad to report the ankle is now almost fully recovered). Our grateful thanks go also to Phil for his cheerful help on the night and to Maxine Thomas, without whose help in supporting our application for the Oldham Vith Form College Sports Hall we'd not have had such a central and suitable venue. Well done everyone! Perhaps the first of an annual event?

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME and JULIE KORTH
on behalf of Barlow, Derbyshire Dancers,
Frith Folk and Loidis.

DANCING WITHOUT A MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT
IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Silent dances were, or perhaps still are, found (now to a limited degree) in all regions of the former Yugoslav territories. These were executed in complete silence, or with singing or partial musical accompaniment, and often with rests (na odmorke or na postupke). Such dances are found in Macedonia, for example Nemska in Lazaroplje and Galičnik in the South-East, and in Ohrid on the borders with Albania, where the noise of jangling coins is augmented by the exclamation "psh - psh". In the village of Lisak near Tetovo, the Izniknalo Konopljice (the hemp has sprouted) is danced with periods of singing and counting numerals! In Bosnia there is the well-known dance from Glamoč. In the massive mountain ranges of the Croatian Dalmatian coast there are several wonderful dances. Some of you may remember Ličko Kolo from Lika which the Živko Firfov Group used to perform some years ago. This had singing at the beginning of the dance. Another dance from the same area, inland from the coastal town of Zadar, Širočko Kolo is accompanied by a small drum which also indicates a change of step or direction. I hope to teach this one day! The most famous silent kolo of Dalmatia is from the remote village of Vrlika. Called Vrličko Kolo, it has complex patterns of steps, lifting of the women, and the men turning in a line with the centre man as a pivot, and the end men being thrown into the air by force of the movement. In Montenegro the Kolo Na Kolo is found, in which one circle of men stands on the shoulders of the other. Variations of this can be seen in the North of Serbia and Croatia, as a result of population re-settlement from the Dalmatian regions because of the barren terrain and harsh conditions of life.

Many theories are put forward as to the existence of silent dances. The feudal system under Turkish rule required silence to avoid drawing attention; the dance Selsko Oro from Selsko near Teovo is one authenticated instance. The Mijak women from the mountain villages of Galičnik and Lazaroplje in S.E. Macedonia danced Povrtenskoto and Klenoga Oro before a wedding, when the musicians would be away playing at the bridegroom's wedding party. If we go back into pre-history, dancing of some kind is considered to have existed before musical instruments and singing. Dances to precede a hunt would have imitated the prey, with perhaps grunting. Even when music became linked with dancing it had no bearing on the dance and was merely a decoration to heighten the effect of the dance. (I have heard singing in the village of Injevo in E. Macedonia accompanied by a bag-pipe melody which had absolutely no connection with the melody of the song; if we look to Wales we have the Penillion singing!).

The silent dances may be found mainly in isolated areas in the mountains. The Turks kept mainly to the plains and lower terrain, so their influence would be negligible (this is also true in the case of costumes). The dances usually have vigorous movements, the rhythm being produced by the women's metal ornaments and stamping. The women were usually shaken violently, and lifted up into the air. This was to test their strength and endurance before marriage! A woman's lot was not a happy one; they did practically all the work that was required. The men would be occupied with hunting, or fighting.

It is evident that the need for dancing existed independently from any musical accompaniment. Dancing in silence can generate mystery, emotion, excitement, and even ecstasy as much as it does when accompanied by music.

Because we now dance mainly to recorded music, we have lost, or are losing, the ability to respond to rhythm spontaneously. When dancing became related to some kind of music, the musicians began to follow the dancers. Dancers now rely on a "beat" and dance to a melody; dances are now usually taught to a melody, therefore people find it difficult to adapt to a different melody. Perhaps silent dances should always be taught at the beginning of a dance course or workshop. Food for thought!

KEN WARD

(Extracted from material for a forthcoming book).

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, SEPTEMBER. FRENCH AND TURKISH

The September Day Course will feature a selection of dances taught at the Summer School in York this year.

10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Simon and Joan Guest will teach the French dances of Marie-Claire Viala.

2.00 to 4.30 p.m. Maggie O'Regan will teach the Turkish dances of Ahmet Luleci.

Dances to be taught:- French: Rondeau des Petite Landes, Congo des Capteux, Rondeau de la Grande Landes, Sept Sauts Bearnais.
Turkish: Felek, Enzeli Reksi, Agir Halay and Ali Pasa (not the one you know).

Date: 14th September 1996

Venue: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, London N.W.1.

Cost: £6.00 members, £7.00 non-members (full day)

£3.00 members, £3.50 non-members (half day)

Concessions available on request.

The OCTOBER Day Course will be the Dance Swap taking place prior to the October Jubilee Dance on the 12th. All offers and requests, by 15th September please, to me at Flat 1, 317A Caledonian Road, London N1 1DR. Tel: 0171 609 7098.

The NOVEMBER Day Course will be Israeli, with Fiona Howarth, filling a breach at short notice (I was ordered to say this!). She has asked me to say that she will consider all requests but promises nothing! Tel: 0181 460 2305.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

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BALKANPLUS, 14th September at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1, from 7.00 to 10.30 p.m. M.C.s Sally Fletcher, Madeleine Chapman and John Reilly will be walking through a number of their dances for us. Dunav will also be in attendance so come along and help get the new season off to a good start. Admission £3.00. Reduced rates for season ticket holders (immediately available at the door). Balkanplus T-shirts will be on sale, £6.50.

Don't forget the Balkanplus 10th Anniversary Dance on 26th October at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road. This is a change of weekend so as not to clash with the S.I.F.D. Anniversary Dance, and of venue as Cecil Sharp House is not available in October and November. Normal service will be resumed in December.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP, Songs & Dances from Macedonia, Croatia and Serbia.

Dates for Autumn term 1996. Mondays, 6.30 to 9.00 p.m. at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London S.W.1. :-

September 16th, 23rd, 30th. October 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
November 11th, 18th, 25th (4th is half-term). December 2nd, 9th.

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

ROSEMARY GIBB, Group Secretary

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mrs. Avery,

In his letter in the July SIFD NEWS, George Sweetland posits the view that "all folk arts must be traditional". The majority of so-called folk dances are not traditional. I have wondered for some time now whether the problem lies in identifying the concept in relation to an event, but wrongly extrapolating it to the contents of that event. Thus May Day is an event whose origins are lost in history. It is traditional. One may celebrate it with dancing rather than, say, fishing. Thus the act of dancing is traditional, but the dances performed in any age are those popular or considered appropriate in that age, and they change from age to age. Thus the actual dances cannot be said to be traditional.

A dance event does not have to correspond so specifically to a Calendar Day, an agricultural festival, a historical celebration, or what have you; it can simply be the weekly "Saturday Hop", the Irish Crossroads Dance Meets, or any other regular social event.

In summary, "to dance" is traditional, but "what is danced" is not.

Yours sincerely,

G.D.TOWNER

7 Woolven Close, Poole, Dorset BH14 0QT

TURKISH GROUP, LONDON

We are pleased to announce a return visit from Nuket Sakalli, one of our favourite and very talented Turkish dance teachers. She will be running a course in October in Central London on Wednesdays, 2nd and 16th October, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at 1A Centre, 1A Rosebery Avenue (the opposite end to Sadler's Wells Theatre), London E.C.1. Nearest Underground: Chancery Lane (Central Line). 'Buses 17, 19, 38, 45, 171A, Red Arrow 505 pass door, and parking normally easy, and free after 6.30 p.m.

All are welcome. Nuket is an exceptional teacher and her time in the U.K. is limited. Don't miss this opportunity! For more details, 'phone 0181 393 1919 or 0181 427 0947.

PAULINE WELCH

NEWS FROM YORKSHIRE

Recently the Harrogate and Area Volunteer Bureau organized a Volunteers Week. On the opening day, a programme of entertainments was presented in the recently-completed Victoria Gardens. One of the entertainments was a joint one with Janice Wrench's group from Harrogate, the Loidis Group from Leeds, and the lone Derbyshire representative, Marina Wolstenholme. A selection of dances was performed before a good crowd of spectators. Much to our surprise (and joy), at the end of the display we were approached by a teacher from Romania, who congratulated us on our dancing, particularly the Romanian item. "It was so good to see Romanian dancing done in the correct style", he said. So we must be getting something right!

Our next performance will be on 21st September at the Otley Folk Festival.

ALEC GREEN, Loidis I.F.D.G.

LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD 50TH YEAR, 1996

The official opening event of the Eisteddfod was a concert by the London Mozart Players conducted by James Galway. I enjoyed it immensely, but the SIFD NEWS is not a classical music magazine. It was preceded by a concert especially for local children, performed by some of the dance groups and choirs, and although I shall not review it here, it was much appreciated by the young people.

To those of our members who have not yet visited Llangollen; it is a pleasant little town in the Dee valley, virtually unchanged since my first sight of it in 1958. Most of the buildings date from the late 19th century to the early 20th. There are some later developments in the outskirts, but Llangollen has escaped the "brutalism" architecture of the '60s. The famous bridge is basically medieval, although it had necessarily to be widened recently, but the glorious view of the Dee sweeping over the rocks below is unchanged. Apart from the many interesting places outside the town - Dinas Bras, associated with the Holy Grail legend is one - the parish church, St. Collen's, boasts one of the finest carved oak roofs in Great Britain, and on another level the town bookshop is housed in an unspoilt early cinema, complete with projection box and ornate proscenium. But to return to the competitions. As always, I will not cover the groups from the British Isles in detail, but will include the U.K. emigré groups.

Wednesday morning is allocated to the preliminaries for the folk music soloists and groups, and because many of them do not appear in the Pavilion, I find it of great interest. This year it took place in the Town Hall, a more spacious venue than the chapel in Market Street, used in previous years.

The first entrant in the folk music competition was a zurna player from Turkey, using a beautiful instrument with silver mounts. He was judged to be a fine musician, but it was thought his contribution was too short for a proper assessment.

Next, a Lithuanian group of accordion, clarinet, two violins and, unusually, a musical saw. Both items were in waltz time, a most attractive performance. Then, from Barcelona, four pipers and a drummer on the tabor gave us a march tune, followed by a dance accompaniment. This was a pure, clear sound and I liked it very much, but I speak as a non-musician.

The two balalaikas of the Russian group, one very large with 3ft. sides (90cms), together with a mandolin, accordion and a spoon player gave three melodies - a fast dance, a slow, sad typically Russian tune, and a wellknown folk tune in fast time. Then from Bitola, in Macedonia, came a traditional group of instruments - gajde, kaval, tapan and tambura - playing two dance rhythms, the first dedicated to a girl, Yana, and the second to Grandmothers. An exciting sound.

The next group, confusingly announced as Czecho-Slovaks, consisted of four violins and, for the first item, a very long pipe played vertically like a bassoon. Its distinctive sound, together with the group singing of a ballad about a national hero, was most effective. The second, working up to a very fast tempo, used a small bass, played across the chest, folk style, instead of the pipe. Next came the Ukrainian's first offering by a trio of flute, violin and a tambourine played with a short stick, a dance tune. This was followed by a solo on the flute of a very high standard but, as Narendra Kotiyan pointed out when judging it, this was not a folk performance.

Finally, the quintet from Latvia; four woodwinds and a "krankles", an old instrument with tuned wooden blocks mounted in a vertical frame and played like a xylophone. A tuneful performance.

The three groups chosen to appear on stage were the Slovaks, the Macedonians and the Lithuanians, eventually awarded 93, 92 and 91 marks respectively.

Shortly after the adjudication of the folk music competition (leaving just time for a quick cup of tea), what we must now call the Adult Folkdance

Contd...

Competition was staged, with Narendra Kotiyan, Francis Feybli and Anca Guirchescu as judges.

Czech Republic, Liberec. This mixed-age group, the men in brown knee-breeches and short coats with boots and flat, black hats, and the girls in a pretty costume with a lacy blouse and sequined headband, performed "Babka", a mazurka, to a tune reminiscent of a Polish melody. The second dance, using step hops and little cabrioles for the men, was "Kominik". Both were "folky" and danced well to a good accompaniment (82 marks).

Ukraine, Chernobyl. Six couples, the girls wearing longer skirts than we normally see, showed two typical dances, "Gopak" and "Gordianka". Beautifully danced, to a strong rhythm played by the seven musicians, the dances were so highly choreographed that it is impossible to even attempt to describe them. (80 marks).

Macedonia, Bitola. In the striking festival costumes of the Bitola district, the girls presented "Zensko Camce". Impeccably danced in a manner befitting the seriousness of a peasant wedding, to the beat of a tapan and strident notes of a zurla, it was followed by the dramatic old war dance for men, "Cifte Camce". In their cross-gartered leg guards and ornate jackets worn over the shoulders, they looked fierce enough for any skirmish. (89 marks).

India (North Harrow). An all girls group, their two dances were "Ghadwali" and "Vanjara". Well danced to good music but unfortunately they committed the cardinal sin of dressing girls as boys. (78 marks).

Turkey, Istanbul. Accompanied by tapan and zurna, the six couples gave "Silivri", a wedding dance. The girls in red velvet trousered costumes with silver decoration, used small uncomplicated steps but the bodylanguage was expressive, with seductive hip movements. The men, in blue with turban-like head-dresses, were more energetic but were actually less prominent in the dance. The second item, "Hatay", was not sufficiently contrasted but the group's music was consistently good. (80 marks).

Sardinia, Nuora. The style of this group was in total contrast to that of the previous party. The traditional dances were performed by eight couples in very tight circles with small, bouncy steps which looked easier than they are. Nor do they have instrumental accompaniment, only four men singing in that special Sardinian way. The first dance, "Duru-Duru", alternated a tight circle with a square formation, the tops and sides advancing and retreating, and was part of a harvest ritual. The second, "Tai-Tai", changed from a tight circle to an open one and to couples making an inner and outer circle. For me, a fascinating display of ancient traditions. (90 marks - third prize).

England, Wells. In the 19th century ^{tradition} of women's clog dance in the Northern mill towns, the ten girls gave a satisfying performance of a 5-hand reel and a jig. With good music and costumes, they were perhaps under-marked. (81 marks).

Latvia, Riga. This large group of 16 dancers and four musicians gave a spirited performance of "Alsungietis" with vigorous step hopping and lots of body movement, dressed in their attractive costumes of black trousers and hip-length coats and matching hats and boots for the men, and orange dresses and tartan shawls and socks for the girls. They made a partial change for the next item, "Tudalin-Tagadin", which was doubtfully ascribed to the 9th century. Galloping in lines, clapping and singing, suggests it was basically a game dance. (80 marks).

Rep. Ireland, Listowel. A square set dance in polka time, and a step dance, both from Kerry, once again showed how the Irish excel in this fast footwork. (85 marks).

GEORGE SWEETLAND

To be continued next month.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Oct.5th DAY COURSE WITH FRITH FOLK at St.Peter's Church Hall, Buxton. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Marina Wolstenholme. Dances to include Israeli, Romanian, Russian and Macedonian. Not more than £5.00. Bring packed lunch, or there are pubs, cafes, take-aways nearby. Contact: Pat Phillips, 01298 24450.

Oct.5th WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH AUTUMN EVENING DANCE AND A.G.M. 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at Coleshill Community Centre, Temple Way (off Station Road), Coleshill. All welcome. Please bring food.

Oct.6th ISRAELI DANCE DAY with Anat Sharabi in Bristol. Some dances from summer camps will be included. 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St.Paul's Church Hall, Beaulley Road, Bristol. Contact Daphne Allen, 01275 392757.

Oct.6th MAGGIE O'REGAN and VAL LENNY resume their Sunday workshops, 3.00 to 5.00 p.m. at Studio 3, The Place, Flaxman Terrace, London W.C.1. Enquiries: 0171 609 7098.

Oct.12th S.I.F.D. GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE. See p.2 & 3.

Oct.19th ISRAELI DAY COURSE, organized by Barlow F.D.Group at St.Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Egerton Road South, Chorlton. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Irene Coppitch. Further information from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.

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, 7.30-11.00 p.m. at Borough Green Village Hall. M.C.s: Jan Bryce and David McKie. Guest M.C.: Hugh Wood. Tickets £5.00. For more details, contact Alan Cant, 01732 883405.

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 Rd., London NW5 1DA.

Nov.9th BALKAN DAY COURSE with Cathy Meunier, organized by West Midlands Branch in Lyndon Schools Sports Hall, Daylesford Road, Sheldon, Solihull. 11.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. The hall is on the same site where last year's Albert Hall rehearsals were held and is easy to find, but maps will be available.

Nov.10th A DAY WITH LAURA SHANNON in Bristol. Old favourites and new dances from her travels. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St.Paul's Church Hall, Beaulley Road, Bristol. Please book with Daphne Allen, 01275 392757.

Dec.1st ISRAELI DANCE PARTY and WORKSHOP REVISION at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. Contact Rowena Martin for details, 01323 503991.

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

Jan.19th ISRAELI DANCE DAY with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne, E.Sussex. Contact Rowena Martin for details, 01323 503991.

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STOP PRESS. We have just heard the sad news that Harry Whitaker, past Chairman and loyal member of the S.I.F.D. for many years, died in February. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife, Irene.

SHOES FOR SALE. One pair of women's brand-new character shoes for sale. Freed brand, style FBS/1, last S. (This translates to top of the range, leather, hand-lasted, last for decades style). Size: Length 5, width 5 (wide). £36.65 when bought; offers considered.

WANTED TO BUY. Martisorul (London Romanian group) is interested in buying unwanted Romanian costume, either complete or bits of costume. A good home and loving care will be given.

For either of the above items, contact Jane Sinton, 13 Howard Close, Cambridge, Cambs. CB5 8QU. Tel: 01223 293604.

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VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON

Saturday, 20th July. On a warm, sunny afternoon it was the turn of Croxley Green(Herts) and the Central London International Folkdance groups. They both did selections of dances from Western and Eastern Europe in appropriate costumes, joining together en masse for the final item. Thank you to both groups for time and effort spent in rehearsing and coming to London for the performance.

Sunday, 21st July. The final S.I.F.D. event for the 1996 season was put on by Merton Park/Woodvale groups with the Iberian Folk Song and Dance Society. The day was again warm and sunny, and there were S.I.F.D. members and old friends in the audience. Music for Merton Park and Woodvale was live, being played by Wilf Horrocks on his accordion and by Alan Humberstone on the grand piano, rolled out especially for the occasion from its little room on the left of the stage. There were three groups of international dances, including a "flying" Kreuz Konig by Woodvale, and Israeli dances done by girls only. Woodvale brought along with them one of the youngest dancers ever, and we hope we shall see more of him!

The Iberian group did two sets of dances - firstly six jotas from Northern Spain, in a variety of jota costumes, and secondly six Andalusian dances in spotted Sevillanas dresses.

Thank you, Merton Park and Woodvale, and the Iberian Society for performing, and to Wilf and Alan for playing. It was a very good end to the S.I.F.D.'s contribution to the open-air entertainment on the North Bank in 1996.

KAY KEDGE

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ADVANCE NOTICE - A course of "Eastern Promise"

As I promised previously, I will be organizing a course with Jan Knoppers, at which he will teach some of his Asian repertoire. The three-day residential course will be held over the Easter weekend 1997 - 29th, 30th, 31st March.

The venue will be Doncaster College Conference Centre, High Melton, where, on a 126-acre site there is modern and comfortable accommodation in single rooms (30 en-suite) and there are wonderful facilities, including a large dance hall with a sprung wooden floor. There are excellent road and rail connections. I am still working out the final details, but application forms will be ready soon, so note the dates in your diary and watch this space!

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

PEMBROKESHIRE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP 10TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, 26TH OCTOBER 1996, AT HAVERFORDWEST

As promised, an outline of dances for the party. A selection from :-

Makedonska/Struga	Cacak	Busuiocul
Serbian Suite	Sitno-Krajdumavsko Horo	Sulam Ya'akov
Cherkessia Kfula/Ersko Kolo	Somogye Karikazo	Hassapiko
Vlashko	Zaplet Kolo	Oige je va Sembe
Slangpolska Fram Vikdolandet	Windmill/Hammersmiths	Little Man In a Fix
Cumberland Square 8	La Vezi La Vezon	Reinlender/Hambo
English Fran Smoland	Glamorgan Threesome	Rhyd-y-Meirch
Mexican Waltz	Seksmans Ril	Sicilian Tarantella
Levi Jackson's Rag	Kreuz Konig	Laura
Grosser Achterum	Linechka Polka	

Ed. Note: Can't guarantee the spelling; writing difficult to read!

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HELP NEEDED

I have been asked by The Children's Society to research some material relating to mid-eighteenth century Germany (in particular Saxony) for a proposed musical about a key Christmas church service known as the Christingle. The Christingle originated in the Moravian Church in 1747 in the small Saxon town of Marienborn. Part of the background material that I am trying to locate is information on eighteenth-century German folk dance, music and costumes, with particular reference to Saxony and the Bohemian and Slavic states of Silesia and Moravia. I would be interested to hear from anyone who has an interest in this field. Please contact Ian Wakeling, Archivist, The Children's Society, Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street, London WC1X 0JL.

IAN WAKELING

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ASIAN-AFRICAN EVENING

"FROGS", a charity which repairs old school furniture and ships it to primary schools in the developing world, will be holding a fund-raising evening in Maidstone on Friday, 18th October, with music and dance performances and exotic food. Among the performers will be members of Christine Hall's student troupe "Awalim". For information and tickets, 'phone Sally Reader, 01634 862365.

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MUSIC. This month Wilf Horrocks gives us his version of the music for the popular "Russian Lyrical Dance", on p.14. If you would like the music for a particular dance, please let Wilf know, on 0181 642 3629.

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When sending in material for SIFD NEWS, please remember to print in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people, places and dances, unless typewritten.