

# SIFD NEWS FEB 1997



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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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 shows a lady's costume from Crete  
and was drawn by Stella Carter.

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S.I.F.D. GROUP HISTORIES

The Society "History" of its groups, priced at £1.25 a copy, will be available  
at the February Cecil Sharp House Dance. If your group is one of those who  
contributed to the booklet, we hope you will purchase one and learn of the  
groups' activities. For postal purchase, please write to me (address above)  
and include an additional 50p for postage & packing. I should like to take this  
opportunity to thank both Simon Guest, who not only did the D.T.P. work but con-  
tributed to the editing, and Anna Huston whose wonderful cartoons are worth the  
price alone.

D.W.T.W. GROUP LIST

I must apologise to group leaders and secretaries for the delay in producing  
the 1996/97 Group List. The target date is 1st December but, due to a number  
of seemingly incurable problems over which I had no control, this was not  
possible, but it is to be hoped that we shall have them by February. For those  
who may be unaware of the existence of the leaflet; it is intended as a quick  
reference for members, but more importantly for prospective members, to give  
them some idea of the range of our contacts. If any member would be prepared  
to distribute a few, I should be most grateful.

GEORGE SWEETLAND  
Publicity Officer

# Executive Committee



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- others tba

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# SIFD Organisation

January 1997

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EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL, 2ND/5TH MAY 1997

So that you know what to expect, I thought I would confirm that I have booked Judy Ingram to teach Israeli, Elsche Korf to teach Dutch, an Indian Bhangra Group from West Bromwich (U.K.), and I am negotiating with a Swedish group (the proposed Romanian group are unable to attend). All this, together with Jill Bransby, "Cloudburst", a couple of other friends and yours truly.

If you are going to enjoy this variety of dancing, I NEED HELP; a team of helpers, in fact, to do specific jobs.

- 1) Both visiting teams will need either one or two people to act as hosts for the weekend, which means greeting them, ensuring that the accommodation in the caravans is O.K., and making sure that they are taken to the busking etc. on time, and generally are looked after. For the Swedish team it may also mean that they are met from the airport or harbour.
- 2) I need people to set out the performers' dining area each day and to clear up afterwards, also possibly to dish out the food.
- 3) A couple of people are needed to set up the P.A. equipment, and to be responsible for it during the weekend, e.g. ensure batteries are re-charged, and stand guard at lunchtime.
- 4) I also need stewards at the door, to ensure that people have valid tickets and that NO CHARACTER SHOES or SHOES WITH HARD HEELS are worn. Only soft-soled indoor shoes allowed.

Sorry to go on at such length, but, as you can see from the above list, it is physically impossible for me to cope alone. I therefore await your floods of offers, and I will negotiate for some form of compensation for any loss of dancing time.

P.S. Don't forget to order your season tickets early.

HELEN EZRA (Miss)  
84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey  
SM4 6RB  
Tel: 0181 648 4118

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POLISH FOLK DANCING - THIRD LEAMINGTON SPA FESTIVAL, 4TH-5TH MAY 1997

Following two very successful festivals, groups based around Britain are again preparing to come together in Leamington Spa. The Festival takes place every two years and is open to all dance groups to perform, in traditional costume, dances and songs from different regions of Poland. In 1995, over 200 dancers and musicians from 14 groups took part. We are aiming to repeat this very successful Festival in 1997.

The standard of the first two Festivals has been very high. All groups regularly perform for the public, as well as participating in other Folk Festivals, frequently abroad. A number have appeared on television both in this country and other countries. Many of the leaders of the participating groups have studied folk dance in Poland.

The venue is the Royal Spa Centre, Royal Leamington Spa, Newbold Street, Warwickshire. Performances on Sunday, 4th May, at 6.30 p.m. and on Monday, 5th May, at 4.00 p.m. Advance bookings to J.Tomaszewska, 0181 567 0395 (6.30-8.30 weekdays). Ticket prices: £10, £9, £8. After 6th April, Box Office Tel: 01926 334418. Further information from Ewa Brzeska, 0181 840 4187 or Andrzej Szejda, 0181 567 5048.

## CALLING ALL MUSICIANS (AGAIN)

The response to my request last November for musicians interested in playing international folkdance music to contact me has been reasonably encouraging, but I am sure there are still plenty more musicians who haven't written in yet. Enthusiasm is far more important than experience. So, if anyone is interested in being put in contact with other musicians, taking part in a music exchange scheme, or possibly attending music workshops, please write to me at the address below. I need to know what instrument(s) you play and at what level of experience, whether you are with a group who play or might be interested in playing International Folkdance music, and if you have a special interest or expertise in any particular style of music. Please tell me also if you would be willing to be put in contact with any other musicians in your area.

To those who have already replied, I will be in contact as soon as I can.

On a different tack; the following letter appeared in "English Dance and Song" which I have reproduced here with the author's permission. If anyone is interested in Indian music, here is a chance to make a valuable contact.

"Warm greeting from India.

Ever since I became a member of the English Dance and Song Society, I have been regularly receiving the magazine and journals. I must admire about the information and quality of magazine.

I am a performer of Indian Classical Music on Hawaiian Guitar and am also doing research on role of Music Therapy to bring a change in Mentally Handicapped Children. Through your magazine I would like to contact persons who are interested in knowing more about Indian Folk Music and also those who would like to share their experience of Music Therapy.

Thanking you."

G.JAYWANT NAIDU  
1-1-593/A/2, Gandhinagar,  
Hyderabad, 500080, India

Mr. Jaywant Naidu has sent me an excellent tape of himself and others playing Indian music, so this seems a good opportunity to find out at first hand more about what is for us still a fairly exotic form of music.

MIKE GILBERT  
85 Fen Road,  
Chesterton, Cambridge  
CB4 1UN

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## TRIPS TO ROMANIA

Doina Foundation are organizing the following trips to Romania in 1997 :-

3rd-10th May	Tîrgoviște, Muntenia	Dfl. 1,325
24th July-6th Aug.	Călimănești, Oltenia	Dfl. 2,195

Prices include flight from Heathrow or from Schipol (Amsterdam) to Bucharest and transfer to destination; full board in hotel; lessons from Romanian dance teachers; excursions; visits, etc. Full details from Silviu Ciuciumiș, aarhuispad 22, 3067 PR Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Also contact Silviu re a BALKAN FESTIVAL to be held from 26th-29th June 1997 at Zetten (near Arnhem), The Netherlands. Greek, Bulgarian, Turkish, Hungarian Gypsy, Macedonian-Oriental, Yugoslav, Romanian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I am grateful to James Webb (and others of a similar line of thought some years ago) for what they have written on the nature of folk dancing.

Words can mean different things to different people. For me, "peasant" means "small farmer". I have seen such people dance in Romania (Transylvania) and they have extremely gnarled hands! The way in which they dance differs (sometimes very radically) from village to village. Over the years, a commercial infrastructure - bridging the distance between villages and those not moved to travel - has sprung. Initially (and still in certain limited cases), peasants themselves travelled when resources permitted. Difficulties do, however, arise when transporting folk culture from its setting. It is said that when some shepherd pipers brought by Bartok to one of the first folk festivals ever (ca. 100 years ago) were refused drink at the local post office (nowhere else being open) they called the postmaster a liar and burnt the building down!

To use extreme terms, does it matter where the peasant dancing stops and the packaged spectacular starts? Perhaps the folkdance segment of the televised 1100th anniversary celebrations of Hungarian culture in Europe showed this difficulty very lucidly. Over about an hour or more, examples of many regions were shown. Small village ensembles would start, as done locally, the only clear structure being that the couples, or solo dancers, featured in turns, in no obvious order and for contrasting lengths of time. After a few minutes, they would be replaced by many times over the number of dancers, from the Budapest Ensemble, who would execute five to ten minutes of precision routine. The people from Budapest folkdance clubs whom one spoke to the next day generally seemed to have got greater value out of the Ensemble dancers than from the villagers (mostly from Transylvania and Southern Slovakia).

What enables folk culture to survive? I believe that cultural and economic adversity play a strong part - a resistance to nihilism. In Romania, it appears that the disco and supermarket culture is becoming far more effective at eliminating a heterogeneous folk culture - in its many ethnic strains - than the more radical policies of Ceaucescu.

MALCOLM O'BRIEN ACHESON  
105 Plimsoll Rd., London N4 2ED

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Dear Lily,

May I express my appreciation of the intrepid and psychically attuned dancers who managed to discover that there was a Balkanplus on 11th January despite the complete absence of publicity and information in the December and January magazines! (I understand there was a cock-up on the communication front).

About thirty people braved the weather and resisted rival attractions, and I found the evening most enjoyable, as everyone joined in most of the time and adapted to the Pick 'n Mix format. We even managed two sets of Dargasson with everyone in the right place at the end! Thanks again to all concerned.

FIONA HOWARTH  
17a Ravensbourne Road,  
Bromley BR1 1HN

LETTERS, Cont.

Dear Lily Avery,

In the SIFD NEWS of December 1996 I saw the simplified music for "our" folkdance, "Hirschegrabler" (not "Hirschene Grabeler"). Our folkdance group at Zurich in Switzerland "invented" this dance in the year 1955 together with our folkdance teacher Klara Stern, who had the idea for this dance. It was created for the Jubilee Folkdance Festival, 150 years since 1805. At Unspunner, near Interlaken, there had been in 1805, after the French revolution, a festival with all kinds of folkloristic activities, with old and new songs and with old and new dances. The "high" families had invited the whole people to bring the former enemies together.

Klara Stern, born in 1901, is still very healthy and interested in folk dancing. She created not only a lot of dances but also our folkdance group at Zurich. I saw her last week at her home, in Zurich.

"Hirschegrabler" is a word in our dialect, in our idiom of Zurich. "Hirsch" is "red deer" and means "stag". "Graben" is "ditch", "trench", "moat", "dyke". The place where we dance twice every week is situated in the Hirschengraben Street, and this street is in the place where formerly, outside the city, there were stag and deer in a moat. The folkdance "Hirschegrabler" is the dance which was invented and which is danced in the Hirschengraben school-house at the street with the name "Hirschengraben" at Zurich.

I enclose the not-simplified music and I hope you will like it.

With all my best wishes, Yours,

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

Ed.Note: Many thanks, Karl, for this information. The "not-simplified" music has been passed to our musician, Wilf Horrocks, and he has asked me to thank you.

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BULGARIAN FOLK DANCE & MUSIC HOLIDAY with Delyan Demirev in Pavlikeni, in August 1997. Another chance to sample Bulgarian hospitality, meet Delyan's friendly young dance group "Nastroenie", and to learn/revise some of his folk dances. Based in a pleasant North Bulgarian town, there will be sightseeing excursions, including wine factories, as well as the chance to experience local culture. For a provisional programme leaflet, contact me at 47 Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8EU. For other information ring Galina Turker on 0181 349 4291.

ROGER WICKSTEED

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

I have been told that because Nick Green's name appeared at the foot of the article under the above heading last month, members may be under the impression that he is responsible for organizing the S.I.F.D. Day Courses, and I have been asked to point out that this is not the case. Nick was asked to write the article (except for the first paragraph) as he was able to give us the information about our guest teacher, Emil Urcan, but it is of course the Badge & Day Course Sub-Committee who are responsible for the organization of S.I.F.D. Day Courses. Ed.

"TRADITIONAL DANCE IN GREEK CULTURE" by Yvonne Hunt examines dance in its cultural setting as a vital, living element; a segment of Hellenic culture which is largely neglected in the broader context. The specific focus of the book is on the role dance plays in the lives of the Greeks, the changes brought about by an ever-evolving society, and its future position in Greek culture.

Dance genres and styles are presented by geographical regions, i.e. Dodekãnesa, Kyklãdes, Kríti, Roumeli, Makedoniã etc. In addition, various customs in which dance plays a central or important role - apókreas celebrations, anastenãria, Lazarines, tzamála - are also discussed. An entire chapter is devoted to improvisation and leading the dance, as well as a chapter on the naming of the dances. The latter seeks to clarify a subject which can mystify both Greek and non-Greek alike. As it is difficult to separate dance from music, another chapter examines the music, musicians and traditional instruments. A catalogue of traditional instruments as well as combinations used in various regional ensembles is included.

In his foreword to the book, the noted ethnomusicologist, Márkos Dragoúmis, Director of the Music Folklore Archives of the Centre for Asia Minor Studies in Athens (publisher of the book), writes: "The presentation of the material shows a good balance between practical and theoretical information, and the reading is enjoyable". It..."whets the appetite of the novice to take the first step towards becoming a dancer and allows the knowledgeable to acquire a deeper understanding of the subtle art of Greek dancing". Through this book, both Greeks and non-Greeks will increase their awareness of this profound expression of Hellenic culture. Hopefully they will also recognize the urgency of preservation and documentation before it disappears entirely or is swallowed up in rapidly-encroaching foreign elements.

Price: \$25.00 (U.S.) Shipping and handling charges for Europe: \$5.00 surface mail, \$8.50 air mail.

Y.M.HUNT  
4837 38th Ave. NE, Seattle,  
WA 98105, U.S.A.

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#### EURODANCE NEWS

Two exciting developments are in the air for Eurodance lovers within reach of London, starting in late February 1997 with a Bal des Amoureux featuring the uniquely dreamy French music of Stéphane Delicq, with an associated workshop on diatonic accordeon.

Also visiting at this time from Germany, "Squip!" will be playing for dances from Central Europe, and giving a workshop in the intriguing Zweifache mixed rhythm dances from Bavaria. "Squip!" play lots of French dances as well, so "pas de panique", as they say.

There are also rumours that members of the erstwhile cult group "Blowzabella" have been invited, in the light of their recent highly popular appearances around the country and in Europe, to be the resident musicians at a new once-a-month Eurodance gig which will also feature guest appearances by visiting or up-and-coming musicians as well as dance workshops offering guided explorations of the ocean of Eurodance, so you needn't feel out of your depth!

For further details of these and other Eurodance events, contact me at 66 Goodhall Street, London NW10 6TU. Tel: 0181 838 1996.

JESSICA ABRAHAMS



## BALKAN CASSETTES

Now that I have had an opportunity to listen to the two Zivko Firfov Group cassettes made by Ken Ward, I should like to say how much I enjoyed them. There is a good selection of some 60 dances/songs from Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia, with tunes that inspire you to get up and dance - in fact, it is difficult not to. As Ken says, the recordings come from a variety of sources and they do vary in quality, and therefore the finished recordings depend on the quality of the originals, but Ken has done a very good job. The only criticism I have is that several of the tunes end very abruptly, almost in mid-step or the middle of a musical phrase. However, there may have been a technical reason for this.

How about a day course, Ken, to teach us some of the dances to go with these lovely tunes?

LILY AVERY

P.S. The cassettes are available from Ken Ward, 3 Pipers Court,<sup>80</sup> Beulah Hill, London SE19 3GT. Tel: 0181 771 8258.

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FOR SALE - a genuine, traditional red and white ladies outfit, from Austria. Pinafore dress with silver/white embroidery on red bodice and skirt. White lace blouse and matching apron. Purchased in Austria for £150, never worn. Size 14-16. Hope to get £95 but will consider other reasonable offers. Contact Miss J.Morris, 111 Fleming Way, Wickersley, Rotherham, S.Yorks. Tel: 01709 531244 after 4.30 p.m., or 01709 510794.

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## S.I.F.D. SHOP - NEW STOCK - APRONS

Attractive red aprons, printed with Sister Anna's design "Lots of Dancers", in black. Cost: £8.00 plus £1.00 postage & packing. Available from me, at 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.

These aprons will make excellent gifts, or brighten up your cooking chores. Go on, spoil yourself.

CLAIRE STEELEY

S.I.F.D. cassettes, records, books are available from Eleanor Gordon, 92 Norbiton Avenue, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 3QP.

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BALKANPLUS WHITSUN DANCE WEEKEND, with Eddy Tijssen, at Cheddar Youth Hostel, 23rd-26th May 1997. A few places remain on this long weekend Bulgarian dance course with Eddy. If you are intending to come but haven't got around to booking, please do so soon! I need to know final numbers for the hostel by early March at the latest. For further information and booking form, contact me at 44 Church Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3EQ. Tel: 0117 950 9889.

ANNE MARSHALL

## WHO IS IRÍNA VASÍL EVNA RASPÓPOVA?

Last year I went on a wonderful course in Holland with Irína Raspópova. She is from a Russian peasant and Don Cossack family, and has been singing the polyphonic songs of her people since childhood. She is a graduate of the Moscow Institute of Culture and taught at the Vorónezh Conservatory. Her choirs have performed on television, in films, and in numerous countries. She has written a book on her unique "Method of Voice Training in Folk Styles of Russian Polyphony", with a cassette tape of over 100 exercises and examples, and she has made, together with her partner, the anthropologist Dr. Jovan Howe, a C.D. of field recordings of songs from Old Ritualist Orthodox Christian (Staropravoslávnie) peasants in a South Russian village.

Irína, Jovan, and one or two members of Irína's group are coming to Wales for the 10-day Conference on "The Archeology of the Voice", 3rd to 13th April. The Bistrica Grandmothers are also appearing at this International Symposium. Irína would like to know if anyone in Great Britain would like any workshops or performances, after 13th April. This is a great opportunity to experience her wonderful voice and training methods.

I would be pleased to answer any further questions about Irína's work, or you can write directly in Russian, Dutch or English, to: Irína Raspópova, Nobelweg 38, 6706 GB Wageningen, The Netherlands. Tel: 0317 425401.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME  
"Robin Cottage",  
4 Commercial Road, Grindleford,  
Sheffield S30 1HA  
Tel: 01433 630183

P.S. She dances as well.

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## LONDON TURKISH GROUP

Further to earlier news items, I should like to record our thanks to Nuket Sakali, the visiting Turkish folkdance teacher. She has been teaching Trakya (Thrace) dances, especially Kirklareli, and also dances from S. and S.E. Turkey including the famous Silifke (spoon) dances, and those from Agri (Ararat, as in Noah's Ark!) and the lively Artvin dances (that you may have seen at Sidmouth or Llangollen - they are very attractive to watch).

As you may know, we already have some Silifke dances, with the wooden spoons, in our repertoire, but the Kirklareli dances use the spoons in a different style which is characteristic and extremely graceful and, once learnt, is great fun to do. Why not visit us this term and learn how to use the wooden spoons! We also visit Turkish restaurants, where we dance and have a great time.

Our dates this term will be February 5th and 19th, March 5th and 19th, all at 7.30 p.m. at 1A Centre, 1A Rosebery Avenue, London E.C.1. (the opposite end of Rosebery Avenue to the old Sadlers Wells Theatre). Contact 0181 393 1919. For directions, 'phone 0171 278 3393.

PAULINE WELCH

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MUSIC. Three more tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.12. If you would like the music for any particular dance, please contact Wilf on 0181 642 3629.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mar.1st WORKSHOP IN EGYPTIAN AND IRANIAN VEIL DANCE TECHNIQUES with Christine Hall (veils can be borrowed) at Hastings Adult Education Centre. Enquiries: 01424 435619. No price given.

Mar.9th LAURA SHANNON'S WORKSHOP of mostly Armenian dances, with some Gypsy and Greek. 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. No price given. Booking form and map from Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

Mar.9th GREEK DANCE WORKSHOP with Vassiliki Barradaki, 1.30 to 5.30 p.m. at Studio 10, The Place, Flaxman Terrace, London W.C.1. £6.00. Enquiries to Diki Gleeson, 0181 363 1506.

Mar.15th RUSSIAN DAY COURSE, 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. £5.00. Tutor: Marina Wolstenholme. Organized by Nutbrook I.F.D.G. Contact: Gill Morral, 0115 9393204.

Mar.15th INTRODUCTION TO EGYPTIAN DANCING, with Christine Hall. Includes belly dancing, baladi, raks sharqi, veil and stick dance, plus rhythms. At Eastbourne College. Enquiries: 01323 644711. No price given.

Mar.22nd MIDDLE EASTERN DANCING (BELLY DANCING) with Christine Hall. At Sevenoaks Adult Education Centre. Enquiries: 01732 451618. No price given.

Mar.28th EGYPTIAN AND IRANIAN VEIL DANCE TECHNIQUES (veils can be borrowed) with Christine Hall at Sittingbourne Adult Education Centre. Enquiries: 01795 424124. No price given.

Mar.29th/31st "EASTERN PROMISE", an Asian weekend course with Jan Knoppers at Doncaster College Conference Centre, High Melton. Please send s.a.e. for further information and booking form, to Marina Wolstenholme, Robin Cottage, 4 Commercial Road, Grindelford, Sheffield S30 1HA. Tel: 01433 630183.

Apr.5th/6th EGYPTIAN DANCING, focus on Baladi, with Maggie Caffrey, introduced by Christine Hall, at Rodmell School of Dance. Contact Maggie on 01280 817212. No price given.

May 23rd/26th BALKANPLUS WHITSUN WEEKEND OF BULGARIAN DANCING with Eddy Tijssen at Cheddar Youth Hostel, Somerset. Contact Anne Marshall. See notice on p.9.

June 8th ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. £12.00 (concessions £7.50). Contact Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

July 4th/6th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. Details to follow.

Aug.22nd/25th BALKAN FLAVOUR WEEKEND (Bank Holiday weekend) at Dunford House, Midhurst, West Sussex. If you are interested, please contact Irene Keywood on 0181 592 4427.

Nov.7th/9th ROMANIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND with Silviu Ciuciumis, at Dovedale, in the Peak District, with opportunities for walking/sightseeing. Full board £70.00, plus £24.00 for two full days dance course, or £12.00 for two half-days. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

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S.I.F.D. WALKING/DANCING WEEKEND AT DUNFORD. The booking of Dunford House, near Midhurst, Sussex, for the weekend of 19th/21st December 1997, has now been confirmed. Enquiries to Jack Richardson, University of Wales Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 295194.