

SIED NEWS



JULY 2001

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: www.sifd.org

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

--oOo--

The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting
is done by Dalila Heath.

--oOo--

The cover this month was produced by Simon Guest from a photograph of Macedonian
dancers taken by Tanya Allen at a festival in Bulgaria.

--oOo--

CHAIRMAN: Mike Gilbert, 85 Fen Road, Chesterton, Cambridge CB4 1UN.
Tel: 01223 425648.

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: 020 8427 8042.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road,
London SE5 0TQ. Tel: 020 7701 3785.

--oOo--

All material for the August issue of SIFD NEWS must reach the Editor IN
WRITING by 17th July. Please print in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people,
places and dances, unless typewritten.

As the September issue of SIFD NEWS may be posted later than usual and not
reach people until the first week in September, anyone who wishes to advertise
an event taking place early in September is advised to give details in the
August issue. Ed.

VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS PERFORMANCES

At this time of year we are usually reading in the SIFD NEWS about a programme of dance groups performing at the Victoria Embankment Gardens. This year these announcements have been absent and not everyone may realise it is because Kay Kedge, who usually organizes the dates and publicizes the performances suffered a stroke in March. She is still in Hemel Hempstead Hospital and severely restricted in her movement and ability to communicate, though she is alert and there are signs of slow progress. It is on occasions like this that we become aware of how much someone like Kay does behind the scenes. We do wish her well and hope that her progress continues steadily. We also send our sympathy to Frank for whom this is a worrying and lonely time. Some people who were aware of the situation have written to him and to Kay, and he asked me to take this opportunity to thank them and to say how much their letters are appreciated.

One or two groups have made their own arrangements to dance at the Embankment Gardens, but we realised from the lack of S.I.F.D. supporters at the Romanian show at the end of May that no publicity had been sent to the NEWS. Unfortunately unless you had insider information you have missed the Romanian, Hungarian and Doina groups, but you still have an opportunity to support the Central London Group and Croxley Green, who will be performing at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, 28th July. We hope to see some of you then.

JANET WOOLBAR

Ed.Note: Sadly, the hoped-for recovery did not come about and Kay died after Janet had written the above. We all send our heartfelt sympathy to Frank. (See also pp.7 & 8).

+++++++

ADVANCE NOTICE - EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL 2002

Next year will be the last year that Julie and I will organize the International side of the Festival. We hope that some other members will take on this task and that they will have an equal enthusiasm for the importance of the Society's presence at a major festival. We also need a replacement member to attend the Eastbourne Festival Committee meetings, which are usually held at Hailsham. This is because Rowena Martin resigned earlier this year due to increased family commitments. Thank you, Rowena, for all you have done in the past.

Julie and I have enjoyed, and gained great satisfaction from, organizing the Festival but wish to pass on the baton (to some younger runners?).

By the way, some readers may have been puzzled by Julie's reference, in last month's NEWS, to my absence at the Festival this year. I got 'flu and sadly couldn't be there. I was very sorry to miss it, glad to hear that it went so well and thank all the folks who rallied round to help.

JILL BRANSBY
and JULIE KORTH

+++++++

Most humble apologies to John Walford! I'm still not sure where the "Langdon" came from! It was, of course, John Walford who was the greatest help at Eastbourne.

JULIE KORTH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I simply MUST express my thanks via the columns of the SIFD NEWS to Sybil Chapman for her very kind and warm tribute to the Beskydy Dancers and musicians in the June issue. I was indeed delighted to spot her in the crowd on that sunny day of our performance in Leamington (7th May) - mainly to see her again for old times' sake but also to know there was a friendly and expert spectator among the strangers in front of whom we were performing.

As ever, I was anxious that the group should do well, should successfully absorb our new members in the performance and cope with the uneven pavement. Although the perfect weather may have had something to do with it, we needn't have worried! The audience were wonderful and it proved to me again how people enjoy and appreciate folk dancing and music when they get a chance to see and hear it. So, I feel that all S.I.F.D. groups simply MUST endeavour to keep up the rewarding task of bringing folk dance to people.

Some topical information about our group: having now six men in the group, we're preparing a further dance with axes (from Slovakia) taught by Peter, a young Slovak dancer with us for a while. The dance finishes with a couple dance, so both men and women would be most welcome. We're still at Imperial College on Mondays, so if any members feel like trying this new challenge, give me a ring on 020 8699 8597 or just come and look and try. Venue: The Holland Club (Staff), Imperial College of Science & Technology, Sherfield Building, Calendar Road, Kensington, London S.W.7. 7.30-9.30 p.m.

Sincerely yours,

HEDY FROMINGS
47 Dacres Road, Forest Hill,
London SE23 2NS

Dear Lily,

On 26th May we went to the Victoria Embankment Gardens to see an excellent performance given by the Romanian group. Janet Woolbar informed us at our U3A International Folkdance Group (Harrow) that they were performing on that date.

We notice that there are no details of future events in "What's On" or "Dates for your Diary" in our June NEWS. We have always enjoyed the Victoria Embankment performances. Perhaps the leaders of the groups could send details for the SIFD NEWS.

PAM & DEREK TROWELL'
37 Weald Lane, Harrow, Middx
HA3 5HE

Dear Lily,

I should like to say a big Thank You to Sue Lamb for generously donating her large collection of Bulgarian memorabilia, and to all those people who have bought items from it. We have raised £291.01 (so far) for the Children's Overseas Relief Fund to go towards support for an orphanage in Bulgaria. They are extremely grateful for this donation. So, again, many thanks to everyone who helped.

HILDA STURGE, Bristol I.F.D.G.
10 Carmarthen Rd., Bristol BS9 4DU

Dear Lily

Last month you included Betty Harvey's footnote to her letter in the May issue in response to April's article by G D Towner. It may be of interest to add some further details.

The series of Polish books referred to by Betty were published by the Centralny Ośrodek Metodyki Upowszechniania Kultury (Centre for Cultural Education), a body set up in Warsaw under the Communist government, and the first of the series appeared in 1973. They are substantial volumes, those that I have ranging from 270 to 480 pages, and each is devoted to the folklore of a specific, sometimes quite small, area of Poland. With some variations they follow a common format of being arranged in sections devoted to:

1. General regional characteristics (geographical, historical, ethnographical) and costumes
2. Dances
3. Music and songs
4. Folk customs and tales
5. Suggested arrangements of suites of dances for stage performance

There are colour plates or colour photographs of costumes. The dances are illustrated with line drawings and diagrams and in addition to these and the detailed written descriptions, selected dances are further elucidated by labanotation either at the end of the volume or issued as a separate supplement. Also issued separately are band parts for arrangements of some of the dance music.

Each volume includes lists of the local individuals interviewed whose memories provided the information on dances and songs. The dates of birth given beside the names listed range from 1870 to the 1930s.

How many volumes were published I have been unable to discover and I know of only eleven by title although at least two or three times that many must have been intended, if not actually achieved, in order to represent adequately the rich diversity of all the regions of Poland. Of the six volumes that I have the latest is dated 1983, but when in the late 1980s I attempted to order more from Poland through a Polish bookshop I was eventually told that no more were available.

At about the same time that the early volumes were being prepared, in the 1970s, an annual summer school for the study of Polish folk culture was established at the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (of the two universities in Lublin this was the Communist one, the other being Catholic) to which foreigners were admitted, allowing members of Polish groups around the world to attend and learn definitive versions of dances as taught there by experts from the various regions. [Incidentally, it has long irked me that the accepted version of one dance in particular is a travesty of the original as described in detail in the relevant volume of the above-mentioned series.]

Has there been this much concentrated effort devoted to the preservation of the dances of other countries?

TONY LATHAM
9/118 Avenue Road
London W3 8QG

*

*

Great Alne Folk Weekend

I find it remarkable that however many festivals there are, they all manage to be different, so one never knows quite what to expect when turning up for the first time.

This year I attended the Great Alne Folk Weekend for the first time, and I must admit I enjoyed myself immensely. My only regret is that I hadn't found the time to attend before. The relatively small venue, with all the music, dance workshops, displays and social dances taking place in one building makes for a very informal and friendly atmosphere and the whole group gelled very quickly. The teaching helped in this with the dances at just the right level (at least for me) so they could be enjoyed and danced without having to strain to get the steps right or remember the sequence.

So congratulations to all the West Midlands branch for organizing this weekend.

Mike Gilbert

When Cliff Beck 'phoned with the sad news of Henry's death, we knew we had lost not only a mutual friend but also someone who had had a profound influence on our lives.

Henry was a gifted musician and a natural performer with a warm, engaging personality. His love of folk music led to a chance encounter with the lovely Serbian song, "Šano Dušo". He was so fascinated by the subtleties of its melody and rhythm that he resolved to find out more about Balkan music. By the time I had developed my own special relationship with folk music - the "British folk revival" having just begun - Henry was well established in the movement and counted many leading performers and writers among his friends. In the 1960s the public knowledge of Balkan music and dance was practically non-existent. Outside the individual Balkan communities in Britain, and a few notable pockets of activity (including those within the S.I.F.O.), there was little public exposure to the infinite riches of the region's folklore.

I was studying at Hendon Technical College when friends recommended that I join them for an evening at the Hendon Folk Music Club. All but put off when forewarned that there might be some dancing - memories of an embarrassing course of ballroom dancing at school - I was soon as enthusiastic as everyone at trying to master the infuriatingly complex steps of Alunelul and Mayim Mayim. The club was open to all but there was a high proportion of students and "au pair" girls (bliss!). Henry had a special ability to harness the youthful energy of the club's devotees. There was a spirit of comradeship akin, one imagined, to young pioneer camp or kibbutz. In learning a repertoire of international, mostly Balkan, dances and songs to Henry's musical accompaniment, we discovered that special sense of exhilaration from the combination of live music, song and dance.

In every session we would take a break from dancing to sing a wide range of folk-songs from Britain, France, Germany, Denmark, Israel and the Balkans. The singing would invariably continue in "The Greyhound" pub at the end of the evening. On some nights Henry would invite wellknown singers along in true folk club style, and the best of the established dance teachers. Danny Lumley and Ken Ward found the club a good source of recruits for the Bulgarian and Zivko Firfov groups. Narendra Kotiyan became a regular visitor and shared with us his broad repertoire of dances. Henry's good friend, Cliff Beck, increasingly helped run the club, more so as Henry moved on to the challenge of forming a Balkan music group. At that time, much of the Balkan dance music was on precious old reel-to-reel tapes and 78rpm records. Henry thought how great it would be to form a music group of concert quality to play the ever-increasing catalogue of songs and dances. And so, with his customary zeal, he set about forming Dunav Balkan Group from enthusiastic musicians he had met since taking a special interest in the music. John Baldwin, Naren, and Sue Coppard (accordion) were among the first line-up in 1964. Yves Moreau, who has made a study of non-native Balkan music groups, acknowledges that such a group was remarkable even in a global perspective at that time. Without Henry's dynamism, Dunav would not have established itself as a major player in the Balkan scene here.

The group flourished in the first years, helped by the presence of the lovely singers, Nadia and Elizabeth Letsky, Dragan Miletić on accordion, Serbian singer Paula Gečević and (one of the best kept secrets at the time) the surprise debut at a Balkan festival of my friend and work colleague, Geoff Sole, on clarinet. Later on, Dunav recorded three 7" records, with an instruction booklet, of Balkan and Israeli dances which soon became an essential resource for every international dance group and many schools. The group has naturally evolved over the years but has always given full credit to Henry for its creation.

A man of such crusading passion could sometimes ruffle feathers, but Henry's

Contd...

humour and sensitivity would often defuse any lasting acrimony. On some issues, though, his views were uncompromising. For example, he would eloquently justify his abhorrence of the concept of competition in the International Eisteddfod. However, I would not be alone in saying that the over-riding memory of Henry is of an articulate, warm-hearted, talented friend whose influence has been truly pivotal. He has enriched our lives, and will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Jackie and the girls.

BRIAN DOWSETT

I have lost a great pal, my Best Man at my marriage to Anne. Jacqueline, Sarah and Deborah have lost a loving husband and father, and all of us in the folk field have lost a very lively and talented person.

I first met Henry way back in the 50s when I heard about this extraordinary chap who was going to teach some Israeli dances at Harrow Green. At the time, I could play a few of these dances on my melodion, so it was great to learn some of the footwork. At the time, Henry was playing his guitar and using some old 45 EP records. We hit it off immediately and so started a partnership to last for forty years or so. In the 60s we formed the Hendon Folk Club - Henry leading the singing and I looked after the dancing side. We ran many a folk-weekend together at places such as Pendley Manor near Tring, Battle of Britain House at Pinner, and further afield.

One of my happiest memories is our 1966 overland drive to Istanbul in Henry's red sports car. We spent some time in Sofia, Bulgaria, and were invited to attend the rehearsal of the famous Kutev Ensemble. This group is highly professional and rehearses eight hours a day, six days a week. During a break, they asked us to teach them a traditional folk dance from the U.K. They thought that "Dashing White Sergeant" was the greatest thing since caviar and vodka!

Around that time, Henry formed the Dunav Group as we both had a love of Eastern European music and dance. My melodion playing was not quite up to the standard required so I was invited to play on the double bass. Here was a problem: I didn't read music, so Henry devised a simple system for me, using letters instead of musical notation. I think it worked reasonably well - at least he and the rest of the band tolerated my limited talents for over ten years!

By profession, Henry was a chiropodist and ran a successful practice in Barnet for many years. He sold the practice recently and it is so sad that he did not live long enough to enjoy a well-earned retirement. Thanks, Henry, for all you have done. We will all miss you.

CLIFFORD H. BECK

†
†††
†

KAY KEDGE

After hearing the sad news of Kay Kedge's death, my mind went back to the long-ago days when she was a member of Jacy Tacy Polish Dance Group. Kay was always so hard-working and loyal. I also remembered that it was during that time that she and Frank, who was also a member, came together and later on were married. I was so happy for them then, and am glad they have had the years since that time, though, unfortunately, often marred by illness, still enjoying when possible a little dancing together.

BETTY HARVEY

KAY KEDGE

When Fiona Howarth, supporting Honorary Life Membership of the S.I.F.D. for Kay, said, "Every Society needs a Kay" she never spoke a truer word. Kay was a stalwart member for many years. She spent over fifteen years on the Committee and fulfilled many tasks, from "tea-lady" for Margery Latham to Demonstration Secretary. In the 80s she organized two most enjoyable river trips on the Thames, and over the years unobtrusively helped many people behind the scenes.

More personally - Kay was the one who initiated me into the Society in the late 60s. We belonged firstly to Kathleen James's Croxley Green Group, then to the Central London, plus the Estonian Group and Jacy Tacy Polish Group.

A doctor's daughter, Kay was relieved to have years of ill-health eventually diagnosed as coeliac disease, and with a new diet she felt much better. When she retired as a School Secretary, she became Secretary to the Coeliac Society, and worked hard for them, both at home and abroad.

She had a gentle, caring personality and all her friends were delighted when, in later life, she and Frank married and were able to enjoy happy years together. She will be sadly missed and we send Frank our heartfelt sympathy.

AUDREY WHITELEY



MARY HARRIS

It was with very great sadness that we learned that Mary Harris had died at the end of May. We knew that she was suffering from an acute terminal disease but we had hoped that she would have lived a little longer to enjoy her remaining months with Richard, her new-found companion with whom she was so happy. However, maybe we should be thankful that she may well have been spared a long period of suffering and was well cared for during her illness.

Mary Thompson, as she then was, first came to the S.I.F.D. in the late 1940s as a school pupil, brought along to the Wednesday class at Carlyle School for Girls by Gladys Gaskell (née Noble), one of her teachers who will be well remembered by some of the older members of the Society and who still dances in Yorkshire.

Mary was a beautiful dancer, a stickler for precision, and she was soon taking part in demonstrations with Les Escargots, Ken Ward's Balkan Group and "Pug" Cyriax's Swedish team. Her last appearance at an International Folk Dancing event was at the Balkan Party at the end of last year.

Mary was a very "private" person and always hid from the limelight, and was happiest working in the background - in assisting in the production of the News-sheet in the early 1950s, helping with our first 78 rpm records by dancing so that the musicians kept to time during the recording sessions, working behind the scenes at Summer Schools. Those who knew her well will feel the loss of a true and reliable friend. We extend our sympathy, particularly to Richard and to her two sons, Christopher and Jeffrey.

JACK RICHARDSON

BUDAPEST 2001

Everyone who knows or remembers Magda Ossko will be happy to know that she is a still-going-strong great grandmother of three (soon to be four) delightful children. Her daughter, much acclaimed in the Hungarian Arts field, granddaughter and the three children visited with us at Magda's home and it was for me like being back home. The sun shone, the wind blew along the Danube, and Budapest was as lovely as ever. Although I can't go as frequently as I used to, I'm still treated as "family". The city continues to prosper and change though, as usual, there are still some who want everything "yesterday".

Magda spends two or three evenings each week with her group, which has just celebrated a big anniversary and continues to flourish with its excellent tutors, and this last weekend they had major performances which, unfortunately, we were unable to see as we had to return home. She sends her best wishes to all her S.I.F.D. friends and I'm sure it won't be long before I go over again.

I was annoyed and disappointed that it seems no publicity was given to the NATO meeting held while we were there. The organization of it had to be seen to be believed. Police cavalcades were in abundance and as the foreign Ministers stayed in different hotels there were many hold-ups while they were swept through the city to meetings, lunches, meetings, dinners etc. etc. This was the largest meeting of Ministers ever held and deserved some publicity.

Although I don't dance now (hip and circulatory problems), I'm still very much involved in "things Hungarian", particularly music (singing) and costume, and am about to give an illustrated talk to a Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers regarding Hungarian folk costume with my collection on view and the slides I made some years ago of the Ethnographic Costume collection when it was sent, for the first time, to England.

All I can recommend is that you all keep dancing and if you want any tips on Budapest, do contact me.

SYBIL CHAPMAN



E.I.F.D.G. RUSSIAN AND BALKAN WEEKEND COURSE

Edinburgh International Folkdance Group hosted a two-day workshop on 19th and 20th May in Edinburgh. Marina Wolstenholme was our guest tutor and she taught us nine Russian and eight Romanian folk dances, all of which were authentic dances not known to us. The whole programme went very smoothly and all the participants were delighted and impressed with Marina's teaching. We made a video of the seventeen dances and everyone was very impressed by the level of competence and style induced in us by Marina's teaching.

Friends from Aberdeenshire, Loch Awe area and Crieff also joined us for the workshop and some of the dances have already been taught, such as Tintaroiul in which we flatten mosquitos with great relish; also we have been drifting round the hall to the beautiful Russian melodies.

Altogether a very enjoyable and productive weekend, many thanks to Marina.

DENNIS & MARGARET BELLFORD

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Aug.5th/10th ISRAELI FOLK DANCE INSTITUTE SUMMER SCHOOL, "MACHOL' EUROPA 2001" at Bedford. Guest teachers: Gadi Bitton, Shmulik Govari, Moshiko Halevy, Moshe Telem, Yaron Carmel. Details from IFDI, Balfour House, 741 High Road, London N12 0BQ.

Aug.10th/17th BROADSTAIRS FOLK WEEK. Mostly English but including Appalachian, Irish, Cajun and a group from Southern Africa. For information contact Broadstairs Folk Week, Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1JX. Tel: 01843 604080.

Aug.14th "DATEV" Armenian children's dance group is coming to the Edinburgh Festival and will be giving a one-off performance for the London community at St.Mary Abbots Theatre, Vicarage Gate, Kensington, London W.8., at 8.00 p.m. Tickets £15 obtainable from Dalila Heath, 01707 642774 or at the door.

S.I. Aug.24th/27th MINI FESTIVAL at Roedean School, Brighton. Full board; mostly single rooms; swimming pool. £120 (deposit £20). THIS WEEKEND IS NOW FULL. WAITING LIST. Enquiries to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 0PZ (with s.a.e. please).

Aug.25th/Sept.1st HF HOLIDAYS RESIDENTIAL WEEK IN HAYTOR, DEVON, with Phil and Brenda Steventon. A course aimed at Beginner/Intermediate dancers; all dances will be walked through. To book, ring 020 8905 9558, or for further details contact Phil or Brenda on 020 8397 9649.

S.I. Sept.8th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

Sept.14th YVES MOREAU AT BARNET. Contact: Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.

Sept.15th/16th YVES MOREAU AT CECIL SHARP HOUSE. See p. 11.

S.I. Sept.29th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH BALKAN DAY COURSE with Galina Turker. 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull (B4102) close to both the 'bus and railway stations. S.I.F.D. members £7.00 all day, £4.00 half day. Non-members £8.00 all day, £4.50 half day. Branch A.G.M. will be held 1.30 to 2.00 p.m.

S.I. Oct.13th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

Nov.3rd/4th YUGOSLAVIAN DANCE WEEKEND at Bognor Regis. Details given last month. Enquiries to Janet Douglas, 01243 265010.

Nov.10th ARMENIAN DANCE COURSE organized by Nutbrook I.F.D.G. at Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. Tutor: Dalila Heath. 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. One session £3.50, all day £6.00. Bring your own lunch. Information from John & Gill Morral, 0115 917 1831.

S.I. Nov.17th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

Dec.1st ZIVKO FIRFOV GROUP PARTY.

S.I. Dec.14th/16th S.I.F.D. WEEKEND AT DUNFORD. Contact Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 403153 (home), 01792 295194 (work).

Events covered by S.I.F.D. insurance are marked "S.I." in the margin. Please remember that the onus is on you to mark each event when sending in the notice if your event is covered by our insurance.

BALKANPLUS, 14th July at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1
7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C.s: Brian Dowsett and Dalila Heath. This promises
to be an evening of great variety and contrast, with Dalila's range of beautiful
Armenian dances and Brian's expertise in all Balkan countries.

There will be no Balkanplus dance in August. The next Balkanplus event is the
weekend of Bulgarian dances with the ever-popular teacher, Yves Moreau, on 15th
and 16th September. Saturday, 15th, is now fully booked for both the Day Course
and the Evening Party. At the time of writing there are just a few places left
for the Sunday workshop at £12.00. Cheques payable to Balkanplus. Please enclose
s.a.e. If you wish to be put on the waiting list for Saturday, please leave your
name and telephone number with me at 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey
SM5 4HP, Tel: 020 8642 3629, and if for any reason you are unable to come
please let me know as soon as possible so that I can contact the next person
on the list.

FRANCES HORROCKS



Milton Keynes International Folk Festival An Opportunity not to be Missed

Milton Keynes International Folk Festival is a weekend festival which has been running for ten
years now. The centerpiece has been a dance display, put on in a large modern theatre in the
center of the city. Unfortunately, various grants which have been received in the past are no
longer available, and are unlikely to be available again in the near future, so the organizers can
no longer afford to bring in as many teams from abroad as they have done in the past. In fact,
they can no longer afford to bring in sufficient dancers to put on a viable show. And that is
where we come in.

There are plenty of dancers in this country who display authentic traditional folk dances from
various corners of the world, so we have been asked if any of our affiliated or associated groups
would be interested in putting on an item at this festival. Displays will of course have to be in
costume and of a high standard, but we have plenty of groups who can do that.

This is an excellent opportunity for us to put on displays in a first class venue and show what we
can do and what we have learnt from all the visiting teachers who have come to teach us over the
years. The festival is well established and has a loyal following so we do not have to build up an
audience from scratch.

In addition to home grown display groups the organizers hope to bring in ^{one} or possibly ^{two} teams
from abroad who will hold teaching sessions as well as appearing in the main show. We also
plan to put on a full programme of workshops as well as a social dance, so the festival will also
provide an opportunity for socializing and learning new skills.

There will be no festival this year, but it is hoped that we can organize something in June 2002.
(I am writing this in Japan and cannot confirm the exact date until I get back). The plan at the
moment is to have the main show on Sunday afternoon, with a social dance on Saturday evening
and workshops (including ~~an~~ sessions from ~~the~~ visiting teams) throughout Saturday and Sunday.

If anyone has any comments (or would even like to volunteer their group to take part), please
contact me (address on page 2) or write to the Newsletter.

Mike Gilbert (Chairman)

Would anyone sending in articles already printed out please check for errors
before sending so that I don't have to spoil the neat layout with my hand-
written corrections! (or, in some cases, re-type the whole thing. * 25 errors
in one article was the record!). Many thanks. Ed.