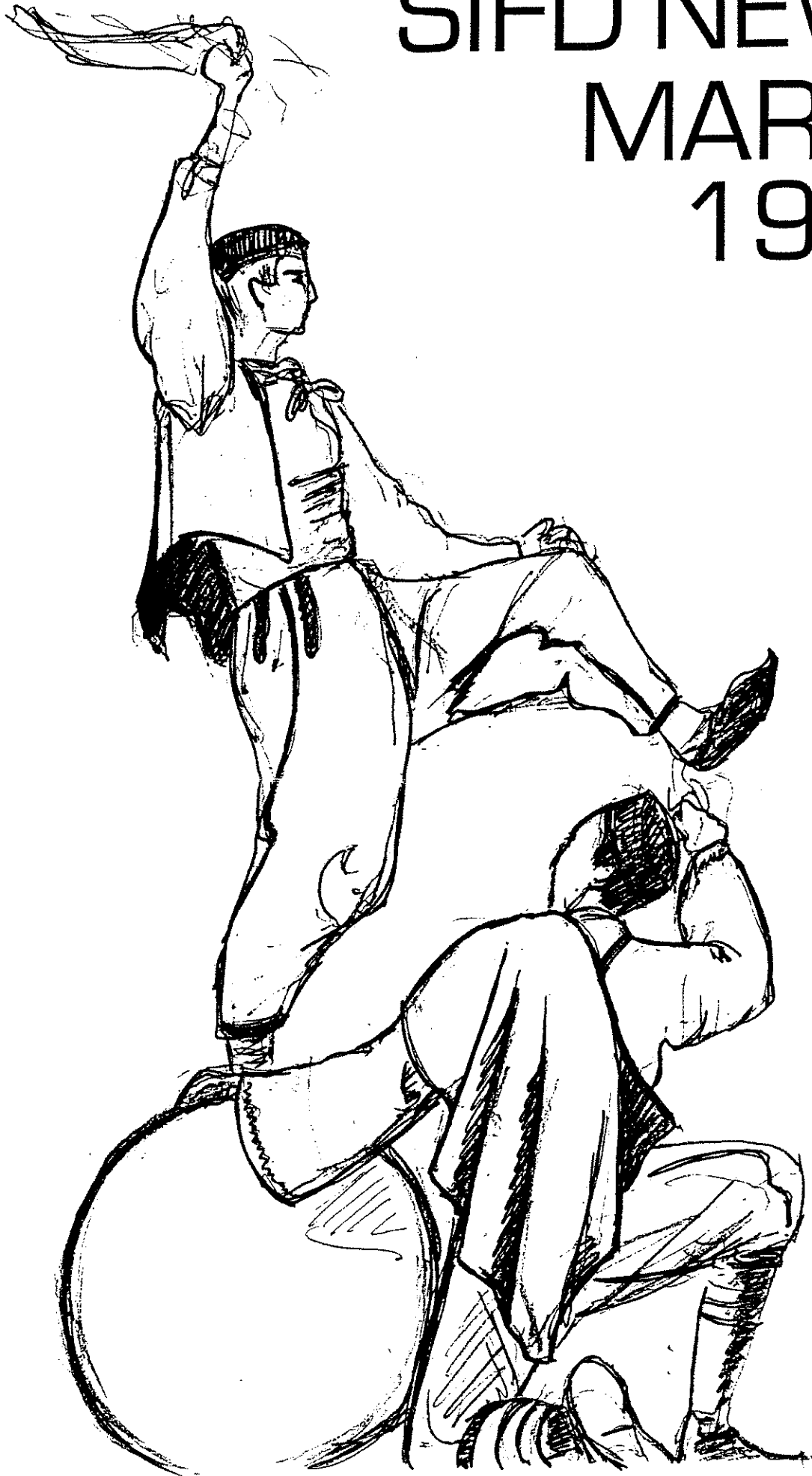


SIFD NEWS

MARCH

1997



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea,
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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 showing Greek Macedonian dancers
was drawn by Caroline Waterlow.

--oOo--

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S.I.F.D. PERFORMANCES AT VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON, SUMMER 1997

The following are the bookings made so far. If any other groups would like
to perform, please get in touch with me.

Saturday, 17th May	3.00 p.m.	Doina East European Folkdance Group and London Turkish Dancers
Sunday, 18th May	2.30 p.m.	Zivko Firfov Group, with dances from former Yugoslavia
Sunday, 15th June	3.00 p.m.	Martisorul Romanian Folkdance Group
Sunday, 29th June	Time yet to be decided	Balaton Hungarian Folkdance Group and Philhellenes Greek Folk Dancers
Sunday, 13th July	3.00 p.m.	Merton Park International Folkdance Group with Woodvale (Kent) and the Iberian Folk Song and Dance Society
Sunday, 20th July	3.00 p.m.	Central London and Croxley Green International Folkdance Groups

KAY KEDGE
9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley
Herts. WD4 8AN.
Tel: 01923 262763

S.I.F.D. INTERNATIONAL BARN DANCE (BEGINNERS PLUS)

There will be a Dance, primarily for beginners but with interest for more experienced dancers, on Saturday, 15th March 1997, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. in the Trefusis Hall (downstairs) at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London N.W.1. The M.C.s will be Phil Steventon and Jeanette Hull, and the band will be "Jacob's Ladder" from Cambridge. There will be a mixture of line/circle and couple dances, and the dances will be taught so no experience is necessary and no partners are needed. Announcements of the Dance, in several sizes, will be available at the March "first Sunday" Dance, so please take a supply to distribute to friends, neighbours, strangers, and others who might possibly be interested, and to post at your local library or other place of prominence. We rely on S.I.F.D. members to spread the word and introduce new people to our obsession. At the Dance, in addition to the newcomers, we need experienced dancers to help show the dances. We need everyone's support to help make the event successful. If you need additional information, or need posters before the March Sunday Dance, please call me on 0181 340 4683.

CASPAR CRONK

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S.I.F.D. HISTORY

If you have not already bought a copy of the S.I.F.D.'s History, 1946-86, please note that there is now a bargain offer of the original History plus the new booklet on history of groups for £2.00 only (and p. & p. 70p). Available from George Sweetland, address on p.2.

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S.I.F.D. CALENDAR

From the beginning of March, Simon Guest will be taking over the Calendar. He can be contacted at 49 Station Road, Epping, Essex CM16 4HJ. Don't forget that it's in everyone's interest that events don't clash, so do remember to check first whether a proposed date conflicts with some other interesting happening, and to let Simon know when final arrangements have been made. Please note that this does not mean that dates are automatically printed in SIFD NEWS. If you would like a notice to be printed, you must notify the Editor separately.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

There are no S.I.F.D. Day Courses planned for March or April. The Day Course on 10th May will probably be Basque (to be confirmed), and 7th June will be Irish Set dances. We regret that tea and coffee were not available at the last Day Course. This was due to a misunderstanding related to the recent change of caterer. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available at the May and June courses.

CASPAR CRONK

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All material for the April issue of SIFD NEWS must reach the Editor
IN WRITING by 17th March.

THE DANCES OF PONTOS

Dance is one of the oldest and most important expressions of art. Through dance the masses expressed the events of everyday life. Dance as a social expression is found in all societies, but mainly that of the peasant. The Pontic dances follow the history of Greece. They distinguish war, religion and peace, and are at the same time social dances. This social character can be seen in that they are circular group dances. This helped preserve the tradition and Pontic identity during the Turkish occupation. In Pontos, dance was tied into the life of the Pontians. It wasn't only an entertainment, but also a way of expression during the oppression of the Turks.

In Pontic dance, the dancers are also joined by the lyra player who also dances, together with his lyra. He runs from one end to the other and from one dancer to the next, jumping rhythmically, and is often taken over by an unrestrained enthusiasm. The Pontic people have the rhythm inside, thus their dances are rhythmic and lively.

The Pontic dances are separated into male and female. Mixed dances are few, and only under special circumstances, as in the "Kotsagel" which was the final dance of a wedding, in which relatives of the bride and groom danced all together, men and women. Through dance, respect was shown by the young toward their elders. These dances were called "kodespiniaki", as they were danced by the older men and women (kodespinas). The kodespianic dances were the "Oual", the "Dipat", and "Tik so gonaton".

The greater part of Pontic society was made up of peasants, and naturally it was the peasant life that was expressed through dance. Thus the peasant dances are peaceful, i.e. Trigona, Kotsari, Sarikouz. The religious dances show the faith of the Pontians and the customs and social values they esteem. Religious-festival dances are those of the wedding, as in the "Thymisma" and the "Kotsagel". The single war dance is the "Pirichios". Dance was what gave the Ponts strength during their difficult moments. Pontic dance is collective and there is no local or class distinction. The dance circle joined all together, so "I" became "We". The first became last and the last first through the circular dance. The Pontic dancer does not singularly stand out as in other non-Pontic dances, but shows a group contribution. In the Pontic dance group it is not said that he danced well, but that the group did, which gives a harmonious appearance.

The Pontic dances which have been counted officially are around fifty. Some of these are known to many, but there exist some of which are not well-known. Every region had its own special dances, although there are certain dances which were danced throughout Pontos. In Pontos there were differences in climate, in the character of cities and coastal villages, and differences between the coastal and mountain dwellers. All this made an impression on the style of dance depending on the region in which they were performed, and the same dance varied in style from region to region. For example, in the Caucasus, the dances have a faster rhythm than those of the coastal area. The closed society of the Pontos created local dances particular to a single village, which took the name of that village, i.e. Tamzara, and there were great differences between the Greek, Turkish and Armenian versions within the same village.

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This article was written by Mr. Giannis (Yannis) Korosidis and translated by Gilly Defterigo. It is reproduced here by kind permission of the author.

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MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

Background Note:

The Pontic People. Greeks from the regions round the Black Sea, and Greeks from Asia Minor, were settled, especially in Thrace and Macedonia, in an exchange of populations in 1923-4. 1,300,000 Greeks from Turkey, Russia and Bulgaria were compulsorily exchanged for some 400,000 Muslims from Greece, who were moved into what is now Turkey. MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

NEWS FROM RAINMAKERS

The Rainmakers will be performing a Dutch suite of dances in their Volendam costumes at this year's Hitchin Gathering. This takes place on Saturday, 1st March, at Hitchin Town Hall with displays from 2.15 to 4.30 p.m. There is also an evening dance (not International) with Richard Young and "Watling's Treat" from 7.00 to 11.00 p.m. If you fancy a day out in Hertfordshire and need further details on costs etc. please ring 01462 483960. The Staplers English Country Dance Club will probably be running one more Gathering in 1998 which will be their 40th. Rainmakers have so far danced at twenty of these; it keeps us busy in the winter.

In September, Anglia Television filmed the Rainmakers doing a display at a residential nursing home at Pirton. The setting was splendid, with green lawns, flower beds, a stately home in the background, and a friendly and appreciative audience. The dancing was very hard work (on grass and avoiding rabbit holes) and especially as each of the dances that were filmed had to be repeated three times from different angles - Rav Brachot and Kreuz Koenig were two of these selected dances. Later on we had some join-in dances for staff and residents. An energetic lady of 90 joined in with enthusiasm, as did the sound-man from Anglia Television.

A week later, the producer came to visit us at our regular Friday night meeting, so that they could film us practising for our display which had already taken place! The camera-man, who seemed to be getting used to us and our dancing, filmed us again from various angles and the producer, Linda Fairbrother, joined in and later interviewed several of the Rainmakers. She asked some very pertinent questions about style, where I learned the dances etc., so I was able to mention the S.I.F.D. The filming was for a dance series called "Let's Dance" on Anglia News that covered a variety of dancing activities in the Anglian region. The programme was broadcast on 11th February and came over quite well. The producer's keynote seemed to be our search for authenticity in dancing styles, steps and costumes. I found the editing and cutting of the soundtrack very unsettling to watch as the steps that we were doing didn't fit the music, although the producer's commentary masked this to some extent. Anyway, it was refreshing that it portrayed International folk dancing as a sensible and worthwhile activity and not something to be mocked. It was a case of third time lucky (see "History of S.I.F.D" up-date for the story of Rainmakers and Barrymore ending on the London Weekend T.V.'s cutting-room floor when we weren't taken seriously, and you will remember the infamous occasion when Channel 4 filmed the C.C.P.R. event in 1985 and the Society's dancing got excluded!).

JILL BRANSBY

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NEWS FROM NUTBROOK

A varied programme has been planned for 1997. In February we have a visit from a Danish Folk Group. In March (15th), Marina Wolstenholme is coming to teach us some Russian dances. In the summer, we will again dance at Sudbury Hall and at a local well-dressing event, both of which events we thoroughly enjoyed last year.

GILL MORRAL

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DAVID RASBASH. I am sorry to say that David Rasbash died recently during the course of an operation; he had not been well for some time. He started international folk dancing before the S.I.F.D. was formed and was a Committee member in the mid-1940s. Our sympathy goes to Maureen (who was a member of Harrow Green when they danced at Leyton Town Hall and who still dances with the Edinburgh group) and to Catherine, Andrew, Jane and Jonathan, their grown-up family.

JACK RICHARDSON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I heard recently that S.I.F.D. had had a 50th anniversary! Congratulations are due to all and sundry. But it started me thinking about my time among you. Hardly anyone will know me now, I suppose, for I had to stop dancing some years ago.

I joined in the days of Inns of Court. I remember deciding never to come again one Sunday evening when I had been lonely during the whole Dance, but outside afterwards one girl called across to me in such a friendly way, "Night, night. See you next week". It was so welcoming that I "came again" for about twenty+ (thirty?) of those fifty years. And I took on many jobs.

I was Publicity officer for several years; very effectively, I feel. A number of my reports and professional photographs of our members and events appeared in national and London press. Also, I put the wider sale of cassettes on a more commercial footing, ordering over 1,000 tapes etc. - of course, with the help of such people as Frances Horrocks. And I attended several of the Swansea courses (first one about 1963?) where I became, though not willingly, the official photographer (that's because I was cheap!). And I attended some of the weekend-away courses, and scores of the Saturday specialist courses under such people as Lucile Armstrong and our Israeli friends, Judith and Jacob Barkan. My contributions to SIFD NEWS weren't many, but for some time it was produced in my office, machine and all. Not being among our most talented dancers, I didn't often take part in demos, but in some, including that O.A.P.s' Dance in the Royal Albert Hall! And I organized two of the successful Dances of my time, i.e. memorials to Margery Latham and to Bert Price. I hardly missed a single Sunday Dance for about twenty years. For two or three years I was instrumental in arranging demonstrations at those Sunday Dances, with specialist groups outside our own members - including several exotic ones. I did lead classes of simple dances, with one or two groups outside the Society. I visited very many S.I.F.D. groups outside London, e.g. Harpenden, Bristol, etc. I travelled the country a lot. Harry Whitaker's idea of going into the country on "safari" sometimes fell into my hands; I organized several.

During my time in the Society and later, partly through my foreign contacts via Esperanto, I compiled a "library" of 100+ cassettes containing about 1,000 dances, including Chinese, Iranian, Mexican, Filipino etc. which I still have. Some pieces were "live" for I danced abroad a little.

Personal circumstances took me out of the Society about five years ago but I remember many many names and faces....Gaye, Kay, Frank and Frank, Alan, Anne, Alex, George, Caroline, Dunav, Brenda, Robert, Maria, Betty, Ken, Fiona, John (Hughes), Janet, Kelsey, Les, several Margarets, Tony, Peter & Eleanor, Philip, Steve, Simon, Wilf. I could fill pages. I wonder if anyone remembers me? Apparently not, for no-one told me of the 50-year Dance. Was it something I said?

WILL GREEN
202 Dunkery Road, Mottingham,
London SE9 4HP

"GIVING VOICE" - AN ARCHEOLOGY OF THE VOICE

The above International Festival of the Voice will take place at Aberystwyth from 3rd to 13th April 1997. Items that may be of interested to our members include "The Grandmothers of Bisistritsa", ancient Bulgarian singing style; Irina Vasil Evna Raspopova, Russian traditional song (see Marina Wolstenholme's article last month); Tran Quang Hai, overtone throat singing from Mongolia; A Filetta, Corsican polyphonic song. For more information, contact The Centre for Performance Research, Giving Voice, 8 Science Park, Aberystwyth SY23 3AH, Wales. Tel: 01970 622133, Fax: +44 (0)1970 622132.

"TRADITIONAL DANCE IN GREEK CULTURE" by Yvonne Hunt. (See last month's NEWS)

A copy of this book will be on view for your perusal at the Greek workshop on 9th March, where you can order a copy. This will be the LAST opportunity for your order to be included in the initial bulk order.

DIKI GLEESON

A NOTE ABOUT THE BOOK:

It is not hard-back but neatly produced and covers an enormous amount of ground briefly and succinctly. For example, the section on musical instruments lists them fully in their four basic groups with a full description and note of how/where/by whom played. Personally, I could have wished for more illustrations of them being played, but illustrations (and there are several, including colour) do escalate the printing costs. A complete elaboration of the dances and styles is set out clearly under geographical headings, so it is easy to find the piece of information you seek. There is an additional section dealing specifically with names of the dances, pointing out when they double for the name of the rhythm, underline the character of the dance, acclaim the hold used, or the area the dance originates from, and so on. This has been done very thoroughly and will add to most people's knowledge of Greek dance.

The section on ritual and festival dances is well researched. These so often embody the oldest traditions and dances of any culture and reveal so much of the character, history and soul of a culture. The Sochos Carnival picture cannot fail to re-awaken memories of those wonderful Bulgarian dancers quite a few of us saw at Koprivshitsa, sweating under their heavy loads of bells and towering headdresses (Kukeri dancers). This is a fascinating section, with some interesting illustrations. There is a short useful glossary and a full bibliography which points the way for further study and research. Yvonne includes a sprinkling of apposite quotations which enrich the book and tempt one to read further (e.g. Lawler).

She mirrors Starkie in the final paragraph - "all over the world people are becoming aware of endangered species in the plant and animal world. Somehow we are often blind to other "endangered species" such as tradition, customs, dances, music etc. which are also in danger of extinction. Hopefully the Greeks will learn from the mistakes and losses of others and do everything in their power to nurture and protect this wonderful tradition and to ensure that the same does not happen to them. How tragic it would be for this magnificent heritage to die out".

For a clear, well set out exposition on Greek Dance, briefly giving all the many facets of the jewel which is Greek Folkdance, I can thoroughly recommend this handy little book (160 pages plus illustrations). If you would like me to include you in the bulk order, please contact me as soon as possible. The price will have to be in the region of £22, including p. & p., ins. etc.

DIKI GLEESON
Oak Lodge, Theobalds Park Road,
Enfield, Middx. EN2 9BN
Tel: 0181 363 1506

CELEBRATING SPRING - A BULGARIAN CUSTOM

An informal Spring Social will take place on Saturday, 22nd March 1997, from 5.00 p.m. for members and friends of British Bulgarian Friendship Society in their offices in the basement of Finsbury Library, 245 St. John Street, London E.C.1 (nearest Underground, Angel). Do come along and celebrate Spring with song and verse and dancing to the Dunav Balkan Band. There will also be a sale of folk records, tapes and posters. Further details from Donald Kenrick, 0171 727 2916.

SYBIL NEWTON

ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP (Songs & dances from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia) meet at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Gt. Smith Street, London S.W.1, and the dates for their meetings are:-

March 3rd, 10th, 17th, *24th (*proposed A.G.M. date)
April 14th, 21st, 28th
May 12th, 19th
June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
July 7th, 14th

Format of the evening:-

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

MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 1997

We can now confirm that the following international dance groups have accepted invitations to our Festival (4th to 7th July) :-

"Clog America" come from Salt Lake City, Utah. They are energetic young dancers specialising in a high-powered clogging technique, while performing the traditional precision, freestyle and hoedown dances of the Appalachian Mountain region. Plus a Navajo Indian 22-hoop dance and the Samoan Fire Knife dance.

"Youth of Tirana" are students from the capital of Albania. We are particularly fortunate in being able to welcome this group, probably the first for many years to visit Britain. We were introduced to them through a British aid worker who visits Tirana regularly.

"Janavak" come from Ahmedabad in West India. This group studies and presents folk dances from many parts of India, showing a wide range of styles and costumes, with some spectacular solo items.

"Kresala" come from Donostia in the Basque region of Spain. They perform dances from the seven provinces of the region, some based on the customs and typical craftsmanship of the country.

All these groups will be accompanied by musicians, playing a unique range of traditional instruments.

In addition to the usual evening dance concerts, outdoor displays, workshops, barn dance etc., there will be several new events designed to encourage young people from schools, dance studios, ethnic and other specialist groups in the Milton Keynes area to take part in the Festival. We are also aiming to broaden as well as increase our audiences. For this reason, it is unlikely that we will be able to fit in adult workshops run by the visiting groups. I know this will be a disappointment to many S.I.F.D. members. We hope this will not be a permanent feature and will be seeking your views on ways of improving and increasing attendances in future years.

The full programme leaflet should be ready by mid-March and hopefully will be distributed with the April edition of SIFD NEWS. Anyone who would like a copy earlier, please send a stamped addressed envelope to the Festival Office at 30 St. John Street, Newport Pagnell MK16 8HJ.

DON ALLISON and JILL GOURLAY

SUMMER FOLKLORE SEMINAR, "BALKANFOLK" '97"

The students' co-operation "Zornitsa" from Sofia, Bulgaria, together with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria, are organizing a summer folklore seminar in the Rhodope mountains, 10km. from Smoljan. The folkdance classes are Bulgarian, Serbian, Romanian and Greek, and participants can choose one to five classes per day at Advanced or Beginners level.

Prices: 14 days, arr.19.07.97, dep. 2.08.97 835 USD
7 days, arr.19.07.97, dep.26.07.97 450 USD
7 days, arr.26.07.97, dep. 2.08.97 450 USD

In addition, there are daily classes in eight folk instruments, and Bulgarian language lessons.

The price includes: full board, double room; transportation from Sofia airport to the hotel and back; participation in workshops; trips, meetings with folk performers etc.; audio cassette with music from the study course; certificate of participation in the seminar. You can enrol as individuals, or as a group of not less than eight people. "Balkanfolk" can also provide the necessary organization for those who wish to visit the International Folklore Festival, "Varna '97", from 3rd to 8th August.

For more information, write to Balkanfolk, 74 Opaltchenska Str., Sofia 1303, Bulgaria. Fax (359 2) 931-13-46, 33-32-84, or send s.a.e. (large) and 30p for photocopying of the forms, to me. Please mention the S.I.F.D. when writing to Balkanfolk. Deposits (200 USD) are required by 30th May 1997.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME
"Robin Cottage", 4 Commercial Rd.,
Grindleford, Sheffield S30 1HA

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PRAGUE-VIENNA DANCE WEEKS

July 27th-August 8th 1997. Seven days of classes and balls in Prague, including social dances from the Second Empire, Belle Epoque and early 20th century, with emphasis on dances that were popular in Bohemia and Central Europe.

August 4th-8th 1997. Viennese waltzes, Strauss music, excursions to memorial places from the lives of the Strauss family, workshops, dance evenings.

August 9th-16th 1997. Summer Folkdance Week at Jindrichuv Hradec, South Bohemia, featuring Czech, Moravian and Slovak folk dances. Dance workshops, trips etc.

For details of all the above, contact Dvorana, Spanielova 38/1275, 163 00 Praha 6, Czech Republic. Tel: Jasan Bonus +42-2 302 1330, 301 8279. Fax: +42 2 301 8267.

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ANOTHER ROMANIAN DANCE COURSE

Viorel Vatamaniuc (who has taught on some of Silviu Ciuciumis' courses - very energetic, lively, "full of beans" teacher some will remember with pleasure) and Dorin Dancea, will be teachers on a course based at Hotel Central, Piatra Neamt, 29th July to 8th August 1997. The course includes dance lessons, singing, the Folklore Festival in Piatra Neamt and special evenings with the group "Agapia"; opportunities for video-ing and recording the dancing and singing. Cost: 840 DM includes everything but transport. Apply before 1st May to Viorel Vatamaniuc, Str.Armeneasca Nr.2, 5800 Suceava, Romania. Tel: 0040 30 218128.

DIKI GLEESON

S.I.F.D. SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1

Mar.2nd M.C.s Woodvale International Folkdance Group

Apr.6th M.C. to be announced

7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Admission £3.00 for S.I.F.D. members, £4.00 for non-members.



BALKANPLUS - 8th March at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1
7.00 to 10.30 p.m. £3.00. M.C.: Julian Sinton, with music by Dunav. Look forward to a scintillating evening with the Sintons.

The next Balkanplus will be on 12th April. Season tickets for Balkanplus cost £25.00. These are available at the door and give you a considerable saving over the year.

Balkanplus T-shirts are also available at £6.50.

FRANCES HORROCKS



THE S.I.F.D. JANUARY DAY COURSE IN BRETON DANCE

On holiday in Trégor, Brittany, last year, we were lucky to catch the small card in the Port Blanc Sailing Club window announcing classes in Breton dance. The class teacher showed us the basics, such as An Dro and Laridé, and sent us to a local Fest-Noz in the village of Prat the following night. The "sonneurs", playing the Breton bagpipe (the "binou") and a relative of the oboe, a shrieking double-reeded wooden instrument ("the bombarde"), were exceptional, and we really experienced the happy feelings of a local community enjoying themselves. Dancing may have been the central occupation, but it was only a means to having a wonderful night out. The simplicity and repetitiveness of the Lines gave full rein to everyone to enjoy themselves in their own way. The line leaders, still all men, were quietly flash, the young men more so in trying to impress the young ladies who were not backward themselves (on second thoughts, age was irrelevant to this activity), the families were dancing together in three generations, and the youngest children played happily in the centre of the floor while the Lines wandered around them.

It was with this in mind that we spent two days at the S.I.F.D. day course in Breton dance under the tuition of Sybille Helmer, and what days they were. Breton dance was obviously central to the maintenance in secret of the Breton culture during its repression earlier this century, and its renaissance in recent years, and Sybille, though Dutch, is clearly imbued with that cultural pride and understanding. From the simple lines to much more energetic couple dances, she showed us how rich the Breton tradition is. Everything from the vegetable growers' dance designed to show the might of the growers' forearms (how ours ached!) to the maternal advice that girls Sous le Pont de Nantes (provided that they are brunettes) are particularly good to shack up with.

Thank you to Maggie O'Regan for finding such an excellent teacher, and thank you to the Day Course Committee for its continuing fine work.

TONY SMITH and MARIANNE MOORE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Apr.5th & 6th "EGYPTIAN GLAMOUR". On Saturday, Maggie Caffrey will teach Egyptian belly dancing, cabaret style, in Hastings, E.Sussex, 12.00-3.30 p.m. Suitable for all levels. £14.00. Maximum 25 participants. On Sunday, Egyptian baladi, musical structures, dance techniques and sequences. Some previous knowledge of Egyptian dancing required. Numbers limited to 15. £18.00. 12.00-4.30 p.m. Cheques payable to M.Caffrey, but send them to Christine Hall, Finchden, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5JS.

Apr.10th BISTRITSA BABI (nine elderly ladies from Bistritsa) will be singing traditional music from Bulgaria, 8.00 p.m. at Hazelwood, Loddiswell, Nr.Kings-bridge, S.Devon TQ7 4EB. £10.00 & £7.50. More information on 01548 821232. Fax: 01548 821 318.

Apr.15th POL HUELLOU and ANNE AUFFRET, musicians from Brittany. Celtic harp, songs and flutes. Traditional songs from Brittany, and traditional instrumental dance tunes. 8.00 p.m. at Hazelwood (address as for Bistritsa Babi) £8.50 and £6.00.

Apr.19th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH SPRING DANCE, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Methodist Church Hall, Langleys Road, Selly Oak. M.C.: Elisabeth Hobro. £1.50.

Apr.19th WOODVALE GROUP'S SPRING DANCE, 7.30-11.00 p.m. at Borough Green Village Hall. M.C.s: Alan Cant and Heather Bevan. Tickets £4.00. More details from Alan Cant, 01732 883405.

May2nd to 5th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL.

May 10th EGYPTIAN AND IRANIAN VEIL DANCE TECHNIQUES. One-day workshop with Christine Hall at Isle of Sheppey Adult Education Centre, 01795 875059. No price given.

May 17th TURKISH BELLY DANCING plus playing finger cymbals. One-day workshop with Christine Hall at Hastings Adult Education Centre, 01424 435619. No price given.

May 23rd to 26th BALKANPLUS WHITSUN WEEKEND OF BULGARIAN DANCING with Eddy Tijssen at Cheddar Youth Hostel, Somerset. Contact: Anne Marshall, 44 Church Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3EQ. Tel: 0117 9509889.

June 8th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI, starting at 11.00 a.m. at Moreton-in-Marsh. Details to follow.

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 to 7th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. See p.8.

Aug.22nd to 25th BALKAN FLAVOUR WEEKEND (Bank Holiday weekend) at Dunford House, Midhurst, West Sussex. If you are interested, please contact Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 0181 592 4427.

Nov.7th to 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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MUSIC Three Israeli tunes from Wilf Horrocks this month on p.12. If you would like the music for any particular dance, please contact Wilf on 0181 642 3629.