

# SIFD NEWS



OCT  
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 is a drawing by Gideon Kalanit (see article on p.3/4). It  
is of the Ra'chel Nadav Yemenite Dance Troupe performing at the first Dahlia  
Folklore Festival in July 1944. Behind the line of dancers is the drummer and  
singer. The narrow book the girl is holding is probably the "Diwan" which is  
a collection of medieval poems. The poems are sung to a drum-beat, which the  
dancers follow.

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S.I.F.D. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ASSOCIATION AND AFFILIATION RENEWAL FOR 1997/8

Annual subscriptions became due on 1st September 1997. Appreciation and thanks  
are due to so many members and group officers who have renewed promptly. Members  
who have not sent their subscriptions are reminded that membership lapses with  
this issue of SIFD NEWS and that this is the last copy that will be despatched.

Regarding Association or Affiliation renewal, I refer to my letter of 1st May  
1997 inviting group leaders to renew their Annual Association or Affiliation.  
I should like to remind them that for inclusion in the next issue of the S.I.F.D.  
brochure it is essential that a return is sent some days before our printer's  
final deadline of 6th October 1997.

Annual subscriptions are: Town Members £14.00. Joint Town Members £19.80,  
Country/Overseas Members £10.50, Joint Country/Overseas Members £14.00, Junior  
Members £2.30, and Affiliation subscription £23.30 (£18.00 for Music Groups).

ALAN MORTON  
Honorary Membership Secretary  
and Groups Liaison Officer.

EARLY (VERY) MEMORIES - SHALOM HERMON

The article by George Sweetland appeared in SIFD NEWS in December 1996, page 3, together with a letter from Frances Brown. The following is an excerpt:-

"The Directors of the Youth Centre only reluctantly agreed to the class as they said folk dancing had been tried before and was a flop. Our group became one of the most popular at the Centre, and we met every Sunday, flying bombs or not. We invited Philip Thornton to teach some dances in February 1945 and Shalom Weiskopf arranged the first weekend at Kemsing Youth Hostel in early April 1945. He subsequently, having changed his name to Hermon, became organizer of big festivals in Israel and inspector and instructor for folk dance and P.E. in Junior Schools for the whole of Israel - inspired, as he said later, by our group!"

Recently I acquired from Israel a book entitled, "Shalom's Circles" about the life of Shalom Hermon, who died in 1992.

Shalom joined the British army in 1941, during World War II. He came to England in January 1945 for an officer training course in the Royal Artillery. On arrival in London he soon enquired and joined the Sunday afternoon meetings of the folk dance group. He experienced great joy in learning and dancing English and International folk dances. Those days, he says in the book, inspired him to find his purpose for the future of teaching and leading folk dances in Israel. He was also invited by Frances Brown to teach some Palestinian dances to the group. These included the Hora, Hora Agadati and Tcherkesia Kfula. A note from his diary, 6th March 1945, from an Officers Training Camp in Wrotham Hill, not far from Kemsing, reads, "Surrounded by beautiful woods full of the scent of Spring, I danced folk dances in the International Centre and it was marvellous. We also danced in the centre of the English Folk Dance Society".

Later, Shalom moved to Catterick, Yorkshire, to finalize the officers' course. He missed the folk dancing but discovered the Saturday night "Hop" where, for an entrance fee of 2/6d, one danced Ballroom and Oldtime dances. At the end of 1945 he visited Cecil Sharp House where he danced English folk dances. This inspired him, he writes, to plan for future events in Israel. On returning to Israel, he organized his first folkdance meeting in a small hall in Tel-Aviv on 10th November 1946. He invited about ten people and expected about thirty; however, about a hundred arrived. He arranged the second meeting, in December, in "Hapo'el" Sports Hall. He considered this meeting to be his first proper folkdance event. They danced a total of ten dances, which included Mayim Mayim, Mechol Ovadia, Tcherkesia Kfula and Hora, which was danced for about fifteen minutes. The dances became a regular monthly event.

Gert Kaufman, the most prominent figure in Israeli folk dance, was invited to open the proceedings at the first meeting. Gert was the organizer of annual folk-dance festivals movement that started with Dahlia Festival in 1944. She changed her name later to Gurit Kadman. According to Shalom's notes, Gurit was greatly influenced by the activities of Cecil Sharp, who collected, at the beginning of the century, old folkdance material from remote villages in England, and founded the English Folk Dance Society in 1911. In consequence, she encouraged ethnic minorities groups in Israel to preserve their folkdance culture of weddings and festivals (religious, national, Spring, etc.). The groups included Yemenite, Chassidic, Kurds, Grousins, Boucharans, North African Jews, and non-Jewish groups, the Tcherkess, Daruz and Arab. A photograph in the book of a cutting from the "Palestine Post", July 1944, shows The Rachel Nadav Yemenite Dance Troupe performing a line dance at the Dahlia first Folkdance Festival, the three men wearing traditional long white robes dancing to the song and drum beat, coming from behind.

Shalom Hermon created Debka Dayagim (Fishermen Debka) and two other dances for the celebration of "Hapo'el" 6th Festival in Haifa, 1956. The purpose of the

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dances was to provide the atmosphere of the life of workers in Haifa. On a video recording from the early 80s, he describes the line of boys from Hapo'el Dance Troupe dancing Debka Dayagim in blue overalls and blue hats. The "Heavy Steps" dance was supposed to depict the Haifa port dock workers. Only later did Debka Dayagim become a popular folk dance.

The second part of Debka Dayagim opens with a Tcherkesia six-beat figure. The figure, Shalom says, he learned from Tcherkes soldiers. He visited their camp in 1952, where he saw them dance in high boots, in a line. The 3rd and the 6th beat of the figure, the "close" step, was done with high jumps, so one could hear their boots stamping. The Tcherkes came to Palestine in the 1870s. They came as refugees from the Caucasus and the oppressing Russian government. They were farmers and known to be fierce fighters. The Ottoman regime encouraged them to settle East of the Jordan to be a buffer zone against the Bedouins of the desert.

The dance Le'or Chiyucheh (The glow of your smile) was created for the celebration of Independence Day in Haifa in 1955. It opens with Yemenite steps. The dance alternates between a line dance and couples in line. The Yemenite Jews started to realize their dream to return to Zion at the end of the 19th century. At first in small groups, then, with the establishment of the State of Israel, virtually the entire community came. They kept their song and dance tradition and contributed much to the Israeli folklore.

Shalom's greatest contribution to Israeli folk dancing was probably "Beit Hasefer Haroked" (The school that dances). In 1977, towards the celebrations of 30 years of the State of Israel, acting on behalf of the Ministry for Education, he collected 30 popular dances. The dances were printed in a booklet and distributed to schools together with music recordings. The intention was that the schools would adopt folk dance as part of the curriculum. The schools quickly accepted the idea. In June 1986 the first national meeting of dancing schools occurred in Jerusalem under the heading "The City in a Dance". Taking part were sixty full classes of boys and girls from secondary schools. They gathered in the Y.M.C.A. sports ground for a general dance, each class in its own circle and colours. Secondary school pupils can now take Folk Dance as a final examination subject.

Shalom was our neighbour in Tivon in 1950. A very friendly and charming person, he invited me to accompany his school dance class with my accordion. He took me to the class on his 500cc. B.S.A. motorcycle, and I still remember the terror I was in when trying to balance myself and the 80-bass accordion on my lap on the pillion behind.

GIDEON KALANIT

#### Notes:

1. Kemsing - near Sevenoaks, Kent.
2. "Hapo'el" (The worker) - The Labour movement sport organization.
3. Dahlia - A settlement in the Carmel mountain chain, South of Haifa.
4. "Tcherkesia". See S.I.F.D. Folk Dances Vol.5, pages 13, 14. Debka Dayagim. On page 14, figure 2, beats 17 to 22 (six beats), steps 19 and 22 "close" can be done with a high jump. See also S.I.F.D. Folk Dances Vol.3, page 24, figure 2, bars 9 & 10. beat 3 of Bar 9 and Beat 2 of Bar 10 can be done with a high jump. (Cherkessia Kfula).
5. Tivon - South East of Haifa, on the way to Nazareth.
6. In 1988, Shalom Hermon gave a lecture in London to the Dance and the Child International Conference. The subject was "Israeli Folkdance Today; Its Cultural Impact on Israeli and Jewish Society".

See Gideon's drawing on this month's cover, and description on p.2.

## S.I.F.D. SHOP

All our shop goods, plus many one-off exciting items, are on display for you to buy at the Sunday Dances at Cecil Sharp House. I promise to sell you all the things you never knew you wanted, or holiday gifts without the need to travel to all those exotic places. Come and have a good night out and help me make a few bob for the Society.

CLAIRE STEELEY

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## S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

### WINTER FESTIVALS - FIRE AND LIGHT - 15TH NOVEMBER 1997

The next S.I.F.D. day course will be on 15th November at Cecil Sharp House and will concentrate on dances related to Winter festivals, particularly those associated with fire or light. Details to be decided.

### ARMENIAN DANCES WITH EDDIE DJOLOLIAN, 17TH JANUARY 1998

The January S.I.F.D. day course will be on the 17th at Cecil Sharp House. Eddie Djololian, whom some will remember from Swansea, will teach Armenian dances. The details are still to be confirmed.

### SEPTEMBER APPALACHIAN CLOGGING DAY COURSE

Those attending the Appalachian Clogging day course had a very enjoyable day. In addition to teaching the dance steps, Rosie Davis described the place of dance within the traditional Southern Appalachian communities. However, the level of support by members of the S.I.F.D. was quite disappointing.

CASPAR CRONK

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## RESIDENTIAL DANCE COURSES

Last month Cathy Meunier gave details of two residential dance courses for Spring 1998. She has now given us the following additional information :-

27th-29th<sup>/30th</sup> March 1998. In addition to Eddy Tijssen teaching Bulgarian folk dance, Maggie O'Regan will teach some of the slower and more relaxing dances from her repertoire of international dances. The Advanced course will include at least one "meaty" item, such as Hassapiko or Reggie's Wedding. Prices will depend on the many options available. Full board and en-suite accommodation at Malhamdale is £82.00 (2 nights) or £115.00 (3 nights). A course of two half-days tuition is £10-£12.

24th-26th April 1998. Israeli Dancing with Fiona Howarth. The cost will be - full board and accommodation at Freshwater Bay £64.00 (£74.00 for en-suite). A course of two half-days tuition is £10.00.

For details and booking forms, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

BALKANPLUS, 11th October 1997, at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. 7.00-10.30 p.m. £3.00. M.C.: Roger Wickstead.

As many of our regular supporters know, Roger is a great Balkan enthusiast and travels from Oxford every month. He often has a musical item tucked up his sleeve and news of visits to Bulgaria, so come along and find out the latest.

The next Balkanplus will be on the unusual weekend of 22nd November as Cecil Sharp House is unobtainable on our regular date. It will also be a very special and unusual occasion as Jeff and Tina Stone will be celebrating their wedding anniversary.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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On Saturday, 22nd November 1997, Balkanplus will be hi-jacked by Jeff and Tina Stone to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary. Dave Carter will be M.C. and Dunav will be playing. Brian Stone (of "Junction 24") and Tina will lead a few of the "plus" dances.

As it is a celebration, we'd love all our friends, including those from Merton Park and Central London Groups, to join us. Wear bright colourful clothing to make a real party atmosphere. It will be held at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. between 7.00 and 10.30 p.m. Tickets £3.00 on the door. Please note that the 22nd is the fourth Saturday in November.

JEFF & TINA STONE  
16 Eynsford Road, Seven Kings,  
Ilford, Essex IG3 8BA

P.S. We may be having a song workshop from 6 o'clock - watch this space!



SPECIAL PONTIC WORKSHOP, SUNDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER 1997

The workshop will take place at the Hellenic Centre, London, 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. £8.00 only. The teacher is Iannis Kevrekides, direct from Greece. (Bar open for snacks and drinks throughout the day).

As you will know, the Pontic Greeks returned from their Black Sea area in the exchange of population in 1923, but have enthusiastically maintained and kept vitally alive all those traditions and dances which are part of Iannis's heritage too. The style is distinctive and fascinating, so do not miss this unique opportunity to experience it or add to your repertoire or improve your style. At the same time, you will be able to see a small relevant display of photos and books. !!Natassa Lemos specially recommends this to you all!!  
MAKE A NOTE NOW AND COME.

DIKI GLEESON, 0181 363 1506



MUSIC. Two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks this month on p.12. If you would like the music for any particular dance, please let Wilf know on 0181 642 3629.

## Stomping and Stamping



We all know that some dances have stamps but did you know that some stamps have dances?

Thematic stamp collecting i.e. collecting stamps which depict or illustrate a particular subject (such as cats or trains) has become quite respectable in recent years. No matter how esoteric the theme there will almost certainly be some relevant stamps.

The British Thematic Association, founded in 1984, publishes a 'Thematic Interest Classification' which currently lists over 900 topics ranging from 'Archery' to 'Zodiac' and including (of special interest to us) 'Dance & Dancers' and 'European Costume'.

Specialised catalogues have been published for very popular themes such as butterflies and ships, but tracking down appropriate stamps on, say, folk-dancing, has to be done by attending exhibitions, quizzing dealers and searching general catalogues - much more of a challenge and much more interesting.

Many stamps are beautiful, miniature works of art and desirable to collect quite apart from any additional, hobby. Sets of stamps held in public libraries expensive album.

The stamps (also expensive) will, I game. The Spanish between 1967 and 1971 with 'Alava' and end of showing the man's region on a *se tenant* see from the Lubuski couple. Other countries such as the DDR (old East Germany) have adopted the same idea.



thematic interest ; and it's not an expensive do not usually cost very much, catalogues are and you don't necessarily have to have an

illustrated here (what a pity colour copying is hope, give an idea of the attraction of this stamp is one of a set of 53 stamps issued which show 'provincial costumes'. They start with Zaragoza' - quite a marathon. The idea and woman's costumes from a particular pair of stamps is rather effective, as you can

Folk dancing on stamps is less common than costume but the Norwegian 'Folk Dances' set of three issued in 1976 showing Halling (illustrated), Springar and Gangar and the Romanian 'Folk Dancing' set of six issued in 1966 (Banat illustrated) are good examples of the fascinating material which exists. The pictures on

such stamps can be very informative - just look at the 60 groszy couple from Lowicz. What a wonderful evocation of the style and spirit of Polish Dance.

For more information see the 'Handbook of Thematic Philately' by Pim van den Bold and/or join the BTA whose membership secretary, Ian Paton, is at 15, Humberstone Road, Cambridge, CB4 1JD (sae please).



SG

The article on p.7 was written by Simon Guest, and with it he sent me a very attractive design of a Bulgarian costume for use as a cover this month. However, I decided not to use it as I do not know whether reproducing a picture direct from a postage stamp (which this one was) and using it on another publication, viz. SIFD NEWS, is an infringement of copyright. I have never been able to solve this question and tend therefore to err on the cautious side. I have read several different articles on the subject of copyright but can find nothing specific. So if you do send me a design for a cover, do please make sure you have the author's permission, but in the case of postage stamps, and postcards for that matter, I don't know what the answer is. Ed.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I have recently returned from the B.B.F.S. three mountain tour of Bulgaria. Before going, we had heard several rumours that the situation in Bulgaria was deteriorating fast and that crime was a big problem. I was a little apprehensive since we would be travelling with several valuable items including a video camera.

I should like to reassure other would-be travellers that Bulgaria is still a relatively safe and very friendly country. Yes, there are pick-pockets and places that are not safe to go, but that's the same in any country and, as long as you heed the advice offered, there is no reason to worry. We experienced no problems and felt that in some places things had improved. On our last visit to Plovdiv we were hassled by lots of begging gypsy children. This no longer happens because of an increased police presence. There was also a strong police presence at the "Pirin Sings" festival which did not hinder the enjoyment but did give an increased feeling of safety. So be sensible, take reasonable precautions but don't stop going. Bulgaria still has a lot to offer; the people may have very little but are incredibly generous, and the country needs the hard currency that we as tourists bring with us.

Yours sincerely,

JACKY WEBB  
36 Eastfield Road,  
Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol  
BS9 4AD

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Dear Lily,

Video of Milton Keynes International Festival 1997

The video of highlights from the gala night of this year's Milton Keynes Festival is now ready. It runs for one hour with extracts from the programme of each of our visiting groups, i.e. "Kresala" from the Basque Region (who won the Folkdance Competition at Llangollen), "Imilongi Kantu" from South Africa, "Janavak" from India, and "Clog America" from Salt Lake City, U.S.A. It was a wonderful evening and a sell-out. Next year we plan to have two gala concerts so that no-one will have to be disappointed. Also, we have been promised more raked seating.

Yours sincerely,

DON & JILL ALLISON  
30 St. John Street, Newport  
Pagnell, Bucks MK16 8HJ  
Tel. & Fax: 01908 610564



GLASTONBURY DANCE FESTIVAL - THE MIDDLE EASTERN DAY  
BY WORKSHOP LEADER, EMERALD MACMILLAN (OF "THE BIZARRE CAMEL").

As usual, the Dance Festival lasted over a week, but the organizers devoted a whole day to Middle Eastern Dance. There was a lot packed into the day and there were many tired legs and feet towards the end.

The other Camels and I (Bizarre Camel) had the pleasure of leading two workshops - one on Egyptian belly dance (Raqs Sharki) and another on "The Dance of the Ghawazee" (Egyptian gypsy dance). Both workshops were extremely well attended and it was a task and a half teaching 40 to 50 people for each workshop in a small church hall, but enjoyable nevertheless.

We decided to use the modern world of technology to the advantage of traditional dance, showing our participants in both workshops the dancing of native peoples on video. This was particularly appreciated in the Ghawazee workshop as it showed the students that we were teaching and performing the dance accurately and authentically. On that day also were Persian dance, Baladi, Universal Peace dance and a lunchtime showcase so that beginners, teachers etc. could show off! Medea, the Persian dancer, also had her international show "Doves" as part of the evening entertainment.

One of the downfalls of being involved in teaching and performing was that by the end of the day we were too exhausted to join in the Middle Eastern party (another evening entertainment). I suspect they all enjoyed themselves.

(Emerald has only been taught by Arabian women and has learnt other styles of Arabic dance as well as Berber dance. She has visited and trained in Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey etc. She is available for workshops and works with "The Bizarre Camel". Her address is: Miss Emerald Macmillan, The Annexe, 79 Minster Way, Bath BA2 6RL. Tel: 01225 484539).



"THE BIZARRE CAMEL" - AUTUMN PROGRAMME 1997

3-Part Courses in ANCIENT & TRADITIONAL ART OF EGYPTIAN BELLY DANCING

October 2nd, 30th and December 4th, 7.30-9.30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Monmouth Place (near Queens Square) Bath.

October 11th, November 8th and December 6th, 2.30-4.30 p.m. at Bristol Dance Centre, Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol.

Attendance by bookings only.

Workshops

October 5th FUN & SOCIABLE NUBIAN DANCE WORKSHOP, 2.30-4.40 p.m. at Bristol Dance Centre, Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol.

November 2nd MOROCCAN or BERBER DANCE (after our trip to Morocco) at Bristol Dance Centre, Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol.

(No prices given for any of the above). Enquiries to Toni on 01225 448979 for these courses and workshops, and for others such as Ghawazee Gypsy Women's Dance, Nubian Women's Dance etc. etc.

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

Oct.5th M.C.s: Audrey Whiteley and Mona Graham  
Nov.2nd M.C.s: Merton Park I.F.G.

7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Admission £4.00 for S.I.F.D. members, £5.00 for non-members.

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DANCE WITH DELYAN DEMIREV IN 1998. I am currently trying to organize Bulgarian dance courses for the New Year and next Summer in liaison with B.B.F.S. tours. If you are not already on my mailing list and would like to receive details, write to me at 47 Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8EU, enclosing s.a.e. please. (There are rumours of an extra Koprivshtitsa Festival in 1998!).

ROGER WICKSTEED

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FOR SALE Five sets (comprising two cassettes of 90 minutes each) of the Zivko Firfov 1996 Christmas Party. Price: £10.00 per set, plus £1.00 postage. Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group. Available from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note that the form of address for Marina Wolstenholme has been changed (a new "postal town" has been created). Her address is now: "Robin Cottage", 4 Commercial Road, Grindelford, Hope Valley S32 2HA. Telephone number remains the same, i.e. 01433 630183.

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"VUHPROS" BALKAN & INTERNATIONAL' BAND are available, with callers/leaders, for your function. Very reasonable rates, depending on the size of the venue and travel expenses (from £75). Ring 01865 511898 or 01923 249704.

ROGER WICKSTEED

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PLEASE LET OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS.

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Nov.1st MUSIC & DANCE WORKSHOP with Nutbrook Group. Italy, Austria, Holland and Switzerland. 10.15-11.15 a.m. Musicians' Playalong; 11.15a.m.-4.00 p.m. Dance Workshops; 4.15-5.15 p.m. Social Dance. £5.00. Teacher: Jill Bransby. At Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. For further information, ring 0115 917 1831.

Nov.7th-9th ROMANIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND with Silviu Ciuciumis at Dovedale, in the Peak District. This weekend course is now full for dancers but it is still possible for walkers/sightseers to book for this Autumn weekend break. The cost of £70 includes full board from Friday evening meal to Sunday (packed) lunch, in comfortable rooms, with plentiful choice of food and all the facilities of the house and grounds. As there may be cancellations at a later date, I will keep a waiting list for anyone who wishes to book as a dancer. For details please send s.a.e. to me at 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. CATHY MEUNIER

Nov.8th "FOOTWORKS '97". A Festival of Social Dance. Workshops for Appalachian, Argentinian Tango, Ballroom, Cajun, Eastern European, English Traditional, French Traditional, Jive, Salsa. Plus Tea Dance and Evening Dances. Inclusive ticket £18.00; Tea Dance only £3.00; The Big Dance only £7.00. Discounts for parties of 10 or more. At The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey, 11.00 a.m. to 11.00p.m. For more details contact Footworks, 24 Peckett Square, London N5 2PB. Tel: 0171 354 1797.

Nov.9th AN EVENING OF ROMANIAN DANCING with Silviu Ciuciumis at the New Village Hall, Calver, Hope Valley, 7.30-10.00 p.m. Fee depends on numbers, but less than £5.00. Details from Marina Wolstenholme, 01433 630183.

Nov.9th PONTIC WORKSHOP. See p.6.

Nov.15th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, WINTER FESTIVALS. See p.5.

Nov.22nd CHINESE DAY COURSE with Chen Shan at Hope Valley College. £10.00 (concessions £7.50). For details ring Community Education Office, 01433620662.

Nov.29th GREEK DAY COURSE at St.Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Egerton Road South, Chorlton, Manchester. Tutor: Maggie O'Regan. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Organized by Barlow I.F.D.G. £4.00 for full day. Further information from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.

Dec.6th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London E.C.1, 7.00-10.30 p.m. Nearest Underground: Old Street. Dances from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia; also from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania. £5.00, including refreshments. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY, available from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Cheques to be made out to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group (s.a.e. please).

Dec.7 th S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Jan.17th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, ARMENIAN. See p.5.

Jan.31st OXFORD BALKANSKO ORD NEW YEAR PARTY, 7.00-10.45 p.m. at St.Margaret's Parish Institute Hall. No price given.

Mar.7th/8th ROMANIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Silviu Ciuciumis at Bealings Village Hall, near Ipswich. Cost in the region of £25.00. It may be possible to find overnight accommodation with local dancers for those travelling from a distance. For more details please send s.a.e. to Sally Fletcher, 106 Westerfield Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2XN. Tel: 01473 252824.