

SIFD NEWS



FEBRUARY

1999

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting
is done by Doug and Maureen Wells.

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This month's cover was sent in by Simon Guest and is from a photograph he
took of Bulgarian dancers at the 1992 Confolens Festival in France.

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EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL 1999

Last month, Maggie O'Regan told us about what she hopes to include in her work-
shops at Eastbourne. Now I should like to remind you that we've been lucky
enough to persuade Eddy Tijssen to come and share his "expertise and enthusiasm"
of Bulgarian folk dance with us. Eddy is no stranger to this Festival. In fact,
soon after the event first started Eddy brought his group "Zadumus" over to dance
Dutch dances. He taught one ad hoc workshop in the basement of the Girls' High
School on Eldon Road. This was great fun, not only from his splendid teaching
manner but also dodging the pillars in the basement refectory! Anyway, we in-
vited him back the following year to teach for the whole weekend. He brought
a mixed programme of Dutch, Israeli, Yugoslavian and Bulgarian dances - Pravo
Trakisko Horo dates from this visit! Over the past (almost) twenty years, Eddy
has returned many many times to share his great love of all things Bulgarian,
not least their dance and music. (We've asked him to bring his kaval and gajda
again). Do come and experience his "quality teaching" and be ready for a most
energetic and enjoyable weekend.

JULIE KORTH

Ed. Note: We hope to include booking forms and leaflet for Eastbourne Festival
with this issue of SIFD NEWS.

SIFD Summer School 2000

Readers of *SIFD News* will already have 29 July to 5 August 2000 in your diaries. If you have not, please put them in now; these are the dates of the next Summer School, to be held again in York. The 1998 Summer School ended with great enthusiasm for the future and the hope that more people, SIFD old hands and newcomers alike, would come and share in this great dance experience. We have already recruited two excellent teachers whom many will already know. Delyan Demirev will be teaching Bulgarian dances. Elsche Korf with her accompanist, Frans Tromp, from the Netherlands will teach Western European couple dances, mostly from Alsace—including their collection of Zwiefacher—and also some others probably including Germany, Austria, Netherlands and Belgium.

We need your advice. The Summer School has traditionally provided courses with teachers from three contrasting styles of dance, with the addition of optional workshops provided each day by participants. At the end of York 1998 a number of people suggested that this could be overloading the programme; there might be advantages in only having two countries represented, still contrasting, of course. To make up for the loss of variety we would then need to make the workshops a more prominent part of the programme, taking care to ensure quality and a balance of styles. We believe that if we chose this option, it would reduce the pressure on everyone's energy and time but still give the chance to learn a wide repertoire thoroughly. It would also help to keep costs down—though not if it stops you coming!

Before we make a decision one way or the other we want to test opinion. Please let us know if you have a strong preference for two or for three teachers. If it is going to be three, we need suggestions for countries and teachers, and we shall have to decide soon so we can find someone good.

If you have views on this, particularly if it would affect your decision whether to come to York in 2000, please write to Roger Sturge immediately, in any case not later than 28 February. He can be contacted by:

snail mail: 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU
fax: 0117 962 1802, or
e-mail: RogerSturge@compuserve.com.

ANNE LEACH & ROGER STURGE
for the YORK 2000 planning team

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ANDRÁS GAÁL

András Gaál, the Hungarian teacher at York Summer School last year, has sent a letter thanking the many people who looked after him "like my parents" during his stay. He sends his regards to the Committee, to Dawn & Paul Webster, Jeanette Hull and his "guardian angels" Janet Loader, Roy Clarke and Richard Mellish. He says his days in England will remain among his most beautiful memories, and he praises the "fantastic energy, diligence and passionate love for dancing" he found in York.

András asks if anyone would like a Hungarian penfriend. She is a young dancer in his group, aged 19, and she is a University student in Economics and Psychology. She speaks English very well. An exchange visit could be possible. Please write to me if you are interested.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME
"Robin Cottage", 4 Commercial Rd.
Grindleford, Hope Valley S32 2HA
Tel: 01433 630183

A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF ALAN HUMBERSTONE

As I mentioned in my letter last month Brenda Godrich is arranging massed musician sessions and dancing at Cecil Sharp in Alan's memory. This will be on Sunday afternoon from 2 until 6 o'clock on February 7th before the S.I.F.D. dance. Bar and refreshments will be available from 1pm.

We are all invited to be there. There will not be an entrance fee but there will be an opportunity to donate to the cancer charity. There will be Scottish, Irish, English and from 5pm International Folk dancing when I will be MC and Wilf will lead the massed musicians. We shall be dancing De Kolom, Russian Lyrical, Niguno Shel Yossi, Karamfil, Neapolitan Tarantella, Swedish Schottische, De Hornpijp, Oige ja Vasemba, Maiezyt, Doudlebska Polka and Alunelul. This may seem a bit of a strange list but it's a combination of Alan's favourites and dances that I think the musicians will be able to play!

I hope any one with a musical instrument will bring it to join in with all the music (I've listed our dances so you can practise those) and as many dancers as possible will come to give other dancers a lead. I'll briefly walk through some of the dances but we will go straight into Neapolitan Tarantella, Swedish Schottische and De Hornpijp so you may want to walk them through in advance!

For further details please ring Brenda or Vic Godrich on 0171 607 8975.

Please spread this information as far and wide as possible. See you there,

P. J. Steventon.

Philip Steventon, Merton Park International Folk Dance Group



DANCES FROM PRESPA, WITH YANNIS KONSTANTINOU

The larger of the Prespa Lakes forms a natural boundary between Greece, Albania and Yugoslav Macedonia, and the village of Ayios Germanos is a tiny village at the foot of the mountains, almost as far North as you can get and still remain in Greece. Time seems to have stood still there and traditions are still strictly observed. The area has a rich mix of humanity, with Vlach, Pontic and Asia Minor families and refugees from Albania living alongside the Macedonians.

Yannis, now in his thirties, is the son of a very respected local dancer and teacher, Simos Kostantinou, who also danced with a National Yugoslav dance troupe "Tanec" along with his friend, Pece Atanasovski, a wellknown name to members of the Zivko Firfov Group in London whom he visited and taught. Yannis has been dancing since he was a child and has danced with many groups. He has been teaching several groups in Athens, where he now lives, for the last nine years and is regularly invited abroad to teach. Five years ago he created his own group, which has performed in France, Sardinia and Spain. He also organizes the annual course in Ayios Yermanos which has now been running for thirteen years.

Yannis is also active in researching the dances and music of the area, visiting the local villages to meet the "ancients". He was the first to invest in a record from this area and helps keep the dance tradition alive by teaching the dances to the local children. The most widespread dance of the area is Lavendikos, also known as Pusteno, which we shall certainly be dancing over the weekend. This is a very typical Macedonian dance with not-too-difficult steps but a tricky rhythm. We shall also do some of the Vlach dances, simple and with (I think) infectious music.

The GREEK MACEDONIAN COURSE with Yannis will be on SATURDAY, 20TH MARCH 1999, at Our Lady of Hal Church Hall, Arlington Street, Camden Town, N.W.1, and on SUNDAY, 21ST MARCH 1999, at The Place, Flaxman Terrace, W.C.1, both days from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Cost £10.00 per day or £19.00 for both days. Tickets and information from me at Flat 1, 317A Caledonian Road, London N1 1DR, Tel: 0171 609 7098. Information also from Caroline Simmonds, 0171 436 1474.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

S.I.F.D. HUNGARIAN DAY COURSE - 13TH FEBRUARY 1999

Place: Cecil Sharp House, in Trefusis. Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Tutor: Leslie Haddon Fee: £6 S.I.F.D. members, £8 non-members

Leslie will be teaching dances from York Summer School. Unfortunately, I do not have details of the names of the dances, but those of you who attended the Summer School are no doubt looking forward to a revision of the dances. If there are members, or non-members, wishing to find out whether they can learn the dances, but did not attend the classes at York, please come along and give them a try (I am). You do not have to book a place.

The next S.I.F.D. course, in March, will be Spanish/Portuguese. More details later.

HELEN EZRA



JACY TACY POLISH DANCE PARTY, 27TH FEBRUARY 1999

4.00 to 9.00 p.m. at St.Saviour's Priory, 18 Queensbridge Road, London E.2 (entrance in Dunloe Street). Buses No.26 and 48 from Liverpool Street Station, Bishopsgate side, and no.55 from Old Street to third stop Hackney Road. Queensbridge Road is on left.

The afternoon will begin with tea and some revision of our dances, followed by a break before the evening dancing and supper. We should like to see, besides Jacy Tacy members, friends who have supported our dance days over the years. However, accommodation is limited, so a ticket (no charge, but there will be a donation to the Priory) must be reserved with either -

Tony Latham

Tel: 0181 992 9445

- or -

Betty Harvey

Tel: 0181 980 9650

BETTY HARVEY



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ken Ward has moved and now lives at:-

Calle Angel Vidal 7 - 2º
08870 Sitges
Prov. Barcelona
Spain



PLEASE NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS



LOST & FOUND. A green anorak was left behind at Dunford and is now with Michael Holdup (0181 363 5000) from whom it can be reclaimed.

JACK RICHARDSON

Klezmer – The Music of East European Jewry

Klezmer is currently undergoing something of a revival in Europe and, in particular, in the USA and as it is one of my main musical interests it seems appropriate to write something about it.

Although klezmer was originally associated with weddings and other celebrations – and above all with dance – the music nowadays is often regarded as primarily listening music. One reason for this is, I suspect, that Yiddish dances are very easy to do badly and very difficult to do well – they are not technically demanding, but require a great depth of emotion from the dancers. Not easy in England.

However, klezmer in its original setting is dance music and therefore of legitimate interest to SIFD musicians. Even if we never get to introduce Yiddish dance into the SIFD, some of the musical techniques can also be employed in other forms of traditional music.

Klezmer is a highly decorated style, but the original tune should never become obscured by musicians messing around with it. That is, one should not ad-lib in the way a jazz musician would. But equally, one should avoid playing a passage the same way twice.

The most obvious decoration is the trill. Trills can be introduced wherever you think you can fit them in (and often in places where it doesn't seem possible - trills on semi-quavers are common). Trills are normally performed fast and even – avoid the classical trill which starts slowly and gets faster.

Similar to the trill in some ways is the finger vibrator (on wind instruments). Basically, this requires 'trilling' on a part of the instrument which alters the pitch of the note you are playing, but only very slightly. The alteration in quality of the note is noticeable, the alteration in pitch should not be. Lip vibrator and even throat vibrator are also used. But remember, vibrator is easy: tasteful vibrator is difficult.

Altering the pitch of a note (sliding up to or down from the correct pitch at a variety of speeds) can give a variety of different effects, but should be used sparingly. It is possibly this device which has given klezmer the reputation of being no more than 'wailing out of tune'. However, this, like all the other devices used to decorate a melody are part of an elaborate vocabulary which should be used with sensitivity to be effective.

Perhaps the most characteristic sound is the 'krechs'. This is essentially a pair of grace notes played before the main note (how quickly is a matter of dispute – some early recordings are so fast as to be barely noticeable). Others are much slower. The first note is almost always a semi-tone below the note you are aiming at, the second is often a tone higher (but can be anything). The important thing is that the second note is clipped extremely short, and a gap is left after it. If you think of the note as being fingered but not sounded you will be somewhere near the mark.

The 'ricochet' is another decoration which sound just like a ricochet, but this seems to have fallen out of favour in the klezmer revival.

Perhaps the oddest technique to modern classically trained ears is the way of playing quaver and semi-quaver passages. In a word, you should rush. Play two (or four depending on the phrasing of the tune) semi-quavers as fast as you reasonably can and then wait for the next beat, and do it again. This gives a effect almost like a whole series of Scottish snaps. Used correctly, it doesn't sound sloppy, but gives a remarkable impetus to the music.

This technique can be extended, and you can play slightly ahead of the beat (without getting faster overall) in a variable manner. This again gives an energetic drive to the music.

I hope this is useful. Describing musical subtleties using words is difficult, but if you want examples of what all this means in practice, come to Eastbourne Folk Festival in May where I will be giving a klezmer workshop.

Mike Gilbert

Two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.11. If you would like the music for any particular dance, please let Wilf know, on 0181 642 3629.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kara Lily,

Greetings for the New Year.

I have a problem. Can S.I.F.D. members suggest a solution? I have on my shelves about 400 audio cassettes. Only a small number of them do I use nowadays, but I have recycled many others. That still leaves me with about 200 cassettes which have folkdance music on them.

Owing to a broken ankle, I haven't danced for several years, so am totally out of touch. What do I do now with 200 folkdance cassettes? Nearly all of them have been recorded by me, so are largely "in the field". Some are from S.I.F.D. tapes. A few from overseas, either gifts or copies. Many are of amateur level, though usable for dancing. Some are tapes of Wilf Horrocks or other S.I.F.D. musicians (with permission). Very few are professional. Can anyone suggest a use and a home for them, or shall I ditch them? I have enough other spare tapes for my own use, and though I might keep a few of the 200 for sentimental reasons, at least 150 are spare. Suggestions, please, to me at the address below.

I still have good memories of S.I.F.D.

Kun Kora Saluto

WILL GREEN
202 Dunkery Road, Mottingham
London SE9 4HP

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BALKANPLUS, 13th February 1999, at Cecil Sharp House, 7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00.
M.C. Frances Horrocks.

We shall be starting at 6.00 p.m. with a pre-dance session, papering over the cracks in the joins of Bavno Horo, unravelling the rhythms of Bučimiš, practising a bit of nifty footwork in Schiojapa, and maybe having a look at Memede if there is time. A spare belt is essential for Bavno. All these dances will be included in the evening programme and are offered at no extra cost. The highlight of the evening, however, will undoubtedly be the visit by Elizabeth Letsky and Nadia Ellis, who will be singing for us. They are expert close harmony singers in the Balkan style, an absolute joy to listen to. The sisters don't often appear in public so this is a rare and golden opportunity not to be missed.

Dances during the evening will include short lines, sticks, leisurely, fast and a couple of fun spots - hear the music, guess the dance, and some unusual tunes for familiar dances, ending with Mom Bar, candles provided.

There will be a Balkan Quiz with questions about dances, music, costumes, instruments and some background knowledge. Many clues, and even answers, will become apparent during the evening. Further information available only at the Dance.

Following our survey, with the support of the vast majority, ticket prices will now be as follows:-

Cassettes only evening	£4.00
Live music & cassettes	£5.00
Season ticket	£35.00

This is as a result of the large increase in hall hire charges imposed by the management of Cecil Sharp House.

The next Balkanplus will be on 13th March.

FRANCES HORROCKS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I. Mar.6th GENERAL DANCE WORKSHOP organized by Rainmakers I.F.D.G. 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Radwell Village Hall, near Baldock, Herts. Tutor: Janet Woolbar. £4.50 all day. Refreshments available but a packed lunch is recommended. Details from 01462 677916 or 01462 636038.
- Mar.6th "SPECIAL" BRETON DANCE WORKSHOP with Carrie Atkinson. Learn the Fisel, Pourlet (Dans Leon) and other exotics! Followed by EURO-DANCING, a French Bal/Fest Noz. Live music from "BOA", "Citizen Camembert" and guests. Workshop 2.00 to 5.30 p.m. £6.00. Dance 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. £6.00. £10.00 for the two events. Patcham Memorial Hall, Brighton. Contact: Jan Mulreany, 01273 501304.
- Mar.6th WEIL DANCE WORKSHOP with Christine Hall at Whitstable, Kent. Veils available to borrow. All levels. Approx. £15.00. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Whitstable Adult Education, 01227 261345. Early booking recommended.
- S.I. Mar.6th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH SPRING DAY COURSE, mainly Balkan, with Frances Horrocks. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Langleys Road Methodist Hall, Selly Oak. £6.00 for non-S.I.F.D. members, £5.00 members, all day; pro rata for half day. Contact: Malcolm Cox, 0121 783 8517.
- Mar.13th S.I.F.D. SPANISH/PORTUGUESE DAY COURSE.
- Mar.13th BELLY DANCE WORKSHOP with Christine Hall. Complete dance routine "Banat Iskandaria". All levels. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Adult Education Centre, Ashford, Kent, 01233 621768. Approx. £15.00.
- Mar.13th ISRAELI DANCE COURSE, with Roberto Haddon. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St.Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, corner of Wilbraham and Egerton Road South, Chorlton, Manchester. Organized by Barlow I.F.D.G. Now £5.00 all day, £3.00 one session. Bring packed lunch. Details from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.
- S.I. Mar.15th AN EVENING OF THAI DANCING taught by Ped Young, 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at Cambridge International Club, Gibson Hall, St.Columba's Church, Downing Place (off Downing Street), Cambridge. £1.50. Details from Mike Gilbert, 01223 425648.
- Mar.20th HISTORICAL DANCE COURSE (English & European) organized by Nutbrook I.F.D.G. at Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. 10.00-11.00 Music Playalong £1; 11.00-1.00 Dance Tuition £3; 2.00-4.00 Dance Tuition £3; 4.15-5.00 Social Dance £1. Combined Ticket £6. Tutors: Paul & Ann Kent. For further information ring 0115 917 1831.
- Mar.20th WOODVALE I.F.D.G. SPRING DANCE, 7.30-11.00 p.m. at Borough Green Village Hall. Tickets £5.00 including buffet. For further information, ring 01732 883405 or 01732 885048.
- S.I. Mar.20th S.I.F.D. INTERNATIONAL BEGINNERS' DANCE. See p.9.
- Mar.20th VEIL DANCE WORKSHOP with Christine Hall at Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Approx. £15.00 Early booking recommended. Adult Education, 01892 527317. (No times given).
- Mar.20th/21st GREEK MACEDONIAN COURSE. See p.4.
- Apr.2nd/5th EASTER DANCE WEEKEND, BALKAN & OTHER DANCES at Beaford Arts Centre, near Great Torrington, Devon. For details, send s.a.e. to Mecki Testroet, Manor Cottage, Burrington, Umberleigh, North Devon EX37 9LZ. Tel: 01769 560479.
- S.I. Apr.2nd/5th S.I.F.D. EASTER WEEKEND at Alison House, Cromford, Nr.Matlock, Derbyshire. A few places available. Bookings to Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Rd., Enfield, Middx. EN2 OHE. Tel: 0181 367 2649.

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Apr.10th POLSKA AND OTHER SWEDISH DANCES WORKSHOP with Kerry Fletcher (member of "Broken Ankles") followed by EURO-DANCING, a Swedish & French Bal with live music by "BOA", Ben Paley and guests. Workshop 2.00-5.30 p.m. £6. Dance 7.30-11.00 p.m. £6. £10 for the two events. Patcham Memorial Hall, Brighton. Contact: Jan Mulreany, 01273 501304.

Apr.16th/19th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ROMANIAN DANCING with Silviu Ciuciumis at Newfield Hall, Malhamdale. For details and booking form, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Apr.30th/May 3rd EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL. For details of international events, contact Julie Korth, 01942 831141. For booking, ring 01323 895680. See also p.2.

May 22nd EURO-DANCING EVENING with "The Eelgrinders" from Exeter, in Patcham Memorial Hall, Brighton. (No time or price given). Contact: Jan Mulreany, 01273 501304.

May 24th/31st ROMANIAN DANCE HOLIDAY with Silviu Ciuciumis at Tesna, nr.Suceava. For details send s.a.e. to Pamela Le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Bedhampton, Hants. PO9 3QA. Tel: 01705 641028. A few places still available.

May 28th/June 1st BALKANPLUS WHITSUN DANCE WEEKEND with Eddy Tijssen and Martin Ihns at Okehampton Youth Hostel, Devon. Contact Anne Marshall for details, at 44 Church Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3EQ. Tel: 0117 950 9889.

July 2nd/4th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL.

July 6th/11th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD.

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S.I.F.D. INTERNATIONAL BEGINNERS' DANCE - 20TH MARCH 1999

This is advance notice of the S.I.F.D. International Beginner's Dance on 20th March, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House in Trefusis. The M.C.s for the Dance will be the team of Fiona Howarth and Anne Leach, and the band will be "Cloudburst". Fliers advertising the event will be available at the March Sunday Dance and possibly at the February Dance. Please be thinking of how to get the word to people who would enjoy the Dance. Tickets will be £4.00 (£3.00 for S.I.F.D. and E.F.D.S.S. members).

CASPAR CRONK

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AN EVENING WITH SILVIU CIUCIUMIS - MONDAY, 19TH APRIL 1999

Following the residential weekend at Malhamdale (16th/19th April), Silviu Ciuciumis will be teaching on the Monday evening at Hope Valley College. The class will begin at 7.15 p.m. prompt. Please be there by 7.00 p.m. The class will end at 9.00 p.m. and the College snack-bar will be open for the break. Cost £5.00. Further details from me on 01433 630183.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

Feb.7th M.C.: Jill Bransby, with Rainmakers I.F.D.G. Interval dances will be led by Maggie O'Regan.

Mar.7th

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

A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF ALAN HUMBERSTONE will precede the Dance on Feb.7th, from 2.00 to 6.00 p.m. See p.4.



WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

- Feb.3rd - and the first Wednesday of every month, "La Contrepatte", French, Breton and European folk dancing to live music from "BOA", "Citizen Camembert" and guests. Some new dances taught each month. At Excelsior Hotel (Tudor Room), Kingsway, Hove (opposite the Lagoon). From 8.30 p.m., with a late bar. More details from Trevor Upham, 01273 388816, or Jan Mulreany (SIFD), 01273 501304.
- Feb.6th "MAGICAL DANCING" WORKSHOP with Christine Hall, exploring some of the traditional connections between dance, spirituality and magic. Focus will be on traditional Middle Eastern dances including the Zaar trance dance and Whirling Dervish spins. Hastings College of Arts & Technology, 10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. £14.00.
- S.I. Feb.6th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH SPRING DANCE, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Solihull Methodist Church, Blossomfield Road, Solihull. "Bring & Share" supper. The hall is in Blossomfield Road (B4102) close to 'bus and railway stations. £1.50.
- Feb.13th S.I.F.D. HUNGARIAN DAY COURSE. See p.5.
- Feb.13th BALKANPLUS. See p.7.
- Feb.15th INTRODUCTION TO BELLY DANCING - Egyptian and Turkish. 2-hour workshop in Ashford, Kent. Suitable for beginners and intermediate students. Details from Ashford Borough Council, Arts Development, or from Christine Hall, 01580 850687.
- Feb.27th JACY TACY POLISH DANCE PARTY. See p.5.



Events covered by S.I.F.D. insurance are marked "S.I." in the margin.



All material for the March issue of SIFD NEWS must reach the Editor IN WRITING BY 17TH February. Please print in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of dances, people and places, unless typewritten.