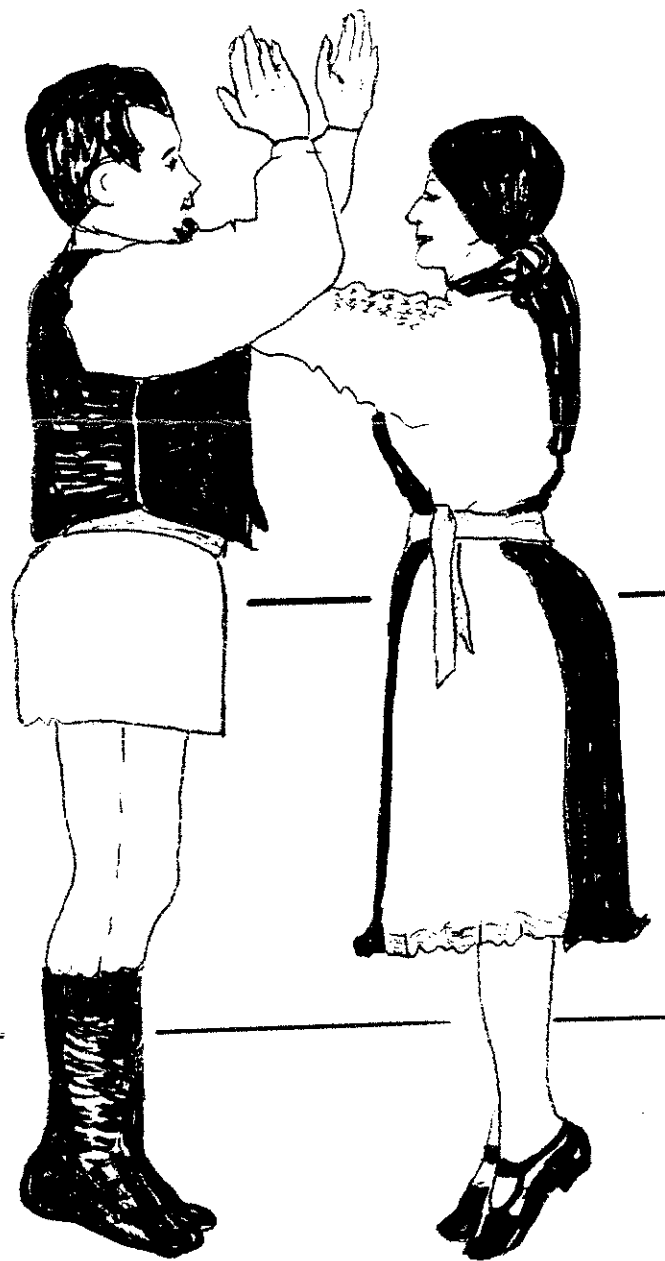
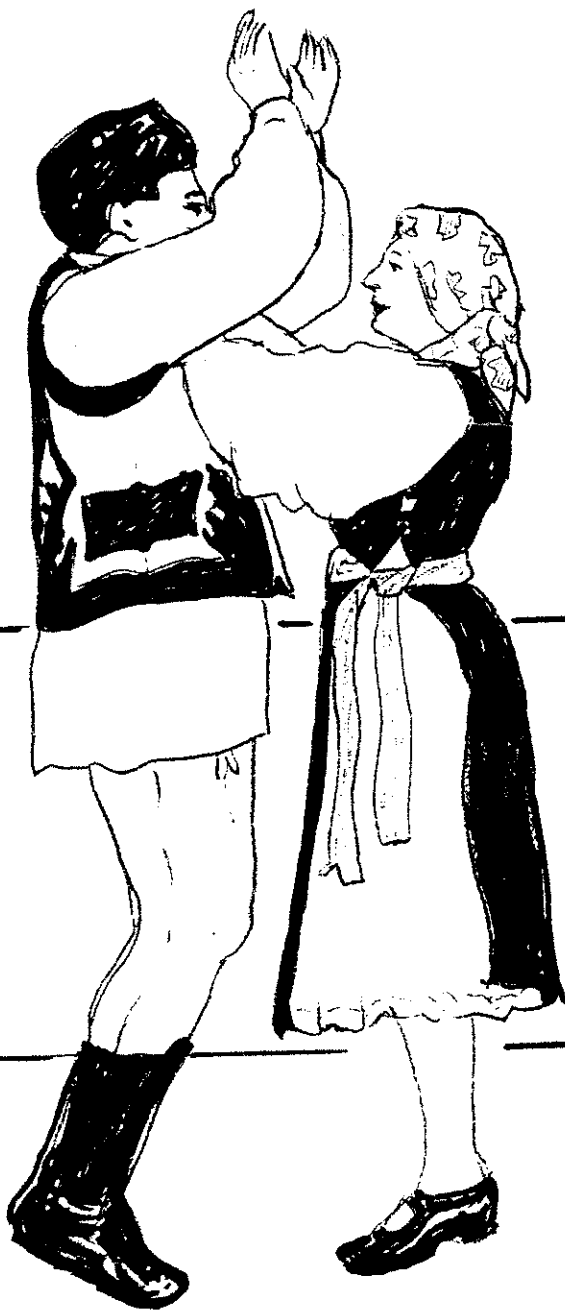


SIFD NEWS

MARCH 1999



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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

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This month's cover is a sketch by Leo Denhard, taken from a photograph which
she took of two couples from Martisorel Romanian Group when they danced at
Woodvale Group's Spring Dance last year.

--oOo--

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S.I.F.D. INTERNATIONAL BEGINNERS' DANCE

On 20th March 1999 there will be an S.I.F.D. Beginners' Dance at Cecil Sharp
House in Trefusis, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. The M.C.s for the Dance will be the ex-
citing combination of Fiona Howarth and Anne Leach, a team with a long history
together. The band will be "Cloudburst". Fliers advertising the Dance will be
available at the March Sunday Dance. (On the new edition the date is no longer
a mystery). Pick up a supply to post at local establishments and to distribute
to your acquaintances. This is an opportunity to try to attract new members to
the S.I.F.D. We also need the support of experienced dancers to help show the
steps. It should be a very enjoyable evening. Tickets are £4.00 (£3.00 for
S.I.F.D. and E.F.D.S.S. members and students).

CASPAR CRONK

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

Summary of Committee Meeting held on 16th January 1999

- It was a pleasure to greet a new member of the committee - **Richard Mellish**.
- A **financial estimate** for 1999 was produced, which showed an estimated surplus - very small, but at least it *is* a surplus; a more encouraging situation than last year!

This year it is hoped to concentrate on -

- enlarging the number of **SIFD teachers** - there will be more news later from the Badge and Day Course Subcommittee on this

and

- producing the **next cassette/book/video** of SIFD dances. This is referred to as Package 10 (P10) and should have been under way last year, but unfortunately the people most involved in organising it were extremely busy, and other pressures kept pushing it to one side. However this year it is a top priority, and we are all resolved to start on it with fresh enthusiasm.

If anyone would like to help with any of the stages, please would they make themselves known - we should be very pleased to hear from them.

- Year 2000 was discussed - should we make plans to celebrate the millenium in any special way? The CCPR, Red Cross and Sports Council have already made preparations for events in which we might be involved - but should we be planning anything special?
- In future, the responsibility for organising the Monthly Sunday Dances will be shared by several people - there has been a very kind offer of help - and who-will-do-what should be settled by the next meeting.
- We were delighted to hear that the new introductory leaflets have been printed, and are on their way to the groups and classes to try to recruit new SIFD members. The leaflets look very smart, and we hope they will be a success.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 7th.

ALISON SCRIMSHAW, Hon.Secretary

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

S.I.F.D. HUNGARIAN DAY COURSE, 13TH FEBRUARY

How lucky we all are in the S.I.F.D. to have such a valuable group of teachers who give so much of their time, expertise and information at the various Saturday day courses. Do we always avail ourselves of these opportunities? A case in point was the Hungarian Day Course which was, sadly, not that well attended but was in fact most interesting and instructive. Hungarian may not be your scene, but what a wealth of knowledge one gained.

Balkan and Israeli courses always fill the hall but the majority of courses based on couple and the more formal dances from Western Europe do not. Folk dance is like a jigsaw; one never hopes to complete the puzzle but another valuable piece fits into the overall pattern. Those who did attend the Hungarian course had a wonderful session; a really, happy, friendly day, much appreciated by everyone.

If you are a folk dancer, whatever the course, there is always so much to be gained. No knowledge is ever wasted and adds to the whole folk pattern, and makes better teachers and dancers.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT HARROLD
4 Breakspeare, 94 College Rd.,
London SE21 7NB

Your opinions about Day Courses

39 people kindly returned completed questionnaires to me, giving their ideas and opinions about day courses.

A few sheets were still arriving after Christmas, but I decided they were probably the very last, so proceeded to collate the results and handed them - with a summary of all the suggestions - to the Badge and Day Course Committee for their perusal.

When analysed, the answers showed that most people who replied came only infrequently to Day Courses, mostly because of the distance involved to get to them. They like a balance of both SIFD and foreign teachers, and the majority would be happy to pay more for a specialist foreign teacher. Revision Days and days teaching standard repertoire dances were greeted warmly by most people, with many suggestions about which dances they would like included, and also which country or topic they would like taught in the future (enough to keep the B&DCC busy for quite a long time.) Only a few more people voted against 2-day courses than for them, but feelings ran more strongly about the venue - car parking, or the lack of it, featured highly in the off-putting list.

Travelling difficulties, young children and a busy life-style also came up several times, as did the comment that as one gets older one needs more time to absorb new dances, so please don't teach too many at once!

Several people mentioned that they would like to be given as much notice as possible about the date of a day course, with more details about the contents. A few teachers' names were also suggested.

I'm sure the B&DCC will find it really useful to have all these ideas and opinions, and will try to act on them. It obviously isn't possible to please everyone, but if a few more of you can be pleased after this survey, then it will have been worth it. Thank you very much to all of you who responded.

Alison Scrimshaw

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EASTBOURNE FOLK FESTIVAL

"Opanka" East European Folk Dancers from Manchester are very pleased to join the Eastbourne Folk Festival for the first time. Our leader and friend is Veronica Hartt who formed this group some years ago and has been teaching dances from various regions of Serbia and Romania. She visited these countries, where she had first-hand experience of vast varieties of dances and styles. We are a performing group as well.

Our costumes are expertly made by her daughter, Theresa, but some of our costumes, viz. blouses, shoes and aprons, are original from Serbia and Romania. All our Serbian shoes are kindly donated by my brother-in-law, after seeing us dance in Manchester.

We look forward to meeting and dancing with you at the Festival.

MAGDA GUPTA, for "Opanka"

P.S. We are still looking for male dancers as we are an all female group!

Playing Sprötzer Achterum

My previous articles have concentrated mainly on theoretical issues illustrated with examples from various tunes. This month I thought I would start with a tune and describe how Jacob's Ladder approached it when we added it to our repertoire. As always, the ideas expressed are my own (and the band's) and are not intended to imply that this is the only way to approach this particular tune or folk dance music in general

Sprötzer Achterum is a tune that Jacob's Ladder first encountered some years ago. On paper there is nothing much to it, but it sounded horrible when we played it. Looking at it now, it is difficult to see what the problem was but we did consciously have to look at a number of things before we got it right.

The piece is obviously divided into three sections with the first two divided into 224 224 bar patterns. The third is a bit different at 422 44. This more or less plays itself, but can and should be emphasised by the use of dynamics. Aim at the G at the end of the second bar, and the A at the end of the sixth bar in part A. This will give this passage, which is musically very plain, a definite shape. A similar emphasis in part B and an emphasis on the top Gs in part C will give this section a bit of shape as well.

However, the piece was still sounding dull and not very German. Articulation proved to be vital here. The opening sounds as if it should be played on brass instruments. This effect (if you don't have brass in the band) can be imitated by giving a very crisp attack to all the notes and playing them staccato (even where not marked). We gave this tune to the clarinet and flute. The dotted quaver, semi-quaver pattern should be played very precisely. The passage a third below the melody can be played an octave higher if the instrument playing it is lighter in tone than those playing the tune. At the bass end, the accordion, piano and guitar also have to imitate brass instrument articulation to avoid the passage sounding woolly

Part B can be played similarly to the A section, or can be played in a contrasting fashion with longer notes to give a more relaxed sound. The violins took this part to give a contrast to the A passage. Playing it totally legato would, to my ear, sound a bit over the top and too lush, but the rhythm instruments can afford to be less crisp and brassy than in part A.

Part C was now sounding okay, but could be improved. Playing exactly as written, with a very heavily accented minim, fading very quickly to almost nothing, a very pronounced staccato where marked and long crotchets helped, but finally we decided to give the clarinet a counter melody. This was partly a fanfare and partly a cornet solo type of tune. A simple example is shown below.

Mike Gilbert

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

Mar.7th M.C.s: Woodvale I.F.D.G.

Apr.11th M.C.s: Central London I.F.D.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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HELP PLEASE!

Does anyone have a cassette produced by Karin Bellaart for her teaching sessions at the Eastbourne Folk Festival in 1986? I bought a copy but have accidentally "wiped" a few bars from each of Skopska Crno Gorka (Macedonia) and Sirto (Bulgaria). I should be most grateful if someone could provide me with a cassette recording of these two dances - full reimbursement, postage, packing etc. would be made.
Tel: 01424 222382.

HEATHER EDWARDS
47 Sutherland Avenue, Bexhill-on-
Sea, E.Sussex TN39 3QL

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"DOUSKO"

When going through some old tapes, I came across a dance called "Dousko" but I have no idea of the steps. It sounds like a Bulgarian village dance, so can any Balkan enthusiast help me find out how to do it? Enquiries so far have been fruitless.

MAVIS LOWE
50 Ennersdale Road, Coleshill,
Birmingham B46 1EP.

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YEMENITE COSTUME

Is there anyone out there who has a postcard or a photograph of a Yemenite girl which I could photo-copy and return? I should be most grateful for your help.

ROBERT HARROLD
4 Breakspeare, 94 College Road,
London SE21 7NB

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BROMLEY INTERNATIONAL DANCE CLASS

Please could any past members of the above class who have not received a letter about the forthcoming 25th Anniversary in May contact me at 17a Ravensbourne Road, Bromley BR1 1HN.

FIONA HOWARTH

S.I.F.D. SHOP

New stock of T-shirts, "Lots of Dancers" design as shown on right. Available in Sunflower/Jade/Red, sizes XL/L/M at £9.00 each + £1.00 p. & p. These T-shirts are high quality cotton and have been very popular with our members, so if you missed out on getting one before, now is your chance.

Pens. We have added to our range of pens. The flag design is still available but we now have assorted cat or dog designs. So treat yourself to a spotted cat, perky dog, scary cat or a wicked winky (it's a dog!). 99p each. Postage & packing for 10 pens is £1.00. Why not make a club order?

Available from Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.
Tel: 01462 686419.



THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

13th March 1999 - SPANISH/PORTUGUESE

Place: Cecil Sharp House, in Trefusis. Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Tutor: "Steve" Steventon Fee: £6 S.I.F.D. members, £8 non-members

Steve will be teaching two Spanish regional dances, Jota del Cribero and Seguidillas de Lecinena, and one Portuguese dance, Fado Blanchita, previously taught at Eastbourne in May 1998. The Spanish dances are not flamenco type but are similar to, but not as exhausting as, the jotas already in the S.I.F.D. repertoire. If there is time, he will revise the Santo Domingo Suite and A Chula.

Please bring castanets if you have them. Shoes should preferably be flat or with very small heels. Notes and tapes will be available.

No day course in April.

15th May 1999 - "TEACHERS FORUM"

This day has been set aside to meet the needs of prospective teachers. Any teachers, class leaders, M.C.s, prospective teachers, and any supporting class members are all welcome.

We are planning to discuss teaching methods, knowledge of dances, alternative ways of teaching a dance, leadership styles appropriate to different situations, people management and safety. There will also be the opportunity to demonstrate and practise your teaching skills. We are aiming to improve the standard of teaching by sharing any successful methods with each other, and also bring to attention any pitfalls.

If you have any constructive comments, contributions, or any specific requests, please let me know. In order to get some idea as to the number of people likely to attend, please contact me by the end of March.

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

We send our warm congratulations and good wishes to Sadie & Harry Stone who celebrated their Golden Wedding in January this year. May you go on dancing through life together for many years to come.

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BALKANPLUS, 13th March 1999, at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1, 7.00 to 10.30 p.m. £5.00. M.C.: Rosette Rosenberg with "Martinitza" and "Dunav".

The "Martinitza" group meet at the U.K. Dance Centre (formerly Benesh Institute) 12 Lisson Grove, Marylebone, on Mondays, 8.30 p.m., where you will be sure of a warm welcome and an introduction to the dances for any Balkanplus evening.

The next Balkanplus will be on 10th April.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE COURSE, 14TH TO 21ST AUGUST 1999

The above course is run in conjunction with the Billingham International Folklore Festival and provides an opportunity to dance with, and learn from, all the groups at the Festival. This year the festival programme includes groups from South Korea, Egypt, India, Italy, Ukraine, Latvia, U.S.A., France, Argentina and New Zealand.

For details of the course, contact Brian Padgett, Course Organiser, Billingham International Dance Course, Adult Education Centre, The Causeway, Billingham TS23 2DN. Tel: 01642 397363.

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Lykion Ton Hellinidon run classes teaching traditional Greek folk dances at the Crypt, St.Sophia, Moscow Road, London W.2, as follows:-

| | | |
|----------|----------------|--------------------|
| Saturday | 2.00-3.00 p.m. | Children |
| | 3.00-4.00 p.m. | Adult beginners |
| | 4.00-5.00 p.m. | Adult intermediate |
| | 5.00-6.00 p.m. | Adult intermediate |

Spring term: 9th January to 27th March. Summer: 17th April to 26th June

£30.00 per term (£15 for students and children). Further information from Mrs. N.Charitou, 0181 991 1258, or Mrs. M.Stylianios, 0181 368 8893.

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LAURA SHANNON has published a list of the workshops she will be giving in various countries this year - Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, Denmark, England, Ireland, Sweden, Canada - which cover various forms of dance including some folk. For information, contact Laura at 82 Galba Court, Augustus Close, Brentford, Middx. TW8 8QS, Tel: 0181 560 8082, (until 15th May, when she will be moving to Scotland).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I. Apr.2nd/5th S.I.F.D. EASTER WEEKEND at Alison House, Cromford, Nr.Matlock, Derbyshire. Bookings to Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 0HE. Tel: 0181 367 2649.

Apr.2nd/5th The Easter Dance Weekend of Balkan and other dances planned for this weekend has been cancelled due to low numbers.

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.19th AN EVENING WITH SILVIU CIUCIUMIS at Hope Valley College. The class will begin at 7.15 p.m. prompt and end at 9.00 p.m. Please be there by 7.00 p.m. Snack bar open for the break. £5. Further details from Marina Wolstenholme, 01433 630183.

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.4.

S.I. Apr.30th/May 3rd S.I.F.D. DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, West Somerset. Details from Jack Richardson, Chemical Engineering Dept., University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 403153 (home), 01792 295194 (work).

May 15th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - TEACHERS FORUM. See p.7.

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.

May 28th/June 1st The Balkanplus dance weekend planned at Okehampton has been cancelled due to lack of numbers.

June 4th/6th FEST NOZ at Thoresby Park, Nottinghamshire. A weekend of French and Celtic music includes workshops in Breton singing, French dancing, Scandinavian dancing, Breton dancing and various kinds of music. For details contact Gail Cooke, NCC (Arts), Trent Bridge House, Fox Rd., Nottingham NG2 6BJ.

S.I. June 13th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI. Starts 11 a.m. at Moreton-in-Marsh. Details of rest of the programme to follow.

S.I. Aug.27th/30th MINI DANCE FESTIVAL by local groups at Roedean School, Brighton, includes International Folk, Circle Dance and a country walk. Live music from "Labyrinth" Band on Saturday evening. Full board, mostly single rooms, swimming pool. £110 (deposit £20). Please send s.a.e. for details and booking form to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 0PZ. Tel: 01323 503991.

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

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- S.I. Mar.6th GENERAL DANCE WORKSHOP organized by Rainmakers I.F.D.G. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Radwell Village Hall, near Baldock, Herts. Tutor: Janet Woolbar. £4.50. Packed lunch recommended. For details ring 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 2.00-5.30 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.
- Mar.6th VEIL DANCE WORKSHOP with Christine Hall at Whitstable, Kent. Veils available to borrow. All levels. Approx. £15. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Whitstable Adult Education, 01227 261345.
- 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 for non-S.I.F.D. members, £5 members, all day; pro rata for half day. Contact: Malcolm Cox, 0121 783 8517.
- Mar.7th GREEK DANCE & MUSIC EVENING. See p.10.
- Mar.13th S.I.F.D. SPANISH/PORTUGUESE DAY COURSE. See p.7.
- Mar.13th BELLY DANCE WORKSHOP with Christine Hall. "Banat Iskandaria". All levels. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Adult Education Centre, Ashford, Kent. 01233 621768. Approx. £15.
- Mar.13th ISRAELI DANCE COURSE with Roberto Haddon, organized by Barlow I.F.D.G. 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. £5 all day, £3 one session. Bring packed lunch. Details from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.
- Mar.13th BALKANPLUS. See p.8.
- S.I. Mar.15th AN EVENING OF THAI DANCING taught by Ped Young, 8.15-10.15 p.m. at Cambridge International Club, Gibson Hall, St.Columba's Church, Downing Place (off Downing St.), 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 Rd., 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. Further information from 0115 917 1831.
- Mar.20th WOODVALE I.F.D.G. SPRING DANCE, 7.30-11.00 p.m. at Platt Memorial Hall. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE. Tickets £5 including buffet. For further information ring 01732 883405 or 01732 885048.
- S.I. Mar.20th S.I.F.D. INTERNATIONAL BEGINNERS' DANCE. See p.2.
- Mar.20th VEIL DANCE WORKSHOP with Christine Hall at Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Approx. £15. Adult Education, 01892 527317. (No times given).
- Mar.20th/21st GREEK MACEDONIAN COURSE. See p.10
- S.I. Mar.26th TURKISH DANCE WORKSHOP. Barnet I.F.D.G. is pleased to welcome Feride Baycan, a highly acclaimed London-based teacher, who will select a variety of dances which she expects will appeal to both beginners and specialists. £4. 8-10.30 p.m. Church House, Wood St., Barnet, Herts. Information from Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.