

S I F D

OCTOBER 1999



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N E W S

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
at the 1994 S.I.F.D. Summer School at York when Jan Knoppers taught dances from
South America. Marina Wolstenholme and Richard van der Kooij are shown wearing
costumes from Cuzco in Peru.

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S.I.F.D. INTERNATIONAL BEGINNERS' DANCE, 16TH OCTOBER 1999

On 16th October there will be a Beginners' Dance at Cecil Sharp House, downstairs
in Trefusis, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. The M.C.s will be Maggie O'Regan and Anne Leach,
with live music provided by "Jacob's Ladder". Fliers advertising the event will
be available at the October "First Sunday" Dance at Cecil Sharp House. The event
will be designed to introduce newcomers to international folk dancing. All dances
will be taught, so please encourage anyone you know who might be interested to
come. No previous experience is necessary. As always, we also need the support
of experienced members to make the event successful. If you can distribute some
fliers but can't get to the Sunday Dance, please contact me on 0181 340 4683 to
get some fliers posted to you.

CASPAR CRONK

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MUSIC. Three more tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.12. If you would like the music
for any particular dance, please contact Wilf on 0181 642 3629.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ASSOCIATION AND AFFILIATION RENEWAL FOR 1999-2000

Annual subscriptions became due on 1st September 1999. Appreciation and many thanks are due to many members and group officers who renewed promptly. Prompt renewal reduces the administration work considerably, and once again this applies to some two-thirds of the membership this year. Members and group officers who have sent in their subscription need not read any further!

Members who have not sent their subscription are reminded that membership lapses with this issue of SIFD NEWS and that this is the last copy that will be despatched to you.

With regard to Association or Affiliation renewal, I refer to my letter of 1st May 1999, inviting renewal, sent to group leaders and officers. I should like to remind group officers 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 4th October 1999.

Annual subscriptions for 1999-2000 (unchanged from last year) are:-

Town Member	£17.00
Joint Town Members	£22.80
Country/Overseas Member	£13.50
Joint Country/Overseas Members	£17.00
Junior Members	£ 5.30
Affiliation subscription	£29.30 (£24.00 for Music groups)

Town member means an address within 30 miles of Central London or of Birmingham, i.e. generally nearer to folkdancing events.

ALAN MORTON
Honorary Membership Secretary
and Groups Liaison Officer
Address on p.2.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - ISRAELI

The next S.I.F.D. Day Course will be held on Saturday, 9th October 1999, in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £6.00 for members, £8.00 non-members.

I am pleased to say that Fiona Howarth has agreed to come along at short notice to teach some Israeli dances from the following list:-

Ba Benucha
Ayumar Behar Hamor
Shuvyotze Hazemer
Lo Na'atsor
Ashrei Ha'ish
Reiach Dudaim
Tfilla Bamidbar
Chedvat Neurim
Maya

Please come along and have an enjoyable day. Tell all of your class members about it. In view of rising costs, we need your support to continue with the day courses. I look forward to seeing you there.

HELEN EZRA

EASTBOURNE DANCE FESTIVAL, 2000

We have another excellent line-up of teachers, callers and bands for the International side of the Festival. These include Roberto Haddon (Israeli), Diana Jewitt (Irish Set), Jan Mulreany (Breton), Eddie Tijssen (Bulgarian), "Cloudburst" (folkdance band), Dunav Balkan Group (Balkan music).

* The dates are Friday, 28th April, until Monday, 1st May, which is the normal Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Please note that Easter is very late next year so this holiday follows immediately after the Easter weekend. Please make sure that, if you go away at Easter, you will be back in time for this superb festival, and support the S.I.F.D. who help to organize it. Please book the dates NOW.

JILL BRANSBY and JULIE KORTH

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S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH MILLENNIUM WEEKEND, 24TH-26TH MARCH 2000

Bookings are now open for our millennium weekend, which is to be held at the Hare & Hounds Hotel, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. This is a well-appointed hotel with a ballroom which we have secured for our sole use for the whole weekend. All rooms have en-suite facilities, colour television, hair-drier, direct dial telephone and tea & coffee tray. It is envisaged that the weekend will consist of a mixture of dance tuition by Janet Woolbar and Grace Pittman in the mornings, walking/sightseeing in the afternoon, and social dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings. There are lots of things to see in the locality, and the hotel is very close to Westonbirt Arboretum.

The cost for the weekend, inclusive of all meals and teaching expenses, is £110 per person on the basis to two people sharing a double/twin room. There is a special reduced rate for children. A deposit of £30 will book your place, and the balance may be paid in two instalments of £40. Please send your booking and deposit to Malcolm Cox, 25 Elmcroft Road, South Yardley, Birmingham B26 1PJ (Tel: 0121 783 8517). Further information also available from Maggie Kaye, 402 Heath Road South, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2BE. (Tel: 0121 608 1437).

MAVIS LOWE

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FREE ENTRIES IN THE E.F.D.S.S. NEW ENLARGED FOLK DIRECTORY

* The E.F.D.S.S. is enlarging the scope of the "Folk Directory". "When published in May 2000, it will be the main directory of the folk world in its broadest sense, with a much increased circulation. As well as a comprehensive guide to the usual "folk territory", the publication will cover a wide range of music from Traditional English to Global Dance. All related art forms will be included with full coverage of venues, agents, promoters and relevant services".

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Rather than listing the S.I.F.D. only as an organization, the E.F.D.S.S. would like all classes and folkdance groups to have individual entries in the directory. Bands, musicians, callers, tutors and dancers are all included under the "Artist" category. The S.I.F.D. Committee urges all Associated and Affiliated groups to write to Root Source, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY, or ring 0171 485 2206 Ext.205, to obtain the appropriate form. There is a wide variety of categories so it is worth requesting the form if you have any connection with the folk world. This can include professional services such as legal, insurance, accounting etc. If you are specifically associated with S.I.F.D., please state this when you submit your entry form, but spell it out as "Society for International Folk Dancing". This is an opportunity to publicise our various groups and classes, and to raise public awareness of the S.I.F.D. CASPAR CRONK

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"THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE....."

It's eleven years since I last went to Romania. Many things have changed but you still need to take a bath plug. This visit, as before, was organized by Silviu Ciuciumis, whom many of you will know from the very popular courses he has held here. Our party was a nice compact 19, two from the U.S.A., three from Finland, three from Belgium, four from Holland and seven from England. We flew from Gatwick to Bucharest and took an overnight train to Suceava in N.E. Romania, arriving at 6 a.m. We have to be pretty smart getting off the train because it doesn't stop for long and we don't really want to go any further. It's not far to the hotel and we are soon settled in our rooms.

Our tour was originally advertised as being based in Radauti but this was the first of our changes. The date of the festival we had come to see had been brought forward a week, which threw the whole programme into confusion and involved our organisers in a lot of extra work, but by midday we're off on our first excursion. Before we go to watch the festival, we visit the potters' market where a vast array of pottery is laid out on stalls and on the pavement. The choice is so bewildering that I don't choose at all. After lunch we go to the ethnographic museum where there are some beautiful costumes on display and also some items for sale. I'm beginning to fall in love with the wonderful embroidered waistcoats made from sheep-skin.

Now the time has come for the festival, preceded by a parade through the town of all the groups taking part. This includes groups from the Ukraine, Poland and Hungary as well as several local groups. John manages to get himself into the V.I.P. stand to video the proceedings, displacing a local dignitary who doesn't seem to mind in the slightest. After the procession has passed it's a free-for-all to the town square where a platform has been built for the occasion. The taxi rank has been moved out and some barriers put in and everyone jostles for position. My best vantage point is at the side. The overseas teams are remarkably free of highly choreographed items, which makes a delightful change. Among the home teams is a group of children, some of whom are very small and a little unsure of their footwork. I see one small boy making sure his even smaller partner doesn't fall off the edge of the platform. Somehow or other, word is passed to our scattered group that we have to leave at 8.30 p.m., unfortunately before the end of the concert, to return to our hotel for our evening meal. We've had a very full day and this is only the beginning.

The next day is Saturday and we're off again, first of all to the monastery of Voronet to admire the remains of the external murals. In the car park there is a handicraft market which, of course, is irresistible. The festival has moved on to Campulung, about 75km. west of Suceava, and is due to start at 4 p.m., give or take 10 minutes, or even 15. We have been assured that seats have been reserved for us in the town square. These turn out to be a couple of benches placed in front of people already seated, who thought they were in the front row. No sooner are the benches in place than they are sat on, and not by us. The stewards clear people off, or most of them, and we take our places. After the opening speeches another bench is produced for the dignitaries but they aren't quick enough, so yet another bench is found. Once the musical chairs game is over, the concert proper begins with a choir, followed by the overseas groups we saw yesterday. Unfortunately, we have to leave by 7.00 p.m. but it's starting to rain so perhaps we're not so unfortunate after all.

Our first dance lesson is on Sunday morning, a gentle introduction to the dances from Bukovina, taught by Aurelian Ciornei, a gentle, patient man whom I met eleven years ago. He is accompanied by Gianni on accordeon and Costika on flute, who play for our classes and come with us on our outings, the next of which is to the village of Pirstestii. Here we are met by three horsemen who escort our coach down the main road to the village hall. We disembark to find a welcome from the dance director and the mayor, flanked by a guard of honour of children with flowers.

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We are offered the traditional bread and salt and after further refreshments we proceed to the hall, where we are treated to a concert where people of all ages entertain us. There are songs and music and dance, and those wonderful waistcoats are on view again. We can't possibly leave without joining in, so everyone gets up on stage to join a circle or find a partner and we're off.

After such a wonderful reception, it's hard to leave but we've been promised a shepherd's picnic, so reluctantly we get back on the coach together with some guests and go to our picnic spot. We're dropped off at the roadside opposite a broad swathe through the trees. "Just five minutes up the hill", we're told and fifteen minutes later we arrive to find tables and benches ready prepared for us and a big welcoming smile from the shepherd and his family. There is plenty of food, plenty of music, and a little dancing. The light is beginning to fade as we go down to our coach which drops us at a cafe while the guests are taken back home. The rain has set in hard and a striking looking gipsy family come in to take shelter, mobile 'phone in hand. The coach returns for us and we make a dash for it and return to Suceava to find the streets are dry.

Unfortunately, Romanian digestions seem to be a good deal stronger than ours and numbers at class next day are sadly depleted. That night Maggie and I hear a mosquito buzzing around and decide to put in the mosquito repellent plug. At 12.45 a.m. there is a tremendous bang from the plug and I'm scared the whole hotel must be blacked out, or at least our floor, but miraculously it isn't. Even our room is in one piece, though Goodness knows how. Strangely enough, we didn't hear any more mosquitoes.

Next morning, we work really hard at class and it's obvious we are being prepared for a demonstration of some kind. In the afternoon, we go to the local ethnographic museum which is not far from our dance hall. There are those beautiful waistcoats again and some wonderful costumes from the surrounding area. In the entrance hall there are a variety of items for sale, but no waistcoats. However, there is a wooden toy which takes my fancy and my grandson springs to mind. It is a tower with three hollow cubes at the top into which you drop a ball bearing. This rolls from the first cube to the second to the third which drops down the tower and the ball spills out into a tray at the bottom. The cube then returns to the top of the tower, being counter-weighted by a block at the back. The mechanics are quite fascinating. Maybe Jamie won't get it after all.

Wednesday's plans seem to change by the minute. Class runs late so lunch is brought forward and a morning visit to a museum is postponed to the afternoon. Goodness knows how the hotel managed to cope.

Thursday is another big day out. First we visit the Citadel (starting at 11 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.), an ancient fortification on the outskirts of town, and then the monastery of Dragomirna, quite plain on the outside but with an ornate interior. These visits, however, are mere time fillers for what is to follow. Our main visit today is to the village of Bilca. Inside the hall a table is beautifully laid with decorations of pine sprigs and rose petals and "starter" dishes to rival any professional restaurant. After our meal the entertainment begins with teams of very differing ages - 8 to 80 would about sum it up - grandmother, mother and son all take part. The best team, to my mind, are the grandmothers, all shapes and sizes, who sing and dance, all well wrapped up in those sheepskin jackets and with a double headdress; first a patterned red headscarf of sizeable proportions with a fringe, and on top a rectangular cream scarf of heavy cotton pinned in place, round the head and neck, with the ends hanging down the back. They were sweltering, bless them. Then it is our turn to dance. As people had been incapacitated and recovered at different times and so had not all attended all the classes, this wasn't as straightforward as it might have been, but we gave a very creditable performance and were very well received. Thereafter everyone danced together for quite some time. It's Silviu's birthday and we had learnt

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the Romanian equivalent of "Happy Birthday To You", sung while Silviu blew out the candles on his two cakes; two so that there was enough room for the candles and enough cake for everyone to have a piece. At the close of any event you are expected to say Goodbye to everyone you have met and talked with, so farewells are generally quite protracted and it takes us a good half-hour to get everyone back on the coach after a wonderful evening.

FRANCES HORROCKS
(To be continued next month)

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PUBLICITY

Thank you S.I.F.D. and especially our Publicity Officer, George Sweetland, for some excellent posters. I asked George just before the Eisteddfod at Llangollen if the S.I.F.D. had any "basic" posters to which I could add our own local details. The result - George brought one for me to Llangollen, since when we have added our bit, had them copied, then coloured the dancers, and 40 or so posters are now displayed in all the libraries and other suitable places in Pembrokeshire. They look good - now we must wait and see.

Happy Dancing.

SUE CLARK and members of
Pembrokeshire I.F.D.G.

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LOST & FOUND

After the Eastbourne Festival this year, two books were found which had been left behind. We are told they are printed in what may be Russian or Bulgarian and appear to be cookery books. Efforts have been made to find the owner but without success and I have now been asked to enquire, through the SIFD NEWS, if they belong to any of our international folk dancers. (They were found at Bishop Bell School). If you wish to claim them, or know anything about them, please contact Grace Pittman, 6 Leveson Crescent, Balsall Common, Coventry CV7 7DR.

Ed.

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FOR SALE - Two Bulgarian costumes

- 1) A costume from Pleven (bought from Delyan Demirev) consisting of embroidered shift, pleated skirt, apron and headdress - fit rather short person. £65.00.
- 2) A costume from Sofia (bought from British Bulgarian Friendship Society), consisting of embroidered shift and blue overdress, to fit rather tall person. (WHY did I buy it?!), £40.00.

MAGGIE O'REGAN
Flat 1, 317A Caledonian Road,
London N1 1DR

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All material for the November issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17th October.

INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, LLANGOLLEN

At the end of the Eisteddfod at Llangollen this year, I was concerned at certain aspects that have arisen. Some of you will already be aware that the services of every single adjudicator have been dispensed with for next year, the music as well as the dance panels, some of whom have been attending for a considerable number of years, and this without any warning and not so much as a word of thanks for all their hard work.

The allocation of £15,000 as prize money for an International Singer also seems to me to be quite out of place. With these points particularly in mind, I wrote to Miss Gwawr Owen, the new Artistic Director, to express my concern. In her reply she does not give me any reassurance as to where this money is coming from.

The following article appeared in the Liverpool Daily Post of 17th August 1999 and the reporter, David Jones, has kindly given permission for it to be reproduced. I would welcome the opinions of any other Eisteddfod supporters.

FRANCES HORROCKS
53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches,
Surrey SM5 4HP

SINGER'S PRIZE NOT IN SPIRIT OF EISTEDDFOD

By David Jones, Daily Post Staff

Plans to offer a £15,000 prize to a professional singer at next year's Llangollen International Eisteddfod have been called into question. The new International Singer competition, which will alternate yearly with an International Instrumentalist contest, is aimed at attracting young, professional singers at the beginning of their careers but the size of the first prize has attracted comment from Eisteddfod goers who fear it could undermine the festival's essentially amateur status. They point out that winning choirs and folkdance groups get no more than a few hundred pounds. Even the top accolade, "Choir of the World" at Llangollen, offers an award of no more than £3,000.

Frances Horrocks, who first visited the International Eisteddfod thirty years ago and who is now a member of its Friends supporters' group, has written to the Eisteddfod saying she hopes her Friends' membership fee is not contributing towards the new £15,000 prize. She says she fears that the original spirit of the Eisteddfod - still run largely by volunteers - will be lost and says it will be a tragedy if the festival succumbs to commercialisation.

In her letter, she said, "Llangollen is not about professionals nor large prizes. There may well be a need to help aspiring singers, but Llangollen is not the place. If this amount of money is available, there are countless ways in which it could be put to better use in furthering the original aims of the Eisteddfod, of promoting friendship and understanding between nations, of bringing people together in peace and harmony".

Retired teacher, Mrs. Horrocks, of Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, is also concerned at the Eisteddfod's decision to dispose of this year's music and dance adjudicators. She said, "A change may be desirable but this way there is no continuation in the method of, or thoughts behind, the adjudication".

Gethin Davies, Eisteddfod Chairman, said the Committee would meet and consult with the Artistic Director, Gwawr Owen, before responding in detail to all correspondence, including Mrs. Horrocks's, received after this year's Eisteddfod. He said the aim of the prestigious International Singer competition was to help increase Llangollen's standing as a major International festival. Miss Owen has not ruled out inviting past adjudicators to return in future years, but has said she felt that it was important to introduce fresh blood to the panel so that competitors are unable to tailor their performance to the known preferences of regularly appearing adjudicators. Eisteddfod officials have yet to reveal where the £15,000 prize money will come from.

NEW YEAR DANCE COURSE

This year's course, organized by Volkstanze aus Aller Welt (Francis Feybli), will run from 27th December 1999 to 1st January 2000 at the usual venue in Beckenried, Lake Lucerne. Mircea Ivanescu will teach Romanian, Don Armstrong will teach Contras and Quadrilles, and Francis himself will run the evening dances and teach International. Francis has sent us some leaflets in English giving details of accommodation and costs. Call 01992 577065 for a copy. Highly recommended.

JOAN & SIMON GUEST



Dear English Friends,

If perhaps someone of the SIFD NEWS readers wants to learn some nice Swiss folk dances, she and he are friendly invited to come to St.Moritz, where from 22nd to 29th July in the year 2000 we shall meet for our folkdance week.

I invented this very interesting week in 1952 and with one-exception it has taken place every year. St.Moritz is a very nice place in our mountains, and during the week there is time enough to go to the swimming pool, to the museums, to the mountains, to the fine concerts (11.00-12.00 every day). We dance from 9.00-11.00 a.m., from 5.00-6.00 p.m., and from 8.00-10.00 p.m. For further information, write to Hans-Jorg Huber, Leigrubenstr.14, CH 8805 Richterswil, Switzerland.

After that week I'll go directly to a music week near Basle (Basel) for families with children (information from Ruth Hauser, Im Ror 12, CH 8340, Hinwil-Hadlikon). (A lot of singing, music and folk dancing).

Come to Switzerland and try to stay some more days with Swiss folkdance friends!

Yours sincerely,

KARL KLENK
Holzmatt 15, CH 8953 Dietikon
Switzerland



TROJAK

Somewhat belatedly, I was browsing through the July issue of SIFD NEWS (why are old papers more interesting than current ones?) when my attention was caught by the report of Doina at the Embankment Gardens performing two versions of a trio dance called "Trojak", one from Hungary and one from Poland. A few years ago we learned a Bohemian "Trojak" from a Czech national company, and last year at a festival I saw a very similar dance performed by a group from Eastern Germany! I wonder how many other versions there are? Is there somewhere a stage big enough to put on all these versions simultaneously?

It would be intriguing to think of the dance spreading across the Austro-Hungarian Empire and to consider other social and political influences. On the other hand, maybe modern groups in E.Europe just copy each others' good ideas!

MICHAEL HOWARD
Beskydy Dancers

BALKANPLUS, 9th October 1999 at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1., 7.00-10.30 p.m. £5.00. M.C.: Julian Sinton, plus live music by "Vuhpross" led by Nick Green. We are delighted to welcome this music group back again and look forward to a lively evening. Please note the date, the usual second Saturday of the month, not the 20th as appeared in the September SIFD NEWS. My apologies for this mental aberration and I hope it has not caused any inconvenience.

The date for November is different from usual, and is the 6th November as Cecil Sharp House is closed at our usual time.

FRANCES HORROCKS

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR GREEK MACEDONIAN DANCING

As we had such an enthusiastic response to the weekend course earlier this year, upon learning that another teacher was coming to England, Caroline Simmonds and I decided to snap him up for a day course. His name is Christos Papakostas and he comes from Drama, where he is a director of the Lykion ton Hellinidon group. He teaches dance and music at the Lykion and dance and traditional drumming at Drama High School. He is also doing research into dances and music of the gypsies from Iraklia Serres for a Ph.D.

The course will be at Our Lady of Hal Church Hall, Camden Town (where Yannis' course was held) on Saturday, 28th November, 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Cost: £10. Christos will teach dances from Drama and gypsy dances from Iraklia Serres. If you have any questions, please call Caroline, who danced with Christos this summer in Ayios Yermanos, on 0171 286 4896. Tickets are available from me - Flat 1, 317A Caledonian Road, London N1 1DR.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE WITH FIONA HOWARTH
AT ALNMOUTH 14TH TO 16TH APRIL 2000

In this delightful and unspoilt location on the North-East coast, Fiona will be teaching a mixed bag of International dances, mainly from the Balkans and Israel. Those who have danced with Fiona before will know that her courses are always good value, instructive and enjoyable. The programme will include time to go walking and sightseeing, with an opportunity, weather permitting, to visit the Farne Islands with their splendid colonies of seabirds and grey seals. Non-dancers and bird-watchers are welcome too. Accommodation is in single and twin-bedded rooms, some of which are en-suite. The weekend includes full board, with plentiful choice of food, and all the facilities of the H.F. house and grounds. The cost, including course, is £82.00, non-dancers £68.00.

For details and booking form please send s.a.e. to me at 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

CATHY MEUNIER

J.H.K. 2K - MILLENNIUM YEAR WEEKEND COURSE WITH JAN KNOPPERS

Jan will be returning to Buxton over the August Bank Holiday weekend in the year 2000, 25th-28th August. Please note the dates in your diary now. Application forms will be ready shortly, with full details.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Nov.6th NUTBROOK I.F.D.G. is arranging DANCE WORKSHOPS at Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. Israeli 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Teachers: Adrian and Jane Pointon. Bulgarian 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. Teacher: James Webb. £7.00 all day, £4.00 one session, £4.00 children all day. Contact John or Gill Morral, on 0115 9171831.

Nov.12th/14th RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND COURSE OF ISRAELI DANCING with Fiona Howarth at Bourton-on-the-Water. THIS WEEKEND IS NOW FULLY BOOKED.

Nov.20th DAY OF ROM (GYPSY), MACEDONIAN & BULGARIAN DANCES in Sheffield, 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., organized by Paul Boizot. £6-£16. Book in advance, £5 deposit. A day specifically of traditional dances, Paul says, but adds that it is likely that most of those attending will be from a Circle Dance background. For details, contact Paul at 9 Sturton Road, Sheffield S4 7DE. Tel: 0114 256 1708.

Nov.20th CHINESE DANCE COURSE with Chen Shan, organized by Barlow I.F.D.G. at St.Ninian's Church Hall, corner of Wilbraham & Egerton Road South, Chorlton, Manchester. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £5.00 all day, £3.00 one session. Bring packed lunch. Further details from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.

Nov.20th DUNAV BALKAN GROUP at Cossham Hall, Thornbury, near Bristol. Afternoon dance workshop 2.00-5.00 p.m. Evening dance party with live music 6.30-9.30 p.m. No price given. Details from Hazel Young, 0117 956 4923.

Nov.27th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London E.C.1, 7.00-10.30 p.m. Nearest Underground station: Old Street. Dances from Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia; also from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY, £6.00 (including refreshments) available from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 0181 592 4427. Cheques payable to "Zivko Firfov Folklore Group"; s.a.e. please.

S.I. Nov.28th ISRAELI DANCE PARTY with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Includes revision of this year's dances and requests. £12.00 (£7.50 concessions). Shared vegetarian lunch. For details/bookings/requests/map, contact Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

Nov.28th GREEK MACEDONIAN COURSE. See p.10.

Dec.4th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Balsall Common Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common. Bring-and-share supper. £2.00.

Dec.5th S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Dec.17th/19th S.I.F.D. DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Dunford House. Enquiries to Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University, Swansea SA22 8PP.

Jan.1st S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S DAY PARTY, 7.30-11.00 p.m. at Downing Hall, Knowle. Please bring food for bring-and-share supper. £2.00.

Feb.19th/20th ERSIN SEYHAN will teach a weekend course of TURKISH dances in Bognor Regis, Sussex. For information, contact Janet Douglas, 01243 265010.

Mar.24th-26th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH MILLENNIUM WEEKEND. See p.4.

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