



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: www.sifd.org

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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting  
is done by Dalila Heath.

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This month's cover was produced by Simon Guest from a photograph of Maori  
dancers taken by Jill Bransby on her recent visit to New Zealand. See Jill's  
article on pp.4 & 5.



S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE

A review of Macedonian, Serbian and Albanian dances taught by Paja and  
Madelon Milić at the Durham Summer School.

<u>Date:</u> Saturday, 8th March	<u>Place:</u> Cecil Sharp House
<u>Time:</u> 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.	<u>Cost:</u> £6.00 for S.I.F.D. members £8.00 for non-members

At Durham, with a whole week at their disposal, Paja and Madelon taught  
eleven dances. With only a few hours it will be impossible to cover all  
of them, so I shall be selecting those dances which I think will be most  
popular and which provide the most varied programme. Those who were unable  
to attend the Summer School are, of course, most welcome as the day will be  
more than just a quick revision.

FRANCES HORROCKS



All material for the April issue of SIFDNEWS  
must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by  
17th March. Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS  
all names of people, places and dances, unless  
typewritten.

ALAN McLEAN

Some of us from the various dance groups which Alan McLean founded or helped to start up have decided to organize a commemorative evening for him. We thought that both past and present group members would appreciate this, as would members of the S.I.F.D. who knew Alan.

We have hired the United Reformed Church hall at Wakefield Street for the evening of 22nd March 2003 for an event lasting from 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. We plan to have short performances from the Doina Eastern European group, the Balaton Hungarian group and the Martisorul Romanian group. We would welcome some "Alan stories" from people who knew him, and we will arrange a buffet for people to socialize. For those who wish to dance, the equipment will be available and we will lead a few dances for people to join in.

We will organize this by ticket in advance, since the hall only takes a certain number and we can plan the food better (some prepared by volunteers, some bought). The cost to cover hall hire, food and soft drinks is £5.00, cheques made out to Doina Folk Dance Group. We would also welcome any photographs of Alan dancing.

Please contact me for information, or if you have any contributions, and for tickets at 3 Clifford Lodge, 36 Clifford Road, New Barnet, Herts. EN5 5PF.  
Tel:020 8441 2959.

LESLIE HADDON



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Having just returned from Eastbourne, I just had to put pen to paper to say how much I enjoyed Fiona Howarth's Israeli/International weekend. I knew it would be good, but it surpassed all my expectations. Fiona worked tirelessly throughout the weekend, giving of her best to bring out the best in all of us. As well as Israeli, dances were included from Russia, Romania and Bulgaria, to suit all abilities and covering a wide range of styles from "fast feet" to "lilting and lyrical".

Fiona also worked hard to ensure the success of the evening social dances, including all our requests, lots of "golden oldies", and with quick walk-throughs to enable the majority to join in.

The new choice of venue was ideal for dancing, with plenty of space for everybody to be on the floor (particularly after the hotel staff re-arranged the tables and chairs at Cathy Meunier's request). Talking of the staff, they were extremely friendly and helpful, but I gathered from their bewildered expressions that "International" was somewhat of a culture shock as they usually host ballroom, square or line dancing courses!

Altogether it was a thoroughly successful weekend, made all the better for me personally as Eastbourne is my home town - much changed since I lived there... ???years ago!!

Yours sincerely,

HAZEL CHEAL  
87 Willowmead, Hertford  
SG14 2AU

# Maori Cultural Shows in New Zealand

In November and December Peter and I went on a retirement trip, primarily to New Zealand. We managed to see three fascinating Maori shows when we were in the North Island.

The first was at **Waitangi**, North of Auckland, in the Bay of Islands area. This area is of great significance historically since it was here that the first English settlement was founded and where The Treaty of Waitangi was signed, by 46 Maori chiefs and representatives of Queen Victoria's government. This treaty, dealing with land rights, was, in its time (1840), quite advanced and the issues are still strongly debated. The tribe, *Ngapuhi*, that performed the two-hour show at Waitangi were the first tribe to sign this treaty and their songs reflected this historical experience as if it was yesterday.

When we arrived we were asked to wait outside the Meeting House (*Whare hui*) in order that The Challenge (*Te Wero*) could be performed. Since Peter and I were the only audience, Peter had to be the 'chief' who had to respond to the terrifying challenge issued by a warrior who moved in an intimidating fashion and wielded a long spear (*Taiaha*). The warrior threw down a leaf (peace offering) which Peter had to pick up and place on the ground in front of him, signalling that we came in peace. We then were welcomed inside and given a traditional greeting of speeches and singing. We then touched noses (*hongi*) with all the tribe, about 14 men, women and children. This, we were told, was 'breathing life' and sealed bonds of friendship between us.

The show included many well-sung songs, with actions.

Some I can remember were about herons, also mythological birds, the tribe's arrival by canoe from Polynesia (The Great Migration), Captain Cook's arrival and the proposed building of a prison on sacred ground where there were hot springs. The songs and the chants are a way of recording Maori history, which traditionally wasn't recorded as written history.

The men and boys performed *Haka* and the warrior, who had earlier challenged Peter, showed his extraordinary skills in weaponry (photo). The women swung the short *poi* (balls on lengths of flax string) during some of the songs and Peter and I, and some of their children, were later invited to join in. As you

can imagine we leapt up at the opportunity and twirled away. We learned that the *poi* were originally used by the men to develop their wrist flexibility for spear wielding in war activities and rituals, and that the women had now incorporated the movement in their songs.

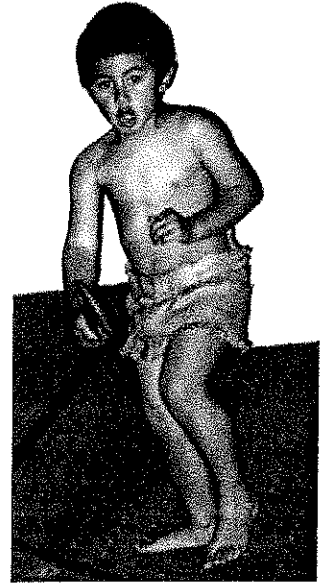
I haven't mentioned costumes as these were not much in evidence. The women had European skirts and blouses and the men had short 'skirts' that I think were mostly made of hessian rather than stranded flax. I suspect this was because the show was very new - I wasn't able to discover whether the group had performed together before. The leader was marshalling his dancers and singers as they were performing and the rest of the tribe hadn't seen the war skills performed before.

The show ended with speeches and Peter gave what he hoped was an appropriate speech about us coming to New Zealand to learn about the people and their culture.

We were told that although there were only two of us watching, all our ancestors were there, as were theirs. Afterwards when we were chatting informally (being female I wouldn't be allowed to give speeches during the ceremony) I told them about the SIFD and how I would write an article so that more people could learn about the show. What this concert lacked in precision it made up in warmth and enthusiasm that conveyed a very strong sense of pride in their culture. It was wonderful to see the children learning the movements and the language.

The second show at **Rotorua** was such a different cultural experience. We were taken by coach to Tamaki Maori Village for an evening show and meal (*Hangi*). Peter was once again chosen to be the chief representing the people on our coach. I don't know how many coach loads of people arrived but a great many. Outside of the fortified village The Challenge was offered again and one of the visiting chiefs picked up the peace offering (*Teka*). We then entered the village to watch the people showing different activities such as weaponry displays, hand games, *poi* twirling and chanting. We were then invited into The Big House (*Wharenui*) where the women were not allowed to sit in the front row. (This is so that if fighting should break out the men should be the protectors - what it actually meant was that I had some big heads in the way of my photos!). After the welcoming speeches and songs, our one representative (not Peter this time) performed the *hongi*.

The show was very slick and the women were extremely dextrous when they performed with the long and the short *poi*. They also performed stick dances (not with rolled up copies of *The Radio Times!*) with great accuracy.



Young Performer



cy, hurling them from one side of the stage to another. They didn't perform 'our' dance – probably too simple. (I asked the *Ngapuhi* at Waitangi if they knew our dance, I sang the song, but the leader said that it came from a different area so they didn't perform it.)

The women wore long black costumes, with tunic tops, head bands and *Moko* (tattoo) on their chins. The men's faces were decorated with elaborate tatoos. (Whether this was face paint or genuine tattoos I do not know, I suspect the former.) We learned more about 'traditional' costume at the next show but to continue my account at Tamaki....



**Costumes at Tamaki**

After the show we had an excellent meal – the traditional *Hangi*. The food in baskets was traditionally cooked on hot rocks for three to four hours. Over the baskets wet cloths and hessian were placed and then earth was placed on top. We were shown how this was done outside the dining room in the village but nowadays the food is cooked in the kitchen that we weren't allowed to enter (familiar story?). I remember having sweet potatoes and a very good steamed pudding.

The coach drivers took part in the closing ceremony that included *Haka* – they really enjoyed that! On the return coach ride, our driver coerced different people on the coach to sing national songs. His idea of an English song was 'I've got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts' and he performed 'I'll be Coming Round the Mountain' (American song) whilst driving round a roundabout four times just outside Rotorua. When we travelled to the village earlier we were asked to do paddling movements in the aisle to get our *waka* (canoe) along. If members go to this show I would advise you to drive yourselves there!

The next day we went to **Whakarewarewa**, which is a thermal park, but also a Maori cultural area. The show there was much shorter, although with all the same key elements of the others we had seen. Here we took off our shoes before entering the Meeting House but I was



**Stick Dance**

allowed to sit in the front row this time and I am pleased to relate that no fighting broke out! The dancing was very well performed and I especially enjoyed their stick dancing which was carried out by groups of four sitting on the floor and exchanging all four sticks simultaneously. At the beginning and end of the dance the sticks were cleverly thrown across and then forward or backwards, in time to the music until all the sticks were either on or off the stage – better than getting them in and out of a plastic bag! The men and women wore the *piupiu*. The women's moved attractively when they swung the poi (see front cover), swaying from side to side as they sang. (By the way all the shows included guitars - non-traditional instruments.)

After the show we went on part of a tour which started in the Maori Arts and Crafts centre at Whaka (which it is also called). We were shown how the flax leaves were cut and made into string and also how strips of leaves are rolled into narrow lengths to make the strands of the skirts. (The flax plant is very large, and can be seen virtually everywhere you travel in New Zealand. It was flowering when we were there – huge red flowers that looked like those of a *gladiolus*.) The skirts have to be worn with under garments – not just for modesty's sake but because they are very rough on the skin. The flax plant itself can cause you nasty cuts. The Maori guide explained that the flax skirts were not traditional garments but had been developed for the shows. (Flax or feather cloaks were part of traditional dress.) In a photo we saw of the Duke and Duchess of York (the late Queen Mother) visiting New Zealand in (I think) the 1920s, the Maori women with them were wearing long flax skirts. There were more of the traditional crafts to be seen at Whaka – basketwork, bone, wood and jade carving, and wall and ceiling paintings (These can be seen on the rafters of the meeting house in the photo on the front cover).

All three shows were fascinating in their own right and gave us a little insight into this extraordinarily rich culture. I came away wanting to learn so much more but I suppose that is the reason we travel. Then we went to Japan.....

Jill Bransby

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I. Apr.5th BRETON & HUNGARIAN DAY COURSE, organized by Nutbrook I.F.D.G. at Stevenson Junior School, Stapleford. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: ~~Marina Wolstenholme~~. Further information from John or Gill Morral, 0115 917 1831. No price given. LAST-MINUTE AMENDMENT: Tutor now Janet Woolbar, not Marina.

Apr.5th WOODVALE I.F.D.G. INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE at Borough Green Village Hall, 8.00-11.00 p.m. Tickets £5.00 (children £3.00) including refreshments. Please bring your own drink and glasses. Tel: 01732 885048.

Apr.11th/13th RESIDENTIAL BULGARIAN COURSE with Nina Kavardjikova (recommended by Yves Moreau) in the HF guesthouse at Brecon - an excellent base for walking and sightseeing. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board, heated indoor pool. Choice of General or Advanced course, or both courses. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board and accommodation £107.00. Each course £15.00 For full details and booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

S.I. Apr.11th/14th 20TH GREAT ALNE FOLK WEEKEND at Great Alne Village Hall, near Alcester, Worcs. The usual full programme of International and British folk music and dance workshops, evening dances, walking, cycling etc. More details from André Hobro, 0121 777 3722, or Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.

Apr.12th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

Apr.12th ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP, Intermediate level, with Anat at St.Andrews Church, Paddock Wood, Kent. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £12.00 (concessions £7). Shared vegetarian lunch; drinks provided. For bookings/information, 'phone Sonya Crocombe on 01732 364585.

S.I. May 2nd/5th S.I.F.D. WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR. A long Bank Holiday weekend of dancing, walking and the opportunity to visit some of the attractive sites in East Devonshire and Somerset (extendable by an additional night). The Manor, which is a centre dedicated to folk music and dancing, is attractively situated at the foot of the Quantocks and close to Exmoor and the North Devon and Somerset coasts. Included in the activities will be a full day's walk with coach transport and picnic lunch provided. Details from Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 295194 (work), 403153 (home). Cost approx. £140 (inclusive) for three days.

May 2nd/5th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL.

May 10th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

June 14th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

June 28th/29th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. See p.9.

July 7th(8th)/13th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD.

July 27th to Aug.1st "MACHOL EUROPA 2003". Residential Israeli dance course organized by Israel Folk Dance Institute at De Montford University, Bedford (Lansdowne Road campus) with Shmulik Gov'ari, Yaron Carmel, Shimon Mordechai, Moshiko Halevy and Moshe Telem. Advanced and Intermediate classes, workshops on drumming, singing, teaching technique, dances for children etc; evening dance sessions; accommodation in mainly double and triple bedded rooms. For full details and booking form, contact Israel Folk Dance Institute, 741 High Road, London N12 0BQ. Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 8446 6427 or +44 (0)20 8445 6765.

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Aug.10th/15th BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL and INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE COURSE. See p.8.

S.I. Aug.23rd/25th WILLINGDON I.F.D.G.'s MINI FESTIVAL at Lodge Hill Centre, Pulborough, West Sussex. Shared teaching of International Folk and Circle Dances, also English caller. Full board £110 sharing, £130 single. Please send s.a.e. for detailed booking form to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ.

Events covered by S.I.F.D. insurance are marked S.I. 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.

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#### PROPOSED P.E.L. LEGISLATION MAY AFFECT FOLK DANCING

The proposed new Public Entertainment Licence legislation threatens some folk-dance activities. Classes will not need a licence but any activities where there may be an audience will need a licence. This will affect activities such as the summer Safaris and any benefit performance. The Musicians' Union and the EFDSS are trying to get amendments put forward that would exempt dance and music at any premises where the entertainment is not the main business of the establishment. This would mean pubs where Morris dancing, Mummers plays, or music and song sessions have traditionally taken place. The proposed legislation requires a licence for activities at out door public places and so would catch activities such as the Safaris.

The maximum penalties are a six-month jail sentence or £20,000 fine. Although the maximum probably would seldom be imposed, a conviction of any kind is a criminal record. Though Dr. Howells, the Minister involved, says that the bill is not intended to catch some of the potentially threatened activities, the legislation is to be administered by local authorities and the wording of the bill is open to wide interpretation. Although fees are to be set by central Government, it is likely that local authorities will lobby for increases and will look on this as a possible way to raise revenue. (One need only to observe the way some councils operate the parking regulations).

If you are concerned, please write to your M.P.s and ask them to sign Early Day Motion 331. The E.D.M. lists the many portions of the bill that should be changed and calls on the Government to amend the relevant parts of the bill. When writing to M.P.s, it is most effective if you can cite local examples of activities that may be affected. There is also an on-line e-petition with the same wording that can be signed at [www.musiclovers.ukart.com](http://www.musiclovers.ukart.com) For additional information, call me on 020 8340 4683.

CASPAR CRONK

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BALKANPLUS, 8th March at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. 7.00 to 10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C.s: Maggie O'Regan and Val Cojucar, with a guest appearance by Anne Leach. This delightful trio have a very wide repertoire, so expect a wide variety of dances from new to old and back again.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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

Mar.2nd M.C.: Simon Guest

Apr.6th S.I.F.D. Band's choice of dances.

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



SWEDISH MUSIC & DANCE - SATURDAY, 29TH MARCH 2003

at Cecil Sharp House

Mats and Maja-Lena Berglund will give a concert of Swedish music, largely from the Varmland area in Western Sweden. Mats is an acclaimed performer and teacher of traditional Swedish fiddle music, and during the day on 29th and 30th March he will be giving a music workshop.

Following the evening concert on 29th March there will be a dance with music provided by the Berglunds, assisted by students who have been attending the workshop and, to prepare you for the dance, there will be a workshop before the concert where you can learn the basic steps of several traditional Swedish dances such as Schottis, Waltz, Hambo and Polska.

Dance workshop 6.30 p.m. Concert 8.30 p.m. Tickets £5.00 (£4 for S.I.F.D. members and concessions). Music workshop participants £2.00. Further information from Caspar Cronk on 020 8340 4683.



BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE COURSE

This course is run in association with the Billingham International Folklore Festival, 10th to 15th August 2003, and is intended for organisers, specialist dance teachers, dance students and others interested in International Folk Dancing. Each group taking part in the folk festival teaches their national folk dances to course members and this year the festival programme includes groups from Colombia, Cyprus, Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Peru, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

The cost of the courses, including lunch, refreshments each day and attendance at the opening ceremony, will be £110 inclusive (not £120 as shown on some of the publicity sent out from Billingham). A list of B. & B. and guest houses is available for those who wish to arrange accommodation.

The course is scheduled to allow course members to attend the lunch-time or evening concerts and there is a Gala Evening on the Friday in which all the groups from abroad participate. Tickets for the concerts may be booked in advance.

Applications and enquiries to: Mr. Brian Padgett, Course Organiser, Billingham International Folkdance Course, Adult Education Centre, The Causeway, Billingham TS23 2DN. Tel: 01642 397363/4.



## MILTON KEYNES FESTIVAL' - UPDATE

Things are shaping up very well. We have invited a Romanian group called "Pipacsok" from Transylvania and they have accepted our invitation. They look excellent on their video. Transylvania is North West of Romania; so the style is very much toward Hungarian. We have invited a second foreign group and are still awaiting their confirmation of acceptance. I won't say who they are until I know for certain.

We now have five U.K. based groups that have accepted our invitation. The sixth group is still to be decided, so again I will hold back from announcing who they are. "Jacob's Ladder" is confirmed as the band for the Saturday evening dance with Jill Bransby as caller.

Mike Gilbert is organizing the workshop teachers. Most are booked but he has still to finalise the list. "Pipacsok" and the second foreign group will both run at least one workshop.

Don't forget the festival dates are 28th and 29th June; visit our website on [www.olio.demon.co.uk/mkif](http://www.olio.demon.co.uk/mkif)

DON ALLISON

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## MILTON KEYNES FESTIVAL' - ACCOMMODATION

With workshops on Saturday and Sunday, an evening dance on Saturday and two concerts on Sunday, lots of people will want to come for the whole weekend. So where can people stay on Saturday night?

Firstly, there is an excellent Y.H.A. hostel in Bradwell village, which is in Milton Keynes and very near to where the festival events will be held. It holds thirty-seven people and at present there are no bookings. Booking by 'phone is on 0870 770 5716.

Next there are seventy-five B. & Bs in Milton Keynes. Information on them is on the Milton Keynes website which is [www/mkweb.co.uk/accommodation](http://www/mkweb.co.uk/accommodation). If people are interested, I can go through the list and pick out those that are most convenient. Ring me on 01908 610 564.

Then there are two caravan sites and one camping site. These are also listed on the above website.

DON ALLISON

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## EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL'

Looking ahead to May, I have been asked to get together a team for a quick demonstration for our English friends on the Saturday evening. If you have a costume and are interested in taking part, please get in touch with me. The only rehearsal will be on Saturday at lunch time.

FRANCES HORROCKS 020 8642 3629

AMENDMENT. The price of day tickets for Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival is £23 and not £22 as printed on their booking form.

## WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- S.I. Mar.1st S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ST.DAVID'S DAY DANCE (but not only Welsh dances!). 7.30-10.45 p.m. at Weoley Hill Village Hall, Weoley Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham (off A38 Bristol Road South). M.C. Maggie Kaye. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper. For directions ring Maggie on 0121 608 1437.
- Mar.1st "MARTENITSA" HALF-DAY WORKSHOP AND SOCIAL BALKAN DANCE. Workshop with Frank Dowling, 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. Social Dance 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. At Staveley Village Institute, Staveley (near Kendal). Live music. £10.00. Admission by ticket only. For information and tickets, 'phone Clyde Olliver or Mike Machin on 01229 889 362.
- Mar.8th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - Macedonian, Serbian, Albanian. See p.2.
- S.I. Mar.8th BALKANPLUS. See p.7.
- S.I. Mar.15th INTERNATIONAL DANCE WORKSHOP organized by Rainmakers I.F.D.G. in the Village Hall at Radwell, Herts. (near Baldock Services on A1(M)). Tutor: Janet Woolbar. 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. £5.00 full day, £3.00 half-day. For more details contact Jill Bransby on 01462 457791. You are advised to bring lunch with you.
- S.I. Mar.15th & 16th RUSSIAN FOLKDANCE COURSE with Hennie Konings at Chorlton, Manchester, and Calver, Derbyshire. Further information from Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspull, Nr.Wigan WN2 1EF. Tel: 01942 831141.
- Mar.21st to 23rd 10TH SPRING DANCE CELEBRATION with Bob Neal at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. Cost of weekend £112, or en-suite £122. For full details and booking form send s.a.e. to Pamela Le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Bedhampton, Hants. PO9 3QA. Tel: 023 9264 1028.
- Mar.22nd A COMMEMORATIVE EVENING FOR ALAN McLEAN. See p.3.
- S.I. Mar.29th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH BALKAN & ISRAELI DAY COURSE with Julie Korth. 10.30-1.00, 2.00-4.30 at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Station Approach, off Blossomfield Road (B4102), Solihull. Close to both 'bus and railway stations and M42 Jn.5. S.I.F.D. members £7.00 all day, £4.00 half day; non-members £8/£5. Further details from Maggie Kaye on 0121 608 1437.
- Mar.29th "MAKE A SONG AND DANCE WITH DESSI AND FRANK". One-day workshop of Croat Dances and Songs with Dessislava Stefanova and Frank Dowling. Live musical accompaniment from Mike Machin and Clyde Olliver. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Birch Community Centre, Brighton Grove, Rusholme, Manchester. £15.00. Admission by ticket only. For tickets send s.a.e. to Mike Machin, 2 Dove Bank, Kirkby in Furness, Cumbria LA17 7XD; cheques payable to Mike Machin. For information, 'phone Mike or Clyde Olliver on 01229 889 362.
- Mar.29th AN EVENING OF SWEDISH MUSIC & DANCE. Workshop, concert and dance. See p.8.