

sifd news



june 1995

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 is by Marian Morris and is based on a photograph
of some of the members of the Iberian Folk Dance & Music Society
dancing the Portuguese "A Gota".

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CHAIRPERSON: Jill Bransby (Mrs.), "Red Gables", Benslow Path, The Avenue,
Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9RH. Tel: 01462 457791.

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Surrey SM4 5AS. Tel: 0181 640 5267.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - ISRAELI, WITH JUDY INGRAM

Judy has had some indirect requests to repeat some (or even all!) the dances
she taught last year at Eastbourne but would welcome direct requests as to
which dances - on the 'phone please (answering machine will take messages)
as there won't be time for letters before the Day Course. Tel: 0181 858 5436.

Remember to bring your own lunch as the restaurant will be closed. There are
no parking restrictions on Sundays. Cassettes will be available for purchase.
Only official video-recording will be allowed.

Date: 11th June 1995

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tutor: Judy Ingram

Fee: £5 members, £6 non-members
£4 concessions

Venue: Studio 10, The Place, Flaxman Terrace, London W.C.1. (near Euston Station)

The July S.I.F.D. Day Course will be Mexican, with John Melville (see p.9).

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

On 18th March the Society held a Beginners' Barn Dance in Trefusis, at Cecil Sharp House. This was ably M.C.ed by Anne Leach and Maggie O'Reagan to the exciting music of 'Jacob's Ladder', led by Michael Gilbert. Thank you to those of you who attended the dance and especial thanks are due to Caspar Cronk who organised the dance on behalf of the Committee. I am sorry that I wasn't able to attend the function myself but I gathered that a good time was had by all!

It was nice to see all the participants at Birmingham on March 26th when Frances Horrocks put us through our paces for our Romanian item for the 'Spotlight on Dance'. Observers said that they could see a vast improvement in the item by the end of the afternoon. I'm sure that on the day it will look very colourful, authentic and very 'folky' with our cross-section of the Society - young and not so young, short and tall, thin and not so thin - dancing and creating the potentially effective patterns of Frances' choreography. We will try to do Frances' ideas justice. I do know what hard work it is producing these sort of items, so thank you Frances for the work so far, and thanks to all the members for their enthusiasim.

A large vote of thanks is also due to Nick Green for organising the Society's efforts, under the CCPR banner, at the 'Dance World' in Olympia, which was held from 31st March -2nd April. If you remember, the event was held last year at the Barbican, which was very congested, so this time the commercial organisers hired Olympia. Apparently the event overall was better organised but the venue even worse because of the noise. Anyway we did our best to publicise the Society which involved manning a stand for the three days - thanks to Caspar Cronk, Eleanor Gordon, Helen Ezra, George Sweetland and Alex Beauclerc for performing this duty. We held four dance workshops (only 2 last year), in Israeli, South-Eastern European, Childrens' and General International Dancing which were well attended. Thanks to the teachers who represented us on this occasion - Roberto Haddon, Leslie Haddon, Janet Woolbar, Anne Leach and Jeanette Hull. We only had one dance display slot this time (5 last year) which was performed very well (so my spies tell me) by 'Martisorul' on the Main Stage. I'm sorry I wasn't able to be at Olympia to support the event, I was in the U.S.A. and it was too far to pop back! Thanks again Nick for all the work you did on our behalf and to all those who helped to promote our kind of dancing.

The Eastbourne Festival was held from May 5th - 8th where we had a very strong presence. It was good to see so many members there 'dancing their socks off', despite the heat, in a wide variety of styles offered by the Festival. Once again The Society organised the International workshops and social events, as well as one of our associated groups - 'Martisorul' - taking a high profile in the dance performance side of the Festival. Thanks to all the callers, leaders and musicians at so many successful events. (I'll leave the more detailed thanks to Helen - see page 4) Thanks also to those who manned the SIFD shop, helped to decorate the gym, stewarded, set up or packed up amplification equipment, or helped in some other way to contribute to a happy and

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smoothly run festival. The largest vote of thanks must go to Helen Ezra who made sure of everything in her quiet and efficient way. She worked incredibly hard during the Festival, but also before the event, attending meetings at Eastbourne, building on the sure foundations that Jeanette had put in place as her predecessor. Thank you Helen.

I know that this note is too long already. (That is because I missed the April News.) I would, however, like to point out, as I did at the last AGM, that I will be resigning as Chairperson at the end of this year, after four years in post, so now is the time to think about my replacement and to start twisting arms.

Jill Bransby (Chairperson)

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EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL, 5TH-8TH MAY 1995

As Jill has already mentioned, the weekend was very enjoyable and the weather hot, especially on Saturday when Sorin Troaka and his Romanian group "Marti-sorul" busked all day. I know they performed very intricate and exhausting dances.

Anne Leach got the weekend off to a good start on Friday night with the Welcome Dance and we got a taste of what was to come during the days to follow. Eddy Tijssen was his usual bouncy self and I am sure we all enjoyed his Bulgarian workshops (I'm sorry I had to miss some, but I was required elsewhere). Hedy Fromings also went over some Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak dances which were taught on the recent day course, along with some new ones, allowing us to re-enforce our knowledge of these dances. Jill was busy running workshops, playing in the band and M.C.ing the Saturday evening dance. Dave Carter led the interval dances, and the whole evening was ably accompanied by "Cloudburst" (alias Martin, Celia, Hazel, Wendy and Elinor) who also played Friday night and in the International song workshops (we can now sing as we dance).

We also had the presence of a new band on Sunday night, called "Ckyam", and I am sure you recognized the players as being Nick Green, Tania, Roger, Liz, Christine, Jessica and Julian, with some dances being led by Maggie.

The workshops given by the visiting German team "Klüsserath" proved quite interesting, considering they spoke little English and were better at performing the dances than teaching. (Thank you to Jeanette Hull for carrying on when I had to break off to attend to lunches). Thank you also to Jean Males for helping to decorate the Gym, to Margaret Brooks and Toni Guttman for helping to steward, to Joan and David Rackham, Eleanor Gordon and anyone else who helped in the S.I.F.D. Shop, and to Julian and Nick for assisting with the amplification.

If I have forgotten anybody, I do apologise. Once again, a big Thank You to everyone involved. I hope you all enjoyed the weekend, and I look forward to seeing perhaps more visitors from S.I.F.D. next year. I am hoping to organize a sub-Committee to help me organize the S.I.F.D. side of the festival next year. If you are interested and live South of the Thames, please let me know.

HELEN EZRA
84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey
SM4 6RB

CATHY DARK AT FELTHAM BALKAN DANCE CLUB ON FRIDAY, 9TH JUNE 1995

Many people will have met Cathy Dark from Spokane, U.S.A., during the time she spent in England and Romania working on her Master's Degree in Dance. Cathy will be making a fleeting visit to England, during which she will join the Feltham Group for their regular Friday night meeting. The evening will involve some teaching, but mainly enjoying dancing together. If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome.

Hanworth Youth Centre, Hounslow Road, Hanworth, Middx., 8 to 10.30 p.m.
Further information from Phil or Mary Dobison on 0181 384 9001.

PHILIP DOBSON

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WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH COTSWOLDS SAFARI - 11TH JUNE 1995

11.00 a.m.	Moreton-in-Marsh
12.15 - 2.30 p.m.	Bledington (including lunch)
3.00 p.m. approx.	Broadway

As last year, we hope to have our picnic lunch and dance on the village green at Bledington (which is on the B4450 about four miles South-East of Stow-on-the-Wold) but have again booked the village hall from noon to 2 p.m. This is mainly to provide toilet facilities and (hopefully not necessary) shelter should it rain. There is an inn by the green where drinks can be obtained, but of course their toilets are for their customers only. We look forward to another happy meeting of friends from far and wide.

MAVIS LOWE

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BALKANPLUS WORKSHOP, 17TH JUNE 1995

There will be a Balkanplus Workshop at The Place, 17 Duke's Road, London W.C.1 in Studio 7 from 1.30 to 5.30 p.m. on 17th June 1995. Dances to be taught will be chosen from the following list, according to the wishes of those who attend the workshop. There is a wide selection, so I hope there will be something to suit everyone. Admission £5; £4 for season-ticket holders. Please bring a belt.

Pravo Trakiisko Horo	Hora 'N Doua Parți	Kocharee	Maçka Yollare
Sedi Donka	*Mindrele	Teen	Cilveli Oy
Eleno Mome	Trandafirul	Sepastia Bar	Oğuzlu
*Bavno	La Mușata Armani		
Struga	Kalamatianos		
*Ajde Jano	Karagouna		
Serbian Suite	Menoussis		

*Definite, as already requested.

N.B. This programme purposely does not include any of the dances already revised pre-Balkanplus in January.

FRANCES HORROCKS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the reunion at Swansea this year, which is sad for me as it sounds as though it's going to be a superb week.

I have a Danish costume from the island of Rømø, which is just West of Southern Jutland. It was bought by the Danish group, "Gue Venner", for quite a lot of money. Is there anyone in the Kent/London area who would be able to take it to Swansea for the costume exhibition and who could raffle/auction the costume with proceeds going to the S.I.F.D? Or perhaps someone has an alternative suggestion for it? It's too nice to sit inviting moths in my wardrobe.

Please telephone me on 01634 376570, or write to me at 84 Brabourne Avenue, Twydall, Gillingham, Kent ME8 6RB, so that we can arrange to drop it off.

In anticipation,

GAYE SAUNTE

--oOo--

Dear Lily,

I am delighted to announce the first visit to Britain by a highly talented Bulgarian dancer - Ventzi Sotirov. Ventzi is stopping over for a few days en route to the Koprivshitsa Festival from his present home in Chicago.

His credentials are "top drawer". A native of Sandanski, he was a lead dancer with the world-renowned Pirin Ensemble for ten years and, for four consecutive years, was voted best dancer in Bulgaria by his peers. Since his arrival in the U.S.A., Ventzi has taught at major Balkan dance camps, toured Japan, choreographed and danced in the Bulgarian segment of the World Cup opening ceremony, and still finds time to conduct two weekly classes in Chicago and run his own performing group, "Dance Bulgaria". An accomplished tapan and tarabuka player, he has earned a reputation for humour and high spirits in congenial company.

Full details of all the teaching sessions will appear next month, but I can disclose that his first workshop will be for Balkanplus on Sunday, 16th July (10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Studio 10, The Place, Duke's Road, London W.C.1). Ventzi is likely to show up at Balkanplus (Working Men's College) on the previous evening to give us a small taste of his wide repertoire.

My thanks to Stephie Bowles for supplying information about Ventzi and for her work in setting up the visit.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN DOWSETT
"Larchwood", 75 Fordwich Rise,
Hertford, Herts. SG14 2BW

In addition to the above, I am in the process of organizing further workshops with Ventzi Sotirov the following week and so far I have confirmed that he'll be doing a workshop in Oxford on Wednesday, 19th July, at David Mowat's group in St.Giles' Parish Rooms, combining his group and Roger Wicksteed's Thursday night Balkan group. I've also confirmed that Ventzi will teach in Winchester; the date will either be Monday evening, 17th July, or Thursday evening, 20th July. Details later.

STEPHIE BOWLES

Dear S.I.F.D. members,

I am a professional journalist and author of several non-fiction books (as well as a part-time teacher of Oriental dance). I am writing for publications such as "New Woman", "Woman Alive", "The Lady", "Company", "In Britain" and many others. I believe that the forthcoming S.I.F.D. Anniversary would be a splendid opportunity for articles about S.I.F.D.'s activities. As magazines are produced months before the publication date, I start researching now.

I would like to hear from members who are willing to be interviewed and photographed, or prepared to lend me their photos (dancing in costume, if possible). I'm afraid it will take months before I can return the pictures, so don't send your only originals. In particular, I would like to hear from:-

- * any founder members (important)
- * teachers of international folk dance
- * members aged 50+ who are performing at events
- * groups performing/reviving traditional British dances
- * active performers who are committed Christians
- * any individual or group who have something to say, who enjoy being interviewed and having their photo taken, especially if they happen to live not far from me

This is a great opportunity to spread word about S.I.F.D. I appreciate your help. Get in touch before you forget about it! I look forward to hearing from many of you.

CHRISTINE HALL
Scriptease Editorial,
Finchden, Sandhurst,
Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5JS
Tel/Fax/Answerphone 01580 850687



S.I.F.D. SHOP

For details of S.I.F.D. goods available, contact Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF. For dance tapes and instruction books, contact Eleanor Gordon, 92 Norbiton Avenue, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 3QP.



JEAN HOLEMANS

We were deeply shocked to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of Jean Holemans on 30th April. Jean has been an enthusiastic member of the S.I.F.D. for many years. She joined the Bristol group in 1975, when she moved here from London. In recent years her attendance at classes has depended on the availability of bicycle lights!

She has always supported our day courses and other activities. She will also be remembered for her love of walking and climbing, among her multifarious other local and national interests. It is difficult to believe that we shall not see her again. She will be greatly missed.

PAT SKINNER and HILDA STURGE

SUTTON DAY OF DANCE

Many thanks to all the dancers at Cecil Sharp House and Balkanplus who donated their loose change towards Radio Lollipop, who provide entertainment and activities for sick children during their stay in St. Helier Hospital (formerly at Queen Mary's Carshalton). It all added up to £21. Radio Lollipop provided all the technical equipment and expertise for the Day of Dance at Westcroft Leisure Centre on 30th April where there was a sizeable queue waiting for the doors to open at 10 a.m.

Galina Turker's Egyptian class was fully booked seven minutes later, and many people had to be turned away, while the morning International class was full a couple of minutes after that. These two classes took place in a squash court so numbers had to be restricted, not so the viewing balcony above, where would-be participants crowded in to watch.

We gave a short demonstration of three contrasting Bulgarian dances during the afternoon break, led by Delyan Demirev, with team members all being regular Balkanplus supporters. My thanks to all the team who helped in the class which followed in the large hall upstairs and was attended by 70-80 people with a very wide age range.

About 1,000 people attended the Day, and all the local children I have spoken to since have said how much they enjoyed it. I'm sure the adults did too, judging by the many complimentary remarks I received following the Bulgarian demonstration, so if you missed it this time, watch out for next year.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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AN EVENING OF FRENCH DANCING

We had a most enjoyable evening of French dancing recently. Four members of Loidis attended an evening of French dancing held at Mytholmroyd, near Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. This is quite a distance from home but it was worth the journey.

The evening was taught by Casimir Potomski. During the 2½-hour workshop a number of couple dances from the South West of France were taught, and time was spent in learning the bourrée step as danced in the region of Berry. He was a good teacher and imparted the style of the dances well. The two main bourrées taught were those that we know already, i.e. Bourrée Droite d'Issoudin and La Bourrée Tournante des Grandes Poteries. We felt that Casimir did well to get a fairly complicated bourrée over to many who were total beginners. He comes quite frequently to England and if there is any group who would like to make contact with him (he has a repertoire of dances from all regions of France), his address is:-

Casimir Potomski,
Maison Forestiere de Vacheresse,
03140 Voussac,
France
Tel: 70 42 32 93

He also has live music available.

JEAN and IAN WILLSON

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MUSIC. Two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.11. Please let Wilf know if you would like the music for a particular dance. Tel: 0181 642 3629.

S.I.F.D. MEXICAN DAY COURSE

Last month's article on Mexican Dance prompts me to tell you that July's S.I.F.D. Day Course should be something special. John Melville started his dancing life as a champion Irish dancer, and when he took up a teaching post in Holland it was natural that he should be drawn into the lively folkdance scene there. His first exposure to Mexican dance, on a visit to some friends in North America, aroused his interest and he was given a grant by the Dutch Government to research in Mexico for a year. On his return, he founded a Mexican group, "Rinciori", and was recognized as the Dutch expert in Mexican dances. Eight years ago, when his teaching job came to an end, he decided to go to Mexico to live. I have taken advantage of one of his rare visits to see his family to ask him to teach for us, and look forward to improving our (fairly meagre but popular) Mexican repertoire.

MAGGIE O'REGAN



S.I.F.D. DANCE - SUNDAY, 30TH APRIL 1995

Firstly, thank you to all of you who were there and made it a really easy evening for me to M.C. Secondly, a big Thank You to the band; it was nice to stand back occasionally and listen to them. Finally, did anybody pick up a small brown cardboard box of tapes? If so, please 'phone me on 01628 39526.

MALCOLM SHAFFER



KAYROMA FOLKDANCE GROUP CONTINUE "STEPPING OUT" IN WHITLEY BAY

We have a new venue - The Scout Hut, Briardene, Whitley Bay. We meet on Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m. Visitors are most welcome, and hospitality available. Summer session takes us to the end of July.

The hall is ten minutes from the sea - bracing sea breezes. We love it. Sometimes we stay on for a snack lunch and a chat, and occasionally rehearse for a forthcoming demonstration. We are a small group of 12 to 16 ladies, and our class was formed 28 years ago under the umbrella of Adult Further Education (I was trained in movement and folk dance by the I.S.T.D.) but it is now organized privately. We still have two founder members!

In November last, I had a total knee replacement and during that time my class decided to go into recess. Happily my recovery, which was hard work, has meant I have been able to resume teaching in February this year. The operation has given me 90% mobility, and thanks go to the nursing care given by the staff at Hexham Hospital. I pay tribute to my loyal dancers. Their enthusiasm made it possible for me to return, allowing us to continue to enjoy the music and dances from many countries, and in particular Spain, Portugal and Mexico.

I am looking forward to attending the C.C.P.R. Diamond Jubilee Festival and meeting up again with my friends from Merton Park Group. best wishes to all.

KAYE LEWIS POOLE, L.I.S.T.D.



CORRECTION: The provisional date for the weekend at Dunford in 1996 is 20th-22nd December.

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

June 4th M.C.s: Joan & Simon Guest. Interval dances to be organized by Joyce Sharp

July 2nd M.C.s: The S.I.F.D. Band

7 to 10 p.m. Admission £3 for S.I.F.D. members, £4 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

June 9th CATHY DARK AT FELTHAM BALKAN DANCE CLUB. See p.5.

June 10th BALKAN DAY COURSE, organized by Barlow I.F.D.G., Manchester, 10.30 a.m to 4.30 p.m. at St.Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Egerton Road South, Chorlton. Tutor: James Webb. £4 full day, £2.25 per session. Further information from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.

June 11th S.I.F.D. ISRAELI DAY COURSE. See p.2

June 11th WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI. See p.5.

June 16th FRANK DOWLING AT BARNET. An opportunity to brush up on basic Macedonian repertoire with the indefatigable Balkan dance teacher, Frank Dowling. 8 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Information from Irene Nicholls, 0181 440 1366.

June 16th to 18th WEEKEND AT AMMERDOWN, RADSTOCK, NEAR BATH. Enquiries to Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 OHE. Tel: 0181 367 2649.

June 17th BALKANPLUS WORKSHOP. See p.5.

June 17th BALKANPLUS, 7 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. Dunav with Diki Gleeson. Enquiries: 01702 207447.

June 23rd to 25th SWEDISH DANCE & MUSIC WEEKEND at Wharfedale, Yorkshire, organized by Yorkshire Dales Workshops in Folk Arts. Instrumental and Dance Workshops, Evening Concert and Dance. With Asa Hansson, Felicity Paterson, "Uppfolk", and The Polska Band. Details from Liz Bowen, Yorkshire Dales Workshops in Folk Arts, 14 Oakburn Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 9NN. Tel: 01943 609393.

June 24th WORKSHOP OF BULGARIAN DANCE with Galina Turker in Norwich. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in St.Andrew's Church Hall, Church Lane, Eaton, Norwich. Cost £8; £5 concessions. Bring food to share. For more details, call Norwich (01603) 458525 (evenings).

June 25th DOINA EAST EUROPEAN FOLKDANCE GROUP and LONDON TURKISH DANCERS 3 p.m. at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.



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