

S.I.F.D. NEWS



MAY 2000

Costume from Samokov region, Bulgaria

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Web Site: www.sifd.org

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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, showing a Bulgarian costume, was drawn by Caroline Thomas.

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S.I. S.I.F.D. PERFORMANCES AT VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON, SUMMER 2000

According to my records, we have the following performances booked for this
summer. Would groups please check to see that your dates and times are correct
and let me know if any alterations should be made.

Saturday	17th June	3.30 p.m.	Doina East European Folkdance Group and London Turkish Dancers
Sunday	25th June	3.00 p.m.	Balaton Hungarian Folkdance Group
Sunday	2nd July	1.00 p.m.	Philhellenes Greek Folkdance Group
Sunday	16th July	3.00 p.m.	Martisorul Romanian Folkdance Group
Sunday	27th August	3.00 p.m.	Central London International Folkdance Group and Croxley Green International Folkdance Group

If any other groups would like to perform, just let me know and we will see
what can be arranged.

KAY KEDGE
Tel: 01923 262763

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

FESTIVAL OF EASTERN DANCE IN EAST SUSSEX

Two days of workshops, performances and more take place on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, 23rd and 24th September 2000. For £45.00 (£32.00 for early bookings) you can attend as many events as your stamina permits. There are currently thirteen workshops lined up, with nine popular and experienced teachers.

All the workshop subjects have an Eastern flavour; there is belly dancing graded by levels of experience, an Israeli wedding dance, a Chinese New Year dance, a Greek and a Russian folk dance, flamenco, a comedy sand dance, Indian classical/contemporary dance, and more. Teachers include: Christine Hall (Almeh Amira), who will teach the very advanced belly dance drum solo interpretation; Rosie Harris (Gulirana), who will take the belly dance beginners; Ann Allen (Alayne), who looks at travelling movements and cabaret performance skills; Kim Reed Hancock (Afra Al Kahira), teaching the use of arm movements in Arabic dance; Carina Westling, introducing the dance traditions of the Ghawazee ethnic group in Southern Egypt. Alamail Palim leads the Indian dance workshop; Peggy Weeks teaches the Greek, Russian, Israeli and Chinese dances at beginners' level; Liz Palombo the comedy routine.

There will be an exhibition from the Hall/Phillips collection of folk and festival costumes from North Africa, the Middle East and Asia, professional performances by some of the teachers, and a Tai Chi demonstration by Katherine Allen, the 1995 national Tai Chi champion. A performance platform allows seminar participants to display their favourite dances if they wish, either traditional folkdance arrangements or their own choreographies.

Why do the festival tickets cost less than half of what similar events cost? This is because many of the teachers have given their time free; the event is entirely run by volunteers (Christine Hall and her non-profit dance group, Awalim); and Hastings Borough Council and DC Leisure have given their support.

The venue is the Marina Pavilion in St. Leonards, East Sussex, which has a purpose-built ballroom dance floor. Only forty tickets are on sale and these are going fast already. To book your place, send a cheque for £32.00, payable to Hastings Borough Council, before 1st July, to Hastings Information Centre, Town Hall, Hastings, East Sussex.

CHRISTINE HALL

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL 2000 - S.I.F.D. BULGARIAN ITEM

Two months ago I asked if any of the group leaders or participating dancers knew of a volunteer who would be prepared to accompany them to the Birmingham rehearsals to take some photographs of the Society dancers. Until a little while ago, all seemed well but unfortunately the photographer, through no fault of his own, has had to withdraw so that we are now desperate for a replacement for 25th June, when we are hoping to get a picture which can be used in the Albert Hall programme. We should also like some material for our archives, to be taken some time nearer the Show date, but this is less urgent.

I do have to emphasize that we are not expecting professional expertise, merely someone with a fairly decent camera and flash equipment who is prepared to go along and take 20 to 36 frames, one of which should be acceptable. Some expenses would, of course, be paid. Do you know anyone who would be willing to do this? CAN YOU PLEASE HELP OUT?

GEORGE SWEETLAND, Publicity
Officer, Tel: 020 7701 3785

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Palm Springs, California, is a very good place to spend a holiday at the end of February. Blue sky, hot sun (well, usually) and magnificent scenery make Palm Springs and its surrounding townships (known collectively as the "Desert Resorts") a very popular spot.

At the last count, the Desert Resorts had at least sixty golf courses, six square dance clubs and one international folkdance club; the last, not surprisingly, called the "Desert International Folk Dancers". Peggy and I called in on the D.I.F.D. on the last night of our recent holiday in Palm Springs and felt at home as soon as we walked through the door. For one thing, the dancers, about twenty of them, were mostly female and mostly middle-aged-plus. For another, one wall of the hall was a huge mirror, reminiscent of Floral Street. The clincher was the programme posted up - Shibolet Basadeh, Tzadik Katamar, Eretz Eretz etc. Nearly all the dances that evening were either old favourites or ones that we had done some time in the past. The D.I.F.D. were a very friendly lot, half of them locals and the other half winter visitors (the "snow birds" who fly in from the North at the onset of winter and fly back again for the Summer).

If any of your readers happen to be in Palm Springs on holiday or business (it is also a conference centre) the Desert International Folk Dancers would be pleased to see them. They meet on Monday evenings, 7.30 to 9.45 p.m. at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio (now there's a name from the past!), 312 North Palm Canyon, Palm Springs. More information from Dwight Fine (564-0599) or Helen Smith (342-1297).

Yours sincerely,

ROY "OSCAR" HAYCOCK
74 Cowleigh Bank, Malvern, Worcs.
WR14 1PH



THANK YOU

I'd like to thank all performers who have contacted me, following my request to hear from dance performance groups in Southeast England. Several have responded with detailed information. Thank you. Next time an entertainment agent asks me to help them find dance performers in the style of a specific country for a themed event, I'll be able to point them in the right direction.

CHRISTINE HALL



S.I. S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI, on Sunday, 11th June, starts at 11.00 a.m. at Moreton-in-Marsh. From there, we move on to Broadwell (just off the A429 between Moreton and Stow on the Wold), where we have booked the new village hall from 12.00 to 2.00 p.m. Finally, we are again going on to Blockley to dance in Mill Dene Garden at 3.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. The garden is open from 2.00 to 6.00 p.m. under the National Gardens Scheme but dancers in costume will not be charged. B. & B. is available at Mill Dene, Tel: 01386 700457.

MAVIS LOWE

BELLY DANCE SUMMER SCHOOLS

The annual Summer School with Christine Hall at Pyke House in Battle has again been fully booked half a year in advance. There are still some places for a weekend in Fittleworth, 7th-9th July (Tel: 01798 865306) and in Abingworth, 2nd-4th August (0181 9059388). Both are in West Sussex. Also still open is the week-long "Eastern Promise" summer school at the Old Rectory in Fittleworth. As well as Arabic dance and Chinese dance, participants have the chance to learn and try out other activities with an Eastern flavour, such as guided meditation, henna body art, Indian head massage, and much more. This week will be co-taught by Christine Hall and Marian Dickinson. Tel: 01789 865306.

CHRISTINE HALL

ON-LINE CLUB FOR EASTERN DANCERS

If you are a teacher, or professional performer, or advanced student, or very active experienced amateur in any form of Middle Eastern, North African, Balkan or Asian dances and have internet access you can join an on-line club. Membership is free. The lively club is run by Christine Hall and has currently fifty-one members. Subjects include dance traditions, costumes, music, rhythms, instruments, teaching methods, performance skills, performance opportunities, professional bookings, trouble shooting, health and safety, and more. Members share their experiences and thoughts. Controversial questions and problems are discussed in a helpful, supportive manner. Every member is welcome to put up questions on the club's noticeboard, which other members endeavour to help. Perhaps you are going on a holiday somewhere and want to find out what dance classes are available there? Or maybe you are looking for that elusive piece of music? Do you want to find out about the origin of a dance tradition, or are you curious what a certain gesture means? Just ask. Every member has different areas of knowledge and between us we have a pool of expertise. Members can also use the club to promote their events, classes, shows, workshops; set up links to their own or their groups' sites, display their photos in the gallery, and more. It's all free. To look at the club before you join, check out <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/almehsorientaldanceengland>

CHRISTINE HALL

BELLY DANCE WEBSITE

Christine Hall's new website is ready for viewing (not perfect yet, but getting there). Photo gallery, workshop list, costumer comments and more, on <http://www.users.waitrose.com/~almeh/>

CHRISTINE HALL

EXHIBITION

My group recently had an exhibition at the Hastings Information Centre in the Town Hall. Every two weeks or so, a new exhibition on a different local subject goes up. The Centre provides the display panels. The exhibitors provide the rest. There is no charge for this excellent much-exposed display space.

I used several sheets of A2 board in different colours, and colour-photocopied photos of our group. I chose photos which showed a lot of colour, movement and happy faces. I pasted the photos on the boards, together with several text panels. Each text was about a different subject; for example, about our group, about forthcoming shows, about where to learn belly dancing, about the history of belly dancing, and so on. We used fake gold coins, sequins and woollen tassels as additional themed decorations. On a small table in front of the display we had a pile of leaflets.

Our display attracted a lot of interest. It may be a good idea for other groups to do something similar. I know that many information centres, libraries and other public spaces do host exhibitions without charging a fee, as long as there is a local theme and the group is a non-profit organization.

CHRISTINE HALL

LOTTERY MONEY AND OTHER GRANTS

Have any other dance groups applied for, or received lottery money? I was fortunate to get £1,750 from the National Lottery Festival Awards For All Fund for my group, "Awalim". We applied for the money to be able to buy fabrics for new costumes, and to pay a dressmaker to make some of them (the rest we made ourselves) and also for hiring dance rehearsal space. Now we have a gorgeous set of colourful costumes with 1½-circle satin skirts, harem pants, waistcoats, blouses, hats etc. which we can adapt in seconds backstage from "Gypsy" to "Persian" to "Arabic" by whipping off one item and reversing another. The group members are so happy with the new costumes! And to be able to hire a proper dance studio, with sprung wooden floor and mirror wall certainly beats practising in cramped living room conditions.

We have also secured (smaller) grants from Hastings Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to pay for more rehearsal space and for workshop leaders. There is a lot of money around to support voluntary and community groups, and I would like to encourage other groups to apply for funding too. You won't get all the grants you apply for, but unless you do apply you don't get any! There is still time for the Festival Awards For All grant applications; they have to be completed by June.

CHRISTINE HALL

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It seems to me, from her various articles this month, that the S.I.F.D. could learn a thing or two from Christine about publicity.

L.A.

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BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE COURSE

In conjunction with the Billingham International Folklore Festival, 12th to 19th August 2000 (see "Dates for your Diary"), there will again be an International Folkdance Course, with the opportunity to dance with and learn from the groups taking part in the Festival. This year the groups on the course will be from Russia, Slovakia, Poland, Spain, Chile, Georgia, Israel, Turkey, South Africa, China and Mexico.

The cost of the course will be £135.00 and includes lunches, refreshments, free attendance at the Opening Ceremony. For more details, contact Brian Padgett, Course Organizer, Billingham International Dance Course, Adult Education Centre, The Causeway, Billingham TS23 2DN, or ring 01642 397363.

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S.I.

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, SATURDAY, 13TH MAY 2000

Maggie O'Regan will be teaching GREEK DANCES in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Price: S.I.F.D. members £6.00; non-members £8.00.

As mentioned in last month's issue of SIFD NEWS, Maggie is intending to teach dances which will be new to most people, so please come along and support the day. I look forward to seeing you there.

Happy Dancing.

HELEN EZRA

P.S. If there is a particular dance or a country that you wish to learn dances from, please let me or other members of the Committee know, and we will endeavour to carry out your request.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I. June 4th ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. £12.00 (concessions £7.50). Shared vegetarian lunch. For bookings/information/map, contact Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

June 9th/11th FEST NOZ - a weekend of Celtic & French Music & Dance at Thoresby Park, Thoresby, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire. For tickets ring 0116 233 3111. For other details contact Mr. Bob Charmbury, Nottinghamshire County Council Community Services, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BJ. Tel: 0115 982 3823.

S.I. June 11th BARLOW I.F.D.G. invite you to attend a workshop in a selection of "STICK DANCES OF THE WORLD". Tutor: Frances Horrocks. 2.00-5.00 p.m. at St. Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, corner of Egerton Road South and Wilbraham Road, Chorlton, Manchester. Followed by FAMILY EVENING DANCE, 6.15-9.15 p.m. One session £3.00; two sessions £5.00. For further information, ring 01942 831141.

S.I. June 11th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI. See p.4.

June 17th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

June 30th to July 2nd MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. Information from Don Allison, 01908 610564. See p.10 re workshops.

July (3rd)4th/9th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD. For details contact Eisteddfod Office, Llangollen, North Wales LL20 8NG. Tel: 01978 860236.

S.I. July 29th/Aug.5th S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL AT YORK.

Aug.4th/11th SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. For details, contact P.O.Box 296, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP19 3TL. Box Office: 01296 433669.

Aug.12th/19th BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL. Groups from Chile, China, Georgia, Israel, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain (Basque), Turkey, U.K. For bookings call the Forum Theatre Billingham Box Office, 01642 552663. For other information, contact the Festival Office at Stockton Business Centre, 70 Brunswick Street, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1DW. Tel: 01642 553220. (See p.6 re workshops).

S.I. Aug.25th/28th MINI FESTIVAL at Roedean School, Brighton. This is now full and applications are being put on a waiting list. Further information from Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ.

Aug.26th/28th AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY COURSE with Jan Knoppers at St.Peter's Church Hall, Fairfield, Buxton, Derbyshire. Dances outside the European International repertoire. Course fee: £30.00. (£15 deposit). Accommodation in local guest houses. For application forms and further details, send s.a.e. to Marina Wolstenholme, "Robin Cottage", Commercial Road, Grindleford, Hope Valley S32 2HA. Tel: 01433 630183.

Sept.30th C.C.P.R. SHOW DANCFEST 2000 at Royal Albert Hall, London.

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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.

MILTON KEYNES FESTIVAL - WORKSHOPS

I have been asked if we are planning workshops at this year's festival. So far we have not planned any. When you get the leaflet there will be no workshops shown. However, if sufficient people would be interested, we can try to organize something.

The problem is that the international groups are doing their one big concert on the Saturday evening in Milton Keynes' brand new and truly magnificent theatre. From 3 p.m. they will be rehearsing on stage. In the morning they will be dancing in Newport Pagnell. So running workshops on the Saturday is impossible. We have the use of Stantonbury Campus Theatre on the Sunday. So we could run workshops on stage in the morning through till about 1.00 p.m. (We have a concert by a Georgian folk choir at 2.30 and a concert by Zimbabwean group "Imbizo" at 7.30). Also, we could use an adjacent dance studio.

The foreign groups are from Georgia, Holland and North Cyprus. Please let me know if you are interested, and which group or groups you would be interested in. If there is enough interest and if the groups are willing to give up some of their free time, then we will try and organize something. I do not need a firm commitment, but I do need an "I would very probably come".

DON ALLISON
30 St. John Street,
Newport Pagnell MK16 8HJ
Tel: 01908 610564



ADVANCE NOTICE - WATCH THIS SPACE!

BESKYDY DANCERS are preparing a workshop for CZECH, MORAVIAN and SLOVAK dances old and new for June, probably Saturday the 17th in the afternoon. Central-ish London.

HEDY FROMINGS
Tel: 020 8699 8597



M.C.s REQUIRED

The Committee would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to M.C. at our monthly Sunday dances at Cecil Sharp House. Would any volunteers please contact Mike Gilbert (address on p.2) or Marianne Smith, 20 Kensington Park Road, London W11 3BU. If you don't want to do the whole evening, it may be possible to arrange for two people to share the programme.



S.I.F.D. books and cassettes are available from Eleanor Gordon, 70 Chestnut Grove, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3TS. Other S.I.F.D. goods are available from Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.



MUSIC. Two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.9. If you would like the music for any particular dance, please contact Wilf on 020 8642 3629.

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

S.I. May 7th M.C. George Sweetland, with interval dances led by Maggie O'Regan

S.I. June 4th Choices by the S.I.F.D. Band

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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WHAT'S ON IN MAY

Apr.30th to May 14th "THE 1,000 YEAR JOURNEY" - a celebration of Gypsy Music & Arts at the Barbican, London, for three weekends. Rom musicians, dance, films from across Europe. For information, ring 020 7638 8891.

May 13th S.I.F.D. GREEK DAY COURSE. See p.6.

May 13th BALKANPLUS. See below.

S.I. May 20th WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL DANCE at Borough Green Village Hall, 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. Tickets £5.00 including food. Please bring your own drinks. Details from Alan Cant, 01732 883405.

May 20th "QUIMANTU", music from the countries of the Andes, 7.30 p.m. at The Pit, Itchel Lane, Crondall, Nr.Farnham, Surrey. £12.00 for concert; £30 for concert & dinner afterwards. Tel: 01252 850789.

May 28th ARMENIAN DANCE THEATRE, an evening of Armenian Dance & Song by the newly-formed Armenian dance group directed by Gagik Mkitaryan, at The Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W.8. 7 p.m. sharp. For tickets (£20, £15, £10), ring 01707 642774 or 020 8740 5042 or (after 6 p.m.) 020 8723 6822 or 020 8991 5872.

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BALKANPLUS, 13th May at Cecil Sharp House, 7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C. Dorien van de Belt. Dorien has recently joined us from the Netherlands and is an expert dancer who has been dancing for over twenty years. Her favourite styles are Bulgarian, Macedonian, Armenian (Caucasian style) and Hungarian. She has been to Balkanplus several times and has joined the Romanian "Martisorul" dance group. I hope that everyone who possibly can will come along and offer unstinted support to Dorien on her debut. The evening will be mainly Balkan, including dances from workshops from Martin Ihns, Gagik Mehitarian and Yves Moreau. The 'plus' side may include some Dutch dances. There will be a rehearsal for the item for the Royal Albert Hall Show from 6.00-6.45 p.m. prior to the Dance. The next Balkanplus will be on 10th June.

Thank you to all those who supported Yves Moreau's weekend. It was a complete sell-out. For those who were disappointed at not being able to get a ticket, especially for the party, please remember to book early next time! It was a great weekend, with some readily accessible dances to add to the repertoire.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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Ed.note: Discerning readers will notice there are two different spellings for Gagik's surname (not a typing error!). I'm assuming it is the same person, and would guess that the first version is nearer to being "correct", i.e. that given by the Armenian Dance Theatre.