

SIED NEWS



MARCH 2001

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 Dalila Heath.

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This month's cover of a Bulgarian girl and grandmother
was produced by Simon Guest from a photograph he took at
the Koprivshtitsa Festival.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE ON SWEDISH FIGURE DANCES
SATURDAY, 10TH MARCH 2001, IN TREFUSIS, CECIL SHARP HOUSE
10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

I have been asked to teach some of the Swedish figure dances introduced to the
Society by Dr. Pug Cyriax which are now gradually slipping out of the repertoire.
As you will see from the list below, there are far too many to fit into a day
course so if there are any that you would particularly like to be included please
let me know and I will try to plan the programme to include them. In the absence
of anyone stating any preferences I will choose a selection that includes a
variety of steps and formations. I hope also to teach one or two dances which
have not yet reached the general repertoire.

Daldans	Ostgotapolska
Fjallnaspolska	Ranningen
Fryksdalsdans (dans til Fryksdals melody)	Slangpolska fran Vikbolandet
Fryksdal spolka	Swedish Schottische (and maybe some free schottische)
Fyrmannadans	Trekarlspolska
Jamtpolska	Vastgotapolska
Kadrilj fran Ovraby	Vavavadmal

I hope to hear from somebody out there! And to see you on 10th March. (I
will be at the Cecil Sharp House dance on 4th March D.V.).

JANET WOOLBAR
34A Prestwood Avenue, Kenton,
Harrow, Middx. HA3 8JZ

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

SIFD Summer School 2002

St Aidan's College, Durham, 27 July - 3 August 2002

The news you have all been waiting for! Well, not all of it yet, but it's time to put dates in your diary.

A new venue

After five summer schools at York your planning team felt it would be worth looking at other sites, and we have found a beauty. St Aidan's is an attractive modern campus on a hill looking across the River Wear to the historic city of Durham. Its big advantages over York are that it is cheaper (for equivalent accommodation) and that it can offer a wider range of accommodation – *single or double rooms, standard or en suite, half board, bed & breakfast or self-catering all on site*, plenty with level access. Families with children are welcome.

Expanded programme

There will be a varied and balanced programme as at York in 2000, with two main, 6-session, courses in the mornings and a choice of 2-session courses in the afternoons. With the encouragement of the SIFD committee, we are also offering a general course aimed at those new to international folk dance and those wishing to build up a general repertoire for teaching (*including school teachers who wish to offer dance in their national curriculum programmes*). **Maggie O'Regan** and **Anne Leach** have already agreed to organise the general course and they will probably draw on the services of other specialist teachers during the course. Naturally there will be the usual social dances in the evenings in the college's beautiful dining room.

Beautiful surroundings

Durham is a fine old city with its castle and imposing Norman cathedral set on a hill in a horseshoe bend of the River Wear. It is a pleasant 15-20 minute walk away from St Aidan's to the cathedral. County Durham, Weardale, Teesdale and the north Pennines offer historic interest and spectacular scenery not far away. So there will be opportunity for excursions and short breaks away from dancing for those who wish them as in previous years. Durham, on the East Coast main railway line and close to the A1(M), is readily accessible from all directions.

Look out for more information

Details: programme, countries and teachers, prices, booking arrangements, will be announced later in the year but in the meantime *please encourage interest among members of your group*.

The Durham 2002 Planning Team:

Mike Gilbert, Judy Penaluna, Pam Radford, Roger Sturge & Janet Woolbar.

Enquiries to:

Roger Sturge, Durham 2002, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU.
Tel/Fax 0117 962 1802. e-mail: rogersturge@onetel.net.uk

PHOTO UPDATE

This time a warm thank-you to so many people who have sent photos since I last wrote; opening the post has been a positive pleasure recently. I now have photos of many individual members, and at least one photo of almost every group, with some still promised, and only a very few gaps.

If your good intentions haven't quite combined photo and envelope yet, there is still time! I'm about to start sticking in, but a quick 'phone call will ensure I leave a gap for you. Don't be left out, IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Alison Scrimshaw,
22 Sherwood Park Road, Sutton.
Surrey SM1 2SQ
Tel: 020 8642 3385



IN MEMORIAM

Marion Morris, past Secretary of the Iberian Folk Dance & Music Society, died on 16th October 2000.

When our former dance teacher retired, Marion graciously took over all the secretarial work and also the organization and preparation of all our dance performances. She loved dancing and showed much enthusiasm and artistic flair in her dancing. She also participated in other folkdance events. She loved art, attended art classes, and even exhibited her work at art galleries. She spent much time visiting galleries or attending music or dance events. She was also a keen member of the Theosophical Society.

Martion was a dedicated person in all ways. We sadly miss her and were greatly shocked by her sudden death. We endeavour to carry on in her memory.

CECILIA and the Iberian
Dance Group

Juanita Martin, former teacher of the Iberian Folk Dance & Music Society, died on 6th November 2000 in France, where she had been living with her daughter. She was born of a Spanish mother and English father. She grew up in India.

At 34, after the birth of her second child, she became crippled with rheumatoid arthritis and after years of therapy and medication doctors declared there was nothing more they could do for her. One day she went to a class of Lucile Armstrong, world-famous Spanish dance expert. The music triggered something in her and she could move. She learnt the dances of Lucile and went on to form her own group, the Iberian Folk Dance & Music Society. At 66 she felt and danced like a 40 year old, whereas at 40 she felt like a 70 year old (quoted from "Weekend", 17th September 1988).

Juanita was still nursing at night when she started the classes at Swiss Cottage after Lucile had retired. Lucile often used to teach her dances and sing the music at these sessions. It was free because it was a community project, aiming to bring in the local Spanish and Portuguese people. Very few of them came.

Juanita was a great humanitarian and used to keep open house at Christmas for lonely people. We appreciate the contribution she made to our group and offer condolences to her family.

JUNE and the Iberian
Dance Group

FESTIVAL OF TRADITIONAL DANCING AT CECIL SHARP HOUSE

Vineet Vijn, a man with a vision!! Out of the blue, on his own initiative, he made contact with all the dance groups he could find in London and invited them each to contribute as they chose, at Cecil Sharp House, on Sunday, 21st January - performance, workshop, join in, musical workshop, with space to display whatever each group chose in the way of posters, literature, flyers, photographs etc - and then to enjoy the rest of the day with other people's performances etc. A very modest £5.00 for the day if you were not in a performing group. Splendid little programmes in colour, with all manner of details (e.g. telephone numbers to contact the groups) were handed out free, with little quizzes inside too to pinpoint the variety and width of offerings.

The whole of Cecil Sharp House pulsed from 3.00 to 10.00 p.m. from basement to changing rooms on the first floor. A memorable Sunday, characterised by the universal good humour and sense of enjoyment throughout. The colourful costumed performances included colourful Sega dancing from Mauritius, Lucile Armstrong's torch-carriers with a very mixed selection of Spanish dances, Leslie Haddon's spectacular Hungarian in a variety of stunning costumes, Zivko Firfov group sang and danced, and found an overwhelmingly keen join-in with hardly anyone sitting out. The general S.I.F.D. class chose some interesting well-presented dances not so often seen, then the Emashi dance group regaled us with dances and drumming (including a very talented youngster) from Ghana - what fierce energy! Next on were the Martisorul group presenting a most colourful arrangement of beautiful and exciting Romanian dances, again in gorgeous costumes, non-stop in vital, lively style. The Philhellenes, in Cypriot costume, contributed a range of Greek dances after a highly successful workshop. There was a very large group from "On Bouge" presenting intriguing little Breton dances which were very popular. Enthusiastic Circle dancers encouraged everyone to join in. The Irish group were very popular, as were the stylish Caribbean Quadrille group. The Cubans ended the performances with a most stylish fast-moving set.

As well as all this continuous performance in the main hall, workshops in Trefusis and Storrow (both dance and music) were on-going all day and very well supported indeed. The bar/canteen did a roaring trade. Altogether everyone there agreed it was a spectacular success and one worth repeating. So much good humour, interaction and mingling. Such a high standard throughout, with the organization unfaltering and so unobtrusive, e.g. as the permanent tiered seats started filling up, little clusters of chairs appeared to cater for later comers, so there was never an ugly glut of empty chairs to dampen the atmosphere or clutter up the space but no-one arriving unable to see a free seat.

A totally joyful occasion and a huge triumph for Vineet Vijn, who is talking of a repeat in the summer, with an even wider range of contributions (Galina Turker and belly dancing already booked) and a large marquee on the grass outside so that more people and offerings to delight could be catered for. If you would like to be included or need any more information, feel free to contact Vineet on 020 7706 1667 or at Flat 1, 3 Craven Hill, Bayswater, London W2 3EN.

DIKI GLEESON



HELP PUBLICIZE THE S.I.F.D.

When you attend festivals or other events, please try to distribute Dance With The World leaflets or any other fliers about international dance events to anyone who might be interested. The leaflets are available from George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London SE5 0TQ. Other fliers may be available from event organizers. Probably the best advertising is by personal contacts.

CASPAR CRONK

DESSI'S DELIGHTS

Frances Horrocks has already introduced Dessi (Dessislava Stefanova, who sang with our item at the Dancefest 2000 and who is a recent member of the Philip Koutev Ensemble) but I should just like to reinforce how extraordinarily lucky we are to have the opportunity of benefiting from Dessi's supreme talents as a teacher as well as a singer.

Her lovely personality, faultless patience and good humour, coupled with her skilful ability to separate voices and minute gradations of pitch, tone and colour, mean that even if you arrive tired and flagging you do not leave like that. She energises perseverance with pertinent changes of pace and song, and steams ahead with everyone. Her approach is gentle, yet direct, forceful and inspirational. This is a unique opportunity to learn to become part of a real Bulgarian-sounding group (already with performance invitations in the offing). Newcomers are easily integrated with Dessi's fluid, lively approach. So if you are hesitating - DON'T. Come along on a Tuesday evening at the Bulgarian Embassy now, for a modest fee.

Please ring Dessi for full details and queries on 020 7690 7134.

DIKI GLEESON

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

The ghost of Philip Thornton will no doubt be happy to know that his book, "Dead Puppets Dance", is now worth considerably more than the one shilling (5p) paid by Roy (Oscar) Haycock in 1954. Just for fun, I looked in "Bibliofind" on the Internet and found three copies for sale at between £45 and £85, two in the U.S.A. and one in London.

You will be sorry to hear, Lily, that nobody seems to be parting with "Icons & Oxen", but there are eight copies of "The Voice of Atlas" for sale at prices ranging from £10 to £62, all in the U.S.A.

All good wishes,

PHILIP E. LLOYD
268 Upper Chorlton Road,
Manchester M16 0BN

Dear Lily,

I'd also like to add my thanks to Wilf Horrocks for all those years of writing out music for us to play. As Martin Butler said last month, it's not easy. I've tried it but gave up!

I note with some amusement the comment you put in the September 1987 SIFD NEWS, "...the first of our music pages. We hope to continue this series each month". What an understatement!

Here's something I can do though - which I hope will be useful for everyone - an index of the tunes Wilf has given us in the magazine. (See pp. 7 & 8 Ed.).

PHILIP STEVENTON
92 Hamilton Avenue, Tolworth,
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7PT.

EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL, 4TH TO 7TH MAY 2001

Have you booked yet? We hope we've arranged a further exciting time for you this year.

Hennie Konings, the Dutchman who is a leading exponent of Russian folk dance, has been booked to teach five sessions over the weekend. Those of you who experienced Marina Wolstenholme's Russian Day Course last year will know that his material is interesting and accessible, and he has well recorded CDs from which he teaches. We're also welcoming Dalila Heath for the first time to the Festival. She taught Armenian dances at the S.I.F.D. Summer School last year. Dalila, who is Armenian, was born in Cyprus and came to England in 1974. She was a founder member and principal dancer of the Arax Armenian Dance Group run by the Tekeyan Cultural Association in London. Having taken a break to bring up her two children, Dalila is now getting back to dancing and teaching. She is currently administrator and rehearsal director of the recently formed Armenian Dance Theatre. Jan Mulreany is returning to take two sessions of French Folk Dance and, by popular request, she and "Borborygme" will repeat their very successful French Bal on Sunday night in the canteen. We have had verbal confirmation that "Salcioara", a group of sixteen dancers and four musicians are coming from Babadag, Romania, so, visas permitting, we're expecting them to play an active part throughout the weekend. They will be taking a share in the Balkan evening on Sunday with "Vuhpross" (Bulgarian word for "question"). This group began in 1995 and have since built a considerable repertoire of traditional social dances from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Romania. "Vuhpross" has a mixture of traditional instruments such as a large drum (tupan), smaller darabulka and tamboura, with melody lead on sax, clarinet or accordion. Julian Sinton will act as M.C. for the evening, co-ordinating input from several dancers, tutors and friends. Martin Butler and "Cloudburst" are returning to play for the Dances on Friday and Saturday evenings. Their repertoire increases every year, providing a lively accompaniment for the two Dances. "Cloudburst", "Vuhpross" and "Salcioara" musicians will be taking music workshops for anyone interested in playing their instruments in a folk contest. Jill Bransby and "Cloudburst" will also provide a joint music and dance session for some "tricky" rhythms. Nick Green and friends will take a session of some of their favourite dances to be included in the Balkan Evening.

Several of you staunch Festival supporters offered your help in "stewarding" in the gym. If you're still interested, please would you let me know on 01942 831141; it does not preclude participation in any session. Finally, we should appreciate help in decorating the gym on the Friday evening from any of you who arrive early, starting at approximately 4.30 p.m.

It should be an energetic weekend. Looking forward to seeing many of you then.

JULIE KORTH



BALKANPLUS, 10th March 2001, at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. 7.00-10.30 p.m. £5.00. M.C.: Malcolm Shaffer with Dunav. Malcolm has promised a Balkan Barn Dance with the Dunav Ramblers, aided by Galina Turker. He also has one or two surprises up his sleeve and suggests everyone comes early to avoid disappointment.

The next Balkanplus will be on 21st April, not the usual weekend because of Easter.

FRANCES HORROCKS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Apr.6th/8th ARMENIAN DANCE COURSE with Tineke Van Geel at Haytor, Dartmoor. Choice of general or advanced course, or both; social dance evenings; delightful area for walking and sightseeing; non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board en-suite accommodation £88.00. Each course £15.00. Details and booking forms from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. (s.a.e. please).

Apr.27th/30th LONG WEEKEND AT GREAT ALNE, WARWICKSHIRE. Details in January SIFD NEWS. Enquiries to Andre Hobro. Leave name, address and telephone number on Answerphone 02476 418949.

Apr.21st BALKANPLUS.

Apr.29th DAY OF ARMENIAN DANCE with Shakeh Avanesian at Bergh Apton Village Hall, near Norwich, Norfolk. Contact B.Campbell-Johnston on 01508 480195 for details.

May 4th/7th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL. Booking through Judy and Richard Wright, 01273 835759. (See also p.9).

S.I. May 4th/7th S.I.F.D. WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR. See p.12.

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

May 12th WOODVALE I.F.D.G. DANCE at Borough Green Village Hall, 7.30-11.00 p.m. £5.00 including supper. Bring your own drinks. Details from Alan Cant, 01732 883405.

S.I. May 19th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH EARLY SUMMER DANCE, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull (B4102), close to both 'bus and rail stations. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper. M.C.: Maggie Kaye.

S.I. June 9th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

S.I. June 24th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI. Starts at 11.00 a.m. at Moreton-in-Marsh. Details of other venues and times to follow.

June 24th HUNGARIAN AND GYPSY DANCES with Hilary Bolton at Imperial House, 22-26 Paul Street, London E.C.2. 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Organized by I.S.T.D. Fee: £18.50.

July 27th/Aug.3rd S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL AT DURHAM. See p.3.

Aug.5th/10th ISRAEL FOLKDANCE INSTITUTE SUMMER SCHOOL, "MACHOL EUROPA 2001" at Bedford. Guest teachers: Gadi Bitton, Shmulik Govari, Moshiko Halevy, Moshe Telem, Yaron Carmel. Details from IFDI, Balfour House, 741 High Road, London N12 0BQ.

S.I. Aug.24th/27th MINI FESTIVAL at Roedean School, Brighton. Some sessions taught, some informal, so bring your favourite folk and circle dances to share. Full board; mostly single rooms; swimming pool. £120 (deposit £20). Send s.a.e. for detailed booking form to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 0PZ.

Aug.25th/Sept.1st HF HOLIDAYS RESIDENTIAL WEEK IN HAYTOR, DEVON, with Phil and Brenda Steventon. A course aimed at Beginner/Intermediate dancers; all dances will be walked through. To book, ring 020 8905 9558, or for further details contact Phil or Brenda on 020 8397 9649.

S.I. Dec.14th/16th S.I.F.D. WEEKEND AT DUNFORD. See p.12.

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

Mar.4th M.C.s: Audrey Whiteley and Mona Graham

Apr.1st M.C.s: Woodvale I.F.D.G.

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



WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

S.I. Mar.10th S.I.F.D. SWEDISH DAY COURSE. See p.2.

Mar.10th ARMENIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Shakeh Avanesian, 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, nr. Cheltenham. Details/bookings: Chris Lee, Phoenix Meadow, School Lane, Shurdington, Cheltenham GL51 4TF. Tel: 01242 706582. No price given.

Mar.10th GREEK DAY COURSE in Stapleford. See p.11.

Mar.10th BALKANPLUS. See p.9.

S.I. Mar.17th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH DAY COURSE with Marina Wolstenholme. EASTERN EUROPEAN including RUSSIAN. 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. at Weoley Hill Village Hall, Weoley Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham (off Bristol Road South). £7.00 all day, £4.00 half-day. Further information from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.

S.I. Mar.23rd FIONA HOWARTH AT BARNET. The Great Crone of Bromley descends upon our peaceful hamlet, her reticule replete with Terpsichorean treats. 8.00 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. £3.00. Further information from me on 01992 582717. BRIAN DOWSETT. (The subsequent meeting will be on 6th April, the Easter Bank Holiday forcing us to deviate from the usual 2nd and 4th Fridays).

Mar.23rd to 25th WEEKEND AT HF, FRESHWATER BAY with Bob Neal. Dances from Balkan countries including ROMANIA, RUSSIA and ISRAEL. THIS WEEKEND IS FULLY BOOKED. THERE IS A WAITING LIST. Enquiries to Pamela Le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Bedhampton, Hants. PO0 3QA. Tel: 023 9264 1028.

S.I. Mar.24th to 25th WORKSHOPS IN WESTERN MACEDONIAN DANCES with Yiannis Konstantinou at Manchester and Calver, Derbyshire. Organized jointly by Barlow I.F.D.G. and Derbyshire Dancers. Early booking essential. £12 for one day, £20 for the whole course including a Dance on the Saturday night. Further details from Bill Croft, 0161 445 2140.

Mar.25th A CLOGGING DAY with Pat Tracey at Imperial House, 22-26 Paul Street, London E.C.2. 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Organized by I.S.T.D. Fee: £18.50.



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.