

SIFD NEWS



NOV 2001

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 shows two women from Starnberg in Germany (Bavaria). It
is re-produced by kind permission of Dover publications and is from their
book, "Folk Costumes of Europe Colouring Book", part of their Pictorial
Archive Series, published in the U.K. by Constable & Co. Ltd.

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

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EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL' 2002

We hope that we have an interesting diverse programme in the making for next May, 3rd to 6th.

Cory Verheijen is coming from Holland to share with us her lifelong love and expertise in European dances. She has been teaching for many years, attending most of the annual Dutch Folk Festivals and their workshops.

Roberto Haddon will be returning to teach us some more Israeli dances from his extensive collection.

Dalila Heath will be teaching Armenian dances and on this occasion is bringing her Armenian Dance Theatre Group to perform at the dances on the Saturday evening. Also, the group will be taking a "meet the team" session on Saturday afternoon.

We shall also be able to welcome Kerry Fletcher, who is coming to teach two sessions of Swedish folk dance.

The pattern for the International part of the Festival will be the same for this our final fling!; that is, a Welcome Dance on the Friday evening, with "Cloudburst" and myself, four workshops on Saturday and Sunday, Jill Bransby and "Cloudburst" for the Saturday costume dance, Marina Wolstenholme and Dunav for the Balkan evening on Sunday. Monday will have two workshops and the Farewell Dance in the afternoon. Extra sessions in the canteen last period on Saturday and Sunday.

Remember, for those of you living in the area, without a weekend ticket, one period of stewarding in the gym will earn you one free attendance ticket at a workshop of your choice. Also, please come and help decorate the gym, between 4.30 and 6.00 p.m. on Friday. In this instance, the old adage, "Many hands make light work", is most appropriate!

JULIE KORTH, 01942 831141



www.for U.K. Dance Information

There is an excellent website for dance information, including classes. It is www.danceweb.co.uk You can search for classes by type, area or day of week, and then you get a beautifully clear page for each entry - even with clickaide map access!

I suggest you do a search for a type of dance to see all the information categories needed, make a list of the relevant information for your class and then submit this either directly via the "submit" facility on the website, or later via e-mail. A few days later you will get e-mail confirmation that your site has been created and you can click on to view your site. You should do this immediately, for apart from delight at seeing it you can pick up odd errors. It is worth checking the map especially as addresses don't always exactly give guidance. Upon your e-mail corrections, amendments will be prompt. Even if site is O.K. I suggest you e-mail to confirm this (and thank the site creator!). Please note: you must verify the site information on a regular basis or the entry will be removed.

TONI GUTMAN

PEMBROKESHIRE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP

In October our group reached 15 years! Congratulations to all concerned.

This has been a most interesting year, with an almost embarrassingly long list of demonstrations. We danced for Pain Support, Arthritis Care, The Stroke Club, Rotary International and at Scolton Manor, and there are several more dates to which we are committed this autumn.

The S.I.F.D. Summer School is a source for new dances and the result of last year's was two dances each from the Philippines, Italy and France and one each from Denmark and England. There were numerous dances from Bulgaria, plus a delightful taste of Egypt. Earlier this year, I went to Newport for a day course led by Maggie O'Regan. The result of a pleasurable course was several Greek dances to add to our repertoire.

Three new faces this year. Gwen and Julia from Neyland and Yan from Hong Kong. Yan was with us for only a few weeks but will, we hope, be returning.

Again Vic and I travelled to Asia but this time made no attempt to bring back new dances. The incredible hand movements, which the dancers learn from an early age, were way beyond our capability. However, not to be outdone, we came back with a collection of costumes from Thailand and, from Cambodia, a couple of bamboo flutes. Any offers to play them? In Chiang Mai we were entertained by a local folkdance group and it was interesting to observe the different cultures that had influenced them down the centuries - Thai, Malay, Indian, Chinese and European. In a hill tribe village, near the border with Burma, the Hmong tribe both danced and enacted their folk stories for us. It was beautiful, so delicate, so simple, so gentle. Their costumes were in heavy, boldly striped red and black wool. (A cold climate here as, although almost on the Equator, the altitude was 4,000ft.). Their dark, slightly frizzed hair was swept high in an enormous bun and held in place by a simple bandeau. At the Golden Triangle, on the Thai-Laos-Burma border, a group of children, resplendent in colourful local costume, greeted us and invited us to take their photographs. You should have seen their faces when one white-haired old wrinkly dressed in shorts and T-shirt, sandals and a buoyancy jacket (we had just come up the Mekong river in a long-tailed boat) invited them to dance! We joined hands in a circle and made it up as we went along! Now that is Folk Dancing!

It seems that P.I.F.D. is now definitely recognised, firstly by my officially being accepted as an S.I.F.D. teacher. This means that the group may be able to become an Associated Group rather than an Affiliated Group. Secondly, on a local level, I was invited to represent P.I.F.D. at the Eisteddfod Proclamation ceremony in St.David's at the end of June.

We need all our members to spread the word about our folkdance group and put up posters at as many places as possible. This is more important now since the libraries no longer produce the "Wot's On" publication which has brought us several new members in the past.

Here's to happy dancing everyone.

SUE CLARK

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FOR SALE



BULGARIAN COSTUME ŠOP REGION

comprising richly sequined over-dress, plus chemise and girdle. All hand-made. Size 12-14, approximately, but could probably be enlarged.

Property of Antonia Popilieva, who was our guide/interpreter on Cathy Meunier's trip to Plovdiv in 1989 (now a doctor in Linz, Austria).

She asks £120 for it.

Hilda Sturge
10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU
0117 962 1802
rogersturge@onetel.net.uk



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

Date: Saturday, 17th November

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Place: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House

Cost: £6.00 for S.I.F.D. members
£8.00 for non-members

Our aim for the day is to travel through the regions of Romania, meeting as many of the different types of dances as time allows, with some information on music and costume thrown in. Unlike our travels round Romania by hired car, we won't be leaving Cecil Sharp House for this event. We will try to use village dances instead of folkdance choreographies but this doesn't mean all the dances will be easy!

Some longer-serving dancers probably have a good knowledge of the regional dances but hopefully it will be fun anyway!

NICK GREEN and LIZ MELLISH

There will be no S.I.F.D. Day Course in December.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

At the last Committee meeting of the West Midlands Movement and Dance Association (WMMDA) we were discussing the unhappy demise of other regional associations of movement and dance. Not only were we the first such association but apparently we are also the last remaining one. What has happened elsewhere? The WMMDA creates an excellent "shop window" for all our member groups. I won't list them all but there is a great variety of participating groups from the Fitness League to the W.M.S.I.F.D., with Medau, Scottish et al in between.

We struggle against great odds, and despite the eagerness of the Sports Council (now Sport England) at our inception, this body has "gradually dis-associated themselves from our Association until finally informing us that their rooms were no longer available to us for our meetings. The Chairman was advised of our concern, which would be passed on to the Area Representative" (of Sport England, who has attended none of our meetings for years!)....quotation from the Minutes of our last meeting, on 21st September.

We now search out and hire our own accommodation for our 6-8 meetings per year. However, as "non-competitive" activities, in a culture of "caps, cups and trophies", it's not surprising that so little interest is taken in our existence. Indeed, some time ago, at a meeting of the Federation of Sport and Recreation, an erstwhile Minister of Sport was known to have asked, "What is Movement and Dance?". Needless to say, our WMMDA representative put him firmly in the picture. The fact that we, within our own organizations and nationwide, provide activity and fitness for thousands and thousands of participants, old and young, male and female, able and disabled, is seemingly discounted by the "powers that be" as we have no trophy to display (nor do we want one!).

So, we push on regardless, but perhaps it's the above factors which have forced other regional M and D Associations to fold up. Here, we have "Taster Days" when all groups come together, as we shall do on 27th October, at Stockland Green Community Leisure Centre in Birmingham, and where the public can come and "taste" International Folk Dance, Salsa, Fitness, Scottish Dance and other activities for £5 .00 for the whole day, and where we also can share in each others' activities.

Then there's the next Leamington Festival of Movement and Dance, in November 2002, where all groups of the WMMDA put on full and colourful demonstrations of their activities. This is an excellent, almost professional presentation of our groups, which often results in increased membership, as do the Taster Days.

The two representatives from our W.M.S.I.F.D., Grace Pittman and myself, regularly attend these WMMDA meetings and if one or other of us cannot attend, Maggie Kaye, who does such a splendid job in our region, will fill in for the absentee. So we keep the S.I.F.D. flag flying and keep up to date with all that is going on.

SYBIL CHAPMAN, Selpar I.F.D.G.
20 Pelham Road, Droitwich Spa,
Worcs. WR9 8N

Dear Lily,

Regarding Magda Ossko's article in the October SIFD NEWS; in her last paragraph Magda apologises for the length of her letter and then says, "I feel I could tell much more about the subject". Well, I say, "Magda, please tell us more. It really is interesting". So, here's hoping.

SUE CLARK, P.I.F.D.
22 Church Road, Roch SA62 6BG

SIFD Summer School, St Aidan's College, Durham 27 July - 3 August 2002.

The planning team for Durham are hard at it and will be having an important meeting on 1 November when we hope to finalise details. Prices and applications forms should be ready before the end of the year.

So far we have confirmation of the following main courses (six sessions):

1. A former Yugoslavia programme given by Paja and Madelon Milic (taught twice).
2. A second specialist course taught twice, country and teacher to be confirmed (western European, possibly Breton or Spanish).
3. Two general courses taught by Maggie O'Regan and Anne Leach respectively; beginners may wish to take both of these, others can combine one of them with one specialist course.

In addition there will be a range of short option courses as last time, at York in 2000, and the usual programme of social dancing and an outing.

There will be a choice of accommodation -- singles or doubles, standard or en suite and full board, bed and breakfast or self-catering, all on a compact campus overlooking Durham Cathedral. If you wish to be sure of obtaining the type of accommodation you wish, make sure to book as soon as the application forms are issued.

Keep the dates free and let your friends, and above all your classes, know. Dancers at all levels are welcome from beginners to expert. The summer school is a critical opportunity for increasing repertoire. Teachers notes and a video will be available.

Your planning group is made up of Janet Woolbar, Pam Radford, Mike Gilbert, Maggie O'Regan and Roger Sturge (convenor).

Enquiries to Roger Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU. e-mail rogersturge@onetel.net.uk

Roger Sturge; October 2001



FOLK INSTRUMENTS - THE BINIOU

The biniou is a type of bagpipe, a primitive kind still in use in Brittany. It consists of a leather bag inflated by means of a "sutel", a short-valved insufflation tube, and a chaunter with conical bore with a double reed concealed within the stock having seven holes, the first being duplicated to accommodate left- and right-handed players.

The biniou is still the traditional and popular instrument of the Breton peasants and is seen at all the festivals, at the wedding feasts and threshing dances.

Acknowledgement to "The Folk Dancer", 1956.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Dec.1st ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London E.C.1, 7.00-10.30 p.m. Nearest Underground Station: Old Street. Dances from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia; also from Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. £6.00 including refreshments. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 020 8592 4427. Cheques to be made out to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group (s.a.e. please).
- Dec.2nd S.I.F.D. A.G.M. 4.00 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House (venue to be confirmed).
- S.I. Dec.8th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Weoley Village Hall, Weoley Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham (off Bristol Road South). M.C.: Maggie Kaye. £2.00. Bring and share supper. For details of how to get there, ring Maggie on 0121 608 1437.
- S.I. Dec.8th BALKANPLUS CHRISTMAS DANCE. M.C.: Brian Dowsett with Dunav and Serbian dance group "Rastko". 7.00 p.m. in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House. £5.00.
- S.I. Dec.14th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY with music by Dunav Balkan Group. 8.00 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. £4.00. Details from Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.
- S.I. Dec.14th/16th S.I.F.D. WEEKEND AT DUNFORD. Contact Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 403153 (home), 01792 295194 (work).
- Dec.24th/Jan.2nd CHRISTMAS YUGOSLAVIAN FOLK FESTIVAL in Belgrade. For details contact (before 20th November) either OKUD Gradimir in Belgrade, Tel: +381/11/456-549 or Paja Milic in Holland, Tel: +31/229/234-609 or 229/249-109.
- S.I. Dec.31st S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY from 8.p.m. to 2002. Downing Hall, Knowle. £2.00. M.C.: Grace Pittman. Bring and share supper.
- S.I. Jan.19th OXFORD NEW YEAR PARTY at St.Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford. 7.00-11.00 p.m. (No price given).
- S.I. Jan.27th 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, ring Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.
- Mar.16th/17th WEEKEND WORKSHOP WITH EDDY TIJJSSEN in Bognor Regis. Course £32. Optional Balkan meal on Saturday evening £10. Further details from Janet Douglas 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010.
- S.I. Mar.16th/17th ROMANIAN WORKSHOP WEEKEND WITH SILVIU CIUCIUMIS in Manchester and Calver, Derbyshire, organized by Barlow I.F.D.G.. and Derbyshire Dancers. Saturday 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Sunday 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £12.00 for one day, £20 for the whole course including a Dance on the Saturday. Further details from Helen Clancy on 0161 881 0442.
- Mar.22nd/24th A SPRING DANCE CELEBRATION of dances from the Balkans, Romania and Russia at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. Tutor: Bob Neal. Contact: Pamela Le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Bedhampton, Hants. PO9 3QA. Tel: 023 9264 1028. Numbers limited.
- Apr.19th/21st BULGARIAN DANCE COURSE with Eddy Tijssen at Derwent Bank, Lake District. Choice of General or Advanced course, or both courses. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board en-suite accommodation £92.00. Each course £15.00. Details and booking form from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. (s.a.e. please).
- July 27th/Aug.3rd S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL AT DURHAM. See p.7.

FERIA

Betty and I had our first experience of an Andalusian feria this Spring. Our expectations were high. We thought it would naturally be a warm sunny day and that we would wander past private casetas through whose guarded entrances one would glimpse marvellously dressed couples having a copita of sherry or dancing to tuneful guitars. In the public places we would see sombrero-hatted riders with their ladies riding side-saddle and everywhere there would be large crowds with most in colourful Sevillian costume dancing Sevillianas to splendid live Andalusian music dominated by guitars.

What happened? We were in Granada in May. On feria day the weather turned wet and cold, which did not help. Casetas were set up in the main squares but there was no charm about them. They had long bars to sell things like Coca Cola and hot dogs. The wet weather meant that the horses stayed in their stables and very few people bothered to come out in their splendid costumes. The worst thing was the music. At the corners of the casetas were set up enormous loudspeakers. There was no live music. The Sevillianas music played was by modern pop/rock groups with little evidence of guitars. But there was other music also; there was straightforward rock/pop and salsa. The music was pumped out at an enormous decibel level which emphasized that heavy bass thump thump. I now know what it is like to be at a rock concert, and I am too old and of a different generation to enjoy that sort of thing. Age is crucial to understanding what is happening and also why.

Our guide told us that in the old days (not long ago) it would have been all gentle flamenco music but they had to change to what we were hearing now in order to keep the support of the young people. From what we could see it was mainly the young who were present.

For Betty and me it was all rather disappointing to have our expectations dashed but still it was nice to see a few locals dancing Sevillianas quite naturally and with enjoyment. Imagine that happening in Britain.

HENRY LEE



BALKANPLUS, 17th November at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1, 7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C.: Roberto Haddon.

We are delighted to welcome back Roberto after a long absence. He has been sorely missed, as has been his varied selection of dances which appeal to both beginners and regulars. His expertise in dance and presentation are not to be missed.

FRANCES HORROCKS



S.I.F.D. BEGINNERS' DANCE - 29TH SEPTEMBER

Though I was away on the 29th September, I am told that the dance was enjoyed by all present, including a number of new people. I should like to thank particularly the M.C.s, Phil Steventon and Helen Ezra, and also the band "Jacob's Ladder". I should also like to thank Anna Huston and Pam Radford for their help at the dance and John Walford for running the sound system. CASPAR CRONK