

SIFD NEWS

JUNE

2002



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet website: www.sifd.org

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The typing was done by Heather Edwards and the printing, packaging and
posting by Dalila Heath

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This month's cover was sent in by Dalila Heath and shows an Armenian (Zeitun)
costume. Suggested colours are: Hat, lilac and yellow; Shirt, yellow body
with dark green designs, lilac and purple stripes on centre front and lower
sleeves; Sash, lilac, purple, burnt orange; Trousers, medium blue, yellow
design; Cape, brown; Shoes, brown.

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

Date: June 15th 2002 Place: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Cost: £6.00 S.I.F.D. members
£8.00 non-members

Anne Leach has agreed to teach us some more Irish set dances. Anne's
previous course was much enjoyed. If you didn't come last time, make sure
you don't miss out this time.

JANET WOOLBAR

Please note: The July issue will be edited by Lily Avery,
address as above. All material should be sent to her in
writing by JUNE 17th

EASTBOURNE FOLK FESTIVAL 2002.

First of all we would like to **thank everyone who came and supported the event.** Without you all we wouldn't have a Festival.

WORKSHOPS.

Roberto Haddon, Dalila Heath, Kerry Fletcher and Cory Verheijen took the International workshops this year, which covered a variety of styles and countries. (We even had a Japanese session in the Community Centre by Akemi Solloway.) Thank you to the teachers for all their hard work, expertise and enthusiasm that they contributed to the Festival. We had many wonderful sessions.

The 'Party Practices', taken by Jill Bransby and Marina Wolstenholme, allowed people to brush up on several dances for the evening programmes and both sessions were fortunate to have live music provided by *Cloudburst* and *Dunav Balkan Group* respectively.

Martin Butler of *Cloudburst* led a well attended music session based on *Nellie the Elephant*. This tune was played in many different rhythms and *Nellie* was taken by *Dunav* members to far off Balkan countries never to return to the circus! Martin spent a long time producing variations on his computer so that we had some sheet music to start with. This is an example of the work that teachers and musicians put in to the Festival, making tapes and notes takes hours, as well as researching the material and practising. **Many thanks to all.**

SOCIAL DANCES AND TEAM EVENTS.

Cloudburst played for the dances on Friday and Saturday night. It was a great pleasure to have live music of such good quality every night. The Welcome Dance was led by Julie Korth who gently (?) broke us into the rigours of a dancing weekend and got us off to a good start.

On Saturday night Jill Bransby led the Costume Dance which included a lively demonstration by Dalila's *Armenian Theatre Group* who very kindly stayed to perform for us before returning to London. They had a busy day taking part in the May Queen Parade, with dancing at the sea front and took a 'Meet the Team Session' back at the Festival. Many thanks to Dalila and her team for their great contribution. Also on Saturday night Cory and Roberto did some revision which included Cory's Brazilian Coffee Bean Dance *Dança da Colheita* (this was such fun!) and Kerry's Swedish musicians came especially to play an atmospheric Polska. A surprise happening was a fire alarm when we had to evacuate the building and wait outside in what was actually a building site. This did not stop *Cloudburst* from continuing to play and dancers from leaping about in the semi-dark. Watching Roberto dancing his choreographed dance *Enigma* * over rough ground to fast Irish jigs was a fine sight! (* well known in playgrounds/building sites throughout Greece, Israel and Eastbourne.)

Sunday night saw the arrival of the *Dunav Balkan Group* with their authentic instruments and fine sound. This special Balkan Dance was ably led by Marina, with some help by Roberto. Dessilava Stefanova brought *The London Bulgarian Choir* down for the evening to perform for us in the gym and also at the English dance upstairs. Their rich and powerful singing was greatly appreciated. The blend of the choir's singing and the *Dunav Balkan Group's* playing in the last dance was very memorable and ended a wonderful evening.

Julie wound up the Festival in the gym with 'Workshop Reminders' by Cory, Dalila and Roberto, including the ritual poster dance that is performed each year at the end of the Festival!

OTHER THANKS

John Walford transported, set up and maintained the amplification equipment at the workshops and at the dances. He had to work especially hard on Friday and Saturday night when Narendra Kotiyan (who played with *Cloudburst*) kept switching from tabla to kaval to bass to sleigh bells to bag pipes to castanets etc so that the amplification level had to keep being changed. This meant that John couldn't dance. We mention this to illustrate how much goes on behind the scenes to have a successful Festival and how in the SIFD we are fortunate to have such reliable people who are willing to help.

The Society is greatly indebted to Claire and Geoff Steeley for all their hard work in running the SIFD shop, a tiring occupation, which they always fulfil so cheerfully. The shop looked beautiful and must have taken a long time to prepare and pack up, as well as to stock it. Thanks to Frances Horrocks for chauffeuring Cory to and from Gatwick and for stewarding. Thanks to every one who stewarded a session, trying to count the heads as they moved must have been very tricky.

Thanks to Janet Douglas and Rowena Martin and some of her Willingdon group who helped Julie to decorate the gym on Friday afternoon. It looked great and thank you also to Helen Ezra who lent us the flags again. (Did you know that she made most of them?)

NEXT YEAR

Just to remind you that we have retired from running the International side of the Festival, and that **Janet Douglas** and **Jan Mulreany** are taking over. We wish them the best of luck and hope that they get as much help and satisfaction as we have had during our four years of duty. **Thanks again to everyone for this year's effort.**

Julie Korth and Jill Bransby.

Ed. After sending this report Jill asked me to note that the Festival's official title is now the Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival - to avoid confusion as to its content.

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EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL EXTRA

Dancing in the builder's yard hadn't been planned for the Saturday evening but it did enliven the fire alarm incident. Apart from that the International side of the festival ran smoothly with a varied and enjoyable programme due to the work of Julie Korth and Jill Bransby. I am sure everyone concerned will join in a vote of thanks to them both for all the effort they have put in, not only this year but previous festivals too.

Jan and I will endeavour to keep things running smoothly in the future and hope we can count on your support in 2003 to maintain the success of the festival.

JANET DOUGLAS

Taking advantage of the editorial chair I would like to add my thanks to Julie and Jill for their four years of hard work providing a superb range of instructors and visiting dance groups as well as running sessions themselves. All this was accomplished with style, efficiency, stamina and good humour, adding greatly to the pleasant atmosphere. I do hope that they will return to enjoy the taking part without the responsibility.

HEATHER EDWARDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Of course we remember Ruth Coton, née Sharp (May "Newsheet"). We have only to look at the cover of the booklet "Society for International Folk Dancing 1946-1986" and there she is at the left-hand end of the line of dancers. Seriously, we also remember all those teaching sessions at Harrow Green F.D.G. where Ruth taught with great skill and enthusiasm, determined that we should GET IT RIGHT! We also remember Harry de Caux and his conviction that you could dance almost any English folk dance to the tune "My love she's but a lassie yet". It was definitely his signature tune. We are sorry to learn that he is so ill.

Paul Bradley is right in his suggestion that the international folk dance scene has changed greatly since the 1950's, and not for the better. Of course, in those days we were much younger. The average age of the active members of both the S.I.F.D. and Harrow Green was probably in the mid-20's, many of them also active Y.H.A. group members. Our main teachers (and therefore dances) were from countries where dances were in couples or sets. Eventually we had Philip Thornton to teach us Balkan dances and Henry Morris to teach us Israeli dances. These dances were seized upon with great enthusiasm since at many dances men were in the majority (how long is it since that happened?) and there were not many dances for men in couples!

But that was the only real reason for the enthusiasm for Balkan and Israeli in the early days, apart from those who became hooked on the rhythms. As I said, most of us were in our mid-20's, consciously or unconsciously seeking a permanent partner and for the men anyway there was rather more pleasure in dancing in a couple or set with a pretty girl than in a long mixed line. Even at my advanced years I still prefer a good mixture of dances, line, couple and set. As I expect you remember, at Harrow Green we also included English and Scottish dances while at the Sunday Drury Lane dances old time dances were not unknown, particularly if Roly Minton was M.C.

So what has caused the change? Most of the current membership seem to be satisfied with the lines and circles and are not too keen on learning new dances from the 1950's repertoire. To make matters worse we are not getting new younger members who might be interested in a wider repertoire. Why? Sadly, one of the reasons is that many of the people who were dancing in the 1950's and 1960's are still dancing and why not? Unfortunately, younger people do not mix socially with people twice their age (we didn't either). They look in, think that they have strayed into a senior citizen club and disappear never to be seen again. We are not the only ones with the problem; E.F.D.S.S. have it as well, so even do the Ramblers' Association. I don't know the answer, does anybody?

Yours sincerely,

ROY HAYCOCK a.k.a. "Oscar"
74 Cowleigh Bank, Malvern,
Worcs. WR14 1PH

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Dear Ms Edwards,

As a native German and having faint childhood memories of World War II, I was fascinated to read G.D.Towner's article "German Folk Dancing under the Nazi Government". It surprised me that this subject should be of interest for British dancers and be discussed and published in the SIFD News.

Thank you for drawing my attention to M. Bröcker's publication "Folk Dance Revival in Germany". I am looking forward to more information about the development of German folk dance organisations in future newsletters.

Yours sincerely,

RENATE WEINLÄNDER
Hochstiftstrasse 15/5,
D87629 Füssen, Germany

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MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
YES, IT IS HAPPENING THIS YEAR!

It's a one day event on Sunday July 7th at Stantonbury Campus Theatre. There will be two concerts, one at 4.00 p.m. and one at 7.30 p.m. The groups may (or may not) do the same dances in each performance. The theatre box office is on 01908 324422 every weekday from 9.00 a.m. to 2.15 p.m. Credit cards accepted, 50p. per booking including postage. Prices, £10 (£8 concessions) in the evening, and £9 (£6 concessions) in the afternoon. Family ticket for 2 adults plus 2 children at £26, afternoon only. Prices may alter slightly.

We have two groups from abroad. The Ukrainian group "Zhaivir" from the city of Khmelnytsky in N.W. Ukraine, 350km west of Kiev, is 30 strong and does dances from all of the Ukraine. It is presently in the USA and will go to Spain before coming to the UK. Although Bosnia Hercegovina is now a separate country, the Bosnian group from the town of Drvar performs dances from all of former Yugoslavia. The 29 members seem well travelled too with a list of previous festivals to their credit.

The London based "Akhtamar" Armenian Dance Group has achieved an amazingly high standard in the short time it has existed, no doubt largely assisted by rehearsal directors from the Armenian State Ensemble. We also hope for appearances by one or two other UK based groups.

This one day event is the first step towards a full annual festival which will become much more of a joint venture between the SIFD and Milton Keynes International Festival.

Please ring me on 01908 610564 if you have any questions about the festival or the groups.

DON ALLISON

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BULGARIAN SINGING COURSE ON CD

The singer and workshop leader of A Spell In Time, Dessislava Stefanova, has just released the world's first Bulgarian singing course on CD, entitled Wild Wind. It offers a unique opportunity to explore the power of the voice, to sing in harmony with a professional Bulgarian singer and to learn a varied repertoire of songs. The CD allows you to loop vocal exercises easily, repeat song phrases and turn down any of the vocal harmony parts for a practical and enjoyable learning experience.

It's a double album, the first a teaching course and the second a demonstration of the songs in performance. Cost £15, available from Orpheya, 33 The Chestnuts, Highbury Grange, London N5 2QE, tel. 020 7690 7134. Cheques should be made payable to 'D. Stefanova'.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I. July 5th BARNET SUMMER PARTY. 8 P.M. AT Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Please note this is on the first Friday of the month, not the usual second Friday. Enquiries to Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.
- July 6th BALATON (Hungarian) group, 3 p.m. Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
- July 7th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. Stantonbury Campus Theatre. Enquiries, Don Allison on 01908 610564. See p.6
- July 9th/14th INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, LLANGOLLEN.
- July 14th CENTRAL LONDON I.F.D.G. and CROXLEY GREEN I.F.D.G. 3 p.m. at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
- July 20th/21st FOURTH GRESSENHALL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL. Dance display and workshops (including some international) at the Norfolk Rural Life Museum, Gressenhall, NR20 4DR. Contact Frances Collinson on 01362 869266.
- July 21st/25th KLEZFEST, SOAS, University of London. Five days of instrumental, ensemble, song and dance workshops, masterclasses and concerts - sessions on Yiddish theatre, poetry, film, humour, history and folklore, for musicians and non-musicians. £330 (Students £190). For details ring 020 8909 2445.
- S.I. July 27th/Aug.3rd S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL. Enquiries to Roger Sturge, 0117 962 1802.
- Aug.4th/9th ISRAELI RESIDENTIAL DANCE COURSE at De Montfort University Bedford, Lansdowne Road Campus. Advanced & Intermediate classes, workshops on teaching techniques etc., evening dances. From £317 to £347. Details from Israel Folk-dance Institute, Balfour House, 741 High Rd., London N12 0BQ. Tel: 020 8446 6427.
- Aug.9th/19th PIRIN SINGS, DELYAN DANCES! Roger Wicksteed will lead this British-Bulgarian Friendship tour to Pirin Sings Festival and Bansko. There will be optional dance instruction with Delyan Demirev and time for walking, local sight-seeing, winetasting and relaxing. Price just £499! Further details from Annie Kay, phone/fax: 020 7237 7616.
- Aug.10th/17th 38th BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL AND DANCE COURSE. Teams from all round the world will be displaying and teaching. Ring Joe Maloney on 01642 553220 for further details. See also p.8.
- S.I. Aug.24th/26th WILLINGDON I.F.D.G.'s MINI FESTIVAL at Lodge Hill Centre (a beautiful wooded location) near Pulborough, West Sussex. Shared leading of International Folk and Circle dances. Non-dancers welcome. £104 sharing, £122 single (limited availability). Send s.a.e. for detailed booking form to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 0PZ.
- Sept.28th/29th BULGARIAN WORKSHOP with Ventzi Sotirov at Westwoods Community Centre, Northleach. Further information from Stephe Clark, 01451 860289. (See also March SIFD NEWS).
- Oct.12th/13th TURKISH WEEKEND WORKSHOP with Ersin Seyhan in Bognor Regis. £32.00. Optional meal on Saturday evening £10. Further details from Janet Douglas, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010.
- Oct.25th/27th ROMANIAN DANCE COURSE with Silviu Ciuciumis at Malhamdale, Choice of General or Advanced courses, or both courses, and social dancing in the evenings. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Excellent location for walking and sight-seeing. Full board and accommodation is £93.00 and each course is £15.00. For full details and a booking form, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London Nw5 1DA.

Dates for your Diary (continued)

- S.I. Oct.26th TRADITIONAL DANCES FROM THE ARMENIAN HOMELAND with Shakeh Avanesian. 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, nr. Cheltenham. For details/bookings contact Chris Lee, the Studio, The Manor, Upper Slaughter, Cheltenham GL54 2JG. Tel: 01451 821487. (No price given).
- S.I. Dec.13th/15th S.I.F.D. DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Dunford, Midhurst, West Sussex. Includes dancing, walks, carols, Christmas fare. All rooms en-suite (singles, doubles and twins). About £113 (dependent on numbers). For further details and bookings contact Jack Richardson, Chemical Engineering Dept., University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 295194 (work), 403153 (home).

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE (Continued from page 11)

- S.I. June 29th ARMENIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Dalila Heath, 2.00-5.00 p.m. at St. Margaret's Institute Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford. £4.00. and OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO SUMMER PARTY, 7.00-11.00 p.m. £4.00.
- S.I. June 30th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI. See p.9

38th BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

The festival offers a varied programme of dance, which will be of interest to all. They write:-

"This year's festival will be a colourful and spectacular event with a carnival atmosphere, three venues, daily workshops, children's sessions and a chance to meet singers and dancers from far away corners of the globe. The North East town of Billingham will be transformed into a multi-lingual, multi-cultural meeting place that spreads out to the surrounding countryside, each group taking their costumes and performances to venues in nearby towns and villages".

Teams from Chile, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Taiwan and Ukraine have been invited, most of whom will also be teaching at the associated dance course. Cost £125.

The S.I.F.D. is usually well represented, so if you have any energy left after Summer School you will be among friends at Billingham.

MIKE GILBERT

ROMANI RAD (meaning Gypsy Night) is a group of young Gypsy dancers and musicians from Poland. The group was formed in the spring of 1999 to show and share their culture with audiences in the London region. The exotic and colourful costumes are all designed and handmade by Romany women. Theirs is the tradition expressed by costumes, music and dance, the skills of which are handed down to them throughout the generations. Music is a part of their life, it is not just an entertainment. The musicians, (including violin, guitars, accordians, double bass, male and female singers) are all highly skilled players who have recently completed a CD, co-operating with a top Hungarian Romany band Besz O'Drom, to mix and fuse traditional and contemporary styles. They present a wide range of Gypsy songs and dances from different parts of Europe. 'The Wedding', a joyous spectacle, has never been staged in the UK before.

For more information on Romani Rad, the cultural arm of the Roma Support Group, ring Andy or Sylvia Ingmire on 020 8519 9187 or 07949 089 778 or write to the Roma Support Group, P.O. Box 23610, London E7 0XB.

FOLK SAFARI IN KENT

Woodvale I.F.D.G. and Merton Park Dancers extend an open invitation to join us on our Folk Safari on Sunday June 23rd. We are dancing at three venues in the beautiful Kent countryside. The local hostelry could provide us with liquid refreshment. Please bring your own picnic.

10.30 a.m. - 11.30 Offham Green
12.00 - 2.30 p.m. The Swan, West Peckham
3.00 - 4.00 p.m. Ightham Mote

Admission to Ightham Mote (a National Trust property) is free to all dancers in costume.

If you are thinking of joining us, it would be helpful to know in advance, details from Jan Bryce, tel: 01732 885048.

LINDA BRYCE

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UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE TRIP WITH HENNIE KONINGS - August 2003

Julie Korth has received an e-mail from Hennie Konings giving details of his proposed trip to the Ukraine. The exact dates are not yet finalised but will be at the beginning of August 2003.

The programme is as follows: Flight from London to Kiev, night train to Sloviansk (sleeping car, 4-berth compartments); a stay in a holiday resort in Sloviyanogorsk together with folklore ensemble "Ozorniye Naigrishi". Workshops in dancing and singing, with live music, will take place. There will be a chance to tour some beautiful churches, an old village, etc. One night will be spent in Kiev on the way home, city sightseeing tour available.

Costs will be about 1050,- Euro, which includes all transportation (flights, train, transfers, etc.), excursions, workshops, lodging in double rooms with toilet/shower and all meals except for one lunch in Kiev. Not included are insurance and visa costs (in Holland 50,- Euro, but Ukrainian Embassy charges here are not known).

Julie has already sent Hennie the names and addresses of all those who signed her list at the Eastbourne festival. If anyone would like further information please write to: Hennie Konings, -Stichting, Barinya, Klein Coolstraat, 17B 3033 XP Rotterdam, Netherlands, or e-mail hennie-konings@wanadoo.nl (though there has been difficulty in reaching on e-mail).

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S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI - JUNE 30th 2002

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 village hall from 12.00 to 2.00 p.m. After that, we will again be dancing at Stanton Court, on the edge of Stanton village (off the B4632 South of Broadway) as part of the village gardens open day in aid of the National Gardens Scheme. As it's a charity event, only dancers in costume will be admitted free of charge. Time to be confirmed but probably about 3.00 p.m.

MAVIS LOWE