

# S.I.F.D. NEWS



*Lovetch region, Bulgaria*

# JULY

# 2002

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 showing Bulgarian costumes was drawn by Caroline Thomas.

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

The S.I.F.D. day course in September will be organized in conjunction with  
the Armenian Institute. The tutor will be Shakeh Avanesian.

Date: 14th September 2002

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

Cost: £7.00 S.I.F.D. members  
£9.00 non-members

N.B. ADMISSION WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY, and there are only 25 places reserved  
for S.I.F.D. For tickets, please apply to:- Sr. Pam Radford, St.Saviour's  
Priory, 18 Queensbridge Road, London E2 8NS. Please make cheques payable to  
S.I.F.D. quoting your S.I.F.D. membership number. Please enclose s.a.e.

JANET WOOLBAR

DAVE CARTER, 18TH JULY 1943 to 22nd MAY 2002

I first met Dave through the Y.H.A. We belonged to Southend Group. Those were the days when we cycled to Kent or Surrey for the weekend, went to a folk dance in the village hall on Saturday and cycled home on the Sunday, about forty years ago.

Dave started his own business soon after we married and then we had our daughter, Liz. At that time we were dancing with an E.F.D.S.S. group and Dave was dancing Longsword Morris. Previously to that we had danced with Ivy Romney's group at Thurrock, where we met Frances Horrocks, who taught us French, and Naren Kotiyan who taught us the "Serbian Suite". We occasionally managed to get to the dances at Floral Street in London. As we had to curtail our dancing through business and family commitments, Dave became Scout Leader for the First Hawkwell Troop, keeping up leading, caving and mountaineering into the 1990s. Another part of the Scouting that he enjoyed was being in the pantomime - dressing up again. In the late 80s early 90s, he joined the Sir Francis Drake Masonic Lodge, eventually becoming Worshipful Master. Even in the last few weeks of his life they were collecting him by car to take him to the meetings.

After his operation on his knee in June 2001, he became increasingly less mobile, a thing he hated. When he was diagnosed as having cancer in late February this year, we decided to get him an electric wheelchair so that he could get about the village and go through our local wood, and we had arranged to buy a vehicle that would take the wheelchair in the back so that we could go further afield, but that was not to be.

Thank you to all of you who came to the cremation on Thursday, 30th May. I hope I managed to see you all. There were a lot of people there and Frances Horrocks gave a short speech. Also, thank you to all who have sent cards and letters. I will write but it will take some time.

STELLA CARTER



A NOTE OF THANKS

I should like to thank Heather Edwards very much for editing and typing last month's SIFD NEWS. I usually avoid taking holidays at the time for the production of the NEWS but when it is unavoidable, or if for any other reason I am unable to do the editing, it is good to know that Heather is willing to take on the job and able to do it so efficiently. Many thanks, Heather.

All material for the August issue must reach me IN WRITING by 17th July.

LILY AVERY



URGENT!

Has anyone out there an unwanted folk costume for sale, suitable for an S.I.F.D. member of 50-plus? Eve has dark hair, is 5'4" and size 14/16. Please contact Eve Brennan, Ty Newydd, Llanfyrnach SA35 0BB, Tel: 01239 831404, or Sue Clark on 01437 710261.

SUE CLARK

S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL

The Summer School at Durham, 27th July to 3rd August 2002, promises to be an exciting occasion, with an interesting programme at a new venue. Readers will already know that the main courses are Yugoslav and Albanian taught by Paja and Madelon Milic, Breton (Sybille Helmer) and a general course (Maggie O'Regan and Anne Leach). At the time of writing, the programme of afternoon short courses is almost finalised :-

Bulgarian singing with Dessi Stefanova and Bulgarian dances with Frank Dowling

Romanian - Marina Wolstenholme

Russian - Maggie O'Regan

and something completely different - novelty dances from many lands with Jill Bransby and friends

The late news is that we hope to have a Japanese programme. Previous Summer Schoolers will remember Kiyoshi Kanazawa; we've just heard that Kiyoshi and his wife, Shigeko, are coming so I hope he will be willing to give us an exotic extension to our repertoire!

Those already booked to come will be looking forward to Durham with keen anticipation. There is still some room for more to come if you let me know as soon as possible. You can e-mail to rogersturge@onetel.net.uk or 'phone me on 0117 962 1802. Don't leave it too long.

ROGER STURGE



S,I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL AT DURHAM

Co-driver wanted from the London area to the Summer School in Durham. I'm reluctant to drive so far on my own, and if I go by train someone else will have to transport the PA and video equipment.

RICHARD MELLISH  
Tel: 020 8863 7807



**THE WEDDING** - devised and danced by **Romani Rad**, performers from the **ROMA SUPPORT GROUP**.

**Romani Rad** enthralled the audience at Stratford Circus on the evening of June 17th with a fabulous folkdance dramatisation of a typical Roma wedding. Exuberant dancers and exceptional musicians had the spectators clapping and shouting with delight. **THE WEDDING** began with the stylised stage entrance of the guests, showed the mock tricking of the groom, the ritual dressing of the nuptial partners, and the marriage ceremony and dance. The thrilling performance reached a crescendo with a dance competition which allowed this talented group of Polish Roma Asylum Seekers to show off their technique and verve. Staged for the first time in the UK as part of Refugee Week 2002, **THE WEDDING** was a colourful, exciting celebration of gypsy culture. For more information about the performers, who are available for concerts and festivals, please contact **ROMA SUPPORT GROUP** on 07949089778 or check out the website on - [www.romasupportgroup.org.uk](http://www.romasupportgroup.org.uk)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

After a two-year gap, Vic and I enjoyed our return visit to the Upton Folk Festival. It is a Morris Dance non-competitive event and each year a guest dance team of a different discipline is invited. This year it was the Flemish group "Jan & Trien".....more about them later.

For those of you who have not been to this festival or this part of the world before, you don't know what you are missing. Upton on Severn (in the winter Upton in Severn) is a charming old-world small town just North of Tewkesbury sitting nicely alongside the river with a backdrop in the West of the magical Malvern Hills. It is a wonderful setting for the folk festival, which this year hosted over forty teams displaying the various forms of Morris. Part of the town is cordoned off and teams dance in any available space. It is very colourful and great fun. Sometimes the audience are invited to join in. Meanwhile, in every bar in every pub (which are open all day), musicians strike up impromptu concerts or sing-alongs. There are also some organized concerts and workshops. Vic and I are not Morris enthusiasts as such but we feel this one is a must, especially if you combine it with a walking holiday.

In the S.I.F.D. we, over the years, have heard very little about Belgian folk dance so we were delighted to meet up with "Jan & Trien". We saw three of their programmes. The first street performance offered a good taster of both set and social dances. At the second, an indoor event, they concentrated on set and display dances, most of them needing eight couples. The footwork was simple, though the timing was subtly different, almost off beat at times. One little jump they used quite often was done with both feet evenly placed quite close together, then jumping from both feet to both feet with equal emphasis but travelling sideways about 18". In one dance, a series of these jumps evolved into a gallop or slip step. However, whilst the footwork was simple the formations were not. They were very interesting and the transitions from one to the other danced with great skill. The third session was an outdoor workshop. In reality, it was simple social dancing, including "De Kolom", the dances being talked through first and then each of their members danced with a member of the public.

Unfortunately, there wasn't time to discuss the historic background of the dances or even to take notes, but I have their address (see below) and I gave them an S.I.F.D. leaflet and am sending them more information about the Summer School. They run workshops in Belgium each year and I have asked them to let me or the S.I.F.D. have details. This was their first overseas visit and we had the feeling it would not be their last. We should like to invite them to Pembrokeshire but I am fearful that we are just too small a group to be able to finance it. Perhaps some of the larger groups might like to make contact? Their address is:- "Jan & Trien", Greet Bellemans, Smisheide 8, B2970, Schilde, Belgium.

When the festival was over we had a chance to meet up with our very good friends, Peggy and Roy (Oscar) Haycock on several occasions including a visit to "The Heart of England" group. We so enjoy visiting that group, who make us feel one of the family. We also managed a trip to Balsall Common and spent a very pleasant day with Grace and John Pittman, this time talking about dance rather than actually doing it! On arriving home, we had a note to say that Cynthia and Roy Lewis will be down here in Pembrokeshire quite soon. Goody good!

As far as we know, our next meeting with S.I.F.D. members will be at the Summer School. Here's to it. Happy dancing to one and all.

SUE CLARK  
22 Church Road, Roch,  
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire  
SA62 6BG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I have received many cards and letters from Judy's friends in the S.I.F.D. and should like to thank everyone for their kind words of sympathy and support. I didn't know what the word bereavement meant, despite losing both parents, until now. The rollercoaster of grief is exhausting.

I wish everyone well for the Summer School in Durham and hope it is enjoyed by all.

Kind regards,

GEORGE PENALUNA  
Smithy Cottage, Main Street,  
Cononley, Keighley BD20 8LL

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Dear Lily,

It is a shame that the organisers of the occasional international folkdance events at Kinnersley Castle (near Hereford) have not yet got around to advertising them in the SIFD NEWS. The Jubilee weekend event included workshops on a variety of dances including some Sauts Basques (very similar to the Béarn versions taught by Marie-Claire Viala at York a few years ago, but with some style differences), Zweifache (which we had on the schedule at another summer school but didn't get to), some Irish and some Swedish.

One anecdote recounted during the weekend will be of interest to some members:-

Once upon a time, a London teenager was taken by her Spanish school-friend to watch her dance class. Partway through the proceedings, one more person was needed for a particular dance. The teacher pointed to the London girl, who exclaimed in panic, "But I'm English! I can't dance!". "Yes, you can! You can dance badly!", replied the teacher.

The teacher was Lucile Armstrong and the girl was Frances Sullivan, who obeyed the order then and is still dancing (not too badly) some fifty years later.

RICHARD MELLISH  
15 Lancaster Road,  
North Harrow, Middx. HA2 7NN

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Dear Lily,

I should just like to say how much I enjoyed the Eastbourne Festival - the variety of classes on offer, the quality of the music and the interchange between International and English that I hadn't expected.

I especially want to say how helpful I found the afternoon "Party Practices". As someone with limited opportunities to dance International during the rest of the year, these run-throughs greatly enhanced my enjoyment of the evening dances and were thoroughly enjoyable in themselves as they were superbly led and had the luxury of live music. Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

JANET MASON  
22 Scotter Road, Bournemouth  
BH7 6LY

Dear Lily,

Every two years or so our West Midlands Branch members take part in a movement and dance festival under the auspices of WMMDA - the West Midlands Movement and Dance Association, a smaller regional version of the Sport England events at the Royal Albert Hall. The next one of these festivals will be taking place this year on Saturday, 30th November, in Leamington Spa. Our contribution this time will be two items: I am putting together a "whistle-stop" tour of Western Europe (I thought of calling it "If it's Tuesday, it must be Holland!") and the second spot, arranged by Grace Pittman, will be a Russian sequence including some of Hennie Konings' dances from last year's Eastbourne Festival, which Marina Wolstenholme revised with us at our Glenfall House weekend in April.

The reason for sharing this information with everyone is that we are in need of Russian costumes for this event and are hoping that some individual S.I.F.D. members or groups might be able to help us. If anyone has costumes (mostly ladies' but also a few men's) which they would be prepared to lend to us for a few weeks around that time, we should be most grateful. Alternatively, contact information for anyone else who might be in a position to help would be useful.

I can be contacted by telephone on 0121 608 1437 or, since I don't have an answerphone, on my mobile, 0797 464 9311. I look forward to a flood of responses!

MAGGIE KAYE  
402 Heath Road South,  
Northfield, Birmingham B31 2BE



UKRAINIAN FOLKDANCE TRIP WITH HENNIE KONINGS - AUGUST 2003

The arrangements for this trip have not yet been finalised but anyone wanting to be put on the list for further information should contact me at Creative Energy Circles, Flat B, 138 Portobello Road, London W11 2DZ. I shall be making the arrangements for this country, so enquiries and bookings should come to me, not directly to Hennie as stated in the last issue.

I have a list of those people who have already told him of their interest.

JANET WILKS



HENNIE KONINGS IN THE NORTHWEST, MARCH 2003

Hennie Konings is coming for a two-day course on 15th/16th March 2003. The first day will again be in Manchester, the second (Sunday) at Carver, Derbyshire. If you're interested in joining his Ukraine visit in the summer of 2003, this might be a good opportunity to meet Hennie yourself and have your questions answered. Further information from Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspall, Wigan WN2 1EF. Tel: 01942 831141.

JULIE KORTH

## WHAT'S ON IN JULY

- S.I. July 5th BARNET SUMMER PARTY. Dunav will help to make this a rousing finale to the Club's year. 8.00 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. £4.00. Further details from Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717. Meetings at Barnet I.F.D.G. recommence on 13th September.
- S.I. July 6th PHILHELLENES GREEK DANCERS will be dancing at Fitzrovia Festival, Fitzroy Square, London, at approx. 3.15 p.m. Nearest Underground stations: Warren Street and Gt.Portland Street.
- July 6th BALATON (Hungarian) group, 3.00 p.m. at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
- July 7th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL at Stantonbury Campus Theatre. Enquiries to Don Allison on 01908 610564.
- July 9th to 14th INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, LLANGOLLEN.
- July 13th BALKANPLUS at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. 7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00. General programme, including Armenian, with M.C.s Dalila Heath and Roger Wicksteed. Some dances will be walked through. If you have any special requests for Armenian dances, please contact Dalila on 01707 642774 in advance.
- July 14th CENTRAL LONDON I.F.D.G. and CROXLEY GREEN I.F.D.G., 3.00 p.m. at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
- S.I. July 16th PARTY DANCE with Pembrokeshire I.F.D.G. at Woodstock Community Hall, off Haverfordwest/Cardigan Road, 8.00 p.m. Bring a plate; bring yourself.
- July 20th & 21st GRESSENHALL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL. Dance display and workshops including some international at the Norfolk Rural Life Museum, Gressenhall. Contact: Frances Collinson, 01362 869266.
- July 21st to 25th KLEZFEST. University of London. 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 23rd LAST MEETING OF THE SESSION at Pembrokeshire I.F.D.G. - probably another party. Details as above for July 16th. Visitors and holiday-makers welcome. Contact Sue Clark, 01437 710261, or Eve Brennan, 01239 831404.
- July 23rd ISRAELI THEMED EVENING of dancing, eating and maybe drinking! organized by Woodvale I.F.D.G. Bring along anything Israeli to enhance the flavour of the evening (dolls, flags, plates, food, drink etc.). We will also do dances from other countries. At Borough Green Church Hall. Contact: Alan, 01732 883405, or Linda, 01732 885048.
- S.I. July 27th/Aug.3rd S.I.F.D. SUMMER SCHOOL at Durham. See p.4.

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If anyone is going to be in France this month, they might like to know of "Folklores du Monde", a festival of dancers, singers, musicians from Peru, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Bolivia, Nepal, Puerto Rico etc., at Saint-Malo. Information from 02.99.40.42.50.



