

SIFID NEWS



A
D
R
—
1st

2
0
0
3

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: www.sifd.org

EDITOR: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea,
East Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: 01424 845866.

--oOo--

The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting
is done by Dalila Heath.

--oOo--

The special April cover was drawn by Lesley Boorer and shows the famous
dance of the Alpine fisherman, "L'Alpofiro"! Some of you will have seen
it before but I thought it worth repeating for those who haven't (and are
good at anagrams!) of French clues (poissons)! Ed.

--oOo--

CHAIRMAN: Mike Gilbert, 2 Clarendon Road, Cambridge CB2 2BH. Tel: 01223
700718. e-mail: MikeG1@btinternet.com

SECRETARY: Janet Douglas (Mrs.), Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor
Regis, West Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010.

TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & Alan Morton, 26 Durham Road, Harrow, Middx. HA1
GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: 4PG. Tel: 020 8427 8042.

--oOo--

All material for the May issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor
IN WRITING by 17th April. Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of
people, places and dances, if not typewritten.

EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL

Looking ahead to May, I have been asked to get together a team for a quick demonstration for our English friends on the Saturday evening. If you have a costume and are interested in taking part, please get in touch with me. The only rehearsal will be on Saturday at lunch time.

FRANCES HORROCKS
Tel: 020 8642 3629



MILLENNIUM PHOTO ALBUMS

After many regrettable delays, the Millennium photo albums are at last ready to travel. They contain photos of nearly all the SIFD's associated and affiliated groups, many individuals, and some members from the past. If you or your group would like to borrow them, and enjoy putting faces to names, as I did, then please let me know.

If many people wish to see them, it would be best to pass them on by hand as they are surprisingly heavy and will cost £8.00 to post. As there are many people who dance with more than one group, it might be possible to organise a chain. The Sunday dances at Cecil Sharp House could also be a passing-on point.

So, if you would like to borrow them please contact me (address and 'phone number below) and I'll try to arrange an efficient way of getting them to you.

DANCING IN PETERBOROUGH?

Does anyone know of an international folkdance group in or near Peterborough please?

SIFD WEB PAGE

The SIFD web pages are going to expand, to try to include extra information and be more up-to-date. If, for instance, you would like an article that you sent to the SIFD NEWS to appear on the web site as well, or if you have a last-minute event alteration which you would like advertised, or anything similar, please e-mail mail@sifd.org or contact me by telephone or post.

The information on the internet cannot, and has no intention of doing so, replace the function of the SIFD NEWS but it can spread news of the Society and its events to a wider audience, and hopefully bring more people into folk dancing. The Society needs more members and this might be one way of encouraging them.

Visit the site at www.sifd.org and let us have your ideas.

ALISON SCRIMSHAW
22 Sherwood Park Road,
Sutton, Surrey SM1 2SQ
Tel: 020 8642 3385

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

Date: Saturday, 12th April 2003

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

Cost: £6.00 for SIFD members
£8.00 for non-members

This will be a day of QUADRILLES, taught by Christine and Ellis Rogers. During the day, Christine and Ellis will be teaching a selection of the figures and steps of 19th century Quadrilles from France, Scotland and England. They are enthusiastic specialists in this dance form and teach world-wide. They promise us an interesting and lively day.

Notes will be available on the day, with tapes and videos to follow.

::::::::::

Date: Saturday, 10th May 2003

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

Cost: £6.00 for SIFD members
£8.00 for non-members

This will be a day of revision of the GENERAL DANCE COURSE taught at Durham Summer School. Anne Leach and Maggie O'Regan will be revising the course they taught. Details to follow.

PAM RADFORD



NEW DANCE TEACHERS IN THE S.I.F.D.

Most members should be aware that since January 2002 the Society has been organising a course to train prospective teachers of folk dance. This course will reach a conclusion in June, when twelve candidates will put themselves forward for assessment.

An important aspect of the assessment will, of course, be the practical teaching session, for which we need pupils to be taught. It is planned to use the day course on 14th June for one of these practical sessions (there will be another assessment day on 6th July as it is not possible to assess all twelve candidates on one day).

The candidates have worked very hard over the past eighteen months and we hope you will show them your support and that there will be a good number of volunteers for these sessions. It will not only be an opportunity for you to learn some new dances but also to meet the next generation of teachers in the Society.

Keep reading your SIFD NEWS carefully for further details.

JANET WOOLBAR
For the Badge and Day Course Committee

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mrs. Avery,

I have performed Kodaly's Dances of Galanta, Bartok's Romanian Dances, the dances of the Nutcracker of Tchaikovsky and many other so-called Classical folk dances on numerous occasions as an orchestral violinist. However, I have a compulsion to get the audience on to their feet and into the aisles. Once, on the Isle of Harris, with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, we managed this in a castle, following Mozart with Strathspeys and Reels, and again in Stavanger with the Waltz.

I have, therefore, begun a project to take live music and dancing especially Celtic, English, Balkan and East European circle dancing into schools. So far, I have discovered some excellent books on European folk dance, notably Joan Lawson, whose recent death I was sad to hear of. What an informed and interesting authority! I found myself continually chasing library assistants to find her book, "European Folk Dance", and writing out page after page. This led me on to a personal research of ancient history (e.g. Robert Graves' "The Greek Myths" in which he tells us that the Labyrinth of the Minotaur was a dance floor laid out for the Easter Maze Dance, a dance also found in Wales and N.E. Russia (also performed in Italy and Troy) (Book I 88.8). I diverge.

In order to take this further, I need more information, and a letter to Alan Morton produced a helpful response from Richard Mellish. Amongst other ideas he also suggested I write to the SIFD and ask if any of your readers can give me information or advice on the following:-

- 1) Are there any Celtic circle dances apart from Sellingers Round?
- 2) Where can I find music and steps for the ploughing dances of Portugal and Czech/Slovak as mentioned in Joan Lawson's book?
- 3) Is there a book specialising in work dances?
- 4) Is there a book of international folk dances - titles and resource references?
- 5) What are the steps and movements of the Sailors' Hornpipe?
Amazingly, everyone seems to have forgotten the whole fourteen measures (Jaffe). I know it begins by facing NSEW and I assume it is danced in a sailing order of tasks, but hereon I am up a crow's nest.

A lot of questions I know but I will be very grateful for any help in solving them.

In hope.

ROGER STIMSON
13 Longthorpe Green
Peterborough, Cambs.
PE3 6LS
Tel: 01733 260706

BALKAN MUSIC: ITS NOTATION

A remark often made about Balkan dance music is "Some of the rhythms are extremely complicated. Many are in 7/8, 7/16, 11/16 and similar rhythms". This type of remark is unsatisfactory. There are two reasons: firstly, the author of such a statement is making an elementary but common mistake. The fractions quoted are not rhythms; they are time signatures. Rhythms and time signatures are related. Times in certain rhythms can only be written in certain time signatures. This first error then can be easily corrected. The statement could be amended to "many Balkan dance tunes are in rhythms which when written require the use of time signatures such as 7/8, 7/16, 11/16 etc."

The second unsatisfactory point is one that the member or visitor to a Balkan group will notice. He or she, after dancing, say, Kalamatianos, or Pajduska, or singing Jovano Jovanke, would wonder when the complicated rhythms are going to appear. They have already appeared! Kalamatianos and Jovano Jovanke are both 7/16 (or 7/8) and Pajduska varies according to region or musician between 5/16, 5/8 or 3/8. The complexity is put into the tunes by the way they are written. The actual rhythm is often simple. In Kalamatianos, the dancer hears a clear triple beat and dances with the beat just as if following the one, two, three of a waltz or the slow, quick, quick of a quickstep. What he is doing is just half way between the two. In a waltz, the first beat is the same length as the other two; in a quickstep it is twice as long; in Kalamatianos it is one and a half times as long.

Now the standard music notations were evolved in Western Europe, where the beats are all equal or some twice as long as others, or occasionally some were three times as long as others, but never so-many-times-and-a-fraction as long as others. Where this is the case, the standard notation can cope. Where this is not the case, as with Kalamatianos, it is not as effective. To accommodate two main pulses of different lengths, a notation has to work in terms of what a mathematician would call their highest common factor; that is, a unit of time small enough that both pulse lengths are whole number multiples of it. Thus, to accommodate two pulses one half as long again as the other, the shorter has to be two units and the longer three. Then the triple beat of Kalamatianos takes $3+2+2=7$ units, giving a time signature of 7/16 (or 7/8) etc. Thus, to anyone who confuses time signature with rhythm, the simple triple pulse time appears as a complicated septuple.

All this does not mean to say that a different notation should be used for Balkan but that the dancer, musician, or collector should ignore the time signature and study the melody. In many cases, the rhythmic skeleton based on two unequal pulses, one half as long again as the other, will easily be recognised. If these pulses are denoted by Q(quick) S (slow), many apparently complex tunes will be found to have a simple rhythm, often either triple or quadruple, e.g. Psila stin Kostilata 7/8 = S Q Q; Prsten mi Padna Male 8/8 = SQS; Od Iljada Devetskota Cetrta Godina 11/8 = Q Q S Q Q; Duj-Duj 9/9 = Q Q Q S; Pajduska 5/16 = Q S.

Condensed from an article by Dr. Hugh Thornton
printed in "The Folklorist".

--oOo--

BALKANPLUS, 12th April at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1
7.00-10.30 p.m. £5.00. M.C.s: Committee Compoete and friends, with Dunav.
Our previous Committee combination of M.C.s was a great success, so we are
looking to prove this a winning formula, with live music from Dunav to add
to the atmosphere.

FRANCES HORROCKS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I. May 2nd/5th S.I.F.D. WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR. A long Bank Holiday weekend of dancing, walking and the opportunity to visit some of the attractive sites in East Devonshire and Somerset (extendable by an additional night). The Manor, which is a centre dedicated to folk music and dancing, is attractively situated at the foot of the Quantocks and close to Exmoor and the North Devon and Somerset coasts. Included in the activities will be a full day's walk with coach transport and picnic lunch provided. Details from Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 295194 (work), 403153 (home). Cost: £138 (inclusive) for three days.

May 2nd/5th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL. See p.9.

May 10th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE. See p.4.

• May 10th BOWS AND BELLOWES. Sally Davies and Martina Schwartz play Balkan, French, Klezmer and other music on violin, accordion and other instruments, 8.15 p.m. at Cellar Upstairs Folk Club, Cock Tavern, 23 Phoenix Road, London N.W.1. (corner of Chalton Street, near King's Cross and Euston stations). Entrance: £5.00 (unwaged £4.00). Information: 020 7281 7700. Please ring at least two days before the evening if you wish to attend, to comply with local licensing laws.

May 24th/25th SERBIAN DAY COURSE in Manchester. See p.10.

June 7th GREEK DAY COURSE. We are pleased to welcome back Maggie O'Regan to Bognor Regis. 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Bring-and-share (Greek?) lunch. S.I.F.D. members £8.00, non-members £11.00. Contact Janet Douglas for details on 01243 265010.

June 7th KLEZMER KLUB, a band of musicians and a singer performing Klezmer and Eastern European music and songs, 8.15 p.m. at Cellar Upstairs Folk Club, Cock Tavern 23 Phoenix Road, London N.W.1 (corner of Chalton Street, near King's Cross and Euston stations). Entrance: £5.00 (unwaged £4.00). Information: 020 7281 7700. Please ring at least two days before the evening if you wish to attend, to comply with local licensing laws.

June 14th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE. See p.4.

June 28th/29th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL.

S.I. June 29th ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. £12.00 (concessions £7.00). Shared vegetarian lunch. For bookings/information/map, 'phone Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

July 7th(8th)/13th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD.

July 27th/Aug.1st "MACHOL EUROPE 2003". Residential Israeli dance course organized by Israel Folk Dance Institute at De Montford University, Bedford (Lansdowne Road campus) with Shmulik Gov'ari, Yaron Carmel, Shimon Mordechai, Moshiko Halevy and Moshe Telem. Advanced and Intermediate classes, workshops on drumming, singing, teaching technique, dances for children etc; evening dance sessions; accommodation in mainly double and triple bedded rooms. For full details and booking form, contact Israel Folk Dance Institute, 741 High Road, London N12 0BQ. Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 8446 6427 or +44 (0) 20 8445 6765.

Contd...

✓ Aug.2nd/9th AN ANGLO GERMAN FOLKDANCE WEEK at Halsway Manor including dancing, dance workshops, music workshops for instrumentalists, local walks. £309 (bookings before 1st June £304). Details from Halsway Manor, 01984 618274 or from Jack Richardson, 01792 403153.

✓ Aug.10th/15th BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL and INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE COURSE.

✓ S.I. Aug.23rd/25th WILLINGDON I.F.D.G.'s MINI FESTIVAL at Lodge Hill Centre, Rulborough, West Sussex. Shared teaching of International Folk and Circle Dances, also English caller. Full board £110 sharing, £130 single. Please send s.a.e. for detailed booking form to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ.

✓ Sept.20th/21st RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Hennie Konings at Bognor Regis. £32.00. Optional meal on Saturday evening £12.00. Further details from Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010.

*

*

A NOTE ON MALTESE PEASANT COSTUME

An interesting feature in some peasant women's clothing in Malta is that the overskirt (several layers of skirt are worn) is lifted up over the shoulders and draped over the head. The Maltese women did this at a time when the island was invaded by French soldiers, and the women thought they would evade the attentions of the French if they covered their heads and partly their faces in this way.

The fashion stayed and later was exaggerated by the grand ladies who had cloaks made with a very large hood standing up around the shoulders and head, pulled to one side. If you see any Maltese costume dolls, you will often find they have this large hood, nearly always in black, and that it has been stiffened with cardboard to stand out away from the head almost like a parasol. The ladies, with their bouffant hairstyles and liking for exaggeration, apparently went in for this elaborate stiffening material to make the hood even bigger.

LILY AVERY

*

*

THE LAST PEASANTS

Channel 4 television has been running a three-part documentary on Sunday evenings called "The Last Peasants". It is filmed in Romania and is about a small group of Romanian smallholders, their struggle to reach Western Europe and what they find when they get there. Diki Gleeson has missed the second instalment, shown on Channel 4 on Sunday, 16th March, and would very much like to see it. Did anyone take a video of it and, if so, would they be willing to let Diki see it? You can contact her at Oak Lodge, Theobalds Park Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 9BN. Tel: 020 8363 1506. Ed.

EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL, 2ND TO 5TH MAY 2003

The full programme for the Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival can now be revealed. Among the distinguished performers on the English, Irish and American side will be Hilary Herbert, and "Jacob's Ladder" will be providing the music at one of her Playford workshops.

In fact, members of "Jacob's Ladder" are going to be entertaining us throughout the weekend. Maureen Hamon, a member of the band, will be giving two Scottish dance workshops and they will also be holding two music sessions, but most importantly they will provide the music for the Saturday evening International Costume Dance, with Helen Ezra. Happily, for those of us who appreciate extra help, Helen and the band will give us a preview, so if you don't know the dances, don't worry; also, if you can't bring your costume that won't spoil your enjoyment.

There are now extra music and dance studios, one of which leads off from the Gym where most of the International events take place. As before, we are asked not to wear shoes that will mark or damage the floor. The dance run-through for Saturday and the Balkan Party run-through with Marina Wolstenholme and Dunav on Sunday will both be in the new Gym studio. This will also be the venue for workshops with Kerry Fletcher (Swedish), Mayala Bracha (Indian Kathak) and our "Meet the Team" entertainment from "Doina". The music workshops and Macedonian singing workshops with Claudia Zwicky will take place in one of the classrooms.

As you can see, your main dilemma will be which sessions to choose. Frances Horrocks will welcome you in the Gym on Friday, and that is the place to find Ibrahim Rizevski (Macedonian), Corry Verheijen (all sorts), Leslie Haddon and Sue Chipp (Slovak and Czech) and Kerry Fletcher over the weekend.

If you look carefully, you may see Julie Korth and Jill Bransby enjoying themselves, free of cares after the years of organising this very festival. As ever, any offers to steward a session will be appreciated; not an arduous task, just checking badges and counting heads (or feet) etc.

For bookings, contact the Festival Booking Office on 01273 835759.

JANET DOUGLAS and JAN MULREANY



BALKAN EVENING, EASTBOURNE

The Balkan Evening at last year's Eastbourne Festival, with music from Dunav, was a very colourful occasion and we hope that this year's will be just as lively.

As well as a full programme of Balkan favourites, there will be "guest spots" with our teachers Corry and Ibrahim plus other well-known leaders and a demonstration by "Doina". During the day, there will be a workshop to give members the chance to learn or revise dances on the programme.

Costumes add so much to the colour and atmosphere of an International Dance, so please wear one if you can.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

SERBIAN DANCE COURSE, 24TH & 25TH MAY 2003, IN MANCHESTER

The teacher for the above course will be Vladimir Tanasijevic, who has danced with the Kolo group for twenty years and is now the assistant choreographer with Branko Krsmanovic in Belgrade. The musician will be Aleksandar Smrekic, professional accordionist with many years' experience with orchestras in Belgrade.

Cost: £30.00 for the weekend; £16.00 for either Saturday or Sunday. Contact: Helen Clancy, 18 Aylesby Court, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0US. Tel: 0161 881 0442. Map and accommodation list available if required.



TWO RESIDENTIAL FOLKDANCE COURSES ABROAD

2nd/9th August 2003. FOLKDANCE WEEK at Krasna Lipa, a small town in the North of Bohemia, organized by Dvorana, featuring Czech and Moravian folk dances. Dance lessons every day; meetings with local folk group; excursions; party etc. Accommodation in a hotel. Cassettes and video available. Details from Dvorana, Spanielova 38/1275, Praha 6, Czech Republic. Tel: +420-235 318 279. Fax: +420-235 318 267. Registration by 15th June.

2nd/12th August 2003. SERBIAN FOLK DANCE AND SONGS SEMINAR in a village near Cacak, 160km South of Belgrade. Serbian dances and songs every day; demonstrations; costume making; crafts. Accommodation in traditional Serbian homes. Evening folkdance balls, music etc., tours. Details from Francoise Djokovic, 5A Rue de l'Abbaye de Fontenay, F-21240 Talant. Tel/Fax: 03 80 56 27 58. Registration by 20th June.

Also:-

DANCE AND MUSIC WEEKS (SWISS)

26th July to 2nd August 2003 in Landinella, St.Moritz

2nd to 9th August 2003 in Lauenberg, near Holstein, Basel

Details from Karl Klenk (Swansea Summer School teacher of Swiss dances), Holzmattstr.15, CH-3953, Dietekon ZH, Switzerland.



SHAKEH AVANESSIAN

Shakeh's next ARMENIAN DANCE WORKSHOPS in Germany and Austria will be in July and October 2003.

4th/5th July at Monsignore Bleyer Haus, in Munich, Germany. Contact: Doris Schutt, Croissant-Rust-Str.3, 81243 Munchen. Tel: 089/83 49 111.

24th/26th October at Bildungshaus Schloss in Puchberg, Austria. Contact: Vera Felbemair. Tel: 0043/(0) 7242/47 537. Fax: 0043/(0) 7242/42 245-55.

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

Apr.6th S.I.F.D. Band's choice of dances.

May 11th (in Trefusis). M.C.s: Mona Graham and Audrey Whiteley

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

--oOo--

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- S.I. Apr.5th BRETON & HUNGARIAN DAY COURSE, organized by Nutbrook I.F.D.G. at Stevenson Junior School, Stapleford, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Janet Woolbar. Further information from John or Gill Morral, 0115 917 1831. No price given.
- Apr.5th WOODVALE I.F.D.G. INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE at Borough Green Village Hall, 8.00-11.00 p.m. Tickets £5.00 (children £3.00) including refreshments. Please bring drinks and glasses. Tel: 01732 885048.
- Apr.5th ULVERSTON WALKING FESTIVAL - BALKAN DANCE EVENING. Easy dances, some with live music. Visitors welcome. Owl Barn, Back Lane (off Church Walk), Ulverston, Cumbria. 7.30-10.00 p.m. £3.00 per person (includes light refreshments). For further information 'phone Clyde Olliver on 01229 889 362.
- Apr.11th to 13th RESIDENTIAL BULGARIAN COURSE with Nina Kavardjikova in the HF guest-house at Brecon. an excellent base for walking and sightseeing. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board, heated indoor pool. Choice of General or Advanced course, or both courses. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board and accommodation £107.00. Each course £15.00. For full details and booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.
- S.I. Apr.11th to 14th 20TH GREAT ALNE FOLK WEEKEND at Great Alne Village Hall, near Alcester, Worcs. International and British folk music and dance workshops, evening dances, walking, cycling etc. Mariette van Gelder from Holland will be teaching a mixed range of General International dances from the Dutch CD "Mix 6". Programme details from André Hobro, 0121 777 3722, or Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437. Visitors welcome for all or any part of the long weekend.
- Apr.12th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE. See p.4.
- Apr.12th ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP, Intermediate level, with Anat at St.Andrews Church, Paddock Wood, Kent. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £12.00 (concessions £7.00). Shared vegetarian lunch; drinks provided. For bookings/information, 'phone Sonya Crocombe on 01732 364585.
- S.I. Apr.12th BALKANPLUS. See p.6.

--oOo--

Events covered by S.I.F.D. insurance are marked S.I. 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.