

SIFD NEWS

MAY 2003



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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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 was drawn by Janna Eliot and is based on a group of
Turkish musicians seen at last year's Eisteddfod.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Proposed Public Entertainment Licence Legislation

I write to praise Caspar Cronk for his clear letter regarding this proposed legislation. I urge everybody to write a letter to their M.P. (I have done so) asking them to sign Early Day Motion 331. Caspar's letter in March SIFD NEWS provides an excellent base on which to write a letter with the key points. This was most helpful to me.

Our spontaneous folk-life in Britain could be killed off by this legislation. If you value folk song and dance, please make the time to write. One person can do little in this world but many speaking with the same voice can move mountains.

Thank you,

DIDI E.M.CROOK
Kushti Kenner, Ringates,
Hulls Lane, Shalford,
Nr.Braintree, Essex CM7 5HX

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Kathleen Dickinson has written to her local M.P. regarding signing Early Day Motion 331 and has received the following reply. Ed.

Dear Mrs. Dickinson,

Thank you for your letter of 2nd March 2003 concerning proposed changes in the public entertainment licensing laws.

As you may be aware, the White Paper "Time for Reform" proposed that the current exemption from public entertainment licensing that allows two musicians to perform live in premises licensed for the sale of alcohol should end. The reason for the decision rests on the problem that discotheques, or one or two musicians with powerful amplifiers can make more noise and so generate more noise than three or four musicians without.

The use of discotheques and amplifiers has made the two musician rule outdated. The Government were quite right in addressing this problem. However, simply abolishing the two musicians rule would be unsatisfactory for the very reasons that you yourself state. Therefore the Government have proposed further changes to the current legislation that takes into account the interests of folk music.

Firstly, the legislation recognises that musical entertainment with no amplification has a minimum adverse impact on the safety and amenity of local residents. A new "unplugged" music and dancing licence is proposed to be available to applicants who wish to provide musical entertainment with no amplification whatsoever. A reduced fee will be charged, at the level of a nominal fee.

New legislation will also see alcohol and public entertainment licensing integrated into a single scheme. This will remove at a stroke a considerable amount of red tape. It will also reduce licensing costs so as to encourage a number of venues to apply for licences for music where they were previously put off by the cost. Dr. Kim Howells, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, will be working closely with the Musicians' Union in developing the new legislation. Their aim will be to balance the interests of all music

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groups. However, I sincerely believe that the new legislation does give important consideration to the well being and interests of our folk music.

I hope this letter will allay your concerns to some extent.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID CHAYTOR M.P.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - GENERAL DANCES

Date: Saturday, 10th May 2003

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

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

Anne Leach and I have been asked to do a revision day of the dances we taught on the General Courses at the Summer School at Durham. Time will not permit the inclusion of all the dances so we have had to make choices, excluding some that are particularly familiar and a few of the simpler ones. We've also decided to include two of the dances taught by Kiyoshi Kanazawa (as he's unlikely to be able to commute from Japan to do so himself!).

So here are the dances to be covered (time permitting):-

Ca La Nunta de Bargau	Romania
Pustono Ludo i Mlado	Bulgaria
Vosle Sadu	Russia
Syen Tu	China
So Ran Bushi	Japan
Santis Masollke	Switzerland
Veitscher Masur	Austria
Newcastle	England
Jamaja Labajalg	Estonia
Ras Dwa	Poland - or -
Mellom Kagel og Vaeg	Denmark

MAGGIE O'REGAN

Having been the Publicity Officer for three months, I thought I should let people know how I'm getting on. My main task has been trying to decide what the job involves whilst creating a new Publicity leaflet. Following several discussions with George Sweetland and others, I can assure the membership that there will be no upsetting changes. Since nobody is all that clear about what Publicity is, beyond certain specific tasks, the best way is for me, over the next few months, to say what I will be doing and wait for people to point out (nicely) what I've missed! I shall, of course, be passing each proposed task before the Committee and will keep everyone informed as I go.

The most important aspect is that the S.I.F.D. as an organization is made up of individual members running various aspects more or less autonomously. Thus each group or event handles its own publicity quite happily. My long-term aim is to accumulate resources and information that will be available to individuals and events as required.

The new leaflet will make its appearance at the Eastbourne Festival. I hope it will meet with approval but I am aware that a happier solution is to have a variety of leaflets to appeal to different tastes. In most cases this would merely involve a change in the photograph or front design. If people have suggestions, such as phrases, sentences (slogans) that they feel encapsulate the S.I.F.D. I should like to hear them. I am prepared to produce several versions of the leaflet. The "Dance With The World" leaflet (my next task) will revert to being a resource leaflet listing individual groups as well as contact information for S.I.F.D. resources.

Additionally, I am hoping to create cheap and cheerful lightweight displays (A3 laminated paper) which bridge the gap between leaflets and the large S.I.F.D. display boards. As these will be individually made, they can be tailored to suit particular types of event. This leads me to my biggest problem - the lack of photographs (I can't just use any photos because of copyright problems). Most of the photographs in the publicity folders are of people in costumes and I really need photos of people in ordinary clothes as well. I would like photos of people clearly enjoying themselves dancing (in or out of costume) that I can use for publicity purposes. Any contributions gratefully received (please enclose an s.a.e. if you want the photo returned). There could be a little prize for the best photo(s).

I am very much aware that our need is not merely to recruit people but to recruit the right sort of people. The first step is to attract people to our events. This is where you come in because you decide/are the image of the S.I.F.D. Providing me with photos etc. is your opportunity to ensure that I project the right images in my publicity. So I welcome (and feel I need) constructive comment to get it right - especially if accompanied by artwork or photos that I can use. I propose to have a Publicity feedback box in the S.I.F.D. shop at the Eastbourne Festival for that purpose.

JOHN DOUGLAS (address on p.2)

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Balkanplus, 10th May at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1
7.00 to 10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C.s: Dalila Heath and Roger Wicksteed supported
by Oxford Balkansko Oro. This delightful combination of M.C.s should result
in a delightful programme of dances. Watch out, too, for a possible guest spot
by Bulgarian musicians.

FRANCES HORROCKS

X-BLOC REUNION AT THE BARBICAN, 23rd-31st MAY 2003

As the above is advertised as a "revolutionary mix of ethnic and urban music from the former Eastern Bloc", some of the events may be of interest to our readers, most notably:-

Friday, 23rd May. Djivan Gasparyan, Armenian duduk player, and vocalist Qasimov perform with Russia's leading folk singer and musician, Sergey Starostin (Tickets £10, £13, £17, £20). The concert will be preceded by Akhtamar Dance Group, an Armenian dance and music ensemble, on the FreeStage, 6.00 to 7.00 p.m. (no ticket required).

Thursday, 29th May Koutev Ensemble and Theodossi Spassov (Tickets £9, £14, £17.50). The Koutev Ensemble, founded in Bulgaria over 50 years ago, was the first of the Bulgarian choirs. This spectacular show includes traditional Bulgarian dancers, a female choir, and a band of folk instrumentalists, plus a special guest appearance by innovative kaval player, Theodossi Spassov.

There will also be free music, talks, workshops and films throughout the festival. For more information on all the festival events, visit the website www.barbican.org.uk/xbloc or contact Barbican Box Office on 020 7638 8891.

JOHN DOUGLAS



SUMMER TOUR TO MACEDONIA (SKOPJE/BITOLA/OHRID)

FROM 26TH JULY TO 9TH AUGUST 2003

Martin Ihns and Ankie Bijl are organizing a summer tour to Macedonia. Included are:-

- Visit to 4-day folk festival "Ilindenski Denovi" in Bitola.
- Return air ticket Amsterdam/Skopje and transportation to Macedonia.
- Half-board in double rooms.
- Hotel in Ohrid borders directly on to the beach of Lake Ohrid.
- Free entrance into festival.
- Dance workshops with local instructors and live music.
- Singing lessons.
- Visit to local dance ensemble.
- Three excursions.

Price: approximately 925-985 Euros, depending on numbers.

For more information, contact either Martin Ihns (Tel: +31 299475071, e-mail folkloreplus@freeler.nl), or Ankie Bijl (Tel: +31 206957543, e-mail anki@bijl25.myweb.nl).

THE MAORI HAKA POI

In her interesting article on Maori Cultural Shows in New Zealand (in March SIFD NEWS), Jill Bransby notes in reference to the POI, "that the women had now incorporated the movements in their songs". Though she may not have meant it so literally, the qualifying adverb "now" suggests that the introduction of the POI was relatively recent. There is indeed some debate on when it was introduced into the women's HAKA but it was certainly over 100 years ago.

In an in-depth study of the accounts dating from the 1700s (when Cook explored the Islands), Youngerman (1974) notes of the HAKA POI:

- 1) "Supposedly dates from pre-European times, but there is no reference to it in the earliest literature".
- 2) Other N.Z. Haka types have counterparts in other areas of Polynesia, but the HAKA POI is unique to N.Z.
- 3) The HAKA POI that is performed today derives from a style that evolved as part of a religious movement in the 1880s and 1890s. Unfortunately Youngerman does not expand on this, but perhaps her references do.
- 4) The HAKA was accompanied by a rhythmic chant in pre-European times (? cf. Note 1).

Youngerman also notes that "It is believed that the long Poi was the original form, but because only the high-ranking girls were permitted to dance with it the lower classes invented the short Poi". This may or may not be true, but I have seen sitting HAKA POI with the girls quite close together when surely the long poi would have been impractical!

REFERENCE: Youngerman (1974) ETHNOMUSICOLOGY, Jan.1974, Vol.18, No.1, pp.75-100. This paper includes some 80 references.

G.D.TOWNER

Some S.I.F.D. members may remember the very enjoyable and hilarious day course we had at Cecil Sharp House when we were lucky enough to have a teacher from New Zealand to teach us Maori stick dances and dances with both long and short pois. We had accurate instructions on how to make the pois at home to bring with us for the day course (large balls of white cotton wool sewn or wrapped in polythene and attached to long strings and short strings). The dexterity of the poi dancers eluded most of us but we had great fun, having a go and endeavouring not to get too tangled up with the person next to us when dancing, swinging the pois and singing all at the same time. We were also shown how to perform the Haka chant (with appropriate gestures) that rugby fans will have seen. A memorable day!

LILY AVERY

S.I.F.D. PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS' ASSESSMENT

Of the seventeen candidates who attended the course, twelve have put themselves forward for assessment (six on 14th June and six on 6th July). They have been very committed and have made a considerable effort to attend the sessions we have organized in spite of travelling long distances in many cases. I am optimistic that we have some potential teachers for the Society among them.

The panel on each occasion will consist of an external assessor (and Diana Campbell-Jewitt who is a member of the EFDSS education department has agreed to join us in this capacity), a member of the course organizers who has observed the candidates during the course, and a respected member of the Society who is knowledgeable of the varied styles of international folk dancing and the skills required to teach it.

The following is a résumé which has been given to the candidates of the practical requirements and advice on what the assessors will be looking for.

JANET WOOLBAR



Material to be provided before the assessment:

- A list of 100 dances they are prepared to teach.
- A programme for one term (ten weeks) for a class (ability and make-up specified)
- A detailed plan for a single lesson.
- Notes on the dances in the term's programme, including:-
 - Dance instructions
 - Background to the dances
 - Sources where possible
 - Structure of the music
- Reference should be made to anticipated problems.
- A list of relevant courses attended during the past few years, including tutors.

On the day of the assessment:

To teach three dances (or parts thereof) from a short list of ten from their list of 100 dances. The short list will be revealed to the candidates in advance and the dances to be taught will be announced by the examiners on the day. Time will be given for preparation and the candidates will have access to their notes. Candidates will be required to bring music for their short list dances on the day.

To write notes for one dance from their list, to be announced on the day.

A discussion of the lesson with the examiners.



Points for consideration of examiners when assessing candidates:

- Correct use of terminology
- Use of helpful texts and changing them as appropriate

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Correct use and timing of commands.
Choice of position in relation to group, and changing position.
Voice: volume, clarity and intonation.
Registering and correcting mistakes.
Encouraging and praising the dancers.
Presenting the dance.
Communicating the appropriate style/quality.
Flexible use of teaching methods.
Relating music to the dance.
Communication with the group.
Creating a good atmosphere.
Stimulating the dancers.

Evaluating the candidates' dance skills:

Dynamics
Co-ordination
Concentration
Posture
Phrasing
Presentation
Rhythm
Style



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.



S.I.F.D. TEACHERS' ASSESSMENT

This event will take the place of the regular S.I.F.D. day course in June.

Date: Saturday, 14th June 2003

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

Cost: £3.00

This will be a good opportunity -

to meet the prospective new teachers
to learn some new dances
to enjoy a day of dancing at a bargain price
to help the Society

The date of the second assessment will be 6th July, when volunteers will also be required. This assessment will be at St.Saviour's Priory in Hackney. Details of how to get there will be given in next month's SIFD NEWS.

JANET WOOLBAR



10TH SPRING CELEBRATION OF DANCES AT FRESHWATER BAY ISLE OF WIGHT. We were fortunate to attend this event on the weekend of 21st-23rd March, to enjoy the beautiful weather, panoramic views from the venue at Freshwater House (Holiday Fellowship), and a wide range of International Folk Dances ably taught by Bob Neal.

On arrival on the Friday, there was a welcoming tea followed by a short introduction to the dances and in the evening a social dance until late.

Saturday was busy with teaching sessions morning and afternoon and a social dance in the evening, including a selection of favourites from previous years. The highlight of the day was a surprise tea party with birthday cake and a special presentation to Pamela Le Goaziou who has organized this event for the past ten years. Pamela had put her special touch on the dance room by decorating it most beautifully with flowers from her garden. There was a small present for everybody as well, bead bracelets made especially by Mary.

Sunday brought two more teaching sessions, morning and afternoon, and all too soon it was time for us all to make our separate ways home.

A most enjoyable weekend. Our thanks are due to Bob for the interesting dances and excellent teaching, and to Pamela for the exemplary organization.

SAM and MARGARET BAYLISS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 7th GREEK DAY COURSE with Maggie O'Regan at 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 Street, 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.

S.I. June 8th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH COTSWOLDS DANCE SAFARI. Starting at 11.00 a.m. at Moreton-in-Marsh in the main street parking area. Moving on soon after 12.00 to Swalcliffe, on the B4035 between Shipston-on-Stour and Banbury. Lunch in the village hall followed by dancing in the afternoon at Swalcliffe Barn. Further information from Maggie Kaye on 0121 608 1437.

S.I. June 13th SCANDINAVIAN DANCES with Kerry Fletcher at Rainmakers. 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. At the Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. £2.50. Details from Jill Bransby on 01462 457791.

S.I. June 14th S.I.F.D. TEACHERS' ASSESSMENT DAY. See pp. 8 - 10.

June 28th/29th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. See p.12.

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 on 01323 503991.

S.I. July 6th S.I.F.D. TEACHERS' ASSESSMENT DAY. See pp. 8 & 9.

July 7th(8th)/13th LL'ANGOLLEN 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 bookings contact Israel Folk Dance Institute, 741 High Road, London N12 0BQ. Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 8446 6427 or +44 (0)20 8445 6765.

Aug.2nd/9th ANGLIO 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, Pulborough, 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.

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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.

Nov.7th/9th MACEDONIAN DANCE COURSE at Whitby. See below.

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MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Bad News - Good News.

The bad news is that our Belgian group has backed out due to injury to one of their leading dancers. The good news is that we are in contact with a Ukrainian group and a Peruvian from Germany, both of whom are very interested in coming but neither has made a firm commitment. We will invite only one and I hope it will be the Ukrainians, who look excellent.

I hope our leaflet is included with this issue of SIFD NEWS. Neither of the above groups is mentioned. No problem with the Romanian Transylvanian group "Pipacsok". If we do not get a replacement for the Belgians, there will be two workshops by "Pipacsok" on the Saturday.

We hope to see lots of you at the festival. If this year is a success we will grow it year on year to become a major S.I.F.D. annual event.

DON ALLISON

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MACEDONIAN DANCE COURSE WITH PAUL MULDER'S AT WHITBY

7TH TO 9TH NOVEMBER 2003

Balkan dancers will be pleased to hear that Paul Mulders from Holland will be back to teach us some dances from his extensive repertoire. During the '80s he often assisted Pece so some of his dances are from Pece's research. He also spent a lot of time with village people, which is the source of the other dances in his programme. Both his teaching and his choice of dances have proved very popular over the years.

This residential weekend at the HF guest house on the outskirts of Whitby includes comfortable en-suite accommodation and full board, with a plentiful choice of good food. Dancers can select either the General or Advanced course, or both courses, and there will be social dancing in the evenings. There is plenty of opportunity for walking and sightseeing in the area. Non-dancing friends and family are welcome and can enjoy the facilities of the house, which include comfortable lounges, bar, snooker/pool table, table tennis, putting and croquet.

Full board accommodation is £107 and each course is £18. For full details and booking form, please send s.a.e. to me at 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

CATHY MEUNIER

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

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

June 1st (in Trefusis) M.C.: George Sweetland

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

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WHAT'S ON IN MAY

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, Tel: No.01792 295194 (work), 403153 (home). Cost: £138 (inclusive) for three days.

May 2nd/5th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL.

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

S.I. May 10th BALKANPLUS. See p.5.

May 10th BOWS AND BELLOWES. Sally Davies and Martina Schwartz play Balkan, French, Klezmer and other music. 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). £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 17th THE AKHTAMAR ARMENIAN PERFORMANCE GROUP presents an evening of Armenian Dance and Music at the Logan Hall, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London W.C.1 at 7.30 p.m. Nearest Underground: Russell Square. Tickets: £10, £15, £20. For information, contact Dalila Heath on 01707 642774.

May 23rd X-BLOC REUNION at the Barbican. See p.6.

May 24th/25th SERBIAN DAY COURSE in Manchester. See p.9.

May 29th X-BLOC REUNION at the Barbican. See p.6.

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Were you fooled by the "poisson d'avril" last month?