

# SIED NEWS



October 2003

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: [www.sifd.org](http://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 dancers, was produced by Simon Guest  
from a photograph he took at the Confolens Dance Festival.

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REMINDER: This will be the last copy of SIFD NEWS you will receive if you  
have not renewed your membership.

## Cultural redistribution ...

Jan Mulreany

For those of us who go to Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival every year, there's one aspect which has become even more of a grand institution than Cloudburst playing on a Saturday night ... the SIFD Shop!

Costumes, cards, red and white hankies, bells, belts, SIFD t-shirts (lovely new colours!) and "ethnic artefacts", sold to us through the art of gentle persuasion (".. of course the crotch is meant to be at calf level..") perfected over the years by Claire and Geoff Steeley.

They collect year-round – boot sales, trips abroad, oxfam shops and the like. People give them things to sell at the Festival on their behalf, but many items are just donated as attics get cleared out: stacks of postcards, EPs from Croatian holidays, those valuable little dance books with the cultural notes and coloured drawings. Claire recycles cards and posters, finding a perfect cameo in what might have been a tatty bit of flyposting from a French village, framing and mounting it. This year I saw whole outfits being traded, and then worn on the dance floor, authentic and stylish bodily interpretations from what moments before had been two-dimensional sales items. (see the photo!)

But what can't be priced is the human touch... stalwarts of countless EIFFs, they have become more than mere vendors, they know about the socks, they picked up that poster themselves in Txxxxxx, and yes, Marina will be absolutely delighted that you are buying her antique skirt from Sofia (for a snip!).



*Claire persuading Peter Bransby that he is doing the right thing...*

Occasionally we see Claire dancing, so she does get a break from being behind the trestle tables, but is always back at her post, supported by Geoff, as soon as there's the chance for an *afficionado* to seek out that essential Bulgarian cushion-cover (you realise I'm talking about my own purchase here!)

They will hold onto something for you (as our purses are locked away just in case we are tempted), they will match an item, they will give you a different interpretation of the use of that painted wooden noisy thing, and you will be enchanted with your souvenir of our part of the Festival.

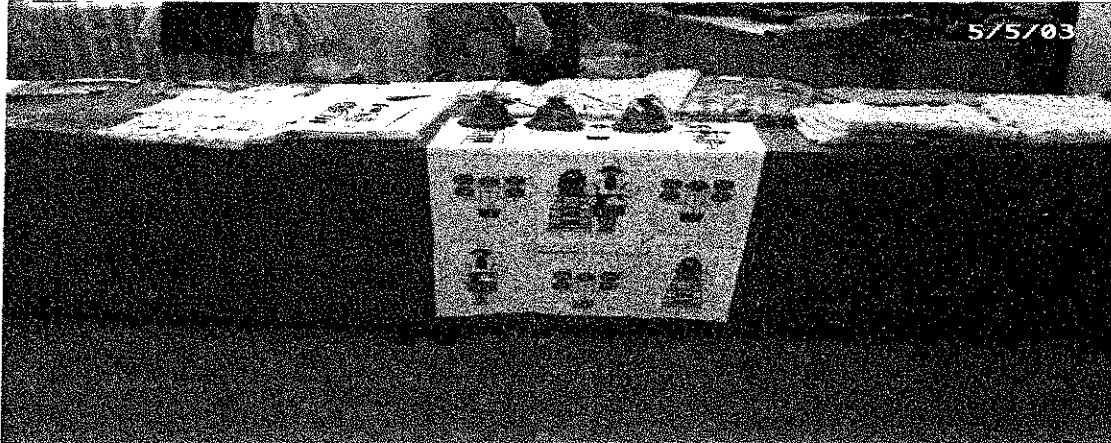
*This year's stall-full of authentic SIFD merchandise...*



Contd...

So thanks Claire & Geoff, for contributing to SIFD in the way you do, conserving items of heritage and bric-a-brac alike.

*We couldn't buy it without you!*



This year we discussed the idea of displaying and labelling items, and Claire & Geoff said they would love to present information alongside the item so that people know what they are buying.

**So for next year...**

I'm writing this – in plenty of time for next May Bank Holiday – to ask “*what have you got in your attic?*” One thing that can make life a little stressful for them is when we just turn up with something for them to sell, either for us (with commission to SIFD of course), or as donations, to add to their stock. They would love to know, in advance, what people might want to bring, how much you want to charge for it, and what they can tell prospective purchasers about the item. Is there any way you can let them know what you might bring? Send them a picture, or a description, and come to an arrangement about the cost, etc? Maybe you could prepare a little note about the item, especially things like where you got it from (and just *whose* mother's mother's aunt made it?) – Romanian corn dolly or a full costume from Crete, it would be great for them to know it's turning up! And in good condition please, ready to sell.

Claire & Geoff's contact details are 01462 686419... give them a ring and tell them what you would like to trade, and make plans with them before bringing it to the Festival. They would like to hear from you, too, if you aren't able to come (sadly), but want to sell or donate something for SIFD coffers. I'll be there, I'm sure, waiting while they unpack your treasure onto their table, with purse panting!

Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival runs Friday 30 April to Monday 3 May 2004. [www.eiff.org.uk](http://www.eiff.org.uk). Look out for the leaflet in January's SIFD News.

Photographs by Jan Mulreany 2003

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Ed.Note: I have long regretted not buying more than one of Lucile Armstrong's charming paintings of folk dancers in costume when I had the chance and was therefore delighted to find one, ready framed, for sale at this year's SIFD Shop, so thanks to whoever brought it in. (Incidentally, copies of Lucile's paintings are displayed in many Spanish paradors. I found 18 of them on the walls of one parador).

DANCE AROUND THE WORLD IS COMING! On the weekend of 18th and 19th October, Cecil Sharp House will again be full of a festival celebration of traditional dance. Many S.I.F.D. groups will be taking part in the programme of all-day performances and workshops. Both days are crammed full of a dizzying variety of dance styles. All the performing groups give workshops too.

On the Saturday evening, "Florida" ceilidh band will be playing for a Dance. Sunday evening ends with the spectacular Latin-American finale.

Another amazing thing about the festival weekend is the price. At £5.00 per day, £8.00 for Saturday evening, or £14.00 for a season ticket, "Dance Around The World" is one of the best value festivals of the year. We're looking forward to seeing all our S.I.F.D. friends there.

ANNE LEACH

On Saturday, the programme will begin at 11.00 a.m. and finish about 6.30 p.m. The evening Dance will begin at 8.00 p.m. On Sunday, the programme will be from 11.00 a.m. to about 7.30 p.m. Ed.



#### NEW DANCE GROUP IN BRIGHTON

David Mowat would like to put on record his thanks to the Oxford International Folkdance Group, which he led from 1987 to 2003 and which, owing to a loyal membership and inputs from many different sources, has achieved over the years a unique and fascinating repertoire.

David has now moved to Sussex and intends to run weekly sessions of (mostly) Balkan dancing at the Hanover Community Centre, Brighton, on Friday evenings. Interested dancers may reach him by telephone on 01273 220177 or by e-mail at mowat@fish.co.uk



#### E-MAIL

Pauline Welch says that she doesn't often get around to writing to people, or telephoning, but prefers to make contact by e-mail and wonders whether other members feel the same. If so, would any like-minded member care to list members' e-mail addresses and set up a means of contact for members to chat to each other. Contact Pauline at 15 Boleyn Avenue, East Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2QH, or telephone 020 8393 1919. (I haven't got her e-mail address! Ed.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I have an instruction book, with music, for playing the santoor (see Jill Bransby's article in last month's SIFD NEWS). The book is written in Farsi (Persian) although the tunes are in standard musical notation. There are diagrams of the stringing.

The book is offered, free, to the first sender of a large s.a.e. but please 'phone first on 01892 833025 and leave your name and number on the answerphone.

What happened to the santoor? It is possible, although unlikely, that it is still amongst the clutter in my loft. If anyone would like to rummage, please 'phone as above.

Yours sincerely,

ARLENE HANSELL  
16 Allington Road, Paddock Wood  
Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6AN

P.S.

A totally unconnected but interesting item of folkdance trivia is that Terry Nation, the first scriptwriter of the "Dr. Who" series, based the Daleks on the women dancers of the Georgian State Dance Ensemble. He, like so many of us who saw that first visit to the Royal Albert Hall, was fascinated by the way the women glided, as if on wheels.

Source: a radio 4 programme earlier this year.

A.H.

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BALKANPLUS

In an effort to match the brilliant evening with Maddy Chapman and John Riley in September, we have one of our Multi-M.C. nights on 11th October at Cecil Sharp House, when we aim to satisfy every taste.

With the "Dance Around The World" weekend at Cecil Sharp House just a week off (see p.5), the doors will be open at 6.00 p.m. on the 11th for a run-through of the dances that Balkanplus dancers will perform the following Saturday. If you are familiar with just two or three of the dances (Gorbetshiiska, Schioapa, Topchijska Raka, Nevestinsko and Trakijska Nastroenie), I would be happy to consider you for the "team". Alternatively, just come along early for a chance to pick up the steps of this particularly exciting set of dances.

The cost remains at £4.00 for the whole evening in Trefusis (downstairs), with the general Balkanplus programme being between 7.00 and 10.30 p.m. as usual.

Please note that next month Balkanplus will meet on the third Saturday - 15th November.

BRIAN DOWSETT

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Nov.1st/2nd Back by popular demand! SERBIAN DANCE COURSE in Manchester with Vladimir Tanasijevic and Sasha Smerkic. £35.00. Contact: Helen Clancy, 18 Aylesbury Court, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0US. Tel: 0161 881 0442.

Nov.7th/9th RESIDENTIAL MACEDONIAN COURSE with Paul Mulders at Whitby. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board, General or Advanced course, or both. Excellent area for walking/sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board and accommodation £107. Each course £18. Details/booking forms from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. (s.a.e. please).

Nov.15th SIFD DAY COURSE with Maggie O'Regan. See p.8.

S.I. Nov.15th BALKANPLUS.

Nov.21st/23rd RUSSIAN & UKRAINIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Hennie Konings at Chisenhale Dance Space, East London. Details from Janet Wilks, Creative Energy Circles, 138B Portobello Rd., London W11 2DZ. Tel: 020 7229 9387. £45 for the weekend.

Nov.22nd BRISTOL, 2.00-9.00 p.m. BALKAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Brian Dowsett followed by a meal (please bring food to share) and dancing to live music by Dunav. St.Ursula's School, Brecon Rd., Henleaze, Bristol. £7.00 (£5 for SIFD members). To reserve a place please send cheque made out to BIFD to K.Green, 64 Coronation Rd., Downend, Bristol BS16 5SL. For further details, 'phone Pat Skinner on 0117 9672493.

S.I. Nov.29th SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ADVENT PARTY, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Rd (B4102), Solihull (corner of Station Approach, by 'bus and train stations). M.C. Maggie Kaye. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper. Further information from Maggie on 0121 608 1437.

Dec.6th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY, 7.00-10.30 p.m. at Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, Old Street, London E.C.1. Nearest Underground Station: Old Street. Dances from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia; also from Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY, £6 including refreshments, 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.7th S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Cecil Sharp House.

S.I. Dec.7th THE LAST ISRAELI DANCE PARTY WITH ANAT. Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. £12.00 (concessions £7.00). Shared vegetarian lunch. 'Phone in advance to request your favourite dance. For bookings/information/map, 'phone Rowena Martin on 01323 503991.

S.I. Dec.19th/21st SIFD WALKING/DANCING WEEKEND at Dunford, Midhurst. For details & bookings contact Mrs. Dot Bradbury, 32 Aylward Road, Merton Park, London SW20 9AF. Tel: 020 8540 3464.

S.I. Dec.31st SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY, 8.00-12.15 at Downing Hall, Knowle. M.C.: Grace Pittman. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper. Further information from Maggie Kaye on 0121 608 1437.

Feb.21st/22nd MACEDONIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Ibrahim Rizevski at Bognor Regis. £32. Saturday evening supper and singing with Claudia £12. Details from Janet Douglas (address and telephone number on p.2).

S.I. Mar.20th/21st BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND with Nina Kavardjikova at Chorlton Manchester and Calver Derbyshire. £20 (£12 for one day). Further information from Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspull, near Wigan WN2 1EF. Tel: 01942 831141.

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE

Date: Saturday, 15th November

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

Tutor: Maggie O'Regan (see below)

PAM RADFORD

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AROUND THE WORLD IN 8(0) DANCES - SIFD DAY COURSE ON 15TH NOVEMBER (See above)

As those who know me well will testify, I'm always jetting off to exotic places(?) - Holland, Billingham - to deepen my understanding of folk dance (I have to justify it somehow). I once foolishly remarked that, in the course of these jaunts, I have learnt some interesting dances that I've never had the chance to do again. Keen ears overheard and I've been prevailed upon to unleash some of these upon an unsuspecting public. Many are from areas way outside my usual repertoire so I can't promise any revealing cultural insights. I'll give a list in next month's SIFD NEWS of my final(ish) choice but the short list includes dances from (in alphabetical order):- Armenia, Chile, Czech Republic, Greece, Hawaii, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romanian, Russia, Slovenia and Spain.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

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SERBIAN COSTUMES

Ibrahim Rizevski encourages some Serbian craftswomen by marketing for them without charge the following items.

Serbian lady's bodice (black, red or green velvet with gold embroidery)	£66
Serbian lady's skirt (pleated) .. .. .	£63
Serbian lady's blouse (coloured embroidery on white cotton) .. .. .	£32
Serbian lady's apron (black, red or green velvet with coloured embroidery)	£27
Serbian lady's socks (embroidered) .. .. .	£14
Serbian lady's belt .. .. .	£10
Serbian or Macedonian shoes .. .. .	£28

You can contact Ibrahim by e-mail [i\\_rizevski@hotmail.com](mailto:i_rizevski@hotmail.com) or write to Bahnhofstr.2 8700, Kussnacht, Switzerland. He is coming to Bognor Regis in February (you may remember him from Eastbourne Festival this year) and that could be a good delivery date.

JANET DOUGLAS



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Genre: Gypsy



**Theodosii Spassov**  
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Price £11.99  
Genre: Bulgarian



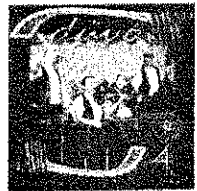
**Ferus Mustafov**  
'Ferus the King'  
(CD0081)  
Price £11.99  
Genre: Yugoslavian



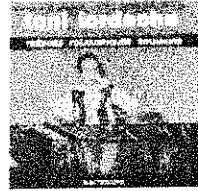
**Kálmán Balogh and the Gipsy Cimbalom Band**  
'Aroma'  
(FECD007)  
Price £11.99  
Genre: Gypsy



**Benone Damian**  
'A Virtuoso of the Violin'  
(EDC224)  
Price £10.00  
Genre: Romanian



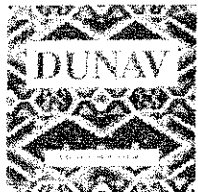
**Dűvő**  
'4 - Hungarian Village Music'  
(BGCD 084)  
Price £11.99  
Genre: Hungarian



**Toni Iordache**  
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[www.passion-music.co.uk](http://www.passion-music.co.uk) and [www.passiondiscs.com](http://www.passiondiscs.com)

Alternatively, contact us for a copy of our current catalogue, recommendations, and details of our 10% discount offer for SIFD members.

**Passion-Music, 37 Red Lion Lane, Overton RG25 3HH Hants UK Tel 01256 770747**

## FOLKDANCE CRUISES

Mel Mann, a folk dancer who lives in California, organizes folkdance cruise trips and has done, very successfully, for twenty years. His next three trips will be:-

8th December 2003. Sailing from Los Angeles and San Diego, stopping in Ensenada before going to Hawaii. Sailing around the Hawaiian Islands, stopping each day in a different Hawaiian port, returning to Los Angeles on 22nd December. New, fast, 800-passenger Greek ship.

Jan.2004 Sailing out of New Orleans up the Mississippi River for six days.

July 2004 Trip on the lower Danube, sailing from Black Sea up to Budapest, visiting Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia. Brand new 138-passenger river boat.

All three trips have known folkdance teachers leading folkdance sessions.

Details on [www.FolkDanceOnTheWater.org](http://www.FolkDanceOnTheWater.org)

Ed.note: I don't usually have space to advertise such trips as they will be of interest to only a few, if any, of our members but on this occasion Mel Mann, who is known to some of us, has specifically asked if we could "spread the word".



## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The Biniou is a species 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, 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 festivals, wedding feasts and threshing dances.

Acknowledgement to "The Folk Dancer"



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

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

Oct.5th M.C.s: Woodvale I.F.D.G.

Nov.2nd M.C.s: Phil and Brenda Steventon, Merton Park I.F.D.G.

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



#### WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

- S.I. Oct.10th/12th LES PANARDS DANSANTS present a TRADITIONAL BRETON AND FRENCH MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL with Krampouezh Lipous, Gars du Nord and Solenn Boennec at Westfield Lodge, Moorside Lane, Oxenhope, near Haworth. Friday night Bal; Saturday dance and music workshops; Saturday night Fest-Noz; Sunday workshops and mini-Bal. Early booking (before 3rd October) full weekend ticket £68 (£53 concessions) includes accommodation in bunk barn; food to purchase separately on site. Details and booking forms available on LPD website or telephone 01943 463804 or 01274 833473. [www.frenchdanceleeds.co.uk](http://www.frenchdanceleeds.co.uk)
- S.I. Oct.11th BALKANPLUS. See p.6.
- Oct.11th KALINKA VULCHEVA (formerly a soloist with the Bulgarian group "Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares") and MARTIN JENKINS (English guitarist), 8.15 p.m. at Cellar Upstairs Folk Club, Exmouth Arms, Starcross Street, London N.W.1 (near Euston). Entrance £5 (unwaged £4). Information: 020 7281 7700. Ring at least two days beforehand if you wish to attend (to comply with local laws).
- S.I. Oct.17th RAINMAKERS 27TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE at Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth. 8.00-11.00 p.m. Music by Martin Butler and friends. M.C. Jill Bransby. Tickets £4.00. For details/tickets please contact Richard Thom on 01438 316651.
- Oct.18th/19th "DANCE AROUND THE WORLD" at Cecil Sharp House. See p.5.

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.