

SIFED

NEWS



DECEMBER

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 was drawn by Lesley Boorer and shows the Swedish  
"Santa Lucia" who brings coffee and cakes for breakfast on 13th  
December. The small figure is a Swedish elf called a "Tomte".

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A NOTE OF THANKS

The end of another year and once again my note of sincere thanks to the people  
who help to bring the SIFD NEWS to all our members regularly each month.

Dalila Heath deserves our thanks for the time she gives each month to getting  
the NEWS printed and then folding, packing, stamping and posting it, managing  
to fit this in around her dancing activities and looking after her family and  
all that that entails. Thank you very much, Dalila.

Thanks also to Alan Morton for preparing the address labels and making sure  
that they are kept up to date, and to Michael and Edwina Holdup who take over  
from there and stick the labels on the envelopes and make sure that Dalila  
has them in time. All these people have other commitments and busy lives but  
devote much of their time each month to the jobs that make them part of the  
SIFD NEWS team. I am very grateful for their help.

My thanks too to those people who help to fill the pages by sending in articles,  
covers, letters etc. Keep them coming.

LILY AVERY

## Eastbourne 2004

We are almost ready for the next Folkdance Festival at Eastbourne. The building work that was still in progress last year is now finished; we have more space and consequently more choice of workshops.

There are some changes to the International side of the Festival. First, a friendly welcoming Friday Fest Noz with **Yves Leblanc** and **Henry James**. They will also offer Breton and Welsh workshops during the weekend, and for the musicians – an opportunity with the Binou/bagpipe.

Then just check out the challenging choices on offer on the International programme alone! **Paja and Madelon Milic** will offer a mixture of dances from ex-Yugoslavia, with a user friendly workshop, and for those of you who want to be stretched, a leg tangling one (or two).

At the same time there will always be the chance to dance 'something completely different'. **Francis Feybli** will bring you dances from – everywhere – perhaps some from Mexico. He also will undertake to make at least one workshop accessible for the less experienced, with another of more intricate dances for those who enjoy a challenge.

Next, not all of the workshops will be in the Gym, so be prepared to tread new ground; Saturday afternoon in the gym sets the scene for the tripledecker maypole extravaganza, to follow the International programme you will need to venture upstairs. **Mayala Bracha** returns with more Indian Kathac, and she will bring **Hetel Gokal** to give us a session of Bhangra (Johnnie Vaughan is a devotee, so Bhangra may be the newest dance crazes). They are part of the group **Abhi**, who will be entertaining everyone and hosting the Meet the Team session.

**Leslie Haddon** and **Sue Chipp** will give you a Hungarian workshop and also the chance to make up a quick demo for 'the other side'. This is for Saturday evening, when we have our International Costume Dance with music from **Cloudburst** and **mystery MC**.

**Dunav** will play for the Balkan party on Sunday evening with **Frances Horrocks** setting the pace and leading the (Balkan) fashion. During the evening there will be another chance for you to see the girls from Abhi, if your earlier choices clashed.

Finally, a word about Monday for those who love to linger to the last. We shall link up with the rest of the Festival upstairs in the Main Hall – after our own very traditional poster dance - for an intense and international finale.

See you there.... 30<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May.



N.E.F.F.A. is the New England Folk Festival Association, based in the Boston area Massachusetts, U.S.A. Every year, for the past fifty-nine years without a break, they have held a weekend folk festival, currently in a large high school in Natick, seventeen miles West of the Boston city centre, during the Spring school break. Next year, 2004, will be the sixtieth event and takes place from 23rd to 25th April.

I have lived and danced in the U.S. for over thirty years and have been going to N.E.F.F.A. for most of that time. It is a blast; to my mind the most exciting, the most enjoyable, and certainly the cheapest folk festival I have ever attended. Now that I am back in England I still intend to go to N.E.F.F.A. for as long as my feet will let me and the purpose of this brief note is to convey some preliminary information about the event and to see if there is enough interest to justify organising a group to attend. Of course, anyone is welcome to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements but there are some advantages to group travel, in particular transport from the airport to the hotel and from the hotel to the festival site, the Natick High School, for the three days of the event.

Every conceivable kind of folk dance and song is represented. Last year I counted three dozen Morris, garland, longsword and rapper sword teams alone. International, my own particular interest, is very well represented and there were a number of astonishingly good folk bands that play live for dancing. Contrabasses are indigenous to New England and literally hundreds of couples swinging to live music in the main hall is a sight to behold! The relationship of American contrabasses to English country dances is clear to see. There are workshops for all levels of competence including family-oriented events and a large number of performances just for watching in the auditorium and the main hall. Activities are going on simultaneously in a dozen halls, gyms, auditoria and classrooms, and musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments because there's a great deal of ad-lib jamming going on in the corridors and around every corner. There are displays and demonstrations by various craftspeople and an activity room for the youngsters. (Children are encouraged and there are youngsters attending N.E.F.F.A. now who are the grandchildren of the people who attended the earliest N.E.F.F.A.s). There are a dozen ethnic food booths in an enormous cafeteria the size of a Lyons Corner House (if anyone remembers them!). Personally, I always make straight for the Scottish booth and pig out on tea and home-made shortbread cookies - but that's just a personal preference.

The whole festival is run by volunteers, and all the performers, teachers and leaders donate their services free, which is why the festival is so cheap. The activities run from 6.00 p.m. on Friday through to 5.30 p.m. on Sunday, and the 2003 prices were:- adults £30, seniors £22, teens £16, children £10. 2004 prices will be posted on the N.E.F.F.A. website in December and may be a tad higher. If you wish to volunteer four hours of your time, you get a free ride. Cafeteria duties, ticket sales, membership, hospitality suite, instrument check-in, security and sound equipment set-up are some of the volunteer opportunities available. Accommodation is extra. There are several hotels in the area but none near enough to walk to and there is no public transport to speak of. There's plenty of parking for people driving cars, and continuous free shuttle 'buses running to remote parking lots. Also, many local dancers will provide accommodation in their own homes for out-of-towners.

The organisers have sent me some programme booklets from previous years, and I'd be happy to forward them to anyone who is interested. You can reach me at 78 Fengate Mobile Home Park, Peterborough PE1 5XE. Tel: 01733 348880. E-mail [cyril\\_fleisher@yahoo.com](mailto:cyril_fleisher@yahoo.com) Please indicate if you would be interested in the idea of going in a group. You can reach N.E.F.F.A. at PMB 282, 1770 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140 U.S.A. Tel: 001-781-662-6710. Fax: 001-781-662-

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I. Jan.10th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE. See p.5.

S.I. Jan.10th BALKANPLUS.

Jan.24th CROXLEY GREEN INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE PARTY, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at St.Oswald's Church Hall, Malvern Way, Croxley Green, Herts. £3.00 including refreshments. Pay at the door. Come and join us, in costume if you have one. Enquiries: 01923 228080.

S.I. Feb.14th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

Feb.21st/22nd MACEDONIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Ibrahim Rizevski at Bognor Regis. £32.00. Details from Janet Douglas (address and telephone number on p.2).

S.I. Mar.13th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

Mar.19th/21st RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND WITH BOB NEAL at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. All inclusive cost for the weekend: £126 for en-suite, £116 for room with wash-basin. Further details from Pamela Le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Bedhampton, Hants. PO9 3QA. Tel: 023 9264 1028. £30 deposit secures place, s.a.e. please.

S.I. Mar.20th/21st BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND with Nina Kavardjikova at Chorlton Manchester and Calver Derbyshire. £20.00 (£12.00 for one day). Further information from Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspull, near Wigan WN2 1EF. Tel: 01942 831141.

Mar.27th/28th YUGOSLAV COURSE with Paja and Madelon Milic at Manchester (Barlow R.C. High School, Parswood Road, Didsbury). £32.00. Contact: Theresa Hartt, 23 Brassington Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 3PN. Tel: 0161 432 6748. Map and accommodation list available, if required.

Apr.23rd/25th MAINLY BALKAN & ISRAELI DANCE COURSE with Fiona Howarth and Frank Dowling at Alnmouth, Northumberland. Delightful location for walking, sight-seeing and seabird watching. Choice of single course or both courses including additional tuition and social dancing in the evenings. Full board and accommodation £106.00, single course £15.00, both courses £24.00. For full details and a booking form, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Apr.30th/May 3rd SIFD DANCING & WALKING WEEKEND at Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, West Somerset. For details and bookings contact Gordon Adie, 14 Adelaide Terrace, Truro TR1 3EJ. Tel: 01872 276511, or Jack Richardson, 34 Mayals Avenue, Swansea SA3 5DB. Tel: 01792 403153 (home), 01792 295194 (work).

Apr.30th/May 3rd EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL. See p.3.

S.I. May 8th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

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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.

## DANCING IN THE U.S.A.

One of the delights of holidaying in the United States is seeking out and dancing with the many International Folkdance Groups that there are around. We have paid two visits to Arizona in the last two years and despite the fact that we have avoided the two major conurbations (Phoenix and Tucson) we have still found three International Folkdance Groups.

In February of last year, we made a circuit of the Southern half of Arizona and while staying in the small town of Green Valley (about 25 miles South of Tucson) found a very friendly group who meet at the Madera Vista Recreation Centre every Wednesday from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m. Their leader is Ellen Templar, and their repertoire is almost exclusively Balkan and Israeli (most of which we knew), although they did dance "La Bastrang" (sic). It might have been because they had not seen a man at the dance for months and the chance of a male partner in the swing was too good to miss.

The second group that we found was in the town of Bisbee, very close to the Mexican border. Surprisingly, this was a very small group despite the fact that Bisbee has a very "arty" reputation and their leader, Steve Sclaro, is a very good and knowledgeable leader. They meet on Mondays, 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. but their venue has changed several times over the last few years so it would be best to 'phone Steve (520 432-7770) if you wanted to meet up with them.

This year we toured Northern Arizona and in the pleasant town of Prescott, about 120 miles North of Phoenix, we found our third group, Prescott International Dancers, who meet at the Mile High (yes, it is!) Middle School on the corner of Carlton Street and Montezuma Street, Prescott, from 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Their leaders are Sue Steger and Russ Briggs, and the repertoire mainly Balkan and Israeli. The first half of the evening is devoted to teaching and the second half to requests. The evening that we were there, dances ranged from Mayim Mayim to Bulgarian Krico.

There are many other folkdance groups of all types in Arizona, particularly in the huge conurbations and they are listed on the internet at [www.folkdancing.org/arizona](http://www.folkdancing.org/arizona) Be warned - the list is 23 pages long!

PEGGY & ROY (OSCAR) HAYCOCK

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BALKANPLUS, 13th December, 7.00-10.30 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. £5.00. M.C. Frances Horrocks. Music with "Vuhpross". As this is the last dance before Christmas, please come dressed in a festive mood - e.g. fancy hats, tinsel (in appropriate places), flashing lights, a sprig of holly etc. A spare belt would also be useful, as would a pen or pencil for the special Christmas Quiz - no prizes, I'm afraid, just for fun.

Special guests for the evening will be "Vuhpross", making a rare appearance and playing many of your old favourites. Listen out also for the "right dance wrong tune" part. Those of you who have danced Setnja to the Lambeth Walk in the past will know what I mean. Come along, bring a friend or two and join in the fun.

The next Balkanplus dance will be on 10th January.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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

Dec.7th M.C.s: Jill Bransby and Rainmakers

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



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- 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 £6.00 including refreshments, from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 020 8592 4427. Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group. (s.a.e. please).
- Dec.7th S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 4.00 p.m. 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.12th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY. The legendary intoxicating mix of dance, cabaret and Christmas fare. Music by the ever-evolving Dunav Balkan Group. £5.00. 8.00 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Further details from Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717.
- S.I. Dec.13th BALKANPLUS. See p.7.
- S.I. Dec.19th S.I.F.D. WALKING/DANCING WEEKEND at Dunford, Midhurst. For details to 21st and bookings contact Mrs. Dot Bradbury, 32 Aylward Road, Merton Park, London SW20 9AF. Tel: 020 8540 3464.
- S.I. Dec.31st S.I.F.D. 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. Costume optional.



All material for the January issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 15th December.

Please note earlier deadline than usual.