

# SIFD NEWS



JANUARY 2004

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: www.sifd.org

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All material for the February issue of SIFD NEWS  
must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17th January.

### Summer Shows - Victoria Embankment Gardens.

For many years Kay Kedge efficiently co-ordinated the SIFD groups' contribution to the entertainment at the open air theatre where they were able to demonstrate to the public the high standard which can be achieved by amateur dancers. Since her tragic death, group leaders have made their own arrangements, but I have now been asked by the Committee to help out by taking up her task and I can only hope that I shall do it half as well.

I hope too, that most groups will be able to appear as in the past, but I do know that some, for a variety of reasons, now cannot do so, but it would be an added attraction if we could have some new groups willing to step into the breach.

I have been in touch with the entertainments officer at Westminster City Hall and was pleased to find he had worked with Kay, which made things easier. I understand the procedure is for the groups who would like to appear to send me a list of several alternative dates, running from late June to the end of August, if possible by the end of February. I will pass them to him at the beginning of March (his date), and he will then fit them into his full schedule. I will then let leaders know the proposed dates and we will go from there. I imagine some fine tuning will be needed but that should be no problem. I know this is early to make a decision, but it does mean a group should get their preferred date, but I expect that late applicants can be fitted in somewhere.

For possible new volunteers, a show runs for a little either side of 105 minutes. Some like to do the show on their own, others have had a musical interlude, (or perhaps a singing one?). Some like to share the time with another dance group, or if they cannot find one, I may be able to help. Since its inception we have always performed free of charge and I think most have found it very worthwhile. I hope to get publicity for the dancers in the SIFD 'News' so members can give them their support, and for the Society and groups at the theatre. If you are interested, please 'phone me on 020 7701 3785.

George Sweetland



BALKANPLUS, 10th January at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. 7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C. Julie Korth. We are absolutely delighted that Julie has agreed to come all the way from Wigan to M.C. our first dance of the New Year. Many of you will know Julie from Eastbourne Festival and will have attended dances she has organized there. She has a vast repertoire and there will be familiar and not so familiar dances that everyone can join in, including some from recent Eastbourne courses. Bring sticks (or tightly rolled-up magazines) for Romanian and Maori items if you have them. Some will be available to borrow. Hope to see all of you there.

The next Balkanplus dance will be on 14th February.

FRANCES HORROCKS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I. Feb.7th RAINMAKERS DAY COURSE with Maggie O'Regan. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Radwell Village Hall, Radwell, Nr.Baldock, Herts. An excellent and varied assortment of dances in a packed day of teaching. £6.00 for the whole day, £4.00 half day. For further information/directions, call Jill Bransby on 01462 457791.
- S.I. Feb.14th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.
- S.I. Feb.14th BALKANPLUS.
- 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. Feb.28th WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH SPRING DAY COURSE of Balkan dancing with Frank Dowling. 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. at St.David's Church Hall, Shenley Green, S.W.Birmingham (on B4121 near A38). SIFD members £7.00 all day, £4.00 half day; non-members £8/£5. Further details from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.
- S.I. Mar.6th FRENCH DAY COURSE with teacher Graham Knapp, who will be teaching a selection of traditional French dances at Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. All day £7.00; one session £4.00. (No times given). More details from Andrea Newbold on 01332 701992.
- 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.
- S.I. Mar.27th WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH SPRING DANCE, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. M.C. Maggie Kaye. Venue to be confirmed. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper.
- 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.
- 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.
- S.I. Apr.23rd/26th GREAT ALNE FOLK WEEKEND near Alcester. Long weekend of International and English folk dancing and music. More details nearer the time, or contact André Hobro on 0121 777 3722.
- 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).

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

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

S.I. June 6th WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH COTSWOLDS DANCE SAFARI at Moreton-in-Marsh and then at Batsford Arboretum. Details later from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.

S.I. June 12th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE.

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.



### THE VIELLE

This month's cover was sent in by Simon Guest and is from a photograph he took at the Confolens Festival. It shows musicians playing the French vielle. From information taken from "Dances of Brittany and Bourbonnais" (Handbooks of European National Dances series), the vielle is an old instrument, mentioned in the tenth century, and it held an important place throughout the Middle Ages. It was neglected during the Renaissance and seventeenth century but came back in favour in the eighteenth, when it appeared at Court. Now it is again a rustic instrument and not only played but made in the Bourbonnais. At the time the article was written there were two celebrated families living near Vichy, fathers and sons, who devoted their lives to the making of vielles.

The vielle is like a deep-bellied viol. The strings are vibrated by a wheel turned by a handle on one side of the instrument. The chanterelles, i.e. the two strings which give the melody, are not played by hand but by keys as on a piano keyboard. Four more strings give the bourdon (drone) and, as a rule, the vielle is tuned to D. This explains why practically all the dance airs are found originally written in that key.

LILY AVERY



### S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE IN JANUARY

Start the year in style and dance off the excesses of the festive season. Join us and learn DANCES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

Date: Saturday, 10th January 2004

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

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

Place: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House,  
2 Regent's Park Road,  
London N.W.1

Tutor: Leslie Haddon

MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL - VIDEO SALES

Following the major problems this year, Milton Keynes International Festival has now closed down. We shall not be running any future festivals. We have a few old videos left and are happy to sell these off at £3.00. Proceeds of the sales, less postage, will be donated to the S.I.F.D. All are sixty minutes long and originally sold at £10+. They are professionally produced high quality videos. We have as follows:-

Four from 1995 with Carnica from Slovakia, Lyulyache from Bulgaria, Ciudad de Oviedo from Spain and Stone Monkey Rapper from England. Plus interviews with dancers and organisers.

Five from 1997 with Clog America from Salt Lake City, Kresela from The Basque Country, Imilonji KatNtu from South Africa and Janavak from India.

Two from 1998 with Vagonar from Slovakia, Zagreb Folk Ensemble from Croatia, Gruppo Folkloristico del Tatarata from Sicily, Sue Cole School of Dance and Milton Keynes Hindu Association.

Three from 2000 with Mamuli Dance Company and Lashari Choir Georgia, Dansgroep Palaina from Holland and Chinese Lion Dance from Leicester Y.M.C.A. Martial Arts Club.

Plus fourteen 7-minute promotional videos with extracts from existing videos plus interviews with local dignitaries. We will charge just £1.00 for these.

Cheques payable to Don Allison please, at 30 St. John Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8HJ. Queries to [donanjill@dallison.fslife.co.uk](mailto:donanjill@dallison.fslife.co.uk) or 01908 610564.

DON ALLISON

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INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL AT CANTONIGROS, CATALONIA, SPAIN  
15TH TO 18TH JULY 2004

The above festival will take place from the morning of 15th July to the evening of 18th July 2004 and, from the publicity leaflet, appears to be run on similar lines to the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen. There are competitions for Mixed, Male, Female and Children's choirs and also for dance groups and folk music during the days and concerts with international choral and dance groups in the evenings.

For information, contact Festival Internacional de Musica de Cantonigros, Valencia 435 1er 1a, 08013 Barcelona, Spain.

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CERTIFICATES FOR CHILDREN

Simon Guest has created three new certificates for use with children. They come in the form of master documents which the teacher can copy and use in the most suitable manner for the class. They look good photocopied on to coloured paper and children certainly do appreciate them (so do the Mums!).

If you have a children's class and would like to use these new SIFD certificates, please contact Simon or me.

JANET DOUGLAS  
(address and telephone number  
on p.2)

Jan.4th M.C.s: The S.I.F.D. Committee

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

The new-look S.I.F.D. Committee will be your M.C.s for the first Sunday dance of 2004, on 4th January. Please wear a costume if you have one, to make an extra special occasion of our new year dance. We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and hope to see you all on 4th January, starting the year dancing!

ANNE LEACH



WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

S.I. Jan.10th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE. See p.6.

S.I. Jan.10th BALKANPLUS. See p.4.

Jan.17th RUSSIAN & ROMANIAN DAY with Paul Boizot, 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. in Sheffield. £7-£20 (sliding scale). Book in advance. Details on [www.paulboizot.co.uk](http://www.paulboizot.co.uk) or 0114 256 1708.

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.



A NOTE FROM THE S.I.F.D. COMMITTEE

At the recent A.G.M. no-one wished to take on the role of Chairperson of the Committee in place of Mike Gilbert. Instead, the members of the Committee have decided to share the responsibilities. Accordingly, on page 2 are contact details for all the Committee members who have agreed to this. Official communications should go to the Secretary, Janet Douglas, but members should feel free to contact any of the Committee members with their bouquets and brickbats.

CASPAR CRONK



SIFD NEWS

What has happened to all my contributors? I only received enough material for eight pages last month, and only seven pages this month, instead of the more usual thirteen. Maybe you have all been too busy writing your Christmas cards, and I shall look forward to receiving a bumper crop of letters, articles, reports, as well as news of events for the next issue. Happy New Year!

L'ILY AVERY, Editor