

SIFD NEWS

MAY 2004



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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The typing was done by Heather Edwards and the printing, packaging and posting
by Dalila Heath.

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This month's cover "Egyptian Dancing at Jacksons Lane Centre, Highgate" was
drawn by Janna Eliot.

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All material for the June issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor,
Lily Avery, IN WRITING by 17th May.

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Secretary's Report to News

At the last AGM there was some discussion about future General Meetings. One of the results is the EGM to be held at Swansea on July 25 during the Summer School week. The committee look forward to receiving contributions and ideas from a much larger assembly of members than is usually seen at an AGM. We will also be issuing an invitation to members from regions outside of London to volunteer to host the 2005 AGM (this must take place in November or December 2005), with perhaps an accompanying event. John Douglas will stand for election as Chairman at the EGM.

The 2004 AGM will be held at 4.30 Nov 20th in Trefusis, at Cecil Sharp House in London. It will follow a Saturday SIFD day course and we hope this will tempt more members to attend.

In the first part of this year we have been looking at setting up an underwriting policy that benefits both the Society as a whole as well as groups seeking to hold events. The Teachers List is being restructured to distinguish between different categories of teachers, and a system introduced that will keep the list current and up to date. We hope to be able to report a successful outcome from our negotiations with the Charity Commission with regard to the remuneration of Trustees in the not too distant future.

Regretfully, we must announce that Simon Guest has resigned as Minutes Secretary. He has performed this not always easy task for eight years. All the members of the committee will miss him and wish to thank him for his valued service (and would be delighted if he reconsidered).

JANET DOUGLAS

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S.I.F.D. JUNE DAY COURSE .

S.I.

Date: 12th June

Place: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House.

We are hoping to have a course of Russian dancing from a Russian teacher who plans to be in England on that date. As you are aware it is difficult for Eastern Europeans to obtain a visa to come to England and negotiations concerning this are ongoing but still on course.

In view of this uncertainty we have arranged that Mona Graham will be prepared to come to our rescue and teach a day course of Scottish dancing. If the Russian teacher arrives Mona will teach her course in the autumn.

We are very grateful to Mona for being so accommodating. In the meantime

WATCH THIS SPACE.

Janet Woolbar.

S.I.F.D. AND BALKANPLUS DAY COURSES

Date: 8th/9th May 2004

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

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

Cost: £8.00 for SIFD members and
Balkanplus season ticket holders.
£10.00 for non-members per day.

Tutor: Corry Verheijen

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Saturday Balkan workshop. Corry will be teaching dances from throughout the Balkan area from her wide and varied repertoire. She has travelled extensively and has a vast knowledge of varied dances suitable for all levels of ability. Challenge for the day will be the Bulgarian dance Krajdunavsko Horo.

The workshop will be followed by the usual Balkanplus evening dance from 7.00p.m. to 10.30p.m. at Cecil Sharp House.

MCs: Frances Horrocks and Corry Verheijen

Cost: £5.00 to SIFD members
£7.00 to non-members

No charge to Balkanplus season ticket holders.

Sunday General International Workshop.

The workshop has been sub-titled "delightful dances for the more mature." The material on offer at this workshop will be the answer to many group leaders/class teachers prayers who wish to extend their repertoire in an interesting and enjoyable way. Corry is a very experienced teacher and brings just the right blend of attention to detail and style mixed with a great sense of enjoyment and fun.

This course will also be followed by the usual SIFD monthly dance but a week later than usual because of the Easter weekend.

Time: 7.00-10.00p.m. at Cecil Sharp House

Cost: £5.00 to SIFD members and Balkanplus season ticket holders.
£7.00 to non-members.

PLEASE BRING MEMBERSHIP CARDS WITH YOU TO QUALIFY FOR THE REDUCED RATE.

Workshop Video £10.00/£12.00 from John Riley - orders taken on either day and promptly despatched.

Workshop C.D. available from Corry - no price as yet.

This promises to be a lively enjoyable and instructive weekend catering for all tastes and abilities. DON'T MISS IT.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Heather,

I thought the good folks who read the S.I.F.D. News might be interested in hearing something about our group.

The Lewes Israeli Folk Dance Group was started out of a desire to do the more demanding Israeli folk dances, which is not always possible in local dance groups, with the policy of encouraging anyone to 'bring and share' their favourite dances. As a consequence, it attracts keen Israeli folk dancers from a wide area.

We started by concentrating on the dances taught by Anat at Stone Cross, and those culled from Gideon [Kalanit] and Pat's extensive repertoire, as well as some of Roberto [Haddon's] 'gems', together with a sprinkling of 'golden oldies'. As the group has grown, new 'volunteer dance leaders' have brought us dances from other sources, so that there are always more dances offered than we can hope to do in the time, even when we use winter afternoons as well as evenings.

Inevitably, with so many 'chiefs', there are occasional discussions about steps, but on the whole, the spirit of co-operative sharing prevails, and each occasion is an uplifting (and often exhausting) experience.

We are hoping to entice Roberto to come down to the wilds of Sussex in the near future (hint, hint, Roberto!) to do an afternoon for us, and if we are successful, will let you know for the diary. In the meantime, we welcome anyone with a modicum of experience of Israeli dance, whether they can come regularly or only occasionally, and can promise a friendly reception.

Best wishes,

ROWENA MARTIN
for the Lewes Israeli F.D.G.
60 Anderida Road
Lower Willingdon
Eastbourne BN22 0PZ

N.B. The group meets during weekends at irregular times. Please check for details with Rowena on 01323 503991.

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Ed. More information on groups/classes would be welcome; there are over 60 listed in 'Dance with the World' but only a handful contribute to the 'News' on a regular or even irregular basis. You don't have to run international or national events to qualify (though it's good to hear about those too), just provide some details of interest to readers. Who teaches? What sort of dances do you do? Any special favourites? How many attend? Any special events or celebrations? As a result you might increase your numbers or visitors.

As you can see, this is not exactly a bumper issue. Please help keep our Editor employed!

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I. June 6th SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH COTSWOLDS SAFARI at Moreton-in-Marsh and then at Batsford Arboretum. Details later from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.
- S.I. June 12th SIFD DAY COURSE. See p.3.
- July 6th/11th INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD AT LLANGOLLEN.
- S.I. July 10th SIFD DAY COURSE.
- S.I. July 24th/31st SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL at University of Wales, Swansea. Main courses: Spanish (Helen & Edward Martyr) and Greek (Dimitris Triandifillidis). General courses: E. European (Frank Dowling) and W. European (Anne Leach); range of optional courses. Information from Roger Sturge, 0117 962 1802. £20 deposit secures place.
- S.I. Aug.28th/30th WILLINGDON IFDG'S MINI FESTIVAL at Lodge Hill Centre, Pulborough, West Sussex. Shared leading of International Folk and Circle Dances, also English caller. Full board £120 sharing, £140 single. Please send s.a.e. for detailed booking form to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ.
- S.I. Oct.9th WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH AUTUMN DAY COURSE with Marina Wolstenholme, 10.30a.m.-4.30p.m. at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Station Approach, off Blossomfield Road (B4102) Solihull. Lunch break 1.00-2.00p.m. including W. Midlands Branch AGM at 1.30p.m. SIFD members £7.00 full day, £4.00 half day; non-members £8/£5. Further details from Maggie Kaye on 0121 608 1437.
- Oct.22nd/24th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF BULGARIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN FOLK DANCES with Bianca de Jong at Derwent Bank, Lake District. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board. Choice of General or Advanced course, or both courses. Superb area for mountain, lake-side and valley walking. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation £105. Each course £17. For full details and booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.
- Nov.5th/7th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF BULGARIAN SINGING with Dessi Stefanova in Dovedale, the Peak District. An opportunity for a folk musicians' "get together" as well. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board. An excellent base for easier walking along the valleys or more energetic hikes over the Peak District hills. Friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation £99. Singing course £30. For full details and booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.
- S.I. Nov.27th WEST MIDLANDS PRE-CHRISTMAS DANCE at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Station Approach, off Blossomfield Road (B4102) Solihull, 7.30p.m.-10.45p.m. MC: Maggie Kaye. £3.00. Bring-and-share supper. Ring Maggie for further information on 0121 608 1437.
- S.I. Dec.31st WEST MIDLANDS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY at Downing Hall, Knowle, 8.00p.m.-12.00. MC: Grace Pittman. £3.00. Bring-and-share supper. Further details from Maggie Kaye on 0121 608 1437.

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

*May 9th M.C.: George Sweetland (See p.4)

June 6th M.Cs.: Central London IFDG with Janet Woolbar

*Please note this is the second Sunday in the month.

7.00 to 10.00p.m. Admission £5.00 for SIFD members, £7.00 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON IN MAY

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

May 1st KLEZMER KLUB - songs and tunes from Eastern Europe at The Cellar
Upstairs, The Exmouth Arms, Starcross Street, London N.W.1, at
8.15p.m. Ring 020 7281 7700 at least two days beforehand if you
want to attend (to comply with club licensing laws).

S.I. May 5th OXFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB at St. Giles Church Hall,
Woodstock Road, Oxford, 8.00-10.00p.m. Only £2.00. CORRY VERHEIJEN
will be teaching a number of International and Balkan dances from
her current repertoire.

S.I. May 8th/9th S.I.F.D. AND BALKANPLUS DAY COURSES. See p.4.

May 8th AKHTAMAR ARMENIAN PERFORMANCE GROUP presents 'Sketches of Armenia',
an evening of music and dance dedicated to Aram Khatchaturian at
The Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 6NQ
at 7.30p.m. Tickets: £10, £15, £20. Children under 12 50% discount.
Bookings: contact Dalila Heath, 01707 642774 or Maral Kojayan on
0785588 3967. Any queries, contact Dalila.

May 14th FITNESS EXPO 2004 AT EARLS COURT, LONDON. In the 'Dance and Movement
to 16th Demonstration Area' there will be a diverse range of exercise,
movement and dance forms including Jazz Dance, Dance Exercise taught
by teachers from the Fitness League, the Medau Society and Margaret
Morris Movement, and Break Dancing by visiting Americans.
SIFD events: Hungarian dances by Leslie Haddon's group on the
Saturday afternoon, Greek with the Philhellenes group on Saturday and
Sunday, and General International workshop with Fiona Howarth and
Anne Leach on the Sunday.

May 16th DAY OF ARMENIAN DANCES with SHAKEH AVANESSIAN at the Bassil Shippam
Centre, Tozer Way, Chichester. 11.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. £14.00
Contact: Claire Wilton, 1A York Street, Chichester, West Sussex
PO19 7TJ. Tel: 01243 788833.

MARGARET WALLACE

I have just heard the sad news that Margaret, member of the Bromley international folk dance group, died suddenly on April 14th. Many will know Margaret, Les and Tessa who used to attend various SIFD weekends and continued to support day courses and other events. Margaret was a bright, unassuming, very friendly person and, as I remember, particularly keen on Israeli and Balkan dances. She and Les also enjoyed English dancing.

Our sympathy and condolences to Les and Tessa.

Ed.
