

S&F NEWS



February 2005

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: www.sifd.org

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East Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: 01424 845866.

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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The packaging and posting
is done by Dalila Heath.

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The very attractive pattern of footwear from various countries, shown on
this month's cover, was drawn by Anna Huston.

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CHAIRMAN: Janet Woolbar (Mrs.), 34a Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow,
Middlesex HA3 8JZ.

SECRETARY: Alison Scrimshaw (Mrs.), 22 Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey
SM1 2SQ. Tel: 020 8642 3385.

TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan Morton, 26 Durham Road, North Harrow, Middx.
HA1 4PG. Tel: 020 8427 8042.

Other Committee members:

Caspar Cronk, Helen Ezra, Simon Guest, Richard Mellish, Bob Robinson.

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

NOTES FROM JANUARY'S COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee met in January and were pleased to welcome Janet Woolbar as the new Chairman, Bob Robinson as a new Committee member, and Maggie Kaye who came as a representative from the Midlands.

The main items discussed were:-

Retirement of Membership Secretary

After eighteen years, Alan Morton has decided the time has come to step down as Membership Secretary. We shall be very sorry to lose him as Alan has done a magnificent job all these years. He has always been extremely efficient and dependable, seldom missing a Committee meeting, and membership lists and labels appeared like clockwork. We are all very grateful to him for this enormous amount of behind-the-scenes work. He will, of course, be a hard act to follow but, gratifyingly, two people have offered to try. It is hoped they can work together to start with, taking on the various tasks. They will take over officially on 1st April; full details should be available next month. In the meantime, thank you very much Alan, from all in the Society, for all your hard work for eighteen years.

Setting up a review group to re-write the Constitution of the SIFD

This was recommended in the report presented at the A.G.M. by Roger Sturge and his Enquiry Group colleagues and will be very important for the Society. The present Constitution has been added to and amended frequently over the years and as a result is very ambiguous and confusing in places, and badly needs clarification and bringing up to date. Several people were suggested as possibles to form a Sub-Committee to do this and they will be asked in the next few weeks whether they would be willing.

Investigating whether the SIFD should remain affiliated to the current organizations

At present, the SIFD is affiliated to three organizations - EFDSS (English Folk Dance and Song Society), CIOFF (International Council of Organisations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Art) and CCPR (Central Council for Physical Recreation). At the A.G.M. worries were expressed that there could be unwanted repercussions in being affiliated to any group that hadn't been fully investigated - could there be financial or constitutional implications in certain circumstances? It was felt that a thorough investigation was merited, to make sure that the SIFD might not suffer inadvertently. So the Committee chose three SIFD members, not on the Committee, and will ask them whether they would be prepared to look at one organization each in some depth and report back their findings.

Lack of Publicity Officer

The lack of a publicity officer is a great disadvantage as no leaflets are available for handing out at events etc. If anyone feels they might be able to help, the Committee would be delighted to hear from them.

The next Committee meeting will be on 12th March.

ALISON SCRIMSHAW, Secretary

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I have been reading the correspondence in the SIFD NEWS about teaching videos and decent taped music. It is so important. We in the Iberian Folk Dance & Music Society are in dire need of decent recordings of music for some of our dances. We have recently had some tapes professionally "cleaned up" and the music transferred to CDs. This deleted "hiss" and other minor faults but some tunes are still beyond redemption. So, I have two requests:-

- a) Is there anyone out there who has decent taped music (or CDs) of Spanish regional dances? Our Basque and Mallorcan music is fine.
- b) Is there a guitarist who is able to listen to our tapes and replay the tune? We don't have the sheet music. Naturally, we would pay for this.

Incidentally, we have put on video some of our dances. They are not teaching videos as such but, together with notes, could instruct.

Contact Elsa Perez on 020 8769 3619 or write to 4a Greyhound Lane, London SW16 5SD. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

ELSA PEREZ (Secretary of I.F.D.
& M.S.)



WEEKEND OF DANCE AT BOGNOR REGIS

Jan Knoppers has sent a preliminary list of possible dances (there may be others) for the Bognor Regis weekend, 19th/20th February 2005. They are:-

Khanti mansi (Siberian)
Ka'afe (Georgian)
Lagu sopusopu (Moluccan)
Preumblata de femeî (Romanian)
Dzachkats baleni (Armenian)
Moustabeikos (Greek)
Hora de la Rezina (Romanian)
Yaman yar (Armenian)
Syrto nysiris (Greek, island)
De valse zeeman (Dutch)
Kalya bandi (Indian)
Kostiliata Thessalia (Greek)

I hope this selection tempts some people to take this opportunity to dance with Jan.

JANET DOUGLAS

(See "What's On", p.12)

THE ANNUAL ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN RAVE-UP!

Once again I left my still sunny home in the beautiful coastal town of Sitges, near Barcelona, for the Zivko Firfov Balkan Party which I still have close links with as I pre-record the programme of dances from Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia, a daunting task but enjoyable as I listen to a chunk of Balkan music during the process.

As usual, it was a very successful and enjoyable evening and in a new location which I think will become our new home. We had been at Bunhill Road School for twenty-four years but had to leave due to alterations to the school fabric. The new hall, which was found after some difficulty as Saturday nights are usually well in demand, has a nice floor, good acoustics and catering facilities, a very nice and helpful caretaker, and it is larger, which means that the number of people is not now limited because of fire regulations. Archway is not difficult to reach by public transport, and the hall, which has parking facilities, is in a much nicer location. However, the hall was more expensive and there had to be a slight increase in the cost of admission.

The group worked very hard to get the new hall organized and the buffet was up to its usual high standard. The singing was also much appreciated. I had thought that the larger space might prove to be a bit daunting but it had no effect on the atmosphere created by the dancers.

The Balkan party has been held annually for over thirty years. I think the first must have been held in the late 1960s and has moved from one venue to another until settling at Bunhill Road School. At one time there was also a Midsummer dance held at the Royal College of Art, next to the Royal Albert Hall, and in its early days was a collaboration with the Bulgarian group run by Diane Waller and the late Danny Lumley. For a while, when the group had its own musicians playing traditional instruments, live music was mixed with recorded tapes but after some of the musicians returned home to various parts of the globe the band folded up. As some of the musicians, notably Linsey and Adam, lived with a master musician in Skopje, Macedonia, they studied with him every day and were able to play the bagpipes and other wind instruments like natives.

Pre-recorded music has its advantages. The programme can be timed and more dances included, and with dances coming from various Balkan countries there is the contrasting sounds of each country, played by indigenous musicians using both traditional and more modern instruments, and in the correct styles. This does help the dancing as one group of musicians, no matter how well they may play, cannot provide the same feeling or contrast.

I look forward to the next dance.

KEN WARD

Alexander Balanescu, together with his quartet and drummer, Steve Arguelles, are presenting a concert inspired by Maria Tanasa. She was a Romanian diva of the 30s, 40s and 50s who achieved near mythic status for her warm and unaffected interpretation of traditional folk songs.

The show uses footage of her concerts, archive recordings and images from Romania's history, live music, video and electronics. The show is touring nationally during February (see website www.cmntours.org.uk). In London it will be at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (South Bank) on Wednesday, 2nd February, at 7.45 p.m.

TONI GUTMAN

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Spring Bank Holiday Week-end at Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, North Somerset, April 29th - May 2nd (or optionally 3rd) 2005

There will again be our customary long week-end of dancing, walks and outings at this architecturally attractive house dedicated to folklore activities, situated in the beautiful surroundings of the Quantocks, Exmoor and the North Somerset coast. We welcome any suggestions you may have for changes to our customary format of International folk dancing in the evenings and on Monday afternoon, and walks or outings during the day. As usual, a coach and picnic lunch have been arranged for Sunday to facilitate longer walks. There is the option to stay until Tuesday morning, thus avoiding the return journey on the bank holiday. Dancing will be led principally by Janet Woolbar, and we are hoping that Stella Wentworth of the SIFD band will again be playing for some of the dances.

We shall be sending out further details and application forms in March to everyone who signed up at last year's week-end and to any members or friends who would now like to express an interest in joining us. Requests for inclusion on the circulation list, and any other queries, may be made to either of us. The *inclusive* cost of the week-end will be about £150 for three nights, plus a supplement for staying over Monday night. We look forward to seeing you all.

Gordon Adie,
14, Adelaide Terrace,
TRURO, TR1 3EJ
Tel: 01872 276511

Jack Richardson,
34, Mayals Avenue,
SWANSEA, SA3 5DB
Tel: 01792 403153



AN EVENING WITH PAUL MULDER'S

On Sunday, 20th March, following the weekend course organized by Barlow International Folkdance Group and the Derbyshire Dancers, Paul Mulders will stay on at Calver Village Hall and teach from 6 to 8 p.m. This is open to everybody and will appeal to people who cannot dance for the whole day, for family or other reasons. It will give more people a chance to benefit from Paul's teaching. For people staying on after the day course, the hall will remain open. Cost to be announced.

AN EVENING WITH SILVIU CIUCIUMIS

Following the Romanian folkdance course at Malhamdale, Silviu Ciuciumis will teach on Sunday, 17th April, at Calver Village Hall, Derbyshire, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Costs to be confirmed but we hope to keep the price under £5.

For enquiries about both the above events, please ring Marina Wolstenholme on 01433 630183.

The item that occasioned by far the most debate at the AGM was Roy Clarke's motion concerning the possibility of the Society's affiliation to the Folk Arts Network (FAN). In support of the motion, dark things were said about putative negative effects that affiliation might have on the Society's reputation, governance or finances; though quite how these might come about was not made clear.

Some of us who were unconvinced about this, and reluctant to spend scarce Committee time chasing ghosts, nevertheless felt that sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander. Insofar as affiliation to FAN might cause the Society any serious problems, under unknown circumstances, the same might happen with affiliation to any similar organisation, including the three that we are already affiliated to (EFDSS, CIOFF and CCPR).

The outcome of the debate was the passing of an amended motion instructing the Committee to thoroughly investigate the pros and cons of **all existing or proposed** affiliations.

The pros are fairly easy to identify, because the organisations concerned naturally seek to promote themselves. George Sweetland's item in the January News has started the ball rolling with a fair statement of the possible benefits of our present affiliation to CCPR.

This leads me to a specific request to members. Will anyone who joined SIFD as a result of a CCPR event, or who might never have joined but for our affiliation to CCPR, please let the Committee know.

As George himself has noted, CCPR was originally concerned with sport, and dance was added later. Dance seems still to have had a minor profile in recent events under CCPR's auspices, so CCPR is less obviously relevant to SIFD than some other organisations such as FAN, EFDSS and CIOFF.

But the extent of the benefit to the Society from affiliation tells us nothing about possible detriment. The cons to affiliation (with any organisation) are much harder to assess than the pros. Where can we start? Although the possibility of harm to the Society's reputation, governance or finances has been postulated, we are in the dark as to how this might arise.

Furthermore, as any scientist is painfully aware, it is impossible to prove a negative. However much time and effort we might expend without identifying any specific risk to the Society, that would not eliminate the possibility entirely.

My personal view is that we should not renew our present affiliations when they fall due unless the benefits clearly outweigh any credible risk; and likewise with adding any new ones.

Anyway it will help if those who have concerns about FAN can please explain:

- a) exactly what harm to the Society they believe could result from our affiliating to FAN;
- b) exactly how this could arise, and
- c) why the same or similar risk could not exist with EFDSS, CIOFF or CCPR.

To avoid any uncertainty, I should state that I have written this in a personal capacity, as a member of the Committee but not on behalf of the Committee.

Richard Mellish

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I. Mar.12th SIFD DAY COURSE. See p.8.

S.I. Mar.12th BALKANPLUS.

Mar.18th/20th RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND with Bob Neal at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. All inclusive cost for the weekend £126 en-suite, £116 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.19th PORTUGUESE DAY COURSE with Janet Woolbar, organized by Nutbrook IFDG at Stevenson School, Stapleford, Nottingham. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £7.00 (£4.00 half-day). For further details, ring 01332 701922 or 0115 917 1831.

S.I. Mar.19th/20th MACEDONIAN FOLKDANCE COURSE with Paul Mulders at Chorlton, Manchester and Calver, Derbyshire. £20 or £12 a day for SIFD members. Further information from Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspull, Nr.Wigan WN2 1EF. Tel: 01942 831141.

Mar.20th AN EVENING WITH PAUL MULDER'S. See p.6.

S.I. Apr.9th SIFD DAY COURSE.

Apr.9th WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP GENERAL INTERNATIONAL DANCE 7.30-11.00 p.m. at Borough Green Hall, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tickets £6.00 including refreshments. Bring your own drinks and glasses. For information ring 01732 883405.

Apr.10th SEMINAR OF MACEDONIAN DANCING at the Hellenic Centre, London, to be taught by Christos Papacostas, who is coming over specially from Greece. Organized by Lykion Ton Hellinidon. Details to be confirmed later.

Apr.15th/17th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ROMANIAN FOLK DANCES with Silviu Ciuciumis at Malhamdale, Yorkshire Dales. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board, indoor swimming pool. Choice of General or Advanced course, or both courses. Delightful area for walking. Malham Cove nearby. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation £117. Each course £16. For full details and booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. FEW PLACES LEFT.

Apr.17th AN EVENING WITH SILVIU CIUCIUMUS. See p.6.

S.I. Apr.29th/May 2nd SIFD DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Halsway Manor. See p.6.

Apr.29th/May 2nd EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL.

S.I. May 7th/8th "FROM THE ADRIATIC TO THE BLACK SEA", a non-residential weekend course with Maggie O'Regan and Marina Wolstenholme, organized by Edinburgh IFDG in the Columcille Centre, Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh. Whole weekend (including dance) £18.00; one day's workshop £9.00; Saturday evening dance £3.00. Contact: Ruth Bowman, 1 Church Hill Place, Edinburgh EH10 4BE.

S.I. June 11th SIFD DAY COURSE.

July 5th/10th INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, LLIANGOLLEN.

S.I. July 9th SIFD DAY COURSE

Aug.27th/Sept.3rd ONE WEEK INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE COURSE led by Phil and Brenda Steventon at Haytor, Devon, for HF Holidays. For details, ring 020 8905 9388.

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S.I. Sept.10th SIFD DAY COURSE.

Sept.10th/11th BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Yves Moreau. Details later.

S.I. Oct.8th SIFD DAY COURSE.

Oct.28th/30th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ARMENIAN FOLK DANCE with Tineke Van Geel at Brecon, South Wales. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board, heated indoor pool. Choice of General or Advanced course or both courses. Delightful area for valley and mountain walking. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation £118. Each course £17. For full details and booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

S.I. Nov.12th SIFD DAY COURSE.



MACEDONIAN DANCE AND SONG IN OHRID, MACEDONIA
31ST JULY TO 11TH AUGUST 2005

Ibrahim Rizevski, Paja and Madelon Milic, Vlade Janevski and Rodna Velickovska

Ibrahim, Paja and Madelon need no introduction from us! They are organizing the course. Vlade Janevski is a former dancer of the professional ensemble "Tanec" from Skopje. For many years he has been teaching traditional dances and has lectured on national costume at the Conservatory of Skopje. Vlade is a competent dance teacher and ethnologist from the region and his theme will be Ofcepolsko.

Rodna Velickovska is an excellent ethnomusicologist who works at the Folklore Institute in Skopje and has collected more than 15,000 songs! She regularly collaborates with Vlade Janevski in workshops and other projects.

We shall stay at the Park Hotel which has its own beach on Lake Ohrid, a very quiet resort ten minutes' walking distance from the centre of Ohrid town. The lake is wonderful for swimming and delicious trout for dinners under the trees.

Programme:

daily dancing from 9.30-11.30 and 18.00-20.00
daily singing from 11.30-13.00 and after supper
two excursions (one by boat, one by 'bus) with tourist guide
evening programmes with Paja, Madelon and Ibrahim
live music with different orchestras from Ohrid

Beginners and advanced dancers are welcome! The cost will be 520 Euros excluding travel to and from Ohrid. Non-dancing partners and children are welcome, at reduced prices.

Bookings with deposits required before 5th March. Contact us for more details.

JOHN & JANET DOUGLAS
92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis
PO21 3EQ
Tel: 01243 265010

PIECE FROM THE PAST

I have recently acquired a box filled with old copies of the SIFD NEWS. They make fascinating reading and I thought you might like to share a few articles from them.

Something that struck me straight away when I started to read them was how many contributors of 25, 30, 35 years ago are still dancing and active in the SIFD today. This confirms for me that dancing keeps you young. Lily Avery was editing the NEWS throughout, and just as she does now was pleading for more news from affiliated groups - and contributions IN ON TIME, PLEASE!

In January 1970 Bert Price was Chairman; there were 279 members, and entry to Cecil Sharp House Sunday dances was raised to 5/-. In those days, these dances included demonstration items.

There is a report of a Christmas Fair Jumble Sale run by the Polish Group. It was to include an International Song and Dance Display, which worried Betty Harvey a little - "as we weren't at all confident about how well it would be received. When we first opened our doors and were inundated by rather grim-faced bargain-hunting ladies, we couldn't imagine them wanting to relax and watch dancing. However, after a while, beguiled by the stalls, by cups of tea and gay music, they watched the dancing and listened to the singing with evident pleasure and absorption. When I heard two of them remarking, "Well, you can't complain of all this for value - they ought to have charged 6d entrance", I knew we were a success". And a success they certainly were, making over £90 profit despite the entrance fee of only 3d, with a Jumble Sale more exciting than any I ever attended.

January 1980 featured an article from John White, secretary of the Zivko Firfov Group who were part of the cabaret for six thousand hairdressers at the Royal Albert Hall. "We had to take the audience from cold and had no time for a rehearsal.....With a minimal build-up from the compère, our girls led the way on to the floor.....in their gorgeous embroidered Posavina dresses.....the strains of that haunting Croatian song, Tancec, must have sounded weird indeed. You could hear people muttering and fidgeting and wondering just what had arrived. But a great cheer went up when the men walked on, dressed in what to the uninitiated must have looked like long white pyjamas with fringes. More fidgeting during our close-harmony rendering of Polegala Trava Detela, and then over the enormous loudspeakers came the tinkly sound of Zagreb tamburicas leading us into the Letovanic, and as soon as we got to the fast bit the whole audience was with us, clapping and stamping its feet in time to the music....After we had whirled through Repa, swung through Kalendara, done the quick Staro Sito shuffle and Ducec jump, we wound in a Posavski Drmes around the arena and escaped downstairs". All this in a 15-minute slot - it sounds marvellous.

Do events like either of these happen these days?

ALISON SCRIMSHAW

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BALKANPLUS, 12th February at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Rd., London N.W.1. 7.00-10.00 p.m. £4.00. Due to illness, Fiona Howarth has reluctantly had to withdraw as M.C. this month. We send all good wishes to Fiona for a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her back on her dancing feet again soon. Meanwhile, the dance will now be in the capable hands of the Committee.

The next Balkanplus will be on 12th March.

Have you put the 10th/11th September in your diary yet? Balkanplus season ticket holders will benefit greatly.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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

Feb.6th M.C.: Anne Leach

Mar.6th M.Cs: SIFD Band

7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Admission £5.00 for SIFD members, £7.00 for non-members.
In Kennedy Hall, unless stated otherwise. Everyone welcome.

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WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Feb.2nd ROMANIAN CONCERT. See p.5.

Feb.11th to 13th Friday to Sunday INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE COURSE led by Phil and Brenda Steventon at The Earnley Concourse, Chichester. For more details, ring 01243 670 392.

S.I. Feb.12th SIFD DAY COURSE - CORNISH. See below.

S.I. Feb.12th BALKANPLUS. See p.11.

S.I. Feb.19th & 20th JAN KNOPPERS will teach dances from faraway exotic places in Bognor Regis. £30.00 SIFD members, £35 non-members. Contact Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010. (See p.4).

S.I. Feb.25th to 27th SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH WEEKEND at The Paddocks Hotel, Symonds Yat West, Ross-on-Wye, Glos. with dance teaching by Frank Dowling and Sue Clark. £95 per person in twin or double en-suite rooms. Contact Maggie Kaye for more information, 0121 608 1437.

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Events covered by SIFD 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.

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SIFD DAY COURSE, SATURDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY 2005

CORNISH TRADITIONAL DANCE

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

Cost: SIFD members £6.00
Non-members £8.00

Tutors: Merv & Alison Davey
with musicians "PYBA"

This very enthusiastic and experienced Cornish family group will introduce us to the variety of Cornish dances which reflects Cornwall's unique identity and distinctive history. There are dances from their industrial past and influences in other dances from their place on the sea routes between the Continent and Ireland. There are Feast Day dances, Ceili dances, step dances - in fact, something for everyone! We are advised to wear hard, or outdoor, shoes.

Anyone wishing to find out more about Cornish dance before the event can do so on www.An-Daras.com

PAM RADFORD