

SIFD NEWS



1. SPAIN. *Left:* couple from Alicante. *Right:* couple from Zamora.

APRIL

2005

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: www.sifd.org

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

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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: Simon Guest, 49 Station Road, Epping, Essex CM16 4HJ
Tel: 01992 577065

Other Committee members:-

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

*Simon is taking over from Alan Morton as from 1st April.

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

A NOTE OF THANKS

As mentioned elsewhere, Alan Morton has this month retired from his position as Membership Secretary and Groups Liaison Officer. I cannot let this occasion pass without saying a very big Thank You to Alan for his loyalty and dependability as a very valuable member of the SIFD NEWS team. He has always been reliable and conscientious, making sure that the membership list is kept up to date and the labels for the NEWS envelopes are ready on time each month and alterations dealt with, and I am grateful to have had his support for so many years. Thank you Alan for all your hard work, given cheerfully and freely.

LILY AVERY, Editor

Members will have read that Alan Morton is, for reasons of health, been obliged to end his term as Membership Secretary.

In any organization the membership department has a critical function. For one like ours the contact with members does much to govern how it is seen, so may I thank Alan for the prompt, efficient and courteous help he has given so generously, not only to me but to all of us over many years, and also thank Margaret for her support.

ROY CLARKE



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I've just returned from a most wonderful weekend at Bognor (19th/20th Feb.). Jan Knoppers introduced us to such a variety of dances - from a Moluccan Islanders' welcome dance through the stateliness of Georgia, and the grace and elegance of Armenia, to the earthy expression of the lives of the Siberian tribes. We could almost feel the icy wind blowing off the Steppes!

So, a big thank you to Jan. His patient and inspiring teaching left us feeling the dances were all "do-able" and even if we could not always emulate the styles exactly, we certainly know what we are aiming for, after watching Jan.

Thanks also to Janet and John Douglas for organizing the whole event. If Jan comes again, I for one will definitely not want to miss it.

Best wishes,

ROWENA MARTIN,
60 Anderida Road,
Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne
BN22 0PZ

Notes from March's Committee Meeting

The committee met in March and all members were present, including a representative from the Midlands.

The main items discussed were –

Membership Secretary

We can now confirm that **Simon Guest** is taking over as Membership Secretary from April 1st. He has already taken advantage of upgraded technology to produce a new list of members which is more informative (for example, appropriate postage rate when sending the News) and can supply more useful membership statistics. You can, though, be assured that this information is strictly for internal use only, and will never be made available to outsiders.

We thank Simon very much for taking on this new role.

The Constitution Rewrite Sub-committee

Three people very kindly accepted our request to review and rewrite the Society's Constitution. They have formed a sub-committee and already started work.

However, progress has not been so dramatic with **investigating the current organisations** to which the SIFD is affiliated. We are still approaching people who might be willing to undertake these in-depth reviews.

Finance

Aspects of our **insurance cover** were examined – is the cover sufficiently comprehensive now we live in a “blame and compensation” culture? As always we will seek the advice of our trusty insurance agent – who incidentally has informed us of a small alteration to the way SIFD insurance is to be handled. In future, all insurance matters are to go straight to him. A letter explaining the changes will appear in the News, and sent out with the Group Membership renewal forms.

The Treasurer is preparing the **accounts** that the **Charity Commissioners** demand, and should have them ready for sending well before the deadline. Changes to the **bank signatories** (all SIFD cheques must be signed by two trustees) are inevitable with a change of committee personnel, and these she has organised.

We're very grateful to Judith for the vast amount of form-filling she regularly undertakes on the Society's behalf.

Lack of Publicity Officer

We still have no publicity officer, and rewriting the leaflets we usually have available is likely to take the committee some time. If **anyone** feels they might be able to help with publicising the Society, the committee would be really delighted to hear from them.

Other

Details for this year's **AGM**, (to be held out of London for a change!) were discussed, and the possibility of a **second web site** devoted to the Summer School.

Letters were discussed and replies agreed upon – particularly a letter to Cecil Sharp House expressing our concern over the sudden cancellation of the March day course.

Unfortunately time did not allow discussion on ways to celebrate the Society's **60th birthday** next year. Would you like to make any suggestions?

The next committee meeting will be April 9th.

Alison Scrimshaw

"MUSIC IN BULGARIA"
by Timothy Rice OUP (September 2003)

I should like to bring this very readable little book to the attention of members of the Society who are interested in Bulgarian music.

"Music in Bulgaria" is a volume in the Global Music Series, edited by Bonnie Wade and Patricia Campbell. This volume, written by the American ethnomusicologist Timothy Rice, gives an overview of the cultural, historical and political meaning of traditional Bulgarian music.

It begins by exploring how Bulgaria's rural traditions affect the expression and interpretation of its music and goes on to examine how the country's social, political and economic histories have influenced its music over many decades. The book also shows how the musical traditions of Bulgaria have been preserved despite the social changes brought about by the post-WW11 era of industrialization and urbanization. It analyzes how Bulgarian music has spread throughout other cultures and how it has made its mark on new forms of popular music. "Music in Bulgaria" features eyewitness accounts of local performances, interviews with performers and numerous listening examples. It is packaged with a 70-minute CD that includes examples of the music discussed in the text.

The terrain of this book will be very familiar to all who have attended the workshops of Yves Moreau, Dessi Stefanova and others. I found it an enjoyable read which also enhanced my understanding of the background to the Bulgarian music and dance which I have so much enjoyed.

MIKE MACHIN

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PASSION DISCS

Passion Discs (www.passiondiscs.co.uk) are an amazing company with an all too tempting on-line catalogue of CDs at ridiculously low prices. They seem to specialise in East European and Latin American music, with a strong emphasis on "traditional". (I found their site while looking for CDs by Maria Tanase).

Anyway, they also have an online magazine, which you can get to via the home page, and at the time of writing this you will find lots of items of interest to you all, e.g. an article on Ioan Pop (remember "Popeluc" who dropped into Balkanplus some years ago? They were Ioan Pop, together with Lucy Castle and her father Peter).

There's also an article on Marta Sebastyen, and an in-depth interview with Yves Moreau! The interviewer asks satisfyingly intelligent questions, which bring out all that Yves Moreau has done or is doing now. He talks about how he got into Bulgarian dance and music and how he has realised what a treasure trove he has got in his 1970s recordings of village musicians and singers. He is bringing out CDs of this material under the general title "Beyond the Mystery" which emphasises that this is the original source material underlying, for example, the more orchestrated "Mystère des Voix Bulgares" choral arrangements. He is also re-issuing an album of material by Boris Karlov, who was the accordionist on so many recordings that we use.

Then of course he talks about the dances - the regional dances with their different styles and rhythms.

And finally, there is a photo of the September 2001 workshop at Cecil Sharp House!

TONI GUTMAN

BALKANPLUS, 9th April at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. 7.00-10.00 p.m. £5.00. M.C.: Brian Dowsett with Dunav. Brian will be presenting his usual favourites accompanied by the ever versatile and lively Dunav Balkan Group musicians. There will be dances for all abilities from a wide variety of regions.

Tickets for Yves Moreau's Bulgarian weekend on 10th/11th September will be on sale from 1st May. Season ticket holders will be given preference as places are limited. Seasons are available at Balkanplus dances at £35.00 and offer a considerable saving on dances and events throughout the year.

The next Balkanplus dance is on 14th May.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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TIMISOARA, 3rd-14th JULY 2005

Ensemble Timisul are running a Romanian dance and cultural course combined with a folk festival involving more than 20 Romanian dance groups. The course includes six hours teaching per day. The cost is 60 Euros per day for accommodation, meals, transport and dance courses.

For more information contact Toma Frentescu, Tel: 0040 256 498214.

BOB ROBINSON

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KOPRIVSHTITSA FESTIVAL TOUR
WITH NINA KAVARDJIKOVA AND TERRA BULGARIA TOUR OPERATOR

The above tour will take place from 30th July to 13th August (capacity maximum 38 people) and includes overnight accommodation at Sofia, Bansko, Koprivshtitsa, V.Tarnovo, Varna and Bourgas. Activities include guided tours, dance lessons, singing lessons, the festival, sightseeing, visits to local groups etc. Breakfasts, dinners and some lunches are included. Local musicians and a dance teacher with the party at all times.

Total tour price 1,260 Euros. Deposit by 31st March 170 Euros. Second payment by 1st June 840 Euros. Balance by 1st July 250 Euros. For more information, contact Nina Kavardjikova, Tel: 0031 20647 6713 (Holland).

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ANGLO-GERMAN FOLKDANCE WEEK AT BREDBECK, NEAR BREMEN, GERMANY
31ST JULY TO 7TH AUGUST 2005

Programme of dances from German and English-speaking countries in daytime workshops and evening dances. Time to explore the area; several excursions. Accommodation in double rooms, mainly en-suite; limited number of single rooms. Cost: 390 Euros. Single room supplement 70 Euros. Children 12 years or under, 50% discount.

More information from Alan Davies, 11 Brockley Close, Little Stoke, Bristol BS34 6EZ. Tel: 01454 614361.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 5th "KOLOS" UKRAINIAN FOLK ENSEMBLE evening concert at Stantonbury Campus Theatre, Saxon Street, Milton Keynes. 7.30 p.m. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) from Stantonbury Theatre Box Office, 01908 324422, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Friday. Cards accepted. 75p per booking including postage. More details from Don Allison, 01908 610564.

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. May 14th BALKANPLUS.

May 28th/29th The MacLennan Scottish Group's 24th INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL at Langley Park Boys' School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham. Among the events will be an INTERNATIONAL CEILIDH evening from 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. on Saturday with Latvian, Slovak, English, Cornish and Scottish dancing and music. For further information contact Jeni or Ian Rutherford on 020 8295 1273.

S.I. June 5th SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH COTSWOLDS DANCE SAFARI. Start 11.00 a.m. at Moreton-in-Marsh (in the main street car park), then from lunchtime at Swalcliffe, near Banbury. Village hall booked for lunch and dancing outside the Barn. More information from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.

S.I. June 11th SIFD DAY COURSE.

June 11th GREEK DANCE DAY with Paul Boizot. 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Sheffield. Will include some of the dances taught by Dimitris Triandafyllidis at the 2004 SIFD Summer School. £8-£22 (sliding scale). Book in advance. For details ring 0114 256 1708.

July 5th/10th INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, LLANGOLLEN.

S.I. July 9th SIFD DAY COURSE.

S.I. Aug.27th/29th 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 £125 sharing, £145 single. Book by mid-April to ensure a place. Please send s.a.e. for detailed booking form to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ.

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.

S.I. Sept.10th/11th BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP WITH YVES MOREAU. Details later.

Sept.24th "ON SHOW" at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 3.00 p.m. A National Celebration of Music and Dance. 700 performers of all ages. From jazz to ballet, folk to ballroom, tap to salsa, contemporary to historical, and Latin to sports acrobatics. Prices from £7.50 (children) to £25.00. Booking opens on 1st May at The Royal Albert Hall Box Office, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP. Tel: 020 7589 8212.

S.I. Oct.1st SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH AUTUMN DAY COURSE with Janet Woolbar, 10.30a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St.Giles Church Hall, Church Road, Sheldon (5 minutes North of A45 Coventry Road, near Birmingham International Airport). Lunch break 1.00 to 2.00 p.m. and Branch A.G.M. at 1.30 p.m. SIFD members £7.00 full day, £4.00 half day. Non-members £8/£5). Details from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.

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Oct.1st/2nd IBRAHIM RIZEVSKI (Macedonian) and DRAGAN MICIC (Serbian) will teach a weekend course in Bognor Regis. Cost: £35.00. For further information contact Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis. W.Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010.

Oct.28th/30th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OR 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 £17.00. For full details and booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Nov.4th/6th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF BULGARIAN SINGING OR WALKING WEEKEND with Dessi Stefanova in Selworthy, Somerset. Easy Balkan and International dancing in the evenings with Marina Wolstenholme. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board. An excellent base for walking. Optional full-day guided walks, plus a short guided walk for singers. Friends and family welcome. Full package including singing course £150. Full board accommodation, evening dances, guided walks £126. For 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.

Nov.26th ANNUAL BALKAN DANCE DAY with Paul Boizot. 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Sheffield. £8-£22 (sliding scale). Book in advance. For details ring 0114 256 1708.

S.I. Dec.3rd SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS DANCE. 7.30-10.30 p.m. at St.Giles Church Hall, Church Road, Sheldon (North of A45, near airport). M.C.: Maggie Kaye. £3.00. Bring-and-share supper. Ring Maggie Kaye for further information, 0121 608 1437.

Dec.3rd ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY at Highgate Newtown Community Centre, London N.19. Enquiries to Irene Keywood, Tel: 020 8592 4427.

S.I. Dec.31st SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. 8.00 p.m. to 12.00. at Downing Hall, Knowle. M.C.: Grace Pittman. £3.00. Bring-and-share supper. More details from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.

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LONG WEEKEND OF DANCING AND WALKING AT HALSWAY MANOR, NORTH SOMERSET

29TH APRIL TO 2ND MAY 2005

Dancing in the evenings and Monday afternoon, and walks and outings at other times. Coach available at no additional cost on Sunday to provide transport to Exmoor or the North coast. Stay may be extended over Monday night, to avoid travel on the bank holiday. All-inclusive cost for three nights £145.00.

Further details and booking forms from :-

Gordon Adie,
14 Adelaide Terrace,
Truro TR1 3EJ

or

Jack Richardson,
34 Mayals Avenue,
Swansea SA5 5DB

Tel: 01872 276511

Tel: 01792 403153

PIECE FROM THE PAST

This month I've been looking back to March and April 1974, chosen at random. Quite by chance I came across a review of the very Tower Hamlets Festival for which Lily Avery published Bert Price's marking guidelines last month. These were slightly tempered by the organisers insisting in the programme that "emphasis would be placed on enjoyment". However, it sounds as though enjoyment and style were well combined, and the children's entries were particularly well danced. Several SIFD-connected groups did well. Joan Guest taught the first place winners, "Syrenka" Polish Dance Group, and Harrow Green Folkdance Group came second. Wondering why this event no longer happens, the answer may be in the lack of spectators - "an audience of 'mums and dads' whose members dwindle as the evening goes on....".

Another event of note was Sybil Chapman recruiting twelve, yes twelve, new SIFD members in one month. I imagine that hasn't happened in years. All you group leaders - could you persuade just one or two of your members to join the Society?

In April's News, Margery Latham starts her demonstration report with "We were invited by Dr. Hingarani, the Indian eye specialist, to dance a Swedish item for the London School of Economics Indian Society....". You would have thought a Swedish item and the Chinese Lion Dance made strange bedfellows, but the event was in aid of the Blind Orphans of India, and all went very well, even earning them another request for a demo elsewhere.

In March 1984, Sybil Chapman reported a great success at an Inter-Varsity Folk Dance Festival. The start was not encouraging - "a very large, very empty refectory hall" - but it got better - "5.05 came, and so did 'they', in groups, in droves, in hordes. In kilts (thank heavens, no bells), from a session elsewhere. In the huge low-ceilinged refectory we ended up with about two hundred, dancing mostly circle dances....". Now, that must have been quite an event.

The Camden Festival featured several International Music and Dance items. Do they still have a festival?

April's magazine has taught me how to make Maori pois out of scrumpled newspaper, string and a plastic bag! Oh, lead me to a dance where I need them! And the sticks may be carved or painted with traditional designs, it says here. However, until I merit them I'll just stick with my rolled-up Radio Times.

ALISON SCRIMSHAW

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE

<u>Date:</u> 9th April 2005	<u>Place:</u> Cecil Sharp House
<u>Time:</u> 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.	<u>Tutor:</u> Maggie O'Regan
<u>Content:</u> Russian dances	<u>Cost:</u> £6.00 for SIFD members £8.00 for non-members

Thanks to the excellent efforts of the two Janets - Douglas (Bognor) and Wilks (London) - it occurred to me that I have had the pleasure of attending five weekend courses with Hennie Konings within the last two years, and I should like to share some of the dances he taught with my SIFD (London) friends. The day will contain a mixture of slow, lively, circle and couple dances :-

Otdavali Molodu	Chorovodnije Tschastuschki	Na Jegorja
Zchdu Jevo	Tichvinskije Pripjevki	U Rekje
	Ichali Kosatschenki	

MAGGIE O'REGAN

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

Apr.3rd M.C.s: Central London Group

May 8th M.C.s: Dot Bradshaw and Alison Scrimshaw

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

N.B. The dance on 8th May will be in Trefusis. (The second Sunday in the month).

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WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

S.I. Apr.9th SIFD DAY COURSE - RUSSIAN. See p.9.

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

S.I. Apr.9th BALKANPLUS. See p.6.

Apr.10th SEMINAR OF MACEDONIAN DANCING at the Hellenic Centre, London. 10 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Tutor: Christopher Papacostas, from the University at Thessaly. Cost: £18, to be sent to Lykion Ton Hellinidon, c/o The Hellenic Centre, 16/18 Paddington Street, London W.1. Enquiries to 020 8368 8893 or 020 7229 4086.

Apr.15th to 17th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ROMANIAN FOLK DANCES with Silviu Ciuciumis at Malhamdale, Yorkshire Dales. NOW FULLY BOOKED. Enquiries to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

S.I. Apr.16th RAINMAKERS' DAY COURSE WITH FRANK DOWLING at The Parish Hall (St. Michael's), The Broadway, Letchworth. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Cost £7.00 for a full day, £4.50 for half a day. For further information, 'phone Jill Bransby on 01462 457791 or see March SIFD NEWS p.11.

S.I. Apr.17th AN EVENING WITH SILVIU CIUCIUMIS at Calver Village Hall, Derbyshire. 7.30-9.30 p.m. Enquiries to Marina Wolstenholme, 01433 630183.

S.I. Apr.22nd to 25th 22ND GREAT ALNE FOLK WEEKEND, near Alcester, Warwickshire. Long weekend programme of International and British folk music and dance workshops, evening dances, walking, cycling etc. More information from André Hobro, 0121 777 3722, or Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437, or see March SIFD NEWS p.10.

S.I. Apr.23rd GENERAL INTERNATIONAL DANCE WORKSHOP organized by Bristol IFDG. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St.Ursula's School Hall, Brecon Road, Henleaze, Bristol. Tickets £6.00. Bring your own lunch and drinks. For information, ring 0117 968 3974.

Apr.29th to May 2nd/3rd SIFD WALKING/DANCING WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR. See p.8.

Apr.29th to May 3rd EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL.