

SIFD NEWS



MAY

2005

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: www.sifd.org

EDITOR: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea,
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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The packaging and posting
is done by Dalila Heath.

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This month's cover showing Polish costumes is from "Folk Costumes of Europe
Colouring book" from the Dover Pictorial Archive Series.

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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.

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SIFD DAY COURSES IN JUNE AND JULY

Date: Saturday, 11th June 2005
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Place: Cecil Sharp House
Content: ARMENIAN DANCES
Tutor: Dalila Heath
Cost: £6.00 for SIFD members, £8.00 for non-members.

Date: Saturday, 9th July 2005
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Place: Cecil Sharp House
Content: DANISH DANCES
Tutors: Anne Leach and Janet Woolbar
Cost: £6.00 for SIFD members, £8.00 for non-members.

NEW EDITOR REQUIRED

As I am now old (and getting older!) and cannot go on for ever, I have been thinking that it would be a good idea to have a contingency plan should I find I am unable to continue as Editor. An uninterrupted production of the SIFD NEWS is, I think, important to the running of the Society.

One idea is maybe to have someone waiting in the wings to take over as Editor. However, such a plan is not really an ideal one so, rather than wait until for some reason or other I have to give up and we are in a situation where we have to find someone quickly to take over or twist someone's arm to take on the job less than willingly, is there anyone who would like to take on the editor's job now while the transition can be made smoothly?

Having been Editor since 1967 (and Assistant Editor before that!), I can honestly say I have always enjoyed it, and still do. It does mean committing oneself to a deadline and ensuring that the job is completed and posted for printing every month between the 17th and 19th without fail, but even when I was working full time in a demanding job I have not found that onerous.

So how about it? It's very rewarding. Please contact me or the Committee.

LILY AVERY

Job description:

Revise and correct, prepare for the press, annotate and amend, arrange, redact, bring out (courtesy of a Dictionary of Synonyms for the word "edit"!).

Age required:

Preferably younger than the present holder (not difficult!).

Qualities required:

In addition to a knowledge of spelling, grammar, punctuation, the ability to cope with those people who ring or write after the 17th and say "Can you please fit in this article/letter/advert". (The answer is "No"!).

Salary:

None.

Benefits:

The pleasure I have had of opening the post and putting together all the various bits and pieces, seeing the end result, and being part of the coterie of the Society.

The Committee has asked me to add: Must be computer literate (although I have never used one).

L.A.

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

Notes from April's Committee Meeting

The committee met in April and although three members were absent, the meeting covered all the items on the agenda. Email is invaluable in these circumstances, so contributions from the absentees were included throughout. Not many items, though, were new – most were progress reports.

Among the items discussed were –

The Constitution Rewrite Sub-committee

The three people who have kindly offered to review and rewrite the Society's Constitution are John Boyd, Peter Bransby and Richard Mellish. If you have any points you would like to raise concerning the Constitution, please pass them to one of them, or a member of the Committee.

The **investigation of current organisations** to which the SIFD is affiliated, is looking up. Two of the organisations are now being looked at, but we are still looking for a volunteer to scrutinise the CCPR!

Finance

Judith reported that running costs this year are proving to be higher than usual for many reasons, so her forecast was a little pessimistic. The committee will watch this situation carefully. Judith has obtained a booklet on Gift Aid, which she will investigate.

Membership

The letters requesting current information from teachers have been posted, and as soon as the new teachers list is compiled, Simon will despatch his letters to the groups offering renewal of affiliated or associated membership. Prompt replies to these will help enormously in our aim to produce the new publicity leaflets as near to September as possible.

60th birthday

Claire Steeley, who runs the Society's "shop", would like to bring out a new T-Shirt, and possibly a mug if enough people are interested, to celebrate the Society's 60th birthday. Members are to be asked to send in possible designs – more details will appear in the News. Celebration dances were discussed. Do *you* have any suggestions you would like to make?

The next committee meeting will be July 9th.

Alison Scrimshaw

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Piece from the Past

30 years ago this **May** much was going on in the Society.

Bert Price reported that the Saturday Day Courses had been running for 8 months, and were most successful. He felt they had passed the pilot stage, and now planned that they should be held regularly on the 2nd Saturday of each month. I'm sure he would be gratified to know that they are still going strong.

The secretary reported that the Sunday dances at Cecil Sharp House had "picked up", showing a profit of £36.08 for the previous six months. As admission was 40p, this shows more profit than we make nowadays, when we are pleased if we cover our costs.

Ken Ward and the Zivko Firfov Group provided a concert lasting an hour and twenty minutes at the Horniman Museum, to coincide with the opening of an exhibition of jewellery and embroidery from Bosnia and Herzegovina. For the previous six months they had worked hard – absorbing new dances, new songs, new members, new musical instruments and stitching new costumes.

Fortunately their efforts were "very well received", and Yugoslavs who attended were delighted. It occurs to me that this sort of event doesn't seem to happen any more – why is this? Should we be suggesting our services more actively?

The official demonstration team reported on three demonstrations in March alone, and the Polish group were organising a children's dance.

It is gratifying to note that of the seven affiliated groups mentioned, five still thrive thirty years on – the groups at Barlow, Barnet, Folkestone, Merton Park and Woodvale. Congratulations to them.

Alison Scrimshaw

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I should like to pick up one or two points from the Secretary's notes for March.

I see that three people have agreed to review and re-write the Society's Constitution. May we know who these noble people are? (Ed.note: See Secretary's notes, p.4, and also article on p.12).

Unfortunately, the work investigating the organizations to which the S.I.F.D. is currently affiliated (omitting those to which it is not) does not seem to be making any progress. I am aware of at least some of the advantages of belonging to the EFDSS and CCPR but until the A.G.M. I had never heard of the CIOFF. What events have we ever been associated with in connection with this group and what benefits have we ever received from them? I hope someone on the Committee will be able to enlighten me, and others.

Thank you, Alison, for the notes on the Committee meetings. It's good to be kept informed. I'm also enjoying reading extracts from previous "NEWS" notes. Plus ça change.....

FRANCES HORROCKS
53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches,
Surrey SM5 4HP

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Dear Lily,

I thought you might like to know, for the SIFD NEWS, that Roy Goodwin has now been moved from Ealing (Clayponds Hospital) to the Reading area, nearer to his niece. The address is:-

Woodbury House Care,
Joldings Lane,
Farley Hill, Berks.
RG7 1UY
Tel: 0118 973 3885

There isn't a great deal of change in his condition; although he can talk he is unable to walk. I'm sure he would appreciate visitors/contact.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET MANLEY
27 Pinewood Grove, Ealing
W5 2AG

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BULGARIAN WORKSHOPS IN MANCHESTER

Lyubimka Bisserova is now living in Manchester and is interested in offering workshops in traditional Bulgarian singing and dancing for all abilities. She was born in Pirin, S.W.Bulgaria, and performed for many years as a singer with "The Bisserov Sisters" and also with the National Ensemble Filip Kutev in Sofia. Her songs and dances are from the Pirin region where she grew up. For more information, contact Lyubimka Bisserova, 18 Norman Street, Failsworth Manchester M35 9EJ. Tel: 0161 681 1177 or 07909 747 080.

Richard Thom, our Insurance Broker, writes regarding the recent introduction of regulation of the General Insurance industry and how it affects the Society and associated and affiliated clubs:

“As from 14 January 2005, the General Insurance Industry, on the instructions of the Government, is now regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). As you are no doubt aware the SIFD holds a combined policy for itself and any affiliated or associated club for equipment and costumes and Public Liability.

Under the FSA’s regulations only those who have received authorisation from the FSA can sell insurance. The policy is a group policy and can remain in force. However, **all future payments will have to be made payable to the broker – R S Thom Insurance Brokers Ltd, and any insurance questions must be raised with the broker and not the Society.** All the SIFD is allowed, under the FSA’s regulations, to do is state that there is a group policy arranged through our brokers - R S Thom Insurance Brokers Ltd. It is then down to the club to decide whether they wish to be part of the group policy or arrange their own insurance privately through a different broker or insurer. The Society can hold the full policy wording on behalf of all those insured thereunder and make it available for inspection by any club, if the club chooses. The broker, as he has already been doing, will provide a summary of the cover and any major conditions, terms or exclusions.

Group policies, by inference, attract special rates so it is unlikely that better rates could be achieved elsewhere, especially as most insurers impose minimum premiums far in excess of the actual premium charged under the group policy.

The policy extends to include Employers Liability in respect of volunteers (who are now deemed, by the insurers’ interpretation, to be classed as an employee even though they do not get paid), Public Liability as well as All Risks on equipment and costumes. As you are no doubt aware the SIFD’s current policy (and they reserve the right to alter this at any time) is that associated clubs (those with a recognised qualified teacher) are entitled to free Public Liability insurance. However, affiliated clubs pay a premium of £20 for this cover. The limit of indemnity is £5M any one incident but in all in respect of food poisoning, in any one period of insurance.

Those affiliated clubs who are not insured through the Society policy should think very carefully about being added. If you belong to a club that are not affiliated to SIFD you should consider getting them to join as the total subscription and insurance would still be way below anything obtainable by a club in isolation.

The insurer changed at the last renewal and the rates for equipment and costumes has been reduced. If any club does not have its equipment insured they should consider being added to the policy. There is no minimum premium. Peace of mind would be obtained by knowing the club does not suffer when a loss occurs.”

Richard S Thom

SIFD’s Insurance Broker

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 4th MERTON PARK IFDG GENERAL INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP and TEA DANCE at St.Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Merton Park, London S.W.19. Workshop 10.30 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. (tea, coffee, squash available all day; bring own packed lunch). Tea Dance 3.00-5.30 p.m. including cream tea. Whole day £6, Tea Dance only £3. Ring Phil or Brenda Steventon on 020 8397 9649.

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 - ARMENIAN. See p.2.

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.

June 18th THE AKHTAMAR ARMENIAN PERFORMING GROUP's Annual Concert at Logan Hall, 20 Bedford Way, London W.C.1. 7.30 p.m. (doors open 7 p.m.). Tickets £10, £15, £20. The programme includes both traditional and modern pieces and Akhtamar's dynamic children's group. Contact: Dalila Heath, 01707 642 774, 07786 707 835.

June 25th/26th INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Hennie Konings starting 11.30 for 12 noon on Saturday at Chisenhale Dance Space, Mile End, East London. £60 for the weekend. Details from Janet Wilks (see p.11).

July 5th/10th INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, LLANGOLLEN.

S.I. July 9th SIFD DAY COURSE - DANISH. See p.2.

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. Booking form from Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ. (s.a.e. please).

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. See p.11.

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 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. 10.30 a.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 full day, £4 half day. Non-members £8/£5). Details from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.

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

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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 £17.00. 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.19th 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 on 0121 608 1437.

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

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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A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to all those kind people who sent me information and tapes and records regarding my plea for Iberian music (or musicians able to play this style of music).

Special thanks to Maggie O'Regan for the interesting tape. I enjoyed listening to it but unfortunately none of our tunes was on it. Your card had a lovely picture of a Spanish child dancing with much duende. Also thanks to Frances Horrocks for tapes and records, and to an unknown lady who gave me a musician contact but no details of herself. I hope she reads this article.

ELSA PEREZ
Secretary of the Iberian Folk
Dance & Music Society (Affiliated)

PAUL MULDER'S WEEKEND IN MANCHESTER AND DERBYS.

(19th/20th March). What a wonderfully enjoyable weekend crying out for superlatives! (Sorry Frances Horrocks had to miss it for once). As always, the welcome from the 'natives' was heart-warming and then I couldn't believe that after such a long gap Paul Mulders remembered us (in detail, so no doubt he was prepared again for our ready laughter and unprompted giggle fits).

Even more impeccable than our memories, he effortlessly maintained the interest, enjoyment, feeling of non-stop dancing and music, presenting and honing so easily and effectively. This workshop could have been a "How to do it" video for would-be teachers. As is our delight, there was always the clear picture of the full dance with music to set our brains in gear before the teaching, subtly geared to the specific group in front of him. (I for one sometimes never recover completely from a scrambled first impression of a dance from a muddled teacher; so glad to give another accolade to Paul Mulders). Notable was the indefatigable non-stop top performance before our eyes (all the time, like Deleyan and Vladimir etc.) - except for the test periods - could we remember on our own?).

It is that clear ingrained picture of the dance faultlessly presented which is so crucial for maintaining style and 'heart' in subsequent recall. One of the many bonuses was the encouragement of questions and then the really fulsome, fascinating, rich answers, often with ensuing dialogue and fuller comment, gently elicited from the class - very enriching.

Although there was no singing session, the chorus in particular was fixed from the outset with word placards large enough for the most short-sighted to read from any point in the circle while dancing non-stop. No wonder the response was convincing. Full marks for charm, easy unruffled atmosphere, readiness to laugh, excusing our giggles, noticing everyone's efforts and so sensitively helping anyone with a temporary 'problem/stutter' without underlining it or interrupting the class; everyone was included in the ubiquitous camaradie.

Nearly forgot - it was super to see Frank Dowling and Mike Machin again for the evening dance, along with the other lovely M.C.s. The magic wand even gave an extra little flourish with the platter of delicious sandwiches donated for Sunday lunch.

With dear Julie Korth's outstanding unique hospitality, snippets of beautiful scenery and so many joyful laughs, we felt we had been away for a week's holiday! Many many thanks, Paul, Julie and all our lovely friends in Manchester and Derby. It was all thoroughly enjoyable. Very difficult for Sula and me to tear ourselves away at the end. Another "Gold Badge" everyone. Do hope nothing (my caring duties?) prevents us from coming next time.

Thanks again, Julie and Paul in particular. Hasta la vista!

DIKI GLEESON

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BALKANPLUS

14th May at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1
7.00-10.00 p.m. £4.00. M.C.s: Maggie O'Regan and Sally Fletcher with members of the Ipswich group. Maggie will be including dances from Greece and Russia amongst others, with one or two exotic surprises, while Sally will be presenting a variety of dances both seasoned and more recent and including Yves Moreau's Vlaško and Jaap Leegwater's Krajdunavsko which has proved very popular at recent dances.

FRANCES HORROCKS

SUMMER DANCE FESTIVAL IN FINDHORN, SCOTLAND

Hit Balkan/Rom band "XENOS", from Australia, will once again provide exhilarating live music for Findhorn's annual festival of Sacred Dance, Music and Song, 9th to 16th July 2005. This year the focus is on Rom (Gypsy) dance as well as Balkan, Greek and Armenian dances, taught by Laura Shannon, Peter Vallance and Andy Bettis. There will be abundant live music and song, the scratch band and festival choir, late-night parties, delicious vegetarian food and the unique atmosphere of the Findhorn ecological community. Bookings through the Findhorn Foundation, The Park, Forres IV36 3TZ, Scotland. Tel: 01309 691653.



Rewrite of SIFD Constitution

Having sent some thoughts on the Constitution to the Sub-committee, the Chairman has asked me to put my views that relate to the "Objectives of the Society" in the News, which "should provoke a much wanted discussion amongst SIFD Members"!

Clause 3 (a) reads: "To preserve Folk Dances of all peoples, to make them known and encourage the practice of them in traditional form". The word "traditional" is not defined and means different things to different people and takes on different meanings depending upon context. In my view SIFD events include non-traditional folk dances such as the Scottish dances. Cecil Sharp took an English demonstration team to Glasgow that resulted in Miss Milligan, who became co-founder of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, resurrecting the Scottish dances that were dying out. I guess she was classically trained from the significant changes made to the way it was done by the 'traditional' dancers. Tom and Joan Flett in the 1950s extensively researched and collected Scottish dances from as far back as living memory extended up to 1914 (see their book TRADITIONAL DANCING IN SCOTLAND). Much of their knowledge was passed on by a co-founder of the Reading Traditional & Step Dance Group (Reading Cloggies) where we danced some of the 'traditional' dances. I ^{am} sure SIFD members will not want to give up RSCDS dances and few are likely to want to learn the traditional ones. ^

A somewhat similar situation exists with English dances. The first book of Country Dances by Cecil Sharp who restored to the people the folk dances of England, were the traditional ones collected in various parts of the Country. Subsequent books were from the 17/18th century dances of the aristocracy as published by Playford. I believe in the middle of the last century the EFDSS dropped the Playford dances on the grounds they were not 'traditional'. Playford devotees continued with Instructors in evening classes and weekend courses where I learnt these dances. 'Traditional' and Playford style dances are now done at the EFDSS and SIFD events.

Many English and Scottish dances in their "traditional form" involved stepping that has virtually been dropped when danced these days. The RT&SDG's experience is that few people want to learn stepping, the "traditional form" that does not conform to modern practice.

I accept that dances practised over a long time will become traditional and can accept that the Playford dances that Cecil Sharp revived nearly a century ago may be coming eligible to be 'traditional', but dances at SIFD events made up in my own dancing lifetime, some by people I knew, I find difficult to accept as being 'traditional'.

3 (c) of the Society's Objects reads: "To provide and encourage for the public benefit research into and study of the origin, development and traditional practice of all Folk Dances." Does the Society carry out this activity? I cannot recall such activities (apart from Teacher training theses), any catalogue of researches and studies or who is the Custodian of this information. I question the wisdom of embracing "all Folk Dances"; surely this amongst other things, involves duplication of EFDSS activities. I suggested the words "traditional" and "all" be dropped from this clause.

I admit I am not clear if the "Objects of the Society" define all the activities the Society should be carrying out, the main objectives of the Society or just serve to limit the scope of what the Society can do. The answer affects the significance of my views, which were raised to try and bring the Constitution more in line with my perception of what we are doing.

(See also article on p.12)

John Walford
Reading

INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE WORKSHOPS WITH HENNIE KONINGS

During 2004/2005 a group of people who are enthusiastic about Russian dance have been developing the idea of having regular intensive weekend workshops with Hennie Konings.

Those who have danced with Hennie at the Eastbourne Festival a couple of years ago, or at the workshops which Janet Douglas runs in Bognor and Judy King runs in Shropshire, will know what an excellent teacher he is. The workshops we are developing offer the possibility of working with Hennie at a higher level, deepening our knowledge of the dance, practising for better style and learning more challenging variations. However, never fear, the dances are not necessarily more difficult than those we learn in beginners' workshops!

I book Hennie to come twice a year - on the last weekend in January and June. It is an expensive operation bringing Hennie from Holland but the SIFD were kind enough to underwrite our last workshop and contributed to make up a small loss which we made. These workshops are more expensive than some, but people who come say they are well worth it.

Eventually we hope to have a solid group of regulars who will be able to start where we left off each time, rather than always having to start from 'square one'. We hope that people who have done at least one workshop with Hennie, and who would like to do more with him, will take advantage of this opportunity.

A London Group

As an offshoot of Hennie's workshops some of us who live near enough to London have formed a group who dance together once a month in order to practise what we have learnt with Hennie. The group meets on the last Saturday of most months in East Croydon. Everyone is welcome to these ad hoc sessions where we share experiences and costs.

Anyone interested in either (or both) of these ideas should contact me.

JANET WILKS, 020 7229 9387

(See "Dates for your Diary" for Russian dance weekend in June).



YVES MOREAU WORKSHOPS

The Bulgarian dance workshops with Yves Moreau will take place on the 10th and 11th September at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. Workshops 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Saturday Evening Dance 7.00 to 10.30 p.m.

	<u>Seasons</u>	<u>Non-Seasons</u>
Single workshop	£12.00	£15.00
Saturday Evening Dance	-	£5.00
Weekend Ticket	£20.00	£30.00

Tickets are available by post from 1st May from me, 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Please make cheques payable to Balkanplus and enclose s.a.e.

Season ticket holders will be given preference as places are limited. Seasons are available to regular supporters at Balkanplus dances at £35 and offer a considerable saving on dances and events throughout the year.

FRANCES HORROCKS

SIFD DAY COURSES - UPDATE

You will be aware that there have had to be alterations to the planned Day Course programme for 2005. This is how things now stand:-

11th June ARMENIAN with Dalila Heath.

9th July DANISH with Anne Leach and Janet Woolbar.

August No day course.

September No SIFD day course BUT instead there is on offer the chance to attend the Yves Moreau Bulgarian weekend, 10th/11th September. (See p.11).

October No SIFD day course BUT instead there is the great opportunity to take part in the "Dance With The World" event, 15th/16th October.

November Change of date. As Cecil Sharp House was unable to honour the date of our original booking, the date is now 19th November. The content is still under negotiation.

PAM RADFORD



ADVANCE NOTICE: Lykion Ton Hellinidon are organizing a very special workshop on 20th November so make a note now. Full details next month.

DIKI GLEESON



Members views sought on a major objective of the Society

There has been and is considerable room for discussion about the first object in the SIFD Constitution which reads as follows:

"To preserve Folk Dances of all peoples, to make them known and encourage the practice of them in traditional form."

One view is that this object implies that the SIFD is responsible for preserving dances in all other countries. Is the SIFD to be the guardian of all dances across the world from Arabia to Zimbabwe? In practice can this be the case? Is not the preservation of dances in Sweden the prime responsibility of the Swedish people? What do we mean by 'preserve' and 'traditional'? Have we any right to claim that we are preserving the traditional dances from other countries where dances may change over time? Are we able to do so better than the people in those countries?

Currently the Society keeps records of some dances from other countries but for the purpose of dancing mainly for enjoyment in Britain. Should the objective of the Society be amended or left alone as above?

The committee redrafting the SIFD Constitution invites readers to make brief and succinct contributions in a discussion on this matter, to take place in *SIFD News* on this opening objective in the current Constitution of the Society.

John Boyd, Peter Bransby and Richard Mellish

A NOUGHTY NOTE

We realise that several doyens of the SIFD are reaching birthdays ending in nought during 2005. To mark this, the October 2nd SIFD dance at Cecil Sharp House will be a celebration of Noughties.

If you or a friend have a relevant birthday, please let us know. Send us your dance requests and/or offers of sharing M.C. Replies to us, "The Ancient Trio" - Caspar Cronk, Pam Radford and Fiona Howarth. Tel: Fiona 020 8460 2305; Pam 020 7739 9976.

FIONA HOWARTH

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

May 8th (second Sunday in the month) M.C.s: Dot Bradshaw
Alison Scrimshaw

June 5th M.C.: Pam Radford

Both in Trefusis.

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

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WHAT'S ON IN MAY

May 5th "KOLDS"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.

May 8th "GÜLSAD" South London Turkish Arts Association, presents "Traditional Performances of the World", 5.30 p.m. at Broadway Theatre, Catford Broadway, London S.E.6. Tickets £5.00. For details contact 07971 562 867 or 020 8461 1084.

S.I. May 14th BALKANPLUS. See p.9.

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.