

SIFD NEWS



**June
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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This month's cover showing dancers and musicians at Eastbourne was sent in
by Janet Douglas. (See Janet's article on p.3).

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CHAIRMAN: Janet Woolbar (Mrs.), 34a Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow,
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SECRETARY: Alison Scrimshaw (Mrs.), 22 Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey
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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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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - ARMENIAN

Date: Saturday, 11th June 2005

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

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

Content: ARMENIAN DANCES

Tutor: Dalila Heath

ABOUT EASTBOURNE

Thanks to all of you who attended this year's festival and for so many compliments. There were rave reviews for all our new bands; Twm Twp, Duo Izvor Plus, Klapton Klezmer and New Folks lifted our spirits and got us moving. They were even more impressed with each other; each of them found skills, talent and knowledge in the others. (One of the rewards of being a full-time steward is enjoying the late-night jam sessions in the canteen).*

As usual, it is a delicate balancing act satisfying the disparate needs of the SIFD. Comments received indicate we more or less succeeded; that is to say there are always almost equal numbers of opposite opinions in the suggestion box - "too many couple dances, not enough circle (Balkan, Israeli etc.)" and "too much Balkan, not enough couple dances".

Some of our performers are featured on this month's cover. From the top, Nina, Corry, DuoIzvor Plus, and the Kurzimnieks from Latvia, who not only entertained us but also taught us some lovely Latvian dances, even one "hands, knees and booms a daisy".

A word of thanks to Helen Ezra for bringing the sound equipment, Helen Clancy and Catherine Sharples for full-time stewarding, and Julie, Rowena, Debbie, Andrew, Toni and all of you who helped us through our little hiccups. As usual, Claire and Geoff Steeley gave us our colourful corner, with an ever-open door, the SIFD Shop.

It's a little bit early to give you next year's details, but I will reveal that Hennie Konings is returning to Eastbourne and that the date is:

Friday, 28th April to Monday, 1st May

JANET DOUGLAS

*Perhaps only marmalade is available.



EMBANKMENT GARDENS THEATRE - SUMMER 2005

HUNGARIAN (Balaton)	Sunday, 5th June
EAST EUROPEAN (Doina)	Sunday, 26th June
GREEK (Philhellenes)	Sunday, 3rd July
ROMANIAN (Martisorul)	Sunday, 10th July
GENERAL INTERNATIONAL (Central London)	Sunday, 17th July

All shows start at 3.00 p.m.

I hope the weather will be kind to us this year and that as many local members as are free will go and encourage those groups and their organisers who have put in so much hard work in the previous weeks to show the public what we can do.

If there are any other demonstration groups, whether allied to the Society or not, who might like to appear on this stage, there are, I am sure, a number of dates still blank in the later months. If this interests you, please contact me on 020 7701 3785.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

HAVING A BALL IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

I have always dreamed that one year I shall fly to Rio to celebrate Mardi Gras among half-naked girls dancing on the beach in 30 degrees Centigrade. This year I got it slightly wrong. I flew to Prague and celebrated Shrovetide festivities in Žďár in the Czech-Moravian highlands in minus 30 degrees Centigrade. The girls, and everybody else, were fully dressed, many in Czech and Moravian regional costumes. The occasion was the VIIIth National Costume Ball organized by the Folklore Association of the Czech Republic.

And what an occasion it was! Everybody had a ball. All of the more than 1000 participants. Every year the ball focuses on a different folkloristic region. This time it was the turn of Walachia in North-Eastern Moravia and a dozen folkdance groups arrived from that region. There were another twelve groups from other regions, several of them from Southern Bohemia which will be the focus of next year's ball.

Most of the dancing groups had their own musicians with them and all of them wanted to be heard. So, after their slot in the main hall, they retired into the large entrance hall, or on to the staircase, or into a smaller hall behind the balcony, and carried on playing there. Thus, while in the main hall you could watch the demonstrations and join in the more mainstream dancing of polkas, waltzes, mazurkas and sousedskás, in the fringe places it was possible to enjoy dancing starodávny (an old-time processional dance from North-East Moravia), zvrtek, odzemek, czardas, zavátka, schottische, kolečka and other less usual dances.

Well over half of the participants were dressed in their regional folk costume. Some of the costumes, especially the women's, were very striking, with intricate embroidery. One of the simpler costumes from Southern Bohemia took one woman 160 days to make, I was told. To think how long it must take to make one of the rich costumes from Haná or Slovácko (Moravian-Slovakia) regions in South-Eastern Moravia!

It was a great night. So for next year I have already put in my diary: Goodbye dreams of Rio, hello Žďár again.

DAL SUDWELL

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OYEZ, OYEZ, OYEZ!

Calling upon all those persons with an artistic ability or bright ideas to design a logo for a mug and/or a T-shirt to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Society next year. The approximate size for the design for the mug would be 8/8½ inches by 2½ inches.

Please send your ideas to me by the end of September at the latest.

Thanking you in anticipation,

HELEN EZRA
84 Farm Road, Morden,
Surrey SM4 6RB

Dances For People From 9 to 90
with Corry Verheijen

Stardavny - Mamenka

Czech Republic

A TO JE TA MAMIENKA
CO TY PĚKNE DCÉRY MÁ
KDYŽ JEDU DO KOSTELA }
PĚKNĚ JICH STROJIVÁ } REP

And here is the mother
Who has lovely daughters
When they go to church
They dress up nicely

JEDNEJ DÁVA RÚKAVCE
A TĚ DRUHÉ KÁBÁTEK
A TĚ NAJMILEJŠÍ }
VYŠIVANÝ ŠÁTEK }

One gets gloves
The other a coat
And the sweetest one
Gets a scarf

HORNÍ V ŠENKU V SÍNI ZA DVĚRAMI
STOJÍ DĚVČA S ČERNÝMA OČAMI
CO TAK NA MŇA POHLÍDÁŠ }
ČI SA ZE MŇA VYSMÍVÁŠ }

There behind the door
Is standing a girl with black eyes
Why are you staring at me?
Or are you making fun of me?

NA ČBY JA SA Z TĚBJA VYSMÍVALA
KDYŽ JA NEJSEM *VALEVEČKA TVOJA
FALEŠNÍKU FALEŠNÝ }
FORTELNÍKU FORTELNÝ }

Why should I laugh at you
When I am not your *girlfriend (?)
(Slang names for a
cheating man)

With thanks to Otilia Horrocks for the words and translation (not her first language) of this lovely dance and song that Corry taught on her last visit.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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SIFD BANNER

If any group wishes to use the SIFD Banner, say for the Embankment Gardens demonstrations, please contact a member of the Committee to arrange this. The banner is now at Cecil Sharp House.

HELEN EZRA

KOPRIVSHTITSA 2005 - JUST A FEW PLACES LEFT!

The British-Bulgarian Friendship Society, in association with Balkania Travel Ltd. (ATOL 4465) offers three tours:-

Festival only, 3rd-8th August £485.00

Festival and Sightseeing Tour, 3rd-13th August. £790.00

Festival and Dance Workshop with Delyan Demirev, 3rd-13th August. £790.00

Further information from Dr. Annie Kay, BBFS Tours Organiser, 020 7237 7616.



**RESIDENTIAL BULGARIAN FOLK DANCE COURSE WITH YVES MOREAU AT
MALHAMDALE FRIDAY 7TH - MONDAY 10TH APRIL 2006**

Yves Moreau was one of the first enthusiasts to bring Bulgarian folk dances over to the West. He has a wealth of knowledge about Bulgaria and Bulgarian folk dance which he has collected over many years, and through his long association with the Bulgarians. He now lives in Montreal, Canada, and we are fortunate to have him with us in England for a long weekend. We already have quite a number of his dances in our repertoire, but he assures me that he has plenty more! It may seem a long way off, but you are advised to book early if you want to be sure of a place on the weekend.

This is a residential 3-day weekend course starting on Friday evening and ending on Monday afternoon. It will be held in the HF country house hotel at Malhamdale. Facilities include a heated indoor swimming pool, comfortable lounges, bar, and 2 acres of mature grounds. Accommodation is in comfortable twin, double or single en-suite rooms and all meals are provided with a plentiful choice of good food. It is only a short distance from the geological wonders of Malham Cove and Gordale Scar and there are some delightful walks in the area. Dancers can select either the General or Intermediate course, or both courses, and there will be social dancing in the evenings. There will also be an opportunity to re-dance and revise some of Yves' dances from previous courses. Leaders willing, walks will be offered for when you are not dancing. Non-dancing friends and family are welcome to come and enjoy the facilities of the house, and the delights of the area. Full board accommodation is £175 (3 nights), single course £24, both courses £39.

For full details and a booking form, please send s.a.e. to me at 115, Chetwynd Road, London, NW5 1DA. Alternatively you can get the information electronically by sending your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.

CATHY MEUNIER

DARES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 5th/10th INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, LANGOLLEN.

S.I. July 9th SIFD DAY COURSE - DANISH, with Anne Leach and Janet Woolbar.

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. JUST A FEW PLACES LEFT. 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. See p.10.

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.

S.I. Oct.15th DANCES FROM EASTERN EUROPE DAY COURSE led by Marina Wolstenholme, organized by Nutbrook International Folkdance Group, at Stevenson School, Stapleford, Nottingham. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £7.00 (£4.00 half day). For further information ring 01332 701922 or 0115 9171831.

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 at Sheffield. 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. £8-£22 (sliding scale). Book in advance. For details ring 0114 256 1708.

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Nov.20th WORKSHOP AT LYKION TON HELLINIDON. No details yet.

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.



LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL' EISTEDDFOD - 5TH TO 10TH JULY

Once, there were many folkdance groups visiting this country, giving plenty of opportunity to serious dancers to study the different styles and costumes. For several reasons this is no longer so but among the few remaining possibilities to see them is the Llangollen Eisteddfod. Another plus for me is that in the main competition all the items have to be truly traditional, and to ensure this there is now a separate category for staged dances.

As with all such events, costs escalate each year and therefore there is a need to fill more seats, leading to a more populist approach, although the directors do try to keep to the folk traditions. For that reason, as well as giving dancers a better appreciation of the subtle movements which go to make up folkdance styles, it would be good to see more SIFD members there this year to support this event to which both Lucile Armstrong and Narendra Kotiyan were devoted.

Perhaps I should add that there are now many groups from outside Europe in this competition, but it is heartening to see the quality of dancing of the children's groups which improves every year. Sometimes they are even better than the adult groups!

GEORGE SWEETLAND



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

PIECE FROM THE PAST

In June 1979 the Committee reported a continuing dilemma over sound equipment for the Society. They wanted to buy some, but potential storage, accessibility and operators were unsolved problems. How fortunate we are now to have a storage area in Cecil Sharp House and kind volunteers to set it up, operate it, and transport it when needed.

A long letter from Chris Gunstone gave details of a two-month stay in Australia. As a musician and dance teacher specialising in Macedonian music, he was much in demand - "Every night we are working at folkdance workshops and all day at the weekends. It is non-stop and we get very tired". He and other musicians also performed for several different radio programmes, including one for an ethnic radio station. I was surprised to learn that in 1979 there were 60,000 Macedonians in Sydney and 9,000 in Woolagong. I wonder if the folk scene there is still as intense.

Back in England it was also pretty lively. A Danish team - "Vordingborg Spillemandsdrag" ("18 dancers, 10 fiddlers and relatives") had been invited to Borough Green "for an exchange of Danish and English dances". I trust the relatives danced too.

George Sweetland was organizing an evening dance, hoping to include some teams from the just-ended Eisteddfod at Llangollen. But even if none turned up all was not lost - "the rest of the evening will be devoted to a social dance, with Charles Steventon and myself as MCs and Wilf Horrocks taking care of the music in his usual debonaire fashion". Does anyone remember how it went?

Lily Avery reported on two Turkish workshops with the famed Bora Ozkok, arranged at short notice as he was returning, after a 2½ month trip away, to his current home in the USA. She says she set out with "some curiosity and not a little scepticism" as she had read about him so often in American folkdance magazines, his name always "coupled with numerous superlatives extolling his ability as teacher, musician, dancer and exponent of Turkish folk dances". It turns out, though, that the superlatives were quite justified. Lily enjoyed the workshops very much and only wished they'd been longer. Did he ever do any more for the SIFD?

And lastly, I noticed an ad for a Maisonette to let. I don't recall seeing anything like this recently; is it the sort of thing NEWS readers would like to see return - ads for non-dance-related items?

ALISON SCRIMSHAW

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Little gems of dances (U Rekje, Doroschka, Pristinka, for example) graced Columcille Centre, Edinburgh, on the weekend of 7th/8th May. Many thanks to Maggie O'Regan and Marina Wolstenholme for teaching the dances, to Dennis Belford behind the camera, and to Ruth Bowman for organizing the whole event. (We even had personalized cups for our tea). Well done, everyone.

ANDRENE THOMPSON
Esperance, Broadhaven Road,
Old Portlethen, Aberdeenshire.
AB12 4NR

MUSIC NEWS

June - holiday time coming up! As many of you might be going to France, I think this is a good time to mention that SIFD tape number 6 (the French one) now has a smart, fully revised new book to accompany it. The text is much easier to read than before, and the excellent diagrams are clear and helpful - and still only £2.50!

The dances described are:-

La Vezi La Vezon	La Vrie
La Bourrée à Sept Sauts	La Tirette
La Bourrée Droite d'Issoudin	Les Moutons
L'Etoile	La Bourrée à Huit
La Bourrée Pastourelle	La Bourrée de la Chapelotte
La Bourrée Tournante de Ste.Sévère	La Bourrée Carrée de St.Chartier
La Bourrée Carrée Croisée du Val du Loire	La Bourrée Droite du Pays Fort
La Bourrée de la Brande d'Ardentes	Le Branle à Six de la Châtre
La Bourrée à Six de Briantes	La Bourrée Tournante des Grandes
La Bourrée des Jeunes	Poteries

Notes on bourrée steps are also included.

The matching tape is £3.50, played beautifully by "Rosbif". P & p for one item is £1.00, and for both only £1.20. Cheques should be made payable to SIFD please and orders sent to me (address on p.2).

ALISON SCRIMSHAW



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 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 £35.00 and offer a considerable saving on dances and events throughout the year.

FRANCES HORROCKS

N.B. The Saturday workshop tickets are selling fast. If you wish to make sure of a place, especially on Saturday, please write in quickly. Thank you.

F.H.

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

June 5th M.C.: Pam Radford

July 3rd M.C.s: Woodvale IFDG

Both in Trefusis.

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



WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- 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 your own packed lunch). Tea Dance 3.00 - 5.30 p.m. including cream tea. Whole day £6.00, Tea Dance only £3.00. 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 lunch-time 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.
- S.I. June 11th BALKANPLUS. See below.
- 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.
- 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. £60.00 for the weekend. Details from Janet Wilks, 020 7229 9387.



BALKANPLUS, 11th June at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1 7.00-10.00 p.m. £4.00. M.C.s: Liz Mellish and Nick Green. Their programme will include some of the Romanian dances from their last Day Course.

The evening will not be devoted entirely to Romanian, of course, but will include dances to satisfy all tastes. Nick and Liz are both expert dancers and have travelled widely to research material which they are most generous in sharing with us.

FRANCES HORROCKS