

S97D NEWS



July 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 a traditional Indian stick dance, was sent in
by Janet Douglas. She downloaded the picture from a website which Hetel
Gokal introduced to her. Members may like to know of this website which
has information on all things Indian. The address is:-

www.4to40.com/images/activities/artcraft/dances2

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CHAIRMAN: Janet Woolbar (Mrs.), 34a Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow,
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Other Committee Members:

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

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ARTS COUNCIL INVESTIGATION INTO FAN

The Arts Council investigation, started in 2003, into FAN and its associates
was completed at the end of 2004. These organizations no longer exist as
independent bodies and are now sub-divisions of Folk Arts England.

JOHN DOUGLAS

MARGARET MORTON

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Margaret Morton passed away on Friday evening, 10th June 2005, at St.Luke's Hospice, The Grange, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex. She had an uncommon bone marrow problem which was dormant until just before Christmas and then became very severe. She was with her son, daughter and myself.

We joined the Society in 1976 and Margaret took part in day courses and demonstrations. She joined Alan McLean's class and then more latterly Joyce Sharp and Mona Graham's class on Friday afternoons and Janet Woolbar's U3A class on Tuesdays. She always related her experiences at the Koprivshitsa Festival in Bulgaria with amusement.

Any donations should be sent to the Hospice at the address above in the first paragraph.

May she rest in peace.

ALAN MORTON



BALKANPLUS, 9th July at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1
7.00-10.00 p.m. £4.00. M.C.s: Roger Wicksteed and Sally Humphrey from the Oxford group, presenting some of their favourite dances.

This is the last dance of the season, so make the most of it.

N.B. There is no Balkanplus dance in August. The next dance will be following Yves Moreau's workshop on 10th September. (See p.8).

FRANCES HORROCKS



41ST BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

This year the Billingham Festival will take place from 6th to 13th August. Groups participating will be from Armenia, Belarus, Cyprus, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Russia, Venezuela and the U.K. and there will be a dance course of workshops with the various groups.

For tickets for the concerts, contact the Box Office of the Forum Theatre, Billingham. Tel: 01642 552663.

For information about the Dance Course Workshops, contact Brian Padgett on 01642 527901 or 527904.

For further information about the Festival, contact Billingham International Folklore Festival Ltd., Stockton Business Centre, 70 Brunswick Street, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1DW. Tel: 01642 553220.

PIECE FROM THE PAST

This month I've gone back to July 1973. When I choose what to mention, it isn't just for nostalgic purposes. Often I feel there are practices that have been lost, whose resurrection might be worth considering. Such a one is having demonstrations by visiting/chosen groups or individuals at the Sunday dance at Cecil Sharp House. Admittedly in July 1973 there was an ongoing debate about this, but more about timing and content rather than whether to have them at all. I realise this would mean more organization, but is this a practice that members would like to see return?

An event that still continues today is the Safari but in 1973 it was being swapped for a picnic in a field. Not just any field - this was Sutcliffe Meadow next to the Greenwich Fair. Not just food and dancing but the attractions of the Fair as well - "a flower and vegetable show, a pet show, a beauty queen contest, an equestrian item (possibly a jousting contest), a demonstration by the motorcycle police, and swings and roundabouts". So did they enjoy themselves and still have time to dance? I shall have to visit the October NEWS to find out.

The last children's dance of the season was also to include a picnic. I'm pleased Janet Woolbar is investigating the current role of children in the Society.

Woodvale were off travelling, wisely choosing hosts in the Champagne region of France. They added five Kentish dances to their repertoire, learnt much about making Champagne, and enjoyed great hospitality. The question of costumes was mentioned; "In the absence of a specific English folk costume, we wore the usual "festive dress" which contrasted sharply with the traditional French costume of that region of long black dress and pillow hats for the girls, and elegant pantaloons and caped coat for the boys". How envious I am of those with national costumes, and how I mourn the lack of an English costume. Can anyone explain to me why there isn't one?

A walk was being organized along the foot of the Downs from Redhill. Sounds very pleasant but not, I suspect, an activity that we could reintroduce successfully.

Wilf Horrocks was trying to start a Folk Dance Accordion Class in the autumn. How did that go?

And finally there was a really interesting article from Sybil Chapman on the Organization of the Hungarian Folk Dance Movement. There were (and I hope still are) three levels of classes. The intermediate and advanced have paid, licensed, graded teachers and are heavily subsidised by the supporting organization. The intermediate groups have compulsory practice sessions of two to three hours, held three times each week, which must result in their repertoire including an obligatory programme of about an hour's duration. The members of these groups "have a sizeable costume collection of two or three regions with up to eight costumes within each region". (Sigh - see above). The advanced groups have more practice sessions, more programmes and even more costumes. All highly organized and altogether fascinating.

ALISON SCRIMSHAW

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Aug.6th/13th BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL. See p.3.

- 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. 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. See p.8.

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 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.

Oct.9th DANCES FROM THE GREEK ISLANDS AND CRETE. See p.7.

- 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. 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. East 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.20th WORKSHOP AT LYKION TON HELLINIDON. No details yet.

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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.

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.

Apr.7th/10th 2006 RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF BULGARIAN FOLK DANCES with Yves Moreau at Malhamdale, Yorkshire Dales. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full-board, indoor swimming pool. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Delightful area for walking. Malham Cove nearby. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation £175 (three nights). Single course £24, both courses £39. For full details and booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

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.



CENTRAL LONDON GROUP'S EMBANKMENT GARDEN DISPLAY
AND DISRUPTION ON THE UNDERGROUND

Those of us participating in or watching the group's display on Sunday, 17th July, may well need to know that neither the District nor Circle lines will be serving Embankment Station all that weekend. The disruption will be caused by an ongoing programme of track replacement which closes the District Line between Earls Court and Whitechapel, plus the whole of the Circle line, over selected weekends throughout the year.

The Bakerloo and Northern Lines should be running normally through Embankment Station.

The disruption will not coincide with any other of the displays listed in the June SIFD NEWS, no other weekends between 16th/17th July and 10/11th September being affected.

Transport for London offers the following sources of information :-

020 7222 1234 for 24-hour travel information from London Transport
020 7918 3015 for the Textphone
The website at www.tfl.gov.uk

JOHN SMITH

DANCES FROM THE GREEK ISLANDS AND CRETE

On Sunday, 9th October, Georgina Kyrris will present this exciting workshop in Nottingham. There will be an optional Greek feast and Paniyiri (festival) in the evening.

Georgina was born in Cyprus and has been teaching Greek dances since 1989. She has a vast and detailed knowledge of Greek dance and is already a well-respected teacher within the Greek community. Her aim is to keep alive and promote Greek traditional dance and culture and make Greek dance accessible to all, whatever their age or ability.

No previous experience of Greek dance is needed but confidence in basic dance steps is. A workshop pack with music and information about the dances will be available for a small additional charge.

For a leaflet giving full details, contact me on 0115 955 4962.

CHRISANDRA HARRIS

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New 'South Coast' Website

Janet persuaded me to set up a website for her Bognor Regis group and it has grown to cover a number of groups along the South Coast. You can reach us via the SIFD site. As a new site we need people to link to us to get known so can people with websites, please provide us with a link? I have linked to all known SIFD websites but if I've missed someone out, please let me know.

One advantage of a website is the feedback, which will be helpful to everyone. I can already see which links are useful as I get told which ones have been followed to get to my site. This identifies good places to publicise groups whether or not they have websites. The internet has generated lots of organisations claiming to be what they are not. You can waste a lot of time promoting your group on the web with no real return without realising it. As I identify the better places, I will let you know.

The top (and only!) location at the moment is the BBC website - go to the Strictly Come Dancing Page and follow the 'Learn to Dance' link to get to the Dance Directory and then to your area/county. They will add your class/group if you email them with the details. I suggest you supply the information in their format to make it easy to add and only put one group per email (retry after a week if they have not added you). In the first week I have had 5 website visits through them from people looking for dance opportunities in our area who now know that we exist. We should all be able to take advantage of the popularity of this series to become better known.

I am still puzzling my way through website technology and have reached two conclusions. Firstly most of my visitors are automated search engines known as 'robots' who read everything on my site several times a day. I have therefore told Janet to keep an eye out for them, as they are obviously interested and might turn up at one of her groups. Secondly the knowledge that someone in Australia was able, at 3am their time, to discover details of Janet's after-school class makes it all worthwhile.

John Douglas
Oak Cottage,
92 Rose Green Road,
Bognor Regis,
West Sussex
PO21 3EO

S.I.F.D. DANISH DAY COURSE

Date: Saturday, 9th July

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

Tutors: Anne Leach and Janet Woolbar

It is several years since we had a course of Danish dances and there is a fund of material taught to us mainly by Gaye Saunte and Jørgen Christensen which is in danger of being lost. The course in July will revise a selection of these dances, emphasizing the common characteristics but also demonstrating the variety.

Rheinländer Polka	
Den halve Koede	Zealand
Fire mands reel	
Menuet	Randers
Hornfiffin	Randers
Sving Kontra	Blaavand
Sønderhoning	Fanø
Tæ khemandmans tretur	
Traekantet sløife	Thy, West Jutland
and possibly -	
Jødetur	Mors
Harman bosses	Bornholm

We look forward to seeing you there.

JANET WOOLBAR

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 from 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.

There are only a few tickets left for the Saturday workshop, so book now.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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

July 3rd M.C.s: Woodvale IFDG. In Trefusis.

No dance in August The next dance will be on Sept.4th.

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



WHAT'S ON IN JULY

July 3rd PHILHELLENES GREEK DANCERS, 3.00 p.m. at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.

July 5th INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, LLANGOLLEN.
to 10th

S.I. July 8th BARNET SUMMER PARTY with music by Dunav at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. 8.00 p.m. £5.00. Rounding off a successful season with a bang. Meetings recommence on 9th September. Contact: Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.

S.I. July 9th SIFD DAY COURSE - DANISH. See p.8.

S.I. July 9th BALKANPLUS. See p.3.

July 10th MARTISORUL (Romanian dances), 3.00 p.m. at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.

S.I. July 16th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO SUMMER PARTY with live music from "Vuhpros"; 7.00-11.00 p.m. Tickets £5.00 at the door.

July 17th CENTRAL LONDON GROUP (International dances), 3.00 p.m. at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.



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* IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
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* Next month's SIFD NEWS will be edited by Heather
* Edwards. All material for that issue must reach
* her IN WRITING at 47 Sutherland Avenue, Bexhill-
* on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 3QL, by 17th July.
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Heather is willing to stand in when I am away, which I very much appreciate, but doesn't wish to take it on regularly, so the job of Editor is still open Please contact me or the Committee if you would like to take it on.

LILY AVERY