

SIFD NEWS

AUGUST

2005



Internet Website: www.sifd.org

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Typed by Heather Edwards. Packaged and posted by Dalila Heath.

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This month's cover was sent in by Simon Guest and shows midsummer celebrations at the Swedish Seamen's Church in London, this year.

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SIFD Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General meeting will take place on
Saturday, November 26th, 2005, in Manchester.

Full details of the venue will be published separately.

Motions should be proposed and seconded, and should be received by the secretary *on or before the 23rd of September*. As the AGM is being held earlier than usual, motions must be received by that date for inclusion on the agenda.

The change of venue should give many members who are not usually able to attend the AGM the chance to do so – we hope they will take this opportunity. A programme for the whole day is being planned, so we trust as many people as possible will try to attend, and enjoy a visit to Manchester.

Alison Scrimshaw

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal forms have been included with this issue of the News. I would appreciate their prompt return. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope if you require a receipt for your payment.

Overseas members may, if they wish, pay by credit card via PayPal, although sterling cheques are preferred. PayPal accounts are identified by the account holder's email address and the Society's account is mail@SIFD.org. Details of the PayPal system can be found at www.paypal.com.

Overseas members normally receive their copies of the SIFD News via surface mail, but airmail despatch outside Europe can be arranged on request. Please add the extra postage cost of £8 to your subscription if airmail is required.

Simon Guest, Membership Secretary

Please note that contributions to the September 'News' should be sent to the Editor, Lily Avery, at the above address by August 17th

Notes from July's Committee Meeting

The committee met in July after two meeting-less months, so there was much to discuss. However, much preliminary work had already been carried out by email, so although the agenda was long, all the items were covered. Of necessity, many items are ongoing, needing only brief progress reports, but there were several new items.

Among the items discussed were –

A 'volunteer' has finally been persuaded to help us review our membership of the CCPR. We're much indebted to her, as this means the **investigation of current organisations** to which the SIFD is affiliated, is on schedule, and a complete report can be presented at the AGM.

The date of **the AGM** has been fixed for November 26th 2005. It will be held, for a complete change, in Manchester. Our kind hosts there are aiming to make the day busy and enjoyable, and well worth travelling to Manchester for. Full details will be provided by them, and elsewhere I'm making the customary request for items for the agenda.

Judith Payling has made initial investigations into claiming **Gift Aid**. It looks as though the Society *might* be eligible to make claims for the past few years and – if successful – the financial returns would make a really worthwhile contribution towards our ever-increasing running costs. If we *are* able to claim Gift Aid, we will need your support and co-operation to make all Judith's work worthwhile.

Many classes and groups have been most commendably prompt in re-applying for Associated or Affiliated **membership** – Simon has already had replies from 39 groups - thank you. If you haven't sent your form back yet, please do so soon, as it would be wonderful to get the planned publicity leaflets ready for distribution in September, the start of the new term/year, when they are at their most useful.

Speaking of **publicity leaflets**, it looks as though asking directly might have had results – an offer of help with leaflets has been made, but not yet confirmed, by someone Janet approached. Please keep your fingers crossed – I should be able to tell you more next time.

Other publicity initiatives will include mentioning our Cecil Sharp House events in "Set and Turn Single" (thank you Paul) and putting the occasional advert in "Grapevine".

It was decided to 'sponsor' one of the **new cushion covers** in the main hall at Cecil Sharp House (again, thank you Paul). Soon our latest T-shirt design should appear on one of them. Kate Badrick and her team of English Folk Dancers are working hard to make the hall look much smarter, and we felt she deserved our support.

After 5 years Marianne Moore is finally giving up the position of organising the **MCs for the Sunday dances** at CSH. We're enormously grateful to her for having done it for so long, as without her the dances just wouldn't have happened. Please let me know if **you** are longing to take over from Marianne.....

There is news of a **new editor** for the News! But as I expect Lily and/or the person involved would like to tell you themselves, I won't spoil it by saying anything here.....

The next committee meeting will be September 24th.

Alison Scrimshaw

Affiliation and Association Renewal

Groups and Classes affiliated to, or associated with, the Society are listed annually in the News and the names included in publicity material.

At the time of writing (July 10th) only 22 out of 40 affiliation renewal forms and 17 out of 25 association renewal forms (all sent out in May) have been returned.

I would urge all secretaries/teachers to return their forms quickly so that the list can be produced promptly and include all groups and classes.

Lost you form? Ring 01992 577065 or email squest@iee.org

Simon Guest, Membership Secretary

MARGARET MORTON

I am almost overwhelmed by the amount of letters and cards from both inside and outside the Society expressing sympathy and condolences on Margaret's passing at St. Luke's Hospital on 10th June 2005. Many of them included donations to St. Luke's, with special thanks to members of Joyce Sharp's Wednesday class, Mona Graham's Friday class and Janet Woolbar's U3A class, especially during the last stages of this dreadful illness Margaret suffered.

In due course I will try to answer as many cards as possible but in case I have missed anyone please accept my apologies.

The family and our friends have been very supportive and helpful.

Thank you again.

ALAN MORTON
26 Durham Road, Harrow,
Middx. HA1 4PG

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Tributes

Those of you who read the July SIFD News will have read Alan's letter to say that, sadly, Margaret passed away on the 10th June.

The Croxley Green groups will miss her as she had been a popular member of both the Wednesday and the Friday groups for about 20 years. She joined in many of the demonstrations, looking so much the part in each costume and with dancing style to match, the demonstrations mostly being around the Croxley Green area and also at the London Embankment Gardens.

I first met Margaret and Alan at a class in Stanmore. Later on we joined Fiona's group Hama'agal, which was held at a school near the Oval and enjoyed a number of years in the class.

In 1988 and 1990 Margaret, Alan, my husband Bill and myself visited the former Yugoslavia. Thanks to Margaret I have lovely memories of it all on video tape.

I was with Margaret twice in Koprivshitsa at the wonderful festival held there. We did have many laughs, luckily the memories go on.

Holidays were spent in Austria and Switzerland with Margaret and Alan, Joan and Simon, Audrey and Ed, Mona and myself; some of these are also on video tape.

Margaret, smiling and uncomplaining, will be remembered by us all.

JOYCE SHARP and
all the Croxley Green Group
6 Girton Way, Croxley Green,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 3QN

Tributes to Margaret Morton (continued)

Margaret was a very special friend and one of the 'gang' who spent happy times together. We remember wonderful holidays in Switzerland, Austria and France.

We first met Margaret and Alan at Israeli dance courses and weekends and then they joined our St. James folk dance class in New Barnet.

Margaret was such a lovely person, always enjoying company, always the same, never an unkind word about anybody.

We shall miss her so much and we assure Alan and family of our love and support.

JOAN and SIMON GUEST
49 Station Road, Epping,
Essex CM16 4HJ

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Margaret loved dancing, particularly Israeli. She was a member of several groups - in London, Croxley Green and the Harrow area - and attended day courses, Sunday dances and Summer Schools.

She and Alan were inveterate travellers. She bought several costumes abroad and was kind enough to bring some back for other people, weighty though they sometimes were!

Her cheery presence will be sadly missed.

AUDREY WHITELEY
16 De Vere Walk, Watford,
Herts. WD17 3BE

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Margaret was my friend, sometimes my dancing partner, many times a very generous hostess, but my vivid and happy memories are of our 'Gang' holidays. She videoed us in Austria, Switzerland and France and each year made us a present of the video which we all treasure. We had a lot of laughs and will miss her.

MONA GRAHAM
25 Warwick Way,
Croxley Green, Herts.

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ISRAELI DANCES WORKSHOP

Dance notes from Roberto Haddon's 2002 Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival Israeli dances workshop - free to the person who bought the tape at Eastbourne last year on receipt of a s.a.e. to Jan Mulreany, 92 Stanmore Park Road, Brighton BN1 7JH

Llangollen International Eisteddfod - 2005

For folk dancers, this was an unfortunate year at the Eisteddfod. Usually in the programme there are around 24 groups due to appear. Although some have to cancel, this still leaves 20 or so. This year only 15 were listed and of these, on the day, 7 were absent which included several African groups, Ukrainians and Turks. The most disappointing was the non-appearance of the Macedonians from Bitola. They were unable to get visas from the British Embassy, and so could not travel. A local Wrexham paper significantly noted that the Embassy was staffed entirely by Macedonians so it is possible that it was the result of a typical Balkan petty feud.

Apart from this, the mix was much as before, some interesting performances, some familiar ones, and one which I thought was pretty awful.

Jill Bransby will be giving her informative and incisive review of the Folk Music Competition.

One of the good things about the Eisteddfod is seeing old friends. The Lloyds, Pauline May, Julie Korth from Manchester, Hilda and Roger from Bristol, Gill Welfare and I probably missed others.

A further point I have to make is that like all organisations there are gaping holes in the system and they are often filled by the experienced hands. Robin Jones is an excellent presenter, but this year some presenters were new, so when the last competition ended many left the Pavilion for a breath of air. Robin would have given a warning that the next competition, in this case the Adult Folk Dance Groups, would be starting in five minutes, but nothing was announced, so I, and a number of other SIFD people missed the first item, the Swedes, entirely. When the Competition was over, I saw some of the Swedes and asked if they were dancing anywhere else, and luckily they were dancing in an open air arena soon after, so I shall review them as if they were on stage.

Adult Folk Dance Competition

Sweden, Albo Folkdanslag

This older group of 6 couples presented as in the programme, Rättarepolskan, Slängpolska from Skåne, Hambo, Birenbomskan and Svingedans. The musicians were very authentic with fiddle, Nyckelharpa and accordion which gave a good balanced sound. Entering with a simple line dance, changing to a circle, they followed with a couple dance with a clapping and partner turning figure in polka tempo, then Hambo, with variations including change of partners. In the next, the women moved to the centre and the men danced around the circle, all with a hopping step. Most older members would then have recognized 'our' Swedish Schottish. Lastly, came one which was very similar to Östgötapolska except it was for 6 couples, not eight. (83)

Romania, 'Izvorasul', Cluj-Napoca

These regular visitors to the Eisteddfod are from Transylvania, and both dancers and musicians are always made welcome. Directed by Daniela Calimac, they danced 'Joc in Ponturi Fecioreasca' and 'Jocul de la Urca'. The first is in slow time and the second faster, but apart from that there is a lack of contrast in these dances as the movements tend to be alike. The men alternate Hungarian style boot slapping steps with turning their partners in fast and complex figures, leaving the girls little to do independently. The white and black costumes of the region contrast well with more highly coloured ones from other countries. The high straw hats like 'toppers' for the men and flat, wide brimmed ones for the girls are a distinguishing feature. (82)

Kurdistan (London), Folk Dance Group.

The names of their dances were not included in the programme. The first, a line dance for men and women with their arms tightly interlocked was typically Kurdish with the right foot well forward, and the bending forward and back from the waist, brought the right foot up high and stamped it

down and it included a solo for the lead man. Next was a 'challenge' dance for two lines of 4 men advancing toward each other to threaten their opposites. The girls then entered and eventually brought the two sides together and all was well. The music was by duval (drum) and kaval (pipe). Third, (85)

Spain, 'Xaréu', Asturias

This, for me, was the most interesting item. As far as I am aware, this region has never been represented at the Eisteddfod before. The men's costumes had similarities to those of Aragon with black knee breeches with inner white trousers. The waistcoats were tight, many in green and white, but what I thought was a black, pointed hat, nearer to it I saw the right hand brim was turned high, flat against the head. The women had long pleated skirts in muted colours, black waistcoats with an elaborately arranged headscarf. Music was provided by the dancers castanets, 4 girl singers and accordions and pipes. 'Regondixu' was for 4 couples with a curious flat footed step, putting the foot down almost with a stamp. 'Xiningüela de Naves' seemed to be in two parts. Two men and four girls with a solo for both men dancing together. This was followed by six girls in two lines of three, the men moving along the line to dance with each of the girls in turn with little skipping steps used throughout. This item was Spanish regional dancing at its best. First, (88).

Republic of Ireland, Emerald Isle Dancers, Dublin,

Perhaps, in a folk context, this can be most charitably described as peculiar. The dances are described as 'traditional jigs, reels and hornpipes' but this would seem unlikely. I have never seen a contemporary picture of young 19th century country girls in short dresses, with sequined cloaks and, most oddly of all, a bushy hair piece. They all looked about 14 and not a boy in sight. (80)

India, 'Heritage', Patiala

'Jhoomar' and 'Bhangra', are familiar dances at the Eisteddfod. Danced by men and women separately and in this item, together, these are always colourful with lots of verve and enthusiasm, so that in this respect, they really epitomise folk dance (82)

N.Ireland, Loughgiel Folk Dancers, Ballymena

This group is almost a fixture at Llangollen. While the girls in particular like to wear their festival costumes when off-duty, their leaders know that for this competition they must wear real traditional dress.

Their two dances were 'Hornpipe' and 'Antrim Reel' and the stepping was of the highest quality, but this discipline does iron out any individuality. They usually have at least two men, but on this occasion there was only one. Second, (87)

Turkey, Izmir Folk Dancers.

(Note for those who were at the Eisteddfod. I did not think it helpful to write out the full name of these Turkish groups !)

The programme notes that 4 dances were to be performed, but again were divided into two sections, one slow and deliberate and the other faster and joyful. We were obviously watching an army scout watching for the approach of the enemy. He was then joined by the other 7 men and they danced what was a pre-battle ritual for victory. There was no battle of course, but the next section was a celebration as the men returned to their womenfolk. The dances come from Northern Anatolia, the area near the Armenian and Georgian borders and the mens' costumes are very similar, the womens' more Turkish in style. The musicians, who appeared in the Folk Music Competition, were very good. indeed (80)

Adjudications

Generally, this was much shorter this year, but the groups do get a fuller, written one. Here, I simply give a few of the key phrases. The Swedes were 'authentic'. It was noted that the Romanian item was a suite of dances and this did not meet with the judges approval. The Kurds were declared to be 'real authentic folk' and the Asturian dances were judged to be properly contrasting, with good, authentic music. The Dublin Irish were 'not folk' at all. Heritage of India were enthusiastic but lacked individuality. N. Ireland were not 'up to the mark', (whatever that means here). Finally the Izmir Turks were advised they were in the wrong category.

As this Competition was a short one, I am devoting a little more space to the Children's Dance Competition, but I must point out the list is incomplete.

Children's Folk Dance Competition

Lithuania, Panevezys, ('Grandinele')

Some of these young children looked as if they had not been walking long, let alone dancing. The steps were not too difficult but the choreography was quite complex. Everyone seemed to be in the right place at the right time and enjoying themselves. Their first dance was titled 'Mushrooming', and the second based on a folk tale.

Turkey, Izmir,

Both dances, 'Zeybeck' and 'Trakya' were associated with pre-wedding ceremonies. While the majority of the group were young girls who showed the typical Turkish shoulder shake, the two who were the bride and groom were very young and took their parts very solemnly. A well danced item.

England, Skipton.

The group were, I think all girls - two were dressed as 'boys' (?) In long, white dresses with the addition of sailor's collars for the 'Hornpipe'. Then came 'Picking up Sticks' and a Maypole dance. They gave a competent performance, but the lack of boys in the Group meant a lack of contrast and the music seemed a little thin in sound.

India, 'Heritage'.

The content of the children's items reflects that of the adult groups, (here, Bhangra and a Ghoomar) but what is specific is the boundless energy and the enjoyment shown by these young people with a huge age range. Second, (88).

Turkey, Istanbul.

These girls were aged from 11 to 16 and again the dances were part of a pre-wedding ritual, but this time for the bride and bridesmaids and were accompanied by the duval and zurna. The costumes were virtually a uniform, but the bride to be was in white, with a striking head dress.

N. Ireland, Loughgiel.

The point about the relationship between the younger and older groups applied here. The juniors stepping was not so ultra perfect, but nevertheless these children danced 'The King of the Fairies' and 'Bonfire Reel' very well and the foot tapping music helped to secure their position. First, (94)

Ukraine, Kiev.

This was a very 'stagey' item, the costumes having lots of gold decoration and the whole highly choreographed, but it was well danced by the boys and girls, with much vigour.

Other Results

Folk Song Groups Scotland, Georgia, India.

Folk Choirs Hungary (180), Czech Rep. (179), Sweden (178)

Individual Folk Dance Romania, India, N.Ireland.

Postscript

I have said that things were a little odd this year, but perhaps the oddest is that the Opening ceremony took place on Wednesday evening, nearly half way through the programme !

The requirements of the opening concerts are that they should be undemanding but entertaining and these it was. Lesley Garrett and Jonathon Lemalu sang popular arias in the first half and 'Songs from the Shows' after. Two, 'Summertime' and 'Bess' from Gershwin's 'Porgy and Bess' were especially liked by the audience. There were two 'mini' concerts after the intervals on Thursday and Friday evening. A flamenco show with Juan Martin with dancers and musicians, would not, I know be to everyone's taste, but I enjoyed it immensely. Friday featured a French Navy band, the Breton Bagad de Lann - Bihoué, but it wasn't Breton music as we know it. The bagpipes were all of the Scottish type and their volume drowned out everything except the 'batterie' of percussion.

I had some reservations as I always do, but I still find this one of the most enjoyable weeks of the year.

George Sweetland

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BULGARIAN IN MANCHESTER

For those who want to join in Bulgarian culture, songs and dances, there have been several events in Manchester which will continue at full speed in September. More details from Lyubimka and Bob Bisserov-Gough, lyubimka@bobinka.demon.co.uk, tel: 07909 747080.

Lyubimka Bisserov has been leading a Bulgarian singing group. So far they have met three times, and will start up again weekly from September 23rd. The singing was beautiful complex harmony picked up very quickly. The real challenge for the singers was when they had to dance and sing, blending gentle footwork with singing (and trying to read the words) all at the same time!

Also on June 12th a Bulgarian Folk Club was started, a chance to enjoy the rich Bulgarian heritage with music, dance, food and cultural exchange. Both Lyubimka Bisserov and Kalinka Vulcheva performed singing spots. This should also continue in September.

BOB ROBINSON

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I. Sept.8th BRETON MUSIC AND DANCE with Mike James and Yves Leblanc. Breton dance workshops and melodeon workshop followed by a Fest Noz. From 8.00pm. Organised by Les Panards Dansant. Headingley Parish Hall, Leeds. Contact Yannick: 01274 833473 or www.frenchdanceleeds.co.uk
- S.I. Sept.10th/11th BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOPS WITH YVES MOREAU. Cecil Sharp House, London. 11.00am. to 5.00pm.
- S.I. Sept.10th BALKANPLUS. See p.12.
- Sept.16th FEST NOZ. Breton Dance Party with Yves Leblanc and Mike James. Brighton. 8.00pm. £5. Bookings to Jan Mulreany, 92 Stanmore Park Road, Brighton BN1 7JH or email mulreany@btinternet.com
- Sept.24th "ON SHOW" at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 3.00pm. 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.
- Sept.30th MACEDONIAN AND SERBIAN DANCING. An evening with Ibrahim Rizevski and Dragan Micic at Swanfield Community Centre, Swanfield Drive, Chichester, Sussex. 7.30pm. £6. Details from Claire Wilton tel: 01243 788833.
- S.I. Oct.1st SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH AUTUMN DAY COURSE with Janet Woolbar. 10.30am. to 4.30pm. at St. Giles Church Hall, Church Road, Sheldon (5 minutes North of A45 Coventry Road, near Birmingham International Airport). Lunch break 1.00 to 2.00pm. and Branch A.G.M. at 1.30pm. 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. Further information from Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010. See p.12.
- Oct.9th DANCES FROM THE GREEK ISLANDS AND CRETE in Nottingham. Contact Chrisandra Harris, 0115 9554962.
- S.I. Oct.14th/16th FESTIVAL DES PANARDS, Otley Civic Centre, near Leeds., Friday: French and Breton Bal from 8.00pm. with Dulzaina & Ker Brise Saturday: French Bal from 7.30pm. with ZEF from France, Steve Ellis Trio, Pierre Casaubieilh (Gascon musician). French, Breton, Gascon Dance and Music workshops from 10.00am. at Civic Centre and Otley Court House. Sunday: from 11.00am. Free music and dance session at Korks Wine Bar, Otley. Lunch £5 to be booked ahead. Contact Yannick on 01274 833473 or visit WWW.frenchdanceleeds.co.uk
- S.I. Oct.15th DANCES FROM EASTERN EUROPE DAY COURSE led by Marina Wolstenholme, organised by Nutbrook International Folkdance Group, at Stevenson School, Stapleford, Nottingham. 10.30am. to 4.30pm. £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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Contd...

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.

Nov.26th SIFD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DAY OF DANCE. St.Ninian's Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester. 10.30-15.30 Day of Dance, workshop of dances around the world; 16.00-17.30 Annual General Meeting; 19.00-22.00 International dance.

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

S.I. Dec.3rd SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS DANCE. 7.30-10.30pm. 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 N19. Enquiries to Irene Keywood, 020 8592 4427.

S.I. Dec.31st SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. 8.00pm. 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.

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BBC STRICTLY COME DANCING

In last month's issue the BBC Strictly Come Dancing website was mentioned. You do not need a website, just ask a computer literate person to add your group details ie. venue, times, etc. John strongly urges every group to advertise themselves on what is currently the best possible place to advertise international folk dancing. We have had over a hundred visits to our website since putting up our group's details.

JOHN and JANET DOUGLAS

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MACEDONIAN/SERBIAN WEEKEND, BOGNOR REGIS

The weekend of Macedonian and Serbian dance (October 1st & 2nd) is fast approaching. I think that as Dragan Micic is almost unknown in this country I will give him a quick 'write-up'.

We met Dragan in Belgrade several years ago; he was one of the teachers that the national dance group, Kolo, had engaged for the course. Each of the teachers specialised in dances from different regions of former Yugoslavia. Dragan taught several dances that were mainly from the north of Serbia and being border area dances they shared characteristics with neighbouring countries.

He couldn't speak a word of English, and so his son interpreted (and danced as the woman with a very droll expression). Dragan made a definite hit with the English contingent as did Ibrahim Rizevski - who is now well known to many of you since his Macedonian workshops at Eastbourne and Bognor. We have wanted to invite Dragan to come and give a workshop for some time but we were a bit worried about the language barrier. Ibrahim was so keen to introduce Dragan to England he volunteered to accompany Dragan as interpreter because he had been very impressed with the programme Dragan put on in Belgrade. So that gave us the chance to offer you this very special weekend.

Dragan is very keen to come to England, not least because the economic situation in Serbia still makes life very difficult for ordinary people (being ostracised by Europe). Fans of Paja Milic may like to know that he has helped with the arrangements for the weekend. (Paja has had repeat surgery on his knee and is still being a bit careful!)

John and I have decided to take at least one year off from organising weekend workshops so the Serbian/Macedonian weekend will be your last chance to experience the joys of Bognor Regis Balkan style for some time.

JANET DOUGLAS

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BALKANPLUS

There is no dance in August.

The next dance will be on September 10th following Yves Moreau's workshop. M.Cs.: Madeleine Chapman and John Riley with Dunav. There is no need to book in advance for the evening dance.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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FREE TO GOOD HOMES!

'Traditional Dance in Greek Culture' by Yvonne Hunt
'Bulgarian Dances' compiled by Liz Mellish, Nick and Helen Green.

Cost of postage appreciated. 'Phone Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

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

No dance in August
Sept.4th M.C.: Jeanette Hull

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

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WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

Aug.6th/13th BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL.

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. For information contact Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, BN22 0PZ. Tel: 01323 503991.

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

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LOGO WANTED!

Dear Readers of the News,

Following my request in the June News for ideas for a logo for mugs and/or T-shirt to celebrate 60 years of the S.I.F.D. I was wondering if anyone is out there as I have not heard from you yet!

Please send any brainwaves to me at 84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 6RB by the end of September.

Thanking you in anticipation.

HELEN EZRA

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Events covered by SIFD insurance are marked S.I. Please remember that the onus is on you to mark each event when sending in the notice if your event is covered by our insurance.

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