

# S I F D NEWS



## September 2005

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: [www.sifd.org](http://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 was sent in by Janet Douglas.  
See Janet's article on p.5.

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Middlesex HA3 8JZ.

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Tel: 01992 577065.

Other Committee Members:

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

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

I am pleased to report that the start of our new membership year (1st September) sees us with two new Affiliated groups (with two more being processed) and two new Associated classes. We welcome Akhtamar Armenian Performance Group ([www.akhtamar.co.uk](http://www.akhtamar.co.uk)) and Le Breizho ([www.breizho.org.uk](http://www.breizho.org.uk)) who join our 38 Affiliated groups and we welcome Gosport & Fareham Interfolk ([www.interfolk.co.uk/gfi/](http://www.interfolk.co.uk/gfi/)) and Loidis International Folkdance Group (which was previously affiliated) who join our 23 Associated classes.

So far, 40% of the individual members who received renewal forms have completed and returned them to me. I shall be printing out the address labels for the October SIFD NEWS early in September so please make sure that I have your renewal by then. If you have lost your form, please ring 01992 577065 or e-mail [sguest@iee.org](mailto:sguest@iee.org) for a new one.

SIMON GUEST

## Piece from the Past

As there was no room for the August piece last month, I hope you won't mind that it's appearing in the September issue!

**August 1981** is the issue of the News I've chosen at random today – and it looks like a good choice – it's pretty full.

The first thing I noticed was that SIFD T-shirts only cost £1.90 – but this *was* 24 years ago.

There are many letters in this issue, and one hot topic was “the dancing skills of various members of the SIFD.” I haven't looked back, but this seems like a hot potato to me. Should those “not up to standard” be “gently and tactfully” excluded from classes or demonstration teams? One correspondent felt if ever this were likely to happen, people should be warned of the possibility beforehand, which seems fair. Warnings of a divided Society because of “exclusion and elitism” mercifully seem to have been heeded.

Wilf Horrocks reported on a wonderful display by the Virsky Ukrainian State Dance Company. Twenty-four “lovely girls danced with charming and graceful movements”, and twenty four men “danced, jumped, leapt, flew, twisted, turned and przedka-ed with absolute precision, and apparently no effort.” Wilf went home feeling exhausted.

I loved a comment in another letter on the etiquette of joining a dance – “There are two choices in circle/line dances; to barge one's way into the first dozen or so dancers in the line, who know what they are doing, or join at the end where chaos usually reigns.” Is it still like that today?

Jill Bransby gives a most enthusiastic account of the Eastbourne Festival earlier in the year, and her delight on learning that the SIFD had just been asked to run the International side the following year. She concluded that this would be a great improvement, and it must have been, as it still is the way it is run today. In 1981 Eddy Tijson taught “Ma Navu, Vai Nikehu, Debka Udd and Dror Yikra. I don't recognise any of them – is this just my poor memory, or should they be revived?

Jenia Graman wrote an interesting article on the dances and dancers of Georgia. One passage caught my eye – “The women have really only two steps (as they are wearing long dresses, any complicated steps could not be seen anyway. .... The men have a number of sometimes very tricky basic steps. What they have in common, men and women, is that the steps must be absolutely smooth, no wriggling, no wobbling, and for the women no jumping. The body must be absolutely straight at all times. When men and women dance together they do not touch, except on the very rare occasion where the man takes the woman's arm (not, as here, where *she* takes *his* arm), but on any other occasion his coat must not even touch her skirt.”

What a lot I'm learning.

Alison Scrimshaw

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## SWANSEA 2006

Celebrate SIFD's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday by coming to the Summer School 22-29 July 2006  
We have a treat in store!

**Silviu Ciuciumis (Romania) and Cristina Casarina (Italy)**  
have agreed to teach the main courses

**Maggie O'Regan and Jill Bransby**  
will be teaching the general course

Full details and booking arrangements will be published in the Autumn

Further information from Roger Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU [rogersturge@onetel.com](mailto:rogersturge@onetel.com)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 05

On Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, we danced three dances in the Hawth Theatre.

The three dances were called, Cica obranova Kolo, Kolubarksi vez and pembe.

We had to wear a special costume including a shirt, belt, tassles, Apron, headress and on the left hand side of it was a red rose.

We take our lessons on dancing every Thursday since September 2004.

We are also going to dance in the Royal Albert Hall on September 24<sup>th</sup> 2005 with lots of other children and adults.

The music comes from Serbia.

It was great even though we had to hang around for almost 2½ hours after our rehearsal it was super fun.

Zsophia's trouser leg came down because she was jumping in one of the dances and I could not stop laughing, but I was not alone.

Cludia Belcher

(one of the folk dancers!)

Friday 22<sup>th</sup> July 2005

We Danced in the Hawth Theatre we did three dances we wore Serbian costumes it was fun. ZsOFias trouser leg come down and all of the dance group can't stop laughing but claudia was the noisiest laughing.

my headress came up my face. We got lots of cheers. we were all embarrassed and all nervous.

Paige Higgins

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The two handwritten reports on p.4 and above are of a recent performance by eight of the girls from the Bognor Regis group. They did justice to the three dances and even managed the calls and shouts in Kolubarski Vez.

I should explain the reference to ZsOFIA's trouser leg! She was also due to dance with another dance troupe in the following act, with only a 30second change-over. Needless to say, the rolled-up trouser leg failed to stay rolled up!

Despite the unchoreographed costume changes, it was a good opportunity for honing skills and developing confidence. The girls are all very excited about the forthcoming "On Show" item at the Royal Albert Hall.

The cover photograph this month shows some of them with other members who had managed to bring their costumes to the May rehearsal in Solihull. Helen Clancy is seated centre left.

JANET DOUGLAS

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#### COSTUMES

Members may be interested in the following contact:-

Meg Andrews, Harpenden, Herts., for ENGLISH, EUROPEAN & ORIENTAL ANTIQUE COSTUMES AND TEXTILES.

E-mail: megandrews@clara.co.uk  
www.meg-andrews.com  
Tel: +44 1582 460107

# Llangollen 59<sup>th</sup> International Musical Eisteddfod, 6 July, 2005.

## Competition 23: Instrumental Folk Group/Solo



The heats for this competition were held at the Seion Chapel, a new and more appropriate venue, both aesthetically and acoustically, than some others used in recent years. The event was also better organised and presented this year, making the occasion a real pleasure. As usual we were in for a treat of wonderful sounds as the competitors strove to produce a programme of up to seven minutes of folk music, mostly

with traditional instruments. Once again the adjudicators were Francis Feybli, who needs no introduction to SIFD members as he is a well respected and knowledgeable folklorist, and Elinor Bennett, an expert on Welsh harp music as well as a distinguished musician and broadcaster.



The opening item was played by a steel band from *Bishop Anstey High School*, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Five musicians played bass, cello, tenor (single), tenor (pairs) and double (seconds) pans, while another member of



the ensemble played conventional drums. The girls played some fairly complicated rhythms, with the solo parts clearly played on the treble pans and the

group produced some variety of dynamic range – not easy in a small venue with those instruments. I would imagine that they would have been marked down for having a conductor, using sheet music, and using a conventional drum kit. The judges do not give their comments publicly at this stage of the competition but produce written comments for each competitor or group. Four items were to be chosen to go forward to the final which would take place in the Pavilion as part of the evening concert.

The next item was a complete contrast as soloist *Rokas Spalinskas* from Lithuania played some charming folk tunes on his 'wood block rack'. He showed great dexterity and a good sense of rhythm during



some rollicking tunes. He was accompanied by a pianist and I wondered if he was marked down for this. It would have sounded more authentic with a zither (*Kanklė*) as an accompanying instrument.

The group *Fionnar*, from Dingwall in Scotland, played bagpipes, harp, flute/recorder/piano. The combination of these instruments produced rather an uneven sound balance. The young women were good musicians who 'jazzed up' the mostly contemporary tunes (a fiddle tune called 'Flying Dodger', a gaelic tune, and a Glasgow jig called 'City Police Piper'). These musicians went on to win another competition (Folk Song Groups) with a wonderful rendition of a Harris Tweed-making work-song, performed, with actions, around a table.



The next trio *Izvorasul* were genuine folk artists from Cluj-Napoca (South of Maramureş), Romania. They played dance tunes and gypsy songs perfectly together. I noted that 'it sounded as if they had always played together' so I wasn't surprised to learn that they were brothers! Vlad played the lead fiddle with clear phrasing and articulation, Adrian made the traditional instruments that he and his brother Bogdan played. Adrian played a special fiddle called a *Braci* which had three strings and a flat bridge, making the 'drones' easier to play. Bogdan's bass was called a *Gorduna* and only had two strings. It was no surprise that they were one of the four groups to be invited to play later in the final. Their fluency, rapport, togetherness



and 'simplicity' met with the judges' approval and in the evening they were awarded first place with 90 marks.

*Vladimir Kopayev*, from Sakhalin Island, gave an accomplished and very assured performance of Russian folk tunes, with contemporary arrangements, on his balalaika. His musicianship was brilliant and technically his performance was excellent, with a great variety of sounds and moods, created by some dexterous moves by both hands. He was accompanied by piano and, despite this(?),

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went on to the final where he was awarded second place (89 marks). Although the piano was a 'grand', the sound balance was better in the Pavilion. I agreed with the judges that it would have 'been nicer with folk instruments.'

A Turkish ensemble from Istanbul played some haunting and beautiful tunes on traditional instruments. These were:

the *bağlama*, a long-necked fretted instrument with three sets of double strings; a *kaval* (wooden flute); a *kabak kemane*, with three strings and a body made from a pumpkin (kabak means pumpkin); and a tambour type of drum (possibly a *bengi*?). I admired their complex rhythms and interweaving melodies and felt that they played well as a



group, changing speed with ease and with a good sense of rapport. They played later in the children's dance competition accompanying *Cevre Okullari Halk Danslari Topluluğu*. The ensemble played in the final and were awarded 88 points – third prize.

A Russian accordion duet, *Ludmilla Nopina* and *Serguey Kozubenko*, from Siberia clearly enjoyed playing together and showed good musicianship. They chose to play three separate tunes. The young man played again later that morning, as

a soloist competitor, exhibiting his skill to play some spirited fast folk tunes, some slower melodies expressing the 'Russian soul', and a dramatic piece



exhibiting good rhythmic control.

Another musician who appeared again was *Vlad Pasca* who played his fiddle as a soloist, with his brothers

accompanying him. Perhaps in this item his playing was a bit more 'flashy' – starting as a soloist with sensitive playing, using a very small amount of bow at the top – however, the nature of the instruments (as described earlier) meant that Vlad would naturally play the melodies to a drone accompaniment.



A trio, *Chervona Kalyna*, from the Ukraine, played stringed instruments called *bandura*. The three women played delicately, their left hands plucking the bass strings and their right hand playing a melody on the treble strings. This accompanied their pleasant harmony singing. I enjoyed their performance but felt that they were in the wrong competition. (They appeared later in a Folk Song competition.)

A twelve-year-old prodigy from Hong Kong completed the morning's delights. He was *Wong Lap Yan* who played a



dulcimer type of instrument called a *Yang-Qin*. He wielded the flexible bamboo beaters with great dexterity, playing with

easy assurance and sensitivity and produced great dynamic range. He had been learning for 6 years and exhibited his skill in a contemporary piece entitled *The Pair of Flying Phoenix*. (The bird is a Chinese symbol of good luck, not if you keep a 'homing phoenix', according to poet Les Barker, 'the phoenix remembers the embers'!) The boy arrived with no costume as his luggage 'had gone missing' and his instrument was not tuned. However by the evening these problems were remedied and he delighted the warm audience with his performance in the Pavilion. He was awarded 87 marks and came fourth. The judges remarked on his 'intensity of expression'.

This competition was very enjoyable and, as George said in his excellent article last month, the whole programme was most interesting. When I started going to the Eisteddfod it was the Adult Dance Competition that was the highlight for me but now there are many other events that I find equally delightful and fascinating. It's also good to meet old friends from the SIFD. See you next year?

Jill Bransby

## A NOUGHTY REMINDER

I wrote some time ago to tell people about the "Noughties" Cecil Sharp House Dance in October and then sat back and waited for the flood of replies. Not one! It occurs to me that some people may not have grasped the concept so I shall attempt to clarify it.

There seem to be several SIFD members who have celebrated/will celebrate during 2005 a birthday ending in nought (e.g. 20, 50, 90 etc.). We are dedicating the October Dance to these "Noughties". Anyone who is one, please write or 'phone me or Pam Radford. You may like to help with the MC-ing and certainly we should like to know your favourite dances well in advance so that they can be added to the programme. All members - please identify any Noughties in your group and encourage them to send in requests (they don't have to reveal WHICH nought!). We are still hoping for a 40, 30, 90, 20, 50.

The M.C.s at present will be Pam Radford, Caspar Cronk and Fiona Howarth but there is room for more. Music will be from The Band and tapes. The Band welcomes notice of what will be required so come on everyone, even if you live too far away to be present, send in your suggestions and we will do our best.

Replies to:

Fiona Howarth, Tel: 020 8460 2305, or 17a Ravensbourne Rd., Bromley BR1 1HN  
Pam Radford, Tel: 020 7739 9976 or St.Saviour's Priory, 18 Queensbridge Road, London E2 8NS.

FIONA HOWARTH



All material for the October issue of SIFD NEWS  
must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17th September.



### RAH CCPR Dance Fest 'On Show'

Saturday September 24th, 2005, 3.00pm.

Once it was possible for both the Society and the EFDSS to mount shows which could display the talents of their members in this august venue, but for financial reasons this is no longer viable. The Dance and Movement Division of the CCPR with its good management, has, in spite of the many difficulties, been able to continue its own tradition, at least on an occasional basis.

Our Committee approached Helen Clancy and she was happy to direct a Serbian item for the Society. Most of the dancers are from the Manchester region and they are augmented by Janet Douglas' children from Bognor Regis. The programme will include items from many other dance groups, English and Scottish, historical, ballroom, ballet, tap and salsa for example, as well as those from the creative movement groups.

I hope that as many members who can will support this event, but I must add that as the RAH make a substantial booking charge for telephone or on-line orders, it is advisable to go there in person or get a friend to do so. The RAH Booking Office telephone is 020 7589 8212.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

N.B. See "What's On", p.13.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I. Oct.1st SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH AUTUMN DAY COURSE with Janet Woolbar. 10.30 to 4.30 at St.Giles Church Hall, Church Road, Sheldon (5 minutes North of A45 Coventry Road, near Birmingham International Airport). Lunch break 1.00-2.00 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. 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. A day workshop with Georgina Kyrris (Greek teacher) in Nottingham. Optional Greek feast and Paniyiri (festival) in the evening. For a leaflet giving full details contact Chrisandra Harris at [Chrisandra@tesco.net](mailto:Chrisandra@tesco.net) or Tel: 0115 9554962.
- S.I. Oct.14th/16th FESTIVAL DES PANARDS, Otley Civic Centre, near Leeds. Friday: French and Breton Bal from 8.00 p.m. with Dulzaina & Ker Brisé. Saturday: French Bal from 7.30 p.m. with ZEF from France, Steve EllisTrio, Pierre Casaubieilh (Gascon musician). French, Breton, Gascon Dance and Music workshops from 10 a.m. at Civic Centre and Otley Court House. Sunday: from 11 a.m 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](http://www.frenchdanceleeds.co.uk)
- 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 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. 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 walk, 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 at St.Ninian's Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester. 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Day of Dance, workshop of dances around the world; 4.00 to 5.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting; 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. International Dance.
- 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. Bring-and-share supper. Ring Maggie for further information, on 0121 608 1437.

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Dec.3rd ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY at Highgate Newtown Community Centre, 25 Bertram Street, London N.19. Nearest Underground: Archway (Northern Line). Dances from Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia; also from Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. Admission £7 including refreshments. BY TICKET ONLY, from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 020 8592 4427. (s.a.e. please).

S.I. Dec.31st SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR EVE PARTY, 8.00 p.m. to 12.00 at Downing Hall, Knowle. M.C.: Grace Pittman. £3. Bring-and-share supper. More details from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437.

Mar.24th/26th 2006 RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND OF INTERNATIONAL DANCES with Bob Neal at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. All inclusive cost of weekend £133.00 en-suite, £123 .00 with wash-basin. Further details from Pamela Le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Bedhampton, Hants. PO9 3QA. Tel: 023 9264 1028. £40 deposit secures place. Please send s.a.e. for reply.

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### Gordon Stacey

Gordon died of a heart attack on August 4<sup>th</sup>. He danced in the relatively early days of the SIFD and belonged to 'Pug' Cyriax's Swedish Group. Perhaps older members of the Society can fill in on this part of Gordon's dancing life. I first met him in May, 1976 at the Staplers Country Dance Club, in Hitchin. (He and his wife Delphine, who died about two years ago, Roy and René Bowtell, and I joined the Staplers that month. It was from that meeting that The Rainmakers was started.)

Gordon was a founder member of the Rainmakers International Dance Group which started in September, 1976. Gordon was our first treasurer and I remember him retiring to the kitchen to count the 'subs' or do the accounts when I taught Serbian dancing. (In those days Yugoslav dancing was very popular, as Bulgarian is today, but not popular with Gordon!) It was his suggestion that the founder members paid for the hall hire for the club for the first few months so that we got off 'on the right footing'. As for the dancing, we were very fortunate to have Gordon's expertise in Swedish, and were also lucky to start with two good male dancers who encouraged other men to join. Gordon did many displays for the Rainmakers in the early days, including our first appearance at the Hitchin Gathering in March 1977 when he danced Kreuz Koenig (probably the old version) to great acclaim.

He was also a Morris dancer, originally dancing with the London Beaux, and later with Offley Morris. Gordon continued to do English Country dancing with the Staplers but stopped International dancing some years before he moved away, as his knees were not in good shape. (I blame the Morris dancing!) About 13 years ago he retired to Hoxne in Suffolk. (When he left, he passed Dr Cyriax's notes and records to me. Pug had passed them to Gordon when she went to Australia. I passed them on to Janet Woolbar for the Society.) He and Delphine seemed to be very happy 'out in the sticks', being active members of the church and keen gardeners with a huge garden. Gordon joined the local Morris side, mainly to socialise as his energetic dancing days were over by then. Occasionally he would come back to our area to attend an English dance and we were always pleased to see him again. I have many happy memories of Gordon dancing and I hope other members do also.

Jill Bransby

## TRIP TO MACEDONIA

Martin Ihns is organising his annual winter trip to Macedonia from 23rd December to 3rd January inclusive. The total deal includes return flight from Amsterdam to Skopje, internal transfers, four nights in Krushevo (in mountains) and seven nights in Skopje; half-board in double room; Christmas dinner and New Year's Eve celebration with live music; 30 hours dance instruction; teaching of Macedonian songs; excursions.....and surprises.

The estimated cost is around E1080, depending on whether he meets his target number of participants. However, it is possible to contact him for a discounted price if, for example, you want to make your flight arrangements, meeting them in Skopje on the 23rd, or from the 27th onward when they have returned to Skopje, and also returning under your own steam from Skopje. There are discounted fares to be found on the internet, e.g. in traveljungle.co.uk which searches many individual airlines' websites and also trawls other search sites such as opodo and lastminute.

To contact Martin Ihns, e-mail folkloreplus@freeeler.nl. Tel: +31.200.475071 (you may have to adapt this for international calls to Holland).

TONI GUTMAN

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***Dance Around the World*** coming! Over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> October, Cecil Sharp House, London NW1 will fill with performers and workshop leaders representing dance cultures from all over the world. ***Dance Around The World*** is a spectacular celebration of international folk dance and this year it's even bigger!

As in previous years, groups will dance all day in a non-stop programme of half-hour performances in the big hall upstairs while, downstairs, the participating groups will provide one-hour workshops where you can try something new or, of course, enjoy your favourite dance styles. This year we expect to have extra space; a small dance floor in a marquee! Already being called the Tent Event; we think this might develop into Dance Around The World's very own fringe. An expanded children's programme, a musician's swap-shop, a step-up stage for new and different performers... it's all possible!

Of course, lots of our friends from SIFD will be performing and teaching including **Akhtamar Armenian Performance Group**, **Tatry Polish Dancers**, **Martisorul** Romanian group, **Zivco Firfov** (performing as well as teaching this year), **Beskydy** Czech and Slovak Dancers, **The Iberian Folk Dance Group**, **Balkanplus** and lots more. There are always lots of less familiar performers and styles too including some new-comers to the festival this year.

We're delighted that the extraordinarily accomplished **Cloudburst** will be returning to the festival to play for the evening dance party on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October so we're bound to have a very lively time and I'm sure we'll have some guest performances too. On the evening of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> the festival closes with a spectacular carnival of Latin dance.

We always make the prices as low as we possibly can. This year £7 per day including evening, £5 evening only. The idea being that, even if you can only catch a couple of workshops it's great value. Of course, we hope you'll come early and stay late! Programme starts 10.00am both days.

For more information about **Dance Around The World**, visit the web site at [www.datw.org.uk](http://www.datw.org.uk) or e-mail [danceoffice@waitrose.com](mailto:danceoffice@waitrose.com) call 07749 007040 or 020 8340 4683.

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

Sept.4th M.C.: Jeanette Hull

Oct.2nd M.C.s: Those with significant birthday dates in 2005  
("Noughties" Dance) Caspar Cronk, Fiona Howarth  
Pam Radford



BALKAN FESTIVAL IN ZETTEN, NETHERLANDS, 2005. A PERSONAL VIEW

Debbie Collins and I reckoned that the drive from Leiden to Zetten, near Arnhem, would take about 1½-2 hours. Four hours later we reached Zetten and De Vanmolen, having been lost, enduring hours of stop-start and a cloudburst on the motorway, then queued for a tiny ferry which thoughtfully stopped midstream for a flotilla of ducks to pass.

De Vanmolen is a large complex of halls, changing rooms, dormitories, bar and ten-pin bowling alley, all situated surprisingly in a smart, medium-sized village.

Having collected our Festival badges and checked into our hotel (declining the offer of beds in the dormitory of De Vanmolen), we returned for the first evening dance. Debbie had been attending an international folkdance group in Leiden so was prepared for the energetic heartiness of the Dutch dancers, but I found it a tad intimidating to start with. Eventually the band started playing some familiar tunes and we joined in, together with the other previous wall flowers, and tried to avoid the more arm-wrenching of the Dutch Amazons.

Next day the workshops started, and what a treat to have so many first-class teachers together in one place. Ersin Seyhan showed us how to "shake it about" Turkish style; Silviu Ciuciumis led us through widely differing styles of Romanian dance; Dick van der Zwan coached us in the subtle intricacies of Karagouna and other Greek dances; Martin Ihns demonstrated his amazing flexibility and balance which we all tried to emulate in the Macedonian sessions; Jaap Leegwater stood in for Eddy Tijssen in the Bulgarian, and Paja and Madelon Milic brought energy and enthusiasm to their teaching of the Yugoslavian programme. All taught with patience, humour and clarity and whether Dutch or English was spoken made little difference, to my relief. At some of the workshops and all the evening dances we were privileged to dance into the early hours to wonderful bands, and those with energy left over could join scratch sessions after that.

The Balkan meal on the Saturday evening was accompanied by a passionate singer and band, then the Festival singers, coached by Hedwig. Extra entertainment throughout the Festival was provided by Silviu's little boy.

The weekend was wrapped up with a final session featuring all the teachers, Martin and Dick doing a three-legged number, showing off their bandaged knees and ankles.

Conclusion: a great event if you can stand the pace. I'm looking forward to getting the DVD. To see pictures of this year's Festival go to [www.stichtingtoverbal.nl](http://www.stichtingtoverbal.nl) and for details of the next one, e-mail Silviu at [stichting.doina@hetnet.nl](mailto:stichting.doina@hetnet.nl) or Ersin at [ersin@ozan.nl](mailto:ersin@ozan.nl)

ROWENA MARTIN

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- 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 p.m. Organized by Les Panards Dansant. Headingley Parish Hall, Leeds. Contact Yannick on 01274 833473.
- S.I. Sept.9th BARNET GROUP recommence meetings, 8.00 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. £3.00. There is a chance that Yves Moreau will be present to preview some of his programme for the Balkanplus workshops but this cannot be guaranteed. Contact: Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.
- S.I. Sept.16th FEST NOZ. Breton Dance Party with Yves Leblanc and Mike James, Brighton. 8.00 p.m. £5. Bookings to Jan Mulreany, 92 Stanmore Park Road, Brighton BN1 7JH.
- 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. 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. 7.30 p.m. £6. Details from Claire Wilton, Tel: 01243 788833.



- S.I. BALKANPLUS, 10th/11th September. Bulgarian workshops with Yves Moreau at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. At time of writing there is a handful of tickets available for Saturday and two handfuls for Sunday. East separate workshop is £15.00 available from 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Cheques payable to Balkanplus (s.a.e. please). The workshops will be video-ed by expert John Riley. Those of you who have received videos from John before will know what an excellent video he produces and what a quick and efficient service he provides. Orders may be placed with John on the day. No other videoing will be allowed.

A dance party will follow the workshop on Saturday, 10th September, from 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. £5.00. M.C.s: Madeleine Chapman and John Riley with live music by Dunav. There will be some revision of the dances taught during the day but the rest of the programme will be a Balkan mix. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book in advance for just the evening. To add to the party atmosphere please wear a costume (or part thereof) if you have one.

A weekend ticket for both workshops and the evening dance is a bargain at £30 only available in advance.

There are plenty of cafes and restaurants in the Camden area but it is advisable to bring your own drinks during the day as the bar is sometimes not open until the evening. Some people who get hungry like to bring a snack or packed lunch as well!

The next Balkanplus dance will be on 8th October.

FRANCES HORROCKS