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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Website: www.sifd.org

EDITOR: Janet Douglas (Mrs.), Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010

The typing is done by Janet Douglas.
The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

This month's cover, shows Lily Avery,
our retiring Editor, looking magnificent in Macedonian costume.

An Appreciation of the "Old Era"

As we welcome Janet Douglas as the new editor of the SIFD News, we must take this opportunity to thank Lily for the 38 years that she has held the post. It is a staggering period of service and she will be a hard act to follow.

The News is one of the few magazines that I read from cover to cover and it always amazes me how Lily manages to cull interesting articles, from members and from other sources, and to provide reliable information on events in the folk world. She has also had to contend with balancing the 'voices' on controversial issues.

Although I have known Lily for many years I do not know her well personally. She is a person I greatly respect and has an extensive knowledge of the cultures, dances and costumes of other countries. Since she moved to Bexhill from London we have seen less of her, but she came to be part of the team in assessing the new teachers, and if they satisfied her they have reason to be pleased as she is a very discerning judge. (I am told that her marking of the dance groups at Llangollen seldom varies more than a mark from the official results). In the past she has danced with L'Escargots, the Society's French team, and with Zivko Firfov, the Yugoslavian group. She was also very fond of Greek dancing.

The first time I came into close contact with her was working on the Badge and Day Course sub-committee. Until then she had just been a name in the News letter as I suspect she is to many of our newer members, but I hope that this appreciation will help you to understand what a debt of gratitude we owe to her.

I am pleased that in her letter in the News last month she admitted to having enjoyed the work. I hope that now she will enjoy sitting back and reading the results of Janet Douglas' efforts.

On behalf of the officers, the committee and all members of the SIFD, I thank you Lily.

Janet Woolbar

CHAIRMAN: Janet Woolbar (Mrs.), 34a Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow,
Middlesex HA3 8JZ

SECRETARY: Alison Scrimshaw (Mrs.), 22 Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey
SM1 2SQ Tel: 020 8642 3385.

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Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Simon Guest, 49 Station Road, Epping, Essex
CM16 4HJ. Tel: 01992 577065.

I would like to add my voice to those who have expressed their appreciation of our very longstanding editor **Lily Avery**. The SIFD News, our main method of communication has always landed on our doormats at the start of every month to keep us all in touch with our shared interest – international folk dancing. Lily is going to be *a hard act to follow* so I intend to follow her footsteps closely until I am comfortably in harness. However, it is not unlikely that you will hear from her again as she has promised to step in should I be out of touch for some reason.

Heather Edwards and Helen de Bray have also kindly made offers of help. I shall need help too, most especially with articles, information, letters, cover designs, events for the diary, queries and anything else you think would interest other members. Please send me (by post) anything that is relevant to international folk dancing.

The greatest tribute we can pay Lily is to send her the SIFD News every month stuffed full of interesting items.

Ed.



TO LILY.

I trust the Newsletter is going to be OVERLOADED with eulogies for Lily this month! I well remember walking with Lily to a Zivko Firfov class at the point she was deciding to take it on permanently as Ken was off – although at the time it was for ‘a period’! Of course we all encouraged her, little thinking that she would continue in such fine form, for so many years. Even on her mammoth honeymoon tour to the Antipodes she STILL got the Newsletter out on time. I am sure she could recall all sorts of interesting occurrences over the years and certainly the changes recorded have been legion.

Anyone who has occasion to ring Lily on the deadline or anxiously reporting a mistake in a recent submission will endorse her totally unflappable, always accommodating, patient, pleasant way of handling just ANY mini crisis. If we were a bigger organisation perhaps we could have raised a statue to her??!! Certainly she deserves a medal! Some sort of publication is **ALWAYS THE LIFEblood OF ANY ORGANISATION!** and we **ALL KNOW THAT, AND, FULLY APPRECIATE LILY’S MAGNIFICENT CONTRIBUTION TO A LIVELY SIFD.**

HUGE HUGE HUGE THANKS TO LILY.

P.S. As well as her editing skills some of the younger members may not remember what a fantastic dancer she was. Her style was always immaculate and as a class/club member never pushy, know-it- all, but SO helpful and kind to the younger ones, particularly those with initially two left feet. A clear patient teacher, exemplary supporter of standards, loyal friend and totally reliable organiser. Ooer! Hope that doesn’t sound like an obit notice, but Lily is such a special person and lifelong friend to me I just have to voice a little of that respect, admiration and affection.

WELL DONE LILY!

HERE’S TO YOU & A LONG, HAPPY RETIREMENT FROM EDITING DUTIES!

Love Diki.



Balkan Plus

The next Balkan Plus will be held on Saturday, 19th November at Cecil Sharp House, London NW1 at 7 p.m. Our MC will be JULIE KORTH from the Barlow International Group in Manchester who will lead us in a general mix of Balkan dances. Admission £4.

Maureen Felton

Lily Avery – A Tribute

The September 1967 News carried a statement of policy from the new editor Lily Southgate (as she then was). Her intention was that the News would be produced at the beginning of each month with the aim of making it interesting and informative reading! To this end Lily asked for occasional articles, announcements and news of interest. Also some members had offered to help with production; no light task given the means then available for doing it.

The consistency of production, the style and layout whereby members can quickly find ‘What’s On’ the way members look forward to receiving the News and enjoy reading it, mean one can only say that Lily has succeeded far beyond any reasonable expectation.

I reflect that in ‘Organisations’ where retirement is at age sixty, maximum pension comes from forty years of service, *and Lily has given us thirty-eight!*. If anything illustrates that Lily has enjoyed editing the News those years must be it. The News is the face of the S.I.F.D. and the only contact some members have to sustain and enrich their interest. The Society and more widely International folk dancing in general are indebted to Lily for her generous service!

So *thank you Lily for all those issues* (some members have a complete set) that have given us all so much, and thank you Janet for taking on the torch so necessary for so many.

Best wishes, sincerely,

Roy Clarke



The Lost Tribes of Europe

This is the title of a ten-page feature in Time magazine for 29th August, which claims that the continent's original minorities are fighting to reclaim their ancient cultures and identities.

After a general survey; there is more detail on the Veps of Russia, the Rusyns of Slovakia, the Sorbs of Germany and the Bretons in France. A map locates them as well as the Cornish, Basques, Corsicans, Walsers in Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria and Italy, the Sami reindeer-herders of Sweden, Finland and Norway, the Livonians of Latvia, the Selkup and Nenets of Siberia, the Roma of Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, the Kasubians of northern Poland, and the Gagauz mainly in Moldova. Some colour photographs show national dress being worn.

It is a pity that no sources or material for further reading are mentioned, as books have been written on the subject. Nevertheless, even with just one tiny mention of folk dancing and barely more on their music, there is much of interest in the article.

Being a weekly magazine, the issue is of course no longer the current one, but libraries should help. Time Europe is at Time International, PO Box 20500, 1001 NM Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with online services including reprints at: www.timeeurope.com/customerservice

John Smith (Merton Park Group)



Notes from Camberwell

Margaret Peggie of the CCPR Movement and Dance division produced a slick, fast-moving and entertaining programme for the 2005 'On Show'.

The professional groups, such as the Jiving Lindy Hoppers with their 'Big Apple and Momma Lou', an evocation of the popular American dances of the 40's, would not have disgraced the West End stage, with its explosion of energy. Among the community based groups, the Fitness League (once the League of Health and Beauty), with 'Flexibility' showed how a simple item, but well rehearsed and performed in total unison, can be very satisfying: I mention only those two, but many demonstrated the enthusiasm and dedication of the performers.

Coming to the folk dance groups, the EFDSS was represented by the Fosbrook Folk Education Trust. The dancers were all young, from 7 to 20, and as I could see no boys, I assume it was a girls' school. It was a good, enjoyable item, but I am puzzled as to why it was thought necessary for the EFDSS to present Irish dances as the English tradition is so rich and varied. The Scottish Country Dance Society put on their best show for years. The big arena was covered with dancers, the girls in white, and there were enough kilted men to make a good contrast; all this to the music of a lone piper.

Our Serbian item had both colourful costumes and live music, but it was clear that the dancers were struggling to fill the arena and this tenseness showed. It is probable that that was the reason the choreography was kept simple. If a prestige event as this is attempted again we need to have more input from the Society as a whole to ensure proper representation. Nevertheless, all concerned should be congratulated on their efforts to give the Society a presence. I was glad to see some members from the south giving the dancers some support, among them Lily Avery, which leads me to my next bit.

* * * * *

Indeed it is the end of an era. Lily has filled the Editor's chair for many years and there is no doubt that the regular and prompt appearance of the News was an important factor in keeping the Society together.

I had a stint as Editor in those days and therefore I am very much aware of the tribulations of producing the News-sheet then. We kept the already well worn duplicator at Oxford House where it would ooze ink at inappropriate moments or get the paper stuck in its entrails. The stencils were difficult to cut and the typist, (Mary Fergar), had to hammer away at the typewriter to pierce through the protective coating. As there were other Editors before Lily took over, the machine was even more temperamental by then. The arrangements for collating, stapling, etc., were haphazard, but Lily soon found more efficient ways. Her eagle eyes soon spotted any errors in spelling or grammar, so for all these reasons as well as less definable ones, her contribution was enormous. I am very happy that Janet has taken over the onerous task of filling her shoes, and I am sure she will make a very good Editor.

* * * * *

As a P. S., I would like to add a few notes to Alison's interesting views on past events. These were everyday matters for us then, but it is revealing to see how they look from to-day's perspective. Kelsey's notes on teaching were important to us as her qualifications enabled her to take over the class at Harrow Green when Peter Oakley moved away. I think Alison will find that Billingham started before 1970 as I had two good friends who went there for a Russian work-shop and my best estimate for that is around 1965. They found accommodation was a problem as there was no camping site anywhere near, as well as little B&B places which might account for its unpopularity.

George Sweetland.

Intensively Balkan

Garth Cartwright in *'Princes Amongst Men, Journeys With Gypsy Musicians'* totally immerses the reader in an excellent contemporary tour through Serbia, Macedonia, Romania and Bulgaria meeting players and singers everywhere. The locations and social conditions are vividly described in a lively narrative augmented tellingly by apt photographs. Garth suggests where "the world's gone wrong" (p.234) in the 21st century, "as Western popular music grows forever more banal and mercantile it is to the Roma and their Gypsy musicians, these soothsayers of song, we increasingly turn". The book ends with a select Bibliography, Discography and Filmography – an interest in itself. It is published in 2005 by Serpent's Tail in paperback at £11.99.

Dennis Turner.



Christmas Macedonian Workshop at Flumet

Dec 26th - Jan 1st French Alps near Mt Blanc

The teacher is Vlade Janovski, a dancer for 15 years with the professional ensemble Tanec, who teaches traditional dances and ethnology at Skopje University; he will be accompanied by a musician. Level of dance: intermediate and advanced.

Dancing and singing for 5 hours each day and evening parties with dances, songs, videos, and costume demonstrations. The course will be held in 'Hotel Panoramic' at Flumet, 10mn from Megeve, (nearest airport: Geneva). Skiing is possible in the area. Cost for 6 days full-board and dance lessons: from 382 euros.

Contact: Francoise Djokovic, 5 A rue de l'Abbaye de Fontenay F – 21240 Talant.

Tel: 0033 3 8056 2758 or 0033 6 6043 5264 or email: f.djokovic@laposte.net



November Day Course.

It is with great regret that I have to announce that the subject of the November day course has had to be changed due to the indisposition of Nenad Bicanic who was to have taught Croatian dances.

Fortunately **Natasha Lemos** has agreed to teach some **Greek** dances on that date so there will still be a November day course.

It is from Natasha that we learnt many of the Greek dances in the Society's repertoire. She has taught day courses, weekends and summer schools for the society and we are very pleased to welcome her back and very grateful that she is willing to undertake the work at such short notice.

I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to enjoy her teaching.

The date, time and place are unchanged:-

10.30am – 4.30pm on Saturday November 19th

at Cecil Sharp House.

SIFD members £6, non-members £8

Janet Woolbar

Doe Dans 2nd-4th September 2005
Ipswich goes to the Netherlands.

The Dutch take folk dancing seriously: there were over 1,000 participants at Doe Dans 2005, and the number increased to 1300 if performers, teachers, orchestras, cooks, stewards and volunteers were included. This biannual event was held at the whimsically named Walibi World in Flevoland.

The aim wasn't to collect dances, just to dance and also to watch in admiration the various performances on offer. And the performances were outstanding. Many of you will be familiar with Ozorniye Naigrishi, the Ukrainian group, as many of Hennie's dances are choreographed to their music. They are a delight to watch and it was exhilarating to dance to them playing live in the hall. The other major performance groups were Irish (spectacular) and Macedonian (vibrant). We were also entertained by a black street group and a lively Dutch group.

We didn't only watch. There were 6 workshop sessions over Saturday and Sunday, and at each session there were 8 options, so it was possible only to sample a handful. I danced with Shmulik, as I consider him to be one of the best Israeli teachers, and with Tom Bozigian (twice) because I've known some of his dances almost since I started dancing and this is the first time I've seen him. I also did Russian and Romanian, but didn't manage to get to Hip Hop, Indian, Irish, Greek, Gypsy, Bulgarian, Tap, International, Singing or any of the other delights on offer.

In the evenings there was a choice: on Saturday Martin Ihns had set up a wonderful Macedonian cafe party with live music, coloured lights, potted palms and some tables and chairs and a bar at one end and virtually non-stop dancing. We wandered between this and the International evening, which suited us fine, as International in Holland is largely Balkan and Israeli. I do remember going the wrong way in *The Willow Tree* and searching for a partner for the *All American Promenade*, but otherwise it was all circles and lines with the occasional 'partner moment', as Fiona might call it.

There were plenty of young people and energy levels were high. Shmulik's answer to this was: "If you make it exciting, the young will come". Perhaps it helped that teenagers formed two of the performance groups? The pace was always varied; fast and manic followed by gentle and slow. How do the Dutch do it? It ran like clockwork, with loudspeakers, mixing decks, theatre lights all working; wonderful music, top class teachers and people in the right place at the right time. You could bring your own tent (or caravan, this being the Netherlands), but we opted for the luxury of a self catering bungalow. The weather was glorious, the people friendly, the dancing was great: what more could you want? Where were the rest of you?

Sally Fletcher



Accommodation for the AGM

Members travelling long distances to attend the AGM and hoping to stay overnight after the dance may be interested in the following list:

Abbey Lodge, 501 Wilbrahim Road, Chorlton, Manchester M21 96B

Tel: 0161 862 9266

Woodstock B&B, 564 Wilbrahim Road, Chorlton, Manchester M21 96B

Tel: 0161 861 9836

Premier Travel Inn, Derwent Ave., West Didsbury, Manchester M21 7QS

Tel: 08701 977 309

Notes from September's Committee Meeting

We were particularly grateful to John Boyd for joining us, and answering our questions on the draft of the **New Constitution** which John and his colleagues on the sub-committee had prepared. Clearly a lot of work had gone into this draft, and Janet Woolbar expressed our gratitude. The proposed new constitution promises to be much shorter and clearer than the present one. However there was concern that possibly a little too much had been taken out, discussions on what should be put back are ongoing. At present the aim is to present just a report at the AGM, and a finished draft for approval next year.

The benefits of the Society remaining a charity were outlined; the financial benefits *are* worthwhile, especially as Judith Payling's application to claim **Gift Aid** might well be bearing fruit. The Society may well be able to make claims for the past few years, and this would be very financially rewarding – hundreds of pounds for *each* year. Again I stress that we will need your support and co-operation to make this happen.

Judith also presented a **draft balance sheet** for the year ending 31st July 2005, and I'm glad to report that the figures are healthier than anticipated. Gift Aid receipts would ease the financial situation considerably – as would the production and projected sales of another **music CD**; but to produce another successful CD we really need to know what you – the people who might buy it – would like to include. So Richard Mellish will again be asking for your wish-lists. *Please, please don't leave the replies to "someone else"* – he really needs to know what you'd like included. Wouldn't it be splendid if a new CD could be part of our 60th anniversary celebrations?

All but two Affiliated groups have reapplied for **membership** – but 101 individual members have failed to renew. Following them up will involve expense, which is a shame.

The **Agenda for the AGM** was discussed at length, and should accompany this copy of the News. An offer from Devon of **dozens of 78s** featuring international folk dance music proved irresistible, and has resulted in their acquisition, courtesy of many members forming links to a chain (thanks to them all). We hope the records will reward the work that will need to be put in to make them useful.

By now the show at the **Royal Albert Hall** has taken place, but at the meeting we expressed our gratitude to all who were about to take part to represent the Society, and especially Helen Clancy and Julie Korth and Janet Douglas, for all the hours, and miles, they were devoting to the necessary organisation and rehearsals. We're very grateful to all the participants, and hope they enjoyed taking part.

The lack of **T shirt designs** for the 60th anniversary was much regretted, and has forced the committee members to attempt uncharacteristic feats of artistic endeavour. If you feel a design idea stirring in the back of your brain, then please – we really would like to hear from you...

By now you know that Janet Douglas is taking over as the **new editor of the News**. We are very grateful to her for taking this on after the amazing example set by Lily Avery, and hope she will enjoy it as much as Lily has done. It is hardly possible to thank Lily sufficiently for all she has done. She has produced the News for more years than many of us have been members, and her dedication, reliability and patience have shone through and impressed us. Mercifully after all the years of encouraging people to send in news *by the 17th*, and *write clearly* she has managed to retain her sense of humour! We all wish her well in her 'retirement', which we hope will be very active and happy. Lily – thank you.

The next committee meeting will be 19th November

Alison Scrimshaw

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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). MC: Maggie Kaye. £3. Bring-and-share supper. Ring Maggie for further information, on 0121 608 1437.

S.I. **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 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).

Dec.3rd KLEZMER KLUB. Wonderful music from Eastern Europe and the Jewish tradition. Music to dance to, sing along with and to weep to. At the Exmouth Arms, Starcross Street, London NW1 (corner of Cobourg Street near Euston and Euston Square stations).8.15 - 12p.m.

S.I. **Dec. 13th CHRISTMAS PARTY** 8p.m.onwards, Woodstock Village Hall, near Haverfordwest. Bring yourselves. Bring a friend.. Bring a plate... Cost £0.00. All Welcome Contact Sue Clark Tel: 01437 710261

Dec 16th – 18th DUNFORD WEEKEND. see page 12

Dec. 28th A TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY! Bring and lead your favourite dances (tapes and CDs) at Stone Cross Memorial Hall. Near Eastbourne from 10.30 – 5p.m. (cost £5) Bring and share lunch, drinks provided. Info: Rowena Martin 01323 503999 or RowenaHMartin@hotmail.com or 60,Anderida Road, Eastbourne. BN22 0PZ (s.a.e.appreciated)

S.I. **Dec.31st SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR EVE PARTY**, 8.- 12 p.m. at Balsall Common Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common, (near Coventry). MC: Grace Pittman. £3. Bring-and-share supper. More details from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437
NB change of venue.

S.I. **Jan. 24th 2006 P.I.F.D.** annual New Year Dinner (no dancing) will be held in a local venue. Both venue and cost to be announced. Anyone wishing to join us will be more than welcome. Details from Sue Clark 01437 710261 or Eve Brennan 01239 831404

Mar. 11th – 12th 2006 JAN KNOPPERS & RICHARD VAN DER KOOLIJ see page 10

Mar 24th – 26th RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND OF INTERNATIONAL DANCES with Bob Neal at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. All inclusive cost of weekend £133 en-suite, £123 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.

Apr. 7th – 10th 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. £175 (three nights). Single course £24; both courses £39. Details and booking form from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. Please send s.a.e.

Apr. 28th – May 1st EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL. With Hennie Konings, Roberto Haddon, Ibrahim Rizevski, Clyde Olliver and many more. Details from the Festival Booking Office: Tel. 01273 835759

- S.I. **Apr. 28th – May 1st (2nd) SIFD LONG BANK-HOLIDAY WEEKEND** at Halsway Manor, an attractive folklore centre on the edge of the Quantocks in North Somerset. Join in folk dancing and walking (or just sightseeing). Full-day outing with coach transport provided on the Sunday to the coast or Exmoor. Inclusive cost about £155 for three nights with supplements for the fourth night or for an en-suite bedroom. For further details/bookings contact Gordon Adie, 01752 225539 or Jack Richardson, 01792 403153.
- S.I. **July 22nd – 29th SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL** at Swansea. Teachers: Silviu Ciuciumis (Romanian), Cristina Casarini (Italian), Maggie O'Regan and Jill Bransby (General). Details from Roger Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU

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.



“Mainly Balkan” course in the North

March 11th & 12th 2006

In March 2001 Barlow IFDG and the Derbyshire Dancers held their first joint weekend course, with the aim of bringing excellent dance teaching to the North of England. These courses have been a fantastic success, being sold out well in advance each time. In 2006 we are bringing not one, but two superb teachers.

Jan Knoppers is already well known to us from two SIFD summer schools and numerous weekends. He has been teaching since 1979 and after getting his first teaching qualification studied at the Rotterdam Dance Academy for 4 years, specialising in folk dance, jazz and tap, which he later used as a basis for a study of all forms of step dance. Further specialisations followed, first Bulgarian, then Armenian and latterly Asian. Following 23 years as Artistic Director of the Theatre Group ‘Radost’ he became an artistic director at the professional Folk Dance Theatre in Amsterdam. He initiated the Youth Group and made countless pieces both for them and for the main company.

Jan has always been interested in the way in which dance is taught. He developed his method of ‘learning while dancing’ because of frustration at spending more time on courses listening than dancing. Jan states that his aim is to teach dancing, not dances, taking the music as the starting point and inspiration.

Richard van der Kooij was trained in this method and eventually took over from Jan as the Chief Teacher Trainer for the LCA (the Dutch folkdance organisation). Richard's main profession is that of physiotherapist but he now assists Jan at ‘Radost’. As well as the teacher training he has been an examiner and advisor for the LCA. He brings his understanding of movement to the course, and the warm-ups led by this duo are a revelation! Both possess outstanding musicality and fine voices, and with one on each side of the circle following becomes easy and fun. Richard's computer skills mean he is able to produce attractive CDs and booklets of background information and dance descriptions.

To get the benefit of Jan and Richard's teaching, you should try to come for both days. It will be a fantastic weekend - don't miss the warm-ups!

Application forms are available from Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, Off Wigan Rd, Aspull, Nr. Wigan, WN2 1EF. Please include s.a.e.

Marina Wolstenholme

Letters to the Editor

Dear Janet,

Congratulations and thanks for taking on the role of SIFD News Editor. A daunting task no doubt. Lily, over the years, has been the essential link for the country members like myself through the medium of the News. Without it I doubt whether some of us would have survived.

As it is I have spent many happy hours visiting other groups – enjoyed weekends away – been inspired at Summer School. Last but not least we have welcomed SIFD members to our home and group meetings, who, if it were not for the ‘News’ would not have known that we (Pembrokeshire I.F.D.) existed.

In thanking both you and Lily my thanks also go to the countless ‘background’ workers over the years.

Thank you, too, to our SIFD officers and Committee who have also listened to the members and changed the A.G.M. day to a Saturday and this year also the venue. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend this year as November 22nd is hip replacement day for me. UGH!!

Best wishes to you all, Happy Dancing,

Sue Clark

After thought: I have decided that on the last Tuesday before my op I will have the most outrageously energetic evening....you know, CACAK...KULSKA BACHWANKA...SITNO KRAJDUNAVSKO HORO...CICA OBRENOVA...TARENTELLA MONTEVERGINE...KREUTZ KOENIG and, of course, IRISH SETS...etc. Then when I go in I'll take my register of dances and select out the easiest, quietest non-twisty ones for my return. Dances like MADRO TARGO REHEALUNE...and FELEX from Turkey (with a slightly modified 2nd figure). Helping me select this group will be P.I.F.D. member Dorothy Hoare who fell and broke her hip 18 months ago and was dancing again soon afterwards.

Sue



Dear Janet,

Mike and I have just returned from Nottingham where we attended an excellent day of dances from the Greek Islands taught by Georgina Kyrris. Georgina, originally from Cyprus but now resident in the UK, is a wonderful teacher and she taught a range of dances which despite their variety were all very suitable for recreational dance groups. Several of her young Greek students were present to help demonstrate some of the dances. The event was superbly organised by Chrisandra Harris and the atmosphere was warm and welcoming. The excellent workshop pack gave lots of background to the dances, colour illustrations of costumes, song words in Greek and in translation, and a CD of all the music. In addition a DVD was available which showed not only dances as taught on the day but also footage of Greek dance troupes performing them in costume. During the rest breaks we were regaled with traditional Greek nibbles and the day ended with a meal in a local Greek restaurant with yet more dancing!

I thoroughly recommend Georgina Kyrris and her workshop team to SIFD members - their next workshop is on February 26th, 2006 when she will be teaching dances traditionally danced in the two week period before Lent in the Orthodox Christian calendar. See you there!

Clyde Olliver

SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

at Cecil Sharp house, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1 Cost £5 members £7 non-members

Nov.6th M.Cs: Helen Ezra & Derek Bugby

Dec.4th M.C: Jill Bransby ("Rainmakers")



Dunford, Midhurst, West Sussex

16th – 18th December 2005

If you've been before, there's no need to tell you that this is a really enjoyable weekend of dancing and walking or just relaxing in the lounge with its log fire and Christmas tree. Accommodation is in single, double or twin bedrooms, en-suite, at a well furnished country house at the foot of the Northern slopes of the South Downs, once the home of Richard Cobden. Janet Woolbar has kindly agreed to lead the dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon. On both Saturday and Sunday mornings there will be a walk from the house, returning in time for lunch. For non-walkers, on Saturday morning there is the opportunity to visit Midhurst's monthly market. There will be Christmas dinner (the meals are jolly good) and carol singing on Saturday evening.

If you haven't been before, and you're a dancer, I'm sure you will feel at home and among friends. The cost of the weekend is £117 – the same as last year! Looking forward to hearing from you.

Dot Bradbury (Mrs.)

Tel: 020 8540 3464



The **British – Bulgarian Friendship Society** organised a very successful visit to this year's Koprivshtitsa Festival, in which some SIFD members participated. If you are interested in attending 'Pirin Sings' ('Pirin Pee' in Bulgarian) next year, please contact me, Annie Kay, the BBFS tours organiser. If there is enough interest I'd be happy to arrange the visit.

Tel: 020 7237 7616 or email: annie.kay@btinternet.com



Bulgarian Dance Classes

The class is open to all levels and has been running since April this year. For anyone who enjoys learning traditional Bulgarian steps, combinations and "horos", and, wants to experience the sound of authentic Bulgarian music. Every Saturday at Studio 7, The Place, 16 Flaxman Terrace WC1. Nearest tube: Euston. £6 7-8.30p.m. Tel: Boyko Andonov 0790 090 4370 or boikoandonov@hotmail.com

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

- 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. 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 send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA
- S.I. Nov. 19th **SIFD DAY COURSE –GREEK DANCES** with Natasha Lemos, 10.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House. SIFD members £6; non-members £8.
- S.I. Nov. 19th **ISRAELI DAY COURSE** with Roberto Haddon, organised by Rainmakers. £7 full day. £4.50 half day. 10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. The Parish Hall, St. Michaels, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. Drinks available but best to bring your own lunch. Enquiries: 01462 457791
- S.I. Nov. 19th **BALKAN PLUS** see page 3
- Nov. 19th **HAFLA** (Arabic Party) 8 – 11p.m. at Havers Community Centre, Bishops Stortford. £5 per person (Buffet included) £12 Family ticket 2 adults & 2 children under 12. For tickets call 07904 198309
- Nov. 20th **GREEK WORKSHOP AT LYKION TON HELLINDON.** Tasso Tlitses will teach celebration dances from all parts of Greece. Hellenic Centre. nearest tube stations: Baker Street & Great Portland Street. Cost: £20
Tel. Anita 0207 229 4086 or 07973 75288
- S.I. Nov. 26th **SIFD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DAY OF DANCE**
Workshop: 10.30 a.m.– 3.30 p.m. A.G.M.: 4.- 5.30 p.m. International Dance: 7.p.m.-10.p.m. St. Ninian's United Reformed Church Hall, Egerton Road South, Chorlton cum Hardy, Manchester.
- Nov. 26th **ANNUAL BALKAN DANCE DAY** with Paul Boizot at Sheffield. 11 a.m.-5.p.m. £8-£22 (sliding scale). Book in advance
Details: 0114 256 1708.



All material for the December issue of **SIFD NEWS** must be received by the Editor **IN WRITING (via Royal Mail)** by 17th November. Please write in **BLOCK CAPITALS** all names of people, places and dances, unless typewritten.

