

DEC  
SIFD NEWS  
2005



# SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Website: [www.sifd.org](http://www.sifd.org)

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



This month's cover – from top left, clockwise –  
Russia, Switzerland, Serbia, Greece, England (!), and Austria.



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.

TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,  
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

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

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Caspar Cronk. Helen Ezra. Richard Mellish. Bob Robinson.

Traditionally at this time of year Lily thanks Dalila Heath, Mike & Edwina Holdup and Simon Guest for all their work getting the News out for the past year. At the risk of appearing presumptuous, ( they are after all a well established team, whilst I joined them only last month ), I would like to offer my thanks to them, and Lily, for the News of 2005.

Despite announcing that I would be “following Lily’s footsteps closely” I have received a number of emails. I had not published my email address as I wished to start out with tangible material until I had worked through the routine. Even though I am not yet “comfortably in harness” it seems it must be sooner rather than later. Therefore, to keep a level playing field (dancefloor?) I have worked out some **RULES !!..**

- 1. The deadline for email is two days earlier than the postal deadline.**
- 2. If you are sending pictures they must be jpg.format and please check first whether they come out well as photocopies.**
- 3. I may not be able to read attachments if I don’t have the right software (e.g. acrobat is right out). Plain Text is best.**
- 4. If you give your email as a contact you must also give either a postal address or telephone number.**

As you know – computers ‘go down’ and servers ‘go funny’; weird files in some obscure format ‘get lost’ somewhere deep inside; and, they are notoriously susceptible to viruses so THERE IS NO GUARANTEE that I will always receive your email. We have been subjected to virus and spam attacks which means we have very strict spam filters in place.

The new address is: SIFDNews@interfolk.co.uk

**Ed.**



**To Lily** (continued)

As Lily mentioned in her article it is an “End of an Era” and what an era it has been! I would like to thank Lily for all her hard work over the years and to wish her all the very best in her ‘retirement’.

**Irene Keywood**



It was an unexpected surprise to open my November SIFD NEWS and find a reproduction of a photograph of myself taken in my heyday. Thank you, Janet, for this accolade. Thanks too to those people who wrote in the NEWS and all those who sent me individual letters and cards in appreciation of my efforts as Editor.

I thought the November issue, Janet’s first, was excellent – good layout, headlines in bold type, attractive little folkdance motifs. I shall rest on my laurels and look forward to being a reader instead of a compiler (with occasional contributions I hope).

**Lily Avery**

## **Chairman's report 2005.**

After the turbulence of 2004, I am pleased to report that this year has been peaceable and quite productive. There have been some significant changes and I believe, some significant progress. The first change was that we welcomed Bob Robinson from the Manchester group as a committee member, and Maggie Kaye as representative of the West Midlands. As a national society I think it is important that the views of members outside London are represented and we are very pleased that they have managed to attend nearly all the meetings this year and their input has been greatly appreciated. We also thank the Barlow group for hosting this, our first AGM outside London, and arranging a programme to entice those of us from the south to make the journey.

On the negative side we were sad to accept the resignation of Alan Morton as membership secretary and group liaison officer. Alan has carried out these duties for eighteen and a half years, but the increasing difficulty of looking after Margaret together with his own poor health made this too great a burden. We share his sadness at Margaret's death and thank him for his years of service to the society. We are pleased that Simon Guest has taken over the job and has the membership of individuals and groups organised and computerised.

Although not a committee member the resignation of Lily Avery as editor of the News is also a significant change. The efficient production of the News is a valuable asset to the society, keeping members throughout the country in touch with events. Lily has performed this task for 38 years and we are grateful for her dedication. The editorship of the News is now in the hands of Janet Douglas. It is a daunting task and we hope that members will support her by sending accurate information and getting material to her in good time so that she and her team of printers, packers and posters can maintain the good reputation of getting the News to members on time each month.

The committee has worked hard to deal with the business undertaken at the last AGM as well as the current matters arising during the year. By delegating the investigation of organisations to which the society is affiliated we have accomplished this within the year and reports will be given at a later stage in this meeting. A sub-committee has been working on the updating of the constitution and met with the main committee in September to discuss the proposals. Various suggestions and reservations were expressed and it was decided that it would be unwise to rush the final draft to present it at this AGM, consequently there will be a report on progress later in the meeting but it will not be presented this year.

The society has continued to participate in folk events throughout the country. Once again we played a major part in the Eastbourne Festival, represented on the organising committee by Janet Douglas. The Dance Around the World Festival was once again held in London, organised by Anne Leach, Elsa Perez and Caspar Cronk who have continued an initiative set up by Vineet Vijn five years ago. This year 36 groups participated, 9 of which were associated or affiliated to the society. This festival not only provides a showcase to the general public but gives the participating groups an opportunity to meet and share each others enthusiasms.

Another opportunity for public performance was taking part in the CCPR festival at the Royal Albert Hall. The society's display was organised by Helen Clancy and beside groups from around the country taking part we were especially pleased that two junior groups were represented, from Barlow and Bognor. It is important that a new generation of dancers learns to enjoy folk dance from around the world especially in our increasingly multicultural society, and plans are also in progress for a junior day of dance next year. If you are involved with a dance group for children or young teens and have not yet registered your interest, let me know and I will keep you in touch with progress.

*continued overleaf*

## **Chairman's report 2005.** *continued*

Amid these special events, a full programme of courses has continued at venues throughout the country, and as you can see from the treasurer's report groups have been making good use of their teacher allowance.

All these activities are provided voluntarily by members who are prepared to give time and energy to organise them. Too often it is left to the same few people, so please don't take them for granted. Give them your support and if you can do more we would be delighted to hear from you.

**Janet Woolbar.**  
**Chairman**



### **SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops**

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

**Dec.4<sup>th</sup>** M.C: Jill Bransby (Rainmakers)

**Jan.8<sup>th</sup>** M.Cs: 'The Committee' (Please come in costume!)



### **Greek Dancing Seminar** **'Circle of Apokries and Easter'**

After the last successful course on dances from the Greek islands (see Clyde Olliver's letter in the last SIFD News), Georgina Kyrris has agreed to run another day course in 2006. This will be on 26<sup>th</sup> February and will be dances from the period of Apokries (two weeks before Lent) and Easter. At these two special festivals there are a number of unique and joyful dances that are only danced at this time of year. Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February is the main celebration day during Apokries.



Georgina is a Greek Cypriot teacher whose aim is to keep alive and promote Greek traditional dance and culture. There will be an optional party and Greek feast at an excellent Greek restaurant after the course, with optional or traditional or fancy dress in the evening. As before, many of Georgina's Greek students and members of the Greek community will be there to demonstrate the style in a unique friendly Greek atmosphere. The seminar will be in Nottingham in a location close to the M1.

The course will cost £18 (paid before 31<sup>st</sup> December), £22 afterwards  
Contact: [Chrisandra@tesco.net](mailto:Chrisandra@tesco.net) or 0115 9554962 for leaflet with full details.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Jan.21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE WORKSHOP WITH HENNIE KONINGS**, at Chisenhale Dance Space in East London. Advance booking essential, £60 for the weekend, Saturday 1.30 – 7p.m. Sunday 10a.m.-4.30p.m. Contact Janet Wilks: 020 7229 9387

S.I. **Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> 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

**Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> GREEK DANCING SEMINAR.** see page 5.

**Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> –5<sup>th</sup> GREEK FOLK DANCE** with Dimitris Triandafyllidis (of Swansea 2004) at Institute for Cancer Research, Belmont (Sutton, Surrey). Cost £50 for the weekend or £30 for one day only. For info and booking: main contact Irene Cooper, 01243 786400 or imscoper.chi@virgin.net, or Sue King, 0208 643 3653.

**Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> JAN KNOPPERS & RICHARD VAN DER KOOIJ** with mainly Balkan dances. Details from Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, Off Wigan Road, Aspull, Near Wigan WN2 1EF. (s.a.e. please)

**Mar 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE COURSE** Friday to Sunday, led by Phil & Brenda Steventon at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester. For more details: ring Earnley on 01243 670392, or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649.

**Mar 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

S.I. **Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLK GROUP.** Dances from Russia and Israel Day Course at Stevenson School, Stapleford, Nottingham led by Julie Korth. £7 (£4 half – day). 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Further details 01332 701922 / 0115 9171831

**Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 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. 28<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL.**  
see page 8.

S.I. **Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup>) 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 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 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

## December Balkanplus

I hope to see many of you at this occasion, which will hopefully mark my recovery from recent disasters. My arm is almost OK but I may need to lead from the Back! Most dances will be old warhorses with a sprinkling of recent Yves etc. Wear something with a sparkle to denote Smiling Through Adversity and to greet the Festive Season.

I found this cartoon which my son drew when he was about nine.....

**Fiona Howarth**



## Balkanplus

The next Balkanplus will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December at Cecil Sharp House, London, NW1 at 7p.m. The MC for the Christmas Balkanplus will be Fiona Howarth; plus live music from the Dunav Balkan group. Festive attire welcomed. Admission £5.

For your diaries the January Balkanplus will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

**Maureen Felton**



**Moshiko Halevy**  
**17<sup>th</sup>&18<sup>th</sup> December**

The Israeli Folk Dance Institute have invited Moshiko to give three sessions (Sat: 7.30–11.p.m., Sun: 2.-5.30p.m. and 7.30-11p.m) at the Habonim-Dror Youth Centre, 523 Finchley Road, London NW3 (near the corner of Parsifal Road).

Cost:£10 per session or £25 for all 3 sessions.

For details: Tel 020 8446 6427 (day) or 020 8445 6765 (eve),or, email: info@ifdiuk.org

Moshiko is a well known Israeli folkdance choreographer and to the point quite a number of his dances are danced at SIFD meetings and Associated groups. I thought it would be a nice opportunity for members to meet him and learn some more of his dances.

**David Bramson**



**Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival**  
**April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> 2006**

Two of our new bands; **Duo Izvor Plus** and **Klapton Klezmer** are returning to Eastbourne next year. **Roberto Haddon** with Klapton Klezmer will welcome you to a ‘*Simkha*’ on Friday evening to get the festival off to a good start; they will also be joining forces for a couple of workshops. Once again you will be spoilt for choice. The man in red boots – **Hennie Konings** – (who was so popular last time that latecomers faced ‘house full’ signs) returns to glide, stamp and guide us through more of his Russian repertoire.



**Ibrahim Rizevski** returns to Eastbourne as well; this time he will teach dances not only from Macedonia but also from all over the former Yugoslavia. Many of you will remember Ibrahim looking gorgeous in his Macedonian costume at the Sunday Balkan evening when he last came to Eastbourne; no doubt he will dress-up and support **Clyde Olliver**, our MC for the next Balkan evening. Clyde will also be offering Greek workshops over the weekend (accompanied by **Mike Machin**).

An oasis of calm in the form of **Shan Handley** will charm you with a display of Chinese dance; Shan will also teach two Chinese dance sessions. Add to this a wealth of English and American talent and you can pick ‘n’ mix a long weekend of delight.

Not only is Eastbourne a good opportunity for SIFD members to get together and dance, it is also an excellent opportunity to reach other dancers. Wearing a costume from another country is not only colourful and fun, but is also a very effective advertisement for International Folk Dancing. People may be immune to leaflets but who could ignore, for example, Sue Clark dressed in her Thai costume??!! (pictured). The sight of so many costumes, on Saturday at the ‘*International Dance*’ and again on Sunday at the ‘*Balkan Evening*’, rouses the curiosity of the uninitiated, and may tempt them to join us.

Bookings: Tel. 01273 835759

**Janet Douglas** (wearing my Eastbourne hat)



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Janet,

Once again, the Dance Around the World weekend at Cecil Sharp House was a treat of lovely performances and inspiring workshops, and many thanks are due to Anne, Caspar and all the team for all their hard work. They put a great deal of effort into the organisation of the event, and also into publicising it to try to spread the word about International Folk Dance; so it seems a pity that so few of the people attending seemed to be real 'first timers'.

Is there any way the Society could go all out to advertise what we do and how great it is? Does anyone have contacts in television who might be interested in a programme of (say) performances mixed with shots of 'ordinary' people learning the dances and having a great time? Wouldn't it be wonderful to see young folk preferring an evening of dancing to getting drunk?

International Folk Dance could be the next big thing after line dancing, salsa etc.!

**Rowena Martin**



Dear Mrs. Douglas,

I look forward with interest every month to 'SIFD News' and was a little surprised to see that in this month's edition (November 2005) there is not a single mention of one of the biggest folk dance events to take place in London in October.

Dance Around the World was held on 15 and 16 October - was it too late for articles to be included this month? I do hope that there will be some comment on this two-day festival of international dance.

Beskydy Dancers have now taken part for three years running and we find it a most enjoyable event, giving us opportunities to meet old friends, watch other groups and take part in the many varied workshops. There is always the difficulty of conflicting workshops and shows and making impossible choices between the options.

However, this year's festival was bigger and, dare I say it, better than ever with a huge variety of dance styles, music and cultures to choose from. For those who were unable to attend this year, you will not know that there was an added attraction of a marquee in the garden, giving space for a further workshop or rehearsal room.

Although it is run on a shoe-string and relies on volunteers there is always a cheerful welcome and 'light touch' security to ensure that most visitors are given the right information and asked the right questions to be sure that not too many people avoid the very modest entry fee.

Another innovation this year was the availability of more permanent souvenirs of the festival, with t-shirts, calendar (using photographs from last year's festival) and a printed programme all for sale at the ticket office at reasonable prices.

In spite of the occasional late-running, non-showing or short-programme groups (and those who attended giving only 24 hours notice) there were very few delays, with the shortest of pauses between performances or workshops, while the next group set up.

This letter is intended to give a public vote of thanks to Cecil Sharp House, the SIFD and the small group of 'Dance Around the World' committee who put the whole thing together. I'm already looking forward to next year's festival.

**Ruth Howard (Mrs.)**  
On behalf of Beskydy Dancers

## Piece from the Past

I've looked at the News for both **December 1969 and December 1972**, to round off the year. Both of them advertise Christmas dances at Cecil Sharp House – how long were these organised? My guess would be that you'd be very optimistic these days to expect a good turn-out just a week before Christmas. But something that seemed only too familiar were the Chairman's (Bert Price) words: "The number of committee vacancies was just balanced by new nominees so a postal ballot was not required this year." Have there ever been years when offers of help have exceeded spaces available?

Another item they both mentioned concerned the production of SIFD records. The company producing them in December 1972, Magnegraph, were themselves taken over by Euratel. Not in itself very interesting, except for the comment "We should be receiving £200 in royalties from Magnegraph". This is a most impressive sum of money, when the admission to a Cecil Sharp House dance was listed as 30p.

An exciting week in San Sebastian was being planned for July 1970. Every day you would attend Basque, Russian and Spanish classes, and most evenings offered more dancing opportunities. Were the free afternoons for resting and relaxation? No - they were for "swimming and walking etc". I so admire the stamina shown by participants of weeks like these – does anyone out there remember going?

In 1972 Wilf Horrocks reported on "a dance - in a church"! It was part of a Festival of Flowers and Arts in Crowborough, and sounded as rare then as it would be now, but very successful. The advantage of live music really showed in these circumstances: "there was a moment when I began to wonder whether a Stern Eye was being cast from above because the tape recorders gave trouble for both the Scottish and English dancers but eventually the technicians (esconced in the pulpit) managed to get some sound out. .... Fortunately I was able to pump out my stint loud and clear despite the fact that I was practically standing on the altar." Audrey Brisley had organised the dancers.

Harrow Green were celebrating their 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary, and Betty Harvey's customary jumble sale had been overwhelmed with cookery books from "an eminent lady cookery journalist, on her retirement". I imagine some are still being used....

Also in 1972 each member was being encouraged to bring a friend to events, hopefully get them to join the Society. New members were really needed to raise the individual membership from 245, and Affiliated groups from 10. These days our Associated and Affiliated groups number many more than 10, but our increase in individual members isn't nearly so impressive. If we tried to follow 1972's example, and encouraged one person to become a member, the Society would be in a much healthier state to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> year.

**Alison Scrimshaw**

## WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- S.I. Dec.3<sup>rd</sup> **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). £3. MC: Maggie Kaye. Bring-and-share supper. Ring Maggie for further information, on 0121 608 1437.
- S.I. Dec.3<sup>rd</sup> **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.3<sup>rd</sup> **KLEZMER KLUB**. Wonderful music from Eastern Europe and the Jewish tradition. At the Exmouth Arms, Starcross Street, London NW1 (corner of Cobourg Street near Euston and Euston Square stations). 8.15 – 12 p.m.

## WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER (cont.)

- Dec.3<sup>rd</sup>** **BREATHING THE DAWN: TALES OF HIDDEN BULGARIA** presented by a Spell in Time. Stories, music and folk ritual from Bulgaria. 7.30 p.m. at The Earhouse, Cranbourne Ancient Technology Centre, Damerham Road, Cranbourne, Dorset BH21 5RP. Booking: 01202 888992. Tickets £7.50, £3.50 children (not recommended for under 12s) info: [www.spellintime.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.spellintime.fsnet.co.uk)  
**PLUS WORKSHOP IN BULGARIAN SINGING** with Dessislava Stefanova from 3.- 5p.m. Combined workshop and performance tickets: £12.50.
- Dec.4<sup>th</sup>** **CAKE & CANDLES.** 7.p.m. St.Colman's Church Hall, Cosham, Portsmouth. International dances, especially candle dances £2.50 Tel: 01243 265010
- S.I. **Dec.9<sup>th</sup>** **BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY.** The festive season starts here with the customary mix of dancing, cabaret and seasonal fare. 8p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet. Herts. £5 Enquiries: 01992 582717  
(Meetings recommence on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January if we dare).
- S.I. **Dec.10<sup>th</sup>** **BALKANPLUS.** see page 6
- S.I. **Dec.13<sup>th</sup>** **CHRISTMAS PARTY.** 8.p.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
- S.I. **Dec 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>** **DUNFORD WEEKEND.** see November issue
- Dec 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>** **MOSHIKO HALEVY** Israeli Dance. see page 8.
- Dec.28<sup>th</sup>** **A TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY!** Bring and lead your favourite dances (tapes and CDs) at Stone Cross Memorial Hall. Near Eastbourne from 10.30 – 5.p.m. (cost £5) Bring and share lunch, drinks provided. Info: Rowena Martin 01323 503999 or [RowenaHMartin@hotmail.com](mailto:RowenaHMartin@hotmail.com) or 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne. BN22 0PZ (s.a.e.appreciated)
- S.I. **Dec.31<sup>st</sup>** **SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR EVE PARTY,** 8 - 12p.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.



All material for the January issue of **SIFD NEWS** must be received by the Editor **IN WRITING** by 15<sup>th</sup> December; emails by 13<sup>th</sup> December. Please write in **BLOCK CAPITALS** all names of people, places and dances, unless typewritten.