

SIFD NEWS



JANUARY 2006

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Website: 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 was sent in by Simon Guest. He adapted it from a photo taken last August by Roger Sturge in the Iza Valley, Maramures in Romania.



A 'thank you' to the Barlow Group

Many thanks to Julie Korth and the Barlow group for providing the venue for the 2005 AGM. They organised a very varied programme for the day and the arrangements went very smoothly.

It was good to see people from all round the country attending despite the fear of bad weather and we thank our hosts for all the work they put in to make the event a success.

We also managed to fit in a meeting of those interested in organising a Junior day of dance and plans are being made to arrange this, probably for the end of June 2006. If you are interested and are not yet on the list of contacts send your details to me or to Julie and we will keep you up to date.

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.

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.

Most people will remember the music which Wilf Horrocks used to publish in the News. Frances has kindly sent the music for the Dorset Four Hand Reel from his collection, which is the first of a re-run of his work (see page 10).

I hope you won't feel overwhelmed, but there are two leaflets for you to pore over with this issue: one for the Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival and the other for the 2006 SIFD Summer School..... (so many good things to choose from).

One tricky editing job can be sorting private from public letters; I have been delighted to receive cards, letters and calls from members as far apart as Italy and Australia offering congratulations and good wishes. My thanks to you (I hope they were not meant for publication). Ruth Coton (nee Sharp) in Australia wrote to welcome me as Editor and congratulate me on my first issue (with Lily's picture on the front cover). She praised her terrific example; the picture is just as Ruth remembers Lily when she and Les visited Queensland in the eighties.

I love getting letters, especially when they are 'for the News'.

Ed



Dear Friends,

I have been amazed and delighted by the huge number of cards, messages, calls and visits I have received since suffering a very sudden and quite unexpected heart attack in November. All your kind thoughts and best wishes are very much appreciated.

As a result Wilf has now gone into permanent care in a lovely house in Caterham. It used to be a vicarage and has a large back garden where he can have a walk and watch all the birds. He seems to be settling down well now but sadly he no longer recognises us as members of his family.

I'm looking forward to dancing again soon though I think Krajdunavsko Horo might be off the menu for a while.

Many, many thanks to everyone and all best wishes for a much better 2006.

Frances Horrocks



International Folk Festival, Sandanski, Bulgaria

28th May to 6th June 2006

An all inclusive tour organised by Lyubimka Biserova with the Bisserov Sisters. Featuring singing and dancing workshops, Festival attendance, hiking in the Pirin Mountains and some memorable sightseeing. Contact: lyubimka@bobinka.demon.co.uk Tel: 07909 747080 or 0161 681 1177 details: www.bisserov.com

Lyubimka Biserova from the Bisserov Sisters is holding weekly Bulgarian singing and dancing workshops from 15th January until 26th March.

Venue: International Society, William Kay House, 327 Oxford Road, Manchester.

Singing workshop: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Dance workshop: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. £5 per 2 hour session.

Anyone interested in learning to play the Bulgarian traditional instruments – bagpipe, flute,

tambura, gadulka or tupan, please contact: lyubimka@bobinka.demon.co.uk Tel: 07909 747 080

Notes from November's Committee Meeting

A committee meeting was held on 19th November, just before the AGM, so naturally attention was focused on the AGM agenda.

All items on the agenda were reviewed, and reports planned, to ensure it would run as smoothly as possible.

The other major topic was planning London's 60th Anniversary Dance. It will be held at Cecil Sharp House on 30th September 2006 – a Saturday, which hopefully means more people will be able to attend than come to the Sunday dances. Suggestions were made about the structure of the evening, and Helen Ezra offered to head a sub-committee to plan it in depth. More details will naturally emerge as decisions are made, but in the meantime please make a note of the date, and also note that it will replace the October Cecil Sharp House dance.

Other business included the good news that the Society is eligible to claim Gift Aid for the past five years, which we were delighted to hear. Every SIFD member who pays Income Tax will be encouraged to sign a form early next year to acknowledge this fact, and allow the Society to claim 28p for each pound the member has paid - there is no further commitment and no small print. The extra money raised this way will make a considerable difference to the Society's finances, as currently we are facing more running expenses than ever before.

There is currently no progress to report on the new constitution, but when the draft is finalised next year it will be circulated to all members.

The Membership Secretary estimated that approximately 50 people had failed to renew their membership this year, which is a pity. But three new affiliated groups were welcomed, which was more encouraging. However, dwindling individual membership is a problem we will need to look at next year.

A Dance With the World publicity leaflet is nearing completion – we hope it won't be too long before they are available. We are returning to a single leaflet this year, whilst trying to fit in as much information about the groups and classes as we can, which requires a slightly different format.

The next committee meeting will be held at the beginning of January.

Alison Scrimshaw



January Balkanplus

The January Balkanplus will be held on the 14th January 2006 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. We are welcoming back as MC Bob Robinson from the Manchester Group. The evening will be a general mix of Balkan dances. Admission £4. The February Balkanplus will be held on February 11th.

Maureen Felton



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I. **Feb. 11th SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 7

Feb. 11th BALKAN AND BEYOND .Dance to 'Zaramo' (voice, accordion, fiddle, djembe) and celebrate launch of new CD 'Under a Balkan Sky'. Bar. 7.30 p.m St.John's Cathedral Hall, Norwich. £5 (£ 3.50conc). For info contact Birgitta:01508 480195. www.zaramadanceband.co.uk

Feb. 25th BALKAN AND BEYOND Bergh Apton Village Hall (Norwich).7.30-10.30p.m. Dance with live music (accordion, fiddle, djembe).£5 (£3.50 conc.). No bar, byob. Contact Birgitta for further information: 01508 480195.

Feb. 26th GREEK DANCING SEMINAR. 'Circle of Apokries and Easter' with Georgiana Kyrris in Nottinghamshire (close to M1). Seminar 10.30 – 5.00 with optional Greek feast and party afterwards. Cost £22. Contact Chrisandra 0115 9554962 or Chrisandra@tesco.net for a leaflet with full details.

Mar. 4th – 5th 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 imscooper.chi@virgin.net, or Sue King, 0208 643 3653.

Mar. 11th SIFD DAY COURSE.

Mar. 11th – 12th JAN KNOPPERS & RICHARD VAN DER KOOLJ with mainly Balkan dances. contact Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, Off Wigan Road, Aspull, Near Wigan WN2 1EF. (s.a.e. please)

Mar 17th – 19th 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. 25th BALKAN AND BEYOND Bergh Apton Village Hall (Norwich).7.30-10.30p.m. Dance with live music (accordion, fiddle, djembe).£5 (£3.50 conc.). No bar, byob. Contact Birgitta for further information: 01508 480195.

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.

S.I. **Apr. 1st 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. 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 Rd., London NW5 1DA. Please send s.a.e.

Apr. 28th – May 1st EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL. Hennie Konings, Ibrahim Rizevski, Roberto Haddon, Clyde Olliver and many other teachers, musicians and performers; plus international choir workshops. Enquiries and booking: 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.

May 6th – 7th DANCE WORKSHOP AND PARTY Bergh Apton Village Hall (near Norwich). An opportunity to dance with renowned lyra player and vocalist: Michael Kaliontzidis and Panagiotis Apostolidis (Greek, Pontic dance teacher). Possible singing workshop Saturday am. Contact Birgitta: 01508 480195 for info and bookings.

S.I. **July 7th – 9th WILLINGDON IFDG's MINI FESTIVAL** is returning to Stafford House at Burgess Hill, West Sussex. Shared leading of International Folk and Circle Dances, also English caller and a singing class. Full board £120 (no supplement for a single room). s.a.e. to Rowena Martin for detailed booking form, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ

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.



Cultural Folklore Dance Tours to Romania 2006

29th April – 6th May: Sfantu Gheorge; Transylvania and Ploiesti; Muntenia
Romanian, Hungarian and gypsy dances.
5th – 18th July: Targu Jiu; Oltenia and Campina; Muntenia
Romanian dances
21st 28th October: Cluj; Transylvania
Romanian, Hungarian and gypsy dances

Balkan Festival 2006

29th June – 2nd July in Zetten, near Arnhem:
Ben Koopmanschap (Albania to Croatia); Dick van der Zwan (Greek), Ersin Seyhan (Turkish), Jaap Leegwater (Bulgarian), Martin Ihns (Macedonian), Silviu Ciuciumis (Romanian), Hedwig Schoots (singing), Helen van Bochova (ball).
Trediki, Raromski and Collectief Orkest (musicians)

Romanian Folklore Costumes

Complete or partial outfits and dance boots for men and women.
For information about any of the above, please contact **Silviu Ciuciumis**:
Aarhuispad 22, 3067 PR Rotterdam, Netherlands. Tel: 0031 10 421 8622. or fax: 0031 10 455 6065
email: stichting.doina@hetnet.n

SIFD Day Course – January 2006

Date: Saturday 7th January
Place: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London. NW1
Time: 10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Cost: £6 for SIFD members. £8 for non – members
Subject: A Selection of European Folk Dances, SIFD Book 2.
Tutors: **Janet Woolbar and Tony Latham**

This was the course we had to postpone earlier; continuing the requested revision of the SIFD books. The book, the tape and a video will be on sold on the day. As there are nineteen dances in Book 2, choices will have to be made, so if there are any dances you particularly want revised please tell Janet in good time. (her address is on page 1). The dances are:

Boarischer (Austria)	Viru Vals (Estonia)
Der Haxenaschmeisser (Austria)	Bourree Poursuite) (France)
Das Hiataamadl (Austria)	Der Gamboliner Holzschutanz (Germany)
Kreuzpolka (Austria)	Kokotek (Poland)
Siebenschritt (Austria)	Laura (Poland)
Stottera Pascher (Austria)	Tarantella (Sicily)
Veitscher Masur (Austria)	Fyrmannna Schottische (Sween)
Waldjager (Austria)	Fjallas Polska (Sweden)
Kolomeyka (Carpathie)	Hopak (Ukraine)
Schottische (Denmark)	

Many of these are perhaps not as well known as they used to be, which the Day Course is hoping to rectify, but the tunes, as always, are a pleasure to listen to whether you know the dances or not! The tapes cost £3.50, and the books £2.50. They will be available to buy at the Day Course, and are also available by post from Alison Scrimshaw (her address is on page 1). P&P is £1 for one item, £1.20 for two. (cheques payable to SIFD)

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SIFD Day Course February 2006

Date: Saturday 11th February
Place: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London. NW1
Time: 10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Cost: £6 for SIFD members. £8 for non – members
Subject: Hungarian dances – chosen especially to be accessible to us!
Tutor: **Leslie Haddon**

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SIFD Day Courses in 2006 at Cecil Sharp House

The dates booked for this year's Day Courses are: January 7th, February 11th, March 11th, April 8th, May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, September 9th, November 18th.

What a Greek feast – plus!!

Weekend 19th & 20th November.

The Saturday S.I.F.D. workshop offered huge pleasure; dancing with Natassa again, delighting in her unique style of teaching which amounts to almost non-stop dancing with non-stop accurate example. The natural, unflagging picture of perfection should easily be remembered. Total absorption and commitment created a calm, attentive quality to most of the day. It was magic to feel ‘tidied up’ and reprogrammed for Epirus. Needless to say it evoked all those happy memories (for me) of the Golden Age of Lykion when there were so many wonderful events and performances organised by Natassa – from opening the Liverpool Garden Festival to filling the stage at Queen Elizabeth Hall etc. Sadly a few well remembered friends were missing like Lilian Galatis and Cynthia Hughesdon.

As ever, supremely genuinely modest Natassa was very quick to establish an easy rapport with everyone, promoting a relaxed atmosphere where any comment, query or remark was welcomed and generously aired. Janet must have been hugely relieved to find Natassa so ready to drop everything and step into the breach when Nenad was unable to come.

Then followed a magnificent evening; celebrating the First Anniversary Party of the new all Macedonian Group ‘Sonce’ at the Bonington Hotel, which was a Balkan Feast. Performances included a spectacular variety from Sonce themselves (featuring ‘our own’ Nick & Liz Green who acquitted themselves well). Then Zivko Firfov contributed sober, slow, traditional wedding dances in marked contrast to the exceptionally lively, twinkling footwork of the indefatigable Martisorul (Romanian) Group. The varied Balkan music of Vupross was enthusiastically received, and, Boyko’s Bulgarian Group* with an amazing, extensive repertoire so colourfully presented. It really was difficult to tear myself away like Cinderella to catch my last train. Next year if there is a repeat I can recommend you go along and join in.

Sunday was equally enjoyable with the Lykion workshop. Tassos Plitsis gave an introduction to each dance and its place in the Greek seasonal traditions and celebrations. For this occasion a very smart colour illustrated informative programme was given to all participants and apart from one imperceptible change it was fully delivered AS SET OUT!! Included in the day’s delights was a slide show with commentary and a mini impromptu lap top movie of the spectacular ‘sword dance’ from Rogatsa (Roumlouki). This was the high spot! A traditional dance performed between Christmas Day and Epiphany around all the villages. As usual there was an ongoing translation and very heartwarming welcome for us non Greeks. A huge big thank you to Anita (in particular), her helpers and the Dance Committee. These regular workshops are a must in the dance calendar and always bring interesting extras – sometimes photos, or costumes, books, tapes, and this time Tassos used some colourful field recordings from local festivals which really set the atmosphere. Lykion are very good at informing everyone on their mailing list so, no excuses for missing it unnecessarily.

Diki Gleeson



*Boyko’s Bulgarian class is every Saturday at Studio 7, The Place, 16 Flaxman Terrace WC1. 7 pm. (nearest tube: Euston) £6. Tel: Boyko Andonov 0790 090 4370 or boikoandonov@hotmail.com

New SIFD recordings etc: what is wanted?

The November 2004 News included an appeal from me for members' ideas on what a new SIFD package of recorded music and/or dance notes and/or written music and/or video should include.

The Committee is grateful to the members who responded - but they were very few, their suggestions had little common ground, and **no** specific dances were identified.

It seems worth summarising the suggestions: I apologise to those concerned if the following is inaccurate or incomplete.

- > Having made a selection of dances, include them in one of the Summer School courses.
- > Make the notes available free or at a discount for those attending the course but also at a reasonable price for other members. This has the merit that the notes are available to all interested members and that many of the Society's teachers will have learnt the dances, thus encouraging some common repertoire across the country.
- > Publish notes for the dances on an existing commercially available CD, such as one of those produced in the Netherlands.
- > Provide a mail-order service for commercially available CDs from other countries (This would need someone to identify relevant publishers, but it would be more efficient to do that centrally than for individual members to do it without co-ordination.)
- > Capture the repertoires of the Society's teachers on video, particularly the older ones before they have to retire from teaching the dances. (This would have the merit of preserving details that might otherwise be forgotten, but there is a view that videos should only ever be a reminder, not a substitute for personal teaching.)
- > Make the recordings (existing or new) available on DVD with "short dance snippets".
- > There was support for re-issuing our existing recordings in digital format, as CDs for sale and/or as compressed files (MP3 or other format) for download from the SIFD website. However some people who particularly want digital copies have already made their own from the cassettes or EPs and may be content with those, though digital copies from the original master recordings should be of better quality.
- > I intend to get the originals digitised when I have time, but the additional work to make them generally available on CD with appropriate inserts, or on the website, will depend on evidence of sufficient demand, which at present is lacking.
- > The same goes for all the work that would be needed to scan and re-publish in digital form our existing dance instructions and the written music from the SIFD News.
- > We also have recordings, made by Cloudburst for the Durham summer school, of Jamaja Labajalg, Neapolitan Tarantella, Newcastle, Picking up Sticks, Santis Massollke, Trommelvals and De Vleegerd (with choice of two tunes for the polka at the end). Should we include these in a new compilation?

And the questions that I raised before remain largely unanswered.

- > Should we produce another package specifically for use in schools?
- > Are there other markets that we should be aiming at besides the teachers/leaders of our own classes and groups?
- > What would be most useful for our own teachers/leaders? Are there old (or new) dances in danger of being lost from the repertoire (because of poor recordings or for any other reason) that you would be more likely to teach if you had new recordings?
- > Do you need written descriptions of these or other dances? Do you need written music? If so, for what tunes?

As before, please send your ideas to me or any committee member, preferably in writing by post or by email (RichardMellish@compuserve.com). As Alison urged in the November News, please don't leave the replies to someone else. If you would buy CD copies of the existing SIFD material or the above mentioned Cloudburst recordings, please tell us.

If you don't tell us what is needed we can't produce it.

Richard Mellish

DORSET FOUR HAND REEL (First tune)

DORSET FOUR HAND REEL (Second tune)



Letter to the Editor

Dear Janet,

As someone too decrepit now to do the bending and twisting often needed in International folk dancing, I still retain an interest. (I still manage English and some early dance). Is there a video or DVD of the 'On Show' production at the Albert Hall? There is no mention in the December SIFD News; a video or DVD is the nearest some of us will get to seeing it. Even members who are fit cannot always manage the journey to London and possible need for accommodation.

Kathleen Dickinson

(one of the original members of the Barlow-group)

Videos (£12) and DVDs (£13.50) of 'On Show' are available from:
 JK Video & DVD Production, Dove Cottage, Staddon Heights, Plymouth. PL9 9SP.
 (includes postage & packing and a fee to the Royal Albert Hall, cheques payable to C. Kingdon)

Ed

SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

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

Jan.8th M.Cs: 'The Committee' (Please come in costume!)

Feb.5th M.Cs: Brenda & Phil Steventon



WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

- S.I. Jan. 7th **SIFD DAY COURSE** A selection of European Folk Dances. see page 7
- Jan. 14th **HUNGARIAN FOLK ENSEMBLE** Muzsikas and virtuosa singer Marta Sebastyen & Takacz quartet at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. A unique opportunity to explore the sources that inspired Bartok's music. 7.30 p.m.
- S.I. Jan.14th **BALKANPLUS** see page 4
- Jan.14th **BALKAN AND BEYOND** Bergh Apton Village Hall (Norwich).7.30-10.30p.m. Dance with live music (accordion, fiddle, djembe).£5 (£3.50 conc.). No bar, byob. Contact Birgitta for further information: 01508 480195.
- Jan. 15th **THE BURNING BUSH** Klezmer band, led by Lucy and Roddy Skeaping at Walthamstow Folk Club, The Rose and Crown, Hoe St. (5 mins. from Walthamstow rail, tube and bus stns.) 7.30 p.m.
- Jan. 21st **OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO** 2006 New Year Party at St. Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Polstead Road [off Woodstock Rd] Oxford. 7-10.45 p.m. Tickets £6 at the door inc. refreshments and live music from Vuhpros. 01243 778189
- Jan.21st-22nd **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. 24th **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



All material for the February issue of **SIFD NEWS** must be received by the Editor **IN WRITING** by 17th January; emails by 15th January. Please write in **BLOCK CAPITALS** all names of people, places and dances, unless typewritten.