

FEBRUARY

2006



SIFD

NEWS

SHATAKH - 19th Century

## 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 was sent in by Dalila Heath and shows a man's costume from Shatakh, Armenia.  
Colours: *Hat*, rose, yellow, light grey crown. *Vest*, black. *Shirt*, rose and light rose stripes, multi-colour front, rose, blue and ivory cuff. *Sash*, yellow and burnt orange stripes, two tone fringe.  
*Trousers*, ivory body, blue and rose alternating colour border design, burnt orange vertical stripe.  
*Socks*, match centre front of shirt. *Shoes*, blue.



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.

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

**New SIFD recordings etc: what is wanted?** In the last issue Richard Mellish asked members to contact him with ideas and suggestions; here is a reminder of his address:  
15, Lancaster Road, North Harrow, Middx. HA2 7NN  
email is: RichardMellish@compuserve.com

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A vixen has settled in disused outbuildings beyond our garden wall, an event which has stirred strong emotions in our pets, Spot and Topsy. I watch her from an upstairs window and understand why the fox is often part of folk culture (eg: our English folk song 'Red Rover'). She is gorgeous and puts me in mind of a very old Macedonian dance Ibrahim Rizevski taught (it is also known in Greece). Zajko Kokorajko is a ballad (with a moral!) It is danced as a basic Makedonska with variations and gestures to indicate the different animals and their story:

Zajko is a rabbit who falls in love with a beautiful vixen called Lina; she is a widow and very famous, and apparently she visits everyone's house. Dressed in his 'Fiscoli' hat, fine clothes and curled moustache, he takes his friends - the Bear (meat eater), the Wolf (godfather), the Eagle (tapan player), the Sheep (treasurer), the Frog (zurla player) and the Donkey (town crier) - to make arrangements for the wedding. They arrive to discover Lina's trousseau - lots of meat and chickens! Zajko realises she might eat *him* and changes his mind. As they retrace their steps three hunters try to kill them, Zajko rips off his finery, manages to race home and swears he will never get married.

**Ed.**



### Gift Aid

If you received the Treasurer's letter with your News this month **please** read it and (if eligible) fill in the form now and post it back straightaway.

This scheme, which costs us, as members, nothing, can make a very worthwhile improvement in our financial position and enable us to do more to fulfill the aims of the Society.

**Janet Woolbar  
Chairman**



### February Balkanplus

The February Balkanplus will be held on the 11th February 2006 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. Come and join us for an evening of dancing and maybe some songs with the Zivko Firfov Group who will MC the evening. Zivko Firfov have been established for over 50 years and specialise in Croatian, Serbian, and Macedonian dances. We will also have some live music from the Dunav Balkan Group with Brian Dowsett leading dances. Admission £5.

**Maureen Felton**

**Balkanfolk** Seminar for Balkan Folklore in Bankya.

July 17<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

Bulgarian and Romanian dance Also courses for musicians with Bulgarian instruments. Information  
at +359 2 8322010 or [www.balkanfolk.com](http://www.balkanfolk.com)

N.B. No postal address given



### Tour to Armenia

**Tineke van Geel** is leading another tour to Armenia in 2006, following the successful 2005 trip. The tour will include dance classes (averaging 3 hours a day).

Dates: May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup> .  
Price: 1325 euros

Teachers: **Pajlak Sarkisian** and **Ashot Azadjian**

There will be excursions and study of the culture.

Further information:

website: [www.tinekevangeel.nl](http://www.tinekevangeel.nl) (including photos of 2005 tour and comments)

contact: [vangeel@xs4all.nl](mailto:vangeel@xs4all.nl) or phone: 0031 521 380382.

**Marina Wolstenholme**



### Portsmouth Interfolk = II

Back in October last year a few local international folk dance enthusiasts agreed to run a trial group in Portsmouth. It has been successful enough for us to book the hall on a regular monthly basis; so hopefully **II** is born.

It *really is* general international; and everybody can bring and share dances from just anywhere. So far we have had dances from Germany, Israel, Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, China, England, Denmark, Russia, France and Molucca (Scotland is promised next meeting) from eight different teachers.

If you are close enough to Portsmouth, or on holiday nearby, join us at: St. Colman's Church Hall, Cosham, Portsmouth. (just off the M27/M275) at 7.p.m on the second Sunday of the month.

**Janet Douglas**



**Laura Shannon** has produced her programme of workshops in various countries for 2006 and anyone interested should contact her at:

227 The Park, Findhorn Foundation, Forres, Moray IV36 3TZ tel. 01309 690198

email: [laura@dance.demon.co.uk](mailto:laura@dance.demon.co.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I. **Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP** with Adrian Pointon. 10.30am – 4.30pm at Selly Oak Methodist Church Hall, Langleys Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 (Just off A38 Bristol Road, SW of City Centre near Birmingham University). Lunch break 1.00 – 2.00pm. SIFD Members £7 full day, £4 half day. Non-members £8/£5 Further details from Maggie Kaye, 0121 608 1437 or [margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> GREEK FOLK DANCE** with Dimitris Triandafyllidis (and his new wife, Katerina). The dances will be from Epirus and the Greek Islands. Venue: 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](mailto:imscooper.chi@virgin.net), or Sue King, 0208 643 3653.

S.I. **Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> SIFD DAY COURSE.** French. see page 9

S.I. **Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> BALKANPLUS** with the Martenitsa Balkan Dance Group, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, 7.00pm.

**Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> JAN KNOPPERS & RICHARD VAN DER KOOIJ** with mainly Balkan dances. contact 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. 25<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 £123 - £133 en-suite, 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. 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

S.I. **Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> GREAT ALNE FOLK WEEKEND** see pages 7 & 8

**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 from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Rd., London NW5 1DA. Please send s.a.e.

**Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL.** Hennie Konings, Ibrahim Rizevski, Roberto Haddon, Clyde Olliver and many other teachers, musicians and performers; plus international choir workshop. Enquiries and booking: 01273 835759

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.

**May 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 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 information and bookings.

**July 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 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 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

S.I. **Sep. 30<sup>th</sup> S.I.F.D. 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DANCE.** Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 (nearest tube: Camden Town)

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.



### Notes from January's Committee Meeting

A committee meeting was held on 8th January at Cecil Sharp House. The AGM, Christmas, the New Year and organisation of this particular dance (by custom MC-ed by the committee), have all happened since the last meeting, so many items from it were re-visited as we picked up the threads again. Points from the **AGM** which need attention will be considered at the next meeting.

Judith is hoping to include a **Gift Aid** form with this copy of the News, and if you, as a member of the SIFD, are eligible and willing to sign it (ie you pay UK Income Tax and would like the Society to claim tax back on your membership subscriptions) then we would urge you to do so. Please return it as soon as possible in the envelope provided. As I've mentioned before, the extra money will make a considerable difference to the Society's income allowing - among other things - continued support for the SIFD-recognised teacher's scheme. I visited Kew Gardens the other day, and was impressed to be asked if my entrance fee could be considered for Gift Aid. My name and postcode were entered on the computer - and it was done. Sadly we don't have such technology, but Judith is working just as hard as that computer, and deserves your support.

Much talk centred on London's **60th Anniversary Dance**. Jill Bransby has very kindly offered to help Helen Ezra organise it, and I'm sure they will keep us up-to-date with their progress.

The Membership Secretary reported the addition of 5 **new members**, which is excellent news. We welcome them to the Society, and hope they will make good use of what the Society has to offer them.

The **Summer School** now has its own page on the SIFD website. Visit [www.sifd.org](http://www.sifd.org) and click on the Summer School Dancing Man. The next committee meeting will be held at the beginning of March.

**Alison Scrimshaw**

## Great Alne - Your Questions Answered

Have you ever seen adverts for the Midland's "Great Alne Long Weekend", and wondered what it was like? Well, now is your chance to find out, so read on.....

**Where is Great Alne?** Great Alne is a small Warwickshire village, 2½ miles east of the town of Alcester on the B4089 to Wootton Wawen. From [www.greatalnefolk.org.uk](http://www.greatalnefolk.org.uk) you can access a map.

**How does it come to be the venue for an annual folk weekend?** David and Linda Bradley live in this delightful village and it was Linda's suggestion to use the **village hall** as the centre, when André Hobro first had the idea of organising a folk weekend. Thanks to the help of a number of willing friends, he is still doing so.

**What is the idea behind these weekends?** To provide an opportunity for people to spend a relaxed and informal **long weekend** in pleasant, rural surroundings and share a wide range of folk activities, some of which may be quite different from those they have experienced before.

**How long have these weekends been taking place?** 2006 is **the 23rd year**, the first having been in 1984. They start early Friday evening and finish now on a Monday afternoon, but **NOT the Bank Holiday weekend**.

**When do these long-weekends happen?** Usually over the weekend *before* the May-Day Bank Holiday. There are exceptions when Easter is late, like **this year when the long-weekend will be the 7th to 10th April**.

**What happens at these weekends?** There is a programme of **workshops** each day that cover all sorts of **folk dancing** plus **music**, **singing** and a variety of other activities. Over the years these have included **handbell ringing**, crafts, circus skills and short-wave radio, - it all depends on who is to be there and what they are prepared to lay on for other people to try. *Activity teachers are not paid*, they just contribute their skills in exchange for their own participation in workshops laid-on by others. However, we like to subsidise travel for one of several excellent dance teachers to visit from the Netherlands. Afternoons include **walks** and a **Sunday cycle ride**.

**Evenings** start with a **music session** followed by a variety of **dancing**, mostly to live music.

**What sort of dancing is involved?** Anything that could loosely be described as 'folk' dancing has been included over the years: English, Scottish, Morris and Sword dancing and International folk from all over Europe and beyond. In addition there has been Appalachian, Line-dancing, Cajun, Salsa, Swing, Jive etc.

**Do I need dancing experience?** No, anyone is welcome to have a go and you don't need to bring a partner. The dance workshops are run by a variety of teachers with experience in their different type of dance. Dances are taught from scratch. Many regular attendees are experienced dancers, but all, including those who lead and teach like to join in, to try new things and we're always pleased to welcome and offer help to newcomers.

**Can anyone join in the music sessions?** If you have an instrument and can produce some sort of reasonably acceptable noise from it, you can join in! **Reading music a bit does help**, but is **not** essential, as many people learn folk music by ear. The sessions include British and American traditions, European dance music, often Balkan and Israeli amongst others. We play together for fun, to learn new music and styles, and some of us continue playing for a good deal of the evening dancing. The programme will suggest suitable times when you'll be able to join in. You can play as much or as little as you like, and if you want to try a new instrument or are not able to bring one with you, people will often lend you one.

continued: →

**Do I need to book? Must I come for the whole weekend?** No, just come for as long or short a time as you want. There is some financial advantage in a 'season ticket' or in staying for several workshops, just to encourage people to try out several new experiences, but you are most welcome just to turn up and pay at the time. If this is to be your first visit, why not try out a day and see how you like it? If you are able to come just for an evening (perhaps that's all you can fit in) do try the Friday evening, which is specially geared to those with less experience of International dancing, or you might like to sample the Sunday evening, which has an enjoyable and a very varied programme, but is less likely to be over-crowded. Saturday evening is fun, popular and usually the busiest, but new visitors might therefore feel a bit overlooked rather than being received in the friendly way that we would prefer. We particularly want to encourage children and young people to develop interests and skills in folk music and dance, and so try to reflect this in our pricing structure.

**If I come for the weekend, where do I stay?** There's space by the hall if you have a camper-van or caravan (though please ring André beforehand, to let him know you'll bring one). If you've a tent we use a pleasant nearby meadow, and a few people sleep in the hall itself. If you don't fancy that, there are plenty of varied places to stay nearby - caravan sites (static and touring), bed and breakfast, hotels or the YHA - more information on request and on the website (*thanks to James Hobro*).

**What happens about food?** A good selection of freshly-prepared meals is now available to buy daily at most times from breakfast through to suppertime. Tea or coffee and frequent squash are provided (inclusive) mid-morning and evening. There's also a pub round the corner, and restaurants and takeaways within easy reach.

**What else is there to do nearby?** Alcester is an attractive and interesting small town with half-timbered buildings. Coughton Court (NT) and Ragley Hall are two nearby mansions well worth a visit. The many attractions of Stratford-on-Avon are only 6 miles away, Mary Arden's house and Anne Hathaway's cottage nearer than that. There are pleasant nearby **walks** in the **Alne Hills**, and in **Oversley Wood**, where it is usually about the right time to see the bluebells at their best, or you can walk the Stratford canal towpath. This is only the immediate neighbourhood. You'll need to extend your stay to do full justice to the area.

**What is on the programme for this year?** All the usual things and some new ones: **International dance** is taught each year by one of several visiting teachers of dance from the Netherlands. This year it's Mariette van Gelder with a CD dances she'll teach. **Israeli** is by Adrian Pointon; some **English Dances from the 1940's** (Knees-up Mother Brown, Lambeth Walk etc) by Cath Greenway; **Couple dances** (Cajun etc.) by Linda Moon; **Scottish, German** and **NW Morris** by Paul Lindley. Paul will also organise **handbell ringing** once again. **Music sessions** of British, American and International folk will be led by David Bradley and Gordon Taylor. Weather permitting, there will be **walks** and a **cycle ride**. On Friday evening there will be some straightforward English **Playford** dancing with Peter Eames as well as easy International. The Saturday and Sunday evenings will be a mixed programme of International and English dancing interspersed with highlights from the day's workshops, together with **entertainment spots**. We especially look forward to having again a Sunday **old time singalong** with Jack Steele. After a **late dance session**, there may even be singing around the fire for night owls. This promises to be the usual varied and exciting programme in the extended and improved village hall.

**How do I find out more?** **Copies of the 2006 programme** will be available shortly before the weekend. You can find details and enjoy **pictures of earlier years** on our website at [www.greatalnefolk.org.uk](http://www.greatalnefolk.org.uk) .

More information may be obtained from André on 0121-770-6098 or Maggie Kaye (0121-608-1437) or [margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk)

**We hope to see you there this year!**

**Maggie Kaye**



## SIFD Day Course February 2006

Date: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Pam Radford**



## SIFD March Day Course

Date: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
Place: Cecil Sharp House  
Time: 10.30am. – 4.30pm  
Cost: £6 for SIFD members. £8 for non-members  
Subject: French Dances: SIFD Book 6  
Tutor: **Simon Guest**

Simon has agreed to teach / revise dances from the SIFD Book 6. These are:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| La Vrie                            | La Bourrée Carrée se St Chartier          |
| La Bourrée Droite d'Issoudun       | La Bourrée Pastourelle                    |
| La Bourrée à Sept Sauts            | La Bourrée de la Brande d'Ardentes        |
| La Tirette                         | La Bourrée à Six de Briantes              |
| L'Etoile                           | La Bourrée Carrée Croisée du Val de Loire |
| La Vezi La Vezon                   | La Bourrée Droite du Pays Fort            |
| Les Moutons                        | La Bourrée Tournante des Grandes Poteries |
| La Bourrée à Huit                  | La Bourrée des Jeunes                     |
| La Bourrée de la Chapelotte        | Le Branle à Six de la Châtre              |
| La Bourrée Tournante de Ste Sévère |   |

The notes and tapes will be available to buy at the Day Course and a video to follow.

**Pam Radford**

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The notes and tapes 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)

DENMARK.

SWEDISH MASQUERADE.

The musical score for 'Swedish Masquerade' is written in G major (one sharp, F#) and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is in common time (C), and the subsequent staves are in 2/4 time. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a 2/4 time signature. Chords G and D7 are indicated below the notes.

Wilf Horrocks (courtesy of Frances Horrocks)



Letter to the Editor

Dear Janet,

Once in a while we remind people that Táncház, Hungarian social dancing, is still continuing in London. Outside of holidays we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month from 4 – 7pm. at Minszenty House, 5 Arundel Gardens, London W11.

This mainly involves improvised dancing in couples, but there are also boys' dances, follow the leader dances and some easy set dances. Beginners are welcome and will be taught while more advanced dancers simply dance.

**Leslie Haddon**

0208 441 2959 or [LesHaddon@aol.com](mailto:LesHaddon@aol.com)

## SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

7pm – 10pm at Cecil Sharp house, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1  
Cost £5 members £7 non-members

Feb.5<sup>th</sup> M.Cs: Brenda & Phil Steventon and Merton Park International Folk Dancers

Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> M.C: Anne Leach



## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> **SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 9

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> **BALKANPLUS** see page 3

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> **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.zaramodanceband.co.uk](http://www.zaramodanceband.co.uk)

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> **PORTSMOUTH INTERFOLK** see page 4

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> **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](mailto:Chrisandra@tesco.net) for a leaflet with full details.



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