

SIFID NEWS



March 2006

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

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 and motifs are from a photo of Pam Radford and Sue Clark which was taken at the 2004 Summer School in Swansea; they are both wearing costumes from neighbouring villages in Thailand.



CHAIRMAN: Janet Woolbar (Mrs.), 34a Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow,
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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.

I am grateful to Joan and Simon Guest, specialists in French dance, for ‘Bourrées et Autres Choses’ (page 7). If you have a specialist ‘country’ please consider writing a similarly informative piece for our erudition; some of us are eager to learn more about the history, culture, dance and costumes of the countries that gave us our favourite dances.

You may have noticed in the last issue that the list of French dances appeared with the correct accents on the words. This shows that I have arrived at a new point on my long journey from computer illiteracy. Missing *umlauts* will be a thing of the past! (for the benefit of our junior members ... ‘Säntis Masollke’ has an umlaut on the second letter)! So now you have no excuse for not sending details of dances, places and people with any number of *diacritics* adorning them! (junior members again the following are just a few diacritics: ‘ ° ^ ˇ 3 ˇ ~ ˇ ~ ˇ ˇ ˇ ~) ahem.

Ed



Attention Junior Folk Dancers (6-12yrs.)

On Saturday June 24th, to celebrate our 60th Anniversary Year, we’re holding a Junior workshop and Party Day. We have a few spaces left. If you would like to join us please contact:

Lorna Ramsden 0113 2937645 Leeds

or

Janet Douglas 01243 265010 Bognor

or

Julie Korth 01942 831141 Manchester

The Day will be held at Barlow’s Hall in Chorlton, Manchester. (10.30am – 4.30pm)

Julie Korth



Dance With the World Leaflets

I hope you’ll be pleased to hear that we now have a supply of Dance With the World Leaflets, thanks to Don Allison. The paper is an eye-catching gold, and slightly thicker than we’ve used in the past. They are very smart and list all the groups and classes associated with and affiliated to the SIFD, with as many details as we could fit in.

They are extremely useful for handing out to anyone interested in joining a group or class, or for giving more information about the Society to audiences at demos and displays.

In future, we hope to produce a new version at the start of each academic year (September), updated from the details sent in by group and class leaders when renewing their membership. Leaders can help us (and themselves) enormously by renewing **promptly** each year, so we print only their current information.

We hope that soon a second leaflet encouraging people to join the Society will be ready – I’ll let you know when these are available.

If you would like a supply of DWTW leaflets, please contact me (details on the first page).

Alison Scrimshaw

Halsway Manor Weekend (April 28th – May 1st (2nd))

All of you who have already notified us, including those who signed the list at Halsway 2005, should by now have received your booking forms with details. If not, please let Gordon Adie know as soon as possible. Also let him know if you would like to be added to the list.
Gordon Adie: 30 Thornpark Avenue, Plymouth, PL3 4NJ. Tel: 01752 225539

Jack Richardson



Residential Macedonian Folk Dance Course with Paul Mulders at Derwent Bank

27th -29th October

Paul Mulders from Holland has specialised in Macedonian folk dance and music. During the eighties he was Pece's right hand man and often assisted him with his summer courses and translated for him. So part of his repertoire is from Pece's research. He travelled all over Macedonia and spent a lot of time with village people, which is the source of the other dances in his programme. He also had the opportunity to dance at gypsy weddings in the Bitola and Prilep regions. Paul's courses are immensely enjoyable, and at the same time he is very skilful in passing on the subtleties of Macedonian dance. Many of the dances that he has taught have stood the test of time and are still popular in our repertoire. Paul has a wealth of background information about the dances that he teaches and Macedonian folklore. This residential weekend will be held at the HF country house hotel of Derwent Bank, on the shore of Derwentwater, in the Lake District. It includes comfortable twin, double, family or single en-suite accommodation and full-board with a plentiful choice of good food. Dancers can select either the General or Intermediate course, or both courses, and there will be social dancing in the evenings. There are some delightful walks in the valleys, by the lake side and in the mountains, and full and half-day walks will be offered. Non-dancing friends and family are welcome to come and enjoy the facilities of the house and grounds, the walks and the attractions of this area.

Full board accommodation is £126, and each course is £18.

For full details and a booking form, please send s.a.e. to me at:

115, Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Alternatively you can get the information electronically by sending your request to:

cathy_meunier@hotmail.com

Here are some dates for future weekend courses. Some people like to plan well ahead, so I've listed them all below. These weekends offer a combination of plenty of dancing with top quality tuition, lively evening social dances, excellent food and accommodation, delightful locations, and a warm and friendly atmosphere, and for some of us they are one of the highlights of our dancing calendar. So if you haven't been before, why not give them a try? All of the venues are in prime walking and sight-seeing areas, and we offer guided walks for both dancers and for non-dancing friends and family.

30th March – 2nd April 2007 (3 nights) Romanian dancing with Silviu Cuicuimis at Derwentwater

26th – 29th October 2007 (3 nights) Bulgarian dancing with Yves Moreau at Malhamdale

4th – 7th April 2008 (3 nights) Armenian dancing with Tineke Van Geel at Derwentwater

Cathy Meunier

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

April 1st THE FLAVOUR OF RUSSIA with Janet Wilks at St. John's & St Peter's Church, Darnley Road, Birmingham B16. Mainly women's dances based on ancient Russian traditions. Booking and further details from Jackie Spearpoint 0121 459 1479, jackie.spearpoint@virgin.net

S.I. **Apr. 7th – 10th 23rd GREAT ALNE FOLK WEEKEND** at Great Alne Village Hall, near Alcester, Warwickshire. Long weekend programme of International and British folk dance and music workshops, evening dances, singing, handbells, walking, cycling etc. More information from André Hobro 0121 777 3722 or Maggie Kaye 0121 608 1437 or margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk

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

S.I. **Apr. 8th BALKANPLUS** with Sally Fletcher and friends from Ipswich.

S.I. **Apr. 8th SIFD DAY COURSE**

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 workshop. 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 & 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.

S.I. **May 13th SIFD DAY COURSE**

S.I. **Jun. 4th SIFD W. MIDLANDS BRANCH COTSWOLDS SAFARI.** Starting at 11.00am at Moreton-in-Marsh in the main street car park near the war memorial), then from lunchtime onwards at Swalcliffe, near Banbury. Village hall booked for lunch and dancing in the afternoon outside the Barn. More information from Maggie Kaye: 0121 608 1437 or mob. 0797 464 9311

S.I. **Jun. 11th MIXED INTERNATIONAL DANCES** taught by Jill Bransby at St. Colman's Church Hall, Cosham, Portsmouth. (just off the M27/M275). 2.45 – 5pm and 6.30 - 8.45pm. £5 all day, £3 half. (non-SIFD £6 & £4). Bring a (tea) plate. Further details from Janet Douglas 01243 265010

S.I. **Jun. 24th JUNIOR WORKSHOP & PARTY DAY** see page 3

Jun. 24th – 25th INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Hennie Konings at Chisenhale Dance Space in East London. £60 for the weekend. Bookings and further details from Janet Wilks 0207 229 9387, janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk

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
- S.I. **Sep. 30th (Saturday) S.I.F.D. 60th ANNIVERSARY DANCE** at Cecil Sharp House. Various callers and SIFD Band and Dunav. Times and costs t.b.a.. PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FREE (There will be no dance on Sunday 1st October.)
- S.I. **Oct. 28th (Saturday) RAINMAKERS International Folk Dance Group's 30th Anniversary Dance** at St. Ippolyts Hall, Near Hitchin, Herts. Caller: Jill Bransby. Band: Cloudburst. Details to follow. Enquiries 01462 45 7791

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.



Summer School 2006

22-29 July at Swansea

Applications are flowing in for this special summer school which will form part of the 60th birthday celebrations of SIFD. If your application has been received your place is secure and you have been allocated your choice of accommodation.

If you have not applied yet there is still plenty of room but if you wish to have a choice of accommodation you should apply as soon as possible and not wait for the 1 May deadline.

Self-Catering Accommodation

Off-site: if you would like the lower cost, off-site, self-catering accommodation please contact me immediately (without commitment). If there is no interest it will be cancelled on 10 March.

On-site: the on-site self-catering rooms have en suite facilities. The two twin self-catering rooms have both been reserved but there are plenty of single rooms free.

Courses

If you are not sure which courses to choose don't delay booking: it is possible to change your choices later. More information about the range of dances in the general courses will be sent to applicants.

If you don't have an application form let me know or ask your class or affiliated group leader.

Roger Sturge, Convenor of the Planning Team 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU
rogersturge@onetel.com



Bourrées et Autres Choses

French dancing has become quite popular in recent years. There are groups, clubs and classes in several places around the country as well as 'On Bouge' in London and 'Le Breizho', the Breton group.

The dances learnt when these groups meet (with the exception of Le Breizho) seem to be gathered from many regions within France, but the style of performance is usually, and not unnaturally, what one might call 'French generic'.

Areas of France which were once remote from each other are now, with modern communications, next door and in consequence some subtleties of regional style have tended to disappear.

What do you dance at a French evening? Typically there will be couple dances (Mazurkas, Schottisches and Waltzes) and there may be Breton non-partner dances (An Dro, Hanter Dro, Gavottes etc.) but a large part of the evening will undoubtedly be devoted to Bourrées.

Bourrées come only, as far as we can tell, from the central regions of France - Auvergne, Bourbonnais, Nivernais, Limousin, Berry - but there is a wonderful diversity of form and style to be found under this one name.

The berrichonne bourrées in the SIFD repertoire were taught to us by Pierre Panis (1911-1993) who collected dances from old people in his native countryside during the early part of his career and who was meticulous in passing on the berrichon style to his students.

Berry was one of the ancient provinces of France and the name is not to be found on modern maps. In 1790 the Assemblée Constituante, trying to suppress provincial identity and spirit, divided France into departments and Berry is now, approximately, Cher (Haut Berry) and Indre (Bas Berry).

George Sand, famous among other things for her depiction of peasant life in Berry in the early 19th century wrote "Aucun peuple ne danse avec tant de passion et de gravité en même temps que les Berrichons" (No people dance with so much passion and, at the same time, so much seriousness as the Berrichons). We will be doing our best at the Day Course on March 11th to see what she meant. There will not be time to go through all 19 dances on C6 (see the list in the February NEWS) so any requests would be gratefully received.

Joan and Simon Guest



SIFD March Day Course

Date:	Saturday 11 th 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
Tutors:	Joan and Simon Guest

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

Pam Radford



Martenitza - Welcome Spring

Saturday, 18 March 3-6 pm □ entry: £7.00
(incl. refreshments) cons £5.00 □ Artists:
"DOINA" dance group

John Marshall Hall,
27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1
Martin Spassov and Bulgarian Dancers

Kath Barker, Secretary BBFS



Notes from the Internet

I thought I'd write an update on www.interfolk.co.uk now it is nearing its first anniversary. We have now provided web-pages for nine south coast clubs from Gosport to Bexhill-on-Sea. It does appear to have resulted in more people trying out our groups with a gain of 3 new people that I know of; they had moved into the area and used the internet to find out what was on locally. However the Portsmouth group has established itself with 12-14 people in less time entirely by traditional methods. So the website helps by reaching some people but *word-of-mouth is still best*.

We have also had many queries on all sorts of dance related subjects where Janet's knowledge is invaluable. The most exciting was a television company looking for a Russian display group who we put in touch with Orlyk in Manchester. We've found a Serbian costume for a dance school in Worthing (via Ibrahim Riveski), helped several primary school teachers with their English Country dance lessons, provided a Derbyshire teacher with SIFD contacts for Romanian dance, passed on details of the SIFD shop for music as well as finding people their nearest ballroom class, folk music club, barn-dance band etc. Janet was totally unperturbed by a request for a Jewish marching band for a Bar Mitzvah - instantly giving out details of Klapton Klezmer! So the site is serving a purpose in at least letting people know that international folk dance exists.

The reason for our 'fame' is that anyone searching for a wide variety of folk dancing topics on the web using Google, has been told that our site is the most relevant. There are many (boring) technical reasons for this. Simply put, the search engines assign a 'trust worthiness' rank to each site and the highest scorers are more likely to be offered as a top result. I believe we were assigned a high trust rank initially because we were the only site that links to almost every other international folk dance site in the UK and thus became a resource site. The net effect of my efforts is that I have recently been able to 'adjust the internet' to give a boost to all the SIFD group websites that I am able to. The immediate results are that now when you search the web for the 'Society for International Folk Dancing', the official SIFD site (www.sifd.org) is up six places to number 1.

If any SIFD group in Hampshire, Surrey or Kent would like a web-page (free) on our site then contact me for details via the SIFD News address. You will need to provide me with the pictures and enough text about your group to make up the page.

John Douglas



Lykion Ton Hellinidon's Macedonian Workshop

Sunday 12th March. 10am – 5pm.

at the Hellenic Centre,
16 – 18 Paddington Street. London W14 5AS

where you should send £20 Booking fee.

Any queries please ring 0207 229 4086

This is another Lykion gem, featuring a welcome return of **Yiannis Konstantinou**, whom many will remember with delight. Shame it clashes, so very miffed I shall not 'see you there'.

Diki Gleeson

Clearing the Loft

Clearing an untouched loft is certain to bring discovery and memory! So what of the programme for the Central London Y.H.A.Group dance at Cecil Sharp House on Friday 16th March 1956. 7 till 10.p.m. M.C. Bert Price. Band: The Wallace Collection. Admission 2/6d (say 13 pence in today's currency). Thirty six dances were listed, about the same number as for our monthly Sunday dances, which implies few if any were walked through! All were couple or set, so men were expected aplenty if not in excess! Since then although the balance of the sexes has changed and we have had fifty years of adding dances to the repertoire, any of about one third of those dances could still appear at a Sunday dance!

It is not that there were no line or circle dances then, there were, although far fewer in number. I encountered them mainly at dances and the notorious 'cellars' in Drury Lane, to live music. The nationalities represented are of interest, being (apart from English and Scottish) biased towards northern and western Europe, whereas a programme today would be towards eastern and southeastern Europe plus Israeli!

But what of the dances?

Unsurprisingly, vitality was required for many, with the tempo for some being faster than they would be played today, but they really were enjoyed!

How many would have attended that Friday evening?



My guess is about one hundred, the organisers would have expected the Kennedy Hall to be full!

A final thought for the planning programme for the sixtieth anniversary dance, please do not even consider the Eightsome Reel! Or Hopak!

The programme danced that night was:

Circassian Circle. Butterfly Polka. Seven Steps. Meichi Putzdi. Italian Tarantella. Laura. Karapet. Swedish Schottische. Hakke Toone. Sextur. Windmill. Krakowiak. La Danza. Weggis. Hattemegaren. Swedish Masquerade. Canadian Barn Dance. Eightsome Reel. Gay Gordons. Petronella. Little-man-in-a-fix. Seftenberger. Palestinian Waltz. Hopak. Waltz Country Dance. Kreuz Koenig. Tan Cuj. Dashing White Sergeant. Nine Pins. Swedish Hambo. Wrona Gapa. Mexican Waltz. Cumberland Square Eight. Fyr Tur. Strip the Willow. La Russe.

Roy Clarke



Wanted: Austrian Hats

Woodvale International Folk Dance Group are on the lookout for some Austrian hats as we have the ("I wish we could have that problem") problem of some more men in the group and not enough hats to go round.

Our current set of hats are of the grey variety, and that is our preference, but we will not be that churlish to turn down green ones!! (provided that there are at least 2). We are hoping we could source some from you good folk on a "permanent loan" basis or as a donation to the group, but if the need arose and the price was reasonable, we are prepared to buy them!!

Please contact myself: David Mckie 0207 448 2421 (work). 01732 846065 (home) or david.mckie@tinyworld.co.uk

We would like to thank all you lovely people in advance of the deluge of offers that we will receive.

David Mckie

RAS DWA

(one, two..)

Poland

Musical score for 'RAS DWA' in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a boxed 'A' and has chords G, D, G, D, G, C, G. The second staff has a boxed 'B' and chords D, G, C, G, D, G, C, G, C. The third staff has chords G, C, F, C, G, C, F, C, G, C.

(Starts slowly and gets faster. Play Ax2 Bx2 ad lib. or until last dancers remain!)

Wilf Horrocks (courtesy of Frances Horrocks)



Valle e Rexhes with Maggie O'Regan

March 27th 8.15pm: Marylebone Dance Studio, 12 Lisson Grove, London (just off Marylebone Rd.)

Maggie O'Regan will be visiting the Martenitsa group to teach VALLE E REXHES (sometimes known as 'Reggie's Wedding'). Some of you have learnt this way back in the past and forgotten bits or the structure, some of you may have attempted to pick this up at Balkan plus - so now's your chance to get things sorted.

She will also teach a couple from her repertoire of Greek dances.

Toni Gutman



March Balkanplus

The **March Balkanplus** will be held on the 11th March 2006 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MCs for the evening will be the Martenitsa Balkan Dance Group with Toni Gutman and Greg Boyd. Look forward to an evening of old and new favourites with a sprinkling of "plus" dances. Admission £4.

Maureen Felton

SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

7pm – 10pm at Cecil Sharp house, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1

Cost £5 members £7 non-members

Mar. 5th M.C: Anne Leach

April 2nd M.C: Pam Radford

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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- S.I. Mar.4th **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
- Mar. 4th – 5th **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, or Sue King, 0208 643 3653.
- S.I. Mar. 11th **SIFD DAY COURSE.** French. see page 7
- S.I. Mar. 11th **BALKANPLUS** see page 10
- Mar.11th - 12th **JAN KNOPPERS & RICHARD VAN DER KOOIJ** with mainly Balkan dances. Manchester and Calver. contact: Julie Korth 01942 831141
- Mar. 12th **LYKION TON HELLINIDON'S MACEDONIAN WORKSHOP** see page 8
- 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. 18th **MARTENITZA** see page 8
- 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. cost of weekend £123 - £133, details: Pamela le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Hants. PO9 3QA. Tel: 023 9264 1028.
- Mar. 27th **MARTENITSA GROUP** see page 10



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