

SIFD NEWS



MAY 2006

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

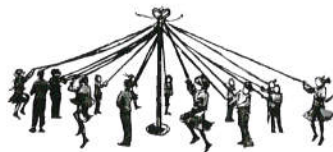
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The typing is done by Janet Douglas.
The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.



Simon Guest created this month's cover design from a photograph of two Macedonian women from the group Cas Linden from Bitola. It was taken by Jill Bransby at the International Musical Eisteddfod in 1998 (the Macedonians came second in the folk dance competition that year).

Incidentally, this July is the 60th Anniversary of the Eisteddfod - like the SIFD, it started just after the war. For 60 years the Eisteddfod 'has been bringing the nations of the world together in peace and friendship through music and dance'.

* * * * *

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Helen Ezra. (no email)

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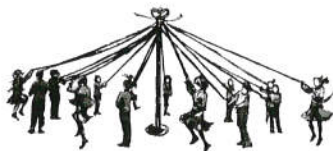
Bob Robinson barlow.dance@ntlworld.com

WEST MIDLANDS REP: Maggie Kaye margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk

It's that time of year. Up, and danced around, down and moved around, scraped, scratched, bumped, tangled, untangled and patterned. Soon it will resume its tireless research into dust formation under the bed (with the cat) until next year.

However, now I've brought the subject up it seems a good time to ask if anyone can help me add any new *international* (May)pole dances to my maypole repertoire? I'd love to hear from you.

Ed.



SIFD 60th Anniversary Dance.

You will have read in the last three copies of the News that we are organising a dance to celebrate the society's 60th anniversary, on 30th September 2006 at Cecil Sharp House in London.

Of course we hope members from outside London will also wish to attend and to enable them to do so more easily we are asking London based members if they are able to offer accommodation to those coming from afar.

If you are willing to offer bed and breakfast will you please send me details as soon as possible so that we can compile a list to send to anyone who enquires. We need to know how many spaces you can offer, doubles or singles and of course your address. We hope there will also be a list of suitable hostels and bed and breakfast accommodation, so if you know of any you can recommend please let us know.

Janet Woolbar
address on page 2

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Big Dance 2006

The Mayor of London's office is organising a celebration of dance from July 15th – 23rd. This will include demonstrations and participation in all forms of dance and they are inviting as many groups as possible to participate.

The SIFD committee thought it would be good publicity to take part and we have booked the Embankment Gardens stage for the afternoon of Sunday July 16th. We hope as many groups as possible will participate by giving a short demonstration (probably 10 - 15 mins) and leading some audience participation. As it is part of a combined effort you do not need to make a major production. Even one couple or set could make a contribution.

I will also be contacting London groups individually but even if you are not part of a group we hope you will come along and join in.

Janet Woolbar

Mixed International Dances with Jill Bransby

June 11th

Jill will be in Portsmouth, teaching dances from the following list:

Neapolitan Tarantella	Italy
Mazurca Di Graziella	Italy
Meillionen	Wales
Jesusita en Chihuahua	Mexico
Girls' dance from Kalocsa	Hungary
Reinadio	Portugal

venue: St. Colman's Church Hall, Cosham, Portsmouth. (just off the M27/M275).

3 – 5pm and 6.30 - 8.30pm. £5 all day, £3 half. (non-SIFD £6 & £4).

Further details: 01243 265010

Janet Douglas



Traditional Performances of the World

Sunday 7th May 5.30 – 8pm

An evening of colourful dances from around the world presented by **Gulsad** (South London Turkish Arts Association). A diverse mix of dance groups will perform Turkish Anatolian, Turkish Cypriot, Turkish Drums (Darbuka), Ballet, Irish, Slovak, Polish, Bellydance, Salsa, Iberian, Tap, Israeli, Afro Caribbean and South Asian Dance.

Broadway Theatre, Catford, South London.

Cost: £7.50

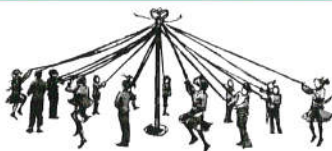
How to get there:

Trains: Catford and Catford Bridge BR Network South East stations are both 100 metres from the Theatre.

Bus: N36, 75, 124, 138, 160, 171, 181, 185, 202, 208, 136, 284 and 660 stop near the Theatre.

DLR: The Docklands Light Railway runs to Lewisham, the Theatre is a short bus ride.

Contact 020 8461 1084 or 07871 562 867 for more information.



My husband, Bernard, has produced for me computerised symbols for typing dance notes e.g. 'noses' for direction faced, arrows for direction travelled, circles, half circles and lots more. If anyone would like a copy of them on a disc, drop me a line at:

60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne. BN22 0PZ

Rowena Martin

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I. **June 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. **June 10th SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 10
- S.I. **June 10th BALKAN PLUS** with the 'Vupros' ensemble, Nick Green and Liz Mellish
- S.I. **June 11th MIXED INTERNATIONAL DANCES** with Jill Bransby see page 4
- S.I. **June 24th JUNIOR WORKSHOP & PARTY DAY** children's 60th Anniversary Dance. Venue: St. Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Egerton Road, Chorlton. Manchester. Details from Julie Korth 01942 831141
- June 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
- June 24th BALKAN AND BEYOND** Hempton Memorial Hall, nr Fakenham, North Norfolk. 8pm -10pm Dancing with live music by Zaramo £6.50. No bar, byob. For further information contact Dawn 01328 856582
- July 7th / 9th WILLINGDON IFDG's MINI FESTIVAL** Stafford House at Burgess Hill, W. Ssx. International Folk and Circle Dances, English caller and singing. Full board £120 (single -no supplement). s.a.e. to Rowena Martin 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ
- S.I. **July 8th SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 10
- July 16th SIFD BIG DANCE DEMONSTRATIONS** see page 3
- 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. 21st PIFD 20th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** see page 6
- Oct. 27th / 29th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF MACEDONIAN FOLK DANCE** with Paul Mulders at Derwent Bank, Lake District. ensuite accommodation, full-board. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board £126. Each course £18. For details send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London, NW5 1DA or email your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com
- 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.

PIFD 20th Anniversary

October 21st 2006 Pembrokeshire.

The Pembrokeshire International Folk Dance Group plans are well in hand for their special 20th Anniversary Celebrations. The latest information is that the meal will be well subsidised by the group for all their guests. Accommodation can either be:

1) free in our private homes if you hurry....

2) campervan / motorhomes on our respective drives...

3) in the "NANT-Y-FFIN" MOTEL/HOTEL, brochure from Sue but bookings direct with the motel. NB. the motel already has some bookings for the 21st for another function.

We hope to publish final details in the September news. We are covered by the SI insurance scheme. Further details from either Eve Brennan 01239-831404 Sue Clark 01437-710261 suevic@tesco.net or any group member.



Yves Moreau Bulgarian dance course at Malhamdale, April 2006

As I relaxed in the bath on returning from this course (exhausted from 3 days of dancing all day and all night, head still spinning full of wonderful music and enjoyable experiences) it occurred to me that I have rarely seen a review of one of Cathy's weekend courses in SIFD News and that this event certainly deserved sharing with others.

I have thoroughly enjoyed both the London weekends with Yves Moreau that I have attended, but here in a residential situation with 'smaller' groups of 40 or so, the whole Yves experience was intensified. His seemingly untiring infectious and inspiring joy and enthusiasm, great sense of humour, and ease of being with people created a real sense of community – a wonderful complete escape from everyday life, that you did not want to end (even though your feet told you they could not have carried on!)

Newfield Hall in Malhamdale has an idyllic setting with views of the rolling hills of the Yorkshire dales. Walking along by the rushing rivers and enjoying the peace of this beautiful countryside gave us welcome refreshment in between the dancing sessions. The views were particularly stunning on Sunday morning – after an unexpected blizzard arrived during our meal on Saturday evening, and we woke on Sunday morning to bright sunshine with everything coated in a bright white dusting of snow.

Each day there were two course classes: general and intermediate – packed with new dances – all immaculately prepared and presented with wonderfully uplifting music. Even the difficult bits finally became manageable; with Yves' patient explanations and attention to detail, not too many of us experienced his DSS (disappearing smile syndrome)!

After each day full of dancing or walking, and swimming there was a delicious three course meal – after which we danced again, with the added treat of live music played by course participants from Norwich and Leeds. The inimitable Yves was still there well after midnight, leading some of the dances and still finding the energy to learn a few new ones himself, from the various people who led the very enjoyably varied evening sessions.

Our thanks go to Yves, Cathy and all who took part for a truly excellent weekend. Make sure you don't miss Yves' return visit to Malhamdale in October 2007.

Dawn Wakefield

More memories by Ken Ward.

At the time I joined the Society it was attracting young or youngish people and a large number were enthusiastic walkers and members of the YHA, energetic and perhaps dance crazy! Quite often a walking and dancing weekend would be arranged and we would meet up and travel as a group. This was the era when few people had their own transport and the YHA would not allow parking at the hostel. We would meet at the station or bus stop and while waiting would have an impromptu dance, with or without music. Also the era of the heavy and breakable shellac gramophone 78 rpm record. No portable ghetto-blasters. After a meal at the hostel we would have drink at a local pub and then dance either at the hostel or the village hall, hired for the occasion.

Next morning, weather permitting we would put on our rucksacks and walk, stopping at a pub midday for lunch. We would then dance in the forecourt - there was usually one small accordion around and I can remember walking with my accordion and luggage on my back, mounted on an ex-army ammunition box carrier! Arriving back in London we made our way to the Inns of Court Mission for the evening dance. If it was the Cecil Sharp evening we went home to change and pick up a costume, it was a tradition to wear a folk costume if you had one.

Twice a year there was a dance and walking weekend at Surrey Crest near Godstone Green in Surrey. This consisted of a group of 'rustic' wooden buildings - overlooking open countryside. In winter the huts which contained the two tier beds were heated by sometimes smoky cast iron coke stoves except for the large living room which had a large wood burning grate. Often before dinner a few of us - Simon Guest, Len Sawyer (who emigrated to Canada), Gerry Wakemen, myself and a few others who I cannot remember would run across the sometimes muddy fields to the Fox and Hounds at the Green for a pint or two of traditional beer and then run or stagger, back across the fields in time for dinner. Afterwards we danced into the early hours. Next day we would walk in the morning and perhaps dance again before making our way back to London. Back in London many of us went on to the Inns of Court for the Sunday evening dance. The winter dance was usually the Guy Fawkes weekend and we would erect a huge bonfire and make a guy. However on one occasion I remember travelling with Len Sawyer on a Green Line to Godstone Green each carrying a half of a rather large guy! I don't think the driver was very pleased.

However when called upon, for a special occasion, we could put on a stylish performance of dances wearing traditional costumes from the country represented. The Swedish were made by Pug, our Swedish teacher, from materials collected in Sweden or France, or Austrian garments, etc. We were often mistaken for nationals because we had so mastered the style of dancing. We also took part in other festivals. We were invited on several occasions by Douglas Kennedy of the English Folk Dance and Song Society to participate in their annual festivals at the Royal Albert Hall. On one occasion the French Group 'Les Escargots', formed by Simon and Joan Guest in which Lily and I enjoyed dancing so much, was invited and Janine flew in from Paris to play the vielle for us. Our performance was very well received.

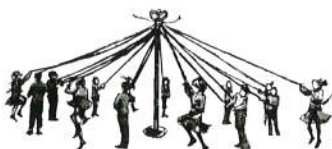
On another occasion, the Swedish Group, augmented to sixteen couples, danced a rarely performed harvest dance called Renegen, accompanied by the three Willies. Pug and the musicians had learnt the dance for the occasion; it was very demanding and lasted about five minutes. The festival was attended by the president of the EFDSS, Princess Margaret. The group also danced around a Maypole every Midsummer at the Swedish Church in London, after being wined and dined at Pug's flat. I fondly remember the Swedish schnapps! One Swedish guy used to come to London every Midsummer just to see us dance. He told us that our dancing had a freshness and spontaneity about it,

continued...

often absent in homegrown groups, which he classed as text book dancers, a situation not improved by musicians whose eyes were glued to the music. I appreciate that with the Society's large repertoire of dance melodies this is difficult, but not impossible. The four of us used to manage it on a Sunday evening.

It is important that people communicate when they dance and not remain a collection of individuals, even in a circle dance. We lived our dances, playing around with them, stealing each others partners, but never losing our respect for the dances. We loved the flirting sequences in the Swedish Fjallnesspolska. I experienced this kind of natural enjoyment on social occasions during my visits to the former Yugoslavia. Of course it depends on the dance in question.

More to come..... **Ken Ward.**



Notes from March's Committee Meeting

A committee meeting was held on 18th March at Cecil Sharp House; everyone was present. Judith reported that 150 **Gift Aid forms** had been returned – thank you to these people. This is very encouraging, but she/we are hoping for many more. If you meant to fill one in and didn't get round to it, please do it as soon as possible. If you've lost your form that isn't a problem – just contact me for another. If you have qualms and would like more information, Judith or I would be happy to help. The more forms we send in, the more money we can claim back, and I cannot stress strongly enough how useful this extra money will be to the Society - especially as Judith's latest financial estimate indicates that this year will show a deficit.

Now the Dance With The World **leaflets** are in circulation (next time they will only need an update and be out *far* more quickly) attention has turned to the "Join Us!" leaflet – good progress was reported. We feel we're on a roll as the Membership Booklet, to coincide with the 60th anniversary, is also steaming ahead.

An **anniversary T-shirt** was shown at the meeting and much admired – details from Claire Steeley appeared in last month's News. Please consider supporting Claire and the people who made this new T-shirt possible. The real ones look even better than the picture.

News has been sent to us of a **Big Dance Week** in London, organised by the Mayor's Office for 15th – 23rd July 2006. We decided to participate by organising a multi-group display in the Embankment Gardens, with audience involvement (around the deck chairs). Sunday July 16th has since been booked.

The committee has been asked to consider **changing the time** of the Sunday Dance at Cecil Sharp House. If it were held earlier it would make it easier for people with children or long journeys to attend. It might be possible that it could be changed – but we really need to know how you, the Sunday Dancers, feel about this. Could you let me know, please, how you would react if it started earlier in future? An email or phone call with your views would be most helpful.

The Membership Secretary reported another 3 **new members**, which is really good news. We welcome them to the Society, and hope they will make good use of what the Society has to offer them.

The **AGM** was not discussed through lack of time, but will be prioritised for the next meeting. The next committee meeting will be held on May 13th.

Alison Scrimshaw

A Question of Style

Simon and Joan Guest's "Bourrées et autres choses" in the March News raised some interesting and important issues. The Constitution subcommittee posed some related questions about "preserving" dances in the May 2005 News. In the same issue, John Walford presented some illustrations of how ideas about tradition can evolve.

I believe further debate would be useful, both among SIFD members and among the members of groups outside the Society such as those cited by Simon and Joan. I have no definitive answers to offer on any of these issues, but I would like to contribute a few thoughts to the debate.

First, I have two illustrations, from England and Sweden, of the difficulty of establishing what IS the authentic form of a dance.

For much of the 20th century, morris dancing mainly meant dances from the Cotswolds, performed in a style collected and taught initially by Cecil Sharp. Undoubtedly Sharp's work was of immense value BUT it wasn't the whole story. Even in his own day there was a schism with Mary Neal's radical ideas for promoting folk dancing among the urban working class.

Then, in about the last third of the century, there was a gradual realisation that Sharp had collected the dances from old men, who had danced in the style of old men. That style would not have won any prizes in the competitions between sides from different villages when those same men were young. Young men, and even middle-aged men who have got away from Sharp's influence, dance much more vigorously.

Last summer a few of us were taught two polska variants (one fast and one slow) from Jämtland. Our teacher had collected them from an elderly man and was keen to pass them on accurately. They are delightful dances, which we greatly enjoy doing. A couple of months later, however, some of us were taught by another teacher from Jämtland. He declines to teach these two dances, because he fears they represent the personal style of one individual, who may have been atypical for his locality.

So, returning to the Berrichonne bourrées -- I know less about these, but I do know that some of the regulars at On Bouge and other French dance events in England also visit France frequently, so their dancing styles are likely to reflect those of (at least some of) their French contemporaries.

Are there people nowadays in Berry, or elsewhere in France, who endeavour to dance in a specifically Berrichon style? If so, is their style exactly the same as was taught by Pierre Panis or have ideas developed, as ideas about Cotswold morris have? How representative was the style collected by Panis of the way that those old people would have danced forty or fifty years earlier? Were their children or grandchildren dancing at the time, and if so what was their style? Should we now be learning from a current generation of Berrichon specialists in France? Or should we (foreigners) be trying to "preserve" the style that Panis taught?

As I said at the start, I have no definitive answers; but I do think we should be wary of believing that we know the one true style for any tradition, even from our own country, let alone one from another country.

Richard Mellish

SIFD Day Course May 2006

Date: Saturday 13th May
Place: Cecil Sharp House
Time: 10.30 am - 4.30pm.
Cost: £6 for SIFD members. £8 for non-members
Subject: Dances from Croatia
Tutor: **Nenad Bićinać**

This is the day course that was postponed last year. Nenad has now recovered and will be teaching dances from Croatia.

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SIFD Day Course June 2006

Date: Saturday 10th June
Place: Cecil Sharp House
Time: 10.30 am - 4.30pm.
Cost: £6 for SIFD members. £8 for non-members
Subject: Mallorcan Dances
Tutor: **Janet Woolbar**

On this day, Janet will include dances originally taught at Swansea by Jaime Beltrans.

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SIFD Day Course July 2006

Date: Saturday 8th July
Place: Cecil Sharp House
Time: 10.30 am - 4.30pm.
Cost: £6 for SIFD members. £8 for non-members
Subject: Albanian Dances
Tutor: **Maggie O'Regan**

Pam Radford

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Logos & Legs



Available on CD-ROM email sguest@iee.org

Dear Janet,

“Cliffie” Beck

I first met Clifford, then known as “Cliffie” in early 1940. He was the young brother to a school friend of mine, Audrey Beck, and would have been about 8 or 9 years old at the time with dark curly hair and was engagingly cheeky (even then). In those wartime days we often spent Saturday afternoons at the cinema with Cliffie sitting between us, which I seem to remember, had been Mrs Beck’s instructions to Audrey as one method of keeping him under control. Did it work?. I don’t remember. Likewise I do not remember much about his schooldays except of jokes that would be played on various visitors.

For instance, once I was introduced to a mythical and jolly looking uncle who was sitting in an armchair, which on closer inspection proved to be a type of Toby jug with a large smiling shiny face with clothing attached. Another time I made the mistake of visiting 30 West End Lane on the 5th November. Guess who made the fireworks?. Terrifying!

Later, as has been described by Roy Clarke and Brian Dowsett, Cliffie became involved with Y.H.A. and S.I.F.D. and he caused my life to be changed when he introduced a friend and I to Harrow Green Folk Dance Group in 1957. The friend dropped out after a few months but I stayed on and enjoyed it all and, of course, eventually met Oscar there.

Cliffie's death was a tragedy. He had already had one heart operation but was very brave and outwardly cheerful and still even jokey when facing this second, fatal one. He will not be forgotten by anyone who knew him and we join in sending our condolences to Anne, Adrian and Trevor and his siblings Gerald, Gordon, Valerie and Audrey. Clifford was the youngest member of the family.

Peggy Haycock

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Dear Janet,

I’m sure some of our fellow members would like to know that we, the Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group, had a wonderful, well attended Day course on April 1st taught by Julie Korth. The varied selection of Russian and Israeli dances taught was just right for the people there and a happy day was had by all.

This was particularly welcome for Nutbrook as it was our last Day Course at Stevenson’s School. After our last meeting for this term, April 6th, we will be moving to pastures new. (*see below*)*

Our next Day course will be Saturday November 4th at the Maycliff Hall, Toton Lane, Stapleford [right in the centre near the traffic lights] and the tutor will be Leslie Haddon.

John Morral
Treasurer

*From May 4th: Grangewood Methodist Church Hall, Grangewood Road, **Wollaton, 8.00 -10.00** and every Thursday except June 15th, November 23rd and December 21st 2006. From Ilkeston: go past Festival Inn and keep going towards Nottingham. Turn at Balloon Woods traffic lights towards Wollaton. Turn right at next island – Hemlockstone Pub, towards the shops in Wollaton Vale.
From M1: turn onto A52 heading for Nottingham, straight on at Bardill’s roundabout, straight on at Bramcote Swimming Bath island.

Gill Morral

Jesusita en Chihuahua

Mexico

Intro

A *Briskly and in cheerful style*

B

C *Very smoothly*

D *Faster*

E *Smoothly*

Play: AABACDEA
 (Taken from tape by W.H. 1989)

Wilf Horrocks

SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

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

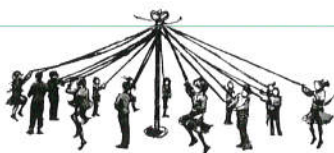
Cost £5 members £7 non-members

May 14th M.Cs: The SIFD Band
June 4th



WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- (Apr. 28th –)
May 1st **EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL.**
Enquiries: 01273 835759
- S.I. (Apr. 28th –)
May 1st (2nd) **SIFD LONG BANK-HOLIDAY WEEKEND**
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 information and bookings.
- May 7th** **TRADITIONAL PERFORMANCES OF THE WORLD** presented by Gulsad (South London Turkish Arts Association) see page 4
- S.I. **May 13th** **SIFD DAY COURSE** Croatian see page 10
- S.I. **May 13th** **BALKANPLUS** with MCs Balkanplus committee members, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1. A mix of established and lesser known dances. £4
- May 20th** **WOODVALE IFDG ANNUAL DANCE** Borough Green Village Hall, near Sevenoaks, Kent. 7.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. £6 including supper Please bring your own drinks and glasses. More details from Alan Cant 01732 883405 or Linda Bryce 01732 885048.



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