

# SIFD NEWS



JUNE 2006

# SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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The typing is done by Janet Douglas.  
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The cover picture of Polish dancers is from 'Folk Costumes of Europe Colouring Book'.  
Dover Pictorial Archive Series.



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Lily Avery has written an article on Norwegian Dances (page 5), which should whet your appetite for a *dans*.



### **Shan's Chinese Fan Dance session at Eastbourne**

I am just getting back to normal after the Eastbourne merry-go-round. Special thanks to Julie Korth, Rowena Martin and Toni Gutman for all their help and stewarding and also to Clyde Olliver (for heroism beyond the call of dance duty) Mike Machin and Silvia McIntyre.

Our first Friday evening Simkhe was a great success thanks to the efforts of Roberto Haddon; and the rest of the weekend went with a swing with all of our visiting teachers and bands.

Those of you who were at Eastbourne will know that Ray Goodswen is taking over the running of the Festival as from next year. However he assures me that changes will be minimal, and that he will leave the planning *and stewarding\** of the International element to SIFD (me! as it happens – but I am more than happy to share responsibility with anyone who's interested as Jan Mulreany is unable to continue).

\*Stewards seem to be more and more difficult to get. If you come to Eastbourne next year please offer to sit at the door for a session; in fact you needn't sit – you can dance about by the door if you like, joining in after the initial influx keeping one eye on the door and a lookout for hobnail boots etc..

**Ed**

## **SIFD Mallorcan Day Course**

Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 2006

Time: 10.30 am - 4.30pm.

Place: Cecil Sharp House

Cost: £6 for SIFD members. £8 for non-members

Tutor: **Janet Woolbar**

Bolero Mallorquin (Corriente)  
Jota Redona  
Copeo Matanse  
Parado de Valdemossa

Jota Antigua  
Boleras  
L'Oferta  
Jota Mallorquin

Most of these dances were taught at Swansea in 1983 by Jaime Beltran Serra. Only Jota Antigua is regularly danced today. I hope to put this right so that the other dances do not become lost. In addition L'Oferta and Jota Mallorquin will be added to the list to revise/learn as required.

**Janet Woolbar**



## **SIFD Day Course July 2006**

Date:

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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**



## **Yerez Avandagan – Traditional Dream**

Presented by Akhtamar Armenian Performance group on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 7.30pm  
The Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AH

Tickets £10, £15, £20

Box Office 020 7388 8822 [www.thebloomsbury.com](http://www.thebloomsbury.com) [www.akhtamar.org](http://www.akhtamar.org)

**Dalila Heath**

## Norwegian Dances

Norway is rich in folk dances - social dances for festive occasions, done in couples, solos, in trios, contras, squares and reels, in a wealth of different costumes representing districts, regions, social class, traditions and different festive occasions.

There are many categories of dance in Norway but the main ones I have come across come under the headings of Songdans, Gammaldans, Turdans and Bygedans and there are many sub-divisions within these categories.

Songdans has traditionally no accompaniment other than the singing of the dancers, usually in a circle of couples. The steps are usually simple but to sing in unison while dancing closely linked is quite exhilarating.

Bygedans includes springar, gangar, pols, rull and halling, done in different meters - 3/4, 2/4 and 6/8 - usually danced to the Hardanger fiddle. Within a fixed framework, the dances can be improvised and the improvisations vary from region to region. I find these improvisations very exciting to do and if you have a good partner it is one of the joys of folk dancing. They are mostly couple dances but the Halling is usually danced by men only. You may have seen them where they perform athletically and sometimes, while dancing, kick a hat off the end of a stick which is held high.

Turdans are fixed figure dances and include contras, quadrilles and trios. Many years ago a group of Harrow Green members went to Norway to see the country, staying in Youth Hostels, and to learn some dances. We chartered a Dakota 'plane and flew to Norway to the accompaniment of the accordion played by Harry de Caux in the 'plane. We didn't attempt to dance in the air though! We did meet some folkdance groups and learnt some Turdans, in particular a Tretur (trio) which proved popular.

The Gammaldans will be familiar to SIFD members and includes waltzes, polkas, mazurkas and schottisches. Gammal Reinlender has been in our repertoire for many years. Also, the Springpols (similar to the Swedish Hambo) and the Pols have been taught to us and enjoyed.

In 1987 we were lucky enough to have Alix Cordray teaching Norwegian dances at the SIFD Summer School at Swansea when we, having learned the parameters of the style and steps, were encouraged to improvise and found it very rewarding. And the music was so lovely.



Kelsey Blundell, (pictured above in Norwegian costume), who was in hospital at the time and unable to go to Swansea, was found crying in her hospital bed. A nurse who was worried that she was in pain hurried over to ask her what was the matter. continued>

Kelsey pointed to her headphones and said that the Norwegian folkdance music was so moving! She was listening to a tape that we had sent her from Swansea !

Some of the instruments which are traditional in Norway are:-

The lur, which is the oldest instrument. It is a wind instrument of wood and birch bark made by shepherds and has a very long ancestry, originally made of bronze.

The willow pipe without holes, the goat-horn with finger-holes, and the prillarhorn are all home-made instruments.

The langleik, dating from about 1500, has a long case with a sounding board. It is laid on a table, has 2 to 7 strings, with a melody string in the lid, and is plucked with a plectrum.

The Hardanger fiddle is wellknown and dates from the 18th century only. It has four sympathetic under-strings which give a drone variation. Very popular, particularly at weddings.

**Lily Avery**



### **June Balkanplus**

The June Balkanplus will be held on the 10th June 2006 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. The Vupros Balkan Ensemble will host the evening and intend to play live many old favourites from the Balkans and Israel. There will also be some favourite dances from the past to tapes. Nick, Liz, Julian, Roger, Claire & Bear, Judy & Rohan hope to see all dance friends in June. Admission £5.



### **Summer School 2006** **22-29 July at Swansea**

Although the deadline has past it is not too late to register for the Summer School.

If you have registered you should hear from me by 20 June. If you have not heard by then, please write to me immediately.

If you have not registered and wish to come you still have a chance. At the time of writing (early May) we still have a few vacancies in all classes of accommodation except off-site self-catering. And there is no limit to non-residents if you can get accommodation in the town. If you don't have an application form let me know or ask your class or affiliated group leader. Get your form in as soon as possible- not later than 20 June.

Friday 28 July: even if you aren't coming to the whole week you will be welcome to come for Friday afternoon and evening. There will be an EGM and other activities to be arranged in the afternoon, a celebratory dinner (SIFD 60th birthday) and our usual fantastic evening dance. EGM free, dinner & dance £25. Places at dinner may be limited first come first served. Let me know by 20 June.

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

## More memories by Ken

A milestone in the history of the Society was its participation in large international festivals at the Royal Albert Hall in London. In the late 1950s (?) A John Frazer, who worked for UNESCO asked the Society to collaborate in putting on a festival to raise money for his organisation. As it already had links with several national groups, and had a large number of dancers it was in a position to help.

The Society had the lions share of the programme not only in specialized items but also large chorus items in which everybody was asked to participate and which included the dances routinely done on a Sunday night, and in a mixture of costumes.

For the first show (?) we prepared a Ukrainian item using the best dancers. We danced Kolmmaika and Gopak (I think) and we made our own costumes from scratch. Irene Fyffe bought the materials, sheeting and black (or red) for the men's very full trousers and suitable furnishing fabrics for the women. From photographs she made patterns and cut, and made up the costumes and each individual was asked to get the shirts or chemises embroidered with patterns which she supplied. It was my first attempt at cross-stitch but I suppose from the stalls the blocks of colour looked ok! The Ukrainians wear soft, concertina'd boots, so I went to the ballet shop in the Strand and purchased a suitable second hand pair that had been used in 'Dick Whittington'!

Three performances were put on annually, over a weekend, and both Lily and myself have memories of hectic costume changes, as the show ran continuously without a break in each half. Over the years I remember taking part in the Swedish, Austrian, Ukrainian, Russian, Balkan, Brazilian, English, Lithuanian, among others. Lily and Simon Guest, among other long standing members, will have fond memories of participating. The regular YHA weekends kept us fit enough to survive!

I remember some spectacular moments from the shows. The Balkan class entering the darkened area in a procession with each dancer holding a lit candle gradually closing around Philip Thornton who was wearing two masks, over the face and the back of the head, representing the God Janus, and playing a frame drum, and then unwinding to form a circle for the rest of the item. I also remember a large scale American Square dance item, taught by a teacher from the USA, in which the women were wearing full length, very full skirts.

I also remember dancing in the chorus items, when not changing, and doing regular favourites such as Kreutz Konig, Windmill, Tarantella, Mayim mayim, Russian Waltz, Haake Toone, and so on. How many of these are danced now? Unfortunately, I no longer have my programmes, assuming that there would be copies in the Society's archives I destroyed mine before moving to Spain in order to downsize.

Sometimes some of us, usually the men, were asked to help out other national groups. The young women from the Brazilian wanted to take part but they could not produce any men, so a group of us met every week to learn how to move dance Latin American style. We had to loosen up our bodies, wriggle our hips, roll our tummies, and so on, in other words to look sexy. I think that at first we were all a little embarrassed, but this was nothing compared to the photo call on Primrose Hill, Hampstead. I don't how many of you remember the Brazilian bombshell Carmen Miranda who made several musicals in Hollywood in the 1950s. The girls turned up as Carmen Mirandas en masse. After the show we were invited to a party in a very large house with exotic food, wine, and of course very unEnglish dancing!

John had to give up involvement with the show and the Society boldly decided to take it on, despite the amount of work needed and the financial risks. A committee was formed which as far as I can remember included Irene and Bert Fyffe, Margery Latham, Marie Le Fort (at the time the secretary of the Society), Larry Howell, and myself. The task ahead was daunting and we had about a year to put it together. In addition to sorting out the show itself and the groups or items to be included front of house and back stage staff were to be found, and other tasks included lighting and sound, programme sellers, the printing of programmes and tickets to be arranged, publicity, and so on. Luckily there were talents to be found within the membership to deal with everything.

The show was successful and had favourable reviews; attendances were good, and a profit was made enabling out of pocket expenses to be paid, and possibly a little more. Most people are aware of the vastness of the Albert Hall, but it is a wonderful place to perform in. The show was called "See How They Dance".

More to come about the show, a few disasters, and some howlers.

**Ken Ward**



### **Delyan Demirev at Balkanplus in September**

Balkanplus has invited Bulgarian dance teacher Delyan Demirev to teach two workshops at Cecil Sharp House [Kennedy Hall] in early September. On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> he will be teaching dances from Pirin, Dobrudja and Sopluk regions, and on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> from Rodopa, Trakia and Severnjashko regions.

Each workshop will be 11.00 - 17.00, Ticket £10 [£9 for Balkanplus Season Ticket holders] and will feature a mixture of new and previously taught dances.

Numbers will be limited to 75, so early booking is recommended.

Please make cheques payable to Balkanplus and send with an SAE to – Roger Wicksteed, 47 Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8EU. Delyan will be at the September Balkanplus dance on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> for revision of the new material, and would welcome invitations from other dance groups whilst in the country. [Email contact - [rwicksteed@oxfree.com](mailto:rwicksteed@oxfree.com)]

**Roger Wicksteed**



### **Another Noughties Night!**

Following the success of Fiona Howarth's Noughties dance last year, we have decided to repeat the event. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, we would like the Sunday dance at Cecil Sharp House to be MC-ed, and the dances chosen, by as many of you as possible who are having what Fiona would call a Significant Birthday this year. So if your age ends in a 0 this year, celebrate the fact in September.

If you fancy a short spell as an MC, please let us know. If you'd like to request a couple of favourite dances, please let us know. We'd love this event to include as many people as possible. It is, after all, the Society's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary – and we promise that is the only age we'll be divulging.

**Helen Ezra** - 020 8648 4118, and **Alison Scrimshaw** - 020 8642 3385



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I **July 1<sup>st</sup> THE CROXLEY GREEN INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCERS** are holding their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party at St. Oswald's Church Hall, Malvern Way, Croxley Green, Herts. 7pm - 10.00pm. £3 including refreshments. Pay at the door.  
Enquiries: 01923 228080 or 01923 241441

**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 8<sup>th</sup> SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 4

S.I **July 8<sup>th</sup> BALKANPLUS** with the Oxford Balkan group

S.I **July 15<sup>th</sup> OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO** Summer Party, 7-11pm. Tickets £5 on the door. R. Wicksteed, 47 Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8EU or rwicksteed@oxfree.com

**July 16<sup>th</sup> SIFD BIG DANCE DEMONSTRATIONS** during the afternoon by a variety of SIFD groups and audience participation at the Embankment Gardens. London

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

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL**

S.I **Sep. 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> DELYAN DEMIREV BULGARIAN WORKSHOP** see page 8

S.I. **Sep. 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) S.I.F.D. 60<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> October.)

**Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> PIFD 20<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** buffet and dance. Contact Eve Brennan 01239 831404 or Sue Clark 01437 710261

**Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF MACEDONIAN FOLK DANCE** with Paul Mulders at Derwent Bank, Lake District. Comfortable ensuite accommodation, full-board. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Superb area for mountain, lakeside and valley walking. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board £126. Each course £18. For details please 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. 28<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) RAINMAKERS International Folk Dance Group's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance** at St. Ippolyts Hall, Near Hitchin, Herts.  
Caller: Jill Bransby. Band: Cloudburst. Details to follow. Enquiries 01462 45 7791

S.I. **Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> NUTBROOK IFDG** Day Course, tutor Leslie Haddon, at the Maycliff Hall, Toton Lane, Stapleford [right in the centre near the traffic lights] .

**Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> PAJA & MADELON MILIC** with dances from ex-Yugoslavia in Bognor Regis, further details from Janet & John Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. PO21 3EQ tel:01243 265010 or: paja@interfolk.co.uk

## **Billingham International Folklore Festival**

The Festival this year celebrates its 42<sup>nd</sup> year, and takes place between 22<sup>nd</sup> /29<sup>th</sup> July.

They normally invite about eight dance groups from various countries to attend the Festival through CIOFF. The countries this year are China, Columbia, Hungary, Korea, Mexico, Moldova, Palestine and Russia.

Billingham Festival gives a week long opportunity to see afternoon concerts in the Town Centre, and evening performances in the Theatre.

During the week in the mornings, a Children's Club is run, which is visited by some of the International Teams. Cost £5 for the week, £1.50 per day. Older children 7 –15 years can attend International Dance workshops on three afternoons. These also include visits from the teams. Cost £16 (3 day package) or £7 per day.

Alongside the Festival is an Adult Dance course which lasts the whole week, and is aimed at anyone who is interested in dance, and preferably able to pick up tuition quickly. This course gives a unique opportunity to dance with members of the teams, and you therefore get the 'feel' of the dance. Talking to members of the group can be difficult sometimes, but the language of dance is universal and we all enjoy each other's company. Cost for all eight sessions £96, or one 2 hour session £20.

Details available from Bingham International Folklore Festival Ltd.

Stockton Business Centre,  
70 Brunswick Street,  
Stockton on Tees,  
TS18 1DW  
phone 01642 553220  
fax 01642 602839

P.S. There has been talk this year of the course becoming accredited

**Helen Ezra**



### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance**

If any clubs have banners, and members hope to attend the Dance, please bring the banner with you, to help decorate the hall. We will also be pleased to see a few photos. I understand that the SIFD Albums will be available to peruse.

Tickets should be available shortly – hope to see you there

**Helen Ezra**



## De Vleegerd (throw your wife away)

Dutch

**A** *With emphasis* *faster*

**B1** X 2.

**B2** X 2.

**C** *slow polka*

PLAY ABB-C but note that B2 is harmony to B1

Wilf Horrocks



## “Cliffe Beck”

I was very sorry to hear the sad news about Cliffe. Over the years I met him at YHA weekends and also as a musician, playing with him, Mourrie and Ruth at the Sunday evening dances at the Inns of Court mission. I believe he was the first accordionist to join Mourrie and was influenced by him in choosing a button accordion. Ruth and I preferred the keyboard type as it was more flexible for Balkan rhythms. However we all made a wonderful, full blooded sound, which really got the dancers going.

He was very good to have around with his cheeky sense of humour, I don't ever remember him losing his temper, everyone liked him.

Ken Ward

## SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

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

June 4<sup>th</sup> MC : Helen Ezra  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> MC: Graham Styles



### WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- June 3<sup>rd</sup>** YEREZ AVANDAGAN by Akhtamar see page 4
- June 4<sup>th</sup>** **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 10<sup>th</sup>** **SIFD DAY COURSE** Mallorcan see page 4
- S.I **June 10<sup>th</sup>** **BALKAN PLUS** see page 6
- S.I **June 11<sup>th</sup>** **MIXED INTERNATIONAL DANCES** with Jill Bransby at 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). American supper. Further details from Janet Douglas 01243 265010
- S.I **June 24<sup>th</sup>** **JUNIOR WORKSHOP & PARTY DAY** children's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance. Venue: St. Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Egerton Road, Chorlton. Manchester. Details from Julie Korth 01942 831141
- June 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup>** **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 24<sup>th</sup>** **BALKAN AND BEYOND** Hempton Memorial Hall, nr. Fakenham, North Norfolk. 8 -11pm Dancing with live music by Zaramo £6.50. No bar, byob. For further information contact Dawn 01328 856582



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