SIIFD NEWS OCHOBER 2006



Robert Harrold has sent a quote of the month:

### "...country dancing should be prescribed on the NHS."

it was in the Telegraph; here is some more from the same article that you might like:

"....you get everyone. The old, the young, the fat, the unwell, teenagers, tycoons and retired teachers, all whirling round together. It is the antithesis of cool. Nobody's sneering or left out ..... Small children are being swung round by grannies; beautiful young women are dancing barefoot with old baldies. And very soon everyone is grinning."

Ed.



### **AGM 2006**

After the enjoyment of an AGM in Manchester last year, we decided to hold this year's meeting back in London – but propose that *next* year's should again be elsewhere. We have already had an offer from prospective hosts, which is something to look forward to. However, the programme will be a little different this December. Instead of holding it before the Sunday Dance, we have decided on a Saturday afternoon, combining it with dancing.

The date is to be **Saturday** 

Saturday 9th December 2006

Venue

Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London

Programme

**Dancing** 10.30 – 12 noon

Lunch

12 – 1pm

**AGM** 

1 - 2.30pm

Dancing

3 - 4.30pm

As an added incentive, not only is there no charge for attending the AGM, but the dancing will be free too! Refreshments will be available, but do bring your own lunch. We hope this different format will appeal, and that some of you will find it easier to attend on a Saturday. We should like to see as many of you there as possible. The agenda will appear in November's News. If you have any queries, please contact me:

**Alison Scrimshaw**, 020 8642 33



# **Apologies**

Having just looked at the 'Western Europe and Beyond' section of the video, I realised that I announced 'Charachan Odori' as a Chinese dance. I'm very sorry, it's Japanese, as the notes and lists say. Let's put it down to Summer School fatigue! Humble (Japanese) pie.

Jill Bransby

## **Notes from September's Committee Meeting**

The last committee meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> September at Cecil Sharp House. There was also one in July but as I was absent there was no report. I shall, however, combine the news from both meetings.

The financial side is, for a pleasant change, immensely cheery. All Judith's work with the **Gift Aid** applications is bearing fruit. In July it was reported that a cheque for £2,040.00 (for the last 5 years) had been received, and by September another £187 had arrived! So well done Judith, and Simon, and well done all you people who filled in Gift Aid forms –

you can see now it really was worth while.

Also we have received the most generous gift from **Frances Horrocks** and her sons on behalf of Wilf, for which we are enormously grateful. Frances explained that Wilf was no longer able to play his accordion (which would deteriorate if not used) and as he had always wished the SIFD to have it, they had sold it, and sent the resulting £300 to the Society. Frances added that she would like the money to go towards the next SIFD musical production - P10. We were most touched by this, and on behalf of the Society thank them all very much.

Judith also reported the receipt of a further £300 from a publishing company who are producing a CD of dance music, and wished to use not two, but three of our recordings. As

I mentioned before, we were pleased to co-operate.

After all this good news you'll be relieved to learn that Judith now expects the accounts to

show a surplus for the year.

I'm also pleased to report that all the Associated **groups** have re-applied for membership, but Simon has not heard from all the Affiliated organisations. I have prepared the customary list for the News (hopefully appearing with this edition) but am unable to give up-to-date details for the Silent Few. If your silence is just because you forgot to send your form back, your current details might yet appear in the Dance With The World leaflet if you're quick.

More sadly, 95 individuals have failed to renew, which is a terrible shame. Please do it

now, as we need lots of members in order to thrive.

Helen reports that she has sold about 150 tickets for the **Anniversary dance**. It should be a really splendid do. Two live bands, food, a wide range of MCs and dances, and a Celebration Cake.

As you know, the proposed **Constitution** was not ready for adoption at the end of July, but the meeting at Swansea to discuss the principles behind it, and the reason for some of the more major changes, was useful. John Boyd explained more in last month's News. The committee thanked Janet Woolbar very much for all the work she put into our **Big Dance** Week contribution on July 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a little marred by the management of the Embankment Gardens Stage double-booking the event, and the dancers having to alternate with an aptly named Big Band from America. Everyone, however, rose nobly to the occasion, despite the heat, and no matter how long they had had to wait. The dancing was interesting and varied, and I was particularly impressed by the children Janet Douglas brought up from Bognor Regis. As a bonus, our own audience was swelled by Big Band devotees, who politely stayed to watch us but with apparent enjoyment.

It was decided that a Sunday Dance in the near future would have an earlier start-time -

details in the next News

A new policy on **teacher's visits** to groups and classes was proposed. When it has reached its final form it will be circulated to the group leaders.

A discussion document on the **WebSite** was read through, and as a result several changes will gradually be implemented.

The **Membership Book** might have reached the proof-reading stage - one step forward - but this has resulted in two steps back as the suggestions have poured in. Please don't expect your copy too soon....

The next meeting will be the **AGM** on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements for the day were planned (see article) and items for the agenda discussed. This meeting closed at 7.15pm.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**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].

- S.I Nov. 4th/5th PAJA & MADELON MILIC see page 9
- S.I Nov.11th SIFD DAY COURSE see page 11
- S.I Nov. 18th BALKANPLUS with MCs from the Ipswich Balkan dancers

Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> GYPSY PLUS, Sheffield. Traditional dances with Paul Boizot, with an emphasis on Balkan Rom (Gypsy). 11am. - 4.45p.m. £8 - £22 (sliding scale). Book in advance. 0114 256 1708. www.paulboizot.co.uk

**Dec.2nd ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY** St. Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens, EC1N 7AB. Nearest underground station: Chancery Lane. (Central Line). Time 7.00 – 10.30pm Price £7 incl. refreshments. Dances from Croatia & Macedonia also from Bulgaria, Greece & Romania. Cheques payable to 'The Zivko Firfov Folklore Group'. s.a.e please; tickets from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Ave., Dagenham, Essex. RM10 9BD tel: 0208 592 4427. Admission by ticket only

- S.I **Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> SIFD W. MIDLANDS BRANCH** Half-day Workshop and Christmas Dance at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull. 3.00 5.30pm. Balkan dances with Roger Wicksteed, followed by W.Mids. AGM. Christmas Dance 7.30 10.30pm. MC Maggie Kaye. More details from Maggie on 0121-608-1437.
- S.I A.G.M see page 3
- S.I Dec.15<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> DUNFORD WEEKEND see page 9
- S.I **Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY** at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, nr.Eastbourne (jnc. B2104/B2247) 10.30am 5pm. Cost£5. Bring-and-share dances and lunch. Enquiries: Rowena Martin 01323 503991 or RowenaHMartin@hotmail.com

Jan.20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> RUSSIAN DANCE COURSE with Hennie Konings. venue to be announced. Contact Janet Wilks 0207 229 9387, janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> GREEK DANCE COURSE taught by Angie Saravelaki, from the Dora Stratou Company in Athens; £36 for weekend. £20 for one day only. Details from Janet & John Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. PO21 3EQ tel:01243 265010

S.I Mar.30<sup>th</sup>/Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ROMANIAN FOLK DANCE with Silviu Cuicuimis 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 accommodation (3 nights) £179. Single course £25, both courses £45. For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115, Chetwynd Road, London, NW5 1DA or e:mail your request to cathy\_meunier@hotmail.com.



# The Open Directory Project - An Internet Resource for Folk Dance

The Open Directory Project (ODP aka DMOZ) was established in the early years of the internet to provide a reliable starting point for finding information. Currently it lists over 4 million websites, in 70 languages, is used by many search engines (e.g. Google) and provides the data for many other directories on the web. It is maintained by over 7,000 volunteer editors around the world.

What is the purpose of all this? Well until a website is listed somewhere, the search engines cannot find them and neither can the people surfing the internet. Even so, search engine results do not always give you what you want because the result depends on the words you choose. The categories in the ODP allow the 'hard to find' sites to be listed in an organised manner and make them less hard to find. Instead of searching on keywords, you look to see what there is on a topic.

www.dmoz.org/Arts/Performing\_Arts/Dance/Folk\_Dancing lists over 1,300 sites, some of which are very good resources for video clips, recordings, step sheets, costume and dance information. However, it is far from complete or perfect. So far I have brought the Polish, Dutch and Basque sections up to a more or less definitive standard and am working on a Slovak category. As there is lots more to do, I am hoping that those of you who use the web might like to combine interests and lend a hand. I find it an enjoyable hobby, and, through it, have come across many web sites (such as that for the Chukchi-Eskimo Ensemble) that I would otherwise have missed.

Not all the categories are well-developed (e.g. Greek) and some are so poorly represented that they don't have a category of their own. A simple way to help is to have a look at what is there and, if you know of good quality sites that are not listed, suggest them. New categories are created when there are enough sites to populate them so if you feel a category is missing, the solution is simple.

If you find searching for websites interesting or would like to build up a category for a particular nationality, then you might like to consider becoming an editor. As a volunteer, you work when you like, how often you like. (There is an application process which aims to weed out people joining for commercial reasons). The 'about dmoz link' on the site will tell you more and you can always contact me for more information. (john@interfolk.co.uk or tel. 012243 265010).

John Douglas



## October Balkanplus

The October Balkanplus will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2006 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. The MC will be Bob Robinson from the Manchester Group. Admission £4.

Please note this is a change from our usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in October.

**Maureen Felton** 

### **More Memories by Ken**

Going back to my early days in the Society and when I had become a reasonable dancer, I fondly remember the small demos that took place on most weekends, and, in which I took part when I was not away on a YHA dance weekend. These were arranged by Margery Latham who was demonstration secretary and accepted all manner of requests from all kinds of organisations, such as the WI, Holiday Fellowship, branches of the United Nations Association, all kinds of fetes, Girl Guides, and youth groups, as well as organised concerts. We had to dance on lumpy grass, gravel, concrete, slippery wooden floors, and the changing accommodation provided often left much to be desired. I remember that on one occasion when we were sharing the afternoon with Ali Eistraat's Estonian group we had to change in the shrubbery at the bottom of the garden. Toilets and sheds were not unknown. Sometimes if we had two demos in one afternoon we travelled on buses or trains wearing our costumes. Digressing for a moment to the Swedish Church Midsummer evenings: Pug always had a super Swedish buffet complete with wonderful Swedish schnapps before going on to the church. On one occasion there was not enough car space so Bob Symes (who died tragically quite young) and myself went to the church by bus and on foot. People asked us if we were off to the 'Mayflower'! At the time a replica of the ship was recreating the journey made by Columbus across the Atlantic.

One New Year's Eve, we took part in a concert for the United Nations at the Methodist Central Hall, opposite Westminster Abbey, after the performance we were introduced to the guest of honour, the famous ballerina, Margot Fonteyn, she was so charming. I'm a bit hazy about what happened afterwards, but, we finished up in a crowded Trafalgar Square and decided to give an impromptu demo. We found a space near one of the great lions and soon had a huge, very enthusiastic audience who sometimes joined in. One dance was very well received, the Swedish 'Ox' dance. I don't think that it has been danced for a decade! I remember dancing it with Simon Guest on several occasions.

Two men face each other and have a mock fight! To the accompaniment of music and in rhythm they pull each other's ears and noses, each other's hair, make grotesque faces and symbolically slap each other's faces. (Simon Guest and Charles Stevenson doing the Ox dance >)



In between each figure they grab each other by the scruff of the neck which they jerk down. It's an entertaining dance and fun to do. It should be revived! Or it will be lost among so many other genuine folk dances - what has happened to the lovely Austrian dances that used to be so popular, I think we need to keep a balance between couple and circle dances!

I remember another mad occasion. We had been over to an old people's home in the East End of London, and decided to dance on the London Underground Circle Line. The floor was rather unsteady, but we managed.

Why don't people do mad things anymore?

## Big Dance July 16th



left: Leslie Haddon and Sue Chipp.

right: Central London Group



## **Unwanted cassette tapes**

We are currently in the process of (slowly) digitising our music collection. As part of this we will be disposing of a large number of copies (and some original) cassette tapes with music from all over Europe and a few from further afield. Many are tapes from 30 years of dance courses and the rest are just listening music. We would far rather give these to someone who will enjoy listening to them than throw them away, so if you are interested please email us, or phone us letting us know what countries you would be interested in. We also have some blank cassettes if anyone can make use of these.

All this is free provided you arrange a means of collection

email: \_romaniadance@aol.com\_ (mailto:romaniadance@aol.com)

Phone: 01923 249704

Liz & Nick



## <u>Sălcioară</u>

Some of the people who were on the Romanian Day Course might like to have the words Silviu taught at Swansea to the dance Sălcioară.

Text for Romanian dance - Sălcioară Rough Translation

Salcie, Sălcioară Weeping Willow Glas de pri, primăveră Voice of Spring

Sălcioară, sălcioară tot pe loc Să răsară să răsară busoioc Weeping willow all in this place The basil\* is springing up

Marina Wolstenholme

<sup>\*</sup> As in Bulgaria, basil is a very important herb, associated with weddings.

## Paja Milic in Bognor Regis

I was looking at the videos from Paja's previous visits to England – and it brought back his love of folkdance, his love of people, his incredible skill, his knowledge and most of all his charisma. The forthcoming weekend (November  $4^{th}/5^{th}$ ) of Yugoslavian dances will be the third one that he and Madelon have taught at Bognor. Some of you have also enjoyed their teaching at the 2002 Summer School, or at Eastbourne. I know that several of his dances have taken firm hold in the Society repertoire – especially Čiča Obranova Kolo.

The course will take place at Bognor Regis Community College, Westloats Lane, (a ten minute walk from the station) Times: 10.30am -5pm on Saturday, 10am -4.30pm on Sunday. We have also hired a local hall for Saturday evening where we can meet up, eat takeaways and share dances. Cost: £36 for weekend (including Saturday evening) £20 for one day and £4 for the Saturday get-together. For a booking form with map and list of nearest local B&Bs contact me (address on page 2, or, see www.interfolk.co.uk).

**Janet Douglas** 



# September SIFD day course with Marina Wolstenholme.

Three cheers to Marina Wolstenholme for coming to London for the September day course to teach us some of the dances from Silviu Cuicuimis' repertoire. The course was well attended and thoroughly enjoyable with a certain botanical feel to it. We learned twelve dances, including Lamiitsa (lemon blossom, used for weddings), Sălcioară (Willow), Trandafirul (Rose), Iedera (Ivy) and a number of dances with songs about trips into the woods (with wine and strawberries in one - Hora de Mina, and Joc La Sinziene, about women going to the wood and taking off their clothes to look in the lake, hoping to see the reflection of their beloved. Someone quipped "the men followed them there!"). We appreciated her very clear explanations, background knowledge and humour, accompanied by a number of illustrations, books and maps which covered the grand piano in the room. Thanks again, Marina, come again!

Helen de Bray



# Dunford (Midhurst, West Sussex) 15th-17th December 2006

If you've been before there's no need to tell you that this is a really enjoyable weekend of dancing and walking or, of course, just relaxing in the lounge with its log fire and Christmas tree. Accommodation is in single, double or twin bedrooms, all en-suite, at a well-furnished country house at the foot of the northern slopes of the South Downs, once the home of Richard Cobden.

Janet Woolbar has kindly agreed to lead the dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon. On both Saturday and Sunday mornings there will be a walk from the house - returning in time for lunch. For non-walkers, on Saturday morning, there is the opportunity to visit Midhurst's monthly market.

There will be Christmas dinner (the meals are jolly good) and carol singing on Saturday evening.

If you haven't been before, and you're a dancer, I'm sure you will feel at home and among friends. The cost of the weekend - £120.00.

Looking forward to hearing from you. (tel. no. 020 8540 3464)

Dot Bradbury (Mrs.)

#### **SIFD Insurance**

The cover on the SIFD's policy can extend to include any club. The policy only has one stipulation – the club is a member of SIFD (Associated or Affiliated). If it is not, please obtain a membership application form from the membership secretary and when joining ask him/her to confirm to me that your application has been approved. Then you can contact me to arrange the cover and obtain a quotation.

### **Equipment Insurance**

If you arrange similar cover through your local broker, a minimum premium would apply. This would in all probability be higher than the premium charged as an addition to the SIFD's policy.

The cover provided is for All Risks anywhere in the United Kingdom, excluding losses from unattended vehicles. Please note there is a £100 excess on any claim. The policy renewal date is  $4^{th}$  October each year. Premiums for new clubs are calculated on a strict pro rata basis from the day the club is added to the policy.

The cover provided by the insurers is on a new-for-old basis. It is, therefore, vital that the club checks to ensure that their sums insured are adequate. Insurers could reduce the claim proportionally, if the club is under-insured.

The insurers can include all the club's equipment on the policy. If the club owns costumes or any other equipment, including audio equipment, it should all be insured. How many clubs could afford to replace lost equipment? I know mine could not!

#### **Public Liability Insurance**

Associated clubs are those that have an SIFD approved teacher/leader. Under the current constitution the SIFD pays for their Public Liability. However, future financial constraints or regimes could mean that these clubs may be asked to pay for this cover (not an expensive proposition) in the future.

Affiliated clubs can ask to be included provided they have paid the insurance premium requested by the broker on the SIFD's behalf.

The cover on the SIFD's policy extends to include all the club's activities, provided they are in pursuit of the aims of the SIFD as outlined in their constitution. The cover is for your club's legal liability for damage to third party property or injury to or death of a third party. The limit of indemnity is £5,000,000. The policy extends to include negligent damage to leased or rented premises and any claims arising out of food poisoning.

If you arranged similar cover through your local broker a minimum premium of at least £100 would apply, for only a £1,000,000 limit of indemnity, more for the same limit as the SIFD. Currently (as at renewal 2005) the SIFD is charging Affiliated Clubs only £25.00. What excellent value!

If your club meets in rented halls the hall owner or local authority normally insists that you have adequate Public Liability insurance, with usually a minimum limit of indemnity of £2,000,000.

#### **General Conditions**

Under FSA regulations, please remember that any insurance matter including the payment of insurance premiums can only be discussed with myself and should not be addressed to SIFD. The SIFD can only recommend that you talk to their broker who has a competitive scheme. Any club is, of course, entitled to look at alternatives, but being part of a block policy has the advantages mentioned above.

R S Thom Insurance Brokers Ltd

23 Haycroft Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 3JL

Tel & fax: 01438 316651

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority No. 304297

(This item by Richard Thom appears in the new membership booklet)

### **SIFD Day Course**

There will be **no** Day Course in October to leave you space to attend the Dance Around the World event.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November Place: Cecil Sharp House Time: 10.30am -4.30pm

Cost: £6 for SIFD members £8 for non-members Tutor: **Sue Oates** – with dances from Wales

Pam Radford



### Letters to the Editor

Dear Janet,

a few lines to compliment the Summer School in Swansea - the teachers were excellent, each with their particular style which seemed to reflect the dances they were teaching and really helped dancers to get "in to it". No stress - just helpfulness. Take this from a teacher. The extra afternoons are a great addition - or - getting your money's worth. And again all the high standards of teaching and variety of dances which were offered meant that I didn't get to the beach even once. Evenings were a joy - even if you are not a circle dancer - it was nice to watch and be included in the general friendliness. Thank you to the organisation - my CDs have just arrived and I'm looking forward to the videos. This kind of "service" is not usual in Europe - many other countries perhaps let you film at the cost of not dancing. So thank you Richard & Co. who do the technical side. If you have tried organising an event you will appreciate that all went well behind the scene - thanks to Roger;- nothing is perfect so let's forget the meals at the University of Swansea - a healthy diet has not yet reached Wales but perhaps within the next 2 years ... on the plus side the great dance spaces and friendly staff and nice rooms (depending on your location) but all in all not very expensive .. so see you all soon and - if you come through Italy look me up..

Tess Parker Edelmann, Turin



Congratulations to Jill Bransby on her interesting and entertaining article on the Instrumental Folk group/Solo at Llangollen. The accompanying photographs must have taken quite some time and ingenuity to acquire and make such a difference to the descriptions. I was particularly interested in the paragraph about Tsz Yan Chan from Hong Kong playing a zheng. There was a young lady playing one in Sutton High Street in August and I wondered what it was. Perhaps it was the same person. She was accompanied by a gentleman on a guitar and quite a few people stopped to listen to this gentle sound, but who would have expected to hear this in Sutton?

Frances Horrocks



Wilf Horrocks



## Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival 2007

The programme is not yet finalised; so far I can confirm that **Jan Knoppers** (General International), **Clyde Olliver** (Greek), **Mike Machin** (music and singing) and the Balkan group **Dutch DIP** will be there to make your weekend go with a swing.

**The Lewes Israeli Group** will start off the festival with a Simkhe at 8pm on **Friday 4**<sup>th</sup> **May** and you can look forward to a long weekend of dance, music and song from many countries, with a grand finale together with the 'others' (English and American) finishing at 4pm **Monday 7**<sup>th</sup> **May**.

**Janet Douglas** 

### SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

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

Cost £5 members £7 non-members There is **no** Sunday dance in October, the next dance is: **Nov.5<sup>th</sup>** MC: Alan Cant



### WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Oct.14<sup>th</sup>/15th DANCE AROUND THE WORLD Cecil Sharp House, London NW1

A non-stop programme starts at 10.00am both days; 30min performances upstairs while, downstairs, participating groups will provide one-hour workshops. £8 per day including evening, £5 evening only. www.datw.org.uk or e-mail: danceoffice@waitrose.com

call 07749 007040 or 020 8340 4683.

Oct. 21st BALKANPLUS see page 6

Oct. 21st PIFD 20th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 6.30 at: Nant-Y-Ffyn Motel

& Function room, A478 Tenby/Cardigan Road (near Haverfordwest) £7

details: Eve Brennan 01239 831404 or Sue Clark 01437 710261.

S.I Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF MACEDONIAN FOLK DANCE with

Paul Mulders at Derwent Bank, Lake District. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. 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.

Oct. 28th RAINMAKERS International Folk Dance Group's 30th

**Anniversary Dance** at St. Ippolyts Hall, Waterdell Lane, St. Ippolyts, Herts. SG4 7RB Caller: Jill Bransby. Band: Cloudburst. Please bring a plate of food to share. Tickets £6 from Richard Thom 01438 316651 or

richard@rsthominsurance.co.uk



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