



SLED DEWS

December 2006



L.H.B.

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509
Website: www.sifd.org

EDITOR: Janet Douglas (Mrs.), Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010
email: SIFDNews@interfolk.co.uk



This month's seasonal cover was designed by Lesley Boorer.

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Last month we had a little hiccup with the printing of some copies of page 2, so information about last month's cover and motif, which may have been lost, is reproduced below:

The November cover was sent in by Simon Guest. He adapted it from a photo taken by Jill Bransby of a Slovak couple dancing in the streets of Llangollen during the International Musical Eisteddfod week in 1999. They were part of a team called 'Polienko'. They didn't do particularly well in the competition as their dancing was rather too choreographed for the judges' taste, however, their lively dancing was appreciated at this outdoor performance.

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The motif which was in both October and November issues is reproduced once more above. It is a pair of Hungarian dancers, the official logo of the Hungarian National Ensemble which was adopted in 1971 by the West Midlands group, Selpar; and so is *not* from Barlow as stated in the October issue. (*apologies. Ed.*)

more apologies.....

I would like to apologise to those who had to pay excess charges on last month's SIFD News. I normally am very careful to check the correct postage. October was however a bit of a rush as I was going on holiday from the 22nd to 31st and incidentally so was the lady who normally does the printing. This meant that I would have to do the printing as well as the packing and posting. I had to decide whether to get the News out before I went - so it got there before the end of the month or leave it until I got back which would mean the News would not arrive until about 5th /6th November. I had previously had complaints about the News arriving late so I decided to get them out before I went. In the rush to get them out I did not check the weight. I would therefore like to sincerely apologise for this and assure you all that it will not happen again.

Dalila Heath

ps. It was interesting to note the irregularity in the fines.

I added to Dalila's burden last month by arriving back late from holiday – so the SIFD News was very hurriedly sent off to her; complete with several errors (no prizes for finding them!) But it all goes to show just how much work Dalila does for the Society. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Dalila, Mike & Edwina Holdup and Simon Guest for giving up hours of their time every month to bring us our copies of the SIFD News; Simon produces the labels from the membership list and Mike & Edwina prepare the envelopes. Dalila takes care of the printing, packaging and posting. Many thanks to them and also to all who have contributed articles, letters, cover designs and photos during 2006. Happy Christmas to them and to all of you.

Ed.

A Glitch in the System!

Normally it works so smoothly. Once our Editor has burnt the midnight oil and put the next edition of the News to bed, there are 500 copies to be printed, stapled and folded; 446 labels to be printed and stuck on envelopes; 500 copies to be stuffed in the envelopes; stamps for up to six different postage categories to be bought and attached; and the whole lot to be posted. If, very, very infrequently a glitch occurs, it serves to remind us of the unpaid people behind the scenes who get it right 99.9% of the time. The News is a lifeline for the Society, and the Editor and these others have our thanks and support.

Janet Woolbar, Alison Scrimshaw et al.

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It is now over a year since Janet Douglas took on the demanding job of producing and editing the SIFD NEWS and I should like to thank her for taking it on and doing such an excellent job.

I am pleased that any worries I may have had about finding a successor were unfounded. I look forward each month to receiving the news-sheet - on time, interesting, well set out (plus photographs, which I was unable to produce).

Thank you very much, Janet. I hope you are finding the job rewarding and enjoyable, as I did. Long may you continue (it will take another thirty-seven years to break the record!).

Lily Avery

November NEWS Postage Problem

If you had to pay Royal Mail to get your November News we will reimburse you. Please contact me if you would like to claim.

Judith Payling, Hon. Treasurer



Photo Competition

If you have a colour photo which you think would make a good **full colour cover picture** you may want to take part in this competition. **No prize**, but, the winner will see the photo on the **first** ever coloured issue. This can only be an annual event because of cost and the additional work entailed for Dalila. All the photos entered in the competition will be on show at the Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival in May next year (and various other venues) where you can vote for your favourite. The resulting SIFD News should be out in the Summer.

Please send your colour photo to me by post or email (jpg) before April 15th 2007; if you need it back, please send a s.a.e and I shall return it to you in due course.

Ed.

Chairman's Report 2006

2006 is a significant date in the Society's history and I think has been a significant year in our activities.

Regular classes and courses have continued throughout the country, and particularly in this, our 60th anniversary year many events have had this as an additional focus.

The first special event was initiated at the AGM last year when we discussed the possibility of organising a Day of Dance for children. This finally took place on June 24th and was hosted by the Barlow group. Special thanks is due to Julie Korth and her team as resident hosts but of course all the teachers involved, Lorna Ramsden, Lynda Shaw and Janet Douglas, put in a great deal of work in preparation and Ian Willson accompanied many of the dances with his lively accordion playing which was much appreciated. The children certainly enjoyed themselves and we hope it will become a more regular feature in the calendar.

This year's summer school also had a 60th anniversary flavour. We were very pleased to have such a strong teaching team with Silviu Ciuciumis teaching Romanian and Cristina Casarini teaching Italian as her main course and Czech as an optional workshop. Not forgetting our "home grown" teachers Jill Bransby and Maggie O'Regan who taught general courses and Paul Boizot, Simon Guest and Anne Leach who also led optional workshops. Our thanks to Roger Sturge and his team for organising the event. We also managed to fit in a discussion on the progress of the updating of the constitution. The results of which were reported in the September SIFD News and subsequent progress will be reported at the AGM.

The Summer School ended with a celebration dinner and dance in honour of the 60th Anniversary culminating with the presentation (and eating) of the Anniversary cake baked by Roy Clark and decorated by Alison Scrimshaw. Thank you both.

The main anniversary celebration took place on 30th September at Cecil Sharp House. This was organised by Jill Bransby and Helen Ezra, with MCs from past chairmen and representatives from the West Midlands and Manchester groups and music provided by the SIFD band and Dunav.

It was good to see members from all over the country attending, and thanks to members in London who offered accommodation to make this possible.

Other groups have combined their own birthday celebrations with the SIFD 60th. Pembrokeshire celebrated 20 years on October 21st and Rainmakers their 30th on October 28th, once again members travelled from far to join them and this support between groups is important to the integration of the society.

Another event that involved the co-operation of several groups was our participation in the Mayor of London's "Big Dance" initiative in July. This was advertised as a promotion of the variety of ethnic dance in London which seemed to fit our profile. Accordingly we booked the Victoria Embankment Gardens theatre and organised 8 SIFD groups to perform a programme of dances from Europe and beyond. Unfortunately we arrived to discover that an American high school band were also booked to perform there, but with an effort of international co-operation and good-will on the part of the park attendants the performance went ahead and was well received by an enthusiastic audience who also stayed on to join in a dance at the end.

Group participation has also continued at Eastbourne, where Leslie Haddon managed to get his workshop participants to perform in costume at the conclusion of the course and Dance Around the World celebrating its 6th year in London and this year involving 44 dance groups and including musicians' workshops. Residential weekends also provide opportunities for members to get to know each other. Some are focused on dances from specific countries, some are more social in intent with general dancing as part of the programme. These are organised on the initiative of individual members who deserve our support. If you have never attended one - try it!

As with all voluntary organisations we are dependant on members to give of their time and their talent for the society to flourish. As I am retiring as chairman at this AGM I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the executive committee who give their time and talents unstintingly. They are a great team and have undertaken the necessary tasks willingly and efficiently.

You will be pleased to hear that they are all willing to continue in their service.

Janet Woolbar. Chairman.

Swansea Italian & Czech CD

Those who bought copies of Cristina's CD at Swansea have probably noticed by now that the track listing is wrong. Two of the listed tracks are not on the CD: Contradanza (Emilia Romagna), listed as track 2, and Giga, listed as track 4.

The correct track listing is:

1 Passo Torrau	10 Polesana
2 Galopa	11 Saltarella (not taught at Swansea)
3 Munecò (not taught at Swansea)	12 Balloindodici
4 Trescone di Premilcuore (not taught at Swansea)	13 Tarantella
5 Manfrina di Premilcuore (not taught at Swansea)	14 Contradanza (Sicilia)
6 Marsigliese	15 Tammuriata (not taught at Swansea)
7 Trescone	16 Lasske Vanocni Kolo
8 Curenta	17 Čelandensky
9 Mama mia ghè l'erba in orto (not taught at Swansea)	18 Črna Vlva
	19 Kalamajka (not taught at Swansea)
	20 Venec

As Cristina didn't have enough CDs to meet the demand, I made some further copies after the summer school. These have just the dances that she taught at Swansea, but I used the computer to improve the quality of one or two tracks and I included a second copy of Polesana, leaving out the singing, as Cristina generally skipped that in her class.

If anyone would like a copy of this version to replace the original, let me know. I will consult the Committee about an appropriate price.

On the inserts of both Cristina's original CDs and the copies that I made, one of the Czech dances is spelt "Celadensky". I believe it should be "Čelandensky" with an extra "n" and with a caron/haček on the C, and I think the first letter of Črna Vlva should have the same.

Richard Mellish



20th Anniversary of Pembroke International Folk Dancers.

I had the good fortune to be invited to the 20th Anniversary Dance of the Pembrokeshire International Folk Dancers which took place on the 21st of October 2006. This was organised by Sue Clark and the other PIFD members and took place at the Nant-Y-Ffyn Motel, Llandissilio in Mid-Pembrokeshire.

The food and drinks were splendidly organised and there was plenty for everyone. The dances comprised a very good selection.

Julie Drinkwater introduced a dance (a new one to me) that came from Tahiti which was taught some while ago in Eastbourne by Corrie from Holland. It is done in a seated position and tells the mythical story about how the Polynesian Islands were discovered. It is called Hoe Ana (Row, Row). Some while ago I went round the world with Margaret, (my late wife). We visited Honolulu, a paradise island. We left there at about 12 noon on Thursday and arrived in Tokyo at 5pm on Friday. I hope one day to do the reverse journey and catch up on my day lost!

During the afternoon of the Dance I was taken by car by Sue and Vic to see something of the Pembrokeshire coast, which is very beautiful. The car we were travelling in broke down and the rescue service had to be called out. Paul and Jane, friends of Sue and Vic very kindly took us home so, the day was saved.

A big "thankyou" is due for making such a superb evening and not forgetting Frank and especially Janet Woolbar who did all the driving.

I wish the Pembrokeshire Group every success for the future.

Alan Morton

An enormous 'thankyou' to all of you who came to our (PIFD) 20th anniversary celebrations. There were Peggy & Roy (Oscar) Haycock from Malvern, Hilda & Roger Sturge, Bristol; Ann & Dave Barry with Sue Oates & Bobbie, Newport; Janet Woolbar, Frank Flanagan & Alan Morton, London; Claire & Geof Steeley, Hertfordshire; Rufus Maychild & friend, Carmarthanshire; Joan & Alan Scott, Nuneaton; and Philip & Breda Lloyd from Manchester who ended up having to walk the last couple of miles to the motel as there were no taxis to meet the train. NOW THERE'S DEDICATION FOR YOU. I understand through the friendship of FOLK DANCE they did not have to walk back to the station on Sunday. PIFD received several cards and messages both before and after the event and we would like to thank all those kind people who got in touch. Happy dancing one & all .

Sue & The Gang.



Dance course in Romania.

This summer a number of SIFD members attended a dance course in the village of Bazna in Romania.

As the village is in Transylvania we concentrated on dances from this region taught by Ionel Cioc who was choreographer of the dance group in Mediaş and was in charge of the culture house there. We were accompanied by a trio of gypsy musicians and the course included visits to villages in the area with different ethnic connections where we had the opportunity to watch and join in with the dancing. We learnt about the history, costume and traditions of the region and enjoyed the life of a typical Transylvanian village.

Following the success of this pilot project it is planned to organise a similar course next summer focusing on the regions of Maramureş and Bistriţa.

If you are interested and would like to be kept in touch with arrangements please contact:

Mrs.Celia Stone, The Bottle Kiln, West Hallam, Derbyshire DE7 6HP

or let me know of your interest: 34a Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 8JZ

Janet Woolbar.



Bulgarian Dance Workshop

Saturday 9th December. 3.30pm –6.00pm at:

Dance Attic Studios,368 North End Rd, Fulham SW6 1LY
nearest tube stn. is Fulham Broadway. (5 min walk)

Price: £9

boikoandonov@hotmail.com mobile: 07900904370

All levels are welcome

Boyko Andonov



Dates for SIFD Day Courses 2007 Feb. 3rd

March 10th April 21st June 9th July 14th September 8th November 17th

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jan. 1st NEW YEAR'S DAY DANCE West Midlands Branch 7.30 - 10.30pm at Balsall Common Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common, near Coventry. MC: Grace Pittman Bring-and-share supper. SIFD members £3 Non-members £4 For information or directions contact Maggie Kaye 0121-608-1437 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk

Jan.20th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO 2007 New Year Party Saturday 7-10.45 at St. Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Polstead Rd, Oxford. Tickets £6 on the door. Refreshments and live music from Vuhpros.

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

Feb. 17th/18th GREEK DANCE COURSE taught by Angie Saravelaki, from the Dora Stratou Company in Athens; Bognor Regis Community College £36 for weekend. £20 for one day only. For map, accommodation list and booking form contact: Janet & John Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. PO21 3EQ tel:01243 265010 or: angie@interfolk.co.uk

Feb.24th NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP. Dances from the Balkans, featuring Armenian, Day Course. Venue: Grangewood Methodist Church, Grangewood Rd., Wollaton, Notts. Led by Maggie O'Regan. £7 (£4 half day) 10.30 – 4.30pm. Further details 01332 701922 or 0115 9171831

Mar.10th/11th KALITSA TSOVALAS-PANTAZIS Sat:11am–5pm St.Ninians U.R.Church Hall, Egerton, Manchester. Sat.evening party 7-10pm. MC Mike Machin. Sun:10.30am-4.30pm Calver Village Hall, Derbyshire. £25 (includes party) Day only £14. Party £3(non-SIFD members add £2 to each fee. Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, Off Wigan Rd.Aspull Wigan. WN2 1EF (please include s.a.e.)

Mar.30th/Apr.2nd RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ROMANIAN FOLK DANCE with Silviu Cuicuimis at Derwent Bank, Lake District. Comfortable en-suite 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 booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier 115 Chetwynd Rd, London, NW5 1DA or email your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.

May 4th/7th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL line-up includes: Jan Knoppers, Hennie Konings, Dutch Dip, Clyde Olliver, (international dance workshops) Fri., Sat. and Sun. Evening Dances plus dance displays. Booking office: 01278 424332 or 07970 436337

S.I **May 4th/7th (8th) SIFD LONG BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND at HALSWAY MANOR**, an attractive folk-lore centre on the edge of the Quantocks and near the north Somerset and Devonshire coast and Exmoor. Join in Folk Dancing and walking (or just sightseeing!) A full-day outing with coach transport and packed lunch provided on the Sunday to the coast or Exmoor. Inclusive cost about £160 for 3 nights with supplements for the 4th night or en-suite bedrooms. Enquiries and further details from Jack Richardson 01792 403153



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.

More memories by Ken.

Jack Richardson also arranged many dance and walking weekends, some at locations away from the London area. One of my favourites was Halsway Manor in the West Country, some of you will know it. However I have memories of one fateful weekend when we awoke on the Saturday morning to find ourselves cut off from the outside world by several feet of snow. I think it was about four foot in depth and covered the tops of the hedgerows. We had to clear a drift that almost filled the huge front door and we were stranded for several days until the snow ploughs cleared the main road, and even then had to put down branches over the snow to enable us to reach our coach. We had to organise ourselves to cook the meals (luckily there were some very good cooks among our numbers), and clean the place, and to organise activities. Nenad and Jasna were with there so we had some Croat lessons and we did a fair amount of dancing, but we had to go out and forage for milk and other supplies. We received an S.O.S. from a local farmer who could not get fodder to his cattle so we crawled to his farm by laying large plastic bags over the snow and managed to get the foodstuff to the animals. The weekend lasted until the following Tuesday.

Another significant event was the making of the Society's first commercial records which were recorded by Jack, and processed on to shellac 78 rpm 10 inch discs. Jack had previously made discs for home consumption as he had access at Imperial College to facilities for cutting soft, one off discs. These were soft, coated metal discs, which had a limited playing life. He also had a professional reel to reel tape recorder and it was on this that the pioneering recordings were made. The location was the very imposing boardroom at the College. This was approached by a very imposing marble staircase, and was panelled and hung with portraits of past dignitaries. There was no listing of buildings of architectural importance at the time and despite a public outcry the buildings were torn down. The Caldicot tower was saved and is still a landmark in South Kensington and I'm sure that the boardroom, and other important features could have been incorporated in the typical nondescript college buildings of the 1960s, that replaced the old college, many of these are now being demolished all over the country.

Several of us attended the recording sessions so as to help the musicians to set the tempos and the length of the dances. The musicians were the 'Wallace Collection', who were the regular band at the monthly Cecil Sharp House Sunday dances. The recordings were then commercially processed and proved to be very successful.



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Ken Ward

Our thanks to Ken, for sharing his memories of the Society's early days in its 60th Anniversary year.

This picture of Ken shows him wearing a Croatian costume from the Prigorjo region north of Zagreb.

2006 Summer School: Report to Members

Programme

This year's summer school was particularly memorable for the even more than usually high quality of the teaching programme (and the very hot weather at the start of the week). We were fortunate to gain the services of two eminent country teachers, Silviu Ciuciumis (Romania) and Cristina Casarini (Italy) and they were admirably supported by the two general teachers, our own Maggie O'Regan and Jill Bransby and a supporting cast of short course teachers, Paul Boizot with a selection of dances with unusual rhythms, Anne Leach (Scandinavian) and Simon Guest (French). Cristina demonstrated her versatility by also teaching a short course of Czech dances. Maggie Kaye organised an instrumental session. Thanks to them all.

On a very hot Tuesday we made an enjoyable outing to the National Botanic Gardens of Wales. We had the usual rich mixture of evening social dances. A number of extra participants came for the Friday meal and the last night dance, celebrating SIFD's 60th anniversary, when we welcomed Jack & Joan Richardson as guests of honour.

Facilities

The big attraction of Swansea for a dance course is the three large adjacent rooms with wooden floors. The problem in 2004 of people walking through to get to a further room which could be disturbing for some classes was much better managed this year.

The resident facilities have changed substantially with new en suite accommodation for both catered and self-catering close to Fulton House where the dancing rooms and the refectory are situated. The rooms were felt to be a great improvement on the old adapted rooms used in 2004 but there were problems of access to kitchens and complaints of inadequate bathroom furnishings.

There was much lower satisfaction with the catering than in 2004, partly due to our decision to opt for a less expensive evening meal. The special meal on Friday evening was excellent (and good value) showing what the University can produce if we are prepared to pay a bit more.

Notes, audio and video

Once again Richard Mellish put together and distributed the music provided by those teachers who did not sell their own CDs or cassettes. Richard, Caspar Cronk and Roger Sturge did most of the filming for the video and Joe and Sheila Cott did the editing and organised distribution. As in 2004 all teachers were asked to provide notes on their dances and these were distributed free to those participants who requested them.

Some numbers

- § 69 dancers and 10 non-dancers (77 and 12 in 2004)
- § 66 took up the £20 discount for SIFD members (69 in 2004)
- § Course fee remained at £115 (£115 in 2004, £120 in 2002)
- § Surplus around £1100 (about £800 in 2004) giving a useful reserve for the future
- § Accommodation: bed & breakfast £155 standard, £190 en suite (£146 and £178 in 2004)
- § Evening meals £80 (£88 in 2004)

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to many people but some stand out. Simon Guest again designed the publicity leaflet, Caspar Cronk and Richard Mellish were responsible for the smooth organisation of the music equipment, many helped as MCs for the evening dances and Pam Radford organised them, Roy Clarke made the cake and Alison Scrimshaw decorated it, Dorien Bates and Fiona Howarth gave sterling support in the office as well as organising compulsory fun. Thanks to all of these and for everyone who helped to make it an enjoyable week.

2006 has turned out to be my last as convenor. Thanks to SIFD for entrusting me with the job and to everyone who has taken part over the past 4 summer schools. It has been a privilege.

Roger Sturge, Convenor, Summer School Planning Team

Residential Bulgarian Singing Weekend with Dessi Stefanova

at Bourton-on-the-Water 2nd – 4th March

Dessi Stefanova is a highly talented singer, and also a wonderful teacher of Bulgarian singing. She was a professional singer in the world famous Philip Koutev Ensemble, and now runs the London Bulgarian Choir. At this weekend you will have the opportunity to learn singing technique, and some of those enchanting Bulgarian songs which you may have heard or danced to. Most of the songs are sung in harmony, and Dessi carefully teaches each part so that you can enjoy the experience of singing as part of a choir.

Balkan Dancing Provided that there is sufficient interest, **Frank Dowling** will teach dances from the Balkans. We will also learn some dances which can be danced to the songs that we learn. In the evening there will be Balkan and International social dancing.

Bourton-on-the-Water is one of the showpiece villages of the Cotswolds, and at this time of year, it is less busy than in the summertime. There is plenty to see and do in and around Bourton and a good variety of interesting shops right on the door-step.

This residential weekend will be held in the HF country house hotel of Harrington House in the heart of Bourton-on-the-Water. It includes comfortable twin, double, family or single en-suite accommodation and full-board with a plentiful choice of good food. Participants can select either the singing option or the dancing and everyone will have an opportunity to learn some easy Balkan dances and join the social dancing in the evenings. Friends and family are welcome to come and enjoy the facilities of the house and the attractions of the area.

The cost of the weekend (all-inclusive is £150).

For full details and a booking form, please send s.a.e. to 115, Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. Alternatively you can get the information electronically by sending your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.

Cathy Meunier



December Balkanplus

The Christmas Balkanplus will be held on the 9th December 2006 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden, London NW1 starting at 7.00pm. Wear something with a sparkle to begin the festive season and come and enjoy an evening with Frances Horrocks and friends. Entrance £4.

Maureen Felton

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The evening will be divided into sections for each region and will include dances from Serbia, Armenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Turkey, Albania, Croatia and Macedonia, more or less in that order and not forgetting a few of the “Plus” variety thrown in.

I am being most ably supported by expert friend, namely Maggie O’Regan leading dances from Greece.

Frances Horrocks

A bit of History

You may be interested in some of my early days as I expect my membership is one of the longest. I started English country dancing at the age of 7 in school in 1930. In secondary school we did the ancient Greek classical dancing with the 'armlines' as in the freizes and rhythmic steps for seven years. We also learned Scandinavian and English dances at after school clubs.

I continued dancing at evening classes taken by two professionals in Playford, Longsword, Rapper sword and Morris dancing. A friend Gwen who was much older than me, but short, was my partner and I danced as a 'gent'. We were lucky in those days just at the end of the war II as there were many of the well known EFDSS teachers Douglas and Helen Kennedy, Thora Jacques/Watkins, Kenneth and Sybil Clarke, Tony Foxworthy, Patrick Schuden Shaw, Daphne and Paul Green and others who had all worked with Cecil Sharp's revival of dances.

I was a school teacher for 39 years, teaching at a school (replaced now) in the middle of a badly bombed area with 47 children in a class and nights of bombing. In 1946 the Education Act changed the War arrangements, and all children went to their nearest school and 2 year age range per class. I went to teach at Southsea Modern School for girls from the day it opened at Whitsun 1946 until it closed in July 1975. I started a folkdance club twice a week after school and continued that for all 29 years. I am still in contact with some of those girls – now in their 60s.



We had lots of fun with the club and they gave displays for many local church fêtes, the Southsea Show, Free Mart Fayre and Fleet Carnival show day. We had girls from Zanzibar and China, they were excellent dancers.

The photo reproduced left shows some of the girls dancing 'Les Jardinieres' in 1965.

Each year I took them to the Royal Albert Hall in January to see the EFDSS show and twice to the SIFD shows.

I taught all the range of traditional English dances Playford, Flamborough and Sleights Sword dances and Morris solo jigs and team dances plus the Maypole; the European ones were Swedish and Danish, some were French and German.

When the war ended a neighbour gave me her blackout curtains which were sateen and with bias binding bands of colour formed the first eight skirts. John Lewis shops sold a sateen fabric 54inch wide which was for lining curtains and was not on clothing coupons so I made red skirts for the girls and green skirts for the girls who danced as 'gents'. We used the red and green with their school white blouses for the English dances. The Morris and Sword just had their uniform navy and white with crossed baldricks and bells.

The first members of the club had embroidered patterns on the lower edge of their aprons and the needlework teacher had a set of red lace-up waistcoats made for me which went with the black skirts. The partners had the red ones with a black wide belt.

Those were the days of the fragile but heavy 78rpm records and a wind up record player at first, then, the 7inch ones which were easier to carry.

Once the schools were reorganised in 1975 I had a year with mixed boys and girls. I then moved with them, 125 from the one school, which were all condensed down into huge Comprehensive of 1200 pupils. I could only enthuse a few girls there. I continued the simple folk dances with the Brownies as I had the packs from 1946 to 2000.

Most of the local schools now only seem to do the kind of dance where they move to music, all dressed in dull black leotards or lycra. Rather dramatic types of dance which need explanation

continued>

We danced for the Duke of Edinburgh at the Portsmouth Guildhall when he came to a huge exhibition for his award scheme. Many of our 14 year olds did the bronze and silver levels at school and used dancing as one of the hobby sections. We did the French dance Les Jardinieres (Provence) our crepe and cane arches looked so attractive that the Duke came up on stage to us at the end of the dance. The teams won many trophies and certificates.



Dancing 'Three Meet' in a competition in 1964

Looking back now on those very full days, marking notebooks and ironing all the clothes for each performance, and running two Brownie Packs kept me occupied.

Such a contrast now as I am 83 years old, I've been unable to dance for a number of years and have to use a walking frame.

I have many friends in France, Denmark, South Africa, Japan, Canada and USA and have stayed with all of them in the past and they have been here to me.

I passed on some of my 7in records to one of the SIFD members when I advertised it in the magazine a few years ago. Now I would like to give printed music and records and all the dance costumes to anyone or more who could make use of them. Present day fabrics are expensive and there may be someone trying to encourage a young team who would be glad of them.

I do not want any money for these items they are for anyone with young girls in a folk dance team. The skirts are assorted lengths which had been worn by 10-15 year olds. They have elastic in the waist but this may have perished and need renewing.

Winnie Beer

6 Black sateen skirts with rows of coloured braiding at the bottom.

12 Green sateen skirts

13 Red sateen skirts

16 red waistcoats with black cord lacing some black belts also lace up.

8 cotton embroidered blouses

14 white or unbleached calico aprons, some have embroidery along the lower part

24 large red handkerchiefs with white spots for headkerchief or linking dances

2 skull caps

Folk dance records 78 & 45 rpm & large 33rpm English and some of SIFD.

Instruction books Morris, Sword and other English with music

Janet Douglas has transported these items as they are too heavy for posting and she may be able to arrange delivery. More information from Winnie Beer: 83, Devonshire Ave. Southsea, PO49EB. tel: 023 9287 6786 or Janet Douglas (see page 2)



For Sale

'Broadwood' Baby Grand Piano (serial no.255074) (Year – 1939) £2,850.

Hohnica 48 – Base Accordion with case £425

Tel: 01538 724681 (+ message answerphone)

Ruth J. Appelboom

Dance Tour to Armenia

Tineke Van Geel is organising another dance and sightseeing tour to Armenia in 2007. Having been to Armenia with Tineke in 2006, I can thoroughly recommend the tour – everything was well arranged and organised with a good mixture of dancing, music, culture, meeting people, sightseeing, shopping.....unforgettable.

Maureen Felton

Pajlak Sarkisian & Artur Sarkisian

May 26 – June 9 in 2007 Price: 1490 euros

Pajlak is well known as a teacher and choreographer. Artur is leader of the Salmast dance ensemble and will be our guest teacher for one day. They will offer a wide range of Armenian dances. Classes will be (average) 3 hours per day. A basic knowledge of dance steps is recommended.

Excursions will include the ancient temple of Garni, the impressive monasteries of Hagartsin, Noravank and Geghard, the religious centre Edsmiadzin and Zoratskar (Armenian Stonehenge). Non-dancing partners are welcome to join. During the dance classes a separate programme can be organized upon request.

The water resort of Lake Sevan (el. 2000 m.), the forests of Dilijan and Tsaghkadzor and the mountainous region of the Southeast will be included in our tours.

Special attention to the fascinating Armenian folk music, culture and costumes in guided tours, performances and village visit; and free time to do some exploration on your own.

Excursions and classes are in English.

Lodging: Yerevan State University Foreign Guest House in room with 2 single beds, shower/bath and toilet. Single room upon request .

One night lodging in Hotel Harsnaqar at the shore of Lake Sevan (during 2 days excursion). Two nights in Sisian (during 3 days excursion)

included: flight from Amsterdam/London/Frankfurt/Stuttgart/München or Zürich to Yerevan, transfers, breakfast and dinners (incl. mineral water/tea/coffee) , excursions and guide, dance classes, entrance fees, performances.

not included: lunch (for practical purposes some lunches will be included instead of a dinner), visa (upon arrival) and airport tax (upon departure), CD and videotape of the dances can be purchased on order. There is a surcharge of €150 for a single room (limited availability) contact:

Tineke van Geel: info@tinekevangeel.nl or tel: 0031 521 380 382



New Dance With the World Leaflets

I hope you'll be pleased to hear that (almost on schedule) an updated Dance With the World leaflet is now available. It has kept last year's successful format, but of course incorporates the latest information.

It lists all the groups and classes associated with and affiliated to the SIFD, and is very useful for handing out at demonstrations and displays, to anyone interested in joining a group or class, or wanting more information about the Society.

There is also a "Join Us!" leaflet available to encourage new members, which outlines the benefits of joining the Society, both for an individual or an affiliated group. We really need new members to keep the Society alive and healthy, so please consider distributing some of these.

If you would like some leaflets, please contact me: Alison Scrimshaw (Mrs.), 22 Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey. SM1 2SQ tel: 020 8642 3385.

Alison Scrimshaw

DOUDLEBSKA/LINEČKA POLKA
(Pro: LEENETSKER)

[A] (Intro: Last two bars)

The Czech name for this dance is Doudlebska but apparently at some time last century, possibly during one of the wars, the dance was taken by migratory workers to the town of Lienz in Austria. When the workers and the dance came home again it became known as the polka from Lienz or Linečka Polka.

Wilf Horrocks



Eastbourne Update

The 2007 Eastbourne festival leaflet is enclosed with this issue of the SIFD News. Regular festival goers will notice some changes; one change is to the afternoon workshops, but, there will be **two 70min. International afternoon workshops in the Gym and two in the Dance studio** on both Saturday and Sunday. One of these will be **The Ox dans** workshop which Ian Willson has kindly agreed to run on Saturday afternoon. So all you people who've heard about it can come and try it out – we (?? the men?) can do it again at the Saturday International Dance (in costume if possible).

By the way, the “international affair” referred to in the booking form is the Sunday Balkan Party, during which, Karolinka, a Polish group, will entertain us with a display.

Also in the booking form is a reference to accommodation rates; these have been negotiated through the Tourism & Planning Office, 68 Grove Rd., Eastbourne BN21 4UH or 01323 647130 or liz.attwell@eastbourne.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can contact Ray Goodswen at the Festival Office or myself (see page 2) for a list of participating hotels and prices.

The Langham Hotel is offering a separate deal for festival goers from, £45 – single and £70 – double, per night. Tel: 01323 731451

Another point raised is the need for stewards; our international dancers have always been very generous in volunteering to steward, so, fingers crossed, we count on that again (thankyou).

Which leads me to the organisation of the International side of the festival – **is there anyone out there who would like to join me as SIFD representative for 2008 ?** Contact me for details.

Janet Douglas

SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

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

Dec. 3rd MC Jill Bransby
Jan. 7th MCs The Committee



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- S.I. **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, & Serbia 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.2nd** **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.
- Dec 8th** **BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY.** Music by Dunav. £5 includes food & wine. 8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Details from Brian Dowsett 01992 582717 or bvdowsett@aol.com
- S.I. **Dec.9th** **A.G.M.** Cecil Sharp House. 1.00-2.30pm (and dancing 10.30-12, and 3.0-4.30pm)
- S.I. **Dec.9th** **BALKANPLUS** see page 7
- Dec.9th** **BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** see page 6
- Dec15th/17th** **DUNFORD DANCING AND WALKING WEEKEND** Midhurst. £120. contact: Dot Bradbury (Mrs.) tel. no. 020 8540 3464
- Dec. 29th** **TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY** at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, nr.Eastbourne 10.30am–5pm. (jnc. B2104/B2247) Cost£5. Bring-and-share dances and lunch. Enquiries: Rowena Martin 01323 503991 or RowenaHMartin@hotmail.com

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

Obituary

I regret to have to report the recent sad loss of Simon Owen, Welsh folk musician and husband of Marion who dances with Oxford Balkansko Oro, where Simon used to act as doorman at parties. They visited Koprivshitsa Festival last year as members of the BBFS tour.

Roger Wicksteed