

SIFD

MAY 2007

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509 www.sifd.org

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



The cover this month shows a young woman wearing a costume from Struga (the shoes are obviously not traditional), it was taken in Struga by John Douglas in 2005. This costume demonstrates the strong Turkish influence there was in this area of Macedonia.



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We have some lovely pictures for the front cover competition.

Right: Polish

more (in black and white) pages 9&10, the remainder in next issue. A big "Thank you" to all who sent me material.

They have already been on display in several places where people voted for their favourite.



I have also enlisted support from Claire Steeley to display them in the SIFD shop at Eastbourne, and I will take them to whichever other groups or events I can.

The coloured cover will front the September issue. Rest assured, I will not waste my new collection of photos—the runners-up will be front covers even if only as black and white issues.

Ed.



The SIFD AGM will be hosted by Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group at Grangewood Hall, Wollaton, Nottingham on Saturday 1/12/07.

An afternoon course of general international dances led by Marina Wolstenholme will commence at 1pm until 4pm. The AGM will commence at 4.30pm. There will be an evening dance commencing at 7pm until 9.45pm. The cost of the course will be £5, the evening dance £3 (a reduction of £1 for either the course or dance for SIFD members). There will be food available after the AGM. More information will be published in the coming months.

Enquiries 01332 701922 / 0115 9171831

Andrea Newbold



In the February issue of SIFD News there was a short notice about the Dvorana summer course of Czech and Moravian dancing in the Czech Republic. Since then quite a few people came to me and asked me about the country of my birth. Of course, I always praise the country and fully recommend a visit, for dancing or otherwise. There are many picturesque locations, many towns and cities have hundreds of years of history, and nowadays, it is easy to meet and speak to the locals as more and more people are learning English and some of them are quite fluent in their conversation.

They are keen to practice what they have learned, especially with native English speakers. If the conversation takes a queer turn, though, you must not think any worse of them, they have probably followed the Quick-and-Easy-English-in-50-Days course that was published a few months ago in the second biggest Czech daily *Lidové Noviny*.

Every lesson started with a dialogue, usually between two incoherent people, sometimes suffering from dementia or complete madness:

Emile: Is your girlfriend speaking to you again, Ben?

Ben: No, but I love reading poetry. I love cooking. I love everything.

Joe: What were you doing when Kennedy was shot, Grandad? (sic) Grandad: I remember it well. I was washing my hair and shaving my legs.

In order to make their English conversation flow naturally, it is very important for foreigners to master phrasal verbs. Thus in every lesson three or four such verbs were introduced and practiced in a sentence:

keep away from Roger tries to keep away from angry old women with hard

leather handbags.

get over It took Barney seven years to get over Doris after she

left him for the Hawaiian monk.

be into George's grandmother is into heavy metal and body piercing.

take up Lisa wants to take up the art of telepathic communication with donkeys.

No less useful, I am sure, was the section called "Useful phrases". I am convinced the following phrases can spice up any conversation:

You walk with your legs.

You must not pull the tigers' tails.

We don't like eating horses for breakfast.

The crazy look in her eyes frightened him to death.

Keep calm and be cool. This is a robbery!

It didn't say but I am pretty sure it was an armed robbery, judging by an example of present continuous tense in lesson 8: I am depending on you to shoot him for me. Though he (whoever he was) probably was not very keen on shooting and if he waited till lesson 29 he could practice the verbs of necessity by asking: Do we really have to shoot him?

My stay in Prague at that time was not long enough to follow the whole course but I presume most of the language material was fairly non-violent and pretty tame. There was practically no sex, either, though a case of transvestism cropped up in lesson 30: *Bob really shouldn't wear a dress to work.* Also, there was a case of two children discussing apparent adultery between their parents: *Do you think my Mom and your Dad should have one more child?*

It was not exactly *la plume de ma tante* course but I am glad I could learn my English from rather different textbooks. Or am I? Indeed, when I started learning English the textbooks were very different. It was in the early 50s of the last century (yes, I am that old!), the only language books approved in Czechoslovakia at that time were published in the Soviet Union. So when I was eleven I could faultlessly exclaim: *Long live the Great October Socialist Revolution, long live the great leader Jossif Vissarionovich Stalin!*

Hope to see some of you in Prague in August. If you'd like more information on the Dvorana course, here again are the details: you can log on www.dvorana.cz , e-mail them on dvorana@dvorana.cz , phone them on +420-235 318 279, or write to them at Dvorana, Spanielova 1275/38, 163 00 Prague 6, Czech Republic.

Long live Dvorana! Long live folk dancing!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jun.1**st/3rd **SIFD W.MIDS BRANCH WEEKEND** at Willersley Castle, Cromford near Matlock, Derbys with Marina Wolstenholme and Jill Bransby. Cost £120 per person in ensuite rooms. Still a few places available, but sorry no single rooms left! For more information contact Maggie Kaye. Contact details on page 2.
- S.I Jun.2nd MERTON PARK IFDG GENERAL INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP and TEA DANCE at St Mary's Church hall, Church Lane, Merton Park, London W19. Saturday Workshop 10.30am to 2.45pm (tea, coffee & squash available all day; bring your own packed lunch). Tea Dance 3.00 5.30 pm including cream tea. Whole day £7.00, Tea Dance only £3.50 Ring Phil or Brenda Steventon on 020 8397 9649
- S.I Jun.9th SIFD DAY COURSE see page 6
- S.I Jun.9th BALKANPLUS MC Frank Dowling with Zivko Firfov Group and Dunav
- S.I **Jun.10**th **SIFD W. MIDS COTSWOLDS DANCE SAFARI**. Starting at 11.00am at Moreton-in-Marsh (in the main street car park near the war memorial), then from 12.30 onwards at Swalcliffe, near Banbury. Village hall booked for lunch and dancing in the afternoon outside the Barn. Details from Maggie Kaye. Contact details on page 2
- S.I **Jul.13**th/15th WILLINGDON IFDG's MINI FESTIVAL at Stafford House, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. Shared leading of International Folk and Circle Dances, also English caller and a singing class. Full board £132 (no supplement for a single room). SAE to Rowena Martin for booking form, 60, Anderida Road, Eastbourne, BN22 0PZ
 - **Aug. 4th/11th ANGLO-GERMAN FOLK WEEK** Halsway Manor, Crowcombe, Taunton, Somerset. £285 per person. Tel:01984 618274 or email: office@halswaymanor.org.uk
 - Aug 25th /Sep 1st ONE WEEK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE COURSE led by Phil & Brenda Steventon En-suite room still available !! at HF Holidays, Derwentwater, Lake District. For HF details ring 020 8905 9388 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Sep. 8th/9th VENTZI SOTIROV** Cecil Sharp House. Sat. workshop £15, Sat. workshop and evening Dance £20, (MC Maddy & John + Dunav) Sun. workshop £12, w/e £30. SAE and chq. payable to Balkanplus to: Mrs Sally Humphrey, The Big Barn, Old Farm, Horspath, Oxfordshire OX33 1HZ Tel. 01865 873860 sally_humphrey@onetel.net
- S.I Sep. 15th BULGARIAN WORKSHOP WITH VENTZI SOTIROV. 11am-5pm St.Ninian's U. R. Church Hall. Egerton Rd. South, Chorlton, Manchester. Evening Balkan Dance 7pm-10pm. £12 or £10 SIFD members (please make cheques payable to:-Barlow IFDG) return to J. Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Rd. Aspull, nr.Wigan WN2 1EF + S.A.E. further enquiries 01942 831141
- S.I Oct. 26th/29th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF BULGARIAN FOLK DANCE with Yves Moreau at Malhamdale, Yorkshire Dales. Comfortable ensuite accommodation, full-board, indoor swimming pool. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Excellent area for walking or sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation (3 nights) £190. Single course £26, both courses £46. 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.

Events covered by SIFD insurance are marked S.I. Please remember that the onus is on <u>you</u> to mark each event when sending in the notice if your event is covered by our insurance.



SIFD Day Course

At: Cecil Sharp House On: Saturday June 9th

Time: 10.30 am -- 4.30 pm

Cost: £6 SIFD members, £8 non-members

Tutor: Frank Dowling Subject: Serbian Dances

There is no SIFD Day Course in May

Pam Radford



Serbian Day Course

Serbian dances are by nature short and, once a basic step vocabulary has been learned, relatively easy, making them rather uninteresting for the "sophisticated" tastes of many folk dancers today. However, many have great charm in step sequence and/or music and I shall endeavour to present some of these dances on this day course. Because most Serbian dances tend to be rather short, the danger is in trying to present too many dances in one day!! I promise that I will resist that temptation and concentrate instead on the subtleties of styles from the various regions of the country. Many of the dances will be new to SIFD dancers but, if time allows, it won't do us any harm to brush up on some of the old repertoire!! Remember to bring a belt.

In case anyone is interested I shall be MCing the Balkan Plus dance that evening and will include several of the day's dances in my program, hopefully dancing them to the live strains of the Dunav band! And continuing the theme of the day, some members of the Zivko Firfov group have also agreed to turn up wearing costumes from the various regions of Serbia.

Frank Dowling



May Balkanplus

The May Balkanplus will be held on the 12th May 2007 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. We welcome for the evening MC Julian Sinton with music from Vupros Balkan Group. Admission £7.

Maureen Felton

Teskova or Teshkoto?

To avoid confusion when I talk about Macedonia I am referring to the autonomous republic of the former Jugoslavia. I have Anglicised names to get around the problem of pronunciation. There have been many attempts to unite the Macedonian people as a single state without success, but this is another story.

When I saw the cover of the February NEWS I thought that it represented the epic men's dance Teshkoto, but the costumes were not right and the drum was too small! Teshkoto (the heavy or sad dance) comes from a group of Macedonian villages high up in the Bistra mountains in the northwest on the Albanian frontier. A very remote, but magical place with wonderful views of the mountain tops. I first visited the village of Galichnik in 1957. The people are of the Mijak tribe which has its origins in one of the Albanian tribes, the Ghegs. But their language and their costumes are Macedonian. Their costumes have a direct Albanian link.

Teshkoto is one of several epic dances performed by the men, the dances belong to the Western part of Macedonia which has a predominately Shiptar population (Shiptar is Albanian for Albanian). The disputed region of Kosovo in Serbia also has a predominant population, but here the dances in the Rugovo area have a marked Albanian flavour. The men wear (or wore) a distinctive black and white costume with trousers of a very complicated constuction. Made of heavy felted homemade material, seams oversewn with bands of black braid, they have a frontal flap and are worn tightly secured over the hips. In some areas but predominately in Albania there is a colourful embroidered decoration over each hip at the top. In Kosovo around Rugovo and Pec a long sleeved jacket is worn, again with braided seams and with the seams open and hanging at the back. There is also a white skullcap which is covered with a silk turban on festive occasions, when a sword and pistol are also tucked into a double silk sash worn around the waist. The Zivko Firfov group have a complete specimen formerly belonging to David Swanton who purchased it in Pec in the 1970s, made to fit in a few hours!

The other major Albanian group are the Tosks where the men wore calf length, very full pleated skirts. The influence of this garment spread into Greece. I have a book published in 1915 called "Balkan Home Life" by Lucy M.J.Garnet which contains a photograph of Moslem Albanians (there were also Christian Albanians) taken in Salonika. The multipleated overgarment, which had usually around 22 pleats can be found in a lesser form in other parts of Macedonia. What were Albanians doing in Greece? Many joined the Turkish army and travelled around. Are the kilts worn by the guards at the former royal palace in Athens a direct descendant?

Another of the rather "unusual" English ladies who were around in the Balkans at the turn of the 18/19 centuries was Maud Adith Durham who published several books. I have a copy of her "High Albania" published in 1909. She describes her travels, usually with an armed escort from one village to another. Her collection of Albanian costumes, including some from places now in Macedonia, is considered superior to that in the Albanian national collection in Tirana. The Durham collection can be seen by arrangement (not all the collection is on display) at the Bankfield Museum, Halifax. She also wrote "Through the land of the Serbs", published in 1904. Another interesting book is by the novelist Rebecca West on her travels through Jugoslavia in 1937 (published in 1941), and "Peasant Life in Jugoslavia" by Olive Lodge, a tutor at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

continued→

Written before the Second World War it is an interesting account of life, especially Macedonia (then known as South Serbia) at that time. It paints a picture of a very different pre-war Jugoslavia. It was published in 1942. There is an interesting historical link here. While on a visit to Skopje in the early 1960s, Dr. Anne Pennington, a language tutor at Lady Margaret Hall, visited Zivko Firfov and he gave her details about the group and myself. This led to a visit to Balkansko in Oxford, a group specialising in Serbian dances and with close links with the Oxford Serbian community, which was organised by Anne and Dimitri Feary, to teach some Macedonian dances. This started a long relationship between the two groups, and initially the group visited every year and stayed at Lady Margaret Hall, eating at high table and dancing in a very fine hall. We obtained some of our Serbian dances in this way.

However back to Teshkoto. This dance, apart from its performance at weddings and other festive occasions had a sadder significance. Because of the harshness of life in the mountains groups of men used to leave and travel to Europe and even America, and they sent back money to their families. They were called "pechalbari", and before they left home they would dance Teshkoto.

Ken Ward (to be continued)



Teskova or Teshkoto? The Answer?

As I am the artist (!) who produced the February News cover (a colouring-in picture for my youngest dancers). I will try to explain some of Ken's puzzle. Perhaps it is a case of different transliteration and perhaps Teskova is Teshkoto.

The inspired lead dancer that I saw perform Teskova (on a drum that size) was Radojica Kuzmanovic - the director and lead solo dancer of the Serbian state folk ensemble "Kolo". I double checked the name of the dance with Ibrahim Rizevski and Vladimir Janevski - both of whom are ex-dancers from the Macedonian State Folkdance Ensemble "Tanec", and both were also dancing Teskova behind Radojica.

The musicians were wearing felt trousers with braid over the seams that sound similar to Ken's description. However, as Radojica was not in costume, I "put" him into Macedonian costume (Yes, probably from the wrong region but more authentic than jeans and teeshirt) What I can tell you is that never, in all my life have I seen anything that can compare with the spellbinding performance we witnessed that night.

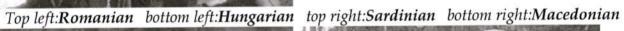
Janet Douglas



A preview of competition photographs



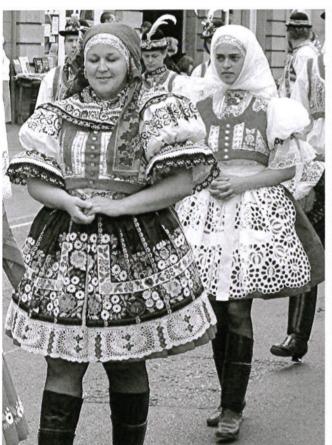






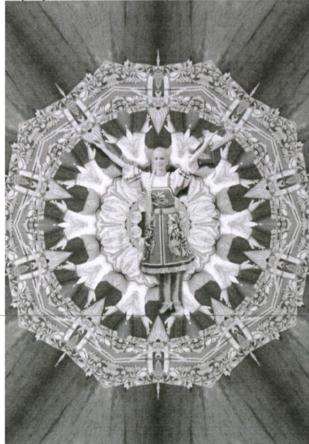


A preview of the competition photographs





top left:Czech bottom left: Russian motif top right:Bulgarian Kukeri bottom right:Sardinian





Black and white does not do justice to these pictures – all have vibrant and varied colours.

Ed.

In response to requests, here is the first of a rerun of a series of articles first published in the SIFD News in 1986:

Ed.



Danish Regional Dances

Written by Gaye Saunte in 1986

Lack of transport and the danger of travelling out of the villages, through woods occupied by robbers and highwaymen is one of the main reasons for the variety of style of dance, folk-dress and music of Denmark. Yet amazingly, the types of dances are the same throughout the country. This includes the island of Bornholm which lies in the Baltic, much closer to the S.E. coast of Sweden than to Denmark.

The dances are always partner dances, from those danced progressively, (which are usually recognizable by the inclusion of the word 'family' in the title), to: longways, square sets, dances for two couples, those for one man, two women, a few with 6 couples, 8 couples, some dances for men only and one dance for women only – at least, the only one I've managed to unearth.

It's been my experience that the liveliness of the style has depended largely on the agility (not necessarily the youth) of the assembled dancers, although some regions have very lively music and consequently lively dances. The steps are mainly variations and combinations of walking, step-hops, running, chasse (a polka step without much hop, usually danced forwards or backwards), polka, galop (a fast lively polka), mazurka, tyrolean steps, 'hopsa' and waltz. There are more complicated steps such as the minuet step, two-step, hornpipe, 'tinker-step', and the 'hambo'-type step (with variations).

One of the enchanting things about the regional dances of Denmark is the variety of names. Some amusing ones are "The pig fell and broke its thigh", "Round about and straight home", "Father and mother went to market", "Leg out in the garden" and "Kick up the rump".

Badge dances aside, there are many popular dances from a choice of six hundred or so that one could choose for a day course, or evening dance. A varied choice would be "Gamle Famielievals", "Polsk Dans" both circle couple dances, a set dance for three couples such as "Trekantet Sløjfe" (meaning three-cornered bow, as in ribbon), and longways dances, "Hans Rasmussens Vals", and "Engelsk Dans". Finally, square dances for 4 couples such as "Sekstur 2" and Midsommer Nats Drøm".

The most common accompaniment throughout the country is the violin, but many instruments are used and musicians seem to be delightfully abundant in the groups that I've met.



Letters to the Editor

A quick CONGRATULATIONS!

It was a lovely afternoon 4pm - 7pm Sunday. My little grandchildren enjoyed it no end. Trust the experiment will be repeated - how about once a month? BUT would it be possible to have a totally child-orientated first half hour specifically for children - NOT teaching dances as such, but basic steps, listening and moving to ethnic music?? I should like to see someone with an appropriate, experienced background like Anne Leach doing it (if she could squeeze it in and would be kind enough). The programme was nicely varied and did include a few more followable ones, easy for the kids. Huge thanks to everyone involved. Super!

Incidentally I was amazed at little Tiola (a weeny 6 year old)'s recall, back at home regaling her parents with the wonderful day they'd had with Auntie Sula and `Grandee' (including wandering along the towpath and seeing the animals through the bars and playing in the park - glad all that didn't wear them out for the afternoon!) She accurately described her favourite dances with their pattern and steps. (I wish I could do that reliably).

So YES a great idea and it is the youngsters we need hooked and able and ready to carry the torch isn't it? I also remember with great affection those wonderful times along the Embankment somewhere when Joan Guest in particular led a fun packed child-only afternoon (plus accompanying adult of course) where Finn and Sula started. It did lead to Finn and his dad doing the beginners week at Swansea while Sula and I (both already well established members of the Lykion Performing Group) followed the more advanced course with our dear friend and wonderful teacher Natassa (now Lemos) at one of Jack's fantastic non pareil 'Swanseas', when the family 'camped' in our autohome to make it affordable!! (Bless you Jack.)

Oh and thanks so much to the lovely people in the progressive circle welcoming little Tiola all the way round (Initially invited by Naren's friend, Soraya). Her little beaming face said it all - pure, delirious enjoyment. We'd been dancing with them outside the progressive and set dances, just in case they `mucked it up', but maybe we needn't have been quite so cautious.

Again thanks all round, I shall certainly be `watching this space' hoping for a repeat.

Diki Gleeson



SIFD Sunday Dance

The earlier timing of the April Sunday Dance at CSH prompted us to attend for the first time in years. It was most pleasing to see so many children there.

We very much appreciated the brief walking-through of the dances, as apparently did a significant proportion of the large crowd of dancers present. The walking-through could well be a deciding factor for the less-experienced dancer's attendance.

We hope, very much, that the 4pm start will become the established norm.

John and Pat Watling

Dale Hyde

The Canadians are coming! I opened the Newsletter to see a notice about courses with both Yves Moreau and Dale Hyde.

Last evening I attended an excellent course on British Isles Dances with Dale and am sorry to be missing another next week on Leadership - teaching.

He told me that his visit to Europe this summer revolves around a family wedding. It now seems that the happy couple have moved their festivities to autumn but have not yet decided upon a date. Dale will not be in the UK in July but more likely September or October. He will let us know when the decision has been made!

Dorothy Sloan



Kinnersley Spring Festival

Kinnersley Spring Festival of European (and other) music and dance, 25th - 30th May. (Kinnersley Castle is in Herefordshire, and Hereford is the nearest major town.)

Dance workshops in Renaissance, Tango, Appalachian, Contra, Breton, Swedish, Berry, Basque, etc. Also music workshops and concerts/bals.

Details from http://e.made.free.fr or 0151 644 8560

Richard Mellish



Embankment Gardens 2007

Continuing the Society's tradition of staging a summer season of international folk dance at the Embankment Gardens Theatre. The Hungarian Balaton group will perform there on Sunday June 3rd, followed by Doina with Eastern European dances on Saturday June 23rd. The Bognor Regis group will be there with general international dances on July 21st; But please note this has not yet been confirmed.

If any other group wants to appear, write to **George Sweetland**, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London, SE5 0TQ, with the date they would like to appear, with an alternative if possible, and with the starting time. An ideal length of performance is around 90/100 minutes with a short interval, but don't worry if you can't manage that.



Tcherkessia Kfula Israel



Wilf Horrocks



Re Tcherkessia Kfula

Ex-members of Harrow Green Group will have fond memories of this dance. As it is a line dance, led by the first person on the line (moving to the left), we were fortunate to have Mourrie Pfeffer who led the dance while playing the music on his mouth-organ held in his right hand, so we were able to dance it impromptu at any venue as long as Mourrie was with us and his harmonica in his pocket - at a group picnic, on the beach, at Youth Hostels, while waiting for a train or a 'bus on a group outing, anywhere we were waiting for something to happen. We danced it with enthusiasm and energy. We were keen then - and young!

(The dance instructions, along with the music, are printed in the SIFD book "A Selection of European Folk Dances, Volume 3").

Lily Avery



NB The June issue will have the music for **Moldavenyáska** from Moldavia. Please send in any details about Moldavenyáska that you know of, ie., its origins, steps and associated information (including whether or not it is still danced).

Ed.

SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

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

May 13th 7-10pm MCs: Steve & Joy Steventon

June 3rd 7-10pm MC: Anne Leach



WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- S.I May 4th/7th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL with Jan Knoppers, Richard van der Kooij, Hennie Konings, Dutch Dip, Clyde Olliver, Mike Machin, Ian Willson, Helena Benge (flamenca workshop and display), Karolinka (Polish Dancers) Fri., Sat. and Sun. Evening Dances. Booking office: 01278 424332 or 07970 436337
- S.I May 4th/7th (8th) SIFD LONG BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND at HALSWAY MANOR, on the edge of the Quantocks and near the north Somerset and Devonshire coast and Exmoor. A full-day outing to the coast or Exmoor. Inclusive cost about £160 for 3 nights with supplements for the 4th night or en-suite bedrooms. Enquiries: Gordon Adie, 35 Royal Crescent, Exeter. EX2 7QT. (tel:01392 362788) or further details from Jack Richardson 01792 403153
- S.I May 12th BALKANPLUS see page 6
- S.I May 12th INTERNATIONAL DANCE WORKSHOP with the Bristol International Folk Dance Group. Led by Maggie O'Regan. Venue: St.Ursula's School. Brecon Road, Henleaze, Bristol. Time: 11am to 5pm with a lunch break, bring your own lunch. Cost: £7 or £6 for SIFD members. For further details tel. 0117 9683974 or 0117 9621802
- S.I May 19th WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP. An evening of international folk dancing to be held in the Village Hall at Borough Green, Kent. 7.30pm 11.00pm. Tickets £6.00 including a hot supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses. More details and tickets available from Alan Cant 01732 883405.



All material for the June issue of **SIFD NEWS** must be received by the Editor **IN WRITING** by 17thMay; emails by 16th May. Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people, places and dances, unless typewritten.