

# SIFD NEWS



October 2007

# SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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



Chris Gill took the cover photo of "beautiful Armenian dancers" (*Dalila is first on the right*) at Dance around the World. He is a member of Jelenka, (North Norfolk Balkan Dance) and "has been enjoying dancing under the leadership and good teaching of Dawn Wakefield as well as being a regular at the Norwich weekly group". He has enjoyed weekend workshops in Manchester, Malhamdale, (with Yves Moreau) and in the Lake District and a class Brian Dowsett gave in Hempton last December. Quote: "a whole new life is opening up".

The motif this month is drawn from the same photo of Akhtamar.



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When people ask where I live, they invariably laugh when I say "Bognor Regis".

Why?

If I meet another Brit abroad, yes.... they know all about **Bognor**...ha.ha... and any foreigner listening wonders why he hasn't heard of it before! To some, Bognor is synonymous with Butlins; twice this month I have danced there as an 'expert' with hapless competitors attempting to replicate the dances. First, *at six o'clock in the morning*, in my 16th century style English frock to dance for GMTV with Keith Chegwin tripping over my skirts. It was windy and cold - whatever happened to August? I was asked to coach a new team, but as the purpose of the show was to make fun of the contestants, our efforts were hampered by all the clowning around (Bognor also being 'Clown Town'). The second visit was to dance in 'The Generation Game' show: sixteen of us danced Vira das Cavacas and Fyrmanna Schottische. We chose Vira das Cavacas because "it looks difficult, but is easy" and Fyrmanna Schottische because "it looks easy, but is difficult" (there are some fiendish girls in the group). That should be the last display engagement this year, which has been very busy mostly because of our very successful website. We are now looking forward to Dalila's visit in November: bringing grace and elegance to complement our other name - **Regis**.

**Ed.**



### Dance Around The World

Once again we have the opportunity to discover just how much international folk dance there actually is in London on the week-end of 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October at Cecil Sharp House. Many SIFD members have already made this one of their favourite annual events, but for those who haven't yet discovered it, I would strongly recommend making a visit this year. You can, if you really wish, just sit in Kennedy Hall all day, watching the non-stop performances (over 30 groups this year). As always there is a wonderfully eclectic mix: the Flamenco children, with their most un-English attack and passion, the exuberant Turkish Cypriot teenagers, the polished young adult groups from Slovakia and Bulgaria, not to mention the OAPs from South Africa who more than make up for any lessening of energy with their style, humour and panache!

Of course, to sit in Kennedy all day is to waste the opportunity to try your hand at something different, by attending one of the non-stop workshops downstairs in Storrow and Trefusis, and you can round the day off with the social dance in the evening (Sat) or the Latin-American Carnival (Sun).

Once again, this year, there will be music workshops in the Marquee, in the grounds. The cost for a whole day (including evening) is £10 (concessions £9) or £6 evening only. Children go free. You can book in advance through the website - slightly cheaper! Further information can be obtained from the website, [www.datw.org.uk](http://www.datw.org.uk) or by e-mailing [danceoffice@waitrose.com](mailto:danceoffice@waitrose.com). Tel. 07749 007040 or 020 8340 4683.

**Maggie O'Regan**



### October Balkanplus

The October Balkanplus will be held on the 20th October 2007 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. Brian Dowsett will be the MC with special guests Katia and Rosie from Rhodope (Bulgaria) who will introduce some of the beautiful - and typically easy - dances from their region. Admission £5.

This Balkanplus coincides with a day of activity at Cecil Sharp House in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the English Folk Song and Dance Society. We are in discussion with the organiser about additional involvement, but Katia and Rosie are expecting to teach dances to the general public in the afternoon. For up-to-date information, consult the EFDSS website [www.EFDSS.org](http://www.EFDSS.org) or contact Brian on 01992 582717 or e-mail [balkanplus@aol.com](mailto:balkanplus@aol.com)

**Maureen Felton**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> TRADITIONAL GREEK DANCE** Lykion Ton Hellinidon. 7pm Queen's Theatre. Shaftsbury Ave. London W1.

**Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> KLEZMER KLUB** (Klezmer and Eastern European song and dance tunes) Cellar Upstairs Folk Club. Exmouth Arms. London NW1 2HR . 8.15pm. £6 tel: 020 7281 7700

S.I **Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 12

S.I **Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> ARMENIAN DANCE DAY** with Dalila Heath at Barnham Village Hall, near Bognor Regis. 10.30am-5pm. £10 SIFD members. £14 non-members. Details: Janet Douglas 01243 265010, or email dalila@interfolk.co.uk

S.I **Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Julie Korth. Please note that this is the 3rd Saturday in November

S.I **Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> SIFD AGM:** Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group at Grangewood Hall, Wollaton, Nottingham. General International Dances led by Marina Wolstenholme 1pm - 4pm, followed by AGM at 4.30. Evening Dance 7pm-9.45pm with live music. Cost: Course £5. Dance £3. (concessions SIFD Members and combined tickets). Details 01332 701922/0115 9171831.

S.I **Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP BALKAN PARTY** -7pm-10.30pm. Dances from former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. admission £7 including refreshments at St. Albans Centre, Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens, London. EC1N 7RD. Nearest tube station: Chancery Lane and Farringdon. Tickets from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Ave. Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD tel. 0208 592 4427. admission by ticket only. (tickets limited. s.a.e. please)

S.I **Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> DUNFORD WEEKEND** see page 12

S.I **Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> WILLINGDON IFDG TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY.** Stone Cross Memorial Hall, Nr. Eastbourne; 10.30 - 4.30., £5 Come and share dances: International, English, Circle, anything really! Shared lunch, drinks provided. Info 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com

**Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE COURSE WITH HENNIE KONINGS** for people with a special interest in exploring Russian dance in more depth. At ISTD2, 346 Old Street. Advance booking essential. £70 for the weekend. Contact Janet Wilks 0207 229 9387, janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk

S.I **Apr. 4/7<sup>th</sup> RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ARMENIAN FOLK DANCE** with Tineke Van Geel 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) £189. 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.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL** a wide selection of events including Italian - Cristina Casarini, Greek - Angie Saravelaki, Flamenco - Helena Bengé, and Ian Willson. Fri., Sat. and Sun. Evening Dances. Booking office: 01278 424332 or 07970 436337

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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.

## Back to the future International Musical Eisteddfod 1943 - 2007

In the August issue, I noted that the received history of the Eisteddfod was incorrect, and how this came about. I also added that I would pass on to members the story as so kindly given to me in a letter by Mr. Gethin Davies, a past Chairman. I also discovered that Roy Clarke had purchased a book at the Eisteddfod some years ago which gave some additional details.

In 1943, Mr. Harold Tudor, a journalist working for the Liverpool Daily Post was approached by the British Council, knowing that he was already interested in the folk cultures of countries then under Nazi rule. He was asked if he would act as host to a group of representatives from several European countries and assist them in a visit to that year's National Eisteddfod at Bangor. After the formal activities were over, each of the representatives gave a short speech in their own language, followed by a translation into Welsh. They were warmly received by the audience and Mr. Tudor was prompted into wondering what could be done in the future to promote peace and friendship among nations.

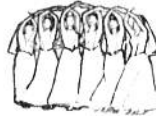
After the War, Mr. Tudor contacted the Council of the National Eisteddfod and suggested the 1947 event should have one day devoted to choirs from all countries, but the Council believing that the 'National' was for Welsh culture, turned the idea down. Mr. Tudor knew Mr. Gwynn Williams as an experienced musician and composer and suggested they should cooperate in promoting this proposal. Gwynn Williams, while having initially some doubts about its feasibility, soon gave it his total support. The two men then considered various venues in Wales, but the constant problem was that none had a building suitable to accommodate such an event. Mr. Gwynn Williams then recalled that on a visit to Anglesey he noticed that the local Eisteddfod was held in a large marquee which had been made from war surplus materials, so, on talking to the Chairman of the Llangollen Council and arranging for a special Council meeting, they were able to suggest to them that the International Eisteddfod could be held in this marquee. When it was realised that it could be erected on the Recreation Field, by a majority vote the idea was given the go ahead. Mr. George Northing, the Chairman gave the two men his enthusiastic support and with Mr. Gwynn Williams' wide experience of Eisteddfod organisation by the summer of 1947 all was ready. The first International Eisteddfod made a profit of £2000, a tidy sum then, which was invested in the planning for 1948. While there was no folk dance competition in 1947, there were a number of dance groups present, and their popularity ensured there would be official Competitions the next year.

*This photo of Lily Avery and George Sweetland was taken at the last Eisteddfod to be held in the old marquee, before it was replaced by the present pavilion. Note the Press 'desks' - by then very rickety tables, but still useful for notebooks etc. - something we don't have now.*



Since then there have been many changes, including the building of the Royal Pavilion, a wonderful British compromise combining the friendliness of the original marquee and the efficiency of a permanent base. The ideals laid down by Harold Tudor and W. S. Gwynn Williams of promoting peace and friendship throughout the world has been maintained as has their encouragement of true folk culture. For the new Dance Competitions, Violet Alford and Lucile Armstrong, an early supporter of the S.I.F.D. helped to define the rules governing that section. Soon after the first Eisteddfod, Harold Tudor moved away from the area although recently his two sons have visited the Eisteddfod on its present site. The good work was carried on by W. S. Gwynn Williams, as Music Director until his retirement in 1976. Both Llangollen and those involved in bringing folk dance and music to the public have much to thank these men for. It is curious that both the International Eisteddfod and the Society owe their foundation to the presence in Britain of wartime refugees who had knowledge of their own countries folk customs.

**George Sweetland**



### **SIFD Insurance**

Those clubs who are insured under the SIFD's insurance should have received their letters for renewal from 4 Oct. 2007. If not please contact me immediately. If your club is not currently covered by inclusion on the SIFD's policy I strongly recommend that the committee gives consideration to being added. Hall owners now insist that any user must have their own Public Liability cover otherwise use of the hall could well be refused. The cost is £25 per year or part thereof. The limit of indemnity is £5M. You would be unable to find a better deal elsewhere. The only condition is that the club is a member of the SIFD, so if you belong to club who is not insured please join and then take up the insurance offer, as well.

Also the insurer will include All Risk cover for the clubs equipment, records, tapes, cds and costumes etc. The policy has a very competitive rate. I am able to supply a quotation on request. All I need, initially, is a total sum insured (new-for-old cost) and can quote over the phone very quickly. On inception of the cover a full list of items will be required. R S Thom Insurance Brokers Ltd. 23 Haycroft Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 3JL  
Tel & fax: 01438 316651

**Richard S. Thom**



### **A Day of Swedish Dance and Music**

Saturday November 3

Ingegard Vejvi with Bjorn Fredriksson from Småland will be teaching a workshop on Swedish dance at Cecil Sharp House, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. At the same time there will be a fiddle workshop taught by Pelle Björnlert. Anyone interested in the fiddle workshop should contact Tania Simon, 020 8341 1454. In the evening starting at 7:45, there will be a music concert with some dancing, followed by a general dance. Some of the music for the dance will be provided by the participants at the fiddle workshop. A short workshop from 6:30 to 7:30 will precede the concert. The one hour workshop is to give some brief instruction for anyone who could not be at the workshop during the day.

The workshop during the day will concentrate primarily on Slängpolska, as it will be tunes of this sort that will be largely taught at the fiddle workshops. Slängpolska is one of the traditional dances of Sweden in which the dancers "freestyle" - improvising sequences of standard figures. It is, however, readily accessible, having a relaxed and graceful style. It is really a charming dance to do and to watch. On 3 November you can learn Slängpolska from expert teachers from Småland in southern Sweden, an area closely associated with Slängpolska.

The cost will be £8 for the day workshop, £5 for the evening concert, including the workshop and dance, and £12 for the combined programme (£10 for Scandia members).

**Caspar Cronk**

## Half A Century Ago....

In June the National Film Theatre in collaboration with the Society for Dance Research screened four programmes of ballet films made for BBC television by Margaret Dale 1957-1966. One was her 1957 version of the ballet *Coppélia* condensed into fifty minutes and very much adapted to appeal to the general public. So the entire third act was omitted, it being by way of an epilogue to the story already told in the first two acts. From these most of the classical dancing and classical mime were also omitted, only keeping in Swanilda's first solo for Nadia Nerina to open the ballet.

When the dancers came on screen for the mazurka I could hardly believe my eyes, to see them wearing the very recognizable costumes of the old Opoczno Group and in an unlikely mixture that was also strangely familiar: the girls in dresses from the Opoczno region and the boys in Krakowski outfits. A little later there was a close-up shot of the onlookers including the unmistakable face of Irene Fyffe, followed soon after by a full-length shot of Irene alone walking across the screen and looking back over her shoulder. (For those readers to whom the name is unknown it should be explained that Irene was a founder member of the SIFD, for many years its Demonstration Secretary and an enthusiastic early editor of SIFD News - so enthusiastic that she actually wrote most of the articles herself for want of members' contributions.)

The next dance number in the ballet is usually a *pas de deux* for Swanilda and Franz, known as the *Corn Adage*, and there was a beautifully subtle allusion to its omission in having Swanilda casually pick up a single ear of corn as she passed. Then came Swanilda's friends dressed not in the usual ballet skirts and pointe shoes but in more of the Opoczno Group's costumes, this time the Krakowski ones to match the boys and with proper lace-up Polish boots, so choreography had been devised more suitable for their apparel. A livelier part of the music of this friends' ensemble dance was used to insert a virtuoso solo for Donald Britton as Franz. The production, part of the BBC Television Service's twenty-first anniversary celebrations, was transmitted live with a short pre-filmed interlude to cover a change of scene, and then a repeat showing was transmitted a few months later. At the end of the film "Opoczno Polish Group" was included among the last of the credits.

George Sweetland wrote briefly about the Opoczno Group in the Society's booklet of 1986. Some more details may be gleaned from the minutes of meetings of the Society's Committee at that time. In March 1957 it was reported that: "a new Polish Group is also proposed [i.e. in addition to the recently formed Iberian Group of Margaret Harris and the Hungarian Group of John Ungar] under Kostek Siemaszko and subsidized for up to £12 until the end of August". In September that year it was reported that: "the Polish Group is now called Opoczno". Margaret Dale's *Coppélia* was transmitted on 27 October, with no mention made of it in the minutes, and on 17 November the Opoczno Group represented Poland in the Society's *See How They Dance* at the Royal Albert Hall replacing the Polish YMCA group who had done so in the shows of the preceding years. In June 1958 we read: "The chairman of Opoczno has applied for affiliation", but in that September: "Opoczno objected to their being included in the three-monthly programme [a listing of SIFD classes] as an affiliated group" and, the following September: "Opoczno, now in liquidation, have donated their costumes to the SIFD".

So the Opoczno Group enjoyed a very short existence, but at such a very opportune time. Irene's brother, Bert Price (a supremely important figure in the Society's history and at that time in the middle of his first chairmanship) was approached personally by Margaret Dale for advice on her proposed *Coppélia*, in which she wished to put more emphasis on folk dance than classical ballet. Bert had always been a keen champion of Polish dance and was of course a member of the Opoczno Group, whose services - and costumes - he offered. The Group's costumes were worn by the professional dancers engaged (including Gerd Larsen, Gillian Lynne and Peter Wright) while the Group's members provided the crowd of onlookers wearing less showy peasant costume. Had Margaret Dale been an acquaintance of John Ungar rather than of Bert, perhaps the folk element in her production would have been Hungarian rather than Polish, and not unfittingly in view of the czardas also danced in it.

As George wrote in his history but lacking mention in the Society's Committee Meeting minutes, the leader and driving force of the Group was Jōsef (familiarily Ziutek) Walczak, a former classical ballet dancer and member of the Anglo-Polish Ballet. It was he who arranged the folk choreography in *Coppélia*, including Franz's solo mentioned above. His position, however, as a defecting Pole obliged him to keep a low profile and so his name did not appear in the credits, which claimed: "additional choreography by Margaret Dale". The programmes of the 1957 and earlier *See How They Dance* shows name our patrons for these productions as Margot Fonteyn and Cyril Beaumont, but for shows of subsequent years Margaret Dale joined them as a third patron, presumably as a result of this collaboration over *Coppelia*.



It is a little surprising that Ziutek sanctioned the mixture of costumes from two very different regions of Poland, being quite an authority on such matters. In fact when after the break up of Opoczno he was asked to start a regular Polish class for the Society he offered also to teach a weekly class on costume. Perhaps the BBC could not afford the expense of kitting out the dancers in a whole new set of costumes and had to make do with what the Group could provide. Ziutek's new SIFD Polish group used the Opoczno Group's costumes for performances, including two *See How They Dance* shows, but all in Opoczinski for one and all in Krakowski for the other. Betty Harvey's subsequent SIFD Polish group inherited these as a basis for building her extensive wardrobe of Polish costumes, but, the originals still survive. The girls heartily disliked wearing the Opoczno region dresses made of very stiff material contemptuously called deck-chair canvas and really quite unlike the richly coloured heavy woollen material of the genuine article. In the black and white film, however, and each worn with masses of petticoats they look amazingly effective.

The Group's male Opoczno region costumes consisting of good white-blanket coats, but trousers of pathetically thin maroon cotton. These were deemed unsuitable for the film for whatever reason. Franz was given what appeared to be an authentic Opoczno costume, but not worn to best advantage. His sash was tied over the waistcoat instead of beneath it and scruffily knotted instead of in the traditional Opoczno manner with an end hanging over each thigh as may be seen in the illustrations. It is a shame that groups may today spend vast sums on genuine costumes from Poland but are often



negligent in the wearing of them. I have tried for some years to persuade the men in Tatry to tie their Opoczno sashes in the correct way, but with limited success. At the last Polish Festival that I attended there was only one dancer seen to have his Łowicz sash tied with the traditional upstanding loop.

The mixture of regional costumes in *Coppélia* looked familiar because it reminded me of the photograph below sent among others some years ago by Irene for the SIFD archives. It shows Simon Guest, Irene and Ken Fyffe and Janice Gilliam in just such a combination of Opoczno Group costumes, although here the ladies appear to be wearing men's boots. Irene noted on the back only: "Opoczno Group?" and Simon has no recollection of the event depicted.

Irene has vivid memories of the television experience: "Ziutek did all the choreography for all the 'folk' items. The mazur was arranged and rehearsed by Ziutek with a young ballet group, Western Theatre Ballet, and subsequent rehearsals were enlivened for us by listening to these young dancers moaning about how Ziutek had overworked them. He had a high standard and expected good things from a dance company. Incidentally, we all - the Society - felt that we could have done it better! Robert Helpmann attended the final rehearsal. He was in a 'puckish' mood and to the distress of the producers etc. (and to our delight) proceeded to disrupt everything. The air was constantly rent with plaintive cries of "Bobby Darling! Please!" At one point he took the dummy Coppélia to pieces and waved a leg of it through an aperture in a very voluptuous manner - to our delight".

And about the Group: "Way back the Society knew only a few Polish dances picked up from the Polish YMCA, Kostek and Eugene Jablonski. After Ziutek defected Kostek asked him to teach us some dances and quite a large group attended. We immediately fell under his spell and every class began with about 45 minutes of exercises. From this group Opoczno was formed. Later internecine conflict caused Opoczno to finish and Syrenka was formed". It appears that the Group's involvement with *Coppélia* was at least partly the source of its demise in that there was argument about whether the fee paid by the BBC for its participation should go to the Group or be shared between the individual members.



It amuses me to think that fifty years later the Opoczno Group's association with *Coppélia* is commemorated by my practice of wearing Kostek's Opoczno coat - it has his name in it - when playing Robert Helpmann's part of Dr Coppélius in performances by Chelsea Ballet.

**Tony Latham**

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

The most recent committee meeting was held on September 8th at Cecil Sharp House. For the first time, three committee members were unable to come, but the rest of us were very restrained and did not allot them, in their absence, all the tasks generated by the meeting.

Finance. Judith is working on the Accounts for 2006/7 which will be published later this year. Five suggestions for spending funds surplus to the running of the SIFD have been received so far, which are being explored.

Her efforts to alter the signatories on the Society's various bank/building society accounts, necessary with changes of Committee members, seem doomed to endless effort and frustration. Always so annoying when something looks as though it should be easy. Ways were discussed for starting the task of archiving the Society's written music collection. It was wonderful to be able to start a fresh project, now that the adoption of the new Constitution is safely accomplished, and needn't take up much more Committee time.

Simon reported that all the Associated, and most of the Affiliated, Groups had renewed their membership for this year. Just 10 Affiliates haven't been heard from, but we hope that most might yet renew – although they might be too late for the leaflets. A new group was welcomed to the SIFD – the Jawahir Middle Eastern Dance Group in Wales.

Individual membership is down this year – so if you intend to renew but haven't got round to it, please do. Wouldn't you miss not getting the News?

Early-Start dances have met another slight snag – our desired booking time, allowing an hour for the band to set up and warm up beforehand, covers two of Cecil Sharp House's booking slots – we might well be asked to pay double! Despite this, we decided they were important enough to go ahead, and try to book another in the autumn of 2008, as well as the one already arranged for April. Investigations into alternative Halls in the Camden area have shown that Cecil Sharp House is still good value, despite rising hire charges and double fees. And it does have an excellent floor, as well as Ivon Hitchens' huge mural. (Incidentally, did you know the Tate holds his designs for this?)

The Child Protection Policy has reached draft stage, the Teacher's Visits policy document has been accepted (Caspar will tell you more about this), items for the AGM agenda were listed and the colour cover of the News admired.

P10 now has a list of suggested dances. BUT – it needs more. If you feel you'd like something in particular, please DO SAY. The last thing we want is to produce it and have people say "But why hasn't it got my group's favourite dance on it?" or "I thought you would definitely have included x?" and even worse – "I would have bought it if it had had z..."

Then just artwork to be finalised before we proudly announce the availability of tapes 1-4 on CD.

This was a very satisfactory meeting, as several long-running items were concluded, and newer projects are starting well. The next committee meeting will be November 4th.

This meeting closed just after 7.00pm.

**Alison Scrimshaw**  
Secretary



### **Dance at Freshwater Bay House**

Residential weekend of general international dances at Freshwater Bay House, Isle of Wight, 14th - 16th March 2008, with Bob Neal and Claire Wilton.

An opportunity to learn new dances, dance old favourites, relax and meet friends old and new. The HF hotel has superb en-suite rooms and the ballroom looks out over Freshwater Bay. Full board provided to a very high standard. Twin rooms £148 per person, single £153.

For further details contact Claire Wilton 01243 788833.

**Claire Wilton**

## The Next Generation

*The Grand Quadrille from Lithuania*



On the 6th July Lorna Ramsden and Lynda Shaw of Loidis International Dance Group were released from their respective schools to teach a Day of Dance at Prince Henry's Grammar School in Otley, a small market town near Leeds. Prince Henry's is a specialist language secondary school and they were having a days release from the normal curriculum to study the latest countries to join the European Union. Each department within the school organised European related lessons including, craft work, cookery, language work, and also geographical and religious links. Even the catering staff provided a superb lunch including Beef Goulash (Hungary), Cabbage Parcels - Golabki from Poland and Koch from Slovakia.

As Primary School teachers we were both nervous as to the reaction of the Secondary pupils. We set up a display of pictures and artefacts from the various countries and a power point on a large screen with facts, photos, costumes and customs etc.

We taught 240 children( the year 7 group) over 6 one hour sessions and had another 50 plus staff at a lunch time Celidh (non compulsory) During each session we taught approximately 3 to 4 dances from Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania. Although self conscious at first and not particularly keen to hold hands they settled down, concentrated well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

We were presented with bouquets of flowers at the end of the day and although exhausted felt elated and happy in the knowledge that we had successfully promoted the enjoyment of International Dance to the next generation.

**Lynda Shaw and Lorna Ramsden**



## Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed your membership for 2007/2008 please do it now. I will be printing the labels for the November News in early October after updating the database.

If you have lost your form, ring me on 01992 577065 or email me at [sguest@theiet.org](mailto:sguest@theiet.org)

**Simon Guest**  
**Membership Secretary**

## Festival Des Panards

13-14-15 October. Otley Civic Centre, near Leeds.

Friday: French and Breton Bal (from 8pm) with The Eel Grinders, Yannick Minvielle & Steve Turner, Stephen Tyler

Saturday: French Bal (from 7.30) with Benoit Guerbigny (talented French melodeon player), Ultraviolet, Metheglin, Mike James & Yves Leblanc

Saturday: French and Breton Dance and Music workshops (from 10am) at the Civic Centre and Otley Court House. The renowned dance tutor Yves Leblanc will be running a full programme of Breton dancing. Not to be missed by dance enthusiasts!!

New this year:

2 workshops on dances from the Poitou region led by Benoit Guerbigny.

Sunday from 11am Free Music and Dance session at Korks Wine Bar, Otley.

(Lunch £7 to be booked ahead)

Week-end ticket £40 (conc:£30) Sunday lunch not included

Friday Bal: £10 (conc: £8)

Saturday Bal: £12 (conc: £10)

Both Bals ticket: £20 (con £16)

Each workshop: £7 (conc: £5)

FREE for children 16 and under (donations welcome)

Contact Yannick: 01535 600104 or visit: [www.frenchdanceleeds.co.uk](http://www.frenchdanceleeds.co.uk)

**Yannick Minvielle**



## Dunford (Midhurst, West Sussex)

14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2007

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 Christmas tree and log fire. 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 the Midhurst 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'll feel at home and among friends.

The cost of the weekend - £125.00 Looking forward to hearing from you.

**Dot Bradbury** (Mrs)

Tel. No. 020 8540 3464



## SIFD Day Course

Date: Saturday 17th November 2007

Place: Cecil Sharp House

Time: 10.30 a.m. -- 4.30 p.m.

Cost: £6 SIFD members, £8 non-members

Tutor: **Elsa Perez**

Subject: South American Traditional Dances

**Pam Radford**

## Theresa Hartt



It is with great sadness that I must announce the tragic death of Theresa Hartt. Theresa was a beautiful girl and a beautiful dancer; a great Balkan dance fan - she took part in items in the Royal Albert Hall, and attended all the major Balkan courses and festivals at home and abroad.

She was also an important member of Opanka - the performance group started by her mother Veronica. The photo below of Opanka - with Theresa in the centre front - was taken at Eastbourne a few years ago. Theresa was their costume maker, hairdresser and make-up artist, and will be sadly missed.



A poignant reminder that her wedding date had been fixed for later this year - as Catherine and Lisa wore what were to have been their bridesmaids dresses to the funeral; the girls from Opanka wore Romanian costume "because that was her life". Theresa was a great supporter of our weekend workshops in Bognor Regis. Invariably, she would be the first one 'to get' the steps. Our thoughts are with Jim, Veronica and Catherine, and her friends in Opanka.

**Janet Douglas**

# Bujj-Bujj

(Hungarian)

BUJJ-BUJJ (CHILDRENS DANCE).

$\text{♩} = 80$

$\text{♩} = 216$

**Wilf Horrocks**

**Bujj-Bujj (Boi-Boi)**, mostly danced by girls was taught by Magda Oska (1967/69). The dance is really a shortened version of "Feher Liliomszal" (White Lilies).

As with Hungarian dances of this type, they tend to be danced to short children's songs and are added one to another with 'arrangements' - usually dictated by their teacher. All the little tunes/songs however come from one district at a time, and so have a regional style.

There are two tunes used for this dance - I don't know if both will be printed. The first music, played three times as the children make arches at a walking tempo, with gates and arches etc. The second tune, played more quickly, and played twice is a much quicker 'stepping' series ending with a running 'snake'.

If you want me to copy the whole, original dance music I will, but it will take time as my hand is rather shaky. Like me, they're both 74 yrs old, though for the next two years I can still reverse the numbers - as my adopted Hungarian grandchild did when I was '17'!! Ha! Joke?

My research into dances, music, costumes and customs.... of Hungary, was over the years 1967 when Magda first visited Swansea and from where I was invited to take the road I did until the 80s when I had my first hip op. For many years still I was invited to classes - by this time I knew many of the dancers. I was last in Budapest to wish Magda a Happy 90<sup>th</sup>!

**Sybil Chapman**



**NB** The music for the **Cobblers Dance** (see Ken Ward's article last month) will appear in the next issue. Any more contributions about its history, and anecdotes and information about the dance will be welcomed.

**Ed.**

## WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

- S.I **Oct.6<sup>th</sup>** **SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH** Greek and Balkan Music and Dance Workshop with Clyde Olliver and Mike Machin. 10.15-4.00 at Weoley Hill Village Hall, Birmingham B29 4AD (off A38 Bristol Road. £7 (£4 half-day) contact: Maggie Kaye 402 Heath Road South, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2BE [margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk)
- S.I **Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>/  
13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>** **FESTIVAL DES PANARDS** see page 12
- Oct.13<sup>th</sup>  
/14<sup>th</sup>** **DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** Cecil Sharp House NW1.10am to 10.30pm. workshops and performances by more than thirty groups. £10 per day incl. evening dances (£9 concessions) £6 evening only. Children free. [www.datw.org.uk](http://www.datw.org.uk) or [danceoffice@waitrose.com](mailto:danceoffice@waitrose.com) or tel.07749 007040 or 020 8340 4683.
- S.I **Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>** **RAINMAKERS ANNIVERSARY DANCE.** MC Jill Bransby. Music Cloudburst. £5. 8-11pm, The Parish Hall, St Michaels, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 3PQ. Enquiries 01462 457791 or 01438 812766
- Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>** **BALKANPLUS** see page 3
- Oct.  
26<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>** **RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF BULGARIAN FOLK DANCE** with Yves Moreau at Malhamdale, fullboard, indoor swimming pool. General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Excellent area for walking or sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. (3 nights) £190. Single course £26, both courses £46. please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115, Chetwynd Road, London, NW5 1DA or email your request to [cathy\\_meunier@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com).



All material for the November issue of SIFD NEWS must be received IN WRITING by 17<sup>th</sup> October, emails by 16<sup>th</sup> October. Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people, places and dances, unless typewritten.

