

SUNSHINE



ladies

eleven

dancing



L.H.B.

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509
www.sifd.org

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

email: *SIFDNews@hotmail.co.uk*



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



The front cover, eleven ladies dancing under a partridge in a pear tree, was designed by Leslie Boorer, and the seasonal motif is taken from her 1998 December cover design.



Happy Christmas to you all

As we near the end of the year, I would like to thank Dalila Heath, Mike & Edwina Holdup and Simon Guest for all their work getting the News out for the past year. There would be no News without them; Simon produces the labels from his membership list and Mike & Edwina prepare the envelopes. Dalila takes care of the printing, packaging and posting - and this year also had to oversee the coloured cover printing as well. Happy Christmas to them and to all of you for contributing in so many ways and reading the SIFD News throughout 2007.

Ed.

Having just read through this issue it seems 2007 was The Year of the Ox.
There was no mention of porcine influence all year - Is the dance of the Rat on its way?



Gift Aid – can you still help?

The Society's Accounts for the last two years have shown a Tax Repayment received under the Gift Aid Scheme, in respect of subscriptions of members who have signed Gift Aid Declarations. Thank you again to those members.

However there are still a lot of members who have not completed a Declaration, for whatever reason. As this is a "free" source of income for the Society, it really should be maximised. So if you have not completed a Gift Aid Declaration please consider whether it is appropriate for you to do so, for the Society's benefit.

For a Gift Aid Declaration to be valid the person making it (and paying the Subscription etc) must be a UK taxpayer. There may be some confusion here which I'd like to clear up – to be a taxpayer you don't have to receive a formal Tax Assessment from HM Revenue & Customs. Just having tax taken at source from your earnings or pension means you are a taxpayer.

If you would like to help the Society by completing a Gift Aid Declaration please contact either me: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

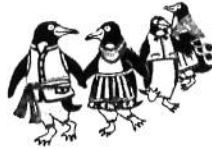
judithpayling@yahoo.co.uk

or the Membership Secretary. Simon Guest, 49 Station Road, Epping, Essex CM16 4HJ. Tel: 01992 577065.

sguest@iee.org

We can email a form to you if preferred.

**Judith Payling
Hon. Treasurer**



Dutch folkdance magazines on offer

Following a clear-out at home I have some folkdance magazines up for grabs. The magazine is called *Volksdans* and was (probably still is - but I stopped receiving it 10 years ago) a publication of the Landelijk Centrum voor Amateurdans (National Centre for Amateur Dance).

The magazines are in Dutch and the features are on different aspects of folk dance - articles about folk dance in different countries, interviews with Dutch folk dance specialists and teachers, news about folk dance activities in the Netherlands and other countries, regular columns, and so on.

I realise there may not be that many SIFD members who read enough Dutch to enjoy the articles to the full (I have already offered them to Marina Wolstenholme!) but the photographs and illustrations could prove useful. For example, as decorations during dance parties, informative displays at workshops and fairs, or as a fun project for a children's group to cut out the photographs and make a collage.

There were eight issues per year and I have full year collections for 1988 and 1990-1994. I also have incomplete year collections for 1987, 1989 and 1995 and one issue each from 1996 and 1997.

I don't require payment at all but if they were to be mailed anywhere you would need to pay P&P. Alternatively, I can arrange to bring or get them to any SIFD class or event in the London area, including BalkanPlus and - if you see this in time! - the Zivko Firfov Christmas party.

If you're interested in any or all of the magazines, do get in touch with me on 07974-180748 or via email on *roberto@btinternet.com*.

Roberto Haddon



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jan.2nd W MIDS NEW YEAR PARTY** at the Heart of England Group. MC Maggie Kaye 7.45 – 10.15 at St Giles Church hall, Church Road, Sheldon, B26 3TT (North of A45 Coventry Rd, near B'ham airport) Bring-and-share supper. More details from Maggie on 0797-464-9311 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk
- S.I **Jan.12th BALKANPLUS** MCs the Barnet group with music from Dunav.
- S.I **Jan. 19th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO** New Year Party at St, Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford. 7-11pm Tickets £6 at the door, including refreshments & live music from Vuhpros.
- Jan. 26th/27th 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 **Feb.23rd NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP.** Dances from Scandinavia Day Course Venue: Grangewood Church Hall, Wollaton Notts. NG8 2SJ, led by Anne Leach. £7 all day (£4 1 session) 10.30-4.30pm. Contacts 01332 701922 / 0115 9171831
- S.I **Mar.8th/9th MAINLY BALKAN FOLK DANCE COURSE II** see page 12
- S.I **Mar.13th/16th SIFD WMIDS BRANCH WEEKEND** at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester with Frank Dowling and Janet Woolbar. Cost £130/£160 per person in single or twin rooms. For more information and booking form contact Maggie Kaye, email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk or ring 0797-464-9311
- S.I **Apr. 4th/7th 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 email your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.
- S.I **Apr.25th/28th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND 2008** in Great Alne Village Hall, nr Alcester, Warks. Another long weekend programme of International and British folk dance and music workshops, evening dances, singing, handbells, walking, cycling and much more. International dance teacher Karin Bellaart from the Netherlands. More programme details in the New Year. Phone André Hobro on 0121 777 3722
- May 2nd/5th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL** see page 6
- S.I **May 2nd/5th (6th) SIFD LONG BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND at HALSWAY MANOR**, an attractive folklore 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 £170 for 3 nights with supplements for the 4th night or en-suite bedrooms. Enquiries and further details from: Gordon Adie, 35 Royal Crescent, Exeter EX2 7QT. (tel:01392 362788) or further details from Jack Richardson 01792 403153
- S.I **Jul. 26th/Aug. 2nd - THE SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL** see page 11

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.



A note related to the new "Teachers' Policy"

The policy for teacher visits to the affiliated and associated groups has been revised and is printed below. The main differences are as follows:

Groups arranging for a visiting teacher to be paid at least in part by the SIFD, should submit their proposal at least two months in advance of the proposed visit. The policy states that the plans should be submitted to the Badge and Day Course Committee but in line with present practice the proposal can go directly to the treasurer. The treasurer needs to know in advance what funds are required for teacher visits, as the SIFD's support of this programme is contingent upon the funds being available. In the past the bills have often been presented to the treasurer only after the visit has taken place.

The support is now designated in terms of a number of hours. This is considered to be a fairer method as in the past "visits" varied widely in length.

Under the revised policy, groups may request support for teachers who are not on the SIFD approved "Teacher List". Request for support for non-SIFD teachers should be submitted to the Badge and Day Course committee with information showing the qualifications of the proposed teacher. This will principally benefit the many specialist groups associated or affiliated to the SIFD, for whom there are no SIFD approved teachers with the required expertise. However, general groups can also request support for a non-SIFD teacher. Proposals should be sent to Helen Ezra for consideration by the committee: 84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 6RB

The hourly fee for teachers is set by the Executive Committee and will increase to £25 per hour as of January 2008.

Caspar Cronk



SIFD - Teacher Support Policy for SIFD associated classes and affiliated groups

The aim of this policy is to further the objectives of the society, to disseminate knowledge about international folk dancing and to promote the highest possible standards of dance teaching and learning. The SIFD seeks to promote excellent teaching practice and the learning and collecting of dances from the best available authorities considering, in each case, the teacher's experience and proximity to the original source of the dances taught.

For each class associated to with the SIFD, the SIFD will pay for up to five hours of teaching per year by an approved teacher. For each group affiliated to the SIFD, the SIFD will pay for up to ten hours of teaching per year by an approved teacher. These provisions are contingent on sufficient funds being available. The rationale for supporting up to ten hours of teaching for affiliated groups and only five hours of teaching for associated classes is that the associated classes already have a teacher approved by the SIFD. The teaching time supported by the SIFD may be in the form of several visits by approved teachers or may be a one- or two-day workshop by a single teacher.

A Branch is entitled to reimbursement for the hours appropriate to its constituent groups and classes.

The Badge and Day Course Committee should be responsible for the implementation of the programme and for providing the list of SIFD teachers. The Badge and Day Course Committee is independent of the main Executive Committee of the SIFD. While there may be some individuals who are on both committees, the Badge and Day Course Committee should always have a majority of members who are not on the SIFD main Executive Committee.

A class or group may request a visit from any teacher on the list of SIFD approved teachers. The request should be made to the Badge and Day Course Committee at least two months in advance of the proposed teaching date. The committee will approve the choice of teacher, or may in some cases suggest an alternative. The request will then be forwarded to the treasurer for financial approval. If there is any complication the treasurer can refer to the main SIFD Executive committee.

Continued >

In line with present practice, the Badge and Day Course Committee may choose to have requests for approved teachers be sent directly to the treasurer.

A group or class may also apply for financial support to engage a teacher who is not on the SIFD approved teachers' list. In this case, the group or class must supply information to the Badge and Day Course Committee showing that the proposed teacher is well qualified. This will apply particularly, but not exclusively, to groups or classes with a specialist dance interest, where the proposed teacher may be as well or better qualified to teach the dances of interest than any of the teachers on the SIFD approved list.

The SIFD will pay teachers a rate set by the main Executive Committee, taking into consideration the advice of the Badge and Day Course Committee, for the teaching time for an approved teacher visiting a class or group. The group is responsible for any other incidental expenses of the visit.



Eastbourne International Folk Dance Festival

Friday May 2nd - Monday 5th

Once again we have a line-up that promises fun, variety and the chance to dance 'til you drop!

Many of you have danced with **Cristina Casarini**, at Summer School or the London SIFD Day course, and have already experienced the warmth that makes her **Italian** and **Czech** dance workshops so enjoyable. If you haven't attended any of her workshops before this is your chance.

Angie Saravelaki a mainstay from the **Greek** national folkdance group Dora Stratou, is also well known to Greek dance specialists. Angie did most of the speaking when she and Dimitris Triandafylidis first came to England, as her command of English is excellent. She will be presenting a variety of dances from different regions of Greece in her own very clear style, all taught with endless energy and patience.

We are also extremely lucky to have **Delyan Demirev** to give some **Bulgarian** dance workshops. Delyan will be accompanied by **Dancho Jordanov**, and, **Roger Wicksteed** will add to the music. They will join **Ian Willson** for the Saturday 'Nostalgia Nite' along with Cristina and flamenco performers **Helena Bengé** and her guitarist. Helena will also teach two flamenco dance workshops on Saturday afternoon. And Ian Willson continues his nostalgic theme next-day with a Golden Oldies workshop.

Costume is appreciated for the Saturday international 'Nostalgia Nite', and again for the **Balkan Dance Party** on Sunday evening (but costume is not obligatory - something colourful and folky will suffice). You are all invited to the Sunday evening Balkan Dance Party with **Brian Dowsett**, he will be ably supported by **Dunav** and Angie. There will be another chance to sit down, relax and watch the **Morena Dance Company** perform **Slovakian** dances during the evening if you happen to miss the 'Meet the Team' on Sunday afternoon.

This long weekend dance extravaganza kicks off on Friday evening with a **Welcome Dance** brought to us by **Julie Korth** -it was Julie who put the **International** into the Eastbourne Folk Dance Festival in its early days. **Claire** and **Geoff Steeley** will be there once again with the **SIFD Shop**, with their diverse collection of international folk dance paraphernalia.

Of course - if you can tear yourself away from our International programme, there are also **English** and **American** workshops and dances going on all around, with well known English and American bands and callers. Those of you who attended last year will be aware that the change of management brought changes that not everybody liked. The new director, Ray Goodswen, has listened and 'rechanged' some aspects - notably the evening dance times (now 8-11pm as before).

There should be a booking form for the festival enclosed with this issue, additional forms can be obtained from me (address on page 2) or Festival Office, 24 Inwood Road, Wemdon, Bridgewater TA6 7PP tel. 01278 424332

Janet Douglas

'Forty Years Moving On'

Slow, Slow, Quick, Quick, Slow, Forward and Back and Roundabout
Do you think the above title refers to Dance, Motoring - or Both?

For those who do not know me, my name is Kaye Lewis Poole. I am now 85 and a qualified Teacher of the Keep Fit movement and Folk Dance. I retired from teaching when I was 75 because of severe arthritis.

*Kaye
Lewis
Poole*



I taught exercises to music and International Folk Dance at Whitley Bay High School and in other schools in the Northumberland coast area. We had a superb pianist who would at times improvise when I was putting a study together, we also used cassette tapes. The interesting thing was, that whilst teaching the exercise classes in Whitley Bay, it became obvious that my presentation was Folk Dance biased. This being so a couple of the pupils asked the Education Officer if they could have a class specialising in International Folk Dance, this was put to the committee and they agreed providing at least 12 pupils enrolled, they gave us three weeks and we succeeded. Later members increased to about 18-20 but no men - a pity.

Eventually, we formed a demo team for those interested - and - gradually built up a costume wardrobe.

The costumes were of Balkan, Israel, Portugal and Spain and they were copied as near as possible from the costumes the dancers were wearing at the Billingham Festivals over the years. I am a founder member of the Festival Dance Course and now continue to attend as an observer which I enjoy immensely, it is very interesting, one learns a lot whilst observing.

I acquired my Teaching Qualifications with the I.S.T.D. (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance) at Bisham Abbey in 1968, at that time my son, Len was working in London and he came up to visit me and we had a little get together for a drink and a chat with some of the dancers.

Later I became a member of the S.I.F.D. and in the early years, I attended several day courses in London, travelling by rail on the Friday Night Sleeper from Newcastle to Kings Cross and returning home Saturday evening. I enjoyed the dance sessions and meeting up with Frank Flannigan, Lilian Galatis, Frances and Wilf Horrocks, Kay Kedge and Audrey and Ed Whitely. I recall meeting up with Audrey and Ed again when they did a workshop for LOIDIS Folkdance Group, and that was good fun. On another occasion I visited the Yorkshire Dance Centre in Leeds where Marina Wolstenholme was tutor, teaching Balkan and Hungarian dances. Marina is very popular, I admire her presentation.



As time went on I attended many H.F. Folk Dance Holidays with tutors, Steve and Joy Steventon, all very enjoyable. In those days I was in good health and a keen motorist.

Continued>

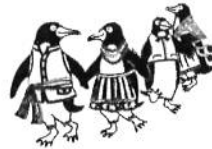
I have been a widow for 20 years, my late husband John Poole was a senior civil servant M.B.E. Going to Buckingham Palace was indeed a great day to remember. I too was a civil servant, that was how we met. John was a member of the Hexham Stage Society, he had a fine baritone voice and would often take the leading role in some of the musicals.

I digress, so to get back to motoring, a couple of years ago I became a member of the Institute of Advanced Motoring and attended their meetings on roadcraft. Later I decided to take the Test Preparation. I was taken out on observed runs and assessed. I then decided to take the Test and a date was arranged with an examiner. The date came, I took the test and passed. This was a most interesting and worthwhile experience. There is no age limit and the pass rate is 98% so I believe. In my mind there is a similarity between Dancing and Driving!! As I can no longer dance I can continue to enjoy driving here and there, ie: Slow, Slow, Quick, Quick, Slow, Forward and Back and Roundabout in the beautiful countryside of Northumberland or even further.

To conclude:

This particular Item just about spans 40 years of my dancing career with 'Kayroma' Folkdance Group.

Kaye Lewis Poole



Oxdans

There has been some comment recently on the chorus of 'Oxdans'. Originally, I learnt that both men go to their own right, then return to facing, then to their own left and return. This was from 'Pug' Cyriax, but then I learnt that she had changed it so the men face each other all the time, so it probably depends on when you learnt it as to which you do. I found a photo of Bert Price (on left) performing this, but does anyone know who with and where?



I also found a photo of two boys performing the same figure taken in 1983. In the original you can see that the back of the hand of one boy is distinctly blue. He wrote down the order of the figures on the back of his hand, so that during the chorus when the hands are across the chest, he could see what came next and quietly tell his partner. This was part of a Swedish demonstration at a school fête and included Fyrmanne Schottische and Våra Vadmal, costumes courtesy of Joan Guest.

Frances Horrocks

Reminiscences from a Very Old Lady

Reading Tony Latham's article in the October News, about the erstwhile Opoczno Group and how it became involved with Margaret Dale of the Royal Ballet in her abbreviated version of Coppelia, made me think back over the years.

At that time I had just been forced to give up ballet because of back trouble, put into a steel-boned corset and told I would never dance again. In desperation, after a while, I went to an Osteopath and he said "Ballet no, but I promise I'll get you doing some kind of dancing again".

Sure enough, after over a year of frequent treatment on my back, I went along to Lucille Armstrong's Spanish class in St. John's Wood. I found it distinctly painful when Lucille gripped my shoulders to bend my back into the correctly held position, and I didn't feel it was going to be my style anyway, when Peter Warwick wandered in. He was teaching Basque in the next room. As he was leaving he quietly said in my ear "Why don't you try my class - I think it would be more your style". It was, but unfortunately quite soon, he and Aquadita Sarasu, with whom he taught, went back to Spain.

Next I tried Romanian which was taught by Doina Trandabur, a political refugee from the State Dance Company which had recently been performing at the Royal Albert hall. It was absolutely lovely as she herself was. Once more though it didn't last long as she left to marry and live in France. There was only one more class to try and that was Polish. It seems amazing now that the local authorities funded so much dance, all with live accompanists in those days - so different now. Well, that was it anyway - I was hooked for life! It was a small class, taught by Barbara Bojanowska, with part English and part Polish members.

After about 3 years during which, because of low numbers and lacking students with much ability to help extend my dancing skills, I moved to Jósef (Jiutek) Walczak's SIFD class on hearing he wanted new members. Soon after that he asked me to join Syrenka, his group of Polish nationals. It was specifically to dance in Mazur (Mazurka) at the Royal Albert Hall where, apart from joining other London Polish groups in dancing during the earlier part of the evening, we were to dance a Mazur on our own as cabaret at 1am. This was at Dożinki, the Polish Harvest Festival celebrations.

I spent a lot of time around then helping Jiutek make new costumes, and learning about Polish customs and music. It was a good period but came to a sad end. That was on account of a photograph of students from my SIFD group (which I had taken over by then) being published on the Women's page of the Daily Telegraph along with an article about Syrenka - unforgivable of course by the Poles. It was no good telling them that photograph was not remotely taken with my permission. Some photographers simply walked in during my class, ignored my objections, muttered something about losing the pictures taken of Syrenka and left. I pleaded with the head of our Institute to stop publication but he said "I don't care about your or anybody else's feelings - I want the publicity for us". I also pleaded directly with the Editor of the Women's page but she couldn't understand what all the fuss was about - it was all just Polish dancing!

I had previously been cajoled and 'volunteered' by Margery Latham, anxious not to lose the group, into keeping it going whilst Jiutek took a year off, ostensibly to concentrate on the Polish Millennium celebrations. I was pretty sure he didn't intend to come back but wanted to ensure no other Polish teacher or anyone liable to pass on his style or choreography outside the class was engaged. He agreed to pass on the music to me only and obviously didn't expect the class to last for long.

Anyway after the débacle of that infamous picture I had to go it alone and, as a consequence, started my many visits to Poland to gather new dances and music, find materials and patterns for costumes, arrange for teachers to come over to help us etc. So, after a while, when getting involved in many demonstrations and joining Zivko Firfov to give our major concerts, we took the name of 'Jacy Tacy'.

This takes me now to our inheriting the old Opoczno costumes. As Tony says the girls hated their 'deckchair' dresses and aprons - the material was so stiff it couldn't be sewn and had to be stuck together. What I can't understand is apart from mixing the costumes from different regions, Jiutek allowed the girls to wear wrong boots (as seen in the News). He was such a stickler for authenticity. From him I became likewise. I would never allow incorrect or no headdress, wrong footwear or even modern wristwatches or spectacles when performing. One of the 'demo' stories handed down in our group was when I put two shortsighted dancers together and they only just didn't fall off the front of the stage!

As for the men's costumes the rather poor trousers didn't show too much under the very long coats. At least an occasional one of the latter is sometimes worn these days, if not for SIFD purposes. The rest moulder away with so many more beautiful costumes from various Polish regions, acquired or made with so much love and hard work during the 'Jacy Tacy' years.

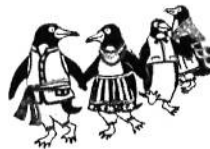
Having said all that about the correct wearing of costumes it should be remembered that they are not uniforms. Individuals would often make their own small changes (from their own country of course). Time does not stand still and new versions and additions occur.

I don't think a great deal about our past glory these days - it makes me sad there is so little interest in Polish dancing in the SIFD. That is due to a certain extent, I guess, to the lack of young people agile and able enough to tackle its demands. I wonder now how in our heyday I had twelve or more men, all with previous experience of some kind on our register, and ample pretty young women to partner them. Perhaps the latter helped, plus the challenge of such lively and varied dancing and costumes. I'll never know - perhaps luck!
Well, we had a great time.

Betty Harvey



Above: Suita Lubelska by the SIFD Polish Group (wearing Opoczno Costumes) at the Royal Albert Hall in 1963.
The dancers:
Betty & Tony C. front. Joan & Simon R. Irene & Ken Fyffe L. Kathleen Munro James & Bert Price R. back.
John & Janice Gilliam C. back Lew Coshain & partner L. back



Martenitsa Dance Group

Martenitsa dance group has had to stop meeting on a regular basis on Monday nights. We always were a small group - and then two people left over summer, which made it unviable. However, a couple of people have indicated interest in joining if we could meet on another night - and this possibility is being investigated.

In the meantime we plan to meet for occasional weekend afternoons. The plan is to meet for a bring and share lunch, and then dance through old and new repertoire. Please contact Toni Gutman at 020 8533 0054 (leave a message on answerphone) or tonigutman@yahoo.co.uk and leave your name, and telephone number and/or email if you would like to be informed of any such meetings.

Toni Gutman



The SIFD Summer School 2008

This will be held at Swansea University from **July 26th to August 2nd**. We now have confirmation from two of the three teachers. I am pleased to announce that one of the specialist courses will be Bulgarian dancing to be taught by **Dragan Draganov**.

Dragan was born in Liaskovets in Northern Bulgaria where he grew up dancing. He joined a children's community group when he was 10 and went on to dance with four major Adult Folk Dance Ensembles in Bulgaria, over a twenty year period. He therefore has an excellent understanding of the rhythms, melodies and movements of Bulgarian dances from different regions. He has also studied Bulgarian Dance at the National School for Art Instructors and the Academy of Music and Fine Arts, both in Plovdiv. He has used his considerable knowledge and love of folk dance to teach young students in Bulgaria.

Dragan moved to London in 2001 and joined *Tanets Folk Dance Group* at the Bulgarian Embassy. He has been teaching at an after school club at Sutton. Dragan looks forward to teaching us at the Summer School. He writes, 'I had an opportunity to attend some events of *Balkan Plus* and the festival *Dance Around the World*, 2007 and I am impressed by how many people in the UK are interested in Bulgarian folk dances. It will be a pleasure for me to contribute to their understanding and enjoyment of Bulgarian dances.'

Those who know **Corry Verheijen** will be delighted that she will be teaching both of the general courses – one will focus on partner dances and the other on non-partner dances. Corry comes from the Netherlands where folk dancing is treated as very important to the community. She has a wide range of dances to share, and a wealth of experience.

She started dancing as a teenager and has never stopped. She originally trained as a school teacher, which included studying a special course 'Dances for Children'. Later on she taught dance to adults and became a qualified dance teacher in 1982. Corry now teaches a range of ages- young, middle-aged and senior dancers – from 'the cradle to the grave'! By 2008 Corry will have been a dance teacher for 40 years.

Corry has a wide and varied repertoire of dances although her favourite dances are Bulgarian. She says that she likes all kinds of folk dances: Romanian, Israeli, Armenian – even English! Those who have had the pleasure of attending her classes at the Eastbourne Folk Dance Festival will know that she teaches well and with good humour. Corry says that dancing gives her great joy and she likes to share this with others. This is her principal aim when teaching. She is looking forward to meeting you in Swansea and having a good time together.

The third teacher is not confirmed yet but I hope that, by the time you read this, we will have a great dance package to present to you. A new Summer School website is being created and should be online by the time you read this. It can be found at SIFDsummerschool.org where you can download an application form as well as find all the details about the Summer School. If you don't have a computer, don't panic, there will be 'hard copy' forms and information available as usual. These leaflets will be ready for inclusion in the January News.

I do hope that you will be able to be at Swansea next summer.

Jill Bransby
(Publicity Officer for the Summer School)



December Balkanplus

Start the Christmas celebrations with Balkanplus on the 8th December 2007 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be the Frances Horrocks with guest Dalilah Heath. Admission £5. Don't forget to wear some festive attire!

Maureen Felton

Balkanplus

8th December 7.00-10.00.

I am very pleased to say that Dalila Heath has kindly agreed to come and lead some of her very popular Armenian dances this month. Her selection of party dances are great fun and are very easy to follow, as many of you already know. If you haven't already met Dalila, don't miss this opportunity to see a superbly graceful dancer and expert teacher.

As we are rapidly approaching the festive season it would be nice to see some costumes, or parts thereof, or some decoration to contribute towards a colourful evening. There may be some slightly unusual music to add to the fun.

Frances Horrocks



The Doina Foundation

Aarhuispad 22, 3067 PR Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Phone: +31-10-421 86 22, Fax: +31-10-455 60 65, email: stichting.doina@hetnet.nl www.StichtingDoina.nl

Cultural Dance Tours

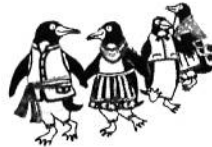
	Romania 2008 (Luxury 3*** Hotel)	
26 April - 3 May	Pitesti (Prahova) – Muntenia	€715.
11 –18 October	Târgu Mures – Transylvania	€735.

Balkan Festival Workshops 2008

26, 27, 28 and 29 June in Zetten, near Arnhem, The Netherlands

Workshops: Ben Koopmanschap (from Albania to Croatia), Dick v.d. Zwan (Greek), Ersin Seyhan (Turkish), Eddy Tijssen (Bulgarian), Silviu Ciuciumis (Romanian), Hedwig Schoots (Song), Helen van Bochove (Ball)
Orchestras: Orkest Trediki, Orkest Sultan.

For further information and registration forms please contact Silviu Ciuciumis at the above address



Mainly Balkan Folk Dance Course II

Barlow International Folk dance Group and the Derbyshire Dancers will be hosting another spring course on March 8th & 9th 2008 with Jan Knoppers and Richard van der Kooij.

Jan has been teaching since 1979 after specialising in Folk Dance. He has been Artistic Director of 'Radost' of Delft for 24 years and has also been Artistic Director of the professional company 'The Netherlands Folk Dance Theatre'. He has developed a method of 'teaching while dancing', always working with the music. Richard, a physiotherapist by profession was trained by Jan and now the two work together. They have both been chief teacher trainer for the Dutch F.D. Association and are in great demand both at home and abroad so we are very fortunate to be able to have them back. Do try to come for the whole weekend, as the teaching will be progressive.

Application forms from; F.J.Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspull, Wigan. WN2 1EF
(please enclose s.a.e.)

Marina Wolstenholme



Halling etc.

A few weeks ago Tony Latham mentioned to me that he had written to the News in response to Ken Ward's item in the September issue, and asked whether some of us from Scandia might be able to provide more information. I can't do so with my Scandia hat, because the dances that we do there are of a different kind: gammaldans (literally "old dance" and referring to the waltz, schottische, etc. that swept much of Europe in the 19th century); and bygdedans (literally "country dance", but nothing like English country dances), which is an older genre of turning dances for couples, particularly the numerous local variants of polska. My knowledge of the dances mentioned by Tony is very limited, but I can add a few snippets of information.

One of our teachers at courses in Sweden, Bo Peterzon, was dismissive of the figure dances such as Fjällnäs Polska that Dr. Cyriax introduced to the Society's repertoire, asserting that they were "made by the ballet masters" for the opera house. I recently came across a more detailed account of their origin (while looking on the Web for something else, as one does). This was a booklet produced by the Royal Uppsala University Folk Dance Society, Philochoros, when they visited the USA in 1976. It explains inter alia that 'Besides several "genuine" dances, the repertoire of dances on the society's program during the first decades consisted largely of dances of folkish character, composed by a ballet master at the Opera House in Stockholm. The "genuine" dances were often arranged in the romantic spirit of the times for the stage, and members of Philochoros even composed dances themselves. A large part of this early repertoire was adopted by the folk dance movement that was starting to develop in Sweden, following the model set by Philochoros, and these dances have lately become the most frequently performed "folk dances" to the point of almost overshadowing the "genuine" dances.

'A completely new view on folk dancing has meant that Philochoros' dance repertoire is currently concentrated on the "real" dances (which are still part of the living traditions in certain regions). The old dance compositions are now kept only as curios. However we do not want to completely forget them; they do belong to dance history".'

The booklet can be found at <http://www.student.uu.se/studorg/philochoros/foreningen/USA-76/usa-76.html>

The Halling described by Tony from the Lekstugan book is somewhat different from the Halling that I am familiar with, which is a Norwegian dance (but also done in Sweden). The version that I am familiar with can be done solo, though it can also be done by two men who take turns to show off, and perhaps dance together for part of the time; whereas the version from the Lekstugan book seems to require them to dance together most of the time. Anyway both versions are definitely dances for YOUNG men to show off their gymnastic prowess as well as their dancing skill, sadly quite unsuitable for most present SIFD members.

There is also a Parhalling (pair/couple halling) from the west of Norway, which is a dance for a man and woman, where the man dances solo and shows off for some of the time, but without the more extreme leaps, and they also dance as a couple for some of the time.

Not long after coming across the Philochoros booklet, I made a very brief evening visit to a fellow concertina player in Uppsala. We mainly discussed concertinas and life in general, but he told me that he had been a member of Philochoros in his student days, and he showed me a book of dance instructions with music that had been published by Philochoros in the 1930s. I was intrigued to find therein some dances that I have encountered elsewhere (such as Oxdans) but many that I had never heard of. There was also another Halling. I had no time to take in the description in any detail, but I think it was different again.

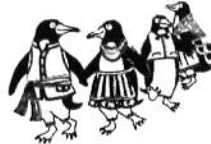
Richard Mellish



La Storta Da Crusch (Swiss)



Wilf Horrocks

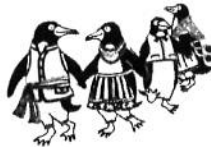


Janet Woolbar taught **La Storta Da Crusch** during the last Teacher Training course, it is a mixer dance with two parts: waltzing in a circle and then changing partners in the mazurka section. We dance it quite often at Gosport, it certainly warms us up in the event of no central heating.

* * *

N.B The music for Berovka will appear in the next issue. Any contributions about it, and anecdotes about the dance will be welcomed.

Ed.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Janet,

I see on the back page of the November 'News' that our Barlow International Folkdance Group, teacher Julie Korth, is put as a balkan group. We do like Eastern European dances, but we are, and always have been, an international group. To my mind, the whole of the S.I.F.D. is in some danger of becoming the S.B.F.D. When the August issue of the 'News' came I looked to see what workshops and courses were on in the Autumn, and found that there were four Bulgarian (admittedly three with the same teacher), one Greek and Balkan, one Armenian, one International, and one mixed British and International. Where is Western Europe in all this?

For many years I did only Scottish country dancing, and enjoyed it. I still do. But when I discovered international folk dancing it was like opening a door on a whole new world. Now that door seems to be closing again, on a different area. Lucile Armstrong, adjudicator at the Llangollen Eisteddfod for many years, and expert on Portuguese folk dancing, said that the ideal for a folk dancer (especially a teacher) should be a wide range of knowledge of many countries, with an in depth knowledge of one country or region. An ideal which she herself achieved. Now, I am missing the wide range I used to get.

On a different subject, those people who were at the Billingham International Folklore Festival will know that I suffered a detached retina in my only good eye, on the second day, and had an emergency operation at Middlesbrough, followed by three more in Manchester. I am pleased to report that the eye is now almost back to normal. Thank you to all who were so concerned about me. It has been a long job!

Philip E. Lloyd

President, Barlow International Folkdance Group



SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1

Cost £6 members £7 non-members

7-10pm

Dec. 2nd MCs: Dot Bradbury and Alison Scrimshaw

Jan. 6th MCs: The Committee



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- S.I **Dec. 1st** **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. ECIN 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. Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group)
- S.I **Dec. 1st** **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. 8th** **BALKANPLUS** - see pages 11&12
- S.I **Dec. 14th** **BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** - Music by Dunav. 8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. £5 includes food and drink. Details: Brian Dowsett 01992 582717
- S.I **Dec.15th** **SIFD W MIDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS DANCE** 7.30 - 10.30pm at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull B91 1LG. MC Maggie Kaye Bring-and-share supper. £3 on the door. More details from Maggie on 0797-464-9311 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk
- Dec.16th/18th** **DUNFORD WEEKEND** of dancing and walking in a country house near Midhurst, West Sussex. Accommodation is in single, double or twin bedrooms, all en-suite. Good meals, including Christmas dinner. cost - £125.00 tel. Dot Bradbury 020 8540 3464
- S.I **Dec.28th** **WILLINGDON IFDG TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY.** Stone Cross Memorial Hall, 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
- S.I. **Dec.29th** **INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE DAY** mostly Balkan with guest teacher Desiree Hendriks from Amsterdam. 11am - 4.30pm Hempton Memorial Hall, near Fakenham, North Norfolk. £10 if booked in advance. For details and bookings phone Dawn 01328 856582 or email dawnwakefield@btinternet.com.



All material for the January issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING
by **15th December, emails by 14th December.**