

SIFD NEWS

FEB

2008



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 photo was sent in by Anna Cidu; it shows a woman from Gavoi, Sardinia. The apron is dark green with a deep red patterned border, the veil is also red and the sleeves have a floral pattern on light green background. The blouse is white and there is a deep multi-coloured design around the base of the skirt. Also featured this month is Yves Moreau's Bulgarian dance motif.



CHAIRMAN: Roger Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU

“Chairman’s address

Please note that my e-mail address is roger@rogersturge.me.uk. If you have tried to contact me on my old address, my apologies. Feel free to contact me again.

Roger Sturge”

TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF. judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY: Simon Guest, 49 Station Road, Epping, Essex
CM16 4HJ. Tel: 01992 577065. sguest@iee.org

The AGM minutes and the Summer School leaflets accompany this issue; so you have plenty to look through.

Don't forget to send in any material that you think would grace the News.

Cover designs, pictures and notes about style, costume and history of folk dance from all countries are welcome.

Ed.



International dance in Leeds

Loidis teacher Lorna Ramsden's school group from Scholes Elmet Primary have performed at a couple of venues to round off the year.

They joined children at Sinai Synagogue at a Chanukah dance party. Also represented were children from St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School as well as Julia Castle's children's group based at the Synagogue. Lorna taught a selection of international dances including Sevilla bella Losa, Trata and King of the Fairies to a very lively enthusiastic audience. Julia demonstrated a selection of lively modern followable Israeli dances. The children were told the origins of the Festival, sang songs, said prayers, and lit the Menorah to celebrate the occasion. They all enjoyed traditional doughnuts and oranges.

This was a chance to bring different faiths together during the Festive Season and to promote cultural and an ethical understanding of each other.

Later Lorna's group danced out at The Victorian Fayre in Otley accompanied by Ian Willson. This time they danced a selection of English Folk Dances afterwards enjoying all the fun of the Fayre.

International dance is thriving in Leeds keeping alive traditions and strengthening community links.

Lynda Shaw



Dance for Life

The 8th Annual Israeli Dance Marathon, an event to raise money for cancer charities, this year Cancer Research UK. The event includes food, performances by the Oranim Performance Troop, a raffle and a teaching session with the Israeli folk dance teacher and choreographer Ofer Elfassi. I will try and arrange some dances to be put on that are known to SIFD members for their benefit.

Black & White Masked Dance Party

15th March
8.30pm - 5.30am
Oakington Manor School
Oakington Manor Drive
Wembley HA9 6NF



Donation £15 on the door
Bring food and drink to share
Masks available on the door
proceeds to:
Cancer Research UK
and chai cancer care

David J. Bramson

Romanian National Day Celebrations In Leeds

December the 1st is the day in 1989 that Romania left the Communist regime and entered democracy, and this year, for the first time, the City of Leeds held a reception hosted by the Honorary Consul of Romania, Mrs. Annemarie Visoianu Kanatas, to celebrate the occasion.

Representatives from local businesses, clubs and organisations, including Loidis, were invited to an event which included entertainment in the form of live music and dancing by Dana, accompanied by a small folk orchestra.

Many SIFD members will have come into contact with Dana over the years, as she has sung with Dunav Band and visited Balkan-Plus sessions. Jean and I discovered that we had many common acquaintances in the dance world, although prior to the event, we didn't recognise the name shown on the programme.

During the serving of Romanian food to the 200-odd guests, Dana and her band regaled us with a set of tunes typical of Romanian musical virtuosity. After the dinner and speeches, we were invited "to party" on the dance floor, during which we four Loidis members were complimented on our stylish Romanian dancing! Needless to say, very few of the other guests, even the Romanians present, knew the first thing about Romanian dances, so our ad-hoc efforts stood out somewhat! Nevertheless, all those on the dance floor were determined to have a party, and dance styles ranged from Bop through Jive to Disco Shuffle!

Sadly, we had to leave at the interval, because, as is so often the case, this event was held on the evening of our Group meeting; a problem no doubt shared by so many who participate in many different activities.



We did have time, however, to take a photo of Dana, flanked by some of her displayed costumes; this will perhaps jog the memory of those who have not seen her recently.

Jean and Ian Willson

Loidis International
Folk Dance Group,
Leeds

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Mar.8th BALKANPLUS** MC will be Frank Dowling
- S.I **Mar.8th/9th SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 6
- S.I **Mar.8th/9th MAINLY BALKAN FOLK DANCE COURSE II** with Jan Knoppers and Richard van der Kooij. Application forms from; F.J.Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspull, Wigan. WN2 1EF (s.a.e. please)
- S.I **Mar.13th/16th SIFD W.MIDS 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 to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.
- Apr.12th CAMDEN CLOG** see page 6
- S.I **Apr.25th/28th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** see page 8
- S.I **Apr.28th WOODVALE 40TH ANNIVERSARY** see page 7
- May 2nd/5th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL** a wide selection of events with Delyan Demirev, Cristina Casarini, Angie Saravelaki, and MCs Julie Korth, Ian Willson and Brian Dowsett with Dunav. Performances by Helena Benge and the Morena Dance Company at the evening dances. Booking office: 01278 424332 or 07970 436337
- S.I **May 2nd/5th (6th) SIFD LONG BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND at HALSWAY MANOR**, an attractive folk-lore centre on the edge of the Quantocks and near the north Somerset and Devonshire coast and Exmoor. Join in Folk Dancing and walking (or just sightseeing!) A full-day outing with coach transport and packed lunch provided on the Sunday to the coast or Exmoor. Inclusive cost about £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
- May 24th/25th MACLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP** 27th International Folk Dance Festival at Langley Park Boy's School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, BR3 3BP . Sat: International Folk Dance and Ceilidh (evening). Sun: International Folk Dance Concert. Further details nearer the time will be found on their website www.msg.org.uk.
- Jul. 26th/Aug. 2nd THE SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL** at Swansea.
- S.I **Aug.22nd /25th WILLINGDON I.F.D.G. MINI FESTIVAL** will be at Plumpton Agricultural College near Lewes, and returns to the 3-day, Bank Holiday format. Shared leading of International Folk and Circle Dance, an English caller, singing, and free time to explore the lovely South Downs. Full board £150 (plenty of single rooms). SAE for detailed booking form to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, BN22 0PZ.

* * *

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.

SIFD Day Course - February

Date: Saturday 9th February
Place: Cecil Sharp House
Time: 10.30am-4.30pm

Cost £6 SIFD members, £8 non-members
Tutor: **Boyco Andonov**
Subject: Dances from Bulgaria

* * * * *

SIFD Day Course - March

Date: Saturday 8th March
& Sunday 9th March
Place: Cecil Sharp House
Time: 10.30am-4.30pm both days

Cost: £8 per day, or £15 for both for SIFD members.
£10 per day for non-members
Tutor: **Tvrtko Zebec**
Subject: Couple dances from the former Yugoslavia

* * * * *

April Day Course

'Camden Clog' have requested that we give up our day Course booking for April 12th, as they want to run workshops in all the rooms at Cecil Sharp House that day. They cordially invite us to join them to experience / revise any clogging skills we may have.

Booking forms email Camden Clog at info@camdencllog.org.uk
or 'phone Kathryn Tattersall on 020 8889 8087 or go to www.camdencllog.org.uk

Pam Radford



Join us in London for a day of Pat Tracey's clog stepping.

We are teaching three of Pat's dances: a waltz for beginners; the heel and toe "C" routine for intermediates; the Slow Hornpipe for advanced; and, for those of you who fancy a change, Thrales Rapper will be running a Rapper workshop.

£15/£10 unwaged. Ticket holders will also be entitled to cheap admission to events at Cecil Sharp House on the Friday and Saturday nights.

Details of hostel accommodation available.

Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road,

London NW17AY 020 7485 2206 www.efdss.org

Tvrtko Zebec

The SIFD daycourse for March will actually be a two day event because I have arranged for a teacher from Croatia to come and teach us.

Tvrtko Zebec is an eminent dancer, teacher, choreologist and researcher who works at the Ethnographic Institute in Zagreb and who has published a book and many papers on various aspects of Croatian folklore. He gives lectures throughout the world, worked with performing groups and is well known as a dance teacher on the Continent. I have asked him to present a wide variety of dances from all the different regions of Croatia which reflect the influences of the surrounding countries as well as the "indigenous" cultures. He will include some couple dances as well as circles so even if you are not a dedicated "Balkan fan" there should still be enough to interest you.

Please try to come and support him (and his wife!!)! It should be well worthwhile.

Frank Dowling



Balkanplus Workshops with Ben Koopmanschap

27th & 28th September 2008 at Cecil Sharp House

We are delighted to confirm that Ben Koopmanschap has agreed to make his first teaching visit to England this year. Ben is among the foremost teachers of the dances of former Yugoslavia and Albania – he will be at Zetten (Holland) in July – and for his London debut he is certain to bring a top drawer selection of dances. We are expecting great interest in the weekend so please try to book as early as possible.

10.30am to 4.30pm on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September
Main Hall (Kennedy), Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road
London NW1 7AY Tickets: £25 for weekend or £15 for 1 day.
We offer price reductions for Balkanplus season ticket holders.

Tickets are available from Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG. Cheques payable to Balkanplus and sae please

More information will appear on www.balkanplus.org.uk

Brian Dowsett



Woodvale 40th Anniversary

Saturday April 28th

We plan an afternoon teaching session and an evening dance in Borough Green Village Hall to celebrate our 40th Anniversary. Please support us if you can. Further details to follow. Contact Jan or Linda Bryce on 01732 885048 or Jenny Cant on 01732 883405.

Jenny Cant



Great Alne Long Weekend 2008

Christmas and New Year festivities are long gone and you are no doubt turning your thoughts to the choice of festivals, weekends and day courses to attend this year. In your spring programme you might like to consider coming to the Great Alne Long Weekend, which this year runs from Friday 25th to Monday 28th April, the weekend before the May Day Bank Holiday. This is a relaxed but activity packed weekend, centred on the village hall at Great Alne, 2½ miles from Alcester in the Warwickshire countryside. This year will be the 25th of these weekends, so we hope to make it a special celebration for the Silver Anniversary.

The main International folk dance teacher in 2008 will be Karin Bellaart, who was the first teacher from the Netherlands to participate in these weekends and has been returning regularly ever since. She is a very popular teacher with our regulars and her programme is always varied and lively – this year she hopes to base it on the new Dutch CD ‘5x5’, with dances from Romania, Bulgaria, Brittany, Macedonia and Turkey. Other regular teachers returning this year will be Adrian Pointon with Israeli dances and Cathy Greenhill, a historical dance specialist, who will hopefully teach one 20th century workshop (probably 1940s) and one of dances from an earlier century. Evening dancing will be a mixture of International with Playford on Friday night and American on Sunday. There will also be the usual array of other dance and music workshops, handbell ringing and alternative activities including walking and cycling.

The Great Alne Weekend offers 3 evenings and 3 full days of workshops and you can come to all or any part of it. If you are not working, Monday is an enjoyable day with the additional attraction of a sit-down lunch – it makes a pleasant end to the weekend or a quieter option for a short visit. Local caterers will provide meals in the hall throughout the weekend. Booking is not required for this weekend, although it is necessary to make your own accommodation arrangements. There is some space for caravans or motorhomes by the hall and camping in a nearby field, but if this is not to your taste, there’s a choice of nearby hotels, B&Bs, static caravans or the YHA in Stratford-upon-Avon. Try their Tourist Office or look online for help finding somewhere to stay.

For more general information about the weekend or to indicate that you are interested in joining us this year phone André Hobro on 0121-777 3722 or email me: margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk

Maggie Kaye



BRIDE's ITV Appearance - Everyone Needs a Web Page by 2009

ITV turned up today* and filmed Janet's children's class for a 'what's on for children in your area' slot for Meridian Tonight part of the 6 o'clock news. It will probably end up as a 10-30 second item but at prime time and all down to our website, which has brought several opportunities already since the New Year.

This has led me to decide to continue my offer of free static web pages for groups on the interfolk site - so far we have 11 groups. Can the groups interested in having a page please contact me (folk@waitrose.com or via the editor) so I can get an idea of numbers to plan ahead? I'd like to try and get this project done by the end of the year. For people with existing websites, if you are having problems in getting found by the search engines, I may be able to help, so feel free to contact me.

John Douglas

*1½ hours notice! Ed.



February Balkanplus

The February Balkanplus will be held on the 9th February at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be Fiona Howarth. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton

Woman's World Day of Prayer

Ladies, (in particular) March 7th is the Woman's World Day of Prayer. An annual event in churches worldwide.

Latvia will be the Host Nation this year and will be incorporating a circle dance into its proceedings, also I believe a song to go with it.

The Methodist church in my village has asked me to provide a workshop demonstration at the previous monthly meeting to give people an idea of what a circle dance is all about, and so I am hoping to get together some of The Friendship Folk Dance Club, of Long Melford, Suffolk, to do just this.

I have just reintroduced two members of the Parish Church to folk dance, so who knows what might be the outcome.

My best new year greetings to you all.

Paul Bradley



Seminar of music and dances from Greek Macedonia

In the village of Ploermel, old town of residence of the Dukes of Brittany, very characteristic of this part of Brittany - on the borders of the antique Forest of Broceliande.

April 13/20th (Bulgaria + Greece)

- dances Greece : Yannis Konstantinou from Florina

- dances Bulgaria : Nikolay Tsvetkov from Blagoevgrad

(also linked to seminars of dances from Brittany and Ireland : with Yves Leblanc and Patrick o'Dea)

April 13 to 17th, : Greek traditional music (for proficient musicians, not beginners)

- Accordeon with Thimios Gkokidis from Thraki

- Clarinet with Yannis Mavros from Florina

Price varies according to the option chosen : 490 euros (dance)... 385 euros(music)

and includes : lessons (dance and/or music), accommodation and all meals

dance seminars options :

M 4 lessons Greece (beginners and advanced)

L 4 lessons Bulgaria (beginners and advanced)

K 4 lessons Bulgaria/Greece (beginners)

J 4 lessons Bulgaria/Greece (advanced)

I 2 lessons Brittany (advanced) + 2 lessons Greece (advanced)

H 2 lessons Ireland (advanced) + 2 lessons Bulgaria (advanced)

G 2 lessons Brittany (advanced) + 2 lessons Bulgaria (beginners)

F 2 lessons Brittany (beginners) + 2 lessons Greece (beginners)

E 2 lessons Ireland (beginners) + 2 lessons Bulgaria (beginners)

D 4 lessons Ireland (beginners and advanced)

C 4 lessons Brittany (beginners and advanced)

B 2 lessons Brittany (advanced) + 2 lessons Ireland (advanced)

A 2 lessons Brittany (beginners) + 2 lessons Ireland (beginners)

excursions are also organised (included in the price) and every evening something new happens !

maryse.fabre3@wanadoo.fr

C/° Joel and Marie-France Perchoc in Brittany Tel. +33 2 98 05 90 63 email : jperchoc@wanadoo.fr

Sardanas

Reading Kelsey Blundell's article last month, and her description of the Sardana, I can understand why she says "many Catalans do not know how to "count and divide".

Some years ago, when I was practising the Sardana, I asked Kelsey about the counts for the tune I had (different tunes are used for this dance and each has a different number of measures and a different "table" of counts). She gave me the following instructions!

Start Left foot.

Flaviol (introduction).

A music Two sets of shorts danced continuously in order to count their length, finishing with a dos parat

B music Two sets of longs danced continuously in order to count their length, finishing with a dos parat

A music One set of shorts, finishing with a tres parat

A music One set of shorts, finishing with a tres parat

B Music One set of longs, finishing with the simplest division according to the table (which will be either 3 or 5)

B music One set of longs, finishing with the correct division according to the table that will finish with left foot.

Flaviol

B music One set of longs with the normal division as per the table finishing to the left.

Flaviol

B music Repeat last set

.....

Tables

59 67 75 83 91 99 107 has a division of 3, i.e. a tres parat

57 65 73 81 89 97 105 has a division of 5, i.e. 1 short and a tres parat

55 63 71 79 87 95 103 has a division of 7, i.e. 2 shorts and a tres parat

53 61 69 77 85 93 101 has a division of 9, i.e. 3 shorts and a tres parat

This table applies when you have started the set on the left.

If you have started on the right, then 3 becomes 7, 7 becomes 3, 5 becomes 9, 9 becomes 5.

Claro ? !

Lily Avery



Letters to the Editor:

Dear Janet,

I have just received the certificate of honorary membership of the SIFD. It was very well designed and beautifully printed and I would like to thank those who were responsible for its production.

Yours sincerely

George Sweetland

Dear Janet,

For some time now I have been reading in the News Sheet requests for ideas to spend surplus money accumulated by the Society.

This takes my memory back to the 'Golden Age' of the S.I.F.D. when in some extraordinary way a small sum of money was accumulated. Among the various suggestions - apart from "Let's go on the town for the night", it was suggested that a 'Building Fund' be established. This was agreed but never carried on, and for several A.G.M.s a member, Henry Schuster, rose to pose the question - "What about the Building Fund?" - there was never any action taken, and eventually the money was frittered away on other 'worthy' causes.

I have no suggestions for the present dilemma, excepting to pleasantly reminisce and to plead - don't let the present surplus be 'frittered' away.

With best wishes to all of the dancing world.

Irene Fyffe
No.9



Irene also sent in the photograph below in response to Margaret Joyner's letter last month. Ed.



Barbara Slavinska
dancing with Bert Price
at the Canford Summer
School of Music.

Circa 1952

TROÏKA
 Russian (progressive dance, play ad lib, finish on B)
TROÏKA

A (Intro: last 4 bars of A music)

Wilf Horrocks



NB The music for Istanbul Kasap will be in the April issue.

Ed.



Eastbourne Festival....Stewards.... Stewards.... Stewards....!

Once again I am asking for stewards for the Eastbourne Festival. It would help me greatly if you could fill in and send this slip to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, BN22 0PZ, or telephone Rowena on 1323 503991, or email rowenahmartin@hotmail.com. Thank you very much!

Name.....

Telephone (home).....

Telephone (mobile).....

Details of offer(i.e. any restrictions on number and type of sessions you can offer, and which days):

.....

.....

SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

at 7pm – 10pm at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1
Cost £6 members £7 non-members

Feb. 3rd MCs: The SIFD Band

Mar. 2nd MC: Jill Bransby



WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

S.I **Feb.9th** **SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 6

S.I **Feb.9th** **BALKANPLUS MC** see page 7

Feb.23rd **CELLAR UPSTAIRS FOLK CLUB** Beskydy (seven piece band with rousing dance music and lyrical songs from Eastern Europe) 8.15pm Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. Tel:020 7281 7700. London NW1 2HR nr. Euston and Euston Square stns.

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 one session) 10.30-4.30pm. Contacts 01332 701922 / 0115 9171831



All material for the March issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17th February, emails by 16th February.