



SIFD

News

March

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 shows a Bulgarian Kukeri whose purpose was to frighten off demons. It is very colourful costume; a mass of different colour sequins are sewn on the hood with holes for the eyes.

Brightly coloured beads make up the waistcoat worn over the shirt. There are dozens of bells attached to straps which hang from the waist adding to the sound as the dancer moves around.

Also featured this month is the Balkanplus logo.



CHAIRMAN: Roger Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU
roger@rogersturge.me.uk

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*

There are plenty of colouring-in opportunities for our youngest dancers this month; Two Japanese children pages 9/10 and Bulgarian on the cover.

I hope a lot more of you will write and tell us what international folk dance events you're planning, and feedback about those you've experienced. We would also like to hear about your group, especially if it has recently joined the society (it may encourage someone to join you).

Musicians: share some of your transcriptions and arrangements with us.

Artists: send a cover design, or a motif.

Photographers: show us people in costume, or dancing; also pictures of folk instruments.

Teachers and specialists: notes on history and style (like Fiona Howarth's article on page 11).

Ed.



Swansea Summer School Cards

Inserted in the News are two business cards advertising our Summer School which takes place this July. If each member could take at least one card along to another dance function that they attend, this would widen our distribution and aid our publicity efforts.

Thank you,

Jill Bransby



Sardanas

I was so interested to read the article in this month's copy of the News about the Sardanas. It took my mind back to the late 60s and 70s, when every summer we spent our holidays with the children in the Catalan area of Spain. Once we were settled in (usually a camp site) we would enquire as to where the Sardanas would be taking place; there would always be one or more Sardanas evenings in the nearby villages.

Every year I would wait eagerly to be invited into the circle of locals, I wasn't interested in joining the tourist circles, as usually these circles were not interested in learning the RIGHT way to do Sardanas.

I was treated as one of the locals and on one occasion in the village of Llafranch on the Costa Brava, I was bravo'd at the end of the dance - those were the days!!

I did however learn one important etiquette point - it is absolutely taboo to break into a ready formed circle, I did this once in my ignorance and got severely reprimanded and was refused to join the circle - wait to be invited, mostly it is not a problem and you will be invited - but never break the circle yourself.

I was delighted when I saw that the Summer School are going to do the Sardanas and was looking forward to going, unfortunately it clashes with another holiday and I will miss the opportunity to dance the Sardanas again. Hopefully someone will include this fascinating dance at a Day Course if so I'll be there.

Looking for somewhere to go this summer? Try the Costa Brava area of Spain and search out the Sardanas you will love it.

Valerie Ralph



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 5

Apr.12th BALKANPLUS MC will be Toni Gutman

Apr. 20th GREEK DANCES FROM ASIA MINOR (including Constantinople) taught by Dimitris Triandafyllidis, at the Down's Club, Institute for Cancer Research, Sutton, Surrey. £27.50. For details and booking, please contact Irene Cooper on 01243 786400, or imscooper.chi@virgin.net

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. Phone André Hobro on 0121 777 3722

Apr.26th WOODVALE 40th ANNIVERSARY Borough Green Village Hall, details Jan or Linda Bryce on 01732 885048 or Jenny Cant on 01732 883405.

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. Performances by Helena Bengé 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. 8th/13th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD tel: 01978 862001
email:tickets@international-eisteddfod.co.uk

Jul. 26th/Aug. 2nd THE SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL at Swansea. Corry Verheijen, Dragan Draganov, Ramon Cardona

Aug.3rd/8th MACHOL EUROPA 31 see page 5

S.I **Aug.22nd /25th The 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 Courses Cost Increase

Unfortunately, as Cecil Sharp House has decreed a sharp rise in the cost of using the halls, we have had to increase the cost of Day Courses. From June the cost will be:

£8 for SIFD members

£10 for non-members

Sorry!

* * * * *

SIFD Two Day Course - March

Dates: Saturday 8th March
& Sunday 9th March

Cost: £8 per day, £15 for both for SIFD members.

£10 per day for non-members

Place: Cecil Sharp House

Tutor: **Tvrtko Zebec**

Time: 10.30am-4.30pm both days

Subject: Dances from Croatia

* * * * *

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@camdenclog.org.uk
or 'phone Kathryn Tattersall on 020 8889 8087 or go to www.camdenclog.org.uk

Pam Radford



Machol Europa 31

The Israeli Folk Dance Summer School will be held on Loughborough University campus August 3/8. It is a chance to learn at first hand some of the latest Israeli folk dance creations as well as some of the older dances. You can meet teachers and dancers from some of the countries whose dances we perform in SIFD. I wish to point out that this School starts two days after the finish of the SIFD School and if possible I intend to drive from one to the other on the Sunday between.

Shmulik Gov'Ari, Shlomo Maman, Rafi Ziv and Ofer Elfasi return from Israel. A traditional Harkada course, themed nights, special events plus courses for newcomers, teachers, choreographers and performers, with delicious food and comfortable accommodation.

For further details and booking form visit www.idi.org.uk, or email info@idi.org.uk
or call: 020 8448 6427

David J. Bramson



Woodvale International Folk Dance Group 40th Anniversary



Forty years ago Woodvale International Folk Dance Group was formed. To celebrate this milestone, we are holding a special **Anniversary Dance** preceded with an afternoon teaching session, on **Saturday 26th April** in Borough Green Village Hall.

The Teaching Session will run between 4pm and 6.30pm. It is divided into two sections with some exciting teachers already booked. During the short interval a light tea will be provided.

Stella and Phil will be playing for the Anniversary Dance, which will start at 7.30pm, to end at 10.30pm with an interval for a cold buffet. Please bring your own drink and glasses. There will be a short display by the Balaton Hungarian Folk Dance Group.

It would be wonderful to see our many friends on this day, please wear a costume if you have one.

Do let us know if you plan to come, tickets can be paid for on the day.

Tickets: All Day - £10.00 Evening Only - £8.00
Available from Linda and Jan Bryce 01732 885048
email:jan@bryce14.fsnet.co.uk

Woodvale.I.F.D.G



Early Start Dance at Cecil Sharp House in April

The Sunday Dance in April at Cecil Sharp House is to start early again this year. Last year this experiment was a great success, and we were delighted so many people were able to attend – and especially pleased to see so many children.

So on April 6th the dance will start not at 7pm, but at 4pm, and end at 7pm.

The MCs are to be Woodvale, who always organise a lovely programme of dances trying to get a balance of dances that can be followed, dances to be walked through and dances for those who know what they are doing.

We do hope this will be as well attended as last time – please give the event your full support. All are welcome.

We'd love to see all the usual faces despite the time change. This year I will make homemade biscuits to go with your afternoon tea in the interval.

Usual (very inexpensive) entrance fees apply – adult members £6, non members £7, children 14-18 £3. Please note that entrance for children under 14 is free.

We have provisionally arranged another early start in October - the success of this occasion will determine whether we confirm that.

And don't forget the date for the May dance is May 11th.

Alison Scrimshaw

A Look at some New Spring Books

With the coming of Spring there is always a rush of new books on the market. Two very interesting ones which have just been published are aimed at the serious dance student teacher and those on degree courses.

Very appropriate and coincides with the Launch of "China Now", a national cultural festival covering over 800 events from Chinese New Year until the start of the Beijing Olympic Games, is "The Story of Dai Ailian" - Icon of Chinese folk dance and Pioneer of Chinese Ballet by Richard Glasstone. Dance Books. ISBN 978 185273 1182 rrp £7.99. Paperback edition. To anyone interested in Chinese culture, or even if you are not, will find this book a fascinating read. Madame Dai Ailian was a very courageous woman who researched and collected many folk dances from some of China's most isolated minority regions and so rescued them from disappearing for ever. As well as all this field work she also established and developed classical ballet in China. She had studied ballet in London, first with Anton Dolin, then later with Marie Rambert and Margaret Craske, with whom she assimilated the Cecchetti System which became the basis of all her teaching. As with all those who pioneered in dance, life was far from easy and she suffered the most terrible hardships. During the Cultural Revolution, she and many of her dancers were exiled and made to work in the fields, living and treated worse than peasants and more like pigs. Some how she survived these difficult years to see the ballet school and eventually the National Ballet become established. The company will be appearing at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, July.29th - Aug.2nd. Richard Glasstone has written a very inspiring book and recorded for posterity the life and achievements of this remarkable woman.

* * * * *

Another valuable book that should be of interest to all those involved in the folk dance scene is - "A Balkan Custom" - half as old as time, by Nigel Allenby Jaffe. ISBN 978-1-4120-8632-5. Trafford Publishing Ltd. Available online. trafford.com/06-0388 or Trafford Publishing(UK)Ltd, 9 Park End Street, 2nd floor, Oxford.OX1 1HH. Price. £25.00. So few books are printed that deal with folk lore and the author has researched various rituals that are still to be found in the Balkans today. He explains in detail how many have such strong links with the myths of ancient Greece and also with parts of Homer's Iliad. You will certainly learn a lot about the Greeks, I certainly did. Very well presented with over 250 photographs and nearly 300 pages, this is certainly good value.

Robert Harrold



Adult Dance Festival

Sunday 18th May, entry £4 per person, closing date 14th March at Welwyn Hatfield Festival

An opportunity for adult dancers / dance groups to perform in a theatre - at the Campus West Theatre, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE

Contact: Beryl Whyatt, 1 Hitherway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7RG. Please state discipline, eg. Folk, ballet, tap, and enclose cheque (£4 per person) payable to Welwyn Hatfield Festival



March Balkanplus

The March Balkanplus will be held on the 8th March at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be Frank Dowling. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton



Intensive Russian Dance

2-day workshop with Hennie Konings 14th/15th June at ISTD2, 346 Old Street, London EC1V 9NQ

Saturday 10.00 for 10.30am - 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00 for 10.15am - 5.00pm

Cost £70 (£60 for Klutchers Klub members who did the January weekend)

This workshop is an opportunity for people with a special interest in exploring Russian dance in more depth to work intensively on style and detail.

Numbers will be strictly limited so early booking is advisable.

All enquiries and bookings to: Janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk tel: 020 7229 9387

Note: dates for January 2009: 17th & 18th

Janet Wilks



Dance Tours to Armenia

May 11-22 & October 1-12 Teachers: Paylak Satrkisian and Liudvig Poghosian Price: € 1495
Paylak is well known in Armenia as a teacher and choreographer, Liudvig has a vast knowledge of traditional village dances and will be accompanied by musicians. A basic knowledge of dance steps is recommended,

Excursions and classes are in English and will include sightseeing in Yerevan, the ancient temple of Garni, the impressive monastery of Geghard, the religious centre Edsmiadzin, the monastery of Noravank famous for its stunning location and decoration, visit the village Sasnashen where Armenians from Sasoun (in Anatolia) have settled and kept their traditional dances and see how lavash (traditional bread) is still baked the old-fashioned way: in the tonir, a pit in the floor of the house. A 2-day excursion our tour will lead us to Lake Sewan (el. 2000 m.) and the scenic peninsula of Aghtamar. Stop in Areni to buy local wine, continuing to Yegheknadzor (south east Armenia) where we can enjoy home made food, meet the local folk dance group and craftsmen and take a stroll.

Attend Armenian folk music and dance rehearsals and performances. With free time to do a little exploration on your own.

Lodging: Yerevan State University Foreign Guest House in the centre of Yerevan. Rooms with 2 single beds, shower/bath and toilet Single room (limited availability) upon request: €150 extra.

Information: Tineke Van Geel. www.tinekevangeel.nl email: info@tinekevangeel.nl
or tel: 0031 521 380382

I have been on one of these tours and can thoroughly recommend it.

Andrene Thompson





Israeli Dances

Israeli dances reflect the many varied traditions in the places from which Israelis have gathered to their homeland, and also have the modern youthful spirit of a young country. The best known are the lively circle dances, or horas, such as Mayim Mayim (Water, Water) in which jumps, step-hops and turns abound, and the dancers move first one way then another round the circle, gathering to the centre and out again.

The Yemenite influence is seen in other dances - in fact there is a basic step called 'the Yemenite step', a little like a pas-de-bas. The whole body moves in a vibrant, sinuous manner in the less familiar Eastern cadences of the music. Original Yemenite music is sung, accompanied only by the rhythmic beating of an oil drum or other utensil - musical instruments were forbidden to Yemenite Jews in the diaspora, as a sign of mourning for the lost temple. Yemenite dances are often performed to religious songs, as also are the Chassidic-style dances which feature the ecstatic religious fervour of the Chassidic movement. Lines of men hold the shoulder of the one in front and hands are lifted in religious gestures. This deeply spiritual expression is not attempted but the mood remains in some of the most joyous Israeli dances of today - Hora Chadera, Niguno-shel Jossi are two popular examples.

Debkas are line dances based on Arabic style. The dancers are in short, tightly-formed lines, shoulder to shoulder or closely following a leader. The steps are firm and staccato - stamps, jumps, heel taps before stepping, deep knee bends and squats.

In recent years couple dances have become very popular. They are danced to modern popular music, and many are very lyrical and romantic, using waltz steps, slow turns, and varied partner holds.

Nearly all Israeli music is in a minor key, and the tunes are haunting and appealing.

Typical popular dances : -

Circle Dances	Hora Medura (fast), Erev Ba (slow)
Chassidic	Tzadik Katamar, Hora Chadera
Yemenite	Dror Yikrah, Tinten Banat
Debkas	Debka Halel, Debka Uria
Couple	Na'ama, Bat Yiptach

Written by **Fiona Howarth in 1986**



Romanian Dance Troupe

There were reports in the media this week about Romanian children being used as thieves. In an article in The Times yesterday, 25th Jan 08, there was a paragraph:

Robbers' reel. Earlier this year a Romanian dance troupe entertained several stores in Lancashire while their accomplices stripped the shelves. As the amused shopkeepers watched the gang dancing around, their goods were being stolen.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article3247820.ece>

John Pitcock



The Llangollen Eisteddfod

In his brief history of the Eisteddfod in the October News, Geogr Sweetland mentioned that I had a book on the Eisteddfod! It is "Gentle are its Songs" by Kenneth A. Wright. Published in 1973 by Sir Gerald Nabarro (Publications)Ltd. ISBN 0 903699 001.

The book is bilingual (English/Welsh) and the early years are covered well and give the competition winners. It includes a note on dance by Lucile Armstrong, but another inclusion that will bring back memories for early visitors is "The International Eisteddfod as seen by Dylan Thomas"; a description by a master wordsmith that can be recommended! It was taken from "Quite Early One Morning" published by J.M.Dent & Sons!

This year Cities 500 is publishing a history, in conjunction with the Eisteddfod organisers, "Llangollen - Voices of the World", to be available in two versions, a subscriber edition at £60+£7 pp. and a retail version at £20. Details % The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, Royal International Pavilion, Abbey Road, Llangollen, Wales LL20 8SW
Email: Llangollen@cities500.com www.international-eisteddfod.co.uk

Roy Clarke



Pontic Dance Seminar

Pontic Dance Seminar with Kyriakos Moisidis who is known world wide for his knowledge and experience in Pontic dancing.

Saturday 5th April 10.00 - 4.00 at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre, Nottingham.

Sunday 6th April 11.00 - 5.00 at GPA Centre, 39 Winkfield Road, London N22 5RP.

Cost: £42 each seminar (£35 if booked before 12th March) includes seminar pack and music.

For further information and booking form contact Georgina@greekdancing.org 07816294266 or 0115 9231070

Chrisandra Harris



British - Bulgarian Friendship Society Martenitza

The British - Bulgarian Friendship Society invite you to their Martenitza - Welcome the coming of Spring, 15.00 - 17.30, on Saturday 8th March at John Marshall Hall [Behind Christ Church Centre], 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1. Nearest Underground: Blackfriars or Southwark.

Tickets at the door £7 [£5 Concessions], inc. refreshments and a glass of wine.

Traditional Music & Dances from Bulgaria by Martin Spasov & Tanec Dance Group, + Galin Nikolov & Friends.

Roger Wicksteed



Bulgarian Dance Workshop

Oxford Balkansko Oro invite guests to a Bulgarian Dance Workshop with Cathy Meunier 20.15 - 22.15 on Thursday 13th March at St. Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, £2.50.

Roger Wicksteed



Sybil Chapman on the Hungarian Collection

Meeting report - 18 October 2007 by Sybil Chapman on the Hungarian collection. The lecture given by Sybil today proved to be very interesting. Sybil took us on a verbal and visual journey through time giving explicit and interesting descriptions of one small section of costume and customs. The costumes proved to be intricate and fascinating with so much colour and work going into them backed up by plenty of visual information. Also of great interest was the description of how the costumes came into Sybil's hands and were brought back into this country. A most exciting picture was given. We have on two occasions been given lectures on British costume but this one was very different and many commented how interesting it was. It is always nice to hear and see how other cultures evolve and progress. So I must say thank you on behalf of all present to Sybil for most enlightening and interesting afternoon; well worth going to the meeting for.
Marion Jones-Weaver

This was reprinted from the Autumn Quarterly News of the Birmingham & District Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.

I was invited to meet the Hungarian Ambassador (in costume) some years ago when the National Costume Collection came "out" of Budapest for the first (and as far I know, only) time. I was given a permit to photograph the exhibition the following morning, before the public were allowed in. It was held in the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester. Some folks will remember the slides from a years-ago summer school but it's too good to just sit in the cupboard, so I'm showing it to various Guilds in the Midlands interested in textiles etc.

Sybil Chapman



Malcolm Shaffer

We are sad to report that on 6th February Malcolm lost his brave fight against cancer. He was widely loved as a key member of the High Wycombe group, a popular MC at Balkanplus, an enthusiastic caller and dancer in the English folk dance scene and, with his wife Barbara, a lively participant for many years at countless Balkan and international dance events. His skills and warm personality will be sorely missed.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Barbara, Mark and Lara.

+++

Barbara Shaffer wishes to thank all her friends for supporting her and Malcolm through his long illness. International dancing had been so much a part of Malcolm's life and it saddened him when he was no longer able to continue. Sadly he passed away on February 6th and Barbara wishes to thank all those who attended the funeral and for all the beautiful cards and good wishes.

Istanbul Kasap

Turkey

A *M*

B

C

D

Gennaro Fiondella



Istanbul Kasap was introduced by Ersin Seyhan at Bognor Regis 2000. It is great fun as a party dance with no difficult movements or steps. Kasap, Turkish for Butchers' dance (similar to Hasapiko, Greek - which also has a humorous tone).

Ed.

SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

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

Mar. 2nd (7pm–10pm) MC: Jill Bransby

Interval dancing will be Appalachian Clogging, led by Wendy Harrup. Please bring some hard-soled shoes so you can 'hoof' some basic steps with easy moves.

* * *

Apr. 6th (4pm start) MCs: Woodvale Group



WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Mar. 8th **BRITISH-BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY MARTENITZA** see page 12

Mar. 8th/9th **SIFD TWO DAY COURSE** see page 5

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. 8th** **BALKANPLUS** see page 8

Mar. 13th **BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** see page 13

Mar. 15th **BLACK & WHITE MASKED DANCE PARTY** 8th Annual Israeli Dance Marathon. 8.30pm- 5.30am. proceeds to Cancer Research UK. £15 Oakington Manor School. Wembley HA9 6NF

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



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