

# SIFD News

# April 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 taken by Andrew Hardwick at the 2005 Koprivshitsa Festival in Bulgaria.  
The Woodvale I. F. D. logo appears this month as they celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



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*

SECRETARY: Fran Crawley, 8 Chalford Court, 182 Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 6HJ.  
*Fran\_uk@hotmail.com*

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

There is an up-to-date Eastbourne International Folk Dance Festival timetable on page 9. Some of you may well have wondered what was happening when you received the official timetable with your ticket but I have glad tidings. The changes (mostly the very lucky late addition of Delyan) were registered in November, but, unfortunately, seem to have been overlooked when the programmes were sent out. However in this correct one, you will see that there is a fantastic line-up of talent and teachers on our own international side, not to mention the wealth of quality on the 'English' side.

Ed.



### **Embankment Gardens Theatre - 2008**

This year has been smoother than last, both for myself and for the group Leaders, as we had the Tour de France cycle race to contend with as well as the usual serried ranks of the American show bands in the most popular period, so we were unable to find suitable dates easily and the Central London Group could not appear.

But this year we have been luckier. The season will open on Sunday June 1st. with Leslie Haddon's 'Balaton' (Hungarian) Group, starting at 3.00 pm., who will, I am sure, give us an immaculate performance. On Sunday June 8th., we welcome back Janet Woolbar's Central London Group, with a programme of General International dances, mostly European and Middle Eastern, starting at 12. 30 pm. On Saturday June 14th. Leslie's other group, 'Doina', has a programme from 3.00 pm, of Eastern European dances, which will include the Balkans. At present our last date is on July 26th. at 2.00 pm. when the Bognor Regis group, following their successful debut last year, will, under Janet Douglas also present a programme of General International dances.

However, it would show more of our varied activities if we could persuade some of our other affiliated groups to appear on the Gardens' stage. While July is probably full, after the first week August is possible. I can be reached in the first instance on 020 7701 3785. If London members could perhaps support our dancers at the Embankment, it would be appreciated. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the theatre and Office staff for their help. They have always tried to accommodate us in spite of the pressure of the US bands' European tour.

For the Committee,

**George Sweetland**



### **SIFD Secretary**

At the last AGM Alison Scrimshaw told us she wished to stand down as Secretary. She kindly continued to assist in the administration until a successor could be found. We have now found a successor, so Alison has stopped being the secretary. All thank her for her sterling work keeping us on track and organising so much of the Society's affairs with efficiency and good humour.

The new secretary is Fran Crawley. We are most grateful to Fran for being willing to take on this vital role. You will find her contact details along with the other officers on page 2.

**Roger Sturge**  
**SIFD Chairman**



## **SIFD Summer School – 26<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2008**

Don't forget to book soon for this year's Summer School. Remember that it's only held every two years, so don't miss your chance to dance with friends at Swansea this summer.

You need to choose two courses which you take every morning from the following options:

General (couples and sets), General (non- partner dances), Catalan (this will include other dances not just Sardana) or Bulgarian.

There will be other courses running in the afternoon. These will be decided when it is known what's on offer. Of course you don't have to dance all the time – there are wonderful beaches to explore in the Gower peninsula. Every evening we have a social dance.

The outing will be on Tuesday afternoon by coach. We will visit Aberglasney House and gardens. According to the web site [www.aberglasney.org](http://www.aberglasney.org), these are 'spectacularly set in the beautiful Tywi valley of Carmarthenshire' and are one of the 'finest gardens in Wales'. They have been an inspiration to poets since 1477 and there is restoration work to unravel the mysteries of the house and gardens.

If you have lost your blue application form you could obtain another one from Roger Sturge (01179 621802) or Dorien BatesDFB2@btinternet.com or you could print off a form from our special website [www.sifdsummerschool.org/](http://www.sifdsummerschool.org/). You could also check on the teachers, accommodation and fees on our website.

Looking forward to meeting you this summer,

**Jill Bransby (Publicity Officer)**



### **Norwegian Workshops and Evening Dance**

On Saturday 12 April Olav Sem will be teaching morning and afternoon workshops followed by an evening of Scandinavian dancing. He will be teaching Roros Pols and some Telespringar and possibly some other dances. Olav is a highly respected teacher in Norway, teaching many workshops and at many festivals. Here is a chance to learn these enjoyable dances taught by an expert teacher from Norway.

The morning workshop will be from 9:30 to 12:30 at the Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place, Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN. Hopkinsons Place is a small alley off the northwest side of Fitzroy Road. There is a sign to the Community Centre.

The afternoon and evening sessions will be at the Swedish Church, 6 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4AG. Ring the buzzer as directed for entrance. This is very near the Edgware Road Underground Station. As there are parking restrictions in the area of the Swedish Church it is advisable to come by public transport. The afternoon session will run from 2:30 to 5:30, and the evening dance will be from 7:45 till about 10:30.

The evening dance will include a variety of dances from both Norway and Sweden in addition to the dances taught at the workshops. All the sessions will have live music. A small group of musicians has been practicing in preparation for the workshops. The cost is £6 per session or £15 for all day and evening, £3 for musicians joining the evening dance.

For further information call Caspar Cronk on 020 8340 4683.

**Caspar Cronk**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> 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 Benge and the Morena Dance Company at the evening dances. Booking office: 01278 424332 or 07970 436337

S.I **May 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup>) 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 4<sup>th</sup> night or en-suite bedrooms. Further details from: Gordon Adie, 35 Royal Crescent, Exeter EX2 7QT. (tel:01392 362788) or further details from Jack Richardson 01792 403153

S.I **May 10<sup>th</sup> BALKANPLUS MC** will be Balkansko Oro (Oxford)

**May 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.msg.org.uk).

**Jun.14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE** 2-day workshop with Hennie Konings at ISTD 2, 346 Old Street, London EC1V 9NQ Sat.10.00-5.30pm Sun.10.00-5.00pm Cost £70 (£60 for Klutchers Klub members) Numbers will be strictly limited so early booking is advisable. All enquiries and bookings to: [Janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk) tel: 020 7229 9387

**Jul.26<sup>th</sup>/Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> THE SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL** at Swansea. [www.sifdsummerschool.org](http://www.sifdsummerschool.org) or tel:01462 457791 [DFB2@btinternet.com](mailto:DFB2@btinternet.com)

**Aug.3<sup>rd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> MACHOL EUROPA 31** The Israeli Folk Dance Summer School, Loughborough University. For further details and booking form visit [www.idi.org.uk](http://www.idi.org.uk), or email [info@idi.org.uk](mailto:info@idi.org.uk) or call: 020 8448 6427

**Aug.4<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> CIRCLE DANCE HOLIDAY AT HALSWAY MANOR**, Somerset. Join us for dancing (a mix of European folk and the best of Circle Dance) taught by Sue Kewley (20 years experience). Free time for walking, exploring. Non-dancing partners welcome. Four nights full board except for lunch £180 (£208 ensuite) and non-dancers £165 (or £193 ensuite). Friday night may be possible for supplement. Contact Sue Kewley 01903 744929 or [suekew@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:suekew@tiscali.co.uk)

S.I **Aug.22<sup>nd</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> 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.

S.I **Sep.27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> BALKANPLUS WORKSHOPS WITH BEN KOOPMANSCHAP** This will be the first visit to England by Holland's foremost teacher of the dances of former Yugoslavia and Albania. Held in the Main Hall (Kennedy) at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY Tickets £25 for weekend or £15 per day available by post from Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG sae please Cheques payable to Balkanplus. Price reductions for Balkanplus season ticket holders. Further information may be found on the Balkanplus website [www.balkanplus.org.uk](http://www.balkanplus.org.uk)

S.I **Oct.18<sup>th</sup> NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP.** Dances from Bulgaria. Venue: Grangewood Methodist Church Hall. Grangewood Rd. Wollaton. Notts. NG8 2SJ. Led by Brian Dowsett £7 (£4 half-day) 10.30am to 4.30pm. Further details 01332 701922 / 0155 9171831

S.I **Oct.24<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF MACEDONIAN FOLK DANCE** with Paul Mulders in Malhamdale, Yorkshire Dales. Comfortable ensuite accommodation, full-board. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Excellent area for walking or sight-seeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation (3 nights) £199. Single course £26, both courses £46. For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115, Chetwynd Road, London, NW5 1DA or e:mail your request to [cathy\\_meunier@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com).

\* \* \*

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.



### **Noughties Dance - June 1<sup>st</sup> - Cecil Sharp House**

Do you have a birthday that ends in a 0 ? If the answer is YES, and you are intending to come along to the dance, please send me a list of about 8 dances that you would like to do during the evening.

If you care to MC or lead your dances, that would be great, but is not essential. Please let me have the details by the end of April in order that I can inform the musicians.

Helen Ezra , 84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 6RB. Telephone 0208 6484118

Thank you, and have a HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

**Helen Ezra**



### **Bingolotto**

As you will have seen in the minutes of the AGM, it was agreed that the SIFD would join in the pilot scheme of Bingolotto at no cost to ourselves (along with several other organisations). This scheme is being organised by CCPR (the Central Council for Physical Recreation) of whom SIFD is a member. Any profit from ticket sales, after administration, would be divided between members of the scheme to spend on developing access to the member's activities.

Promotion of the scheme started with an article in the Sunday time and a photo-shoot in Trafalgar Square (where we were represented by Alison Scrimshaw). The game is shown on Virgin 1 and Challenge tv channels on Friday evenings. Tickets for the Bingolotto game are now available @ £2 each from Woolworth, Paypoint and some newsagents. Prizes range from a ticket for the following weeks draw, to a car, or a holiday, with a maximum cash prize of £100,000.

Members of SIFD are encouraged to participate by purchasing tickets.

Good luck to you all.

**Helen Ezra**  
for the Committee



## Dvorana Summer Course

This year again, the Prague Dvorana is organising a summer course of Czech and Moravian folk dancing, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2008. The accommodation and dance hall are within an easy walking distance of the Prague historic centre. There are going to be six dance teachers covering various folkloristic areas of the Czech republic.

The course is followed by a five-day sortie to Southern Bohemia for a weekend folk festival in the town of Pisek, and some touring around the region. This optional second part may be of special interest to those who would like to see more of the country outside Prague.

If a similar course last year is anything to go by, this promises to be a very enjoyable and efficient opportunity to learn and see the dances in their natural milieu, and see a lovely part of Bohemia. Last year I was particularly delighted by the second half of the course, touring the south-east Moravian region of Slovacko.



We were lucky to be there during another folk festival in the town of Kyjov, which takes place only once every four years. Colourful local folk costumes were seen everywhere, the choice of venues was overwhelming and the friendliness of the people heart-warming. The opening ceremony of the festival included raising of a maypole in the main square. This one was 130 feet high and it took at least three score of men nearly two hours to put it up and make it safe. It then, for the next three days, dominated the horizon, being taller than the spire of the local church.

I cannot promise you a very tall maypole this year but knowing Dvorana I can promise you an unforgettable fortnight in the Czech republic. So, if you are interested, go and find more details on the Dvorana web site [www.dvorana.cz/](http://www.dvorana.cz/) . You can also contact Dvorana by e-mail on [dvorana@mbx.vol.cz](mailto:dvorana@mbx.vol.cz) , or by phone (+420) 235 318 279 or by fax (+420) 235 318 267 or by letter: Dvorana, Spanielova 1275/38 , 163 00, Prague 6, Czech Republic

**Dal Sudwell**



### Home wanted for two pairs of shoes -

Red lace-up clogs, size 6 and Red Gamba tap shoes, (for Appalachian clogging) size 6 ½ for the cost of the postage, please.

Tel: 020 8504 0760 or [jeanbrailsford@talktalk.net](mailto:jeanbrailsford@talktalk.net)

**Jean Brailsford**

## What Is Silence?

Last weekend's course of dances from Croatia with Tvrtko Zebec was a real treat. The wide selection of dances from all the different regions of Croatia was accompanied by an equally diverse and delightful choice of music. Tvrtko's dancing, teaching and excellent spoken English all combined to make this a really enjoyable experience – he even delivered a short PowerPoint presentation.

As if all that wasn't enough there was also his warmth and good-natured enthusiasm for his native culture about which he is both well informed and eloquent. A demonstration of this came with a so-called "Silent Dance". As we danced, Tvrtko demonstrated the singing first of the words "Mi smo rekle zapjevati ode" that would be sung by women, and then he gave the male singer's response. Later I asked him about the history of the silent dances, and the stories that they had originated out of a period when traditional music had been banned. "Well," he replied, "Who can really say for sure what is the history of a dance?" He then went on to describe a scene which he had captured on video and which he very kindly showed to those of us staying at the same place as him.

The video begins with two dancers – a man and a woman – both dressed in richly coloured woollen costumes. The man has long dark hair and a flowing moustache. The dance consists of hopping rhythmically, twice on one foot then twice on the other. The scene is filmed outdoors in the village of Ogorje (Svilaja Mountains) on a Sunday morning in April. The sky is bright blue and the surrounding hills look a whitish grey. The dancers are on a fairly level piece of rough ground in front of a church, a tall, rectangular, grey edifice from which mass-goers are emerging. There is a small wooden platform on which stands a man also dressed in brightly coloured costume who is acting as a sort of master of ceremonies. This man has leather coloured skin and also wears a flowing beard and moustache. He keeps up a fairly constant commentary over a public address system, exhorting anyone in costume to walk about so people can admire them, and promising free food to all who sing or dance (somewhere close by a lamb is roasting on a spit).

People are spread around the area in small groups, chatting and drinking. Suddenly a man's voice begins singing and almost immediately a second voice joins him with a drone, then a third singing higher than the first. The high voices make a penetrating chest sound and clash in ringing dissonances. All three voices come to a sudden stop after just a few lines of text, and the men resume their conversation almost as though nothing has happened – or acknowledge the comments of onlookers by raising a glass. Similar groups of singers are dotted around, mostly in threes and some including women as well as men. Every now and then someone will start a short burst of singing but there is clearly no set time or pattern. Sometimes one group begins singing before another has finished, other times there may be a long gap between songs.

The singing is not the only sound to be heard either. The sound of a *gajde* is heard at one point, apparently a little way off. Later on the man with the *gajde* is on the platform with the master of ceremonies who encourages everyone to watch his fingers so that they too will be able to play as well as he does. At another point in the proceedings a man has scaled the church tower and taken a hold of the clappers on the two bells. Balancing midway between the bells he starts to play them rhythmically, using the clappers to strike the bells directly in the type of ringing the Italians used to call *campaniata*.

In addition to all the sounds going on there are occasional outbreaks of dancing. Couples like the one seen at the beginning dance forwards and backwards going down a slight slope in the ground and then back up it. Small groups of four or five dancers perform the same steps but in a circle. Each of the dancers holds on to a ring of cloth (a knotted handkerchief) which gives the circle its shape. Tvrtko explained that the dance is referred to as an "empty kolo" because of the hole at the centre of this ring. The dancing is as sporadic and short-lived as the singing. Every now and then a group forms, dances for a while then stops. Sometimes the hops of the dancers appear to be synchronised with the ringing of the bells, sometimes not.

The main focus of all the small groups of singers or dancers seems to be what *they* are doing, irrespective of what is going on around them. The singers stand facing each other directly and listen to each other intently, sometimes cupping a hand over the ear to catch the sound of their own group. The dancers choose their moment to start or stop completely independently of singing or other sounds. After we had watched this scene unfold over half an hour or so Tvrtko posed the following question. "Now that you see how this is done in the village, would you still call it a silent dance?"

**Mike Machin**



### Eastbourne International Folk Dance Festival Timetable

	Dance Studio	Gym
Friday 8pm		<i>Welcome Dance</i> MC: Julie Korth
>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> session	Delyan Demirev <i>Bulgarian</i>	Angie Saravelaki <i>Greek</i>
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> session	Delyan Demirev <i>Bulgarian</i>	Cristina Casarini <i>Italian</i>
>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> session	Angie Saravelaki <i>Greek</i>	Helena Benge <i>Flamenco</i>
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> session	Cristina Casarini <i>Czech</i>	Helena Benge <i>Flamenco</i>
>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Saturday 8pm		<i>Nostalgia Nite</i> MC: Ian Willson (Delyan, Cristina & Helena)
>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> session	Delyan Demirev <i>Bulgarian</i>	Cristina Casarini <i>Italian</i>
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> session	Ian Willson <i>Golden Oldies</i>	Angie Saravelaki <i>Greek</i>
>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> session	Cristina Casarini <i>International</i>	Delyan Demirev <i>Bulgarian</i>
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> session	Angie Saravelaki <i>Greek</i>	<i>Meet the Team</i> Morena Dance Company
>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Sunday 8pm		<i>Balkan Party</i> MC: Brian Dowsett (Angie, Delyan, Dancho & Morena D.C)
>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> session		Angie Saravelaki <i>Greek</i>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> session		Cristina Casarini <i>Italian, Czech &amp; International</i>
>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Finale		Old favourites plus dances with Delyan

## **Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar, Plovdiv**

This Seminar is especially designed for non-Bulgarians (or Bulgarians interested in connecting with their 'roots' music and dance) who want a more in-depth opportunity to learn traditional instruments, singing styles, and dance than is normally possible for groups or individuals traveling to Bulgaria. This richly unique program couples the knowledge of teachers at the Plovdiv Music Academy with tradition bearers throughout the country. Many classes will be taught by village 'masters' from various regions in Bulgaria; the dance program, in particular, features different groups of musicians and dancers throughout the week, teaching dances from their own villages. A Bulgarian language class will also be offered, as well as optional evening social activities.

Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar, July 27- August 2, 2008 Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
<http://www.folkseminarplovdiv.com/>

- 1) We've added classes in accordion and clarinet that will focus on Bulgarian technique, styling and ornamentation.
- 2) We've extended the daytime schedule to better accommodate the hugely successful after-lunch folk presentations by revered Bulgarian masters and instrument makers.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Larry Weiner, International Program Coordinator  
2008 Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar, Plovdiv, Bulgaria.  
10206 Day Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20910. 301.565.0539 or [Larry@Larryweiner.com](mailto:Larry@Larryweiner.com)

**Richard Mellish**



## **Traditional Dances of the World**

Gülsad, the South London Turkish Arts Association presents:

Albanian - Irish - Spanish - Arabic - Turkish - Tap - Polish - Afro Caribbean - Ballet - Turkish Cypriot and Polynesian dance.

6th April 2008  
Broadway Theatre, Catford  
5.30pm

Tickets cost £8.50 each - Last year tickets were sold out !  
Avoid disappointment and book now.  
For bookings: [www.broadwaytheatre.org.uk](http://www.broadwaytheatre.org.uk) / 020 8690 0002  
For enquiries: 07971 562 867/ 020 8461 1084



## **April Day Course**

'Camden Clog' have requested that we give up our day Course booking for April 12<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:info@camdencllog.org.uk)  
or 'phone Kathryn Tattersall on 020 8889 8087 or go to [www.camdencllog.org.uk](http://www.camdencllog.org.uk)

**Pam Radford**

## Rain Charms from Rumania

I found the following article amongst old papers in the loft (as one does) on yellowing paper and written on a typewriter with some letters which did not stay on the line. There is no clue as to where it came from so I submit it here with its original spelling and grammar.

Rumania is a country rich of rivers, water and woods, of forests and green plains. The drought is unknown to the country life. However the fear of it is a deep remote feeling of the peasants, of men. As they always think of the nature, to master it and to show their ruling powers over nature, the men had thought to influence nature, to have rich harvests and to have enough food, to embody the might of the earth.

Thus, there are some old ceremonies for the purpose of making rain, which represent a remote culture of the country. Nowadays these rain charms are almost absent in the country life today. Only its recollection is a historical fact, which interest is still great for the ethnographical researchers.

It is to note that the ceremonies of making rain resemble some rain charms known in India. On the other side, these ceremonies resemble on a big scale the ceremonies practised by the south-eastern european peoples.

The Rumanian rain charms are divided in three different classes:

- a) ceremonies of making rain
- b) ceremonies of preventing earth from Drought
- c) ceremonies of stopping and unlashng rain

a) Ceremony of making rain

### PAPARUDA or PAPALUGA

The rain maker is called Paparuda or Papaluga or Babaruda. On a rule the rain maker is a girl, sometimes it is a boy or a lad. The custom takes place on the third week after Easter, on Tuesday or rather on Thursday. This is the fixed day for the rain charms. However, if the drought is menacing the fields, fields miss of rain, water, the ceremony may be practised at later time, during the hot weeks of July.

The rain maker is a little girl of 10 years. She has a hemp shirt and a short skirt of green plants or dwarf elder and accompanied by other girls and boys goes from a house to another, singing, clapping the hands and dancing and when they come in, the old women pour water on their heads.

They say:

Papaluga, go to heaven  
And open its gates  
And send us rain from above  
To make grow the wheat and the corn  
And the maize flour

(D.Cantenúr, Descrierea Moldovei, edII 1851, lași p.288, nota 3) This description belongs to the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

This custom is equally spread all over the country, there is no place where Paparuda be unknown or were unpractised.

In the same day, the peasants sprinkle each other with water and wish each to other a fine weather, with rain in the just time and a lovely harvest. The main feats of the custom is the green bundle of dwarf elder on the head of the rain maker, the dancing and singing of the spell, the drenching and the gifts of a coin, wheat flour, maize and some rotten clothes.

The Paparuda dance is like a child dance, simple, with of an obstinate rhythm, often 3/8 and frequently 2/8. The tune is simple and charming. In some region, the song of Paparuda is like a carol and the measure of 7/16. The steps are very simple, fine walking steps and simple stamped steps. There is no peculiar shape of the dance. Every boy or child dances it individually, the hands are free and snap and clap at every moment. Only the children are prescribed to perform it.

## b) Preventing the drought

### CALOIANUL

Tuesday, on the third week after Easter Feasts, there is another custom concerning the rain, the harvest and the corn. This ceremony has no dancing in it, hence it is interesting to describe it because there are elements interfering with other ceremonies practised for the purpose of procuring rain and obtaining a good harvest and it is another way to provoke rain.

If drought is menacing the fields or against the coming of it, on that day, some girls or women gather in the house of a peasant and do a clay figure which represent Drought. This figure of a small homunculus, of a palm log, with crossed arms on the breast, covered with a pall. They place it in a coffin open or on a board and carry it in procession with burning wax candles and incense, then they adorn it with flowers, or rather basil and red egg shell. Finally they throw it into a stream or in a well or bury it into earth or hide it in a bush. The figure is called Caloianu, Scaloianul, Calianul or Caluianul. When the clay figure is carried to the grave they begin a dirge begging Caloianul to unleash the rains so crops would grow, cattle would drink water and rich be the harvest.

After three days Caloianul is taken out of the grave. The same girls come to take him again to the village, lamenting on the road. They tear it into pieces and throw it into wells or springs or river. Afterwards they celebrate the event with a banquet. They go to a house of the village where they did the figure of Caloianul, prepare a fine meal and the lads come too with the musicians. All of them eat and make merry, drinking wine and finally dancing until evening or late in the night.

## c) Stopping Rain and Loosing Free Rain

The brick makers are known to make ceremonies to enable the stopping of rain. Because they do not want to have rainy weather and for the purpose to stop rain for a period, they procure a leather bag and fill it with water, tie it closely at the opening and bury it under a hearth. There they burn a fire and so long they work, it does not rain.

When their work is at the end they take it out, they prick it with needles in several parts and let the water run through the holes and rain will come.

This ceremony is found with differences in Covurlui, Tulcea, Ialomița and Dolj.

---

Re Romanian Dance Troupe - March "News".

There may well be reports in the national press concerning Romanian children being used as thieves. However, I do not feel such reports should appear in our "News". It is not in the spirit of the SIFD constitution which aims to promote understanding and friendship.

**Frances Horrocks**



## **Letters to the Editor:**

Dear Janet,

In the light of John Pitcock's mention of the 'Romanian Dance Troupe' which you published last month we thought it would be a good idea to publish the following comment left by a Romanian on the same web page:

Romanians or gypsies?

"Could you make the difference between Gypsies and Romanian people, please? ... Do you know how many confusions are made and how much we suffer just because our names are similar - Romanian and Rromi? Do you know that if we'll try to do something against them, all the Europeans will blame us that we are racist? ..."

We leave it to the readers to decide whether the report was describing the Dance troupe's ethnicity or only their nationality.

**Liz Mellish & Nick Green**

Dear Janet,

What was the point of publishing a month-old extract from The Times in the March issue of SIFD News? I'm referring to the item about a Romanian Dance Troupe allegedly engaging in theft. Was this item meant to be funny? Political? Anti-Romanian? Or anti another unnamed group? The fact that the piece appeared without any comment or explanation in SIFD News is puzzling.

I happened to meet an official working for the Refugee Council today, and when I mentioned this issue to him, he too wondered what your reason could have been for publishing the excerpt. He suggested I wrote to find out, and I promised to let him have your response.\*

**Janna Elliot**

~~~~~

\* My response:

The item was not a month old, but submitted at the earliest time possible. (It was too late for February as our deadline was the 17<sup>th</sup> January and it was published a week later).

I do not write the News, I publish what other members submit.

The criteria for inclusion in the News are: that the item is about folk dancing, and that I have space to include it.

I only add a comment if I feel I can give more information.

**Ed.**



Dear Janet, Re your request for group activities news and events:

In 2007 I received an invitation to participate and lead a session in the 'International Women's Day' celebration being trialed at 3 venues in Wales, Haverfordwest being one of them. This year I have again been invited by the W.I. who are promoting it 'county by county'. The main focus is on health and enjoyment. It goes without saying, International Folk Dance fits well into that theme. Getting and keeping fit with the exercise of dance, using (or losing) the brain as one tackles exciting and complicated rhythms, cultural education as we attempt to learn the background of the dances and of course, the all important social side. It also goes without saying, that with only one hour to play with I can only offer a 'taster'. It worked well last year and I see no reason why it shouldn't work again. I will, of course, be using the opportunity to promote both S.I.F.D., P.I.F.D. and the Summer School etc.....

Since starting this letter the Women's Day has taken place. It was a great success and far better organised than last year. It was a good job they warned me that the time table was flexible so instead of taking just one or two reserves I had quite a few and used most of them. Leaflets were picked up, read and taken away so fingers crossed!! The little 'summer school' playing cards were creating interest too. Before the 'Day' got under way I was introduced to the Radio Pembrokeshire representative and asked to do a 'spot'. This was broadcast on the day but more importantly a meeting was arranged for him to do a full programme about International Folk Dance. This goes out in two days time. The rep promised me he would edit out the ums and ahs!! Hopefully this will produce some more members and some more 'dates'. Second thoughts, I might have frightened them away. Happy Dancing,

**Sue Clark**



1x music = 4x Dance

# VRANJANKA

(Serbian)

And another version:

(KEN WARD)

## VRANJANKA (Serbia)

YUGOSLAVIA

Also played in 7/8 time

Slow.

Wilf Horrocks



The music for Tzadik (Zadik) Katamar will appear in the May issue of the SIFD News,  
And all information and anecdotes about it will be welcome.

NB

Ed.



## 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

**Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> (4pm start) MCs:** Woodvale Group

**May.11<sup>th</sup> (7pm start) MC:** Anne Leach



### WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- S.I **Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>** **RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ARMENIAN FOLK DANCE** with Tineke Van Geel at Derwent Bank, Lake District. full-board. 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](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com).
- Apr.6<sup>th</sup>** **TRADITIONAL DANCES OF THE WORLD** see page 10
- Apr.12<sup>th</sup>** **BALKANPLUS** at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be Toni Gutman
- Apr.12<sup>th</sup>** **NORWEGIAN WORKSHOPS AND EVENING DANCE** see page 4
- Apr.12<sup>th</sup>** **CAMDEN CLOG** see page 6
- Apr.20<sup>th</sup>** **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](mailto:imscooper.chi@virgin.net)
- Apr.25<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>** **GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** 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
- S.I **Apr.26<sup>th</sup>** **WOODVALE 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY** Borough Green Village Hall, Tickets: All Day - £10.00 Evening Only - £8.00 Available from Linda and Jan Bryce 01732 885048 email:[jan@bryce14.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jan@bryce14.fsnet.co.uk)



All material for the May issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17<sup>th</sup> April, emails by 16<sup>th</sup> April.