

SIFD News May 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 photograph of dancers from Hungary was taken by Ken Poyton at Llangollen between 1966 and 1988; and is accompanied by a 'month of May' motif.



- 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@jee.org*
- OTHER
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS
- Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Ave. London N6 6AL
caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk.
- Helen Ezra 84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 6RB
- Maggie Kaye 402 Heath Road South, Northfield, Birmingham
B31 2BE *margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk*
- Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, North Harrow, Middx. HA2
7NN *richardmellish@compuserve.com*
- Bob Robinson 3 Yew Tree Close, Marple SK67QZ
barlow.dance@ntlworld.com
- Alison Scrimshaw 22 Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1
2SQ
alison.scrimshaw@googlemail.com

Diary Dates: - the dates that you send in for the 'Dates for your Diary' section next month will be forwarded to Richard Scrimshaw for inclusion on the SIFD website.

If you are not happy to have these details on public display,

let me know and I will not forward your notice.

There have been a few problems recently with email submissions; so this seems a good time to remind everyone how best to send in articles, letters etc. Letters sent by Royal Mail must be - as ever - received by the 17th of the month and emails by the 16th (emails may arrive at midnight - but my postman never does!). I do not have all software applications currently on the market, and cannot process everything. One to consider is Open Office because it is free and supports a number of formats, and I do prefer plain text.

Last month we heard from Sue Clarke of the Pembrokeshire group, and this month Chris Gill and Dawn Wakefield have written a spotlight on their group - Jelenka. It would be nice if we heard from a different group every month, so, the ball's in your court!

Ed.



SIFD Day Course

Ligita is the leader of the Saduto Lithuanian Dance Group, who is known to some of us already through the Dance Around the World Festival.

Date: Saturday, 14th June 2008

Time: 10.30 am -- 4.30 pm

Subject: Lithuanian Folk Dances

Place: Cecil Sharp House

Cost: £8 for SIFD members

£10 for non-members

Tutor: **Ligita Paulauskaite**

Pam Radford



May Balkanplus

The May Balkanplus will be held on the 10th May at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be the Oxford Group with guest Delyan Demirev plus accordionist.

Admission £7.

Maureen Felton



SIFD Early Days

These early 'group' photos might interest newcomers, and should stir the memories of longer standing members.

Below: Demonstration Group



Back row:
Ron Garland
Les Skinner
Lily
John Brolly
Ivor

Front row:
Penny Garland
Beryl
Jim Titherage
Jean
Maurie
Irene

Below: a 'posed' photograph (1949) of Mary Butterworth teaching a 'step'.



Back row: Charles F, Alun T, Ian, Gladys, Joan, Enid (co-founder), Thelma.
Left corner: Audrey, Arnold, Mary Mc, Bear, Irene, Marion.
Front row: David, Jean, Bert, Eva.

Irene Fyffe

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jun. 1st BALATON (HUNGARIAN) GROUP, Embankment Gardens Theatre starting at 3.00 pm

Jun. 6th INTERNATIONAL DANCES with Janet Douglas, Worthing Interfolk at The Pavilion, Field Place, (nr. Durrington Stn.) 7.30pm. tel: 01903 856951

Jun. 8th CENTRAL LONDON GROUP, Embankment Gardens Theatre with a programme of General International dances, mostly European and Middle Eastern, starting at 12.30 pm

Jun. 14th BALKANPLUS MC will be Bob Robinson

Jun. 14th DOINA, Embankment Gardens Theatre has a programme from 3.00 pm, of Eastern European dances

Jun. 14th/15th INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE 2-day workshop with Hennie Konings, 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 tel: 020 7229 9387

Jun. 14th SIFD DAY COURSE see page 3

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

Jul. 26th BOGNOR REGIS I.D.E at Embankment Gardens Theatre with a programme of General International dances, starting at 2pm

Jul. 26th/Aug. 2nd THE SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL at Swansea. tel: 01462 457791 or DFB2@btinternet.com www.sifdsummerschool.org

Aug. 3rd /8th MACHOL EUROPA 31 The Israeli Folk Dance Summer School, Loughborough University. details and booking form at www.idi.org.uk, or email info@idi.org.uk or call: 020 8448 6427

Aug. 4th/8th 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

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.

Sep.27th/28th BALKANPLUS WORKSHOPS WITH BEN KOOPMANSCHAP Main Hall (Kennedy) at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY Tickets £25 for the 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

Oct.18th 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.24th/27th 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.

Nov.8th/9th ARMENIAN DANCE COURSE led by Dalila Heath at Lambley Village Hall, Notts. Full details from Elaine Donnelly, 21 Villa Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham NG3 4GG. Tel 0115 962 3173 or email: edonnelly@talktalk.net Early bird booking before October 1st £35. Accommodation may be available with local dancers or a list of B&Bs is available, please ask if needed.

* * *

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.



Bulgarian Dance Workshop

The next Bulgarian Dance Workshop is on the 17.05.08., The details are as follows:

"Dance Attic Studios"
368 "North End Rd.",
London, Fulham SW6- nearest tube is Fulham Broadway, 5 min. walk
From 2.45pm - 5.15pm
£9
Mobile: 07900904370

http://www.boikoandonov.co.uk/workshops_and_events.htm

Boyko Andonov



“Jelenka”, the North Norfolk Balkan Dance Group

The North Norfolk Balkan dance group ‘Jelenka’ has had an active year. Run by Dawn Wakefield and held monthly on a Saturday afternoon in Hempton Memorial Hall, this friendly three year old group has a steady membership with a broad age range and includes a few men!

The group members find Dawn to be an inspiring teacher, patient and clear in her explanations of the steps and movements. She constantly brings new dances to the group from the courses which she attends yet also uses more familiar ones which the group know and love, the while imparting her love of the music, dance and culture of the Balkan lands.

We also have the opportunity to experience other teachers through the two or three workshops run each year with invited SIFD approved teachers such as Anne Leach, who taught at Hempton last summer.

The end of March saw the first of 2008’s workshops with Brian Dowsett making a repeat visit to Hempton and teaching a varied selection of dances from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia and Macedonia.

This was followed by an evening celebration with live music and dance in honour of Dawn’s 50th birthday. Guests who play with Balkan band “Zaramo”, plus some of Dawn’s other friends, provided Balkan music on clarinet, fiddle, guitar, accordion, recorder and djembe. Members of local musical organisation ‘Rig-a-Jig-Jig’ performed Norfolk music on fiddle, banjo, harmonica, hammer dulcimer, ukulele and bones. They also called the country dances to these old tunes. We were wonderfully entertained by the singing of the ‘Balkanettes’, an a cappella female Balkan song quartet to which the guests also danced.

The previous workshop had been run on 29th December 2007 with Amsterdam based dance-teacher Desiree Hendriks teaching ‘Garoon’ and ‘Aghchka Jerazanke’ from Armenia, ‘Veyselbar’ from Turkey, ‘Sirto Sveta Moma’ from Bulgaria and ‘Zeeuwse Schots’ a threesome dance from the Netherlands. This dance was the source of much laughter and amusement as we struggled to complete the movements!

One of the group members, who has taught dance himself, commented very favourably on Desiree’s teaching, adding that he would publicise her next workshop himself as he knew of many dancers who would appreciate her grace and teaching style!

An enthusiastic member of the Norwich International Dance group where she often teaches as well, Dawn has created a vital, happy and much appreciated dance group in North Norfolk which attracts dancers from appreciable distances across East Anglia, and not just for the delicious cake and wide range of teas she provides as refreshment!

Chris Gill

* * * * *

We dance in a lovely light and airy hall with views onto the grass covered common-land and heath. The small village of Hempton is 15minutes from the beautiful North Norfolk coast - a really relaxing place to spend a weekend with the added attraction of a visit to our local Balkan dance group!

(Nearest train stations: Kings Lynn, Norwich, Cromer or Sheringham, followed by a bus ride through the Norfolk countryside or a lift from a local dancer). Please make contact if you need help.

Dawn Wakefield
'Jelenka' North Norfolk Balkan Dance Group
e.mail: dawnwakefield@btinternet.com
Phone: 01328 856582

Dawn Wakefield



Armenian dance course with Tineke van Geel at Derwentbank

Having just returned from a refreshing and challenging weekend of Armenian dancing led by Tineke van Geel at Derwentwater in the Lake District, I felt I would like to share some memories of a thoroughly enjoyable experience before they begin to fade away.

Each morning began waking up to a wonderful view of the snow-capped Cumbrian mountains surrounding the shimmering lake. Soon after breakfast we gathered to dance in the ballroom with elegant arched windows looking out onto the beautiful countryside beyond. We were all impressed by Tineke's inspiring teaching and great creative skill at breaking dances down into manageable elements: in the 'intermediate' class she would show us a new dance while we looked on in amazement at the seemingly complex combination of foot patterns and graceful arms thinking, 'no way will I be able to do that', only to find half an hour later we were floating through these Armenian movements as if they came quite naturally. Her 'general' class introduced us in a similar vein to a wealth of enjoyable and approachable dances, that are sure to be shared in our groups around the country.

Her enthusiasm did not wane, even after teaching all day, she treated us to a request session of favourite dances from previous courses on Saturday night, continuing to lead dances for the remaining hardy few well after 11pm. On Sunday night she kept us entertained with some party dances including Caribbean Cowboy line dance, and appropriately for our surroundings, a Dutch dance – Ijs (Ice) Polka which swept us round the room as if on skates. This was followed by dancing to live music provided by course members: a small choir sang accompanied either by John Firmin on accordion or Graham Crowder on his Macedonian tambur, including one item Ceniv sa e Popa downloaded from the internet at 6.30pm that evening! – to which we danced Sitno Malishevsko (as taught by Yves Moreau). Further dances were played by myself, John and Chris from the Norwich group on flute, accordion and drum.

The whole weekend had a great friendly atmosphere and was a wonderful opportunity to meet dancing friends old and new from all over the country. Many thanks to Cathy Meunier for all her hard work in organising another excellently taught course in such stunning surroundings.

Dawn Wakefield



French Folkdances

France has a rich variety of customs and dances, having been inhabited throughout the centuries by many different races, but the style, overall, is one of neat, small steps, performed with precision and restraint, the feet kept under the body and the rhythms simple.

Apart from the area of the Pyrenees, where we see Basque dancing akin to the Spanish Basque, Brittany seems to be the most strongly individual region, with a distinctive style of dance and also music. There we find the *Ridée*, danced with little fingers joined, hands held shoulder high, elbows bent, and the steps incorporating walking, small hops, toe and heel movements, while the arms are swung briskly up and down. "*Ridée*" is said to mean "wrinkle", and some *Ridéés* do seem to incorporate a "folding" pattern, but the movement of the dance is said to represent the waves - although this isn't obvious in all of the *Ridéés*. In Brittany we also find the *Gavotte*, danced Breton style, with its distinctive step called "*Paz Dreo*". This step, as it surges forward and then drops back is also said to be reminiscent of the waves of the sea. When the *Gavotte* is danced in a line of four, the dancers are tightly linked arm-in-arm; the lefthand man is the leader and is called "*Chevalier de Tete*". The rhythm is usually four beats or multiples of four. Another, dance we find in Brittany is *Gymnaska*, danced in a rhythm of six beats.

In Provence, we find the *Farandole*, said to originate from the Greeks, and the weaving in and out of the line of dancers represents the ins and outs of a Greek maze. This is usually danced to a 6/8 rhythm, with lively style. The *Farandole* is very popular and is danced particularly on Feast Days and Festivals.

Other popular types of French dances are the *Branles*, *Rondes*, *Polkas Piquées*; there are also "work dances" - *Piler-lan* (beating the gorse), *Stoupik* (hemp stripping), *Rode de la Civais* (harvesting), *Soyotte* (woodcutters' dance), as well as miming dances - *The Chibreli* (miming goats leaping), the *Pas de Loup* (miming steps of the wolf), the *Moutons* (miming chain formation of sheep), and then there is *Jabadao* (danced traditionally to commemorate the Witches' Sabbath). Another very entertaining dance to watch (and skilful to perform) is that from the Landes region where the dancers wear very tall stilts while performing dances incorporating polkas, schottische steps etc.

In Bourbonnais, the oldest dance is said to be the *Bourrée*, which is also seen in other areas, notably Auvergne. The *Bourrée* step is distinctive but does vary from region to region, and although always danced with a certain neatness and restraint, in Auvergne it is danced in a more lively manner, with arms held high. Elsewhere, the arms are held loosely down, with the ladies holding skirt or apron in front (supposedly to be because it was more comfortable to hold the rough material of the heavy skirt off the knees). *Bourrées* are danced to a 2/4, 3/8, 3/4 and 6/8 rhythm. The movement is smooth, with feet fairly close to the ground but, within the rhythm of the music and character of the dance, flamboyant variations to the steps are introduced, nearly always by the men.

Typical instruments for accompanying French folkdancing are the *vielle* (hurdy-gurdy), *bombarde* (type of oboe), *musette* (bagpipe), *biniou* (bagpipe) and in some areas (for instance Catalonia and the Basque country) the pipe and drum, both instruments being played at the same time by one musician.

written by **Lily Avery** in 1986

Tzadik Katamar

Israel

TZADIK KATAMAR (Righteousness shall flourish!) (Israel)

The musical score consists of six staves of handwritten notation in 2/4 time, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are primarily eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated below the notes. The chords across the staves are: Staff 1: Em, B7, Em, B7, Em, B7, Em; Staff 2: Am, D7, G, C, B7, #C, #C, #C, Em, B7, Em, Am; Staff 3: D7, G, C, B7, #C, #C, #C, Em, B7, Em; Staff 4: Am, Am, E7, Am, E7, Am, E7, Am; Staff 5: Dm, G, C, Am, Dm, E7, Am, E7, Am, Dm; Staff 6: G, C, Am, Dm, E7, Am, E7, Am.

Wilf Horrocks



Tzadik Katamar is a simple Israeli circle dance which an MC can confidently predict most people will know or that those that don't will follow with ease.

* * * * *

NB

The music for the Polonez from Poland will be in the June edition - and your notes about it are welcome. I believe it is a dance often done when we follow our leaders in search of cake - but maybe I was just misled.

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

May.11th MCs: Dot Bradbury and Alison Scrimshaw

June 1st (Noughties Dance) - MC: Helen Ezra



WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- 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 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
- S.I **May 10th** **BALKANPLUS** see page 3
- May 17th** **BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** see page 6
- 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 will be found on their website www.msg.org.uk.



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