



SIFD NEWS **June 2008**

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

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



Our front cover picture this month was the runner-up in last year's competition. It is of Czech dancers appearing at the Alnwick Festival and was taken by Ian Willson.



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This is the second full colour cover for the News, and as long as funds allow, there will be two coloured covers each year. (Although there were pink front covers on Christmas editions long, long ago*)

Once again the Eastbourne festival was a success and I want to pass on my appreciation and thanks to all those who made it possible *and most of all to those who bought a ticket.*

It begins when Helen Ezra staggers in under an enormous load of sound equipment (and this time also with a heavy box of old SIFD News for me to trawl through - more of that later *). Then the first band of helpers pitched in to decorate the hall, and Rowena mustered her stewarding forces.

We had the benefit of brilliant teachers: Delyan, Cristina, Angie, Helena (and Ian), and musicians Dancho, Roger, Narendra, (and Ian), held together by MCs Julie, Brian (and Ian).

There were dance displays to delight us while we gasped for air and gulped water; Helena and her two guitarists performed for us on Saturday, and a local Eastbourne bellydance group, The Sea Gypsies, also entertained us. On Sunday The Morena Dance Company performed Slovakian dances and taught a dance which some of us attempted with varying degrees of success. Delyan gave an impromptu virtuoso display of Bulgarian dance accompanied by Dancho on accordion.

But the prize for fun must go to Ian - see cartoons below (*from the box), for another workshop of what I now see as 'alternative' dance, but was apparently SIFD staple diet back in the days of yore, when men were men and maids were....

So, having given my all over the weekend, and enthusiastically stamped my way through an afternoon of flamenco, I spent an entire day resting my limbs and reading ***the entire box...**



*The box of old issues spanned four decades and were always informative on all matters relating to international folk dancing. Nevertheless, I noticed that the 60s had great humour, the 70s became very serious, then the humour returned in the 80s (hairdressers at the Albert Hall... I may treat you to a repeat of that one if there is an article drought).

Reading the sequence of News issues (Lily Avery was Secretary first, Assistant Editor and then Editor for thirtyseven years) was rather like following a 'soap' with characters taking centre stage and then exiting (sometimes tragically). There were announcements of engagements, then marriages and births; people left London and spread international folk dancing around not just Britain but the world.

But for me the main interest was visual, like the cartoons above which fit Ian Willson's 'Golden Oldies' workshop at Eastbourne so aptly! And also lots of cover designs illustrating various regional costumes by Caroline Thomas and Lesley Boorer and 'Anonymous'(!), some of which will be making a comeback.

Ed.

Thank You

A big thank you from Woodvale IFDG to everyone who supported us on April 26th for our 40th Anniversary celebrations. We had some of the original members there as well as people who have been members/supporters over the years. The teaching session and dance were both a great success - we are grateful for your continued support.

Also, a thank you to whoever added our logo into the April SIFD news – it made us feel very special.

We are continuing to celebrate the year in many ways, including a group of us going to the Eastbourne Folk Festival for a day and a different group going to Alnwick in August. We continue with our normal events – a walk, the Folk Safari with Merton Park, a trip to the seaside and so on. A full list of events can be found on our website:

<http://beehive.courier.co.uk/woodvale>



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



Traditional Korean Costume

This definitive tome has just been published, for the first time in English!

“A spectacular, detailed volume in full colour, celebrating the richness and variety of traditional Korean garments, ornaments and footwear, dating back to the Joseon Dynasty.... Over 600 drawings and 200 plates, with detailed commentaries and specific measurements, as well as method of production.... 336 pages 978 1 - 905246 - 04 - 5.”

Some may have seen the dancers from the South at Llangollen a few years ago, in their dazzling silk brocade, flowing, full length robes with those distinctive long, loose oriental sleeves, featuring large in the smooth movements and stylised, fluid posturing.

Diki Gleeson

p.s. Anyone driving to Swansea Summer School from N. London who would like the petrol cost reduced? (0208 363 1506) (only TO the course NOT the return.)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jul. 4th BARNET SUMMER PARTY** with music by Dunav Balkan Group. 8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. £5 Brian Dowsett 01992 582717
- Jul. 8th/13th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD** tel: 01978 862001
email: tickets@international-eisteddfod.co.uk
- S.I **Jul.12th BALKANPLUS:** The MCs will be a medley of B+ regulars
- 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. www.sifdsummerschool.org or tel: 01462 457791 DFB2@btinternet.com
- 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.



The Founding of Woodvale International Folk Dance Group in 1968

We were so pleased to attend the 40th anniversary celebrations of Woodvale IFDG, the Group we founded jointly with Eileen and Ernie Nolan, and now one of the Society's longer-established groups.

Ian and I moved to Kent in 1967 – Eileen & Ernie already lived in Borough Green, Kent. There was a harvest festival celebration advertised at the local Church in Borough Green – during the evening there was to be a demonstration of international folk dancing given by a group based in Gravesend. The four of us were intrigued by this (having danced in London with the SIFD and Harrow Green for many years), so we attended the evening, which was a great success. Unfortunately we cannot now remember the name of the group or the person who ran it.

The people from the Church were very enthusiastic about the dancing and we told them that we could also do this. After a discussion with the Minister he offered us free use of the church hall until the end of the year, so we were ready to have a go. Between us we had antiquated equipment but quite a lot of records, so the first task was to record as much as we could onto a reel to reel tape recorder. Ian had his accordion, but at that time he wasn't as proficient as he is now.

Eileen & Ernie worked in Borough Green so knew many people, which was a great help. We had quite a lot of support in those first few weeks from the adults, many of whom had families, and so with their help the group began to thrive, and quite a lot of youngsters joined us; Alan Cant (now Chairman), two of his sisters and two brothers came also; Jan Bryce, a committee member today, and members of other families too numerous to mention. By January 1968 we decided to set the Group up properly – this meant we needed a name, so there was a competition and one of the youngsters suggested 'Woodvale'; she won a year's free membership to the group.

And so Woodvale was born, and thanks to its ever-enthusiastic members, the Group thrives to this day. Our active involvement in the running of the Group came to an end in 1974, when we moved to Harrogate, but not before Woodvale became twinned with a large group of similarly aged young people in the Champagne Region, "Association Folklorique Chalonnaise". The twinning ceremony took place in 1973 at Borough Green, (with Bert Price officiating), and in Chalons-sur-Marne (now Chalons-en-Champagne), one year later. Ian and I still maintain links with Jacqueline Prieto, the founder of AFC, and a few of the original Woodvale members are still in touch with friends made at that time.

We look forward to another celebratory get-together with the Group, when we meet up at the Alnwick International Music Festival in August for a few days of dance and reminiscence!

Today, Woodvale maintains a very comprehensive website, well worth a visit from any of you who'd like to know more of the many events which have taken place since those early days.

Log on to www.beehive.courier.co.uk/woodvale

Jean and Ian Willson

Folkloric Tour to Romania

This is a unique opportunity to dance on the stage of the oldest and most prestigious annual folkloric festivals of Transylvania ('Hora la Prislop') and experience the traditional Romanian way of life. Surrounded by the breathtaking landscape of the Carpathian Mountains, the tour will step off the beaten track to visit traditional crafts masters and take in some of the local history (Dracula, Museum of Communism Victims, Baia Mare medieval centre). We will also visit the Merry Cemetery of Sapanta which is one of the top ten experiences not to be missed according to the Rough Guide to Romania.

Organised by a member of the Oxford Balkan Dance group, tour dates are Friday 15th August 2008 to Wednesday 20th August 2008. Price per person 529 Euro (approx £350) to 629 Euro (approx £410) depending on numbers. Details will be posted shortly on www.oxfordbalkandance.org.uk. Contact Diana on 07944-306334 or sales@visit-transylvania.co.uk.

Diana Phillips



Dear Janet,

Woodvale IFDG 40th Anniversary

It was lovely to be able to go to Woodvale's Anniversary Dance on 26th April in Borough Green Village Hall on a beautiful sunny day.

The dance was preceded by a well attended afternoon teaching session when Phil and Brenda Steventon taught Bambuco, (a couple dance from Colombia), Coskun Corah from Turkey, Rei'ah Tapou'ah Odem Shani, (a progressive couple dance from Israel) and Razvivaj Dobro from Bulgaria. We were then well and truly twirled in Hungarian dance tuition by Leslie Haddon and were rewarded with a break for tea, scones and cakes.

The evening dance featured many of Woodvale's favourite dances and an energetic and much appreciated demo from Leslie Haddon and Balaton. Many visitors wore costume and various Woodvale members showed off the range of costumes held by the Group, mostly made by Linda Bryce and Dot Fuller, including Israeli, Bulgarian, Ukrainian and Austrian.

Colourful platters of food were delivered to tables and two beautifully iced cakes were on display ceremonially cut by founder members Ian and Jean Willson before being distributed, tasting as good as they looked. In his speech, Chairman Alan Cant included references to Eileen (now Bates), also a founder member unfortunately unable to attend through illness and Will Horrocks who had played for the Group since its inception at all special occasions. Ian gave a typically upbeat and pithy speech and proposed the toast to Woodvale. The raffle prizes were items brought back from around the world by members on holiday.

I was so pleased to meet so many people I used to dance with, past and current members of the Group, including Alison Maas who had flown in from Canada for the occasion. It was a very happy and enjoyable day and every congratulation to the Group for achieving 40 years.

Several Woodvale members attended the Eastbourne International Folk Dance Festival the following weekend on the Saturday and Ian featured in his Golden Oldies spot a Woodvale 'special', Dreisteirer, described as a knotty dance for trios in waltz time and certainly proved the case!

Thank you, Janet for running yet another successful Festival and also for producing the 'News' so efficiently each month.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Edwards

Roy Bowtell



Roy Bowtell died of liver cancer on April 9th, aged 80. Those members, who are even older than I am, will remember Roy dancing in the early SIFD days, especially with the YHA. I first met Roy in May, 1976 when I moved from Cambridge to North Hertfordshire and joined the Staplers English Dance Club in Hitchin. By coincidence, Roy and Renee (his ex-wife) and Gordon and Dalphine Stacey, had also joined the Staplers that May so it was then that we discovered we were all keen International Folk Dancers. We were the founder members of Rainmakers, formed in September 1976.



Roy was a very enthusiastic and skilled dancer who contributed to the Rainmakers in many ways. He served on committees, helped to raise funds with our jumble sales and was always on hand as a loyal member of our club. He took part in so many displays – I looked in my photo albums to find a suitable picture of Roy for this article and in every album, until very recently, there is a picture of Roy dancing his heart out. When we went out on a day of dance, or to a festival, or wherever with Roy, we always had fun.



When Roy was unable to dance any more he dropped out of the dance scene, including English dancing – he was a keen member of the Staplers Club, as well as the Roundabouts in Stevenage. This withdrawal was because he couldn't bear to watch dancing, or even

M.C., as he found it too painful not to be able to join in. I met up with him again recently at a play-reading group and also a singing group. In the latter he was singing his heart out – just as he danced. I will miss him but I will remember the good times – and we did have lots of those. I am thankful for Roy's friendship, fun, and zest for life.

Jill Bransby ('The boss girl' as Roy would say).



Billingham International Folklore Festival 2008

Dates: 26th July - 2nd August. Groups from Colombia, Germany, Italy, Malasia, Malta, Martinique, French West Indies, Romania, Russia and Sri Lanka.

Workshops for children aged 4 - 15 and an International Dance workshop for children aged 7 - 15.

Adult workshop (7 sessions cost £90 or £20 per session)

Contact: Bingham International Folklore Festival Ltd., Stockton Business Centre, 70 Brunswick Street, Stockton-on-Tees. TS18 1DW phone: 01642 553 220

Helen Ezra

Thoughts on the Polonaise

In 1951 I was with a group of students from Balls Park Teacher Training College who were invited on an exchange visit to German students from a similar college in Osnabruck.

We arrived just in time to be included in the student 'going down' ball which was being held in Celle Castle. We were all very tired after our long journey and, I must admit, that much as I love dancing I can't remember much about the actual ball – it was all just a daze. But I do remember very well when everybody went out into the magnificent grounds of the castle. A large orchestra had assembled and was preparing to play. We were all partnered off to dance the polonaise to beautiful music in that wonderful setting.

I have never forgotten the magic of that time - lines and lines of people dancing in unison with as many as 16 couples abreast with so much room. That was my introduction to polonaise and I was hooked from then on.

The next year, on leaving college, I became a member of the SIFD. I had watched the SIFD shows in the Albert Hall as a schoolgirl and I remember always looking for Bert Price and Philip Thornton! Imagine my surprise when I attended German language classes at Goldsmith's college and Bert arrived to teach us German dances. (He was a neighbour of the German teacher.) Bert took me along to Carlisle School in Chelsea where the SIFD classes were held in those days and from then on this was my life!

At the Polish YMCA Dance group I rediscovered the polonaise usually lead by Kostek Siemasko and often by Bert. Later I joined a new Polish group called Opoczno which, when it was disbanded, gave rise to Syrenka (little mermaid) led by the very charismatic Josef Walczac (Zuitek). Simon and I enjoyed a very long association with this group and later when Zuitek went to Australia we took over the group and taught there for nearly 20 years.

With Syrenka we danced and taught, among many other Polish dances, the Polonaise – not as a dance for everybody but as a choreographed dance for a given number of couples. With beautiful costumes and lovely music this was always attractive and very regal. I always understood that the Polish court and, indeed, many other European courts would compose music and formations of the 'Polish Dance' in order to show off costumes and partners.

At the SIFD Summer Schools, originally in Swansea, the Polonaise started by being danced by those in costume so that the others could admire them! Over the years everybody, in costume or not, joined in and the cake procession was introduced.

continued overleaf>



Polonez

Poland

Intro. >

A mf >

B f

C mf f

POLONEZ

2nd part (w.H. 20.11.)

Intro. as above

A

B

C

Wilf Horrocks



Betty Harvey also mentions the Polonez in her article on page 9.

NB The music for Trojak will appear in the July edition of the News and it would be interesting to know if any groups dance it.

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

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

July 6th MC: Anne Leach



WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- S.I **Sunday** **BALATON (HUNGARIAN) GROUP**, Victoria Embankment Gardens Theatre starting at 3.00 pm
Jun.1st
- S.I **Friday** **INTERNATIONAL DANCES** with Janet Douglas. Worthing Interdance The Pavilion, Field Place, (nr. Durrington Stn.) 7.30pm. £3. tel: 01903 856951
Jun.6th
- S.I **Sunday** **CENTRAL LONDON GROUP**, Embankment Gardens Theatre with a programme of General International dances, mostly European and Middle Eastern, starting at 12.30 pm
Jun.8th
- S.I **Saturday** **DOINA**, Embankment Gardens Theatre has a programme from 3.00 pm, of Eastern European dances
Jun.14th
- Sat/Sun** **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. enquiries: Janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk tel: 020 7229 9387
Jun.14th/15th
- S.I **Saturday** **SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 4
Jun.14th
- S.I **Saturday** **BALKANPLUS** see page 11
Jun.14th
- S.I **Wednesday** **SUMMER PARTY NIGHT** hosted by Heart of England IFDG 7.45 – 10.30pm at St Giles Church Hall, Church Rd, Sheldon B26 3TT (North of A45 Coventry Rd, near B'ham airport) MC Maggie Kaye + Heart of England Band. Bring-and-share supper. £2.50 on door. More info from Maggie: mobile 0797 464 9311 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk
Jun.25th



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