

# S.I.F.D. NEWS

OCT. 2008



# **SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING**

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

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\* \* \*

The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.



The cover picture this month by Eddis Thomas first appeared 38 years ago and shows a Panamanian Tamborito Dance. The motif of French Basque dancers by Leo Denhard, was the June 1979 front cover.



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- Alison Scrimshaw 5 South Rise, Carshalton, Surrey. SM5 4PD  
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Jumble sales have provided me with a plentiful supply of old curtains - invaluable for costume making purposes; last weekend was a chance for a fresh supply. Whilst there I saw a doll who obviously hailed from foreign lands, but although I lingered over her I decided to leave her for a real child.

Our local scouts always follow up a jumble sale with a bonfire (in the field where I walk the dog). So the next day I was there and so was she - on top of the bonfire (wearing an angry expression) and soaking wet. I rescued her, brought her home and dried her out. The blouse and headdress are white, and the dress (skirt and bodice?) is scarlet and cream with mostly gold decoration - but where is she from? (My guess is Italy or Croatia but I'm not sure)



**Ed.**



### **SIFD Annual General Meeting.**

Last month notice was officially given that the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Saturday 29 November 2008, at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 7AY.

I am now able to confirm that the AGM will commence at 5.00pm, to finish at approximately 6.30pm. This will be followed at 7.00pm by a short dance, to finish around 8.30pm. The committee are also looking at the possibility of a short course in the afternoon to precede the AGM, but this cannot as yet be confirmed.

As yet I have received no motions or nominations for the AGM but would welcome any input. Any motions or nominations should be proposed and seconded by members, and any nominees must agree to be put forward. Motions and nominations should be submitted to the secretary on or before the 10th of October.

**Fran Crawley**  
Secretary



## **Membership Renewal**

I would like to thank all the members who have renewed promptly this year.

If you have been meaning to renew but haven't quite got round to it, NOW is the time.

I will be (reluctantly) updating the address list to exclude defaulters quite soon. If you have lost your form, ring me on 01992 577065 or email me at [sguest@theiet.org](mailto:sguest@theiet.org).

**Simon Guest**  
Membership Secretary



## **More News of Michael Clark**

Further to last month's News, I am very sorry to report that Michael has not yet been able to come home. He suffered a very serious heart attack, followed by a less serious stroke, early on the morning he was due to come home.

However, Michael has pulled through all this. There are one or two things to be sorted out, but after that, he and Jane are still hoping that he will indeed be able to return home soon.

**Linda Melville-Smith**



## **Dunford (Midhurst, West Sussex)**

19th - 21st December 2008

If you've been before there's no need to tell you that this is a really enjoyable weekend of dancing and walking or, of course, just relaxing in the lounge with its log fire and Christmas tree. Accommodation is in single, double or twin bedrooms, all en-suite, at a well-furnished country house at the foot of the northern slopes of the South Downs, once the home of Richard Cobden.

Janet Woolbar has kindly agreed to lead the dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon. On both Saturday and Sunday mornings there will be a walk from the house - returning in time for lunch. For non-walkers, on Saturday morning, there is the opportunity to visit Midhurst's monthly market. There will be Christmas dinner (the meals are jolly good) and carol singing on Saturday evening.

If you haven't been before, and you're a dancer, I'm sure you will feel at home and among friends.

The cost of the weekend - £130.00. Looking forward to hearing from you.

**Dot Bradbury (Mrs)**  
tel. No. 020 8540 3464

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Nov.1<sup>st</sup> SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 8
- S.I **Nov.1<sup>st</sup> BALKANPLUS:** MCs will be Nick Green & Liz Mellish with Romanian guests (Note: 1st Saturday) Preceded by Romanian dance workshop (SIFD)
- Nov.8<sup>th</sup> /9<sup>th</sup> 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 edonnelly@talktalk.net Accommodation may be available with local dancers or a list of B&Bs is available.
- S.I **Nov.14<sup>th</sup> RAINMAKERS' 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY DANCE** at The Parish Hall, St. Michael's Church, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts., SG6 3PQ. Dancing to Cloudburst, with Jill Bransby as M.C., from 8 pm to 11 pm. Cost: £5. Please bring a plate of food to share. Ring Roger Lowes on 01438 812766 if you require further details.
- Nov.29<sup>th</sup> SIFD AGM** see page 3
- S.I **Dec.6<sup>th</sup> ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY** St.Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens, EC IN 7AB. Nearest Underground: Chancery Lane (Central Line) Tickets from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Ave. Dagenham. Essex RM10 9BD tel:0208 592 4427 Price£8 (including refreshments) Time: 7.00pm - 10.30pm. Admission by ticket only (limited) cheques to be made out to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group, s.a.e. please. Dances from: Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia; also from Bulgaria, Romania and Greece.
- S.I **Dec.19<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> DUNFORD WEEKEND** see page 4
- Dec.28<sup>th</sup> A TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY**, hosted by Willingdon IFDG will be held at Stone Cross Hall, near Eastbourne (junction of B2104 and B2247) from 10.30 to 4.30. Bring lunch to share, and dances if you can. Cost £7.00 (half day £4) Info: Rowena Martin 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com
- S.I **Mar.7<sup>th</sup> NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP** General International theme: venue: Grangewood Methodist Church Hall, Grangewood Road, Wollaton, Notts. NG8 2SJ. Led by Jill Bransby; 10.30am-4.30pm. Details 01332 701922 / 0115 9171831
- S.I **Mar.14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> ROMANIAN WEEKEND WITH SILVIU CIUCIUMIŞ** Sat.14<sup>th</sup> in Manchester and Sun.15<sup>th</sup> at Calver, Derbyshire. send s.a.e. to: Julie Korth, 'Holly Cottage', off Wigan Road, Aspull, Nr. Wigan WN21 1EF
- S.I **Mar.27<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF BULGARIAN & BALKAN FOLK DANCE** with Yves Moreau at Malhamdale, Yorkshire Dales. Comfortable ensuite accommodation, full-board, indoor swimming pool. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Excellent area for walking or sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation (3 nights) £186. Single course £28, both courses £50. For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email your request to 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.



## **Billingham International Folk Festival**

I know that the dates of this year's Festival clashed with that of Summer School, and therefore a choice had to be made. I attended the Dance course attached to the Festival along with a few others, and we were treated to a variety of countries. They ranged from highly energetic or should that be 'Hyperactive' Columbia (no wonder that the dancers were young and slim) to a more sedate Malaysia. This is the only course that I know of, where you can dance with the groups, and therefore get the feel of the dance. We all survived the week and enjoyed the experience.

The dates for next year's Festival are 25<sup>th</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009. Why not try it for yourself?

**Helen Ezra**



## **Early Start Dance at Cecil Sharp House in October**

The Sunday Dance at Cecil Sharp House this month is to start **early**. 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 October 5th the dance will start not at 7pm, but at 4pm, and end at 7pm.**

The MC is Pam Radford, who always chooses lovely dances. She will be happy to walk through any dances beforehand with which people are unfamiliar, or for which reminders are needed - particularly helpful for children or beginners. This would be an ideal dance to

- attend if you don't usually come because you're worried you might not know the dances
- bring children to
- bring friends to who don't usually dance
- come to if you are deterred by the usual finishing time

And of course we'd love to see all the usual faces, despite the time change. Please give the event your full support - all are welcome.

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

Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 7AY.

**Alison Scrimshaw**

## Summer School

Here are a few photos of the very successful 2008 Summer School.

More pictures can be viewed at [www.sifdsummerschool.org](http://www.sifdsummerschool.org)  
(You click on the thumbnail pictures to view them and the captions).



*left: Dorien in her Bavarian costume*

I hope that our members appreciate all the work that Dorien Bates put into leading this happy event.



*right: The teachers, Ramon Cardona, Corry Verheijen and Dragan Draganov.*

Dorien took over from Roger Sturge so that he could be free to become Chairman of the Society - so we owe her a double debt. You will be able to read the Planning Team's official report later and this will be presented at the AGM.

Many thanks Dorien,



*Dancing Khorovod at an evening dance*



*The outing to Aberglasney Gardens - sitting in the tea garden*

**Jill Bransby**

## **SIFD November 1st Romanian day course and other events with Nicolae Stanescu**

A quick reminder that the SIFD November Day Course will be taken by the highly respected dancer Nicolae Stanescu from Timisoara in the Banat region, who will teach a mixture of lines and circles and the Banat Ardeleana couple dances. He will be assisted by Doina Anghel who is also a very experienced dancer and will be the translator for the workshop. This will mean that we have both the men's and women's styles demonstrated.

It has also been possible to arrange a few workshops in the week preceding the SIFD Day Course hosted by other SIFD groups, and a short teaching session at the Dance Around The World festival on the Sunday 26th October. Check our website for up to date information [www.eliznik.org.uk/Romanian2008/](http://www.eliznik.org.uk/Romanian2008/)

We are grateful to the help of the SIFD Committee in supporting Nicolae's first visit to the UK.



### **Balkanplus November 1st**

Liz and Nick will be the MCs and leaders for Balkanplus, and will include some old favourites plus a selection of (not too difficult) village dances from their travels around the Balkans. The evening will include a session of Romanian dances led by Nicolae and his musician, plus we hope to have a short demonstration of the more difficult Banat Romanian dances.



### **Oct.25<sup>th</sup> Romanian Dance Day**

with Nicolae Stanescu and friends in Barnham Village Hall. 100yds. from Barnham Stn. near Bognor Regis, West Sussex. 10.30am - 5pm. Bring lunch to share. SIFD members £12 (£14 non-members). Further details from Janet Douglas 01243 265010 or see [www.interfolk.co.uk](http://www.interfolk.co.uk)



### **Advanced information - still to be finalised**

It looks possible that with the support of the Romanian Cultural Institute (ICR) for an event at the Language Show on Friday 31st October, just before the SIFD Day Course and Balkanplus, that a few other members of the group could be in London for the weekend. With luck we may have an additional musician and pair of dancers to perform at the Day Course and Balkanplus, check our website for up to date information [www.eliznik.org.uk/Romanian2008/](http://www.eliznik.org.uk/Romanian2008/) or phone:01923 249704

**Liz Mellish and Nick Green**



## **Swedish Dance/Fiddle Workshops and evening Dance.**

4 October

The Scandia dance group has arranged a visit by four musicians and dancers from Boda in Dalarna, Sweden. They will be teaching dances and tunes from Boda, particularly the lovely Boda Polska. The workshops during the day will be at the Whittington Community Centre, Yerbury Road, N19 4RS, from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. By public transport take a bus along Holloway Road and exit at Whittington Park. It is a five minute walk following the surfaced walkway through the park. Check with Tania Simon, 020 8341 1454, for details of the fiddle workshops.

The evening dance will be at the Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place, off Fitzroy Road, NW1 8TN, from 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm.

Hopkinsons Place is a small alley off the northwest side of Fitzroy Road.

There is a sign to the Community Centre.

There is free parking at both locations.

For information call 020 8340 4683 or e-mail [caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Caspar Cronk**



### **Françoise Piot**



We have received the sad news that Françoise died after a short illness on July 18th.

After meeting Françoise and Michel on various French dance courses in the early 1960s we became close friends and enjoyed wonderful holidays with them and their family.

Later we invited them to teach at a Swansea Summer School where they were a great success. They also came and taught at the reunion Swansea course. (If you were there do you remember 'La Chasse à Quatre'? We will never forget it.)

Françoise was a lovely warm person and a wonderful dancer and we will miss her greatly.

Our thoughts are with Michel, Frédéric and Vincent.

*Françoise and Michel Piot*

**Joan & Simon Guest**

## Studia Choreologica Vol.X

For those who collect the Studia series, the latest volume, X, is based on various aspects of Greek Folk Dance. The methodology applied and the new aspects introduced make these three studies an important contribution to modern ethno-choreology.

The three studies are presented by very knowledgeable PhD's and are rather academic in content. The series as always has been edited and presented by Roderky Lange.

Available from Instytut Choreologii - Fundacja, ul. Filipinska.1. 61-123 Poznan. Poland. Euro 15.00 plus Euro.5.0G - Europe. Payment can be made in sterling, US \$ and Euro cheques.

**Robert Harrold**



### Letters to the Editor:

Dear Janet,

**Dance Around The World** will return to Cecil Sharp House, London NW1 on the weekend of 25th/26th October. Performers and workshop leaders representing dance cultures from all over the world will give us two days of the very best of international folk dance.

You will be able to join in with the workshops or watch the non-stop programme of performances. Bring an instrument; there are music workshops again this year.

We are delighted that many S.I.F.D. groups are established friends of the festival and will be returning to perform and teach this year. They include **Akhtamar Armenian Performance Group**, **Martisorul** Romanian group, **Balaton** Hungarian dance group, **Zivko Firfov, Beskydy** Czech and Slovak Dancers, **The Iberian Folk Dance Group** and **Balkanplus** and many more. Prepare to make new friends too. Several groups will be making their festival debut this year.

The evening programme is bigger this year. On Saturday we have the Latin American evening and a Balkan dance party. On Sunday evening the wonderful **Cloudburst** band will play for the international barn dance. New this year is a 'conference' event on the Sunday evening at which speakers from a range of backgrounds will talk about their experience of collecting traditional dance and music.

We are pleased to say prices are unchanged from last year. £10 per day including evening (£9 concessions), £6 evening only. The programme starts at 10.00am both days. You can book in advance through the website too.

For more information about **Dance Around The World**, visit the web site at [www.datw.org.uk](http://www.datw.org.uk) or e-mail [danceoffice@waitrose.com](mailto:danceoffice@waitrose.com) or, of course, call us: 07749 007040 or 020 8340 4683.

Yours sincerely,

**Anne Leach**

Dear Janet,

At Swansea, part of the Compulsory Fun programme was a competition to compose acrostics on the word Swansea, either in a form of verse or in single words. Now I am back from Holiday I am sending some results to the magazine, as we had many good entries. The numbers of initials they acquired decided the winners.

Janet has already submitted her own winning entry but I enclose the runner - up which I think is very clever. Dal Sudwell, a Welsh speaker, composed his entry round the Welsh name for Swansea - Abertawe, and wrote in Welsh with a translation.

I also enclose the winning single word entry, with the apology that I have mislaid the originals so I cannot identify the author.

**Fiona Howarth**

\*

**S**weating  
**W**ondering  
**A**bout  
**N**ew  
**S**teps  
**E**very  
**A**fternoon

\* \*

**A**r lan y môr y mae achlysur bach  
**B**endigedig i  
**E**iddgar ac enfawr  
**R**hialtwch lle mae'r  
**T**awe llifo i fewn y môr  
**A**  
**W**ele, hyd yn oed wŷn mewn caeau gwyrdd y mae'n dawnsio  
**E** fo'r downswyr rhyngwladol SIFD

\* \* \*

Translation: By the sea, there is a small but  
Wonderful occasion for  
Huge and ardent  
Jollity  
Where river Tawe flows into the sea  
And  
Behold, even lambs in green fields are dancing  
With the SIFD international dancers



### **October Balkanplus**

The October Balkanplus will be held on the 11th October at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. Come and enjoy an evening dancing with the Ipswich Group. Admission £5.

**Maureen Felton**

## LE BAL À QUATRE

(French)

♩ = 120

G D7 G D7 G D7 G D7 G

D7 G D7 G D7 G D7 G D7 G

**Wilf Horrocks**

\* \*

### Dance notes

Bal à Quatre is a progressive couple dance from Poitou.

Man and partner hold inside hands at shoulder level and face line of dance.

**A** Both, starting R. foot, walk forward 8 steps with a small dip on the first.

Repeat **A** 3 more times (i.e. 4 times in all)

**B** Face partner and take an open hand hold (man's left in girl's right and vice versa) making a ring with the arms. Couple make a complete turn clockwise and the man moves forward to the next girl to repeat i.e. turning with her and so on. Only four steps are available for the turn and the moving on. Slight rocking is allowed during the turn. Turn 4 times in all.

Repeat from **A**.

**Joan and Simon Guest**

\* \* \*

I can recommend 'Le Bal à Quatre' to anyone calling an 'international' barn-dance. With just two parts, it is simple enough for a room full of left feet. It also introduces the concept of 'moving on' to an increasingly large proportion of people who arrive with no idea of what is expected of them.

The music for Čeladenský will be in the November issue - with Czechoslovakia named as its home country; so perhaps someone can identify which and/or give us some information about it. If anyone has the notes for the dance would you share them with us? I have been asked to provide notes with Wilf's music - but have no knowledge of Čeladenský.

**Ed.**



### Obituary

I regret to announce the passing of Leslie Coton residing in Australia. Leslie the husband of Ruth formerly Sharp, teacher and wardrobe mistress of the H.G.F.D.G. club in the 1950's and 60's. Les died whilst cutting the grass and had no pain. Our thoughts are with Ruth whom I have known since (circa) 1951.

**Paul Bradley**

## **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

**October 5th (early)** MC: Pam Radford (4-7pm)

**November 2nd** MC: Fiona Howarth



### **WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER**

- S.I **Saturday Oct.4<sup>th</sup>** **SWEDISH DANCE/FIDDLE WORKSHOPS & EVENING DANCE**  
See page 9
- S.I **Saturday Oct.11<sup>th</sup>** **BALKANPLUS** see page 11
- S.I **Saturday 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 **Fri/Sat/Sun Oct.24<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>** **RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF MACEDONIAN FOLK DANCE** with Paul Mulders in Malhamdale, Yorkshire Dales. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Non-dancers welcome. Full board (3 nights) £199. Single course £26, both courses £46. For details please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX tel 017687 73117or e:mail your request to cathy\_meunier@hotmail.com.
- S.I **Saturday Oct.25<sup>th</sup>** **ROMANIAN DANCE DAY** see page 8
- Sat/Sun Oct.25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>** **DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** Cecil Sharp House see page 10



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