

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.



Happy Christmas



I know that you will all join me in thanking Dalila Heath, Mike & Edwina Holdup and Simon Guest for all their work getting the News out for yet another year. It seems to run like clockwork; Simon produces the labels from his membership list and Mike & Edwina prepare the envelopes. Dalila oversees the printing, and does the packaging and posting. Happy Christmas to them and to all of you for contributing in so many ways and reading the SIFD News throughout 2008.

More thanks are due to Ken Poyton for his picture of the girl wearing the seasonal waistcoat, which he took some years ago at Llangollen; and especial thanks to Winnie Beer for letting me play with the dolls in her huge collection (the key for this Christmas cover picture is on page 4).

Also please take note that items for the January News must be received earlier (December 15th for Royal Mail and December 14th for email)

Ed.



December Balkanplus

The December Balkanplus will be held on the 13th December at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be Fiona Howarth with live music from Dunav. Admission £7. Don't forget to wear some Seasonal Sparkle.

Maureen Felton

* * *

Glittering Balkanplus

Balkanplus on December 13th is the nearest one to the Winter Solstice and other Festivities. To celebrate this, and to bring light and joy into a dreary world I would like attendees to dress and deck themselves with glitz, glam and scintillation. Interpret this as you wish. Hope to see many of you there to dance the night away with Fiona, Dunav and a merry heart.

Fiona Howarth (M.C.)



Eastbourne International Folk Dance Festival

May 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

The booking forms for Eastbourne are enclosed with this issue and as you will see we have many a treat in store.

Julie Korth will be there once again to MC the Friday evening Welcome Dance. The workshops start next morning and continue all day, and again on Sunday, then morning only on Monday. There are many different workshops to choose from - both international and English.

A great favourite among Balkan fans with his warm hearted and enthusiastic approach is **Paja Milic** and his wife **Madelon** who will be teaching dances from the former republic of Yugoslavia and Albania.

Cristina Casarini who many of you will remember for her fun filled Italian courses returns this time to concentrate on her main interest - dances from all around the world.

Our own Dalila Heath will offer workshops in Armenian dance and also some Israeli dances.

Dutch DIP are returning to bring us more of their truly excellent Balkan music especially for the Sunday evening Balkan Party for which **Bob Robinson** will be the MC. They are also playing a mix of music for part of the Saturday evening International Dance (which I shall MC and for which I intend to employ the *delegation method* as far as possible). Both of these two evening dances are distinguished more than anything by the wonderful array of costumes that **you** wear to the event (although this is not obligatory).

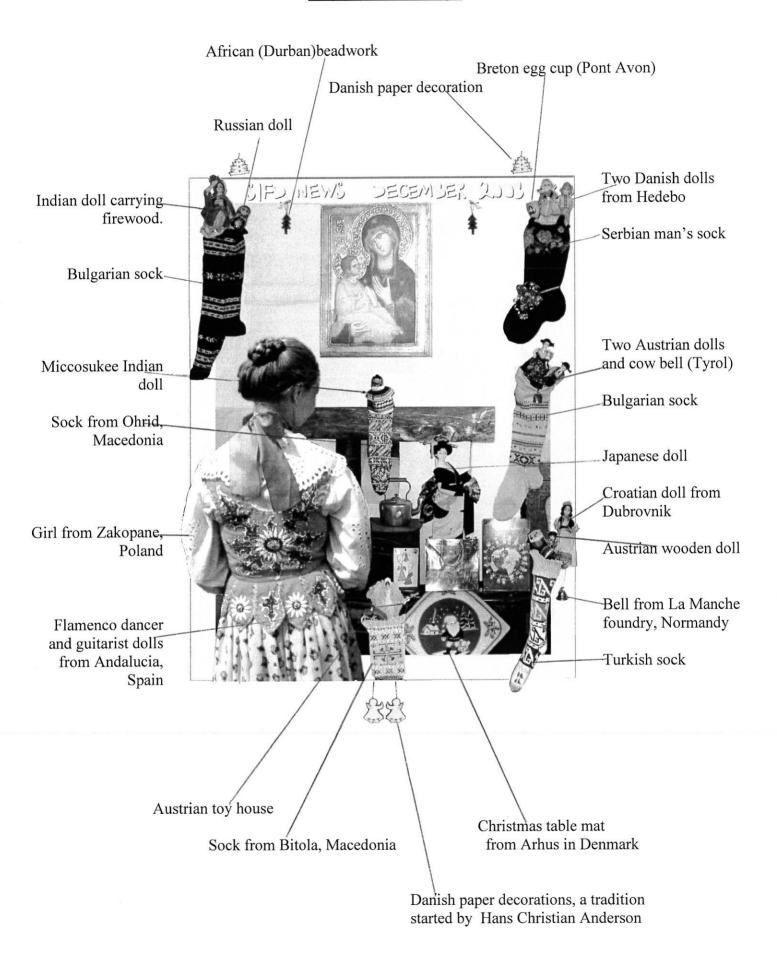
We are also welcoming **Danai Phantong** for the first time to Eastbourne, he will be teaching Thai folk dance from the Northern part of Thailand called Fon Phoo Thai at the Saturday afternoon workshop. He will then be joined by other Thai dancers for the evening performance session which takes place during the International Dance.

Our other performance group is **Opanka**, who delighted us at Eastbourne a few years back and will dance in the afternoon and again during the evening Balkan Party.

At the end of the weekend I shall be handing the organisation of the Eastbourne Festival back to Julie Korth, who has been instrumental in it since its inception. Julie and the Barlow group will continue to look after the International side of this annual favourite in the future alongside Ray Goodswen who deals with all the English and American.

Janet Douglas

Key to cover design



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jan.3rd ARMENIAN & RUSSIAN DANCES** with Dalila Heath and Janet Douglas. 10.30am 5pm. Barnham Village Hall, Nr. Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Bring packed lunch.
- S.I **Jan.24**th **BARLOW** have invited Dragan Draganov to take a Bulgarian workshop at St. Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Egerton Road South, Chorlton, Manchester. Followed by our Family Dance Party. 7.15 10.15pm. Workshop £6, Party free. Further information from J.Korth 01942 831141
 - Jan.24th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY, St.Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road (off Woodstock Road), Oxford, OX2 6TN. 7:00 to 11:00 Oxford's winter party is full of good music, dances and food. Music will be recorded and live with the Vupros Band. Cost: £7.00 includes buffet. Email Stephie Clark at stephieclark@9farmington.co.uk if you would like any further information.
 - Mar.6th/8th 3 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE COURSE led by Phil & Brenda Steventon at Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex. For details ring Earnley on 01243 670392 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I Mar.7th SIFD W MIDLANDS BRANCH ROMANIAN DAY COURSE with Liz Mellish & Nick Green 10.30 4.30 at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull B91 1LG. More details from Maggie Kaye on 0797-464-9311 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk
- S.I Mar.7th 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.14th/15th ROMANIAN WEEKEND WITH SILVIU CIUCIUMIŞ Sat.14th in Manchester and Sun.15th at Calver, Derbyshire. send s.a.e. to: Julie Korth, 'Holly Cottage', off Wigan Road, Aspull, Near Wigan WN21 1EF
- S.I Mar.27th/30th 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.
 - **Apr.6th/10th 4 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE COURSE** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon Dancing in the morning and evening. 3-5 mile afternoon walks led by an HF walking leader, at HF Holidays, Haytor, Dartmoor, Devon. For details ring HF on 0845 470 7557 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Apr. 24th/27th 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 from the Netherlands and Contra with Rhodri Davies. More information on the website: http://www.greatalnefolk.org.uk/ or phone André Hobro on 0121 777 3722
 - May. 1st/4th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL see page 3
 - May. 1st/4th(or 5th) HALSWAY MANOR (SOMERSET) This weekend of dancing and walking on Quantocks/Exmoor has been happening for at least 40 years; for further information contact: Gordon Adie 100, College Way, Truro TR1 3WJ. or 01872 279490 or grdnadie@aol.com "



Events covered by SIFD insurance are marked S.I. Please remember that the onus is on <u>you</u> to mark each event when sending in the notice if your event is covered by our insurance.

A Note about Diary Dates

Phil & Brenda Steventon have sent details of their 7 Night International Folk Dance course to take place Aug. 22nd / 29th 2009 at HF Holidays, Selworthy, Exmoor, Somerset. It is helpful for people to know of these events well in advance, and a one-off 'early warning' article such as Cathy Meunier's article on page 8 is a desirable feature of the News which I welcome.

However, dates for insertion in the Dates For Your Diary section cannot be included if the date is more than six months in the future.

Ed.



Dance With the World Leaflets

I'm pleased to report that at last an updated Dance With the World leaflet is available, this year on cream-coloured paper.

It is very similar to last year's, but now includes all known web addresses, which I hope will be a popular inclusion, as well as the latest information.

It lists all the SIFD's associated and affiliated groups and classes, and is very useful for handing out at demonstrations and displays, to anyone interested in joining a group or class, or wanting more information about the Society.

There is also a current "Join Us!" leaflet (blue this year) which encourages new membership. This outlines the benefits of joining the Society, both for an individual or an affiliated group. We need new members more than ever to keep the Society alive and healthy, so please consider distributing some of these.

If you would like some leaflets, please contact me: 5 South Rise, Carshalton, Surrey. SM5 4PD alison.scrimshaw@googlemail.com

Alison Scrimshaw



SIFD Day Courses

The following dates have been booked at Cecil Sharp House for the SIFD Day Courses in 2009:

January 10th
February 14th
March 14th
June 13th
July 11th
September 12th
November 7th

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Date: January 10th 2009

Place: Cecil Sharp House

Time: 10.30 am -- 4.30 pm

Cost: £8 for SIFD members, £10 for non-members

Tutors: Fiona Howarth and Maggie Kaye

Subject: Revision of dances taught by Corry

Verheijen at the 2008 Summer School.

Corry ran the general course at Summer School with partner and non-partner dances.

The day course is revision, but everyone is welcome.

Pam Radford

CCPR Show at the Royal Albert Hall 2010

The Dance and Movement section of the CCPR are once again putting on a show at the Royal Albert Hall, scheduled to take place in September 2010. We have been invited to take part and I am delighted to be the organiser / choreographer for the SIFD item. It may seem a long way off but we will need all the time we can get.

The dances are Sepastia Bar and Ambee Dageets (a.k.a. Armenian Turn), and, Ya da Kalinushka Lomala and Moy Muzhenka. Armenian and Russian costumes are not too different from each other and although both countries have some regional costumes with short skirts, full length skirts for women are a must for this.









Russian Russian Armenian Armenian

Please contact me if you are interested or have any queries (address on page 2). Details of meeting places will follow.

I hope that many of you will 'join up' - we can have as many as sixty dancers.

And, to all our musicians - it would be brilliant if some of you were to volunteer to play for us so that we could dispense with recorded music.





Russian Armenian

The four dances are for men and women, and do not feature 'arm wrapping' as shown in the pictures above (I had visions of head dresses getting knocked off and trampled!).

Janet Douglas

Residential Greek Folk Dance Weekend with Angie Saravelaki at Malhamdale 30th October – 2nd November 2009

Angie Saravelaki was a "Principle Dancer" in the Dora Stratou organisation in Athens (the Greek equivalent of Cecil Sharp in England). She is employed by the Greek government to lead and teach an Ensemble and has recently been invited to dance in China. Her repertoire includes dances from all over Greece and her lively teaching is clear and easy to follow. She has already been invited to teach in the south of England on a number of occasions and has been highly recommended by the dancers who attended her courses.

This residential long weekend will be held at the HF country house hotel of Malhamdale, near the geological wonders of Malham Cove in the Yorkshire Dales. It includes comfortable twin, double, family or single en-suite accommodation and full-board with a plentiful choice of good food. Dancers can select either the General or Intermediate course, or both courses. There will be social dancing in the evenings, with a review of Angie's dances from this and previous courses on Saturday evening. It is an excellent area for walking or sightseeing, and, leaders willing, half-day walks for dancers and full-day walks for non-dancers will be offered. Non-dancing friends and family are welcome to come and enjoy the facilities of the house and grounds, including an indoor swimming pool, the walks and the attractions of this area. Full board accommodation (3 nights) is £195, single course £28, both courses £50.

For full details and a booking form, please send s.a.e. to me at 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4DX. Alternatively you can get the information electronically by sending your request to cathy meunier@hotmail.com

Cathy Meunier



Private interests claim part of Philopappou Hill!

An extrajudicial statement was delivered to the Dora Stratou Theatre, whereby 7 individuals claim ownership of the Theatre tract on Philopappou Hill. The land is part of 70,000 square meters owned originally on the basis of a dubious contract dating back in 1869. This statement disputes the Theatre's right to continue using its performance and educational facilities there.

The historic Dora Stratou Theatre has not, of course, had ownership of the property, rather only the use of the land, bestowed on the Theatre in 1964 by order of then Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis. Now the Theatre is asked "to cease to disturb our ownership and occupancy of the real property."

On Philopappou Hill, the professional musicians dancers, arrayed in 2000 authentic costumes, perform daily throughout the summer. A total of 3 million spectators have attended performances of this world-famous company. During winter months, the dance school provides lessons to over 500 young and adult students. Invited traditional dance groups from every corner of Greece and countries throughout the world have performed there.

We urge whoever values the ethnological work which has been offered on a non-profit basis since 1953 by the 'Living Museum of Greek Dance', the pillar of music-dance tradition, to express their support to the media. You can also send messages to Minister of Culture Michalis Liapis and Minister of Tourism Aris Spiliotopoulos. Both ministries permanently subsidise the Theatre.

If you can, call radio stations, newspapers, and television channels. Protest the secretive way this is being handled. Let them know you support the Theatre.

There's no such thing as too many expressions of concern!

The more calls, messages and letters the media receives the better.

Do whatever you think you can, but do it now!

Again, thanks! Your support is priceless!

Irene Cooper

Wanted

Ersin Seyhan gave a workshop in Bognor Regis in 2001, and a CD "For You" went with it. (19 tracks in all.. 1.Bablekan 2.Bahare 3.Cadirimin ustune etc.). Unfortunately mine no longer plays, and neither do those of local dancers who also bought one! If anyone has a working "For You" CD that I could borrow to copy the tracks from I would be extremely grateful. (contact details on page 2)

Janet Douglas



Letters to the Editor:

Dear Janet,

I would like to share some personal experiences relating to the value of live music for folk dancing.

Last year one of the members of our small dance group in Aberdeen died. She was a classical musician who played in many ensembles and orchestras. This year the Aberdeen Sinfonietta, in which she used to play, gave a memorial concert for her. They asked our group to do a few dances. Music was transcribed and arranged for an orchestra and we danced a suite of Romanian dances. Dancing at the concert was not only honouring the memory of her but it was sheer joy to dance to live music. The spirit of music hovered over and enveloped everyone in the hall.

I lead a weekly folk dance session for about 20 young people with special needs (16 to 22 year olds), 3 to 6 musicians come and play for these sessions and the atmosphere is always vibrant, often noisy and sometimes full of surprises. The young people applaud the musicians after every dance. On the rare occasion when the musicians are unable to come I resort to using CDs and then the atmosphere changes, becoming orderly and predictable. The young people look around for someone to applaud. What do they see? What do they hear? Although some of them are unable to talk or communicate, they do sense things deeply. The aim of presenting to these young people a true image of man and where music comes from is a help in their development. On another level the live music is played slightly differently every time so making the same old dances fresh and new (which is an advantage after this for donkey's years).

In October this year I went to Malhamdale on a Macedonian course organised by Cathy Meunier and taught by Paul Mulders. The course was excellent, Paul is a lively expert teacher. A highlight of the weekend was Saturday night when Graham Crowder, by a stroke of inspiration, brought his band along to play Balkan music using authentic instruments. It was tinglingly enjoyable. The following evening more musicians and singers came forth.

Music comes from man and is as variable and dynamic and alive as man is. We all use recorded music out of convenience, necessity, predictability and availability but it is DEAD music. A photograph of a person is not the real person and you cannot talk to a photograph. Incidentally, in the three examples cited the musicians played for no money.

I wish there could be more live music although if it is possible it requires more effort.

I wish that at the next SIFD Summer School there could be live music every evening. Imagine a Ceilidh night, a Balkan night, and Exotic night.....

I applaud and thank all musicians who raise the baton for alive music for folk dancing.

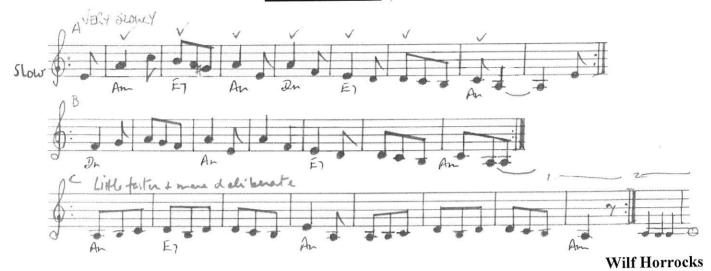
Best wishes for Christmas

Andrene Thompson

P.S. Three words to Cathy Meunier for organising the dance/holiday weekends, Carry on Cathy.



Vira de Lisboa (Portugal)



After the response to Čeladenský last month (still going on, see* below) Vira de Lisboa is an anti-climax. Next month the music for **Petite Montferrine á Quatre** should encourage you to send more information. **Ed.**

*For a highly choreographed version of Čeladenský danced to Janacek's music. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lPP8DcFq9g

Tom Kafka



I have created a proformer to be inserted into the back of the DVD case of the dances taught at the Swansea Summer School this year to help those members who have a copy of this DVD.

David Bramson

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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 **December 7**th MC: Graham Styles **January 4**th The Committee

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

S.I	Saturday Dec.6th	SIFD WEST MIDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS DANCE 7.30 - 10.30pm at Solihull
	•	Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull B91 1LG. Bring-and-share
		supper. £3 details on 0797-464-9311 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk

S.I	Saturday Dec.6 th	Dec.6 th ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY St. Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens,
		EC IN 7AB. Nr. Chancery Lane (Central Line) Tickets: Irene Keywood, 133 Third Ave
		Dagenham. Essex. RM10 9BD Phone:0208 592 4427 £8 (incl refreshments) 7.00pm -
		10.30pm. Admission by ticket. cheques to payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group,
		s.a.e.please. Dances from Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania and Greece.

S.I	Friday Dec.12th	BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY with music by Dunav. 8pm at Church House,
		Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. £5 incl. refreshments. Info: Brian Dowsett 01992 582717

Dec.19th/21st DUNFORD WEEKEND Dancing and walking, £130.00. tel. 020 8540 3464

S.I Sunday Dec.28th A TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY, at Stone Cross Hall, near Eastbourne (junction of B2104 and B2247) 10.30 to 4.30. Bring lunch to share, and dances if you can. Cost £7.00 (half day £4) Rowena Martin 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com

