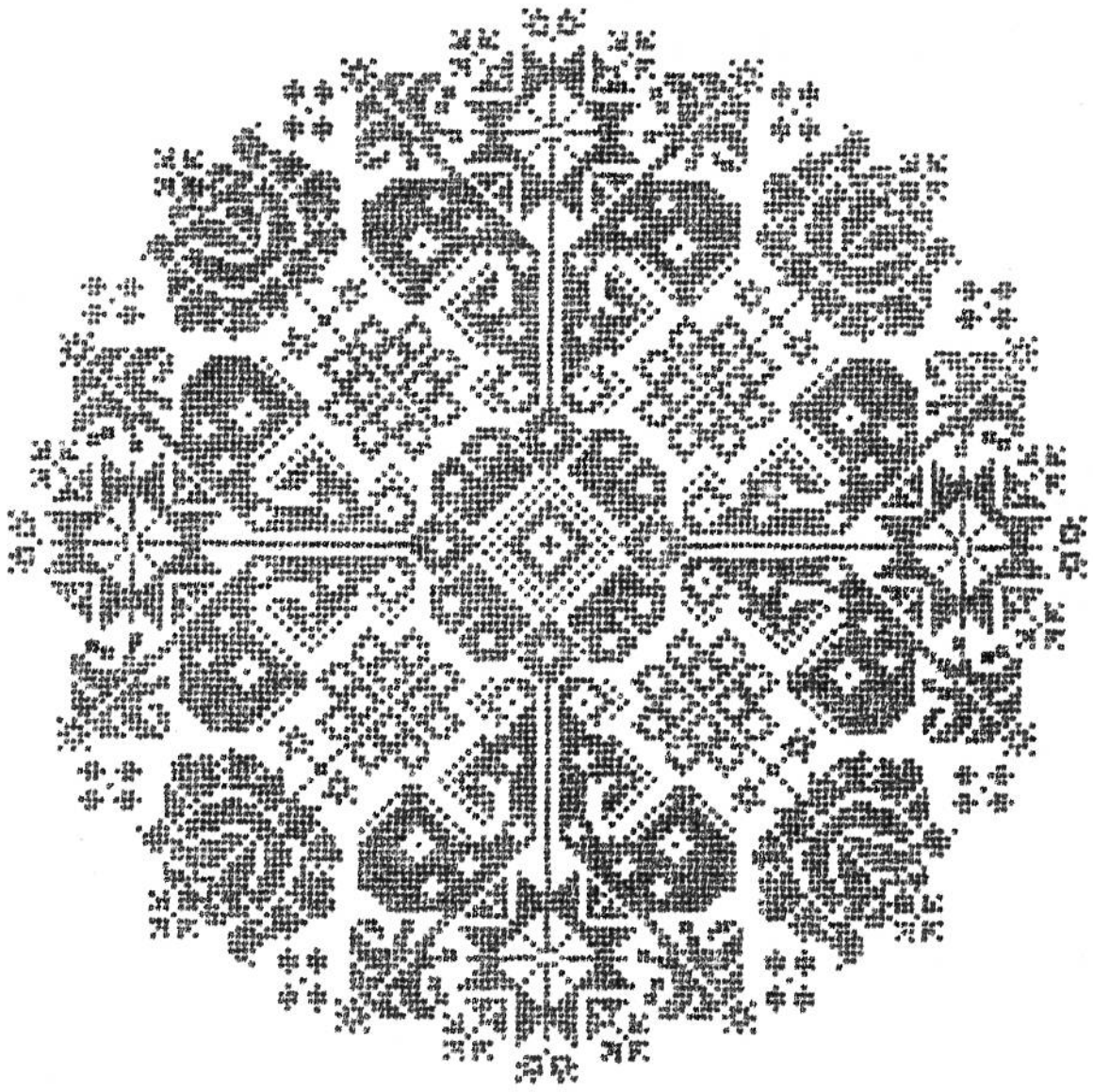


FEBRUARY 2000



S·I·F·D NEWS

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.



John Rigby sent in this month's cover of a Transylvanian cross-stitch embroidery pattern dating back to 1897. He first designed it back in the mists of time for the February 1970 edition of the SIFD News. And the Woodvale motif is featured again this month.



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roger@rogersturge.me.uk
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richardmellish@compuserve.com
- Alison Scrimshaw 5 South Rise, Carshalton, Surrey. SM5 4PD
alison.scrimshaw@googlemail.com

Sybil Chapman (who is still recovering from her fall) has notified us of the death of Magda Oska; Sybil's letter is on page 11.



SIFD Chairman's Report 2008

My general impression of the year is of great energy and activity to be seen in many of the local groups which are the lifeblood of our Society, and in the flourishing summer school. Unfortunately it is increasingly difficult to match that inspiration in the central work of the Society. Constitutions and committees can seem boring stuff but they are essential for the effectiveness of your Society and its vital role in promoting the international folk dance movement in this country. And we do have some successes!

Some activities during the year

Sunday dances – The experiment of some early-start Sunday dances has been continued. They attract younger dancers and also may be more convenient for members who wish to come from outside London.

Publications – We have had a boost in sales, as members replaced their tapes with the Society's new CDs, thanks to the work of transcribing. We are still working on the production of a new set of dances, P10.

Bingolotto – We have invited bids from local groups to make use of the £1000+ from the first round of the Bingolotto scheme. The result has been a resounding silence. The committee has ideas for using some of the money but it would be much better if local groups could take it up to boost their outreach activities. If we are unable to make good use of the money we shall have to pay it back and participation in the next phase would seem problematic. So, groups, please get in your bids.

Summer School – In July we had another successful summer school. It was Dorien Bates' first as organiser and her efficiency and good planning (particularly compared to her predecessor - and I am allowed to say that!) greatly improved the smooth running and enjoyment of the event. I'd like to express my thanks to the team, Dorien, our leader, Peter Bransby who looked after the money, Jill Bransby who organised the publicity and Janet Woolbar who recruited the teachers.

Newsletter – All members will have appreciated Janet Douglas' work as the editor of this newsletter. She has kept up the high standards we have been used to and has introduced some useful innovations. The colour covers are a much welcomed innovation.

Looking ahead

As well as the continuing work on producing P10 and on Bingolotto, we are also seeking a volunteer to complete the work we have done so far on producing a policy and code of practice for working with children and vulnerable adults.

We have accepted with gratitude Janet Douglas' offer to organise the SIFD contribution to the **National Festival of Movement & Dance, 2010**. This important event is organised by the CCPR Movement & Dance Division on which we are represented.

Running your Society

No report of the year would be complete without paying tribute to the hard work done on your behalf by your committee and by a number of other members who work outside the committee on behalf of the Society. Just to mention some key people: Judith Payling continues to keep our finances in order. This year she also steered a change of our bank accounts to the Charity Aid Foundation Bank which is geared to the needs of charitable bodies and pays a good rate of interest. Anyone who has changed banks in recent years will appreciate her patience and persistence in completing that process. Thanks to Alison Scrimshaw who stood down as Secretary at the end of 2007 but continues as an active member of the committee. Fran Crawley took over and we are very grateful for the work she does for us. Fran is unable to attend committee meetings but still manages to keep track of our agendas and the between meetings activities.

continued→

The new constitution has now bedded in and with some helpful amendments the standing orders were agreed at the AGM. But it still is not bringing the new blood into the working of the Society. With Bob Robinson's resignation from the committee for pressure of his work we are in danger of moving back towards being a committee made up of London members who have given long willing and faithful service to the Society but increasingly need a break. Yet again we fell short of nominations for the 10 places at the 2008 AGM.

So we remain in the ironic position of having spare money but lacking the willing volunteers to use it. We shall have an opportunity to have another look at the constitution when we consider the costs and benefits of becoming an incorporated charity under the 2006 Charities Act; when the time comes we shall, of course, consult the membership. Some way we have to recruit new members to the committee if the Society is to survive and continue to help keep alive the international folk dance movement in this country. **Can YOU help? Your Society needs you.**

Roger Sturge



Dance Around The World October 2008

The Dance Around The World festival took place at Cecil Sharp House on 25 and 26 October 2008 and I think it is worth a mention. I saw it all. I thought it was a wonderful festival that was better than ever. I felt that in general standards of performance and presentation were higher. The organising team (OT) dug deep into the dance archaeology of London and the surrounding areas to unearth a splendid diverse treasure trove of dance. About 50 dance clubs displayed and that included some very interesting new groups that we had not seen before. Approximately a quarter of all the clubs were affiliated to the SIFD. It was a great opportunity to see what a lot of the SIFD in the south east do.

Both days started at 10.00am with general dancing for all and then there were continual displays from 11.00am to 7.0pm. During this time each participating club also taught a one hour workshop in either Storrow or Trefusis and these workshops were good and well attended. There was also a musicians' workshop. Saturday evening was given over to Latin American events which were effervescent, fun and very popular. On Sunday evening there was a lecture/conference in Trefusis and also, in the main hall, an international barn dance with Cloudburst band and Anne Leach and Brenda Godrich as callers. It was strictly not elegant but boisterous jolly come dancing.

The OT could face problems in the future because of the increasing popularity of the festival. For example in previous years clubs were allowed a display time of 30 minutes. In 2008 this was cut to 20 minutes. Further reductions could cause difficulties.

The OT have evolved a new pioneering style of economic management which could be a template for other institutions and organisations to follow. It avoids the perils of the wild and volatile instability of the global monetary system. They have turned to barter. It more or less works like this. They say to dance clubs that we will not pay you fees or expenses with filthy lucre but if you come and display and take a workshop you will get in return a free entrance ticket for your performers to enjoy the days events, also possible interest from other dancers in joining your club, and, above all, the sincere admiration and applause from an audience of fellow dancers. Sometimes, but not often, the festival suffers a form of credit crunch: i.e. a club does not turn up. An emergency rescue operation is put into action. An expert gets the audience to come onto the floor for some general dancing which they like and credit is restored.

Planning the festival and running it over the weekend must be time consuming, very hard work and also stressful because the OT is dealing with so many clubs and people. I picture them as being exhausted at the end of the festival and being in need of a visit to a five star spa hotel for a month for rest, relaxation and recuperation and especially counselling to inspire them to do it all again next October for our enjoyment.

Henry Lee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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 SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 8
- 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, Nr. Wigan WN21 1EF
- S.I **Mar.14th BALKANPLUS:** with Maddy & John plus live music with Dunav
- S.I **Mar.27th/30th NEW SPRING MINI FESTIVAL** organised by Willingdon IFDG at Ardingly College in the beautiful Sussex countryside. Shared leading of International and English Folk, Circle Dance and singing. Covered swimming pool. 3 days full board (award winning catering). Some single rooms @ £145, sharing £130. Booking form from Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne. BN22 0PZ. Day tickets available @ £40 per day to include 2 meals, refreshments, dancing morning, afternoon and evening (except Saturday afternoon), and a swim.
- 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. (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.4th TRADITIONAL IRISH SONGS** by Rosie Stewart 8.15pm at the Cellar Upstairs, Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. (nr. Euston & Euston Sq. stns). £6. 020 7281 7700 or www.cellarupstairs.org.uk
- 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
- 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 Nel van der Laan 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
- S.I **Apr. 25th BALKAN DANCE WORKSHOP WITH CATHY MEUNIER** organised by Jelenka North Norfolk Balkan Dance group. 11am - 4.30pm at Hempton Memorial Hall, near Fakenham, North Norfolk NR21 7LG. Details from Dawn 01328 856582 or e-mail dawnwakefield@btinternet.com
- May. 1st/4th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL** Workshops and evening dances. Paja & Madelon Milic (ex-Yugoslavia & Albanian) Cristina Casarini (International dances) Dalila Heath (Armenian) plus many other bands and callers. 01278 424332 or www.eiff.org.uk
- S.I **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 "
- Aug.22nd/29th 7 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE COURSE** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon at HF Holidays, Selworthy, Exmoor, Somerset. For details ring HF on 0845 470 7557 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649

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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.



Summer School, 2010

For those who like to plan ahead, the next SIFD Summer School will be held at Swansea University from **7th August until 14th August**. Please note that these dates are later than the usual ones. It was suggested at the AGM that we might need to change the dates to avoid clashes with other festivals but it turned out that the three rooms that we use for dancing had already been booked, for the first two weeks of the school holiday, by a brass band convention. We thought we would prefer not to dance to 'Seventy Six Trombones'!

I can also tell you that we have one teacher who has been invited and has already agreed to come and teach us **Macedonian** dances. He is **Ibrahim Rizevski** who now lives in Canada. Some of you may have met him a few years ago at the Eastbourne Festival and hopefully were impressed by his teaching and knowledge of Macedonian dancing.

Please make a note of these dates for 2010.

Jill Bransby (Publicity Officer)



Armenian Dance course with Tineke van Geel

on Saturday 13th June and Sunday 14th June 2009

(Approx times 11.00 – 5.00 each day) at Lambley Village Hall Nottinghamshire. Kilikia, dances from Armenia group, are delighted to be hosting a visit from Tineke the well-known international dance teacher from the Netherlands who specialises in Armenian dance. Since 1985 she has regularly visited Armenia to study folklore at the Pedagogic Institute and the Choreographic school in Yerevan and in 2005 she received special honours from the Armenian government for her promotion of Armenian dance, music and culture.

At this weekend she will concentrate on dances from her early repertoire. Accommodation may be available with local dancers or a list of B&Bs is available, please ask if needed.

For further details contact Elaine Donnelly edonnelly@talktalk.net Villa Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham NG3 4GG. Tel 0115 962 3173
Early bird booking before April 1st 2009 £45. Bookings after this date if any places left will be £55.
Numbers will be limited so book early to be sure of a place.

Chrisandra Harris



February Balkanplus

The February Balkanplus will be held on the 14th February at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. Our MC for the evening will be Bob Robinson. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton



Christmas Dance in North Norfolk

One of the highlights of the dancing year for Jelenka, North Norfolk Balkan Dancing, is our now regular and popular dance workshop on the weekend in between Christmas and New Year. This year we invited Frank Dowling, who made the journey from Middlesbrough by First Class train to Cromer (which by some quirk of the rail ticketing system was cheaper than second class to Kings Lynn – a shorter journey!)

Over twenty dancers came from as far afield as Diss, Yarmouth, Wisbech and Norwich despite the possibility of icy roads after a very cold night. They were welcomed with hot drinks and biscuits, before, being suitably fortified, they began the dancing day.

Frank's teaching was very clear and easy to follow, delivered in a relaxed and humorous manner. There was a concentration on authentic folk dance rather than choreographed material with a wealth of interesting background information on the dance, music, culture and country of origin which attested to his thorough preparation and knowledge.

The eleven dances he taught from Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Turkey and Brittany presented us with a great variety of apparently accessible and uncomplicated dances, with approachable basic steps, to which he skilfully gradually added more challenging elements of foot and arm co-ordination, and finer points of style, to finally give us some great enjoyable dances that will reward our further attention and practice.

So many thanks to Frank for his excellent teaching on what proved to be an extremely enjoyable day. We are looking forward to our next day workshop with Cathy Meunier on Saturday 25th April – why not come and join us?

Dawn Wakefield and Chris Gill



SIFD Day Courses

Date: February 14th

Time: 10.30 am 4.30 pm

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

Tutor: **Janet Douglas**

Subject: Russian and Armenian dances for the Royal Albert Hall

Pam Radford

* * *

Date: March 14th

Time: 10.30 am 4.30 pm

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

Tutor: **Jill Bransby**

Subject: English Dances

Pam Radford

February 14th SIFD Day Course

The dances of the day course on February 14th will include the four proposed dances for the Albert Hall presentation in September, 2010, plus a selection of general international dances.

If you are thinking of joining the Albert Hall expedition, come and try out the dances - Dalila Heath will show us the finer points of the two Armenian dances.

Janet Douglas



SIFD March Day Course on English Dances.

Jill's Maggot

At the Summer School last August I taught an afternoon workshop on English dances 'Ancient and Modern'. My aim was to choose dances which had distinctive tunes and with moves that needed to be phrased well. We managed to dance the following:

Elverton Grove - Come Let's be Merry, 1712

Round Pond - Pat Shaw, 1974

Turning by Threes - Gary Roodman's New Friends, 2004

Nonesuch - 1st Edition Playford, 1650

Pam Radford has asked me to revise these dances and to introduce some more on March 14th at 10.30 am - 4.30 pm, in Trefusis. Here are some more dances that I think you might enjoy. I probably won't do all of these and I might choose some others but it would give you an idea of the kind of dances that I like because they 'flow' and fit the music well.

Terpsicourante - Gary Roodman's New Friends, 2004

Shrewsbury Lasses - Apted, 1765

The Phoenix - Playford 1670

Helena - Colin Hume, Dances with a Difference, volume 3, 1990

Wakefield Hunt - C & S Thompson's collection, 1779

Good Man of Cambridge - Gary Roodman's Old Friends, 2001

Just to warn you - there are Copyright issues with recordings so I will not be selling CD s of the music. Derek and Ann Appleing run *Folk Sales* and sell recorded music and dance books. Their email is: Derek-Ann@folksales.co.uk (this is a different address from the one they had in August) and their phone number is 01242 692243.

I look forward to 'flowing' with some of you in March!

Jill Bransby



Winter Festival at Kinnersley, Herefordshire, 13th to 22nd February

Dance workshops in Gascon, Norwegian, Swedish, Tango, etc. Also music workshops and concerts/bals. This information provided by Richard Mellish.

Further details NOT from him but from <http://www.emade.org.uk/winter.php>
or 0151 644 8560

A Picture from the Past

This photo of Philip Thornton & Co. was sent in by Irene Fyffe.

We can be sure that the costumes shown are authentic.



Iliana Bozhanova's Balkanplus Workshops on 19th and 20th September 2009

I can now give further details about Iliana's workshops at Cecil Sharp House. Balkanplus has booked Kennedy (the main hall) for both the workshops and the extended Saturday evening party. I am hopeful that the party guests will include the best of Bulgarian talent in London. An exceptional weekend is promised.

Saturday Workshop 10:30 to 4:30 - £20.00

Sunday Workshop 10:30 to 4:30 - £20.00

Saturday & Sunday Workshops £30.00

Saturday Dance 7:30 to 10:30 - £10.00

Complete weekend - £35.00

£5 OFF EACH OF THE ABOVE PRICES FOR EARLY BOOKING BY THE END OF MAY.

ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS FOR BALKANPLUS SEASON TICKET HOLDERS.

Tickets are available from Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG
Please send cheque payable to Balkanplus and SAE. More information can be found on
www.balkanplus.org.uk or contact Maureen on 01473 272256 or myself on 01992 582717

Brian Dowsett

Israeli Tape to CD?

As you might be aware, we are trying to transfer to CD all the SIFD music previously sold as tapes. Most of the tapes have been transferred, but a couple remain. One is the Israeli tape, number 5. This doesn't sell very well, so its future is in doubt.

These are the dances on it -

Ahavat Hadasa,
Debka Dayagim,
Debka Ha'Abir (Uria)
Debka Halel,
Erev Ba,
Hein Yerunan,
Hora Neurim,
Hora Nirkoda,
Hora Haktana,
Vayiven Uziyahu

Please can you tell me if you like these dances available on a CD? If only some – which ones? That would be most helpful – thank you. We would then know whether to put in the necessary work.

alison.scrimshaw@googlemail.com

020 8395 1400

Alison Scrimshaw



Dvorana Summer Course 2009

I have just learned that the Prague DVORANA is again this year organising a week of Czech and Moravian folk dancing. This time the course is combined with attendance at the biggest annual folk festival in the Czech lands.

The course will take place at Strážnice, in south Moravia, from Wednesday 24th June to Tuesday 30th June 2009. At the time of writing this note I have, unfortunately, no more detailed information. But as "Strážnice" is the festival of the Czech and Moravian folk culture, it must be worth considering the attendance.

If you wish for more information, contact DVORANA directly. The address is:

Dvorana
Španielova 1275/38
163 00 Prague 6
Czech Republic
Phone no. +420 235 318 279
Fax no. +420 235 318 267
E-mail dvorana@dvorana.cz

You can find more information on Dvorana on the internet at <http://www.dvorana.cz/>

Dal Sudwell



Magda Oska 1917 - 2009

It is with great sorrow that I write to tell you all that Magda died on January 1st. She had been failing for some time but her heart at last overcame her spirit. Riddled with arthritis, it was difficult for her to leave her apartment. Her family were with her and I have already written to them.

I'm so glad I forwarded my visit to October, so I saw her a bare two months ago, when her eyes and demeanour lit up and she was happy and comfortable at home, with family help, though we had to forego our 'last-night-of-my-visit' meal which we usually enjoyed.

How fortunate it was that the January Newsletter carried an article on Hungarian dancing, and as fate would have it, we sat here on New Year's Eve watching a video of her group.

Later on, I will try to put down on paper some of my wonderful recollections of Magda, her family and colleagues, and some of the hilarious things we got up to over 42 years of friendship.

Others, I know, will wish to write about Magda's teaching visits to the S.I.F.D., but after all the weeks and months I spent in B'p my own recollections can wait for another day.

Sybil Chapman

Founder of the West Midlands Folk Dance Group

Letters to the Editor:

Margaret Webb recently received a letter from Beryl and Len Sawyer, who will be remembered by those who were members in the early years of the Society; excerpts from their letter below:

Len and I are fine - just a few minor health problems associated with advancing age. We still canoe - but don't camp; hike, but at a slightly slower pace and shorter distance. Incredibly we celebrated with our dance friends the 50th anniversary of the introduction of international folk dancing in British Columbia this year - and it started in our basement!

The dance celebration was held in a Serbian Church hall - 3 orchestras - some of the musicians visiting from Macedonia. People came from Vancouver Island, local groups, from over the border Bellingham and Seattle in Washington. The ladies of the church prepared the banquet. It was so good I think I'll stay around for another 50 years for the next one.

Do you remember Patricia (Paice) Treadwell? She danced with us in London and was at the start of our group here. She was with us at the dinner.

Beryl and Len Sawyer

Please remember me to all - **Margaret Webb**



Dear Janet,

It was in September 1974 that I founded the Newport International Folk Dance Group and one week later Hilda Sturge started the Bristol Group, well supported by Roger. The two groups visited each other whenever possible and always Newport attended the various day courses they ran over the years. At that time it was considered crossing the Severn Bridge to Newport, was a call too far!!

Several of the dances I now enjoy have come, either directly from Hilda, or from one of the day courses she ran. I remember especially two day courses we attended in nearby Thornbury which, although not organised by Hilda and the Bristol Group, had it not been for her we, the Newport Group, would not have known about them.

I am delighted to hear that Hilda is not giving up on Folk Dance as the 'daughter club', the balkan group are still going strong. Long may it do so. Best wishes.

Sue Clark

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

February 1st MC: Jill Bransby,
(with Wendy Harrup leading Appalachian dancing in the interval.)
There will also be a short display by Tappalacian.

March 1st - MC: Anne Leach



WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

- Saturday Feb. 7th** **TRADITIONAL AMERICAN SONGS** by Jeff Davis 8.15pm at the Cellar Upstairs, Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. (nr. Euston & Euston Sq. stns). £6. 020 7281 7700 or www.cellarupstairs.org.uk
- S.I **Saturday Feb. 14th** **SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 8
- S.I **Saturday Feb. 14th** **BALKANPLUS** see page 7
- Feb. 13th/22nd** **WINTER FESTIVAL AT KINNERSLEY** see page 8
- Saturday Feb. 7th** **SCOTTISH SONGS** by Ray Fisher & Di Henderson.8.15pm at the Cellar Upstairs, Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. (nr. Euston & Euston Sq. stns). £6. 020 7281 7700 or www.cellarupstairs.org.uk



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



EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL 1st – 4th MAY 2009STEWARDS....STEWARDS.... STEWARDS!

Once again I am asking for stewards for the Eastbourne Festival. It would help me greatly if you could fill in and send this slip to Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne, BN22 0PZ, or telephone Rowena on 01323 503991, or email rowenahmartin@hotmail.com. (even if you have helped before).

Thank you very much!

Name

Telephone(home).....Telephone(mobile).....

Details of offer (i.e. any restrictions on number and type of sessions you can offer, and which days):

.....