

SIFD News March 2009



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 photograph for the March cover of Ukrainian dancers was taken by Ken Poyton at Llangollen
(between 1966 and 1988).



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Royal Albert Hall Rehearsals:

Our first rehearsal will take place on Sunday September 27, at Lyndon School, Solihul 12.30 - 5.30
In 2010 the rehearsal dates are: January 24, June 13 and September 12.

Janet Douglas

First, I would like to apologise to Philip and Brenda Steventon for omitting the details from the February issue of the 3-night course they are doing shortly (March 6th/8th). Details are on the back page.

Next month will see a slight change to the layout of the SIFD News. In an effort to tempt some of our busiest members to actually read the News there will be a contents section (some shamefaced friends have admitted that they just collect the music or only look at the Diary Dates).

post script... I have just received a letter from Hedy Fromings - dated 4. 6. 2008 - you may remember that it was missed last year, forcing her to write another. But, it got here in the end, along with an apology from Royal Mail (...I wonder where it has been...).

Ed.



Eastbourne International Folk Dance Festival

Friday May 1st - Monday May 4th

Preparations for the **Eastbourne International Folk Dance Festival** are almost complete.

Balkan fans can enjoy the workshops of dances from the former Republic of Yugoslavia with **Paja and Madelon Milic**, and also the fabulous Balkan sounds from **Dutch DIP**. **Bob Robinson** will MC the Balkan Party on Sunday evening and there will be other 'Balkan' opportunities over the weekend.

Cristina Casarini will be teaching General International dances, and her husband (a dance teacher) will be lending her a hand (or a foot). There will be the usual International dance on Saturday evening and **Julie Korth** will welcome you on Friday evening with a mixture of dances to get you tuned for the weekend. **Dalila Heath** is going to offer Armenian and Israeli workshops and there are always lots of English and American workshops you can visit if you need something different for a change.

Those that have been before know that there is always plenty of choice and an opportunity to become pleasantly exhausted - a good time to watch performances by visiting dance groups. **Opanka** and **Danai's Thai Dancers** will give you time to sit down and watch their displays, and there will also be a chance to learn a Thai dance move or two.

Contact Ray Goodswen at the Festival office - 01278 424332 or www.eiff.org.uk - for information or a booking form, or write: 24, Inwood Road, Wembdon, Bridgewater, Somerset TA6 7PP.

Janet Douglas



Margaret Cullen

(1916-----2008)

Margaret was a great supporter of folk dance and the SIFD. Together with ballet, it was one of the loves of her life. She attended many of the Saturday Day Courses and various special workshops. On all her many travels with her husband Alex, she always managed to find local teachers and groups. She ran a very successful Wigginton Folk Dance Group, Hemel Hempstead for 35 years, which is still going strong. During her illness it still continued. She was a very lovable person and in her teaching was able to develop the joy and love of dance. After all this is what folk dance is all about. The group often gave demonstrations locally for various events and showed just what fun folk dance can be. She will be sadly missed but what a wonderful contribution she has made during her very interesting life.

Robert Harrold

Mazury Polish Dance Group's 60th Anniversary

A celebration performance at Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank.

Sunday 15 March 6.30pm. Tickets £15

(some long standing members like 'Bunny' Jezzard and Joan and Simon Guest used to dance with them)

Diki Gleeson

* * *

Their group consists of 120 dancers, singers and musicians, all of Polish origin and mostly born in the UK. There are three groups aged from 9 upwards. They will be performing Krakowiak, polonaise, mazurka, oberek from Lowicz, as well as dances from the Tatra mountains, Rzeszow, Nowy Sacz, Lublin, the

Kaszuby region, from the formerly Polish city of Lwow, and the dances of the Hucul highlanders whose lands are now in Ukraine - altogether a very varied programme, performed to a live 9 piece band!

See authentic costumes and original dances which were learnt from direct sources in Poland - not the official dance schools in Poland but the people who have had the dances passed down to them through generations!



West Midlands Branch Romanian Day Course on Saturday March 7th

We have now finalised the details of our Romanian day with Liz Mellish and Nick Green. In addition to the morning and afternoon dance workshops there will now be an extra session for musicians at lunch-time, starting at 1.30pm. Nick will teach the music for several of the dances included in the programme for the day and the musicians will then play for the dancing in the early part of the afternoon. We hope this will encourage musicians to come along and they are of course urged to join in the dancing as well - to play well for International folk dancing, you really need to get the feel of the dance.

The timetable for the day will now be as follows:

10.30 – 12.50 dance sessions (with short coffee break)

12.50 – 1.30 lunch break (bring your own)

1.30 – 2.30 musicians' workshop

2.30 – 4.30 dancing (including tea break)

Dancers can either bring their lunch and listen to the music or use the longer break to go into the nearby Solihull town centre to eat or shop or take a walk in Tudor Grange Park (weather permitting).

The venue for the day is Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull B91 1LG. It is situated next to Solihull bus and train stations and is easily accessible from the Motorway network via Junction 5 of the M42.

If you need more information phone me on 0121-608-1437 or my mobile 0797-464-9311 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk

Maggie Kaye



Residential Dance Weekend Courses – Future Dates

Here are some dates for 2010. More information including how to book these weekends will appear in the SIFD Newsletter nearer the time. If you would like to receive the information via e-mail as soon as it is available, please get in touch with me. Cathy Meunier 017687 73117 cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.

26th – 29th March 2010 (3 nights) Bulgarian folk singing with Dessi Stefanova or Balkan dancing with Frank Dowling at Alnmouth, Northumbrian coast.

12th – 15th November 2010 (3 nights) Macedonian dancing with Paul Mulders at Derwent Bank, Lake District.

Cathy Meunier

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Apr.4th TRADITIONAL IRISH SONGS by Rosie Stewart 8.15pm at the Cellar Upstairs, Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. (nr. Euston & Euston Sq. stns). 020 7281 7700 or www.cellarupstairs.org.uk

Apr.4th BALKANPLUS: with MC Toni Gutman **NOTE:** This the 1st Saturday in April

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 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

Apr.25th BALKAN DANCING IN WEST WALES with Mara Freeman and David Watkins. 10.30am - 4.30pm at Cilgerran Village Hall, High Street, Cilgerran, nr.Cardigan. For details, call 01239 858 830 or email: dance@chalicecentre.net

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

May 23rd/24th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE AND MUSIC FESTIVAL see page 6

May 23rd BALKAN DANCING IN WEST WALES with Mara Freeman and David Watkins. 10.30am - 4.30pm at Cilgerran Village Hall, High Street, Cilgerran, nr.Cardigan. For details, call 01239 858 830 or email: dance@chalicecentre.net

Jun.13th/14th ARMENIAN DANCE COURSE WITH TINEKE VAN GEEL (Approx times 11.00 – 5.00 each day) at Lambley Village Hall Nottinghamshire. 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 bookings before April 1st £45, bookings after this date £55.

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

S.I. **Aug.28th/31st WILLINGDON IFDG MINI FESTIVAL** at Plumpton College near Lewes, East Sussex. Shared leading of International Folk Dance and Circle Dance, also English Folk Dance, Line Dance, and singing. Free afternoon to explore the lovely South Downs or Sussex villages. Full board £160 (no supplement for single rooms). Booking form from Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ.

S.I. **Sep. 19th/20th BALKANPLUS BULGARIAN WORKSHOPS WITH ILIANA BOZHANOVA** and Saturday evening dance party at Cecil Sharp House. Tickets are available from Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG send SAE and cheque payable to Balkanplus. More information on www.balkanplus.org.uk or contact Maureen on 01473 272256 or Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717

S.I **Oct. 30th/Nov. 2nd RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF GREEK FOLK DANCE** with Angie Saravelaki 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) £195. 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 e:mail your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.

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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.



Dance Tour to Armenia

April 28 - May 8 Price: € 1545 Flight Included (from several cities in Europe)

Teachers: Pajlak Sarkisian & Liudvig Poghosian

The program contains the usual combination of dance classes and excursions or free time to explore the capital city Yerevan. Pajlak teaches beautiful lyrical dances whilst Liudvig has a vast knowledge of traditional village dances and will be accompanied by musicians. Non dancing partners are welcome to join (optional: alternate program during dance classes).

There are many excursions included, to famous historical places and impressive nature. Of course meetings with dance groups in the countryside will be part of our tour.

Lodging: Yerevan State University Foreign Guest House within walking distance of the centre. Simple, but nice rooms with 2 single beds, shower/bath and toilet. Single room (limited availability) upon request. Extra charges: € 150.

Classes, travel information and guiding during excursions will be in English.

information: visit www.tinekevangeel.nl or mail to info@tinekevangeel.nl (tel. +31-521-380382).



MacLennan Scottish Group International Folk Dance and Music Festival

Late Spring Bank Holiday Weekend 2009

Saturday 23rd May 2009 : Evening International Folk Dance and Ceilidh 7.30 to 11.00pm
Adult £6, Concessions £5, Child £3

Sunday 24th May 2009 : Afternoon International Folk Dance Concert 2.00 to 5.00pm
Adult £7.50, Concessions £6, Child £3
Family/weekend discounts

Both days at Langley Park Boys' School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, BR3 3BP
E-mail festival@msg.org.uk Phone 01474 745580 or 020 8300 0621 Website www.msg.org.uk

Dot Fuller



AGM Apologies

It has been brought to the attention of the committee that we omitted to note on the minutes of last year's AGM apologies tendered by Diki Gleeson and her daughter Sula. We apologise for this oversight and for any other omissions amongst those sending apologies. Given how important the support of the membership is, especially at the time of the AGM, we do appreciate the number of people who take the time to send apologies if they cannot attend and always try to acknowledge these apologies as well as those who are able to attend.

Fran Crawley

Jugoslav Dance

The former Yugoslavia was about the same size as the UK but with huge mountainous regions and plains, and a long Adriatic coast with about a hundred islands. The present republics are contained within the same area.

It has been said that the new republics, formally autonomous republics within Yugoslavia, have a folk culture worthy of a continent in its richness and diversity, a mosaic. The tribal Slavic groups of Slovenes, Croats, Serbs, and Macedonians, absorbed the cultures of the existing inhabitants and those of the neighbouring Slovaks, Hungarians, Austrians, Italians, Romanians, Albanians, and the occupying Turks.

Some of the oldest dances in Europe are to be found in the mountainous regions inland from the famous Adriatic Sea, and hundreds of dances have been notated and filmed since the 1930s notably by the Serbian Djankovic sisters who published eight books, with dance and music notation. Many dances are simple and easy to do. They were social dances, enabling people to chat and sing while they were dancing. Others are of a ritual nature, and others have subtle irregular rhythms and speeds.

Most of the dances are in a circle or open crescent formation, with mixed men and women formation or blocks of men and women. In some regions there are couple dances and along the coast, quadrille formations.

Shaking or trembling of the body (drmanje) are common - strong in Croatia, but lighter in other regions. Other ancient symbolic movements, i.e. kicking, jumping, squatting, limping, spinning around survive as well as movements suggesting hunting and working.

Dances identical in movement often have different names and music when used for a specific occasion. Weddings will have a bridal or mother-in-law dance, or dance No. one, two, three and so on.

In Croatia the dances usually use the drmanje in a closed circle sometimes with jumping and kicking (dućeč and staro sito), Slavonsko kolo with blocks of men and women in a closed circle, and Repa with couples in a closed circle. In the north and some coastal areas independent couples. In the coastal areas quadrilles in the towns (Dubrovnic, Trogir, Split for example). In the remote inland mountainous regions and in Bosnia are the ancient silent circle dances, Vrličo kolo, Ličko kolo, and Glamoć.

In Serbia there is U šest, Žikino, Šetnja, Čaćac, and in the north the couple dance Bunjevačko momacko kolo, in the south Vranjanka, and dances with a muslim influence. In the border with Bulgaria the men's line dance Sopsko kolo.

In the Kosovo metohija region (Kosovo), with a majority Shiptar (indigenous Albanian population) there are combat dances for two men, and the wedding dance, Šota.

Macedonia is noted for the social dance Makedonsko, and numerous social dances, Potrčano, Struga, Kucano, Skudrinka. There are the special dances, Nevestinsko oro and Dračevsko, (wedding dances) Kalajdziskoto (tinsmiths' dance), Stara tikveško (rush mat makers' dance), Teškoto (the heavy dance), Aramiskoto (the brigands' dance), Pajduška, Rusalj, (ritual men's sword dance).

First written in 1986, and recently updated by **Ken Ward**



March Balkanplus

The March Balkanplus will be held on the 14th March at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MCs will be Maddy and John plus live music with Dunav. Admission £7.

Maureen Felton

Dancers from Serbia at a Festival about 50 years ago



Day Courses

At the AGM we mentioned that Day Courses were running at a loss, due mainly to the cost of the hire of the hall, which is still increasing. At the moment the times of 10.30 till 4.30 covers the two charging periods of the day.

In order to reduce these losses we have various alternatives.

- 1 Increase the price
- 2 Cut down the number of courses during the year.
- 3 Cut the time of the course to cover only one charging period
(either 9am-1pm or 2pm-6pm)
- 4 Try to find a different venue

We would be grateful to hear your preferences, or any other suggestions by the beginning of May. More details when I hear from you, my address is on the inside cover.

Helen Ezra



Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to say thank you for a very interesting and enjoyable workshop at Cecil Sharp House on 10 January.

I'm very much a novice, but love dancing and learning more. Everyone was very supportive, Fiona and Maggie were both excellent teachers and everyone seemed to enjoy taking the dances apart and learning how to do them properly.

Thank you to Fiona and Maggie and all who helped. "Why are you going that way round?" I danced man last time. Oh." "What we need is more up and down." - are moments I recall with great affection.

Even the burst water main outside and the chill in the air if you stood still too long couldn't affect the great pleasure of spending the day, dancing, with such a very nice group of people.

I'm very much looking forward to more workshops and am delighted that I have found you.

Pam Rayment

Dear Janet,

Fiona Howarth's article describing her introduction to the SIFD in the January issue made me remember mine.

It was early in 1957, and I was working the three-to-eleven shift as a midwife at Santa Monica Hospital in Southern California. Walking home with a friend, we passed a Church hall, and heard some unfamiliar music. Being nosy we peeped in and saw a group of dancers swirling round in a circle. They spotted us, and shouted "Come in...". It turned out to be the International Folk Dance Group of UCLA and there were lots of fellows, and only a few girls! They were very pleased to see us, and even more enthusiastic to find we were from England! "Teach us some of your English dances" made us feel very ashamed, as, of course, we hadn't a clue!

So we joined, and had a marvellous time, learning theirs. One fellow in particular, called Nake Kumrani, was from Kabul in Afghanistan and we became great pals!

So when I came back to England and got a job in central London, I found Margery Latham's class at Christopher Hatton school and discovered the SIFD!

Any more memories? Best wishes,

Leo Denhard



Dear Janet,

I didn't realise you wanted information about the music and dances chosen*, and also I think I must have missed the reference to Sharm a Sheikh. This was a popular song in Israel many years ago when Sharm a Sheikh was in Israeli territory. The words say "I will return to you, you are always in my heart" Rivka Sturman, one of the earliest dance creators, made the dance to go with the tune. We danced it often in Hama'agal Israeli Dance Group. I think some groups still do it. Sharm a Sheikh was handed to Egypt some time ago and the dance has fallen out of the repertoire.

Hope this helps.

(*see next page)

Fiona Howarth



Sharm a Sheikh

This dance was taught to the Barlow Group by Enid Mitchell (I think) after a visit to Eastbourne, about twenty or twenty-five years ago (mid-eighties), so there must be a tape of it somewhere.

We did the dance for some time as I recollect a lovely tune and a delightful dance.

Well worth resurrecting.

Kathleen A. Dickinson

(a long-time member of Barlow but not fit to dance now)



The words of **Sharm a Sheikh** (I believe) are 'We came over land and we came by sea...' or something like that, as it's rejoicing over the retaking of Sharm el Sheikh in 1967 by Israel, since returned to Egypt (1982).

Sally Fletcher

Cyril Fleisher

We have just received the sad news of the death of Cyril Fleisher, who may have been known by some of the older SIFD members as well as some others since his return from the USA a few years ago. He had been quite frail for a while and died on Friday 13th February, in Peterborough, from a chest infection. Cyril was an enthusiastic folk dancer and participated regularly in London dance activities until his health failed. One of his last trips was to the Koprivshitsa festival where he was in particularly good spirits. He'll be sadly missed.

Brian Dowsett

Sussex Cottage

England

Sussex Cottage

B. Music Bar 4

Molly Bental



Sussex Cottage

3 couple longways set

A 1s lead down and out between 2s & 3s, back to place. Everyone back to back	3s lead up and out between 2s & 1s, back to place. Everyone back to back	
B 1s face down. 2s & 3s face up	Hey for three on the sides	
C 1s & 2s half circle left, then turn partner halfway	1s & 3s half circle left, then turn partner halfway	Repeat from new places

Janet Douglas



NB The music in the April issue will be for **Raski Jaak** - I do hope someone will have something to share about it (oddly enough Wilf hasn't given the country of origin).

Perhaps a reminder is due about this music page; it usually carries one of Wilf's pieces of sheet music but in addition the aim is to give a fuller picture of the dance of the month. Not only notes about the steps and figures, but also, any memorable moments associated with it that you can add. (This is just in case there are more of you that didn't realise that information about the music and dances chosen each month really is wanted.)

If you would like to see a particular dance featured on this page, let me know and I will try to oblige.

Ed.



Faulty dance notes from February 14th SIFD Day course !

Hopa Horuna: in part **B** should read:

after "*knee bounce*" - add: "sway out on R and back".

after "*L heel fwd and replace*" add: "R heel fwd and replace, L heel fwd and replace" and delete: "x3".
apologies

Janet Douglas

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

Mar. 1st - MC: Anne Leach



WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- Friday - Sunday
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 **Saturday Mar.7th** **SIFD W MIDLANDS BRANCH ROMANIAN DAY COURSE** see page 4
- S.I **Saturday 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 **Saturday Mar.14th** **SIFD DAY COURSE**, English dances with Jill Bransby 10-30am – 4.30pm at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1
- Saturday Mar.14th** **BALKANPLUS:** see page 7
- S.I **Sat / Sun
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
- Sunday Mar.15th** **MAZURY POLISH DANCE GROUP** see page 4
- S.I **Fri / Mon
Mar.27th/30th** **RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF BULGARIAN & BALKAN FOLK DANCE** with Yves Moreau at Malhamdale, Yorkshire Dales. General and/or Intermediate course, Full board (3 nights) £186. Single course £28, both courses £50. For details please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.
- Fri / Sat
Mar. 27th/28th** **MAINLY BALKAN DANCE COURSE** with popular teacher Corry Verheijen at Witnesham Village Hall near Ipswich. Fri. 7.30-9.30pm and Sat.11am-5pm. More details from Sally Fletcher 01473 252824 or fletchersm@aol.com
- Saturday Mar. 28th** **BALKAN DANCING IN WEST WALES** With Mara Freeman and David Watkins. 10.30am - 4.30pm at Cilgerran Village Hall, High Street, Cilgerran, nr. Cardigan. For details, call 01239 858 830 or email: dance@chalicecentre.net



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