



MAY 2009

SIFD NEWS

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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www.sifd.org

Editor: Janet Douglas (Mrs.), Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010
email: *SIFDNews@hotmail.co.uk*

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The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

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Chairman: Roger Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU *roger@rogersturge.me.uk*

Treasurer: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts.
WD3 5AF *judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk*

Secretary: Fran Crawley, 8 Chalford Court, 182 Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 6HJ.
Fran_uk@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary: Simon Guest, 49 Station Road, Epping, Essex CM16 4HJ. Tel: 01992 577065.
sguest@iee.org



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This month's cover photo shows the embroidery on the front of a Hungarian blouse made in the 1930s, the predominate colour is scarlet, with bright Royal blue, yellow and green on fine white cotton.
A maypole motif to mark this busy month - fingers crossed for fine weather.

There are some recently associated and affiliated groups in the Society; it would be much appreciated if one of their members could send us a paragraph or two about their group, or perhaps a photograph.

Ed.



Rehearsals for Royal Albert Hall Performance 2010

Maggie Kaye now has confirmation of the bookings at the new hall:

Elmdon Heath Community Centre,
Cornyx Lane, Solihull. B91 2SF

We have the hall from 1.00 to 5.00 pm on Sunday 18th October 2009
and,
24th January / 13th June / 12th September 2010

It is easily reached from Junction 5 on the M42 (about 5 minutes).

Janet Douglas



Bulgarian Dance Workshops with Iliana Bozhanova. An Update

Iliana is hard at work preparing to take her ensemble to Switzerland and the Ohrid Festival in Macedonia but she remains excited about her forthcoming first visit to the UK organised by Balkanplus. The plan of a comprehensive tour of the country is taking shape, but things kick off in London on 19th and 20th September.

Because of a booking mix-up, the Saturday workshop cannot now be at Cecil Sharp House but I have reserved a hall at the nearby North Bridge House School, 1 Gloucester Avenue. The Saturday evening party and Sunday workshop remain at Cecil Sharp House.

The essential details are as follows. The workshops run from 10.30am to 4.30pm and the party from 7pm to 10.30pm. The party will include live music by Dunav and contributions from special guests. The prices: 1 workshop £20, both workshops £30, the Saturday party £10 and the whole weekend deal £35. Please note that the early booking offer of £5 off these prices finishes at the end of May. Extra reductions apply for Balkanplus season ticket holders. Contact Maureen or me for details. Tickets can be obtained from Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG. Please send a SAE and cheque payable to Balkanplus. Further information on www.balkanplus.org.uk

Brian Dowsett



SIFD Day Course

Date: June 13th 2009

Place: Cecil Sharp House

Time: 10.30 am -- 4.30 pm

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

Tutor: **Dragan Draganov**

Subject: Bulgarian Dances

Pam Radford

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jun.6th BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Boyko Andonov, Dance Attic Studios, 368 North End Rd, SW6. 3.30pm - 5.30pm any level, beginners welcome. £7 www.boikoandonov.co.uk
tel: 07900904370

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.

S.I **Jun.13th BALKANPLUS.** MC: Oxford Group

S.I **Jun.13th SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 3

Jun.13th BESKDY is a popular band that performs songs and music from eastern Europe (**NB.** This is **not** Beskdy Dancers). Cellar Upstairs Folk Club. Exmouth Arms, Starcross St., London NW1 2HR (near Euston and Euston Square) 8.15pm. £6.

Jun.20th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP & TEA DANCE led by Phil & Brenda Steventon at St. George's Church Hall, Hamilton Avenue, Tolworth, KT6 7PF. Workshop & Tea Dance - £7 - dancing from 10:30 to 5:30 !! Please bring your own packed lunch - tea, coffee & squash will be available. Tea Dance Only - £3.50 including Cream Tea. Doors open 2.45pm - dancing from 3.00 to 5.30 Please get your tickets in advance - for details ring Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649

Jul.7th/12th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD 01978 862 001 or www.international-eisteddfod.co.uk

Aug.1st/8th BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL Performances and dance courses tel: 01642 553220 www.billinghamfestival.co.uk

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 WORKSHOPS WITH ILIANA BOZHANOVA** see page 3

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 email 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.

Spellings again

Members will recall occasional discussions of the correct names of dances. Certainly names have not always been transcribed correctly, particularly where there were letters with diacritic marks, which were difficult or impossible to deal with in the days of typewriters. And transliterations from the Cyrillic, Greek and Hebrew alphabets can be somewhat arbitrary.

We are planning to re-issue SIFD EPs 12 and 13 on CD, and before we do I want to check the spellings of two of the dance names.

Both on the EP12 sleeve and in the associated book Opsaj Diru is spelt with a hachek/caron on the s, implying a pronunciation like sh in English, but the singers pronounce the name as if it has an ordinary s.

Also on the EP12 sleeve but not in the associated book, Makazice has a hachek/caron on the z.

Can someone who knows please say which spellings are correct.

Richard Mellish

15 Lancaster Road, North Harrow, Middx. HA2 7NN richardmellish@compuserve.com



A Reminder

On the subject of spelling:

About a year ago Simon Guest sent in details of “a marvellous little program called Euro Scratchpad which allows instant access to the accented letters in 25 European languages”, written by David Marriott.

The program is free and can be downloaded from <http://www.davidcm.com/downloads/>
Contact David at mail@davidcm.com

Ed.



More Spellings

As you can imagine, because the SIFD News vocabulary is made up of much that is unusual and foreign, many words are thrown up as wrong by the computer spell checker. As there is an empty space I can share the best of its replacement suggestions with you.

You can stay in unsuited accommodation in Lanolin (Llangollen) or sweaty (Oswestry), then pay by cherub. Hambone (Hambo), pork pies (Apokries) and aspic (Hasapiko) could make you obese (Oberek) or slothful (Solihull).

Bored chipolata (Bouree de la Chapelotte) may affect pectorals (Pentozalis) or derange (Drmanje) you). Then you might listen to the devil (Davul) and watch people dancing horrors in kilos - perhaps zinc fargo at the Taliban's (Zivko Firfov at St.Alban's).

I'm a resident of Bongo, with a friend in Wigwam and we know people who meet in Great Alone in April. We can dance sardines (Sardana), hopsacks (Hopak) with my absolute favourite = Fiona Hogwarts !

Ed.



Majorcan Costumes



This is the front cover picture from October 1972, which was drawn by Caroline Thomas.

Bregje Tijman shares her passions: Balkan Music & Playing for Dancers

At thirteen I mainly played folkmusic on the piano and thought that accordions were only good for tearjerkers, and I didn't like those at all. My parents met during their folkdance teacher training, so I was brought up going to courses, festivals and seminars. Then with a friend who played accordion, I got one in my hands, a little Hohner. The tunes I played on the piano were easily played on the accordion - that was a revelation, if they were suitable for folkmusic, then I wanted one too!

From that day forward I was enthusiastic. Friends in Germany lent me a Hohner Student 40 and I tried to play everything I knew, just by ear. At the folkdance society we got a tape every year with the repertoire, I listened to them endlessly and played along. Also I joined musicians' weekends, alone, jam-packed in a train to some place in the middle-of-nowhere.

I began to get a preference for Bulgarian music. But Bulgarian music is difficult: many different chords, quick melodies, strange ornaments and also irregular measures. If I wanted to play this music I needed help. In 1998 I went to a folkdance camp where Jan Wollring taught me everything about Bulgarian ornaments. How, where, when, and how I should practice. And so I did. Meanwhile I played regularly with Annelies, my mother, who plays violin; mostly music from north and west Europe, her specialism.

Trediki, Duo Izvor and Dutch DIP

Trediki is a trio that plays Balkan music. I met them at the 'Balkanfestival' in Zetten (NL). In 1999 I got a phonecall from their clarinet player and was asked to join them at the Balkanfestival six weeks later (!). I was surprised and excited! We had only a couple weeks to rehearse so we worked hard. It was the most fantastic experience, accompanying the Greek and Bulgarian dance lessons, amplified, in the middle of a big dance hall with 80-120 dancers. This was what I like, accompanying dance lessons! The last festival was the 10th time I played with Trediki! (www.trediki.com)

At a party in 2001 I met Michiel. He played tapan, darbuka and clarinet and he was just as crazy about Bulgaria as I was. We fell in love and also we started Duo Izvor, a musical duo just for Bulgarian music. The combination of accordion and Michiel's instruments is good for dance accompaniment. We have many friends and contact with many good musicians in Bulgaria and visit regularly. (www.duoizvor.com) In 2005 Trediki got a request from Italy to organize a Bulgarian seminar, with dance lessons and live music. Our clarinet player was busy so Michiel (now Trediki's persussionist) and I searched and found another clarinet player, Linnie. With her we started Dutch DIP and went to Italy. By car, outward journey on Friday, playing on Saturday and Sunday and return journey on Monday. Quite mad, but awesome! The Italians loved us and we were asked back every year. Not only for seminars, but also for big festivals like Gran Bal Trad and Osio Folk. We got a request from England as well, the Eastbourne International Folk Festival, we will be here in May for the 4th time!

For me it is really great to play abroad. A weekend like that is like a mini holiday. Lovely!

My Accordions

As said, I started with a borrowed Hohner Student 40 which became too small within a year, my parents and I started an 'accordion hunt'. We found Henk Kuik, who had a small shop in Molenhoek. There we bought my first accordion: an older red Paolo Soprani with 80 basses. I liked it a lot and I still have it. Just two years later I needed another one again. The Paolo Soprani had only 2 registers, both with a heavy tremolo tuning, which is not suitable for Balkan music at all. We searched for an accordion without much tremolo and found a Piermaria with 96 basses and 5 registers. This was a new instrument and I was very happy with it. In 1999 I ordered a Victoria model A310V with 96 basses, cassotto (tone chamber), piccolo tuning and an intern microphone system to be easy amplified.

The perfect accordion for Bulgarian music. So I thought...

In 2003 the famous Bulgarian accordion player Petar Ralchev came to Holland and we visited his master-class. Exciting! I had known and loved his music for years. It was awesome to meet him in person.

What first struck me was the fact that Petar had no Italian accordion, but a Weltmeister S4 (120 basses, 41 keys, cassotto and piccolo tuning). And it looked pretty old, too. I thought it was weird that a good musician like him played on an old accordion like that. We asked him why he played it. His answer was simple and clear: "For this music there is no better accordion." At first I didn't really believe that. Then I noticed that on most Bulgarian CD covers you see only these instruments and hardly any Italian ones. Because I so much loved Petar's music and style, I started to like the Weltmeister accordions too.

In 2005 I bought a Weltmeister S4, now I had one myself! In September we took it to Bulgaria and went to Viktor Melnik in Plovdiv. This man is so good, he can fix any accordion, especially the Weltmeister

accordions, he knows them very well, because almost everyone in Bulgaria has one! Viktor adjusted the keyboard and tuned the right hand site with a very small tremolo. My accordion came back so wonderful. In the following months I began to understand why Petar likes his Weltmeister so much. These accordions really are perfect for Bulgarian music; the sound is warm, there is a perfect balance between the left and right side, the resistance of the keys is perfect to make the right ornaments and the sound of the basses is clear and deep.

Last summer we went to a musicians' seminar 'The Masters' in Bulgaria with some of Bulgaria's best musicians, among others Petar. There were many accordion players and about 90% of them were Bulgarian. I had never seen so many Weltmeister accordions in one room! For west European music and for many other styles my Victoria is very nice. But for Bulgarian music I absolutely choose my Weltmeister! Anyone who wants to hear a Weltmeister, or Petar, go to my YouTube account. There are many videos to see! www.youtube.com/bulkata

Besides accordion, clarinet is also popular in Bulgaria, and there are some authentic instruments which are still used a lot. For example:

the kaval, a hollow wooden flute;

the gadoulka, a Bulgarian fiddle with 3 strings to play on and 10 strings that only resonate;

the tamboura, a guitar-like instrument with the upper 4 strings, but double, so it has 8 strings;

the gaida, this is the bagpipe. Gaida means goat, that's what it's made of;

the tapan, a big drum with two skins. One skin is thicker and is played with a wooden club, the other skin is thin and is played with a thin reed - or as Michiel does - with a carbon fishing rod! Nowadays they use more and more synthetic skins, which is very practical because they don't get slack when it is damp, and in a hall with dancers it's always damp!

the darbouka or tarambouka, is a vase drum, also known in Turkey and the Middle East. For this one too they use synthetic skins. The darbouka is played by hand.

the zourna, this is a very loud reed instrument, like the bombarde in France, preferably played outside only! You find it mostly in southwest Bulgaria: Pirin.

Sound samples and pictures of these instruments can be found on our website: www.duoizvor.com

The Bulgarians are very proud of their folklore and cultural heritage. Although the western instruments like accordion, clarinet, saxophone, drums, violin and synthesizer have become more popular in the last 50-60 years, they still use their authentic instruments, and mix them with the newer ones.

In north Bulgaria, along the Danube, 'duha muzika' is very popular. Translated this means "air music". All brass instruments like tuba, trombone and trumpet are used there. Originally these bands were the military brass bands, but they used to play folk music too. Personally it is not my favourite style, I think it does sound kind of funny.

Irregular Measures

Western Europe has some standard measures like waltz or polka, that have always the same measure (3/4 and 4/4). Bulgarians know more different measures. They are all built from "groups" of 2 and 3 counts.

The most well-known are:

the kopanitsa: this is an 11/16th and one bar is built as 2 2 3 2 2. Or short-short-long-short-short. When you repeat this, and make the 'long' really longer, you will come in a certain rhythm. If you're doing well... You could try to count to 11..., but the music is going too quick for that!

the rachenitsa: this is a 7/16th and built as 2 2 3 or short-short-long.

the chetvorno: also a 7/16th but the other way around: 3 2 2 or long-short-short.

the paidushko: this is a 5/16th and built as 2 3 or short-long.

the daichovo: this is a 9/16th and built as 2 2 2 3 or short-short-short-long.

These are the most used measures. Besides those there are some more difficult measures - for experts - they are put together for example like this: an 18/16th - this is one kopanitsa bar and one chetvorno bar together: 2 2 3 2 2 3 2 2 or short-short-long-short-short-long-short-short. In a piece like this one bar is much longer than for example in a paidushko!

Anyone who wants to know more, or wants to hear some examples, can send me an email. I can send some mp3 files or sheet music. bregjetijman@gmail.com

You can also take a look at my personal website (www.bregjetijman.nl) Where there are also pictures.

Bregje Tijman

Bregje, Michiel and Linny (Dutch DIP) will be at playing at Eastbourne May 1st - 4th.

Magda Oska

I was sorry to read about Magda's death and also to hear that she had been suffering from severe arthritis. This must have been very frustrating for her as she had been such an active person both as a teacher and also working with her dance group, I did not know her very well but we did exchange Christmas greetings for a number of years.

I first met her at a Swansea Summer School when I was also teaching. She was an excellent teacher and spoke very good English. She was an impressive dancer, having the restraint and dignity for the women's dances and the vigour and the strength for the men's.

I remember enjoying the performance of her dance group when it came to London, and Society members put the dancers up for the night. I was lucky enough to have two of the musicians.

I thought that she had a good sense of humour, and I remember travelling back to London with her and Margery Latham, and her comments about the insipid British Rail lunch!

Ken Ward



Haddenham Ceilidh

May 2 will feature dance displays from our Belgian guests, Viaamse Volkskunstgroep De Kegelaar. The other floor spot will be Chris Wood, voted "Singer of the Year" in this year's BBC Folk Awards.

Between Aylesbury and Thame.

For more information, contact John's House, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP

Tel: 01296 415333 e-mail: john@actionfolk.co.uk website: www.haddenhamceilidhs.co.uk



May Balkanplus

The May Balkanplus will be held on the 9th May at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be Frank Dowling. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton



Letters to the Editor:

Balkan Dancing in West Wales

Several members of the P.I.F.D. group spent a most enjoyable day last Saturday attending a day course in Cardiganshire run by Mara Freeman and David Watkins. It was good for us to have some dancing nearer home and the fact it was in a delightful area on a gloriously sunny day just added to the pleasure.

We were taught a variety of Balkan dances some of which, we hope to add to our programme. Mara and David are to be congratulated on their day.

Sue Clark & the PIFD Group



LA UVA (Badajoz) (Spain.)

Intro. only

A

x3

B

Rail

F

C (G7)

G7

2

Last time B music accelerates a little to finish.

(three times through) **Wilf Horrocks**



NB The dance featured next month will be **Mazarika**. Don't forget to send any information, anecdotes or pictures about it that you can share.

Ed.



Dear Janet,

What delightful pictures to illustrate the Estonian dance Raksi Jaak in the April "News" and how nice to know both Aili and Karin are still in touch though I have not seen either for some time.

On reading through the notes I wondered what had happened to bars 5-8 which to my mind seem to have got lost in the Chorus. I remember bars 1-4 bring 4 little pas de bas or setting steps to L, R, L, R, with the man looking first to his L hand partner and then R, and again to L and R, flirting with each girl in turn. Then bars 5-8 would be 3 steps forward and a low kick forward on the 4th beat (not step) and then 3 steps backwards and close. The girl on the left hand side often has to change feet, so a close at the end of the Chorus could be important.

In both figs 2 & 3 I would say bars 13 & 14 are 2 polka steps forward (man backwards) before the turn back into line on bars 15 & 16.

I remember Aili teaching at the SIFD Swansea Summer School as Sue Clark mentions. She had an enormous class as people gradually abandoned a neighbouring Spanish (?) class with a dance beginning "you come onto the stage from the left". She would go through the dance and when everyone thought they had learnt it she would say "That was lovely. Now just one or two points." And we would find ourselves back at the beginning. We really knew our special style polka step by the end of the week! And Aili, was that book blue with a red cover or red with a blue cover?

Frances Horrocks

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

May 10th - MCs: The SIFD Band
June 7th - MCs: Dot Bradbury & Alison Scrimshaw



WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- Friday 1st - Monday 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 **Friday 1st - Monday 4th (or 5th)** **HALSWAY MANOR (SOMERSET)** Dancing led by Janet Woolbar: Music by Stella Wentworth of the SIFD Band. For further information contact: Gordon Adie 100, College Way, Truro TR1 3WJ. or 01872 279490 or grdnadie@aol.com
- Saturday 2nd** **BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** with Boyko Andonov, Dance Attic Studios, 368 North End Rd.SW6 3.30-5.30pm £7 www.boikoandonov.co.uk tel: 07900904370
- Saturday 2nd** **HADDENHAM CEILIDH** see page 9
- S.I **Saturday 9th** **BALKANPLUS** see page 9
- S.I **Friday 8th - Sunday 10th** **TREDEGAR HOUSE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL** A weekend of international dance, music and song. For details contact Sue Oates: tel: 01633 246241 susieoates@bushell100.fsnet.co.uk
- Sunday 10th** **FRENCH DANCE AND MUSICIANS WORKSHOPS PLUS A BAL.** DanseHerts presents the French Band DUO SYNKRO at Ickleford Village Hall, 82 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, Nr. Hitchin, Herts. SG5 3TG. DUO SYNKRO are François Tillerot and Isabelle Blô from La Mère Folle with music from the Morvan. For further details please visit www.danseherts.co.uk or email martin@danseherts.co.uk.
- Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th** **MACLENNAN SCOTTISH GROUP 28th INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** Sat: evening Int. Folk Dance & Ceilidh 7.30 -11.00pm £3-£6. Sun: afternoon International Folk Dance Concert 2.00-5.00pm £3-£7.50. 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
- Saturday 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
- Saturday 23rd** **CHICHESTER MAYFEST.** 9am-5pm in the Prebendal School Grounds, off Avenue des Chartres. Displays and joining-in opportunities. Details: J. Douglas 01243 265010



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