

June 2009 SIFD News



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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www.sifd.org

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This month's colour cover shows photographs taken in 2003 by John Douglas at the annual folk festival in Struga, Macedonia.

The motif of Bulgarian dancers this month is from Yves Moreau.

There have been a few problems with electronic submissions this month. I would be grateful if you can take note of the following paragraph.

It is impossible for me to maintain all the different programmes available, and so I am sometimes quite unable to open a file. It is always easiest to receive plain text in an email; or failing that in an Open Office doc., or a Word doc.

As ever, articles and pictures by post are welcome (by the 17th).

Ed.



Is there anyone in Lincolnshire who could help?

I have just heard from a lady in Lincolnshire, who would love to start her own International Folk Dance Group, BUT – she would really like someone to run the group with her. She lives in Lincoln, though would be looking in the surrounding areas for a suitable venue.

She has danced for many years, but now through lack of opportunity is unable to dance regularly. She would love to do so and is keen to make a start – so is there anyone who would be willing to join her in setting up a new group?

She would also appreciate any advice you could give her on starting a group. If you have any suggestions from your own experience to pass on, including what to avoid, she would be pleased to hear from you.

I, too, would be pleased to receive your tips, as I think an article on “How to establish a new group” would be very useful for future guidance.

Please contact me (*see page 2*) and I will pass on your suggestions, or put you in touch.

Alison Scrimshaw



30th Anniversary of Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group

Saturday September 26th - afternoon and evening of dance.

Grangewood Methodist Church Hall, Wollaton, Notts NG 8 2SJ

PROGRAMME

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 12.30 - | Bubbling reception | Welcome drink and canapes - Time to chat |
| 1.00 - 2.00 | Workshop 1 Dancing memories | List of prepared dances chosen from the last 30 Dancing years. M.C. Gill Morral Scrap books and mementos on display for browsing. |
| 2.00 - 4.30 | Workshop 2 Balkan dance | Teacher Julie Korth - 5 dances 5 countries Cold drinks available |
| 4.30 - 5.00 | Afternoon Tea | Celebration cake, coffee, tea |
| 5.00 - 6.00 | Greek dancing | Ellenismos Group demo followed by general dancing |
| 6.00 | Buffet | Room to be available to change into costume |
| 6.50 | Photo session | |
| 7.00 - 9.45 | Party dance | M.C. Marina Wolstenholme . Band: Cloudburst Display by Kilikia - Dances for Armenia |

The application form, prices and directions are on the web - www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk
Or forms and information can be posted for details:
G. Morral 116 Nottingham Road, Stapleford, Notts NG9 8AR

Jane Tipper

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jul.7th/11th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD 01978 862 001 or
www.international-eisteddfod.co.uk

S.I **Jul.11th BALKANPLUS:** MC is Frances Horrocks

Aug.1st/8th BILLINGHAM FESTIVAL see page 7

Aug.1st/8th ALNWICK INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL see page 7

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 WITH ILIANA BOZHANOVA** at North Bridge House School and Saturday evening dance party and Sunday 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 **Sept.26th BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP WITH ILIANA BOZHANOVA** and accordionist Todor Yankov at Hempton Memorial Hall, near Fakenham, North Norfolk NR21 7LG. 11am - 4.30pm approx. £10 pre-booked, £12 on the day if available. Refreshments included, please bring food to share for lunch. For bookings and further information (including accommodation advice) contact Dawn 01328 856582. dawnwakefield@btinternet.com

Sep.26th NUTBROOK I. F. D. G. 30TH ANNIVERSARY see page 3

Oct.18th R.A.H. REHEARSAL 1.00 - 5.00 pm. Elmdon Heath Community Centre, Cornyx Lane, Solihull. B91 2SF. (near Junction 5 on the M42). Details from Janet Douglas 01243 265010

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

S.I **Nov.21st CROATIAN DANCES** including Vrlicko Kolo (the silent dance), with Joan Sach. 10.30 -5. at Barnham Village Hall, nr. Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Details from Janet Douglas 01243 265010

S.I **Dec.5th ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY** 7.00 - 10.30pm. St. Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens. EC19 7AB further information to follow. Irene Keywood 0208 592 4427

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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.

Could you host a visit from a Romanian group in 2010?

I've had a request from the leader of English Miscellany, who hopes an SIFD group might be able to act as hosts for a Romanian dance group in 2010.

He writes –

“I would like to arrange for a Romanian dance group to visit a folk dance group in England for 3 to 4 days during Spring/Summer 2010, with a view to an exchange visit to Romania in a following year. The group is young (mostly 16 to 30 years old) and comes from an interesting part of Romania. My group is unable to host and pay a return visit in their timeframe.

I am the leader of English Miscellany and we met this group, “Posada” in France in 2004. They are a lively and entertaining group who want to visit England and make friends that they can invite to visit them in Romania.

My group usually hosts our visitors in our homes and expect the same when we pay a return visit. We usually provide a performance platform (a local festival, performing in the streets or at a local event) and provide some free time to look around our area - St. Albans & Harpenden. We are not able to host/visit them in this timeframe because we already have commitments which take us up to 2012 - so we are looking for a group in England who may be able to engage with them.

They have not visited England before, and although there about 36 young people in the group, plus musicians, it is not expected that all of them would visit. If a host group (or two groups working together?) could be found, it would be up to them to arrange how many from “Posada” they could accommodate. A suggested number would be about 20 – possibly 8 girls, 8 boys and 4 musicians. This should be decided at the start of any negotiations, partly from the practical point of arranging places for them to stay, but also for the dancers to decide on their display.”

With the request came a brief description of the group with their eight types of dances, photos of them in beautiful costumes, a history of the area they are from, and descriptions and pictures of the chief attractions there.*(below)*

If anyone feels they could accommodate “Posada” in 2010, and subsequently enjoy a return visit to Romania, then please contact me for more information - I will forward everything I have been sent. Their leader has supplied an email address, and his English is very good.

To be fair to “Posada”, we need to inform them by the end of the summer whether anyone from the SIFD can offer them an invitation. So if you are thinking about it, please don't think for too long, but get in touch as soon as possible.

It could be a very special and rewarding opportunity for both hosts and visitors.

Alison Scrimshaw



Posada

About us:

The folk ensemble Posada has a name that in Romania means a lot. Posada was the site of a famous battle in the middle ages. The ensemble was founded in 2000 in the city of Curtea de Arges at the request of some young students that were fascinated by the local customs and arts.

At present the ensemble is composed of 36 persons - teenagers between 17 and 24 years. The ensemble collaborates with S.C. Posada S.A. a tourism company that has tourist centres. In these centres the ensemble offers a quite exquisite show for tourists that come from all over the world.

The ensemble's repertoire is formed out of 9 types of dances each from a distinctive part of Romania. Each dance lasts from 4 to 7 minutes. The ensemble also has a good orchestra. The instruments on which they play are representative for Romania: violin, accordion, fife, clarinet and bass. The orchestral repertoire is formed out of songs from all across Romania.

Our Dances:

1. Succession of dances from Arges- is formed of traditional dances from an historic area of Romania, danced both by young and old people. They are about the people's union on the rhythm of music and about the joy of being alive.
2. Men's dance ("calusul")- is an old dance since the time of the Dacian-Roman wars meaning the victory in battle and in the popular tradition the locals think that it keeps bad spirits away. In the dance the bad spirits are represented by a masked man.
3. Girls' dance from Arges Valley- the young dance it on festive days meaning the youth and the joy of living. In the dance the joy is eclipsed by the masked man from Men's dance. Usually it is followed by the Men's dance because they are defeating and subjugating the masked man.
4. Succession of dances from Banat (another area in Romania) - is a mixed dance characterised by the greatness and the elegance of the dance on a vivid music meaning the pride of the locals who are rich. Because of too much richness some of them get tired and so one boy has the opportunity of dancing with two girls at the same time.
5. Succession of dances from Moldova (in the east of Romania)- is a mixed dance on slow and fast music, meaning the moment when the boys have to go in the army and the girls through their dance are trying to convince them not to go.
6. Succession of dances from Ardeal-1 (area in the west of Romania) - are old and mixed dances and because of the environment (relief) the dancers are very close one to each other. They are danced at weddings, baptisms, evening sitting of village women and other festive days.
7. Succession of dances from Ardeal-2 - symbolizes the old men's dance who, for centuries, had been subjugated by different empires and it is danced on slow music meaning their suffering. The end of the dance is on a faster music meaning the winning of their freedom.
8. Succession of dances from Oltenia (in the south of Romania) - is a mixed dance on rapid music symbolizing the people's continuous desire for wealth. It is also a dance in which the girls and the boys are divided in two groups and then each group is trying to impress the other in order to gain mutual love.



Hungarian Evening for the Institute of Conductive Education

On Thursday, 30th April this foundation which operates on 60% charitable support, held an exciting event in the Pavillion suite of the County Cricket ground in Edgbaston, (Birmingham).

The Institute aims to “empower” both children and adults suffering severe sensory and motor disabilities, so that they can live a fuller life. It follows the principles and practices of the Petö Innstitute in Budapest.

I was involved, years ago, in the initial “steps”. The Institute took and still have their “symbol” on my shelf - a small pair of silver boots mounted on a mahogany plinth, I value it greatly.

Although Selpar was unable to accept an invitation to dance, Leslie Haddon was able to bring his London Hungarian group here. What a show! It was great to see what Leslie has achieved in both song and dance which, I am convinced, cannot be achieved to this extent without working with Hungarians in Hungary. As with most dance types one needs to “feel” the culture all around one - in the streets, in the dance centres, even in the shops! His group gave dances from four different regions with great expertise and conviction and was very well costumed (now their’s) in “action”. The different “dialects” of Hungarian dance were plain to see.

Apart from a Hungarian type buffet, there was a trio of musicians, who all play with the C.B.S.O. who, with their leader Katalin Beke (Hungarian) gave a very varied entertainment on “skeleton violin”, keyboard and double bass.

Maggie Kaye was a great help to the organisers and managed to find overnight accommodation for the dancers, flowers for the tables (a gift from Selpar), and to oil so many wheels that the evening was a splendid success. I was also pleased to be mentioned, due to my long-term association with Hungary (my second home) and with Hungarian dance.

Leslie was, for many years, a member of Selpar and as most of you will know, took over the London Hungarian group “Balaton” a while ago with great success. A superb evening.

Sybil Chapman
founder member W.M.S.I.F.D.



Music and Dance Festivals

Would you like to visit two Music and Dance Folklore Festivals in the North of England, in one week, either by rail, car or caravan?

They are,

1. The International Festival held in Billingham Teeside, where you can join in the dance sessions and enjoy this unique experience and have fun while you learn. Concerts are held in the afternoons and evenings.

2. To visit the International Festival in the County town of Alnwick where likewise concerts are held daily, both in the market square and in the Theatre each evening.

In this area you are close to beautiful countryside and splendid small beach resorts and fishing villages and golf courses. Both festivals are held on the 1st August to the 8th August, 2009.

Details for Billingham Festival Office please ring 01642 553220 for programmes, and, for Alnwick Festival please ring 01665 511333.

Kaye Poole

Evra Pricilla Pepplo Jordan

13.4.1931 – 9.12.2008

Evra finally lost her fight for life. We should not be sad as she fought for life; for a year. Her final year found her unable to speak after a stroke. For those who knew her this was a tragedy; for Evra liked to talk.

She attended Hitchin Girls Grammar School where her best subjects were the arts. She studied ballet and went on to make dance her profession. During the 1950's she toured with Carousel, Guys and Dolls and Brigadoon where she met and eventually married Arthur (a tenor). Their wedding made the front page of the London Evening Standard. When they retired from the theatre they came to Hythe to settle down. They took on a 'Servicemaster' franchise and Evra took on the administration of their company.

They joined The Folkestone District National Dance Group in 1964/5. They also became involved with The Folkestone International Folk Festival at about the same time. Their expertise in performance was quickly utilised. With Christine Hall; Evra stood in as teacher on the few occasions Olive Field was unavailable. When Olive retired in 1980 Evra and Christine took on the permanent role of teaching. Usually teaching for 3/6 weeks at a time for continuity. In the early 1980's Evra and Arthur also took over the running of the Folkestone International Folk Festival. Evra was taken ill during a festival and ended up having a quadruple heart bypass but on recovery returned to all her roles. Upon Arthur's death Evra continued; taking on both her own and Arthur's roles of producer and director. Although the last festival was in 1989 she had completed her work for the 1991 festival which had to be cancelled due to the first Gulf War and the uncertainty of groups being able to travel to the festival.

When the festival committee was wound up Evra was at the forefront of a small committee; Folkestone International Folk Arts Society who attempted to continue to bring groups to this country. She produced and directed the weekend festival held in 1997. Her network of international friends was extensive. Many responding to the news of her stroke by sending poignant reminders of times they had spent with her for her memory book.

Evra continued as a teacher for the Folkestone District National Dance Group until she was taken ill whilst in Poland during October 2007. Her expertise, enthusiasm and tenacity are greatly missed. Many of the dances she taught were painstakingly taken from videos of the festival and worked out with great detail for the group to perform.

The last folk group Evra saw was a young group of able bodied and disabled children; The Integrated Club of Polish Folk Dancers; a group she had been supporting from its inception in 2004. Evra was a professional in all respects but also a great friend.

Barbara Bradford



June Balkanplus

The June Balkanplus will be held on the 13th June at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MCs will be the Oxford Group. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton



Balkan Night in West Wales

An evening of Balkan Folk Dance once a month. The next sessions will be held on Friday, June 5th and Friday, July 3rd at Boncath Village Hall, Pembrokeshire, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Circle and open line dances - no partner needed. Donation: £2 or £3 per person. Call Mara Freeman and David Watkins at 01239 858 830 or email: dance@chalicecentre.net

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

The Day Course will be some of the dances originally taught at Summer School last year, so a good chance for revision, but also to learn if you weren't at Summer School. Everyone welcome.

* * *

Future SIFD Day Courses

Date: July 11th 2009

Place: Cecil Sharp House

Time: 10.30 am -- 4.30 pm

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

Tutor: **Shivanti Lowton**

Subject: South Asian Dance

Shivanti is a teacher at the RAD and is very enthusiastic about sharing (perhaps introducing) South Asian dance. She will include dances from different regions and various styles. There will be some stick dances, some Bhangra, the Punjabi folk dance, and perhaps a taste of classical hand movements and stamping patterns.

A marvellous chance for us to widen our dance experience and knowledge.

* * * *

The Day Course on September 12th will be Israeli with **Fiona Howarth**.
Details to follow.

Pam Radford



Eastbourne International Folk Dance Festival

I would like to propose a vote of thanks to Janet Douglas, who has organised the Eastbourne Festival so supremely well for the past several years. Each year we have been spoilt for choice, as the programme has consistently offered courses of dances from a variety of countries, taught by excellent and charismatic teachers, and catered for all tastes. Furthermore, the dances have come from a different range of countries each year, so overall there has been great breadth. Janet herself has been hard at work behind the scenes all through each festival, and had restricted chances to enjoy the treats on offer that the rest of us have enjoyed. A huge thank you Janet, for everything, and I wish you many happy years of being able to enjoy all the courses yourself again, now that you are stepping down as organiser.

Linda Melville-Smith

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I am still recovering from organising the Eastbourne Festival (there are still loose ends to be tied up) but I will take this opportunity to thank all the "stars" who have worked, taught, played and paid to keep the Eastbourne Festival in the calendar.

Good luck to Julie Korth who is taking it on *AGAIN!* Although this time as she points out it is with Mary Mahoney and the Barlow Group.

Janet Douglas

$\text{♩} = 120$
 Brightly, but not too fast X 4 **MAZARIKA** (Romanian)

Wilf Horrocks

Here we go again!! Mazarika.....record: Balkan & Israeli Folk Dances No. 3 produced by Henry Morris and the Dunav band.....

book of notes (same title) produced by "Ardmore & Beechwood".....
 Suggest taking out an insurance before attempting figure 3 !!

Re the letter from Frances Horrocks about Raksi Jaak. I agree with her. I remember well Aili and Margery Latham teasing each other about "The Blue Book" and "The Red Book" versions and Aili saying it was the style rather than a particular sequence that mattered. Yes she taught very well and I loved it. I bought the reel to reel tape of the course, played by the late Donald Campbell, and the sequence that fits his recording, and taught by Aili at that time, was as follows:

Simplified notes

Chorus (as in April News) danced at the beginning and between each figure. (and flirting).

Fig 1 Estonian Polka step 4 fwd.....4 bck

Fig 2 Estonian Polka steps with Arches. Fig 1 and diagram 2 of April News

Fig 3 Estonian Polka steps Pulling (fwd & bck) fig 2 and diagram 3 of April News'.

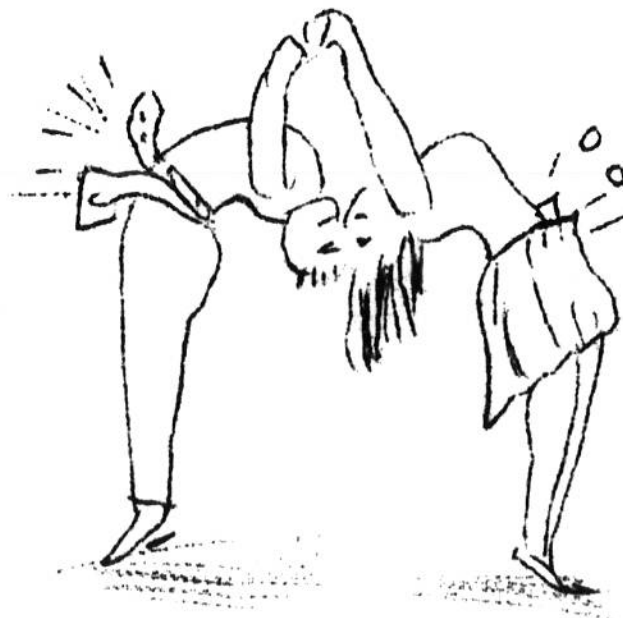
Fig 4 Estonian Polka steps "Cuddles" fig 3 and diagram 4 in April News

Fig 5 As figure 1

Bow & Depart with chosen girl!!!

Sue Clark PIFD

FAUX PAS-DE-DEUX!



Mazarika.

Next month:
Gastourikos
 (from Corfu)

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

June 7th - MCs: Dot Bradbury & Alison Scrimshaw

July 5th - MCs: Woodvale International Folk Dance Group



WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- Saturday 6th** **BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** - Boyko Andonov, "Dance Attic Studios", 368 North End Rd., SW6. 3.30pm-5.30pm any level and suitable for beginners £7
www.boikoandonov.co.uk 07900904370
- Saturday 13th** **SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 9
- Saturday 13th - Sunday 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. For further details contact Elaine Donnelly edonnelly@talktalk.net Villa Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham NG3 4GG. Tel 0115 962 3173 £55.
- Saturday 13th** **BALKANPLUS** see page 9
- Saturday 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.
- S.I **Saturday 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

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



Job Vacancy

Michael Ray is looking for an Eastern European actor and/or dancer (vast experience is not entirely necessary) that can play a man in his mid 20s (an artistic type aged between 20 and 30). Preferably young, well-built, with mousey-brown hair (though this is not essential) and hopefully strong facial features - strong jaw and high cheekbones. If you are interested email him a headshot (*photo!*) and a CV or letter explaining their experience or interest. michael@mammothscreens.com Tel: 020 7268 0050
Fax: 020 7323 6511 32 Rathbone Place, First Floor, London, W1T 1JJ