

S.I.F.D. NEWS



February 2010

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.

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The front cover picture of an Estonian couple is from the 1965 August issue of the SIFD News.

Contents

- p. 3 **News**
- p. 4 **SIFD Afternoon Courses**
- p. 5 **Diary Dates**
- p. 6 **Eastbourne International Folk Festival**
- p. 7 **Future Events**
- p. 8 **Margaret Webb**
- p. 9 **Future Events & Letters**
- p.10 **A Chula & Letters**
- p.11 **What's on in February**



SIFD AGM Minutes attached



There is a letter from Dale Hyde in Canada on page 9. Interestingly, they celebrate 'Queen Victoria's Birthday holiday week-end'.

Lily Avery informed me that Margaret Webb had died in November last: 'Margaret, as well as being a beautiful dancer who danced in several Society groups, was of course most known for her teaching and leadership of the Los Ibericos Spanish group.'

George Sweetland has shared some of his memories of her on page 7.

The AGM Minutes are attached to this issue; and apparently we have several new affiliated groups. Do try and find time to send us an article about your group (established groups too), how often you meet, what dances you like, performances you give, and perhaps also pictures of yourselves (in costume?).

Ed.



February Balkanplus

The February Balkanplus will be held on the 13th February at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. Our MC for the evening will be Emily Nisbet. Admission £5.

Although a relative newcomer to dancing with Balkanplus; Emily has been dancing for over 20 years - she first started dancing in recreational International Folk Dance groups when she was a little girl (in America). She names her biggest influence to date as John Kuo, Artistic Director of Balkanske Igre (Balkan dance performing group based in Chicago, Illinois). She is currently rehearsing and performing with Tanec, the London-based Bulgarian dance group and has also found time to attend a variety of dance workshops over the past few years.

February's Balkanplus will include a variety of dances from the Balkans with one or two Israeli dances thrown in. Most of the dances learned in America, but she will also include a few dances from Iliana Bozhanova's and Dragan Draganov's recent workshops.

Maureen Felton

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March SIFD Afternoon Course



*left
Gwenaelle and
Graham .*

February SIFD Afternoon Course

Date: 6th February

Time: 2pm -- 6pm

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

Tutor: **Marina Wolstenholme** Subject: Albanian Dances

Notes and CDs will be available.

Pam Radford



Day (Afternoon) course in February

In October I taught a weekend course for the West Midlands groups at which I did 3 Albanian Dances. These were enjoyed, and I have been asked to teach them again, and some others, at the Society Day course, in February. The dances were:

1. Valle e Dardhes. This is not the dance depicting the picking of pears, which is already known, but a version learned by Yves Moreau from the Albanian State Group. It is very simple, but the style is quite special.
2. Çobankat.
3. Leskovikut. To add to these I will prepare:
4. Valle Kosovare.
5. Ženska Albanska Igra.
6. Halle e Madve.
7. Hidhe moj hidhe Këmben'ò
8. Pogonishte (to use as a warm-up and show a basic step and style).
Please bring two waving hankies with you on the day.

Marina Wolstenholme



March SIFD Afternoon Course

Date: 6th March

Time: 2pm -- 6pm

Place: Cecil Sharp House

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

Tutors: **Gwenaelle Ambuhl
and Graham Knapp**

Subject: Dances from Brittany and South-west France

Graham has taught French dance since 2000 with Les Panards Dansants in Leeds, Sheffield Eurosession and at Dance Festivals across the UK.

Gwenaelle comes from a Breton background and has been dancing and playing harp from a young age, as well as leading dance workshops. She will play for the workshop and teach some more unusual dances from Brittany. Gwenaelle and Graham play in the French dance band Outre Manche (www.outremanche.com).

The workshop will have dances from South-west France including the Bransle de la Vallée d'Ossau and the Rondeau; Breton dances including the Gavotte des Notables and others.



Advance Notice

There will be no courses in April or May, the next course will be June 12th.

Pam Radford

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Mar.7th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE/WORKSHOP**
- S.I **Mar.13th BALKANPLUS:** MC will be Clyde Olliver
- S.I **Mar.13th/14th MAINLY BULGARIAN WORKSHOP WITH EDDY TIJSSEN** at Chorlton, Manchester and Calver, Derbyshire. Further information from Julie Korth 01942 831141
- S.I **Mar.26th/29th BULGARIAN SINGING AND BALKAN FOLK DANCING** residential course with Dessi Stefanova and Frank Dowling at Alnmouth, Northumberland. Excellent area for walking or sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation (3 nights) including the singing / dancing course £230 or £185 for accommodation / walking only (single supplement £20). For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email: cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.
- S.I **Mar.27th WOODVALE IFDG ANNUAL DANCE.** Borough Green Village Hall, Kent. 7 pm - 10.30 pm. Tickets £6.00, children £3.00, including a cold buffet, bring your own drinks and glasses. You are encouraged to wear a costume. To reserve tickets contact 01732 883405 or 01732 885048.
- Apr.11th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE/WORKSHOP** (NB 2nd Sunday as April 4th is Easter)
- Apr.23rd/26th 3 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, Abingworth, Thakeham, West Sussex, RH20 3EF. Details ring HF on 0845 470 7558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I. **Apr.24th/26th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (near Alcester, Warwickshire) (Friday night 23rd – Alcester Contra Dance with Sue Rosen from USA). International Dancing with Janet Woolbar and Dalila Heath. Other dancing, music, singing, walking, cycling and more. For further information see new website at www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone André Hobro 0121 777 3722.
- Aug.7th/14th SIFD INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE SUMMER SCHOOL** at Swansea University, Wales. Dance courses - Russian/Hennie Konings, Macedonian/Ibrahim Rizevski, General/Cristina Casarini. Further info. see www.sifdsummerschool.org or email sifdswansea@gmail.com or phone 07905 603655 or 01462 457791
- Aug.21st/28th 7 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE COURSE** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon at HF Holidays, Malhamdale, North Yorkshire, BD23 4AA. For details ring HF on 0845 470 7557 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Aug.27th/30th WILLINGDON IFDG MINI FESTIVAL** at Plumpton College at the foot of the South Downs near Lewes, East Sussex. Shared leading of International Folk and Circle Dance, also English Folk Dance and singing. Full board £160 (plenty of single rooms). Booking form from Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ. Enquiries 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@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.

Eastbourne International Folk Festival 2010

April 30th – May 3rd

	Friday April 30th Gym	Saturday May 1st Gym	Saturday May 1st studio	Sunday May 2nd Gym	Sunday May 2nd studio	Monday May 3rd
9.45 – 11.a.m		Macedonian Paul Mulders	Israeli Dalila Heath	Swedish Anne Leach	Israeli Dalila	Macedonian Paul
11.30 -- 12.45		Swedish Anne	Armenian Dalila	Macedonian Paul	Greek Clyde & Mike	Swedish Anne
2 - 3.15pm		Macedonian Paul		Greek Clyde & Mike	Bulgarian Dragan Draganov	
3.45 - 5p.m		Meet the team THAI		Meet the team Ukrainians ?		Final Dance M.C Julie K
8 - 10.30	WELCOME DANCE MC. Julie Korth <i>DIP</i>	INTERNATIONAL DANCE M.C. Anne <i>DIP</i> <i>Dalila, & Paul</i>		BALKAN DANCE M.C. Bob Robinson <i>DIP</i> <i>Dalila,</i> <i>C & M,</i> <i>Paul, Dragan</i>		

More info at: www.EIFF.org.uk

Eastbourne is a major folk dance festival and offers an exciting programme with top bands and callers from home and abroad. There will be over 40 workshops and 15 dances to choose from including English, American, Scottish, Irish and a very full international section, (timetable above) which will feature Greek, Balkan & Swedish dance workshops.

Tickets cost £70.

Camping & Caravan pitches on school site £25 a unit.

Food available in Bishop Bell canteen all day.

Cheques to be sent to 'Eastfolk' and please enclose SAE
for tickets : Festival Office 24, Inwood Rd., Wembdon. Bridwater TA6 7PP

Phone 01278 424332

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Stewards, Stewards, Stewards..

Once again I am asking for stewards for the Eastbourne Festival. Please contact 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!

Rowena Martin

Summer School, August 2010 **Good News, Good News, and Bad News**

First the bad news – Ramon Cardona has withdrawn from teaching at our Summer School. We are very disappointed, as he had agreed to come, and we were looking forward to dancing with him again. He has been invited to play at another festival, with his band, which now clashes with the Summer School.

The good news is that Cristina Casarini has agreed to teach the General International Courses (partner and non- partner). You may remember that Cristina taught Italian dancing at Swansea in 2006. Some of you may have met her again at the Eastbourne Festival last year. Those who know her will need no encouragement to come and dance with her, as her lively presence adds greatly to the sum of human happiness - she is like a ray of sunshine! She teaches a general international group called Balliamo Sul Mondo in Reggio Emilia and she says that she looks forward to passing on some new material which she has recently learned. Beside Italian, she also has a large repertoire of Israeli, Yugoslav, Bulgarian, Greek, Romanian, Turkish, Spanish, French, Armenian, Polynesian, African, etc. (By the time you read this I hope that our website will be updated so that you can read more information about Cristina – see www.sifdsummerschool.org. Alternatively, Dorien or I can send you further information by email or post.)

More good news - As a response to many requests, written on questionnaires from the 2008 Summer School, we are going to have more live music this year. Ben Hooke (violin) and Caroline Thomas (accordion) have been engaged as musicians to play for the evening dances. They are both excellent musicians who are very experienced at playing for dancing – they play together in The Dunav Band and Ben also plays with the SIFD band. I look forward to hearing their music.

Don't forget the dates are August 7th to 14th August at University of Wales, Swansea. It's still the place to be! See you there.

Jill Bransby

(Publicity Officer for the Summer School)



Oxford Balkansko Oro Party

February 6th.

St. Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road (off Woodstock Road), Oxford, OX2 6TN.
7:00 to 10:30. Oxford's winter party is full of good music, dances and food. All food and drink will be provided by the Oxford Group. Just bring yourselves and entrance fee of £7.00. (children under 14 £3.00.) We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Email Sally Humphrey at sally.humphrey@onetel.net (tel. 01865 873860) or Marion Owen at: marion.owen@mypostoffice.co.uk. (tel. 01235 533726) if you would like any further information.

Sally Humphrey

Margaret Webb

Margaret, (formerly Colato, neé Harris), must have joined Harrow Green at a very early age, as when later when she had transferred her activities to the Society, then at Hortensia Road Girls School in Chelsea, and as a prominent member of Philip Thornton's Balkan Group, there is an archive photograph of her looking splendid, taken for the RAH "See How They Dance" programme when she was still in her teens.

Margaret's dance interests were catholic and it wasn't long before Bert Price encouraged her to join him in the Polish Folk Dance Group 'YMCA' and a love of Mazur remained with her always; and about the same time she joined Lucile Armstrong's Spanish Group, as did 'Steve' Steventon.

However, there were problems with 'YMCA'. They had acquired a new tutor who felt the necessity of keeping Polish emigré culture as pure as possible decided members must only be Polish or of Polish ancestry, so Bert and Margaret were asked to leave; but they, having heard that the leader (Ziutek) of a Polish Folk Group visiting Britain wished to defect gave him their support and help. As by that time I was a friend of Margaret, I played a minor part in this and more details can be found in the SIFD 'History'. To cut the story short 'Opoczno' grew from its beginnings with a mixed Polish and British membership. There were many demonstrations, including an item in the spectacular 'Harvest Dozynki' at the Festival Hall. It may be a lapse of memory but while I cannot remember Margaret being there, there can be no doubt that without her and Bert there would have been no SIFD Polish Groups.

It must have been about the same time that Margaret began to devote her abundant energy establishing her own group, chiefly because she wanted to include flamenco in the curriculum. Again, in the 'History', I noted how the enterprise which was to become 'Los Ibericos' began in the basement of a small coffee bar in the King's Road, and how it grew to fill the large hall at Hugh Myddleton School with about a hundred dancers all chanting the mantra, "Point, twiddle, twiddle, stamp, stamp, flick". There were many shows and smaller demonstrations, and while some of the costumes were hurriedly cobbled together, others were beautifully made including a dress from Valencia, a 'costume of lights' (for matadors). All this was due to Margaret's foresight and energy and her ability to find, and persuade willing volunteers. The group also visited the Seville fair on two occasions an event not to be missed. The comic bullfight at one of the RAH shows was quite something, with the men in their marvellous costumes, and me the back half of the bull and Valerie (in fishnet tights) in front. Margaret always made sure the best people always did the teaching, for example, her best friend and flat mate Pat Regan took the regular advanced class. Many of her dancers were individual members of the SIFD, so that the Society benefitted greatly from her loyalty at this time.

Although Alex never joined the Group, she and I spent many a happy evening at their Spanish parties. Very sadly, at the Toynbee Hall, backstage Margaret injured her back and never fully recovered from her injury.

George Sweetland

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## **Residential Macedonian Dance Course at Derwent Bank**

**12th - 15th November 2010**

Paul Mulders from Holland is a specialist of Macedonian folk dance and music. During the eighties he often assisted Pece Atanasovski (a leading exponent of Macedonian folkdance and music) with his summer courses and translated for him. He travelled all over Macedonia and spent a lot of time with village people. He also had the opportunity to dance at gypsy weddings in the Bitola and Prilep regions. Paul's courses are immensely enjoyable, and at the same time he is very skilful in passing on the subtleties of Macedonian dance. Many of the dances that he has taught have stood the test of time and are still popular in our repertoire. Paul has a wealth of background information about the dances that he teaches and Macedonian folklore.

This residential long weekend will be held at the HF country house hotel of Derwent Bank on the shores of Derwentwater in the heart of the Lake District. It includes comfortable twin, double, family or single en-suite accommodation and full-board with a plentiful choice of good food. Dancers can select either the General or Intermediate course, or both courses. There will be social dancing in the evenings, with live music and a review of Paul's dances.

There will also be an opportunity to learn Macedonian songs at Mike Machin's workshops. It is an excellent area for walking or sightseeing, and, leaders willing, half-day walks for dancers and full-day walks for non-dancers will be offered. Non-dancing friends and family are welcome to come and enjoy the facilities of the house and grounds. Full board accommodation (3 nights) is £198, single course £32, both courses £56.

For full details and a booking form, please send s.a.e. to me at 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4DX. Alternatively you can get the information electronically by sending your request to [cathy\\_meunier@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com).

**Cathy Meunier**



### **Letters to the Editor:**

Dear Janet,

In case any of your readers might be heading for a vacation in Canada and would like to attend a dance weekend, the following information might be useful:

Ontario Folk Dance Camp

when: May 21-24, 2010 (Queen Victoria's Birthday holiday week-end)

where: University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario  
(Approximately a 1 hour drive west of Toronto)

teachers:

Jaap Leegwater (Bulgarian dance)

Fethi Kerecili (Kurdish, Turkish and Azerbaijani dances)

I will be mailing out the flyer in March with costs etc. Anyone who might like to receive further information can contact me at:

Ontario Folk Dance Camp  
c/o Dale Hyde  
127 First Ave., Box 547  
Simcoe, Ontario  
Canada N3Y 4N5

telephone: 519-428-0114

email: [daleshydeout@yahoo.ca](mailto:daleshydeout@yahoo.ca)

**Dale Hyde**

## A Chula

A CHULA (a flint?) (Portuguese)

(Chorus) Not project Mod. (Intro: last 4 bars of A music)

A\*

B (Verse) (steady)

\* 4<sup>th</sup> time finish on A slowing little by little.

\* Third time leave out last part-bar of B music and first part of A music.

**Wilf Horrocks**



**N.B** The music for **Opšaj Diri** will appear in the March issue - if you know the dance - write in and share your experiences and knowledge. **Ed.**



Dear Friends,

I have been absolutely overwhelmed by the many calls, letters and cards I have received in the past month. I'm afraid I can't possibly reply to everyone individually but I do thank you all for such wonderful support and comfort. It's great to know Wilf was so loved and respected.

I have had one or two enquiries from people unable to attend the dance on 7th February who would like to support the memorial fund as to whom cheques should be made payable. Please make any donation payable to The Royal Star and Garter Homes and please send it to me at 53, Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, SM5 4HP. I will then send all contributions direct to the Alzheimer's Unit so the money will go to help those with specific difficulties such as Wilf had and not get lost in the general melting pot. There will be a box at the dance for any loose change you may happen to have, but your presence, in costume, is far more important.

I look forward to seeing you there.

**Frances**



Once again, Janet has allowed me to prevail on her to apologise to those members who sent me Christmas cards to which I haven't responded. This is entirely due to pressures which I could not fully cope with.

**George Sweetland**

## SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

at 7pm – 10pm at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1

### **Feb 7th: Wilf Horrocks's Commemoration Dance**

**MCs - Joy and Phil Steventon. Interval - Frances Horrocks.**

Please come in costume if you have one. Entry will be free. If you would like to make a donation to the Alzheimer unit of the Royal Star and Garter Home, that would be most welcome.



### WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

- S.I **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** **OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY**, see page 7
- S.I **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** **SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** see page 4
- S.I **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** **A VALENTINE'S DANCE-A-THON** for charity to be held in the ballroom at the King's Head, Bungay, Suffolk. Non stop dance from 10-6pm. Traditional dances from around the world. All welcome. Sponsorship forms available. Contact 01508 480195 for further details.
- S.I **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** **BALKANPLUS**: see page 3
- S.I **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** **DAY OF TURKISH DANCES** with Janet Douglas. 10.30am - 5pm. at Barnham Village Hall, nr. Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Janet Douglas 01243 265010
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> --  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>** **WEEKEND INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE COURSE** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon at Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7JN. For details ring Earnley on 01243 670392 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>** **BALKAN WORKSHOP IN CROATIAN AND SERBIAN DANCES**  
10.30 a.m. – 4 30 p.m. At Grangewood Methodist Church  
Grangewood Road, Wollaton Nottingham NG8 2SJ. Tutor Joan Sach  
10.30 – 1.00 Croatian dances 2.00 – 4.30 Serbian dances Price £8  
all day half day £5. Hosted by Nutbrook International Folk Dance  
Group, contact 0115 9171831 or email [gill.morrall@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morrall@ntlworld.com)



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