

S.I.E.D. NEWS

MARCH 2010



ET

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

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*

* * *

The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath. *dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com*

* * *



- CHAIRMAN: Helen Ezra 84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 6RB
- TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF. *judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk*
- MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Dalila Heath (Mrs.), 8 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park, Hatfield. AL9 7AQ
dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com
- OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS Caspar Cronk, *caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk*
Maggie Kaye, *margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk*
Anne Leach, *danceoffice@waitrose.com*
Richard Mellish, *richard@mellish.eu*
Mary O'Mahoney, *maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk*
Roger Sturge, *roger@rogersturge.me.uk*
Alison Scrimshaw *alison.scrimshaw@googlemail.com*
- (co-opted, convenor of publicity committee) Jeanette Hull *jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk*

Contents

- p. 3 News
- p. 4 Diary Dates
- p. 5 Calling - Some Considerations
- p. 6 Notes on the P.P.L.; details of a dance course in Greece
- p. 7 April 29 - Dance Day; SIFD Afternoon courses
- p. 8 Yves Moreau; announcement of AGM
- p. 9 On Show rehearsals; CD4
- p.10 Barlow 40th Anniversary; SIFD Shop
- p.11 Letters to the Editor
- p 12 " "
- p 13 Opšaj Diri
- p 14 " "
- p 15 What's on in March



This month's cover picture by Eddis Thomas first appeared on the July 1971 issue.
The motif of two couples dancing was attached to the notes from Dorothy Sloane on page 12.

Margaret Belford from Balerno, Midlothian, has written to thank all those very kind people who wrote to her after the sudden death of her husband Dennis Belford on 5th January. He was dancing just before Christmas and she is still in deep shock at what has happened, but says it is wonderful to know how well people thought of him.

Thanks to those who have sent in articles and letters lately; keep them coming to ensure more interesting issues of the SIFD News: details about your local group, new cover designs and pictures that will photocopy well are all welcome.

Ed.



March Balkanplus

The March Balkanplus will be held on the 13th March at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. Our MC for the evening will be Clyde Olliver. Admission £5. Please see associated article from Clyde with more details of the evening.

Maureen Felton



Most Balkanplus regulars will know Pam Radford and Anna Huston of St. Saviours Priory, and some may even have enjoyed their generous hospitality at the Priory. However not many will know that the order have a small convent in Haiti that was flattened in the recent earthquake. Thankfully the Sisters there survived, although the many local people who rely on their charitable work have not been so fortunate.

With this in mind we intend that the March Balkanplus should be a fundraising event in support of the Sisters in Haiti. The Balkanplus Committee have already generously offered to donate the evening's profits, and there will be a raffle as well. All donations are welcome and anyone wishing to give but unable to attend Balkanplus can send a cheque made out to 'St. Saviour's Priory' to 18 Queensbridge Rd. London E2 8NS (please indicate that the cheque is intended for Haiti).

As for the dancing, this will be an accessible mix of old and new dances with the odd surprise thrown in. Mike and I will be playing a few old favourites live, and the evening will include plenty of 'walk - throughs' of the less familiar dances. We look forward to a good turn-out in the knowledge that, by simply attending, dancers will be giving to a good cause - we look forward to seeing you there!

Ollie (Clyde Olliver)



Musicians' Workshop & Tea Dance

W. Mids Branch with Maggie Kaye and David Bradley on Sunday 21st March at St. Anne's Church Hall, Park Hill, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8DU.

Musicians and Dancers are invited to join us for an afternoon of our International Folk dance favourites. Musicians £5 (including music) Dancers £2.50 Pay on the door

Programme:

2.15 - 3.45 Musicians' Workshop. 3.45 Tea & cakes (please bring contributions!)

4.15 - 5.30 Dancing to the band

For more details and music in advance please phone Maggie on 0797-464-9311 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk

Maggie Kaye

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Apr.10th BALKANPLUS** MC will be Barnet group with live music from Dunav
- 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. For 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.
- Apr.30th/May 3rd HALSWAY MANOR**, Somerset. SIFD long weekend of dancing, led by Janet Woolbar. Plus a bit of walking in the Quantocks and Exe valley finishing with afternoon scones on Monday at 4. (Basic cost full board £184pp +extra for ensuite). For more information Gordon Adie 0772 384 5635 grdnadie@aol.com 4, Upper Lemon Villas, Truro TR1 2PD. ('Unofficially' most people pay Halsway to stay on for Monday night for more dancing and to avoid the bank holiday traffic, thus making a very long weekend).
- Apr.30th/May 3rd EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** phone 01278 424332
- May 9th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE/WORKSHOP** MC: Jill Bransby
- S.I **May 23rd MERTON PARK 40th ANNIVERSARY FOLK DANCE** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon at St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Path, Merton Park, London SW19 3HJ, with an interval for cream tea! £3.50 including Cream Tea. Doors open 2.15pm - dancing from 2.30 to 5.30. Please get your tickets in advance - for details ring Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- May 29th/30th MACLENNAN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE AND MUSIC FESTIVAL** at Langley Park Boys' School, Beckenham BR3 3BP. International Folk Dance and Ceilidh 7.30 Sat.eve. International Folk Dance Concert 2pm.Sun. Guests are from Sweden, Provence, Cornwall and the London Slovak group Morena. 01474 745580, festival@msg.org.uk Cost: £6/£7.50 (£3 children)
- Jun.6th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE/WORKSHOP**
- Jul.6th/11th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD** 01979 862001
- Aug.7th/14th SIFD INTERNATINAL FOLK DANCE SUMMER SCHOOL** at Swansea University, Wales. Dance courses - Russian/Hennie Konings, Macedonian/Ibrahim Rizevski, General/Cristina Casarini. For 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 7558 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
- Sep.25th 'ON SHOW'** Royal Albert Hall. 2pm. Armenian and Russian dances from S.I.F.D. Morris from E.F.D.S.S. and a variety of dance from other CCPR members.

* * *

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.

Calling - Some Considerations

Which dances are suitable to call?

When is it appropriate to call?

What is the difference between calling and leading?

Can we call from the floor?

How do we go about it?

(This document is concerned with calling one dance rather than planning a whole evening's dancing)

1. Planning - make sure you know the dance and are familiar with the music. Listen to the introduction so you know when it starts. If you have a band ask them whether it has an introduction, whether it's just a chord or how many bars etc. Work out what your dance commands will be. Remember they will have to be fairly brief when you are actually calling.

2. Practise calling with the music at home even if you haven't got a microphone. You could even tape yourself and play it back. Could you follow your instructions? Did you call sufficiently ahead of the move?

3. When calling you must be audible. This isn't just a matter of volume. Try to speak clearly. Don't gabble because you are nervous, try to stay calm and look and sound confident. Sometimes there is too much bass on the controls, so the voice comes out a bit muddy. Turn the bass down and the treble up. You need to be heard over the band or recording. The dynamics of the latter often varies, so you will need to be able to turn the volume of the tape up or down.

4. Getting the dancers on the floor. Explain the formation, and / or play the music - Bands often play the dancers onto the floor - not so easy with a tape recorder. If you do this don't forget to set the zero counter.

5. Look at the spacing. Is there room for everybody? Can you rearrange the sets, couples, circles to make better use of the available space. Are all the sets made up? Is everyone dancing who wishes to?

6. Walking the dance through. It may be necessary to walk it all through, or part of it through, or you might get away with brief reminder, obviously it depends on the dance and the dancers.

7. After a walk-through ask the dancers to go back to their original positions, if appropriate.

8. You may need some sort of command "O.K. music coming up", "Are you ready", You start after a short introduction etc.

9. Start music ("and they're off!"). Issue clear, concise commands just ahead of the moves if possible. Keep calling until you think that the dancers are confident then give them a chance to dance without the call. This is where knowing your recording helps. How many times does it go through? If the dance starts falling to bits start calling again. If you get nervous and think that you will forget a dance, you could use a crib-card. Put it somewhere you can see it - a music stand can be useful.

10. Using the microphone. Stay behind it and don't move your mouth too much away from it, but you mustn't eat it either. I prefer to use a microphone stand because it gives me free hands to alter controls, gesticulate to the band or to the dancers, look up the dance etc. It also means that you won't be tempted to walk in front of the speakers with the microphone, which causes feedback.

11. When the music ends, suggest that they honour their partners, if it's a partner dance. Congratulate the dancers if it was well done. You might want to repeat the dance, if so check spacing and positioning of dancers, wind back music. Did you remember to zero the clock counter? If you don't want to repeat the dance ask them to take a rest or ask them to reform themselves to the next formation that you want to call. Two dances together seems to work well.

continued.

12. Tone. Try to appear relaxed. Not easy I know, but this will give the dancers confidence and they will enjoy the dance more. If you are outwardly worrying they will worry too. If it all goes wrong, don't get cross with the dancers. They can't help having two left legs and leaving their brains at home! You will make them feel better if you don't glare or shout at them. It sometimes helps if you say something like "Sorry I obviously didn't explain that very well", "No, the other left" - You will develop your own phrases. I think you should make the dancers think that they have done well rather than that you have done well. M.C.ing is a service not an ego-trip. A good caller makes the dances appear easy and the dancers good, a bad caller makes the dances seem hard and the dancers bad. If you get some of it right some of the time, the experience is fantastic so it's worth trying.

Jill Bransby



Phonographic Performing Licence (PPL)

Some of our groups here in the South have been approached with regard to the above and payment requested!

If you receive a demand - don't panic !

If they approach you - **do nothing** - as the PPL licencing laws are due to be changed again in April. The Sussex Folk Association (SusFA), of which John and myself are committee members, has recent experience of dealing with the PPL. Many English folk dance clubs have been paying this "tax" (through the instigation of EFDSS !) for years even though they never were liable for it. SusFA has successfully guided Sussex folk clubs through the process of discontinuing PPL payment, and, importantly, the even more annoying weekly form filling.

The (European) Government have, however, moved the goal posts; now it will 'probably' be the duty of the landlords to license their premises as the PPL and PRS are 'probably' merging. The probability issue should be cleared up shortly, then we will know what we have to deal with.

In addition to the above - most of us use ancient recordings of obscure traditional musicians - or have explicit permission to use more modern recordings. Therefore even though they will no longer exempt educational and non-profit making clubs (in line with Europe) they still have to prove that one of their listed artists is being denied royalties.

I can tell you that the only folk artists registered with the PPL are 'Belthazar's Feast'. However, record labels are a different problem - but only under the PRS umbrella - more news after April.

Government Acts can be checked out on <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts1988>.

Janet Douglas

PS (I feel I must state that these are my views and not necessarily those of the SIFD Committee)



Greek Dance Workshop – July 10th to 19th, 2010

The workshop will be on the island of Naxos in the Cyclades. The course will cover dances from Naxos (taught by Stavros Spiliakos), the coast of Asia Minor (Christos Theologos), Paros (Giorgos Liaros), and the Kars area of Euxinus Pontos (Dimitris Triandafyllidis).

The price will be €745 to include all tuition, hotel accommodation (plus breakfast and one other meal each day), information pack, live music and excursions. Participants should register by 30 March 2010, and a deposit of €200 should be paid by 31st May.

For details and further information, please contact Dimitris Triandafyllidis, 10 Matsouka St, 12351 Agia Varvara, Athens, Greece, or e-mail djimmy@ath.forthnet.gr

Irene Cooper

Dance Day – 29th April 2009!

Did you know that 29th April is the official Dance Day for the UNESCO - recognised International Dance Council (CID)? In their words: "Dance Day has been established in view of attracting attention to the art of dance, every year on the 29th of April. On that day, dance companies, dance schools, organisations and individuals, professionals as well as amateurs, are asked to organise an activity addressing an audience larger than their usual one". They also include the interesting statement in their message "The future of dance lies where there are persons who do not dance" which is worth considering.

This year it is a Thursday, and roughly 8 weeks away. Do you have a class then, or could think of doing something to mark the day?

A demonstration somewhere perhaps? A dance with publicity inviting new-comers to dancing? Your usual class opened to other classes in the building, or your local book group or yoga class?

We are so lucky to know the pleasures of dancing already – CID believe it is our duty to try to pass this pleasure on to others.

Please do tell the News if you manage to commemorate Dance Day!

If you would like to know more of the CID, visit www.cid-unesco.org.

Alison Scrimshaw



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



Albanian Afternoon Course

Albania is a country that has had a very turbulent history. It is one of the poorest countries in the Balkans. At one time it was impossible to visit ~ but now it is much easier. The SIFD has over the years presented many excellent teachers and workshops of other Balkan countries so it was a special pleasure to learn some Albanian dances. Marina Wolstenholme gave a most interesting session, clear notes, music on a CD, each dance so clearly explained and demonstrated. She was very knowledgeable on the the background, and worked so hard. All very much appreciated and enjoyed by all. A fascinating Saturday. A thank you from all who attended. Pity if you missed it.

Robert Harrold

Yves Moreau Workshops in London on 16th/17th October.

In October Balkanplus will welcome Yves back to London after an absence of five years. This time it will be slightly different because, instead of an entirely Bulgarian programme, he has agreed to present a range of dances compatible with the established Balkanplus format of mainly Balkan but with a sprinkling of dances from elsewhere. With Yves' unsurpassed experience of the recreational folk dance scene, we can expect some cracking good material with broad appeal.

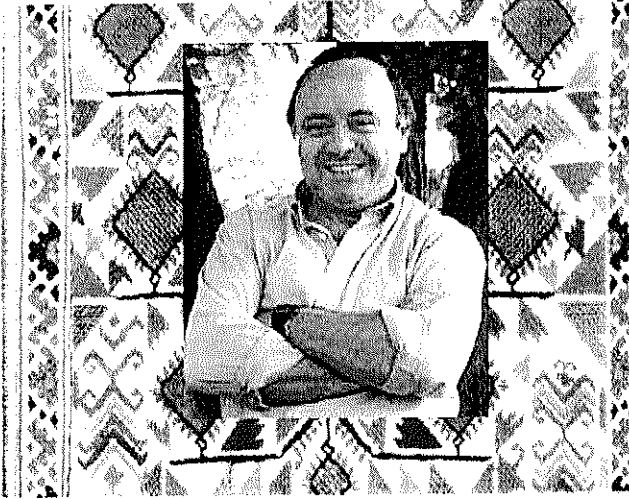


photo of Yves courtesy of Passion Music

The workshops will be between 10.30am and 4.30pm on both Saturday and Sunday. They will take place in Kennedy, Cecil Sharp House as will the extended Saturday evening party (7.00pm to 10.30pm). We again offer a price reduction to those booking before the end of May. These reduced prices are as follows:

Workshops: £25 Sat, £20 Sun, £40 both
Party: £10 Workshops and party: £45

From June everything except the party price will increase by £5.

There are further reductions for Balkanplus Season Ticket Holders. Please enquire for details. Send SAE with cheque (payable to Balkanplus) to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG. Phone Maureen on 01473 272256 or Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717 or balkanplus@aol.com Further information will be posted on www.balkanplus.org.uk

Yves has a considerable following, so I recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment.

Brian Dowsett



AGM 2010

It seems a little odd to be announcing another AGM so soon after the last, but as a result of changing the end of the financial year from 31st July to 31st December, the AGM must now be held in the 9 month period following year end. Accordingly, the date has been set for 9th May – not too soon after the last one, but trying to avoid the customary holiday period.

After the enjoyable AGM in Bristol last November, this year's meeting will be in London, before the Sunday evening dance.

So notice is hereby given that the Society's 2010 AGM will be held on Sunday 9th May 2010 at 4.30pm

At Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY

Motions should be proposed and seconded, and should be submitted to me (in lieu of a secretary) on or before the 14th of March.

Nominations for the Executive Committee should be proposed and seconded by members, with the agreement of the nominee, and submitted to me, on or before the 10th of March.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the meeting. It will be followed at 7pm by a dance led by Jill Bransby, which is sure to be enjoyable.

The agenda will appear in April's News. If you have any queries, please contact me.

Alison Scrimshaw, 020 8395 1400

alison.scrimshaw@googlemail.com

“On Show” Rehearsals

We travelled from all over the country to our second rehearsal in Solihul at the end of January. It is coming together and improving, but absenteeism and people leaving early is causing a headache. I know that many people feel they know the **dances**, but there is more to a performance than knowing the dances. It is the **choreography** that needs to be rehearsed again and again so that everyone taking part is absolutely sure where they stand (or dance), at all times. Therefore, in fairness to all those trying to learn their positions for all four dances, any absentees from the June 13th and September 12th rehearsals **cannot take part** in the September performance at the Royal Albert Hall (unless they can give me a gold-plated excuse).

I recently attended the producers' meeting and have now been taught the 'finale' item (it is derived from the Lambeth Walk) and apparently they intend ALL performers to take part! So, that is something else we must fit into our next rehearsal, probably in the last half hour. However, if you really feel that you do not wish to be part of the finale, that's fine - as long as I know by the end of the June rehearsal.

Another thing we must make time for in June is a preliminary costume parade, we can then sort out any costume problems in good time. So please bring your costume and we will make June 13th the dress rehearsal. Thanks to Dalila Heath and Maggie Kaye most of us now have Armenian or Russian costumes; Barlow already have their own Russian costumes and Kilikia their Armenian. We also need to take photos of some of the dancers posing in costume for the Programme and other publicity, so for June, I suggest we get the costume bit over first, then our rehearsal proper, and finish with the finale.

It will be all-right on the night!

Janet Douglas



CD4 is now ready

I am pleased to be able to tell you that CD4 is available at last! This used to be the EPTAPE, taken from EPs 12 and 13 **Six Social Dances** and **Twelve Circle Dances**. The tracks have been tidied up, and of course have the huge advantage that on a CD each can be accessed instantly. The dances are –

Austria	Steiregger, Jägermarsch
Croatia	Opšaj Diri
Estonia	Oige Ja Vasemba
Greece	Tsamikos
Israel	Simi Yadech, Hora Agadati, Tzadik Katamar
Romania	Hora din Teiş
Serbia	Makazice, Ersko Kolo, Romansko Kolo, Čačak, Neda Grivna, Vranjanka
Russia	Russian Lyrical Dance, Russian Waltz
USA	Mexican Waltz

This is a great must-get-up-and-dance selection, and also most enjoyable to listen to – great playing and singing. The CD costs £5, but this includes the two small accompanying booklets (not very smart, but functional).

Thanks must go to Richard Mellish and Roger Sach for all their work in producing these CDs.

If you would like any of the CDs available from the SIFD collection, an order form can be downloaded from the website, or contact me directly.

Alison Scrimshaw (address p.8)

Barlow Group Fortieth Anniversary Dance

On 30th January the Barlow International Folkdance Group celebrated its fortieth anniversary (belatedly) as a properly constituted group, with a dance for all those members and former members we could contact. We were delighted that about 100 people were able to come, and, although there was probably not enough seating for everyone, that did not matter as we were kept dancing most of the time. Julie Korth did her usual 'traffic light' system of indicating the difficulty of the dances, green:- everyone can join in, amber:- join if you think you have some idea and red:- 'experts' only. There were a lot of old favourites to enjoy, and just before the refreshment interval we did Mom Bar, the candle dance. Of course this is normally the last dance of the evening, but it is liked so much by the children that we put it on before they have to go. All the children were in costume, a lot of them made by Julie, and a lot of the adults were in costume too. There were a lot of old photographs to look at and old programmes etc.. You can imagine the chatter that went on.



It was in 1965 that Alan Williams and Mavis Archer started a class for international folk dancing at Barlow Hall Evening Centre in Chorlton, Manchester. This continued for four years, then in 1969 we decided to form a group and become an affiliated group to the Society for International Folk Dancing and in June of that year we held our first A.G.M.. In the early years Margery Latham took a great interest in us and gave us several day courses.

So, after 40 years, the Group is still going strong, with a thriving children's group and adults group and, bridging the gap, a small inters group. May it long continue.

Philip E. Lloyd



The Society's Shop

A big thank you to Claire Steeley for the immense contribution she has made running the shop for the Society for many years. She has turned up faithfully with her stall at all sorts of events from Sunday dances to the Summer School to the Eastbourne Festival. Well done Claire!

Claire now needs to step down and we urgently need someone to take over. If you are interested please contact any member of the committee.

SIFD Committee

Opšaj diri



My experience of this dance needed a cartoon to say it all. Ed.

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Friends,

Abso - bally - lutely fantabulous! YOU have raised the amazing total of £1,092 - 00 for the Royal Star and Garter Homes, for the Alzheimer's Unit.

The dance on 7th February was indeed a joyful, colourful occasion with many people in costume and many old friends coming a huge distance in order to participate. The band played their hearts out and there were many references to Wilf's harmonies and compositions which added a really personal touch.

A huge, huge thank you to everyone,

Frances



Wilf Horrocks's Commemoration Dance

It was a very happy occasion to remember Wilf with the Sunday dance at Cecil Sharp House. Such a good idea of Frances to arrange this event, Wilf would have approved to see so many dancers all in costume, enjoying themselves. One remembered how much he had contributed to folk, to his family and friends, and what better way to show our appreciation but by folk dancing.

Robert Harrold



What a splendid occasion! Kennedy Hall at Cecil Sharp House was filled with more than the usual number of musicians, and many more than the usual number of dancers. About 90 people, many of whom had made a special trip and come from far afield, were present for Wilf's Dance.

Most people, both band members and dancers, were wearing wonderfully colourful costumes, and the dances had been chosen with care to reflect Wilf's favourites and versatility. It was a great evening, and everyone enjoyed it.

Many thanks must go to Frances Horrocks for arranging it, the Steventons for MCing so ably, and the Band for playing so well. And to all the dancers for turning up and enjoying it.

Alison Scrimshaw

Dear Janet,

The delightful picture on the cover of the Feb. News sheet has to be of the last figure of the Estonian Snuff Dance.

Earlier members will remember, with pleasure, Aili teaching the dance and telling the legend of the boy playing tricks on his girlfriend with a pinch of snuff - her anger and eventual forgiveness in the last figure. Is it ever danced now? I wonder if perhaps many members even know it.
Happy dancing,

Irene Fyffe



Riepe Riepe Garste (Netherlands)

I only just read the request for instructions for Riepe Riepe Garste to match the music printed a month or so ago. I have a very large collection of Dances and Music from the Netherlands, many of them in Dutch. All my English translations seemed to be missing so on a chance I went on line - and there it is! I hope it helps.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Margaret Colato Webb. We met with another former member, Jon Brien, in Australia at Christmas who gave us the news. Also Wilf Horrocks. It would be nice to have a picture of those members we have lost to go with the notes written about them. Sometimes our ageing memories cannot quite conjure up the face.

Dorothy Sloan (Canada)

Riepe Riepe Garste (Netherlands)

Formation

This Dutch dance is about harvesting barley. Double Circle round the room, men on the inside, facing partner.

Instructions

1. Clap both hands of your partner (right on left, left on right) Clap your own hands Clap partner's right hand Clap your own hands Clap partner's left hand Clap your own hands Clap both hands of your partner (right on left, left on right) Clap your own hands
2. Swing right arm over your front like a swimming crawl Swing left arm over your front
3. Repeat part 2
4. Repeat 1 to 3
5. Visit to your right (step right, close with your left foot, step right, close with your left foot, stamp with the right foot, stamp with the left foot, stamp with the right foot)
6. Return (step left, close with your right foot, step left, close with your right foot, stamp with the left foot, stamp with the right foot, stamp with the left foot)
7. Link right arms with your partner and run round each other round twice.
8. Visit to your right (step left, close with your right foot, step left, close with your right foot, stamp with the left foot, stamp with the right foot, stamp with the left foot)
9. Return (step right, close with your left foot, step right, close with your left foot, stamp with the right foot, stamp with the left foot, stamp with the right foot)
10. Link left arms with your partner and run round each other round twice.

Calling

- * Both own right own left own both own
- * right crawl, left crawl, right crawl, left crawl,
- * Both own right own left own both own
- * right crawl, left crawl, right crawl, left crawl,
- * Visit right and back.
- * Right arms to partner
- * Visit left and back.
- * Left arms to partner

Dear Janet

Here are a few words about Opšaj diri plus the lyrics and translation.

Opšaj Diri was one of the first dances taught by Henry Morris at the Hendon Folk Club, out of which the present Barnet group evolved. It was the time of the British folk revival and the membership consisted mainly of students and au pair girls. The club took to the dance because it had a song we could belt out, a song of Tito's communist partisans that was known throughout Yugoslavia from the time of the Second World War.

As with so many Balkan songs, the lyrics vary enormously. For example, the version on Dick Oakes' resource website www.phantomranch.net has a completely different version possibly purged of any communist connection. A recording by the Croatia State Ensemble "Lado" does, however, include two verses from the Hendon Folk Club's songbook. The lyrics as originally taught are printed below and the dance is played by Dunav on the Society's recording "Twelve Circle Dances". More knowledgeable scholars will know whether the dance predates the song. I guess it does.

Oj narode narode
evo tebi slobode
evo tebi slobode
oj narode narode

Oh people people
Here is freedom for you

Zeleni se Jorgovan
Moj je Dragi Partizan
Moj je Dragi Partizan
Zeleni se Jorgovan

The lilac is shining green
My darling is a Partisan

S'one strane Morave
Čita tsura novine
Čita tsura novine
S'one strane Morave

On the other side of (the river) Morava
The girl is reading a newspaper

Chorus

Opšaj diri, diri di
Opšaj dara, dara da
Opšaj diri, diri di
Opšaj dara, da da da

No meaning. Opa opa opa

The dance starts on the left foot to the left, so typical in Croatia. Front basket hold.

While singing the verse:

Slowly step left and right and left and turn. To the right: right and left and right and turn. Repeat.

While singing the chorus (first time only) moving to the left:

Rocking step: right over, back on the left (eight times)

During the chorus repeat and for the first section of the instrumental, moving to the left at increasing speed:

Step right hop step left

During the remainder of the instrumental, stop travelling and face centre.

Step right hop step left. This is the same as the travelling step except the left knee lifts a little as you hop.

You can finish with a brisk right left right - ready to start again with the next verse.

Brian Dowsett



The very clear sheet-music shown opposite for **Opšaj Diri** is the first of the newly digitalised versions of Wilf's music by Holly Payling. These will appear more and more, although the music for **Meillionen o Feirionnydd**, which will appear in the April issue, will be an old version. As usual you are invited to share any information, anecdotes, and pictures about the dance with other members.

Ed.

Opsaj Diri

Musical score for 'Opsaj Diri' in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music with guitar chords indicated below. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat signs for 'Ax4' and 'Bx2'.

Wilf Horrocks



I was looking through my folder of dance instructions and found these for the dance - opsi diri - that my father (Len Pascoe) had written down in the early 60's.

- R in L to R and Turn (Pivoting on RF) 8 times
- L out R to L and Turn (Pivoting on LF) 8 times
- RF in and push around with L (Clockwise)
- LF in and push around with R (Anticlockwise)

Partners face out, Ladies face out and Men R hop L around Partner 8 times.

I can remember the first part of the dance but am not to sure about the notation for the second!!

(Beverley also sent the words - see previous page)

Now all I need to do is to find some recorded music and try the dance again!!

Beverly Maton



Eastbourne Festival 30.4.10 – 3.5.10Stewards....Stewards.... Stewards!

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

Name

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

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

.....

