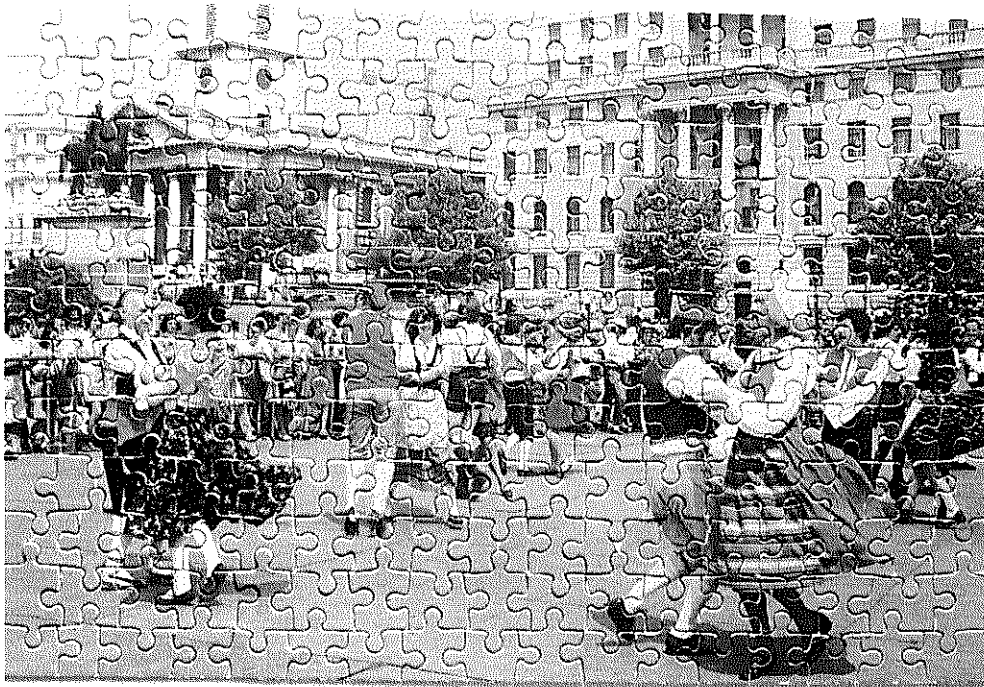


# *SIFD NEWS*



Folk Dancing

## *APRIL 2010*

# SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

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\* \* \*



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The cover picture this month of International Folk Dancers was sent in by Jan Bryce (*see letter on p.8*) and the Balkanplus logo is the motif.

The Agenda for the new mid-year A.G.M. is attached to this issue.

Clyde Olliver and Balkanplus have done well for the Haiti cause (see below); and if you are somewhere around West Sussex on April 10th you can help too. (see back page)

At last the wintry weather seems to be easing off, and we're easing into the season for showing off our international dances and costumes in public. ('easing' into the costumes isn't always so easy - this is also the time of year for alterations.)

Ed



### Eastbourne Festival 2010 Update.

I'm glad to say that the Ukrainian Group Veselka have confirmed that they are coming to dance for us at the festival.

Also if anyone has a free half hour on the Friday afternoon, we would really appreciate your help in decorating the Gym. We can't get into the Gym until 4.30pm. Hope to see some of you then.

Julie Korth



### March Balkanplus

Last night's Balkan Plus raised a magnificent £380 for the Sisters of the Society of St. Margaret in Haiti. Warm thanks to all who donated whether in cash or kind.

Clyde Olliver

\*\*\*

Pam and I were amazed and touched by the generous response following Clyde's announcement that the March Balkan Plus would be held in aid of our Sisters in Haiti. On their behalf we would like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who contributed either by attending Balkan Plus or sending a donation.

Anna Huston



### April Balkanplus

The April Balkanplus will be held on the 10th April at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be the Barnet group with live music from Dunav. Admission £7.

Maureen Felton



### SIFD Afternoon Courses

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

Pam Radford



## Great Alne Long Weekend

- Those taking part may do so at any time without needing to pre-book. You may telephone – 0121 777 3722 with answer-phone - to leave your contact details - especially, please, if you are bringing a caravan.
- To have a programme posted give your address details to Nicola – 07986 543 132.
- The detailed, interesting, new-look website is at [www.greatalnefolk.org.uk](http://www.greatalnefolk.org.uk) this will also show the most up-to-date draft of the full programme.

We are fortunate this year to be able to offer two excellent SIFD teachers, and a new contributor, Janet Woolbar, with her exceptionally wide repertoire, will offer dances from many countries. Dalila Heath will bring some of her lovely Armenian, and also some Israeli dances. For the first time at Great Alne we look forward to some dances from Orsolya Vegh. Originally from Hungary, Orsi will show us some Moldavian / Hungarian Dances.

Paul Lindley brings his handbells – a delight – especially if you have not yet tried playing tunes on handbells.

We hope that those appreciating the availability of International Dance in the Midlands - particularly from our many Midland International dancers who may have more leisure time – will especially like to join us on the Monday (26<sup>th</sup> April) of the Weekend. Longer, not over-intensive, International teaching sessions (as requested) will be available.

The caterers throughout the weekend are brilliant. They provide helpfully for every kind of dietary limitation; which allows everyone – including spontaneous visitors - to indulge much gastronomic pleasure, yet stay within any special dietary requirement. On the Monday - their climax of excellence - a superb, most reasonably priced, choice of lunch is waitress-served to us in the village Memorial Hall; that alone should make an outing to Great Alne worthwhile.

The surrounding Warwickshire villages are lovely. The Long Weekend is when nearby woodland bluebell walks and cowslips in the lanes are at their best.

We wish to encourage the introduction of dances learnt at Great Alne to our local repertoire. The repeat of just one dance afterwards will give the visiting teachers' material, and the long weekend itself, a relevance which video archiving alone cannot achieve.

Recently, and again this year, to provide the finance to support visits by International teachers, the programme for Saturday and Sunday is offering much more variety. This allows more "dance exchange" and encourages 'drop-in' dancers from a range of dancing backgrounds.

It is good that Paul, and also Nicola Scott, have shared its responsibility with me from this year. This has allowed the Long Weekend to continue to be available, now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year, for the participatory enjoyment of many.

I especially wish to thank Linda and David Bradley who have for many years hosted Dutch visiting teachers. Linda, back in 1982, first encouraged me to instigate a camping weekend with dance, music and walks, making use of the hall at Great Alne. David I must also thank for the benefit of his greatly supportive administrative help, and also, from the earliest years, for the considerable sustenance which the event has obtained from his outstanding musicianship.

I also wish, with appreciation and affection, to remember Dennis Hunt who in the 1970s laid the foundations for the West Midlands Branch, supported the Long Weekend at Great Alne, and envisaged it as a source of International dances and music.

The new committee will, I am sure, do much to continue to fulfil these aims.

**André Hobro**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Apr.30<sup>th</sup>/May.3<sup>rd</sup> HALSWAY MANOR**, Somerset. SIFD long weekend of dancing, led by Janet Woolbar. (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.
- Apr.30<sup>th</sup>/May.3<sup>rd</sup> EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** phone 01278 424332
- S.I **May 8<sup>th</sup> BALKANPLUS:** MC will be Janet Douglas
- S.I **May.9<sup>th</sup> S.I.F.D. A.G.M.** see attached Agenda.
- S.I **May.9<sup>th</sup> SIFD SUNDAY DANCE/WORKSHOP** MC: Jill Bransby
- S.I **May.23<sup>rd</sup> 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.29<sup>th</sup> CHICHESTER MAYFEST** 11am - 4.30pm. Avenue de Chartres. English and International displays with joining-in opportunities. details: 01243 265010
- May 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> 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.6<sup>th</sup> SIFD SUNDAY DANCE/WORKSHOP**
- Jun.12<sup>th</sup> SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE**
- Jul.6<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD** 01979 862001
- S.I **Aug.7<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sifdsummerschool.org) or email [sifdswansea@gmail.com](mailto:sifdswansea@gmail.com) or phone 07905 603655 or 01462 457791
- Aug.21<sup>st</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> 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.27<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rowenahmartin@hotmail.com)
- Sep.25<sup>th</sup> '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. Ticket details soon.
- S.I **Oct.16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> YVES MOREAU WORKSHOPS** for details. Send SAE with cheque (payable to Balkanplus) to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG. (further reductions for Season Ticket Holders). Phone Maureen on 01473 272256 or Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717 or [balkanplus@aol.com](mailto:balkanplus@aol.com) Further information on [www.balkanplus.org.uk](http://www.balkanplus.org.uk)



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.

## Update on Dance Event

On Saturday 13th February, Bungay International Folkdance Group hosted a Valentine's Dance-athon in the ballroom at the King's Head Hotel in Bungay, Suffolk.

Teachers and leaders from groups across East Anglia were invited to lead 45 minute dance slots and their selection of music and dance provided a varied programme that enabled the 70 participants to dip in and out of the 7.5 hours of dancing that was continuous throughout the day. The day ended with live music from Zaramo and Bear's great singing.

A fantastic £1205 was raised through generous donations, sponsored dancing and a minimal entrance fee. This was split between two charities: the MacMillan nurses and a local project co-ordinated by Suffolk Wildlife Trust: Bungay's Community Barn Owl Project. A great day that brought groups from across the region together to delight in each other's dance repertoires and opened the door to some new dance enthusiasts. An event, by popular request, to be repeated!

**Birgitta Campbell-Johnston**



## Serbian & Macedonian Dance Seminar

Arrival July 27 afternoon, departure August 6 morning

Bale in Istria, Croatia, is a charming small medieval village, 100 km south of Trieste (Italy) between Rovinj and Pula, Croatia.

Milan Radovanovic - soloist in Kolo, offers dance-lessons from 9am to 12, and one hour in the evening: intermediate and advanced level.

Musicians: Goran Sandic (accordion), Marko Kojadimovic (kaval, clarinet, saxo, gajda)  
(music lessons with the musicians are available)

Halfboard accommodation with Francoise and Ivan Djokovic, (non-dancing participants welcome, who have the chance to learn Serbo-Croatian cooking with Mira). Camping is possible in the two beautiful Bale camps located on the beaches. You can also rent a room in the numerous village houses. Afternoons are free for swimming, sunbathing or sightseeing in Istria. After 9pm - repeat of the morning dances, and then a party, meeting with local folk groups and musicians. There will be one free day for an excursion (included in the price).

By plane: Pula airport 20 km, or Venezia airport (boat or bus after)

By train, Pula, Venezia, Trieste, Ljubljana and after by bus to Rovinj or Pula, and stop at Bale.

Price : €580 half-board, €460, non-dancers. €300 (children under 12) €260 seminar and parties only.

apply by 1<sup>st</sup> July to: Francoise Djokovic, 5 A Rue de l'Abbaye de Fontenay, 2BF- 21240 Talant

Phone: + 33 3 80 56 27 58 or + 33 6 60 43 52 64 e-mail francoise.djokovic@gmail.com



## Ontario Folk Dance Camp

Bulgarian - Jaap Leegwater;

Kurdish / Turkish - Fethi Karakeçili

9pm. Friday May 21 - Monday May 24

\$405 (single) \$360 (double) Fee includes 3 meals daily, coffee breaks, evening snacks, and tuition.

University of Waterloo, approx. 100km. west of Toronto

Applications to Sheryl Demetro, 121 Sexton Cres., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2H 2L7



## Margaret Webb

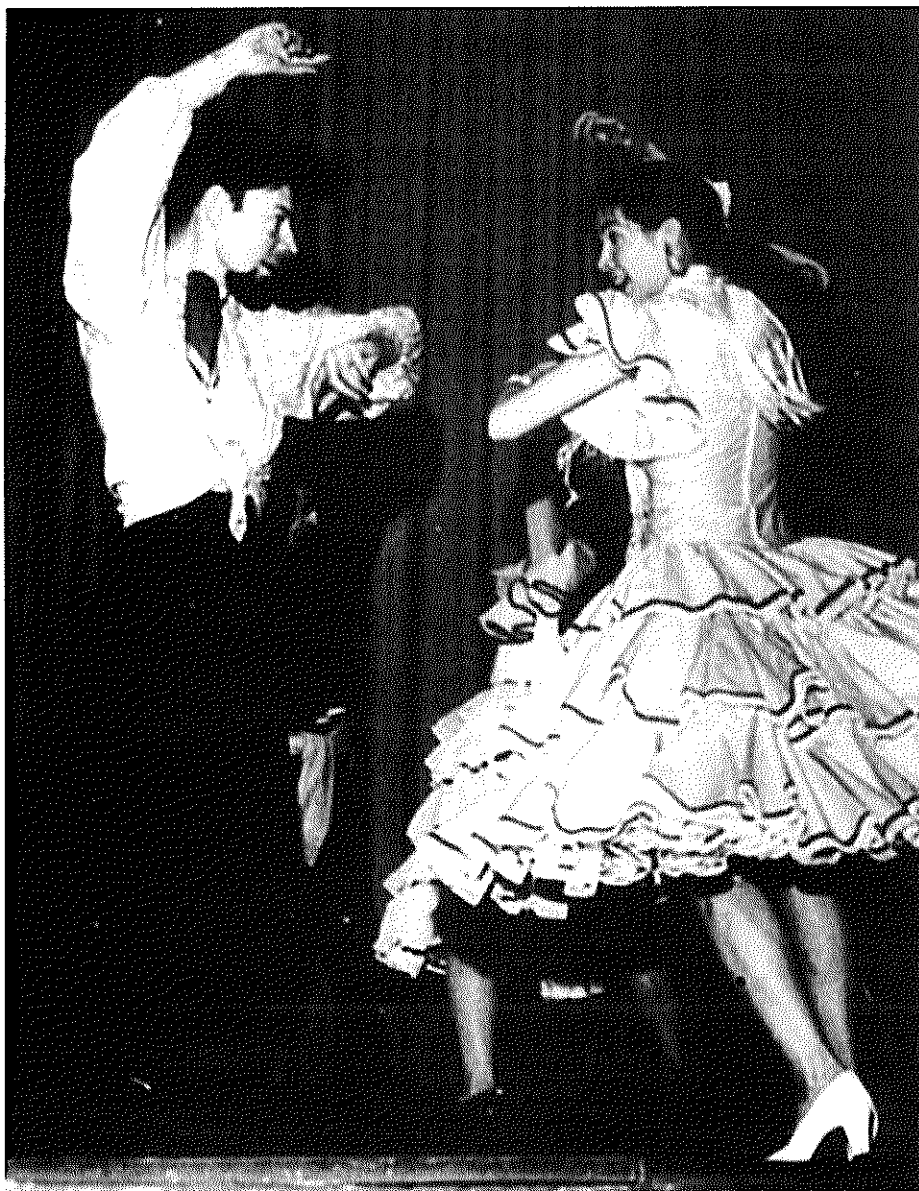
I was sorry to read about Margaret's passing in the NEWS. I have many memories of Margaret who I knew quite well at one time. I first met her in the early 1950s and it was largely due to her and Ruth Coton (then Sharp) that I became interested in Balkan dances, which later developed into an interest in the costumes and village culture generally, and meeting so many lovely people.

I met Margaret and Ruth at the SIFD Sunday dances that were held in the basement gym at the old Inns of Court Mission in Drury Lane. During the interval they would organise an impromptu Balkan session and they dragged me, rather reluctantly, to join in. They encouraged me to go along to Philip Thornton's Balkan class at Hortensia Road, Chelsea where the SIFD held its folk dance classes and I became hooked, eventually becoming his assistant and deputising for him when he was indisposed.

Margaret was an energetic and enthusiastic person and her dancing ability and her vivacious make-up made her ideally suited to Spanish dancing, and she eventually established her own dance group, Los Ibericos. It's strange that I eventually settled here in Spain and became fond of its music and dances. She was a purist and usually used two excellent guitarists for the dancing.

I owe her a debt of gratitude for introducing me to the dances of the Balkans, but especially the former Yugoslavia, which became the main focus of my life.

**Ken Ward**



*In response to Dorothy Sloane's request for a picture, I have reproduced this one of Los Ibericos. It shows Margaret dancing with George Sweetland.*

*It appeared in the booklet which was published to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Society in 1986. Ed.*

## Letters to the Editor:

I don't know how many remember dancing for National Folk day in Trafalgar Square and in the fountains in the mid 1970's. I seem to remember dancing for about three years running.

How many of you have ever seen this! (*front cover*)

One of our members found this at a jumble sale a few years ago. It is a Jigsaw made from a photo of the SIFD collected group for one of these years. There is no mention or credits on the box. It just says "Folk Dancing". I can name some of the dancers Steve and Joy, Alan Cant (back) maybe Ernie at the back and myself and Alison Thompson.

Jan Bryce



It's me again. I read with some interest the correspondence about Opšaj diri. I first came across the dance when I was in Croatia in 1958. I attended a performance of a suite of Croatian dances by a Croatian group and I noted it down. It was performed without music and they told me it was from the Podravina region. It was the first Croatian dance that I taught at the Balkan class and by luck I had managed to buy a Jugoton LP that had been recorded in Zagreb and manufactured in Germany. It is copies of this recording that circulated among dancers for many years. It became adopted by the Partizans when I think it had lyrics added to it.

While I was in Croatia in 1982 I found two books called "Narodne igre Jugoslavije". The second smaller volume "Partiznske igre" contained the music, lyrics and dance instructions for Opšaj diri. I've sorted out the Serbo-Croat instructions and drawn illustrations and I enclose a copy for the readers together with my notes for the version that I noted down. (*see overleaf*) They differ quite substantially, so I assume that there were different versions in use by the Partizans.

The author of the book, Professor Branka Kolarovic, acknowledges the help given by many people from all over the former Yugoslavia, including Dr. Ljjevacovic the founder and artistic director of the Croatian State group "Lado", and Ivan Ivancan, a dance fieldworker working at the Folklore Institute in Zagreb who published several books of Croatian folk dances with notes, music, and instructions of the dances in words and also Labin ballet notation which gives a very detailed account of not only the footwork but also of the way in which the body is used. It is from him that I learnt "Licko kolo, the silent dance" at a seminar for group leaders in 1966. I accept therefore that his version is an authorised one and is the one he taught to "Lado".

I haven't seen Beverly for many years, (Hallo!), but I knew her parents very well and remember Len Pascoe and his wife coming to classes and dancing in an early Zivko Firfov demonstration at the Maidstone festival, so many years ago. Croatian dances are usually in a closed circle or sun formation and invariably move to the L, that is sunwise, as dances from the Ottoman areas are usually performed in an open circle or crescent moon formation and move to the R, that is moon wise. The version vaguely resembles the dance that I originally taught but is incorrect and hardly Croatian in character. The last figure where a man hops around his partner is very suspicious. I can think of only a few instances where people separate in Croatian dances. In the Adriatic coastal islands, Susak for instance, where the man spins his partner like a top to test her powers of endurance, and in the pillow dance in the Croatian region of Prigorje north of Zagreb when during a dance a girl leaves the circle and chooses a young man of her choice and puts a rolled handkerchief around his neck and drags him into the centre of the circle where they both kneel on a pillow and kiss; but this dance is of Austrian influence. I don't doubt that Len's notation was what he saw or was taught, just the source of the material.

Ken Ward





**Croatia.****Opšaj diri.****Podravina region.**

A mixed dance in a closed circle formation. The hands are held in what is known as "lisa" in front of the body. The L hand passes under the R arm of the person on the L and takes the R hand of the next person but one on the R and so on. If using the Lado recording there is a long introduction of 16 bars of music. Commence dancing with the singing. For a performance this could be used for walking on.

Bar.            Beat or count.

PART ONE.            Walking to the Left flat footed.

1.            1 and        Step LF to L, dipping slightly on "and"
2.            2 and        Step RF to L, dipping slightly on "and"
3.            3 and        Step LF to L, dipping slightly on "and".
4.            4 and        Step LF to L, leaving RF in place and swivel on both feet to face to the R. and pause on "and".
- 5/8.        Repeat bar 1/4 to the R starting RF, and finishing facing to the L.
- 9/16.        Repeat to the L and R.

PART TWO            Rocking step.

B music.

1/4.

1 and    Keeping the legs apart, Step LF backwards to the L bouncing twice on it and taking the weight off the RF which begins to move to the L.

2 and    Step forward on RF to L without crossing it over the LF bouncing twice on it.

3 and    Repeat 1 and.

4 and    Repeat 2 and.

5/16.    Repeat bar 1/4 seven times.

B music gradually increasing in tempo.

1/15.    Repeat B bars 1 /15 on the spot, bouncing the body twice on each step, pausing in the 16th bar with both feet on the ground, facing inward. If it is possible when using the RF you can step on it and twist the R heel to the R.

16.        pause with both feet in position, no bounce.

Recommence dance from Part One. Note that on the Lado recording towards the end bar 1/16 is repeated with the musicians playing the music in the old village style , usually using a fiddle, cello and double base. You can continue with the fast step. Lado used this section as part of their choreography.

In 1957 while in Croatia I saw a dance group perform a group of Croatian dances and they told me that Opšaj diri came from the Podravine region. The words were probably added when the Partizans adopted the dance. There are different versions of the text.

**Ken Ward**



MEILLIONEN O FEIRIONNYDD.

(The Clover of Meirionnydd.)

Wales.

Wilf Horrocks



Meillionen o Feirionnydd is a dance for five couples, although apparently it can be danced with a different number of couples with a less satisfying outcome. We dance it at the Gosport & Fareham group when numbers are right - so, not very often. It's a great dance for beginners who need to practice 'siding' for English dances!



**Meillionen o Feirionnydd** Wales

Up and back a double x 2  
 4 slipsteps out to side, 4 slipsteps in to place  
 All back and forward a Double  
 Face partner: clap sequence  
 top couple: Side and cross. Face down and Side and cross with second couple.  
 Repeat Siding and Crossing back to place bringing in whole set.



The music for **Rankankalia** will appear in the May issue - if you know anything about the dance - please write in and enlighten us. The only information about Rankankalia that I can offer is that it comes from Finland.

Ed.

## SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

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

£8 SIFD members    £9 non-members    £4 children 14-18 (under 14 free)

**Apr.11th The SIFD Band (NB 2nd Sunday as April 4<sup>th</sup> is Easter)**

May.9th MC: Jill Bransby



### WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- S.I **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>**      **HELP FOR HAITI** afternoon of followable dances from around the world. Raffle and table-top sale - proceeds for St. Saviour's Priory, Haiti mission. 2pm - 5.30pm. £8 (children £4) includes tea-time treats. Barnham Village Hall, nr. Bognor Regis. Details from Janet Douglas 01243 265010
- S.I **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>**      **BALKANPLUS** see page 3
- S.I **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> -  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup>**      **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
- Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> -Mon.26<sup>th</sup>**      **GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** see page 4
- S.I **Friday Apr.30<sup>th</sup> -  
Monday May.3<sup>rd</sup>**      **HALSWAY MANOR**, Somerset. SIFD long weekend of dancing, led by Janet Woolbar. (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.
- Fri. Apr.30<sup>th</sup> -  
Mon. May.3<sup>rd</sup>**      **EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** phone 01278 424332



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

