

# ***SIFD NEWS***

***August 2010***



# SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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www.sifd.org

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The cover picture this month of Georgian dancers appeared first in March 1972 and is by Caroline Thomas.

Contributions for the News are like buses: we had a bumper issue in July, but now.....

So, I've given you some colouring-in to do.

Erratum: "cheveux" in June became "cheveax" in July; it is of course - "cheveux".

**Ed.**



### **Instrumental Workshops at Swansea Summer School**

Thanks to those who have already contacted me about the music sessions at Swansea. So far we have a select but promising group of instrumentalists, but more would be most welcome. Even if you have not been able to get in touch with me beforehand, I should be happy for more instruments to join us at the time, so please bring yours along - you don't have to be an expert to give it a go! I shall be leaving for Swansea on Friday 6th August, so you can still contact me by email before that and on my mobile at any time. However, if you need transposed music, I do need time to sort that out before I leave home.

email: [margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk) or mobile 0797-464-9311  
(please leave a message if I'm not available)

**Maggie Kaye**



### **International Folk Dance in Italy 25 - 29 August**

Come this August to the beautiful Italian Sea to study international folk dances with Jan Knoppers and Richard Van Der Kooij, two excellent teachers from the Netherlands - well known to SIFD members. They have appeared at Summer School, Eastbourne and numerous events.

Organisation:

"Balliamo sul mondo" (Cristina Casarini) Italy

tel. + 39 0522 272137 mobil + 39 340 3816539

e-mail: [info@balliamosulmondo.net](mailto:info@balliamosulmondo.net) web site: [www.balliamosulmondo.net](http://www.balliamosulmondo.net)

Location:

Marina di Massa (Massa - Carrara) on the sea !!!

via Fortino di S. Francesco n. 1

[www.torremarina.it](http://www.torremarina.it)

Toscana Region

Price:

Accommodation: euros 190 Only seminar (dances) euros 180

**Cristina Casarini**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Sep.11<sup>th</sup> SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** see page 9
- S.I **Sep.11<sup>th</sup> BALKANPLUS:** MC will be Frank Dowling
- S.I **Sep.12<sup>th</sup> REHEARSAL - ON SHOW** 1.00pm (for 1.30pm start) - 5.00 pm. Elmdon Heath Community Centre, Cornyx Lane, Solihull. B91 2SF. (near Jct.5 on M42). Details: Janet Douglas 01243 265010
- S.I **Sep.18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> TINEKE VAN GEEL:** weekend workshop (£50) of Armenian and other International Dances in Oxford. Contact Mary Perryman: tel. 01865 552688 mary.perryman@speedwellbeing.org.uk
- Sep.25<sup>th</sup> 'ON SHOW'** see page 6
- S.I **Oct 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> YVES MOREAU BALKANPLUS WORKSHOP WEEKEND** in Kennedy Hall, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, NW1 7AY Workshops: £30 (Sat), £25 (Sun), £45 both, Party £10. Weekend deal £50 For tickets, send SAE and cheque payable to Balkanplus to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich, IP4 5EG Reductions for season ticket holders. Further details from Maureen on 01473 272256, Brian on 01992 582717 and balkanplus@aol.com or view website www.balkanplus.org.uk PLEASE CHECK AVAILABILITY BEFORE BUYING TICKETS
- S.I **Nov.6<sup>th</sup> SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** see page 9
- Nov.6<sup>th</sup> CORRY VERHEIJEN** Day Course – Exploring Europe in Dance 10.30 to 4.30 £10.00 Half day £5.00 Greek demonstration by Ellenismos 5.15 Tea. 6.30 to 8.30 Dance with Mixed Callers Cost –Tea + dance £7 Combined ticket with workshop prior booking £14.00 Combined ticket on the day £16 details: Gill Morral 0115 9171831 gill.morral@ntlworld.com
- S.I **Nov 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH CORRY VERHEIJEN** A half day course hosted by W Midlands Branch 2.15-5.00pm at Elmdon Heath Community Centre, Cornyx lane, Solihull B91 2SF (near Jn5 on M42). More details nearer the time.
- S.I **Nov.12<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF MACEDONIAN FOLK DANCE** with Paul Mulders at Derwent Bank, Lake District. Comfortable ensuite accommodation, full-board. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Live music, social dancing and singing workshops. Excellent area for walking or sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation (3 nights) £198. Single course £32, both courses £56. 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.20<sup>th</sup> HUNGARIAN DAY COURSE** with Leslie Haddon and Sue Chipp at Barnham Village Hall, nr. Bognor Regis. 10.30am - 4.30pm Details from Janet Douglas 01243 265010.
- Nov.20<sup>th</sup> DAY COURSE OF BALKAN DANCING** in Baslow Village Hall, Derbyshire with Cathy Meunier. Further details from Greg Boyd (gregboyd99@aol.com 01142304073) or Janet King (janetking@easynet.co.uk 01629 57065).
- Dec.4<sup>th</sup> ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP BALKAN PARTY** 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.

## Victorian Glamour with Italian Tinge

Every month when I receive my copy of the SIFD News, I read through the DATES FOR YOUR DIARY and WHAT'S ON in that particular month pages; each time I am amazed by the number of opportunities for dancing and wish I had enough time and stamina to attend more of them. And that represents only a small part of the overall list of dance opportunities on offer in the London area. If I add to it Scottish country dancing, Scandia, Quadrille Club, and all the other clubs, I get exhausted by only thinking about all this dancing. Now, the London dancing scene has recently become even richer. At the beginning of July, Dance Society London was born, and started its life with two hugely successful dancing events – a Summer Scottish dance and a Grand Victorian Ball.

Both of these dances were of a very high standard and presented a good opportunity for the local dancers to mix with a sizable group of Italian dancers that came over to London especially for the occasion. Both had live music; the Scottish Craigevar band considered the Friday dance “one of the best gigs we've ever played”, and at the Saturday Ball the dancers were delighted with Green Ginger who could make dance even the most tired feet to the lively tunes of G & S operas and other popular melodies of 150 years ago.



On Friday all the Italian men wore kilts, which added to the festive atmosphere. And the Grand Victorian Ball on Saturday was a real feast for the eye: most men wore black tie, cut in many cases in the 19<sup>th</sup> century fashion, and the crinolined ladies enhanced their beauty with some admirable old-time feminine finery. On the programme were some staple period dances, like The Lancers, several country dances, and some less well known couple dances, mostly in waltz and mazurka time. They were danced on a big circle round the room, with progression. After a number of set movements each couple separated and all ladies progressed one place forward to repeat the movements with a new partner. This gave a great opportunity to flirt with impunity with several partners during the same dance.

Weren't the Victorians pleasure-loving and inventive dancers?

Now you may ask, what is Dance Society London and how did it manage to come to life with such an exquisite panache?

Dance Society London is the latest offshoot of the Italian Società di Danza, an organisation, which is devoted to propagation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century dancing culture all over Italy, and in recent years started groups in several other European countries. Its repertoire comprises a wide variety of dances that were popular in the dancing salons and at the balls in Paris, Vienna, London, St. Petersburg, Venice and other European, and also American, cities in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

I first came into contact with the Società di Danza three years ago, in Prague. They organised their summer school in the Czech capital on the occasion of establishing a

new group there. Last year I attended another of their summer schools, which took place in the Bavarian Alpine resort of Füssen. Apart from a great number of Italians, there was also a dozen of Russian dancers, and several other nationalities – Germans, French, Americans.

It is one of the great attractions of the Società di Danza that it has been spreading its tentacles from Italy to many parts of Europe. At the moment it has its offshoots in the Czech Republic, Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Finland, and Britain. I expect further places will soon be added to this list. The members of Dance Society London will be able to enjoy dancing not only on the home ground, but travel all over Europe, and maybe beyond, join in with the local groups, make new friends, and dance the dances they have become familiar with.

I am convinced that Dance Society London has a great future on the London dancing scene. I expect its activities will take off after summer holidays – in spite of the fact that the leading lady of the whole enterprise, Libby Curzon, recently got a year's contract to work in Africa, and it is going to be quite a job to organise the things in London from Accra. Anybody interested in trying something slightly different from pure folk dancing can obtain more information on the website [www.DanceSocietyLondon.org](http://www.DanceSocietyLondon.org) and can also contact the Society by e-mail on [DanceSocLondon@gmail.com](mailto:DanceSocLondon@gmail.com).

**Dal Sudwell**



### **On Show 2010**

Saturday 25th September at the Royal Albert Hall, 3pm.

On Show appears only once every five years. Bringing together over 900 performers from 27 different dance styles. On Show 2010 will be a magical journey, truly bringing dance together for one afternoon only.

From the Indian dance group to Swamp Circus, from Latin American to the British Cheer Leading Association, the show will demonstrate the strength and diversity of music and dance in the UK in a way which few others can.

SIFD groups and members have combined to dance Armenian and Russian dances; Sepastia Bar and Ambee Dageets, and, Ya da Kalinushka Lomala and Moy Muzhenka.

We will be wearing a colourful variety of costumes from those countries - and doing our best to demonstrate what the Society for International Folk Dancing is about.

*(Three of our contingent pictured in Armenian costume)*

Tickets are priced from £22 - £33.

[WWW.ROYALALBERTHALL.COM](http://WWW.ROYALALBERTHALL.COM)

tel: 0845 401 5045

Hope to see you there.

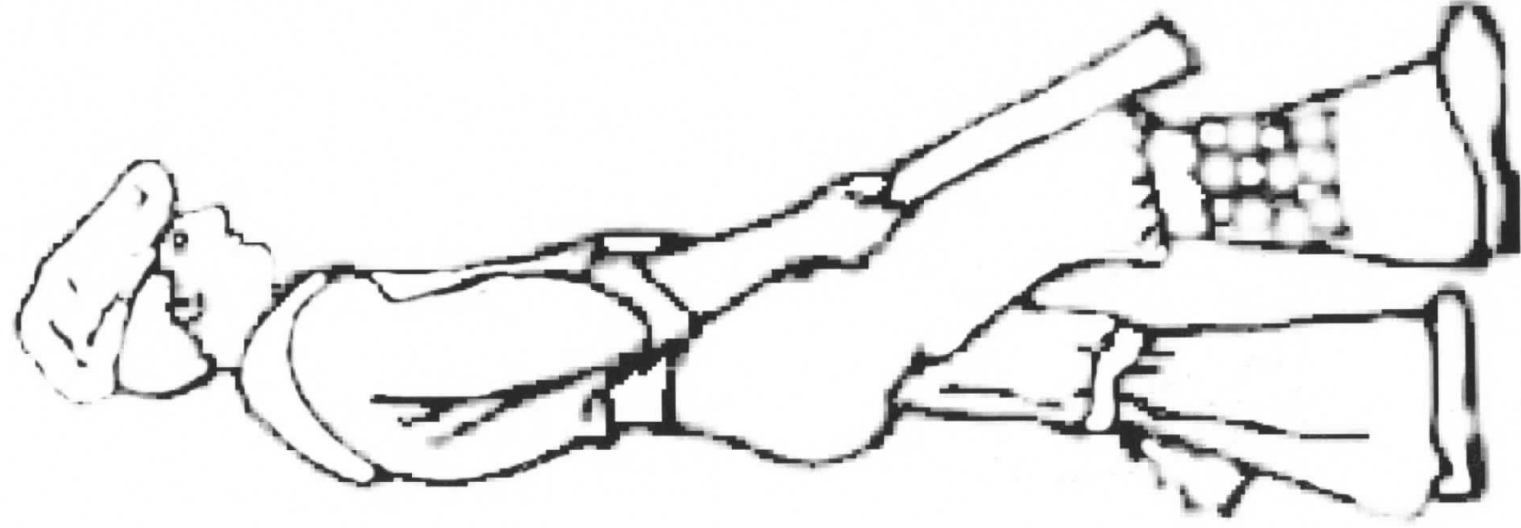
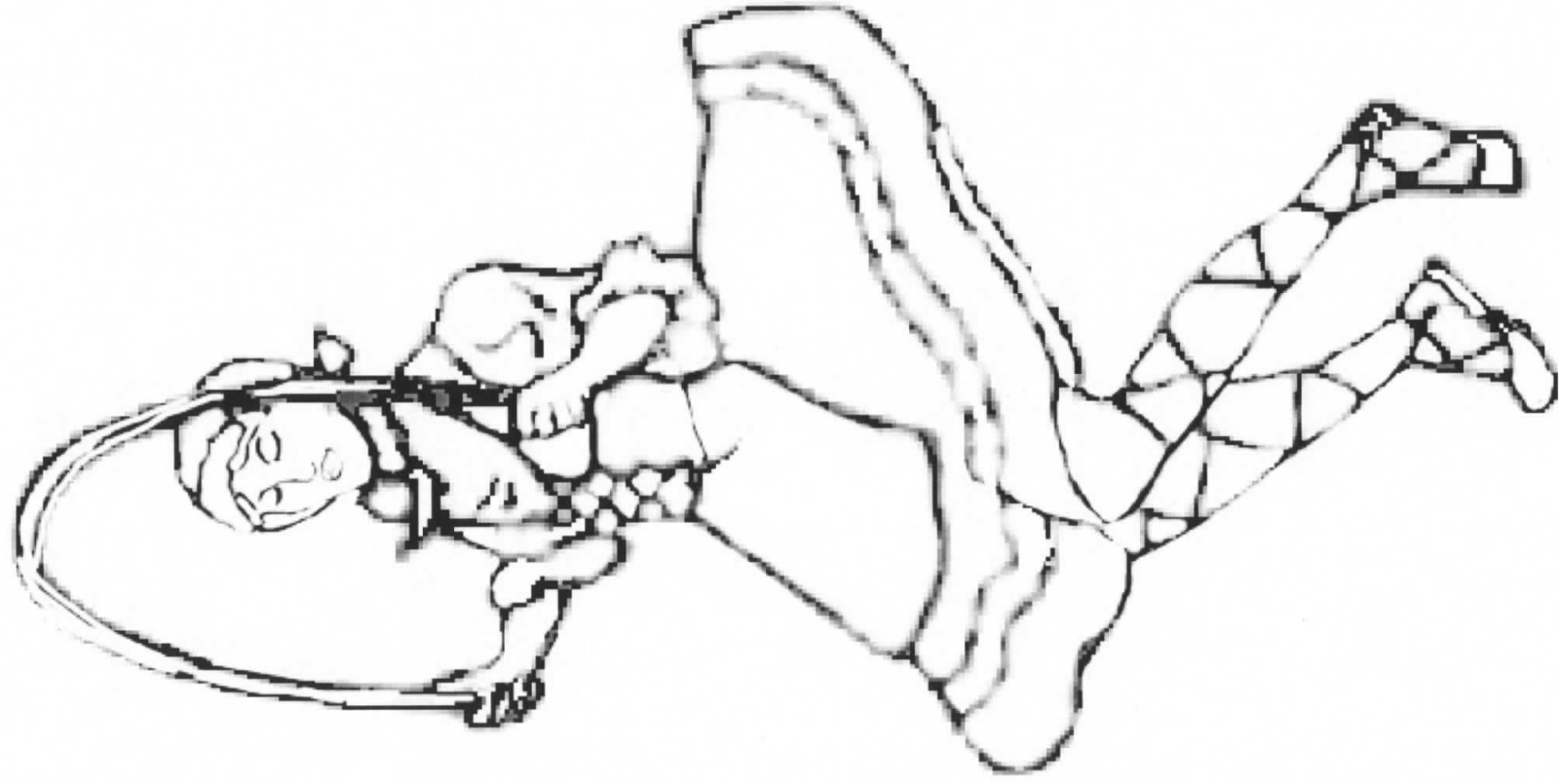


**Janet Douglas**

Vorarlberg, Austria



Basque





## SIFD Afternoon Courses

The next two SIFD Afternoon Courses will be devoted to dances taught at the Summer School. They will be useful revision for those who were at the Summer School, but also serve as an introduction to the dances for people who were unable to attend.

Both courses are at Cecil Sharp House, from 2 pm to 6 pm and cost £8 for SIFD members and £10 for non-members.

**Russian Dances** taught by Hennie Konings

Date: Saturday, 11 September 2010

Tutor: **Helen Ezra**



**Macedonian Dances** taught by Ibrahim Rizevski

Date: Saturday, 6 November 2010

Tutor: **Maggie O'Regan**

**Pam Radford**



### Letters to the Editor:

Dear Janet,

Julie Korth, with the help of Mary O'Mahoney, has once again taken over the running of the Eastbourne International Folk Festival and is to be congratulated on providing a feast of entertainment.

Dalila Heath gave popular Israeli dance workshops and an Armenian, featuring both traditional and choreographed dances; sparky Paul Mulders (the one with boundless energy who got us all singing) taught Macedonian with particular emphasis on style. Clyde Olliver with Mike Machin singing and playing taught a range of Greek Island dances and also some from E. Thrace in the Greek/Bulgarian border region; Anne Leach introduced us to lovely Swedish dances, some simple, some like Schottis more challenging (music provided by Clyde Olliver and Mike Machin).

There seemed no end to the talents of our teachers as they all multi-tasked. Anne Leach also enthusiastically led the Saturday evening of general international dances. Bob Robinson led the Balkan Party evening besides filling in the Ukrainian spot with Julie. Both evening dances were enlivened by the playing of Dutch DIP, Balkan music specialists fast becoming a fixture at Eastbourne, augmented by a specialist on Scandinavian music and the ubiquitous Mike Machin playing and singing in yet more languages.

As a treat, the two charming young Thai men from the Buddhapadipa Temple in Wimbledon who came last year taught us a village dance from N.E. Thailand - though our efforts to co-ordinate fingers and feet gave them considerable enjoyment! We saw how to do it properly at the Saturday dance.

Thanks to Julie and the Barlow Group, there in force, we had a splendid weekend of dance. But where were the people? Numbers were noticeable down on previous years - a pity.

**Heather Edwards**

## Senhor da Serra

Portugal (lord of the mountains)



**Wilf Horrocks**

Janet Woolbar taught the Portuguese dance **Senhor da Serra** recently - apparently the aim of the dance is to wake up the old man of the mountains to ensure fertility for the coming season. It starts with movements to rouse him with a gentle caress, then, to ensure he really does wake up - a few stamps in the second part. The notes are in SIFD book 7, which accompanies CD 7.



**NB** **Jamtpolska**, from Sweden will be featured next month, so if you know it or anything about it - we await your thoughts.

**Ed.**



## Dance Around The World (Cup)

Football Fever hit Leeds on the 1st July when Loidis IFDG held a theme night featuring dances from the countries that had qualified for the World Cup.

Suggested costume for the evening was shorts and T-shirts (no muddy boots allowed, however!). Around 20 of our members rose to the occasion, and the hall was decorated with national flags, (including our own), with the occasional shorts in evidence.

People were asked to bring food relating to their chosen country, and with 32 to choose from, we had a wonderful spread at half-time. (While buying our food contribution, Jean and I spotted a "Celebration Cake" embellished with edible photos of the England team on the top. It had become a Commiseration Cake, reduced from £4.99 to 99p! Upon eating it, we decided that the quality of the cake matched the standard of play; rather tired and stale!).

I was the referee and we kicked off with some Serbian dances on the accordion to warm up. Lorna provided an interesting and varied programme of dances, and we covered at least 18 of the countries during the evening. The match ended after extra time with an English item, Holmfirth Square followed by a Conga to the tune of "Match of the Day"! As the final whistle blew, it was agreed that we had successfully managed to combine football with international dance in a very enjoyable evening.

During the last two years, Loidis has gained at least 12 new members, (now nearly 40 on the list), which seems to indicate a growing interest in our kind of dance. Long may it continue!

**Ian and Jean Willson**

## **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)

### **No August Dance**

September 5th: Merton Park 40th Anniversary Dance



## **WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**

**IBERIAN GROUP & PROTEAS** performing dances from Spain, Portugal and South Africa at the Embankment Gardens Theatre (free entrance). 2.30 - 4pm.

S.I **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>/  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**SIFD INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE SUMMER SCHOOL** at Swansea University, Wales. [www.sifdsummerschool.org](http://www.sifdsummerschool.org) or email [sifdswansea@gmail.com](mailto:sifdswansea@gmail.com) or phone 07905 603655 or 01462 457791

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>/  
Saturday 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 **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>/  
Monday 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)



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