



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*

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The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

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Chairman: Helen Ezra 84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 6RB
tel: 020 8648 4118

Treasurer: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF. *judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk*

Membership Secretary: Dalila Heath (Mrs.), 18 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park, Hatfield.
AL9 7AQ *dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com* tel: 01707 642774

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Happy Christmas



Here are “♪ Eight Maids a Milking ♪”, (from Macedonia)

The key to this month's cover - ♪ Nine Drummers Drumming ♪ and ♪ Ten Pipers Piping ♪ is on page 4.

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Another eventful year of international folk dancing draws to a close, and another year of monthly newsletters. It is now five years since I took over from Lily Avery as Editor - and I love it; I spend time doing a monthly jigsaw of fitting different sizes (artistically?) onto a page, playing with pictures on the computer, and learning more and more about people, dances, costumes and history.

Meanwhile, Dalila Heath has the less enviable job of sorting, stapling, packing and posting the SIFD News to you all every month, or emailing it, besides keeping the membership records. So, I know you will all join me in thanking Dalila for yet another year of hard work and dedication.

“Thank you Dalila.”

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Sadly, I have to announce the news of the death of George Sweetland; he was an entertaining and regular contributor to the News. His annual reports on the Llangollen Eisteddfod were detailed and informative and he was a mine of information. He was always eager to help and was a staunch supporter of the Society, I shall miss him. More tributes to him are on page 7.

Ed.



Membership Renewal

I would like to thank all the members who have renewed promptly this year.

If you have been meaning to renew but haven't quite got round to it, NOW is the time. I will be (reluctantly) updating the address list to exclude defaulters quite soon. If you have lost your form, ring me on 01707 642774 or email me at dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com

Dalila Heath
Membership Secretary



Dancing at Dunford 17th – 19th December 2010.

For many years there has been a dancing weekend just before Christmas at Dunford House near Midhurst in Sussex. This is an attractive mid nineteenth century house which still retains furniture, pictures and memorabilia relating to the original owners, while being thoroughly up-to-date with all bedrooms being en-suite.

Welcoming, friendly staff, a log fire and Christmas tree ensure a lovely start to the weekend. On Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon dancing is led by Janet Woolbar. Midhurst market is a popular choice for Saturday morning, the South Downs offer good walking, or you can just relax in the house. The food is good, and there is Christmas Dinner on Saturday.

The cost this year is £185.00.

If you've been before you know how enjoyable it is – if you haven't, then why not give it a try –
Tel. 020 8540 3464

Dot Bradbury



SIFD Afternoon Course

The next SIFD Course will be on Saturday January 8th 2011.
at Cecil Sharp House.
2pm to 6pm.

Cost £8 for SIFD members and £10 for non-members
and will be **Armenian** dances led by **Dalila Heath**

Helen Ezra



December Balkanplus

The December Balkanplus will be held on the 11th December at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1,
starting at 7.00pm. MCs for the evening will be Maddy & John with live music from Dunav.
Admission £7.

Maureen Felton



Key - Nine Drummers Drumming and Ten Pipers Piping

Japanese girl performing a drum dance

Jiskra, Czech Republic. Llangollen 2009 *Sue Kewley*

Indian musician playing two flutes simultaneously + drummer. Llangollen 2009 *Sue Kewley*

James Wilde playing Scottish bagpipes. 2009 *John Douglas*

Bulgarian musicians Koprivshtitsa. 2005 *Andrew Hardwick*

Armenian Drummers and a Duduk player. Yeghegnadzor. *Andrew Hardwick*



The “Soljang-goo Dance” is performed while carrying the janggu, an hourglass-shaped drum that is the most widely used percussion instrument in traditional Korean music.

Chinese flute Llangollen 2009 *Janet Douglas*

Macedonian zurla players + drummer, Ohrid. 2005 *Janet Douglas*

Pece Atanasovski, who was the most famous Macedonian gajda player. *Vladimir Janevski.*

Korean Drumming Duo

Janet Douglas

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jan.8th SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** see page 4
- S.I **Jan.8th BALKANPLUS:** MC will be Bob Robinson
- S.I **Jan.9th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE/WORKSHOP**
- S.I **Jan.29th WORKSHOP OF GREEK DANCES.** Tracy Lean and Mary Perryman will lead the dances in Headington Parish Hall, Dunstan Road, Oxford, OX3 9BY. 10.30 - 4.30. Cost £15. Details from Mary - mary.perryman@speedwellbeing.org.uk. 01865 552688.
- Jan.29th/30th INTENSIVE WEEKEND RUSSIAN COURSE** - Hennie Konings, for further details please contact Janet Wilks on 020 7229 9387 or email janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk
- S.I **Mar.5th TOM BOZIGIAN WORKSHOP & BALKANPLUS PARTY** in Kennedy Hall, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY. Workshop: 10.30am to 4.30pm. £25 Party: 7.00pm to 10.30pm £10 FREE ENTRY TO PARTY FOR BOOKINGS RECEIVED BEFORE 31st JAN Additional £5 reduction for Balkanplus season ticket holders. For tickets, please send cheque payable to Balkanplus and sae to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG Further details from Maureen on 01473 272256 or Brian on 01992 581717 or go to the Balkanplus website <http://www.balkanplus.org.uk>
- S.I **Mar.11th TOM BOZIGIAN** at Barnham Village Hall, near Bognor Regis. PO22 0AX for an afternoon and early evening workshop of Armenian dances and a couple of Lebanese dances (2pm - 8pm) Bring something for a shared tea. Details from Janet Douglas 01243 265010. (£16 SIFD members)
- S.I **Mar.12th/13th TOM BOZIGIAN ARMENIAN WORKSHOP** at Chorlton Manchester and Calver Derbyshire. Further information Julie Korth 01942 831141
- S.I **Apr.8th/11th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF BALKAN FOLK DANCE** with Bianca de Jong at Conwy, North Wales. Comfortable ensuite accommodation, full-board. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Social dancing & some live music. Excellent area for walking or sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation (3 nights) £199. Single course £31, 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.

Dances from Anatolia - Culture without Borders - taught by Turgay Onatli

May 21st and 22nd. at Lambley village hall, Nottinghamshire, NG4 4QF.

Turgay was born in Istanbul and began dancing at the age of 8. Since 1984 he has lived in Holland and works as a dance instructor, choreographer and musician. He selects dances from the range of cultures in Anatolia to emphasize that culture is without borders. Turgay will work with authentic and modern recorded music as well as live accompaniment on the Zurna and Davul. Internationally known and highly regarded we are very excited to host Turgay's first ever workshop in the UK. Early booking before March 1st £50, after £60. Accommodation may be available with local dancers or a list of B&Bs is available, please ask if needed. Optional group meal on Saturday evening.

Flyer with further details and tickets from Elaine Donnelly, 21 Villa Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham NG3 4GG. Tel 07768 774 381 or email edonnelly@talktalk.net or see Kilikia web site www.kilikiadance.com/

Chrisandra Harris

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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.

Report from the Last Committee Meeting

At the last committee meeting much was discussed. The following are items worth noting.

To start with the best news...

Legacy from Frank Flanagan. Frank has left the Society an extremely generous amount of money. This was a big surprise, and we are very grateful and appreciative of his kindness and thoughtfulness. A fund is to be set up in Frank's memory, and suggestions of bringing in more foreign teachers, and having more live music at events like Summer School, have been liked, but no firm decisions have yet been taken as to how it should be used.

On Show. We recorded our appreciation of the SIFD performance at the Royal Albert Hall, and our thanks to all the performers and costume providers noted, with especial thanks to Janet Douglas.

Finances. Judith submitted financial documents to the Charity Commissioners, and a Gift Aid claim, both ahead of schedule.

Digitising Wilf Horrocks's music. Turning Wilf's many pages of music into digital format is proceeding steadily.

Foreign teachers. Trying to satisfy sponsor requirements to "employ temporary migrants" i.e. bring over non-EU dance teachers, is proving frustratingly difficult. The requirements were not formulated with charities in mind.

Renewal forms. Work has started on simplifying the SIFD renewal forms, and payment methods.

CRB checks. TMG were chosen to act as the organisation through whom we must make applications for CRB checks. Our aim is to be able to provide checks for all SIFD members who regularly teach and help at children's classes.

Day Courses. Janet Woolbar and Pam Radford have stepped down from the Badge and Day Course Committee, having spent many years organising excellent day courses, which so many people have enjoyed and which are such a vital part of the Society's purpose. We very much appreciate, and thank them very much for all the time and effort they have put in over the years to make these day courses so varied and successful.

Volunteers. It would be wonderful if you felt you could help out, perhaps by offering to help with the day courses? The Badge and Day Course Committee (though perhaps this should just be the Day Course Committee from now on?) currently consists of just Helen Ezra, and she would dearly like some help. She needs someone/several someones to have ideas for courses, and help book teachers, and preferably be there at the courses to take money etc. Booking the hall is already done, so there isn't that much to do, and ideas and bookings could be done by phone from a distance.

Please do think about helping – it would be much appreciated. And while I'm begging, a **secretary** for the Society would be so very helpful – all committee members are multi-tasking like mad, and taking turns, but a secretary would provide much-needed consistency. And as a(n almost) last plea for help, would anyone consider taking the **SIFD shop** on.....?

The very last plea is for a host for next year's **AGM**. Only half an offer has been received so far.

Wouldn't you like the AGM nearer you for a change? We will make sure you're not out of pocket, and can provide suggestions for courses, dance MCs etc if needed. Admittedly the meeting itself is not the most exciting part of the day, but recently the AGM days have been great fun – the dancing is enjoyable and getting members together from many different areas is always a pleasure.

Please bombard me with offers. Thank you.

Alison Scrimshaw

020 8395 1400

alison.scrimshaw@googlemail.com



Last chance to buy SIFD cassette tapes.

All of the music that was published on tape has now been re-mastered and is available on CD.

The remaining stock of tapes will be destroyed in January.

Until then they are available at a BARGAIN PRICE!!!

If you would like to have a tape please send £1 to Alison Scrimshaw. (*address above*)

Please be aware that some of the tapes are over 20 years old and may have deteriorated in storage.

Jeanette Hull

George Sweetland

Members will be sorry to learn of the death of George Sweetland on 3rd November, following a period of illness and hospitalisation.

George, an early days member contributed much to International Folk Dancing. Whilst his special interests were Polish and Spanish, the wide spectrum of general dancing with its social side and weekends of dancing, firstly at Youth Hostels and subsequently at Surrey Crest; along with others at more comfortable venues were strongly supported. Many groups are grateful for his visits and teaching. In its latter years he was a leader and teacher at Harrow Green, and subsequently at Havering Group whilst being a staunch supporter of Central London Group with both Margery Latham and Janet Woolbar.

His annual week at the International Musical Eisteddfod was a highlight, not only because of the Folk Dance Competition (one year Harrow Green took part under George, demonstrating English dancing), but the whole scene with socialising and late evening discussion in a traditional pub!, but many will know of his reports in the SIFD News.

SIFD administration was also of interest and concern. He served in many ways; publicity, representing the society at the CCPR, arranging MCs for the Sunday dances, the dates and coordination for the Embankment Gardens demonstrations.

In private life George was a mechanical engineering draughtsman, working for several well known companies before spending years with the BBC. Naturally his ability to spend time dancing was restricted when his children were young. He leaves a son and daughter. They have our sympathy.

Roy Clarke

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George Sweetland, 1924-2010

My friendship with George goes back to the days when he and I worked fairly near each other in the City of London and we used to meet up sometimes at lunch-time to have a drink and a gossip in one of the City bars - some fifty years ago! For all of that time he has been with the SIFD and his love of dancing and socialising led him to join several of the SIFD international classes and groups as well as some of the specialist groups, notably Jacy Tacy Polish group and Los Ibericos Spanish group. He was also a member of Harrow Green group, which he ran for a while, and a loyal supporter of Woodvale.



He was a regular attender at the Cecil Sharp House dances, day courses, summer schools, and danced in the SIFD shows at the Royal Albert Hall as well as the smaller shows we used to put on. Weekends away, both with Harrow Green and the Society and dance trips abroad were also very much part of his life.

He took on the job of Publicity Officer, which he did for many years, and also took on the job of organizing the performances at Victoria Embankment Gardens, and of course wrote each year for the SIFD NEWS his account of the International Eisteddfod which he loved to go to.

So, all round, George was a very well known figure to quite a few people. In his latter years he was not seen quite so often and as I myself dropped out of the dance scene I did not see him so often but things won't be the same for me without those long telephone conversations we continued to have, putting the SIFD affairs to rights.

Lily Avery

Dance Around the World

Dance Around the World held at Cecil Sharp House was a fusion of colour, rhythm, culture and style. Both Saturday and Sunday had full programmes of demonstrations and dance allowing one to pick and mix through the day. Every continent was represented and it was really interesting to see so many dancers performing such a variety of dances. I was very impressed with the three young girls dancing to African music with such rhythm and contagious smiles; they were aged nine, six and just five years old! The energy and enthusiasm shown by many groups was absolutely infectious. For example after watching a demonstration by a Hungarian group I just had to try out their workshop. Their enthusiasm for their dance and music was evident, which they shared with us.

Saturday evening provided a choice between a Eurobal, dancing to a mixture of mainly French and Scandinavian music performed by a live band or an evening of Latin American dance displays with audience participation. The songs sung by the band during Eurobal were compelling and magical whereas the pulse of Latin American and African music just flowed through the body.

Sunday evening, I think it's fair to say, was an evening of fun and frolics dancing to a variety of international dance - and thanks to the talented band Cloudburst and the MCs, a most enjoyable evening was shared by all those present.

If you haven't made it to Dance Around the World yet, I would strongly recommend it, you won't be disappointed. Watch out for details in the SIFD newsletter next year. Many thanks to the organisers, dancers and musicians. I had a great time; I certainly hope to go again as there was such a full programme, it was just impossible to do everything.

Julie Drinkwater

p.s. Many thanks to Judith Payling for her reference to You Tube to see the SIFD's performance at the CCPR's "On Show" at The Royal Albert Hall. What a good idea!*

**(There is now another video-clip on You Tube: search for SIFD On Show and it's next to Judith's, or, go to interfolk.co.uk and it's on the front page. Ed.)*



Dance and Cultural Tours to Romania 2011

The DOINA Foundation (Silviu Ciuciumis), Aarhuispad 22, 3067 PR Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Phone: +31-10-421 86 22, Fax: +31-10-455 60 65, e-mail: stichting.doina@hetnet.nl
Internet: www.StichtingDoina.nl

Luxury *Hotel**

30 April – 7 May Sighetu Marmatiei – Maramures (Flight to/from Cluj)
15 – 22 October Sibiu – Transsylvania (Flight to/from Bucharest or Cluj)
Sibiu is one of the most beautiful towns of Europe

Balkan Festival Workshops 2011

23, 24, 25, and 26 June in Zetten, near Arnhem, The Netherlands
Workshops: Ben Koopmanschap (from Croatia to Albania), Bianca de Jong (Bulgarian), Dick v.d. Zwan (Greek), Ersin Seyhan (Turkish), Silviu Ciuciumis (Romanian), Hedwig Schoots (Song), Helen van Bochove (Ball) Orchestras: Orkest Trediki, Orkest Zadar, Orkest Sultan.



Letters:

Just before I read Dal Sudwell's comment in this month's SIFD news about learning Turkish dances I had received an e-mail from our Turkish friend Mehmet Öcal Özbilgin saying that he is hoping to be in the UK on an academic exchange between January and March 2011. Ocal is the head of the folk dance department at the Ege University State Conservatory of Folk Dance and Music in Izmir, and vice chairman of the International Council of Traditional Music study group for music and dance in south east Europe. His speciality is the study of zebek dances.

The plans and itinerary for his visit are in the early stages, but if any group might be interested in having him to teach while he is in the UK, then please contact us. We seldom have had Turkish dance courses in the UK and it is not often that we get an opportunity for hosting a visiting teacher without having to arrange travel to the UK.

tel: 01923 249704 eliznik@eliznik.org.uk

Liz Mellish



Call for Volunteers

Form and Being: A Study of the Experience of Dancing

Traditional Balkan round and chain dances are based on some of the most ancient European dance forms known. There is something so compelling in the steps, patterns, rhythms and melodies that even recreational dancers in non-traditional contexts seek out Balkan dance experiences. As a folk dancer and PhD student at the University of Surrey, my research explores how the formal elements of different dances (the movement vocabulary, rhythm, music and use of space and time) contribute to the experience of the dancing person.

The fact that dances from the Balkan region have travelled throughout the UK, Canada, Australia, Europe and the Americas - removed entirely from their traditional socio-cultural contexts and danced by people with no ethnic ties to the dances - is remarkable. My research will explore how people describe their experience of dancing these dances and how these descriptions reflect the movement and musical qualities of the dances. This research employs a methodology drawn from the disciplines of Psychology, Dance Analysis and Systems Theory.

Volunteers needed

As part of my research, I would like to talk with recreational folk dancers about their experience of Balkan music and dancing. Initially, I plan to conduct one-hour interviews, during which we will discuss various aspects of your experience of dancing, such as why you enjoy particular dances, how these dances make you feel, what you value about your dancing and your sense of self and time and space while dancing. All participants will remain anonymous in my final thesis and in any resulting publications.

If you would like to participate in this research, please contact me at my university email address:

K.Cann@surrey.ac.uk or:

Department of Dance, Film & Theatre, Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences,
University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey. GU2 7XH

Thank you!

Karen Cann



SOMOGYI KARIKAZO - Hungary
(pronounced Shómodj)

Girls' dance of Somogy

A 4x

B 3x

All sections of A are played slowly and dreamily; B1 briskly, B2,3, faster

Wilf Horrocks

Somogyi Karikázó

The proper name is Somogyi Karikázó: the letters á and ó are not the same letters as a and o, they even have separate sections in the Hungarian dictionary that I have (no I don't speak it but I can pronounce it). One of the transliterations is Shohmohj Korikazaw. It all depends on which convention you like: Shomoj Korikazaw (or even Korikazor) is also "correct" but has lost a little bit of information about how to pronounce it. The Hungarian alphabet is very prescriptive and precise about pronunciation, but English isn't, which is why there are umpteen possible transliterations.

For the non-dancers I was talking to and singing with, it is in fact two quite different traditional songs, with no connection except that they were yoked together when someone created the dance.

Alan Trangmar



Alan has promised the words, with indications of rhythm, and an anglicised version for next month.



Next month the music for **Svatovska Polka** will be featured - and as usual you are invited to send in anything pertaining to the dance.

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)

December 5th: MCs. Dot Bradbury & Alison Scrimshaw

January 9th : MCs: The Committee



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- Saturday 4th** **DRAGAN & BOYCO** are organizing a Charity Workshop, funds to a charity fund in Bulgaria for children in need. 1.30pm - 4.00pm. The "Art Gallery" at the Bulgarian Embassy, Queen's Gate 186-188SW7. Cost £10. Everyone welcome - beginners and improvers. Details: Boyko 07900904370
- S.I **Saturday 4th** **ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP BALKAN PARTY** 7.00pm to 10.30pm at: St.Albans Centre, Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens: London EC1N 7AB nearest stn:- Chancery Lane (Central Line) Tickets:- £10 incl. refreshments Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group. Dances from Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, also Bulgaria, Greece and Romania tickets from:- Irene Keywood, 133 Third Ave, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 0208 592 4427
- S.I **Friday 10th** **BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** featuring Dunav Balkan Group. 8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW. £5 Food and drink included. Further details from Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717 or e-mail bvdowsett@aol.com
- S.I **Saturday 11th** **W MIDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS DANCE** 7.30 - 10.45 at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Rd, Solihull B91 1LG (B4102, by Solihull stations, (near M42 Jn 5) MC Maggie K with the Heart of England Band. Bring-and-share supper. £5 on the door.
- S.I **Saturday 11th** **BALKANPLUS:** MCs will be Maddy & John with Dunav
- Fri 17th / Sun 19th** **DANCING AT DUNFORD** see page 3
- S.I **Wednesday 29th** **WILLINGDON IFDG TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY** at Stone Cross Memorial Hall near Eastbourne 10.30 - 4.30. Bring something for a shared lunch and a dance(s) on tape or CD if you can. £7 (half day £4). Info and map from Rowena 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com
- Friday 31st** **HELLENIC DANCE GROUP NEW YEAR'S PARTY** 8pm until 1am near Surbiton Surrey. Please bring food to share, entrance free. Contact Bryan for details on 020 83970008 or e-mail bryan.wild@virginmedia.com



All material for the January issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor
IN WRITING by **15th** December, emails by **14th** December.